

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2005 in Review

In addition to monthly reports presented in the "Villager," Mayor Eisentrout has requested that the various Village departments provide annual wrap-ups. Here is a summary of 2005 ...

Clerk-Treasurer

By Suzanne Coulter ... The year 2005 proved to be a year of challenges and progress. We continue to be tight with money in our General Fund, ending the year with just over \$37,000 in our account. The income tax remains a bit mysterious to us in terms of how much money it will actually generate for the Village. As of December 31, the income tax revenue was \$129,890.61. RITA (the Regional Income Tax Agency), which collects our income tax, had predicted annual revenue of \$265,000. The income tax year runs from January 1 to December 31, with people filing their income tax returns by the following April 15. Therefore, the Village will not truly know what the revenue is from the 2005 income tax until June 2006, when my department receives the final numbers from RITA. This revenue was a great help this year, and we would have had to cut back our budget without it. The Village's state funding was again cut this year by about \$4,000, and we expect this to be about the same in 2006.

On the positive side, we had a great year for getting things done around the Village while keeping our expenses down. In 2004, the General Fund expenditures totaled \$830,813.89. In 2005, the General Fund expenditures totaled \$785,346.71. Projects this year included street paving in the Wildwood Road area, which came in under budget. The area behind the strip mall on Cleveland Avenue has been cleaned up and made safe for emergency vehicles. The pool parking lot received new stone and was graded.

Our zoning ordinances have been monitored more closely this year, and violations have been effectively enforced at a lower cost than many years in the past, thanks to our Code Enforcement Officer, Dick Busick. A nearly new EMS vehicle was purchased and is now in service. Great family-oriented activities, such as the carriage rides and three children's parties, were well attended. There were canoe training classes on the lake.

In the Police Department, with help from grant money, the Village was able to purchase two new bicycles and all the equipment for two or our officers to use on bike patrol. The Village received 30 emergency hazard first response suits and air masks for both the Police officers and the volunteer EMS department, at no cost to the

Village, from Homeland Security. Chief Bobbie Hillard, through incredible grant writing, also procured two new computers and printers at no cost to the Village, as part of the information sharing program for police departments throughout the state. The Police Department was awarded grant money in 2005 for new bulletproof vests, but because of a federal hold-up, the department has not received them yet. We hope to get them soon to keep our officers safe.

Continued on page 6.

Gypsy Moths

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will host an Open House on

**Wednesday, February 8
5:30p to 8:00p**

at the Community Building. Representatives will explain and share information about the Village's May 2006 Spray Suppression Program to eradicate additional gypsy moth infestations. Residents are encouraged to attend. •

FEBRUARY DATES

- 8 (5:30-8p) Gypsy Moths
- 13 (7p) Council Meeting
- 15 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
- 15 (5p) Villager Deadline

MPCA News

MPCA Festival of Lights Winners

Thanks to all the decorators who made Minerva Park beautiful this holiday season. Winners received a gift certificate to a local nursery.

By Bob Gale, MPCA President



Best Outdoor Tree
Michael McAuley
2828 Park Lane Dr.

Beautiful, color-changing tree sat on the balcony of a stately setting.

Runner Up
Pat Sideheimer
2635 Alder Vista Dr.

Pretty, little tree on the front porch, adorned with tiny multicolored lights.



Best Entrance Way
Betty Kjellmark
& Gail Shaffer
2615 Wildwood Rd.

Golden garland framed a gilded door, adorned with an artistic dove-bedecked wreath.

Runner Up
Minda & Norman Li
2785 Park Lane Dr.

Simple and elegant. White lights and wreaths on both sides of door.



Best Religious Theme
Bethany & Karl
Freudenreich
2692 Wildwood

Reverent silhouettes of the nativity scene, black cutouts of the 3 kings & animals placed in front yard, 3-dimensional stars hung from trees.

Runner Up
Barbara & Mike Mascherino
5296 Elmhurst Ave.

Bright, lighted angel cutouts struck a simple, classic pose.



Best Whimsical Display
Christy &
Matthew Danzuso
5280 Elmhurst Ave.

