

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PLANNING & ZONING - An Overview

By Susan Waldenmyer, Zoning Clerk

General

Before any contemplated revision or addition to one's property is started, it is always good to inform the Planning & Zoning Commission of the changes you wish to make. Some items need permits, while some do not. But even if the work proposed does not need a permit, the Planning & Zoning Commission is a wealth of information, especially for the DIY projects. They have counseled some residents on pitfalls to avoid and alternatives that could save the homeowner time and money over the course of a repair, revision, or replacement. They are an invaluable resource to our community.

A standard rule of thumb to use when asking if you need a permit is whether you are changing any structure or adding anything that would change a structure. This would require a permit. For example, if you wish to change your kitchen cabinets, this would not need a permit. But if you wanted to remodel your kitchen by changing the cabinets, adding a bay window, and moving the dishwasher to the other side of the sink, this would need permits, because you are changing electrical and plumbing lines and installing a window where there previously was none. But when in doubt, we are here to help. Please feel free to call the Zoning Clerk at 882-5743 with any

questions or for any information.

The Planning & Zoning Commission frequently gets requests for approval for decks, additions, garages, and fences. But other items can be reviewed, such as hot tubs, porches, sheds, landscape, and driveway or sidewalk enhancements.

Zoning meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. If you have a planned item, you can be put on the agenda for discussion. Please call the Zoning Clerk at 882-5743 for needed forms and materials you might have to supply for the meeting and for any questions as to what is needed for presentation. Because of the volume of permit applications, it is required that you now provide the necessary items for a building permit, such as a cross-section drawing defining the structure (including footer and beam supports), two elevation drawings, a site plan, and a floor plan two weeks before the upcoming zoning meeting to get put on the agenda. Provided the information given to the Planning & Zoning Commission is adequate for approval, you can get a permit issued to you the next day, if the plans are approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission. It's as simple as that!

Meetings

Planning & Zoning meetings are held in the Community Building on

the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30p. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Variances

\$50 each. If the Commission is unable to grant your request, you may appeal to the Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting (the second Monday of the month). By the Friday morning before that Council meeting, present to the Zoning Clerk 9 copies of your plans and/or paperwork, the variance request form, and any applicable fees. Failure to do so will keep your request off the Council agenda, and you will be delayed until the Council meeting the following month.

* * *

2829 Minerva Lake Road
882-5743
899-1296 fax

Office Hours are usually M, W, F from 9:00a to noon. It's advisable to call first. Download forms and stay up to date by visiting <http://www.minervapark.org/zoning/>.

SEPTEMBER DATES

- 1 (7:30p) Planning & Zoning
- 6 (6p) Mayor's Court
- 12 (7p) Council Meeting
- 14 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
- 14 (5p) Villager Deadline
- 20 (6p) Mayor's Court

MPCA News

Community Association Membership Drive Begins

The MPCA membership drive will begin next month and is only \$15 annually to join. Your Community Association dues help support a variety of activities in the Village ... garden tours, garden awards, MinervaFlora news, the Duck Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year, lake clean-ups, welcomes to new residents by the Newcomers Committee, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Founders Day, Children's Christmas Party, Publicity Committee, Candidates Night, the annual resident directory, the Festival of Lights, the Christmas carriage rides, scholarships, and the "Villager" newsletter. Please mail in your dues.

Make your check payable to MPCA (or Minerva Park Community Association) for \$15 and forward it to Marilyn Herboltzheimer, 2498 Minerva Lake Road, Columbus OH 43231, 882-0455.

Marilyn is in need of volunteers to work with the annual membership drive this year, so please consider helping her. She can be reached at 882-0455.

Thank you for your continued support. •

New Resident Directories

1 It's time to update the annual resident directory with changes in names and/or phone numbers. Please check your listing and report any changes or suggestions to Sharon Bierman at 899-3755. The deadline is September 9.

2 **MP Directory Advertising** - Reach 550 MP residents for 1 year at only \$25 for a quarter page! Contact Sharon Bierman at 899-3755. The deadline is September 9.

