

# the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Minerva Park Resident Honored

Long-time resident Dick Busick was honored at the annual Northland Community Council Awards Banquet for enduring service to Minerva Park, as recognized by the Minerva Park Community Association. Making the presentation was MPCA President Bob Gale ...

"For more than 100 years, Minerva Park has had a presence in the north end of Columbus, and our residents have a long history of involvement in the community. Dick Busick, our honoree tonight, is one example of such dedication.

- Dick has been a Minerva Park resident for more than 38 years.
- He is the founding member, past President, and past Treasurer of the Minerva Park Civic Association.
- He is the original organizer of Minerva Park's neighborhood garage sale.
- He served as president of NCC for two terms.
- He was the Zoning Chairman for the Northland Community Council for most of the years between 1969 and 1992.
  - In that capacity, he worked for many years to establish NCC's credibility with Columbus and with the development community.
  - He helped to reduce the zoning density of Northland apartments by more than 50% in the 1970s.
  - He negotiated the Simon-Meijer shopping center zoning, which solved most of the flooding problems in Minerva Park by establishing two large dry retention basins.
  - He worked to prohibit C4 stripping of

Rt. 161, east of Cleveland Ave. and north of Route 161.

- He presented more than 2,000 zoning cases to Columbus City Council, the Development Commission, and Franklin County Commissioners on behalf of the NCC.
- He is a former member of the Columbus Traffic Commission.
- Dick was a member of the original St. Ann's Hospital Board (political), which campaigned successfully to secure voter support of the original bonds, thus allowing for St. Ann's construction.
- He has been a member of the Minerva Park Village Council (2 different terms), serving as Council President and serving on the Safety, Streets, and Community committees.
- Today, we are fortunate that Dick is the Code Enforcement Officer for Minerva Park.

Please join me in honoring Dick Busick."

\*\*\*\*\*

On hand for the event were

United States Representative Pat Tiberi; Ohio State Representatives Jim Hughes, Jim McGregor, and Linda Reidelbach; Columbus Council member Maryellen O'Shaunessy; and Columbus City Attorney Richard Pfeiffer. Representing Minerva Park were Mayor Lynn Eisentrout, MPCA President Bob Gale, Village Council member & MPCA committee chair Sharon Bierman, Pool Board & MPCA members Lisa & Steve Thitoff, Fire Chief Rick Hoechstetter, and Dick's wife Mary Alice.



Dick Busick

The Northland Community Council is a consortium of 23 area organizations and associations, with a mission of improving the quality of our northland neighborhoods. Its annual Awards Banquet and installation of new officers was held on Friday, February 25. •



### MARCH DATES

- 3 (7:30p) ..... Planning & Zoning
- 8 (6p) ..... Mayor's Court
- 14 (7p) ..... Council Meeting
- 16 (7:30p) ..... MPCA Meeting
- 16 (5p) ..... Villager Deadline
- 19 (10a) ..... Easter Egg Hunt
- 22 (6p) ..... Mayor's Court

# MPCA News

## Easter Egg Hunt



**Hawthorne School**  
March 19 - 10:00a

Join us for one of the more popular children's events of the year. As always, we desperately need volunteers to help with the set-up and running the event. Call **Suzanne Coulter** at **891-7346** if you can help stuff eggs or can help during the event.



**May 21**

This is your Community Association's largest fund-raiser, so we request registered sales only, of course. Only \$5 and 10% of your proceeds buys you extensive group advertising and a packet of supplies. The registration form will be in the April and May Villager newsletters.



**Minerva Park**  
**Police**

MP Police Officers made 5 misdemeanor arrests. Four individuals were transported to the Franklin County jail.

- 1-1 ..... 3:40a, LaCasa Musical, 5306 Cleveland Ave., attempted breaking & entering reported
- 1-2 ..... 9:00a, 2500 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft of a mailbox reported
- 1-7 ..... 10:20p, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd., missing person reported
- 1-8 ..... 5200 blk E. Shore Dr., unwanted telephone calls of 11-8 to 1-8
- 1-10 .... 2800 blk Park Lane Dr., theft of a license plate reported
- 1-11 .... 3100 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft from a motor vehicle
- 1-11 .... Minerva Park Place Nursing Home, 5460 Cleveland Ave., theft reported
- 1-12 .... 10:00p, Patrolman Matt Fenstermaker recovered a stolen vehicle
- 1-16 .... 11:20p, Yasmin Market, 5444 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 1-16 .... MP Place Nursing Home, resident death reported
- 1-24 .... 12:45p, MP Place Nursing Home, missing person reported
- 1-24 .... 11:11a, MP Place Nursing Home, employee reported menacing threats
- 1-24 .... 1:00p, 2600 blk Lakewood Dr., theft reported
- 1-29 .... 3:00p, Advance Pay, 5440 Cleveland Ave., domestic violence
- 1-30 .... 4:33p, 2800 blk Park Lane Dr., false alarm

## Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

### January 2005

In January, Medic 119 made 75 runs - 7 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 7 into Minerva Park; 41 patients were transported to hospitals.

15 members volunteered a total of 548 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 548. Leading volunteers for the month were **Eric Johnson** (52 hours), **David Green** (83 hours), and **Mike Ostrander** (61 hours).

### MP Runs

- 1-5 ..... Nonbreather
- 1-14 .... Nonbreather
- 1-16 .... Nonbreather
- 1-25 .... Unconscious person
- 1-26 .... Head injury
- 1-27 .... Ill person
- 1-28 .... Ill person



## Clerk-Treasurer's Report

If you have questions about the information provided here, please call Suzanne Coulter at 882-5743 (Community Building) or at 891-7346 (h).

### December 2004

Beg balance general fund .....	\$116,362.21
Revenue collected .....	34,116.47
Expenses .....	(122,211.31)
Ending balance .....	\$28,267.37

### January 2005

Beg balance general fund .....	\$28,267.37
Revenue collected .....	62,892.58
Expenses .....	(42,183.73)
Ending balance .....	\$48,976.22

<http://www.minervapark.org>

Call 899-3755 to join the emailing list for updates to the website.

## MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**M, W, F – 8a-1p and 4p-6p**  
**Tu – 8a-1p**  
**Th – 8a-1p and 6p-8p**  
**March 5 – 8:00a-noon**

# MAYOR'S REPORT

*Lynn Eisentrout*



As stated in last month's Villager under "Golf Course Update," negotiations between the property owners and Dominion homes ceased on January 20. Between January 21 and as I write this report, I have met with or spoken with 12 builders/developers and have spoken frequently with the property owners' spokesman, Jeff Groezinger. He has been most generous with his time, and we have appreciated being included in the ongoing discussions with these developers/builders and planning the future of this site.

Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter and I met with the **Pool Board** to discuss the upcoming season. As is the case with other area pools, our swimming pool was affected adversely by the weather and may need additional financial assistance. Council will discuss this at an upcoming work session.

We have received several calls from the residents questioning the legislation addressed at the last Council meeting to place a 4 mill levy on the ballot. This is a **Replacement Levy** that has been in effect since the 1980s, is voted on every five years, and is \$0.40 for each \$100 valuation for five years. More on this in next month's Villager.

Members present at the regular council meeting on February 14 were Sharon Bierman, Pam Park-Curry, Dave Stahr, and Ron Yarano. Absent were Marty Grosh and Don Champney, who is still recuperating from hip replacement surgery.

**Citizens' Comments** - Dick Busick informed the Council that resident **Evelyn White** had donated to the Village a map of the original plots with graphics from the late

1800s and early 1900s. We hope to frame and display this in the Community Building. Thank you, Mrs. White.

If anyone else has any items of historical significance and would like to donate them to the Village, please call my office at 882-5743.

The following departmental reports were made ...

**Police** - Chief Hillard submitted his monthly report and addressed questions.

**EMS/Fire** - Chief Hoechstetter submitted his monthly report. The EMS vehicle is being refurbished but will need additional work that wasn't anticipated. After a lengthy discussion, an amount not to exceed \$6,200 was approved from the EMS Vehicle Fund.

**Engineering** - The engineers have reviewed the Sewer Services Agreement and will submit a letter to the Village addressing some concerns. This letter will be forwarded to the City of Columbus.

**Legal** - Mayor's Court is going well. Codified Ordinances are being reviewed, and the fee recovery issue is being addressed.

**Zoning** - Code Enforcement Officer Dick Busick has drafted three letters to residents addressing violations. Residents, for the most part, have been very cooperative.

**Minerva Park Community Association** - The **Easter Egg Hunt** has been scheduled for Saturday, March 19, at 10:00a at Hawthorne Elementary School. Thank you, Suzanne Coulter, for chairing the Children's Committee.