A mean one ... Cartoon figures of the Grinch & Cindy Loo Hoo ... made us laugh. Small but effective.

Runner Up
Yvonne & Bill Giammarco
2736 Wildwood Rd.

You could see this house from 8 houses down! A lot of action with Tigger, snowmen, lights galore, and a beautiful snow globe.



Best Outline Effect
Gretchen &
Tommy Sasfy
3210 Minerva Lake Rd.

OSU-themed red & white lights outlined door & walk. Lit outlines of tulips were especially a nice touch in December.

Runner Up
Rella & Jim Kehl
2585 Lakewood Rd.

Large shining star over multicolor-outlined house. Green luminaries lined the walk.

Thanks to our dedicated and discerning judges ... **Glenda, Andy, & Spencer Morris; Jordan Baker; Natalie, Greg, Isaac, & Gabe Wittmann.** Because this year's winners are not eligible to win next year, we invite the first place winners to be judges next year, but anyone is welcome to judge. We especially love to see intergenerational involvement. If you would like to help judge the 2006 Festival of Lights contest, please contact **Natalie or Greg Wittmann** at 523-2178. •

Spring is Right Around the Corner BUILDING PERMITS

With spring right around the corner, quite a few of us think about the upcoming home improvement projects we want to start this year. Things like decks, fences, room additions, and garage expansions

require permits, and any project requiring a permit needs to have approval from the Zoning Commission.

Deadlines - To submit an application for approval, provide the necessary forms and information to the Zoning Clerk at least two weeks before the monthly meeting, which is the first Thursday of each month.

And please be present and ready for discussion at the meeting. Having the necessary paperwork completed before the meeting avoids delays in issuing the permits and keeps you from having to stall your project until the next meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the Zoning Clerk, Susan Waldenmyer, at 882-5743. •

MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



Residential TIF - You may have read an article in the January 12 "This Week" issue regarding Minerva Park establishing a Residential Tax Incentive District, a TIF. The majority of the information was correct, with the exception of the percentage. It is, in fact, a 30-year, 75% TIF, not 35%.

Independent Living Facility - I have recently spoken to the Consumer Support Services' (CSS) Chief Operations Officer and to the woman who will be managing the Independent Living Facility on Lakewood Drive. Here is what is happening: The facility is still unoccupied and should remain so for another month or two. All repairs are completed after the fire in December 2004, and CSS is waiting for the necessary inspections from the Village, County, and the State and for re-certification. The residents will be 14 to 18 years of age, a maximum of three children, with two staff members on the first and second shifts, and one staff member on the third shift unless there is a high-maintenance child. I have once again expressed my concern and dissatisfaction with the staffing practices and the supervision of the staff. I have been assured that there will be all new staff and "pop-

up inspections" at all hours. I have asked for a meeting with CSS once all the residents are placed so we can review their policies and know where we all stand.

2006 Street Repair Project - As expected, we were not approved for this round of funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission, OPWC. I met with our contact at MORPC and was assured that we had a good project, the packet was well prepared, and that we had provided all of the information requested. There was a great deal of competition from the larger municipalities, and the Broad Street Bridge project captured a large share of the available funds. Our project should be recommended this month to OPWC's Small Government Division for consideration. We have until May to reconfigure the grant/loan ratio of our request and to review our project. The areas we hope to repair through a mill and fill in 2006 are Woodley, Westbridge, Elmhurst, the entrance at Lakewood and Maplewood, the island at Briar Rose and Lakewood, and the entrance at Ponderosa down to and including Carleton Court. We'll keep you posted.

Golf Course - We continue our communications with the property owners and Joshua Homes as we move toward the annexation and rezoning of the property.

Gypsy Moths - I want to encourage residents to attend the Open House on Wednesday, February 8, hosted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Representatives will explain and share information about the

Village's May 2006 Spray Suppression Program to eradicate additional gypsy moth infestations.

Four Council members were present at the Regular Council meeting held January 9. Councilman Ron Yarano was absent due to illness. Jeff Rigg was appointed and sworn in to fill the vacant Council seat for a 4-year term. Pam Park-Curry was reelected as President of Council.