3 Receiving a MP Resident Directory is one benefit of joining the MP Community Association for only \$15 annually. Make your check payable to "Minerva Park Community Association" or "MPCA" and send it to Marilyn Herboltzheimer, 2498 Minerva Lake Road, Columbus OH 43231, 882-0455. •

<http://www.minervapark.org>

Call 899-3755 to join the emailing list to be advised of updates to the website.

Annual Meeting Treasurer Needed

Join us September 14 at 7:30p for the MPCA annual business meeting, to include nominations and installation of officers for the upcoming year.

As usual, we need volunteers to fill important positions this coming year. A **treasurer** would keep track of the funds, prepare the annual budget, make deposits, and write checks. A **Children's Committee chair** would coordinate children's activities throughout the year ... Halloween Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Party, etc.

If you can help with these positions or any other volunteer positions throughout the year, please call MPCA President **Bob Gale** at **560-0452**. •

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the **Villager**

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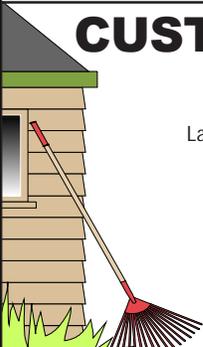
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



The Eighth Annual **Founders Day** celebration, once again held at the pool, was very well attended. Although it was a hot day, the weather was perfect for water activities and games, and the children seemed to have a ball. See page 5 for some photos.

The **tree-trimming** program seems to be going well with only a few glitches. Although it may seem that the amount of trees trimmed and removed is extreme, remember that the Village has not been on the tree-trimming schedule for several years. We want to make every effort to avoid a repeat of the power outage we experienced last December.

We have received a number of complaints from residents who regularly walk or run about **uncontrolled dogs**. Our Leash Law reads, "A person who is the owner or has charge of any animal shall not permit it to run at large in the public road, highway, street, lane, or alley, upon unenclosed land, or permit them to go upon any private yard, lot, or enclosure without the consent of the owner of the yard, lot, or enclosure." This has become a safety issue. Please be good neighbors and restrain your dogs.

There hasn't been much information to share about the **golf course** these past few months. The property owners and the builder are moving toward an agreement, and the Village is closer to beginning the annexation process. Be assured that we

will make every effort to keep you informed. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions you may have.

Lifelong resident **Joshua Buckingham** was formally awarded his Eagle Scout rank at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor the end of August. I was honored to be included in the ceremony and awarded Joshua a Mayoral Proclamation on behalf of the Village in recognition of his achievements.

The Village is applying for a grant through the **Ohio Public Works Commission** for a mill and fill project for the following streets: Woodley Road, Elmhurst Avenue, Westbridge Drive, the western sections of Maplewood and Lakewood Drives leading to the entrances, 800' of Ponderosa Drive starting at the entrance and including Carleton Court, and streets around the Briar Rose island. We should receive notice by the end of the year if we have received this grant.

Citizen's Comments - A resident stated that there are still problems at the independent living facility. Caregivers are outside talking loudly on cell phones at all hours of the night and are loud and disruptive when they arrive for their shifts.

Five members of Council were present at the regular Council meeting held August 8.

Chuck Gibson, the only applicant for the current Council vacancy, was appointed and sworn in.

The following departmental reports were made:

Police - Chief Hillard and Sergeant Beach presented information they had gathered at the request of the Council concerning leasing new vehicles instead of purchasing used cruisers. After a lengthy discussion, the Council and the Chief came to the conclusion that buying refurbished

cruisers are the better deal for the Village. Council approved an amount not to exceed \$12,000 to purchase a refurbished cruiser to replace cruiser #3. Chief Hillard will be attending a training session on "reverse 911," sponsored by Homeland Security. This system, if implemented by the Village, would enable your officials to contact all residents in case of an emergency by way of a 30-second recorded message outlining the emergency, procedures to be followed, etc. He will report back to the Council at the September meeting.

EMS - Chief Hoehchstetter reviewed his monthly report. The vehicle and the gurney have been repaired.

Engineer - Mike Flickinger reported that the 2005 Street Project is nearly completed. The two stubs on Minerva Lake Road have also been repaired. There will be a mid-construction meeting with those involved with the Hawthorne Waterline Project, with the Mayor, Engineer, and the Segovias in attendance. A total of \$595 was approved to replace the manhole cover of the sanitary sewer that was repaired at Minerva Lake Road.