**Northland Community Council** - MPCA representative Chuck Gibson reported that Dick Busick will be honored at the Annual Awards Banquet for his

many years of service to both the Village and to NCC.

**Minerva Park Swim Club** - Board members Lisa Craddock-Thitoff reported that there will be a Board Meeting in 2 weeks and that the year-end financials have been submitted.

The following committee reports were made ...

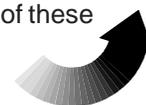
**Community** - Councilwoman Sharon Bierman referred to the MPCA report.

**Finance** - Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry asked for approval of the warrants paid in January.

**Legislation** - Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry asked the Council to address the following legislation: Resolution 2005-02 - Declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the 10 mill limitation. Second reading. Third reading waived, passage accepted.

Resolution 2005-03 - Requesting from the Franklin County Auditor's Office certification and an estimate of revenue for a 4 mill replacement levy. Second reading. Third reading waived, passage accepted.

Upon review, the Law Director recommended that waiving of the third readings and passage of these two resolutions were void because of a lack of majority of Council members present. A Special Council Meeting was scheduled and posted for the following night. With 5 Council members present, the third readings and passage of these two resolutions were



approved, so as to meet the deadline for submission to the Board of Elections. Additionally addressed at the Special Meeting was Resolution 2005-05 - to proceed with placing the issue on the ballot for a replacement levy for purposes of providing for the expenses of the Village. Three readings waived, passage accepted.

Resolution 2005-04 -

Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract with the Columbus Police Crime Lab for lab testing services. First reading accepted.

**Safety** - Councilman Dave Stahr asked if the independent living facility had been reoccupied after the fire in December. At this time, no.

**Service** - The Mayor met with Councilman Marty Grosh to apprise him of the Service Committee duties and the projects to be addressed this year.

**Streets** - Councilman Ron Yarano reviewed the items covered at his committee meeting on February 11, specifically future street repairs. The Engineer should have an estimate for a mill & fill project for some of the streets located in the central portion of the Village for the next Council work session.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to call or email me at any time. •

## Easter Egg Hunt



**Hawthorne School**  
March 19 - 10:00a

# Avoid Ohio Flooding & Tsunami Charitable Scams

By the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.  
<http://www.oacp.org>

COLUMBUS - Attorney General Jim Petro and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police warn Ohioans to be cautious about scam artists after natural disasters, such as flooding from the Ohio winter weather to the tsunami in Asia.

"It is unfortunate that there are people who prey on others in their time of need, but we know they are out there and the best way to fight them is to be prepared to ask the right questions," Petro said.

"Anyone who encounters a suspicious situation or feels they may be a victim of a scam should call their local police department," said Chief David Wright, President of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. "Scam artists are experts at what they do, so do not be embarrassed to come forward."

Here is a list of types of scams to be aware of ...

- **Fly-by-Night Contractors** - They often arrive from out of town or out of state as soon as a disaster occurs. They promise immediate and/or cheap home repair, clean-up, or remodeling. They often take your money without doing any or all of the work. Many of these contractors do a shoddy job or add up additional costs while the job is in progress. They may require a large cash deposit before beginning work, then never return.
- **Charity Scams** - Supposed charities may be soliciting for donations to help disaster victims. They may even use legitimate charity names, such as the Red Cross. The money is never provided to those who are in need of assistance. Give directly to your local charity organizations if you wish to donate to avoid this scam.

We are seeing emails circulating that are asking for help for victims of the tsunami. These look much like the Nigerian email scams that have been circulating for years. We advise Ohioans to donate to known

charities that have international ties.

- **Price Gouging** - Some unscrupulous businesses may charge extremely high and unjustified prices for products or services that disaster victims need to purchase or rent, such as roofing materials, plywood, tarps, food staples, charcoal, electric generators, etc.
- **Job Opportunity Scams** - Beware of advertisements for jobs such as flood clean-up or other labor that requires an advance fee payment to obtain the job. Often the money is paid in advance, and no job exists.
- **Advance-Fee Loan Scams and Mortgage Scams** - Unless you are dealing directly with a bank or other exempt financial institution, you should not be required to pay a fee to obtain a loan or credit. Be aware of excessively high interest rates, second mortgage loans, or equity loans where you are using your home as collateral.
- **Water Treatment and Water Testing** - Request assistance from your local health department or environmental protection officials before falling prey to questionable water treatment companies. They often use scare tactics to convince you to purchase their products.
- **Con Artists Portraying Themselves as Public Officials** - Question anyone claiming to be a government representative or official. Request to see photo ID from anyone who wants access to your home. Con artists may offer help in obtaining disaster relief payments from the government or may act as safety or building inspectors advising you that work should be done immediately.