Citizens' Comments: There were questions about the quality of Joshua Homes' work and the Council's impression of Joshua as a potential builder in the Village.

Police - Chief Hillard reported that the new cruiser has been totaled. Update: We have since negotiated the settlement for payment of the full value of the cruiser, minus the \$500 deductible, for the removal and installation of all equipment, and for the graphics to be added to the vehicle.

EMS - Chief Hoehstetter thanked the Council for all of their help and support this past year. The garage door opener has been replaced for \$350. The Nextel 800 mgH radios were initially purchased from the government. If you are using an active 800 radio, Nextel has offered to upgrade at a cost of \$3,700 each. We are in line for four of the Homeland Security Program updates. However, there is a vendor who has some old radios at \$250 each that will work until we receive the new ones in 2006 or 2007.

Planning & Zoning -

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F - 8a-1p and 4p-6p
 Tu - 8a-1p
 Th - 8a-1p and 6p-8p
 February 11 - 10:00a-noon



Code Enforcement Officer Dick Busick reported that there was no meeting in December because there were no cases to be heard. The gas station needs further investigation and monitoring, and legislation still needs to be drafted for PODS and dumpsters.

Minerva Park Community Association - Board Vice President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff reported that the Children's Christmas party was well-attended, and the Carriage Rides were very successful.

Northland Community Council - The MPCA still needs a representative to attend the monthly meetings.

Minerva Park Swim Club - Pool Board member Lisa Craddock-Thitoff reported that there is a Pool Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 7:00p.

The following committee reports were made:

Community - Councilman Jeff Rigg will chair this committee but had nothing to report at this time.

Finance - Councilman Don Champney asked for and received approval for the warrants paid in December, totaling \$123,644.11.

Legislation - Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry asked the Council to consider the following legislation: Resolution 2006-01 - A resolution honoring Dave Stahr for his many valuable contributions to the Village through years of service as a citizen and as a Council member. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2006-02 - Rates as determined by the Franklin County Auditor's office. Three readings waived, rules suspended, passed as an emergency.

Safety - Councilman Chuck Gibson had nothing at this time.

Service - Councilwoman Sharon Bierman had nothing at this time.

Streets - Nothing at this time. •



Minerva Park Police

December - MP Police Officers made 1 felony arrest and 10 misdemeanor arrests; 9 individuals were transported to the Franklin County jail.

- 12-5 ..8:39p, Accra African International Market, 5266 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 12-8 ..3:26a, Hawthorne Elementary School, 5001 Farview Road, false alarm
- 12-8 ..Hobos Pizza, 5256 Cleveland Ave., bad check for \$30.02 on 6-23 reported
- 12-12. 12:01a, U.S.Cleaners, 5424 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 12-16. 7:18p, Gordon Food Service, 5400 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 12-21 . 4:34p, La Casa Musical, 5406 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 12-21. Hobos Pizza, bad checks for \$43 on 11-19 and \$40 on 12-13 reported
- 12-22. 4:46p, La Casa Musical, false alarm
- 12-24. 2900 blk Kerrwood Dr., two assault complaints
- 12-29. 7:57p, 2800 blk E. Shore Court, burglary

Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are February 7 and 21 - 6:00p.

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

December 2005

Complete payments - 25	
Village Computer Fund	\$ 125
Village General Fund	5,786
Remitted to the State	500
Total Court Receipts	\$4,411

Battle of the Bands

Congratulations to Minerva Lake Road's **Kenton MacDowell**, a junior at Westerville South. He and his garage band, "Dark Leviathan," are one of the 10 finalists in the third annual Battle of the Bands, presented by the Columbus Dispatch. Finals will be held on Thursday, February 16, 5:00p to 9:00p, at Lifestyle Communities Pavilion (405 Neil Avenue) in the Arena District. The winning band will receive \$500 for the band, \$500 for their school's music program, and a day of recording time at John Schwab Studios. Second place will receive \$300 and a half-day of recording time. Third place will receive \$200 and a half day of recording time.