Legal - Law Director Gene Hollins spoke to the attorney representing Joshua Homes. The builder would like to begin the annexation process before the final purchase is completed.

Planning & Zoning - Code Enforcement Officer Dick Busick reviewed the list of code violations. Trailers, dumpsters, and PODS seem to be a problem. Residents need to inform the Mayor's Office if they have ongoing projects and are utilizing dumpsters and trailers for any length of time,

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F – 8a-1p and 4p-6p
 Tu – 8a-1p
 Th – 8a-1p and 6p-8p
 September 10 – 10:00a-noon



because extended stays are prohibited.

MP Community Association - Board member Lisa Craddock-Thitoff reported that they are busy preparing for the Founders Day Celebration at the pool.

MP Swim Club - Board President Georgeanna Canniff and Treasurer Reno Volpe reported that July had been a good month with \$4,521.50 in walk-ins. The vending machines had not worked out as well they had hoped. Reno and Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter will work together on the year-end report at the end of the season.

The following committee reports were made:

Community - Councilwoman Sharon Bierman has submitted the MS4 Storm Sewer Report, detailing public outreach articles and events, storm and sanitary sewer repairs, and pollution prevention efforts by the Village during the past year.

Finance - Councilman Don

Champney presented and reviewed the financial reports along with the Clerk-Treasurer. He asked for and received approval for July expenditures totaling \$59,159.39.

Legislative - Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry asked the Council to consider the following legislation:

Resolution 2005-17 - Authorizing the Mayor to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding to rebuild and improve specified streets (noted above). Third reading accepted, passage accepted, passed.

Resolution 2005-18 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract with Lisa A. Pride for the auditing services of the BMV records for January-December 2006. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2005-19 - To fill the vacant Council Member position and to declare an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an

emergency.

Safety - Nothing at this time.

Service - Councilman Dave Stahr presented a proposal from Fountain Tech for fountains for the north lake ... two fountains at a cost of \$9,660. A motion for an expenditure of up to \$10,000 to purchase these fountains was not approved but will be considered in next year's budget.

Streets - Councilman Ron Yarano reported that the alley behind the businesses on Cleveland Avenue has been cleaned up. He asked for an amount of up to \$5,000 for a bobcat to plow the alley, survey the entire alley, and put down gravel. The motion was approved.

New Business - Columbus Outdoor Pursuits will be conducting a **canoe class** on the south lake Sunday, September 11. All the appropriate insurance information has been received by the Mayor's office.

Councilwoman Sharon Bierman, our website designer, asked for approval of funds to renew the **domain name**.



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Founders Day 2005

Nearly 200 residents gathered at the pool on Saturday, August 13, for the 8th Annual Founders Day festivities. Lots of shade, great picnic table & seating accommodations, ample parking, good food catered by Carfagna's, 3 tables of renowned FABULOUS desserts by famous Minerva Park bakers (our special thanks to you all!), plenty of games for the kids, a terrific D.J., the box maze, the moon walk, the pool to keep the kids occupied, and NO RAIN all combined to make for a great time had by one and all. Your Minerva Park Community Association sponsors this and other events throughout the year for residents and their guests ... all at no charge. That's just one of the benefits of joining the MP Community Association for a nominal \$15

annually. The membership drive starts late September ... or contact **Marilyn Herboltzheimer** at **882-0455**. She can use some help if you have some time! •



Villagers

*Welcome
Our New Neighbors!*

Marvin Tan & David Schwabenbauer - 5350 Park Lane Dr. (from Grandview area) - 783-5846

Kevin Kent - 5386 Park Lane Dr. - local move from the east side - 392-0078

Brooke & Kevin Lownie & Ava, 2688 Alder Vista Dr. (from Delaware area) - 208-5430

If you learn of any new residents, please advise the **Newcomers Committee**
Jim Kehl, 794-0047

Medic 119 ... Where are you?

July 2005

In July, Medic 119 made 48 runs - 23 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 2 into Minerva Park; 22 patients were transported to hospitals.

23 members volunteered a total of 528 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 4,676. Leading volunteers for the month were **Wayne Miller** (50 hours), **Tony Ruggles** (48 hours), and **Tina Quinn** (42 hours).