**Attention Homeowners** - While you may feel the need to begin rebuilding and repairing your home as quickly as possible, the following steps will help you avoid complications and may prevent you from losing time and money ...

**Before signing any contract** - Know the contractor. Obtain the name, address, and phone number of any contractor agreeing to do work for you. Ask for identification from the company's representative. Call the Attorney General and the Better Business Bureau.

**Be cautious ...** of any contractor who is not willing to provide proper identification, does not have a permanent place of business, cannot provide references, or insists on a large payment before work begins.

**Get written estimates ...** from more than one contractor. Refuse to do business with a company that does not provide a written estimate.

**A contract should include ...**

- a start date indicating when the work will begin.
- a completion date.
- the type, grade, and quality of materials to be used.
- the cost of labor and materials.
- the total cost.
- whether subcontractors will be used.
- any guarantees or warranties you may receive.
- whether the contractor has or will obtain the necessary licenses and permits.

**Read the contract** - Does the contract contain the information listed above? Does it include a statement that your written approval is required for any changes to the original contract? Does the contract reflect the total cost and the details of what you have agreed upon? Does it include payment information, such as a required deposit, before work begins? Is the contract dated and signed by the contractor?

**Never sign or initial any document** until you understand it fully and completely. All blanks should be filled in before you sign or initial anything. Read the fine print!

**Insist ...** on a copy of every document you sign or initial.

**Never sign over your insurance check to a contractor.** Arrange for a certification of completion with your bank. Your bank will pay the contractor for each completed state of the job, only after you give your permission.

**Before paying any bill ...** insist that



the contractor provide you with a sworn statement that all materials have been paid for and all subcontractors have been paid. This will protect you from liens that may be placed on your property if the contractor fails to pay all suppliers and subcontractors.

If you need further assistance, contact Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro's Consumer Protection section at 1-800-282-0515 toll free or 614-466-4986. •



Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are March 8 & 22 - 6:00p.

If you have any questions, please call Charline Garrabrant, Clerk of Courts, at 882-5743 (Community Building).

January 2005

Complete payments - 10	
Village Computer Fund .....	\$ 50
Village General Fund .....	1,403
Remitted to the State .....	324
Total Court Receipts .....	\$1,777

## Remodeling?

Spring is just around the corner, and if you are planning any projects like building a deck, erecting a fence, or doing a room addition, you will need to apply for a permit and supply detailed drawings (including a plat map with proposed improvements) to Susan Waldenmyer, Zoning Clerk (882-5743), at least **2 weeks before the upcoming zoning meeting.**

This time frame allows us to have the Zoning Commission members review the requested improvements before the meeting. This will help speed up the approval process for the homeowner and ensure the needed requirements are in place before the monthly meeting. The zoning meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30p. •

## Easter Egg Hunt

**Hawthorne School**

March 19 - 10:00a



## Sheila Cooper

Financial Consultant  
Financial Planning Specialist

**798-3249**



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DAUGHTER

## CUSTOM LAWN CARE

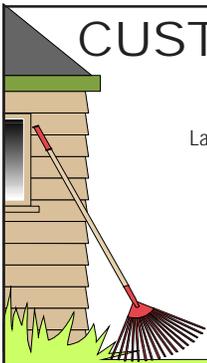
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## Minerva Park 2004 Sales Recap

Properties Sold = 20

Average Sold Price = \$158,808

Average Days on Market = 120

Current Homes on Market = 17

Source - Columbus Board of Realtors

My 2004 listings sold for an average of 100% of list price. May 2004 average days on market was 21½. For more details, call me today.



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# Minerva Park the Villager

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The Villager is mailed to all MP homes for delivery by the 1st Monday of each month. Residents are invited to submit articles & other items of interest. Use the drop box inside the front door at the Community Building. The Villager reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items presented for publication must include the contributor's signature and phone number. The Villager is online at:

<http://www.minervapark.org/villager>

Next deadline:  
**Wednesday, March 16, 5:00p**

## Thinking of Selling Your Home?

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**891-0180 or 882-5313**

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