The audition process included submitting family-friendly songs and lyrics, a photo, and endorsement by a school administrator. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster or at the door for \$10 each. For more information, visit <http://www.columbusdispatch.com/battleofthebands/>.

Make plans to attend this exciting musical event and support guitarist Kenton and his group!



<http://www.minervapark.org>

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

Advertise in
the Villager
 Ads start at \$15 monthly, or
 \$75 for a 6-month contract
 (get 1 month FREE).
 Contact Sharon Bierman
 at 899-3755.

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\$ 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).

November 2005

Beg balance general fund	\$150,617.49
Revenue collected	30,610.02
Expenses	(57,049.22)
Ending balance	\$124,178.29

December 2005

Beg balance general fund	\$124,178.29
Revenue collected	44,668.63
Expenses	(123,644.11)
Ending balance	\$37,147.45



2580 Jordan Road

Sunday 10:30a
 Wednesday 7:00p

Nursery • Children's Services
 Youth Services

Living the Life Christ Created for Us to Live

898-7688
 Pastor Dan & Kim Cascioli

Faith Life Family Church

Continued from page 1.

A Drug-Free Workplace program was set up and kicked off in June, which lowers the Village's workman's compensation expense. Many of the Village employees and council members were NIMS-certified (National Incident Management System) this year through FEMA. This certification was done so the Village would still be eligible to receive federal grant money in the coming years. Without this certification, the Village would not be eligible for many upcoming grant possibilities.

As Clerk-Treasurer, I continued in my yearly training with the State Auditor's office and continued in my capacity as a contracted visiting treasurer for it. Because of new federal regulations for government year-end financials, I was trained on how to do these new reports, am now training other treasurers throughout the state, and helped out the Auditor's office by testing the new software and giving suggestions for changes to the software to make it more user-friendly. I also continued my investment training with the State Treasurer's office to ensure continued success for the Village's

investments.

I look forward to 2006 for the Village government as a whole, to continue to do great things around the Village as we monitor and wisely use your tax dollars. Please call or come in to the Clerk-Treasurer's office at any time, if you have questions.

Police

By Chief Bobbie Hillard ...
Community Service - Sergeant Adam Beach presented a safety belt program to all 3rd-graders at Hawthorne Elementary School.

Officers Serving Our Country - In October, Patrolman Michael Back, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, returned from Iraq, where he provided supply route security. In May, Training Sergeant James Meade returned from Iraq, where he assisted in training police officers. We thank you both for your service!

In 2005, we welcomed a female officer to our ranks, the first in many years—Jennifer Phillips.

Collaborative efforts with area agencies help keep our Village safe. Our 2005 statistics are as follows:
 Dispatched runs 962
 Nondispatched runs 548
 Assist area agencies 549
 Misdemeanor arrests 144

Felony arrests 18
 Assaults 5
 Sex offenses 2
 Robberies 2
 Burglaries 3
 Auto theft 2
 Criminal mischief 2
 Criminal damaging 4
 Telephone harassment 3
 Breaking & entering 1
 Suspicious people 160
 Suspicious vehicles 135
 Motorist assists 64
 9-1-1 calls 39
 Burglary in progress false alarm .. 15
 Breaking & entering false alarm .. 25
 Domestic disputes or violence 9
 Missing people 3
 Stolen vehicle recoveries 5
 Traffic citations 1,159
 Warning citations 73
 Identity thefts 2
 Interference with custody 1

Fire Department - EMS

By Chief Rick Hoehstetter ...
 The Fire Department responded to 606 runs this year, a 26% increase over the previous year. I would like to commend the officers and members of Medic 119 for their commitment to the Department and thank them for the 7,910 hours of volunteer time donated this past year.