MP Runs

6-20 Chest Pains
7-26 Difficulty Breathing



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).

June 2005

Beg balance general fund	\$131,667.82
Revenue collected	30,279.81
Expenses	(90,402.22)
Ending balance	\$71,545.41

July 2005

Beg balance general fund	\$71,545.41
Revenue collected	48,165.39
Expenses	(59,159.39)
Ending balance	\$60,551.41

The Lorax

By Resident Greg Wittmann

You've heard of Dr. Seuss' book The Lorax haven't you? One of my favorite parts in this classic children's book is the line, "I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees."

Speaking for the trees is something most of us Minerva Parkians love to do. We have big old beautiful trees that we are proud of, and we love to show them off.

Recently, I found myself in a brand new neighborhood south of town near Canal Winchester. The houses were big and expensive, but it amazed me how barren and sterile the development was. Only a few months ago this area was full of huge trees that were impressive to say least. Now what is left is dirt and houses. The property value didn't seem nearly as high without its old growth trees. When friends come to our neighborhood, it is always fun to watch them stop and marvel at our ancient giants that are so easily taken for granted until they are gone.

As a naturalist, I spend a lot of time walking our neighborhood and studying your beautiful old trees. I often point to interesting trees to quiz my wife on identifying them. Are you aware that we are one of the very few neighborhoods in Columbus that still has old growth trees towering over our yards and houses? How lucky we are!

Many of the neighborhood's oaks and maples have been here for well over 100 years. I have one of the largest box elder trees I have ever seen in my back yard. I have seen some very impressive white oaks, burr oaks, Chinquapin oaks, and red oaks that explode the sky with their enormous beauty. Not to mention the enormous white and green ash.

One of our long-time residents,

Larry Hicks, tells me about the old catalpa trees in our neighborhood. These are the trees with the elephant ear-looking leaves with the long skinny bean pods and sweet smelling flowers in the spring. Larry said that, when he was a kid, he use to shoot big caterpillars off of them with his BB gun (an act that I as a naturalist can only report on, not condone).

According to the American Forestry Association, an acre of trees uses about 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year and provides abundant amounts of oxygen. And the energy conservation we are practicing six months out of the year by shading our homes with our old growth beauties is impressive, too. The truth is that we are nestled in a neighborhood that if left to its own devices over the past 90 years would probably be one of the most impressive forests in Ohio.

Here is another truth. Our big beautiful trees are being celebrated more each day as we see new treeless neighborhoods pop up all around us. I have often been accused of being a tree hugger. (Maybe that's because I wear a shirt that says TREE HUGGER on it.) My hope is that some day my children can bring their children to

this neighborhood and say to them, "Do you see that big red oak over there? I use to climb that tree and play hide and seek in it. You see that sugar maple over there? My dad tapped that tree for maple sugar every year." Our trees hold stories that shape our families' lives and make us who we are today. We hold the gift of earth stewardship in our hands. Let us do our best to honor and respect this ground we live on by celebrating our trees.

I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. •



Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are September 6 & 20 - 6:00p.

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

July 2005

Complete payments - 14	
Village Computer Fund	\$ 70
Village General Fund	2,919
Remitted to the State	280
Total Court Receipts	\$3,269



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Minerva Park
Police

MP Police Officers made 7 felony arrests and 3 misdemeanor arrests. All individuals were transported to the Franklin County jail.

- 7-1 5309 Westerville Rd., Westerville Auto Group, theft on 6-13 reported
- 7-1 2:24a, stolen vehicle recovered
- 7-10 .. 6:15p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., menacing threats
- 7-11 .. 3:29a, stolen vehicle recovered
- 7-13 .. 3:16p, 2800 blk Wildwood Rd., false alarm.
- 7-16 .. 2:00p, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft on June 23-24 reported
- 7-20 .. 4:51p, 5200 blk Ponderosa Dr., false alarm
- 7-30 .. 6:30p, stolen vehicle recovered •



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the Villager Staff

Editor Dianne Poncinie, 882-0012
bizeefam@columbus.rr.com

Layout & Design Sharon Bierman, 899-3755
sbierman@columbus.rr.com ... 899-7731 fax

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, September 14, 5:00p

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