We replaced the cab and chassis under Medic 119 in March, the work being done by Lifestar Rescue Service in Van Wert OH. Thanks to a cancelled order just before our arrival at Lifestar, we were given a Ford E350 Super Duty chassis at no extra cost, which is a truck several grades better than the one we had contracted to purchase and which represented a \$2,250 savings. The "reboxing" project was completed in March, and, thanks to the upgraded chassis, the vehicle handles better now than ever before. Lifestar also replaced many of the interior components of the "box," making the entire vehicle feel like new. The project cost \$78,000, and

Item	Grant Funds	Village Monies
EMS - 30 emergency hazard first-response suits, fitted with air masks	Homeland Security \$1,400	No Village funds
Police – police bike & equipment*	\$4,424	\$1,106
Police – requested 8 portable and 1 mobile radio with accessories (\$38,871) ... received 2 portable radios & 1 mobile radio with accessories.	Homeland Security \$4,376	No Village funds
Police - 2 new computers & printers, for information sharing among police departments throughout the state	Homeland Security Est. \$5,700	No Village funds
Police - bulletproof vests, delayed because of federal hold since 2004 - pending	Homeland Security \$11,760	No Village funds

* Note that a second bike was purchased with the unspent portion of grant funds, allowing for a second bike at a cost of appx. \$200 to the Village.

we expect that the refurbished Medic 119 will provide us with many years of service. We had investigated the cost of buying a new or used medic instead and received quotes ranging from \$95,000 to \$215,000. We are already saving as much as possible during the year on capital expenditures to build the EMS Medic fund back up for the next purchase, which we hope to put off for a decade.

Blendon Township provided us with another \$6,000 under our annual EMS contract. At the end of the year, Mayor Eisentrout and I renegotiated the Blendon Township EMS contract; it is now valued at \$8,000 per year. The contract had not been changed in many years and did not reflect the increased costs of operating an Advance Life Support vehicle.

Recent legislation has changed the regulations governing eligibility in the State EMS grant funds. Departments that do not provide continuous coverage are now excluded, so we no longer qualify to receive these funds. There have been other efforts made to exclude some of the smaller departments from this funding pool. In the 2003 grant cycle, the State EMS Grant Program changed the rules governing how departments applied for funding. They invited applicants to make their best case for being given funds (instead of just reporting needs, which was the way it had always been done). The result was that all of the bigger departments hired grant writers, and, as the head of the EMS Grants said, 28% of the applicants received 89% of the funds. We received \$120 that year; we usually receive \$7,000.

We have traditionally used the State EMS Grant funds for our Tuition Reimbursement Program, one of the only tangible benefits we can offer members and, as such, one of our most effective recruitment

strategies. Roughly half of the Department's paramedics are beneficiaries of this program. We believe that this change in State EMS policy has eliminated the departments most in need of financial assistance.

At the end of the year, we were informed that, as part of an agreement that Nextel had signed with FCC, they agreed to "reband" all of the radios in the range of frequencies that they are to purchase. Many of the radios used by Fire, EMS, and Police departments in the United States use these frequencies, including ours. We also received an offer from a local vendor to purchase several of the same older type of radios that we already have for \$275 each. Nextel will replace all radios in the "rebanding" area with new "interoperable" models in four "waves." Columbus lies in the fourth wave, and they expect to reach us in late 2006 or early 2007. We had applied to Homeland Defense for new radios but were told that it would be more effective to seek other funding sources, so we have taken this direction in the effort to achieve interoperable status instead. Also during this period, our long-suffering garage door opener finally broke in a way that I could not fix. A local company offered to replace it for \$375, and we accepted. We would like to express our gratitude to Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter for her assistance at the 11th hour in making these purchases.

We would also like to thank Mayor Lynn Eisentrout and the Village Council for their ongoing efforts regarding the potential annexation of the golf course property. Establishing the Residential TIF took a great deal of effort, but with it in place, we look forward to the coming years and the truly exciting possibilities for growth and development on the horizon.

We are very proud to serve this community and feel honored to play a part in its future.

Finally, it is with deep sadness that I must mark the passing of one of our in-charge medics, Eric A. Johnson, Esq., on July 24. Eric was piloting a small plane near Rock Hill NC when his aircraft reportedly developed engine trouble. In characteristic form, Eric sacrificed himself to avoid causing harm to anyone on the ground, bringing the aircraft down in the front yard of a municipal pool surrounded by a suburban neighborhood. Eric enriched our lives, and he lived by example, challenging us to live up to our full potential. He had a natural flair for changing lives for the better, and we all miss him.

Mayor's Court

By Charline Garrabrant, Clerk of Courts ... The public is invited to attend Mayor's Court, held on every other Tuesday at 5:30p. Our 2005 statistics are as follows:

Total Receipts	\$44,137
Paid to the State	\$5,068
To MP Computer Fund	\$1,130
To MP General Fund	\$37,219

Zoning

By Susan Waldenmyer, Zoning Clerk ... We have had a busy year with all that has been going on! Our 2005 statistics are as follows ...

25 permits	\$753
2 variances	\$200

The 2005 permits were as follows:

Fences	5
Plumbing	4
Decks	4
Sheds	3
Remodeling	2
Electrical	2
Home businesses	2
Fire restoration	1
Room additin	1
Porch portico	1



Zoning forms can be downloaded from the website, <http://www.minervapark.org>.

Zoning Violations

By Dick Busick - Code Enforcement Officer ... The Zoning Commission worked on some of the enforcement issues for property maintenance and safety code violations, as follows ...

Code enforcement efforts in Minerva Park are focused on keeping our residential and commercial areas ones we can all be proud to live and work in. At the start of 2005, we had 34 locations that were not in conformance with our Zoning Code. By the end of 2005, we had reduced that inventory to 27, a 20% improvement. During the year, we resolved problems in 73 locations. In the summary table, below you can see that most of our unresolved cases are primarily spread across problems relating to unlicensed cars and trucks, improper storage of trailers and construction equipment, trash and dumpster problems, and finally a catch-all category of miscellaneous items. This latter category includes items such as poorly maintained properties and operating home businesses without the required home occupation permits.

The zoning violations summary for 2005 is as follows:

Unresolved at start of 2005	34
Trash	8
Trucks	6
Trailers	5
Dumpsters	4
Cars	2
Signs	1
Weeds	1
Miscellaneous	11
Resolved in 2005	73
Unresolved at end of 2005	27

We have made great improvements in areas that have in the past been a problem for the Village. Examples include boat

storage, commercial signage, and sheds & fences being erected without proper authorization. To accomplish the above-listed improvements, Village Code Enforcement issued 32 violation letters and cited 11 cases into Mayor's Court for resolution. In some cases, the magistrate imposed rather substantial fines. Looking forward to 2006, we expect continued and expanded efforts in the proper regulation of Home Occupations. During 2005, we discovered that, although most residents appreciate personal visits and informal discussion of problems related to their property, the majority of those who seem to have repeated problems with our codified ordinances respond only when they receive a formal notice of violation or citation into Mayor's Court. In the future, we will try to streamline that process so the length of time to solve a problem can be reduced.

The Pool

By Reno Volpe, Board Treasurer ... It was great pool weather - certainly better than the last 2 years. In general, memberships were down from the previous years, and walk-ins were good but not great, despite a hard push in the area with advertising. We were disappointed with the attendance to the Opening Dessert Party, although Family Night was great, with a turn-out of approximately 150 people. The adult Wine & Cheese Party was well received, with approximately 50 people. And we were especially pleased that well over 100 people came to the memorial for Bob Jackson, who had been manager of the pool for 26 years.

Even though we had 189 paid memberships, we had a shortfall in revenue. The Village earmarked \$30,000 in grant funds, but we used only about \$18,000 of it.

We anticipate opening the 2006

season on Memorial Day weekend. We hope to see several MP families and groups as members this year. If you would like to volunteer or serve on the Pool Board, call Georganna Canniff at 882-2376.

Community Association

By Bob Gale, MPCA President ... The MPCA continues to have steady membership of Village residents. As of December 2005, we had 70% of Village households as dues-paying members. In 2005, the MCPA hosted more than 20 various activities paid for by your \$15 dues, advertising in the Villager and Directory, the annual garage sale, and in-kind donations. Those activities included Garden Awards, Garden Tours, MinervaFlora beautification, Duck Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Garage Sale, Children's Halloween Party, Greetings from the Sunshine Committee, Lake Clean-ups, Newcomers Committee welcome to new residents, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Founder's Day, Children's Christmas Party, Publicity Committee, Northland Community Council participation, annual Resident Directory, Festival of Lights, Holiday Carriage Rides, Scholarships, and The Villager newsletter.

Milestones in 2005 included the MPCA again hosting Founders Day at the Minerva Park Pool. The MPCA thanks the Pool Board for their assistance. The Duck Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year was presented Janet Kohn, a long-time Village resident, for her work for MinervaFlora and the MPCA membership drive.

As you can see, the MPCA was busy in 2005, and we expect to continue our activities at the same pace in 2006. We need volunteers to do these activities. Currently we have vacancies for the Northland Community Council liaison and Founders Day committee. We

gratefully thank the current members of the MPCA board, including Sharon Bierman, Dick Busick, Suzanne Coulter, Lisa Craddock-Thitoff, Kim Dooley, Marilyn Herboltzheimer, Gretchen Pershon, Dianne Poncinie, Kathy Ramey, and Amy Szlapak. We need YOU to volunteer in 2006, so call Bob Gale at 560-0452.

The Mayor's Office

This has been a busy and productive year.

In January, Dominion Homes ceased negotiations with the golf course property owners and the Village. Over the ensuing six weeks, we, along with the property owners, spoke to 13 different builders and developers interested in developing the golf course. Joshua Homes emerged as the "builder of choice." Negotiations continue between the two parties with the Village being kept apprised of any progress. We continue to impress upon the owners our willingness to annex the golf course into the Village and work with them toward that goal.

We would like to express our appreciation for your support of the two replacement levies this year—a 4 mill in May and a 1.9 mill in November. Referencing the Clerk/Treasurer's report, we have tried to be sensitive to our spending this past year and use your tax dollars wisely. The Police and EMS/Fire Departments continue their grant-seeking efforts despite new funding restrictions.

Our Street Repair Program continued with a mill & fill for Wildwood Road, North Bay Drive, and Cardinal Court. This proved to be quite a project but ended up coming in under budget. We are again seeking funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission's Small Government Division for the 2006 project.

In July, we lost a good friend of

the Village. Mayor's Court Magistrate and member of the EMS Department, Eric Johnson, was tragically killed in an airplane accident and has been sorely missed.

In December, the Council passed the necessary legislation to establish a 30-year, 75% Residential Tax Increment Financing District, a TIF. These TIF funds can be used for road and infrastructure improvements, water and sewer line maintenance and upgrades, and to fund other projects.

We saw a number of resolved commercial and residential zoning code violations in 2005. As was mentioned in the June issue of the Villager, there are concerns about how the Village is being perceived by realtors and the general public, property values, and homes being sold in a reasonable amount of time. Minerva Park has been referred to on a number of occasions as a "beautiful, peaceful oasis." It is, but we must remain vigilant to maintain our standards as a residential area with a wonderful historical heritage. To do so will benefit all of us. Additionally, each time a violation needs to be addressed, we spend money that could be used elsewhere.

In closing, I am grateful for all your suggestions, comments, and encouragement this past year. One of my goals for my administration has been an "open door policy" and to be available to you either by expanded office hours or by email. I would like to thank my fellow elected officials and staff for making this such a productive year.

Mayor Lynn Eisentrout

Have a storm drain in front of your house?

Please be MP neighborly and help keep it cleared for us all!

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

December 2005

In December, Medic 119 made 35 runs - 9 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 2 into Minerva Park; 22 patients were transported to hospitals.

22 members volunteered a total of 694 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 7,910. Leading volunteers for the month were **Scott Burns** (155 hours), **Tina Quinn** (102 hours), and **Amber Murphy** (42 hours).

MP Runs

12-12 ... Unconscious person
12-28 ... Injured person



Villagers

Welcome Our New Neighbors!

**Andrea Villeda & Brian,
Melven & Nicolas Rodriguez,**
from Columbus, 2605
Maplewood - 882-4889

Marianna Klochko, 2816
Lakewood, 740-417-3131, from
Delaware OH

If you learn of any new residents,
please advise the

Newcomers Committee
Steve & Lisa Thitoff - 891-2166
Amy Szlapak - 890-4113

Are You Ready?

The funds that the Village received this past year from Homeland Security for emergency preparedness and first-responders underscore the importance of each of us being prepared in case of emergency.

The Department of Homeland Security and the Citizen Corps have embarked upon a message of readiness for us all. "Are You Ready? A Guide for Citizen Preparedness" is a comprehensive guide that walks through a step-by-step approach to getting informed about local emergency plans, how to identify hazards, and how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and disaster supplies kit. Other topics include evacuation, emergency public shelters, animals in disaster, and information specific to people with disabilities. It also provides in-depth information on specific hazards, including what to do before, during, and after each hazard type.

The Citizen Corps lists the following things you can do right now to be safer ...

- Check and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and replace all alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Make sure you know where your local fire department, police station, and hospital are and post a list of emergency phone numbers near all the telephones in your home.
- Organize and practice a family fire drill – make sure your children know what your smoke detector sounds like and what to do if it goes off when they are sleeping.
- Locate the utility mains for your home and be sure you know how to turn them off manually: gas,

electricity, and water.

- Create an emergency plan for your household, including your pets. Decide where your family will meet if a disaster does happen: (1) right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, and (2) outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home – ask an out-of-town friend to be your "family contact" to relay messages.
- Prepare a 3-day disaster supply kit, complete with flashlights, batteries, blankets, and an emergency supply of water and food (and pet food!).
- Plan to hold a Neighborhood Watch meeting – your local Sheriffs' office or police station can help you get started or visit www.usaonwatch.org for more information.
- Check the expiration dates of all over-the-counter medications – discard all that are expired and replace any that are routinely needed.
- Make sure all cleaning products and dangerous objects are out of children's reach.
- Plan to sign up for a first aid training course. Call your local American Red Cross chapter, the National Safety Council, or American Safety & Health Institute to ask about courses in your area (www.redcross.org, www.nsc.org, www.ashinstitute.org).
- Visit with your neighbors and discuss how you would handle a disaster in your area. Talk to neighbors with special needs and help them become safer too!

<http://www.dhs.gov>

<http://www.ready.gov>

<http://www.citizen corps.gov/> •

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Cops for Kids Toy Drive

Update - We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the generous gifts given this year. We received more than 60 toys, most of them brand new and of all assortments. There were gifts that would suit both boys and girls, and the age range was wonderful, too. As usual, the stuffed animals led the pack, with items such as a basketball, Scrabble, wallets, trucks and jets, babies of all kinds, and teddies of all kinds, too. In a year that we have all been overwhelmed with giving for many worthy causes, your generous contributions made a lot of children happy and this year's drive an enormous success. The Police Department would like to thank you all for all of your help in spreading the Christmas cheer.

The toys went to a kindergarten class at Avondale School on the West Side of Columbus. Most of these children do not have clothes

that fit them and receive little in the way of Christmas toys. There were enough toys for the class, and the remainder went to the school to distribute on a merit basis to

children that make significant improvements or achievements. It was important for us to make sure these children knew these toys were donated to them from the

residents of Minerva Park and also that they were collected for them by police officers.

Thank you so very much for your contributions! •

<p>ROOFING</p> <p>10% up to \$500 OFF</p> <p>New roofs, re-roofs, repairs & tune-ups, shingle, tile, slate, rubber, flat, metal, etc. Offer good off regular prices. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Limited offer. Call for details.</p>	<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>\$50 OFF each window</p> <p>Choose from double hung, casement, sliders, picture, bay, bow, exterior doors. Offer good off regular prices. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Limited offer. Call for details.</p>
<p>MASONRY</p> <p>10% OFF up to \$500 off</p> <p>Chimney work, tuckpointing, stucco & stone work, repair, etc. Offer good off regular prices. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Limited offer. Call for details.</p>	<p>SIDING</p> <p>10% up to \$250 OFF</p> <p>Vinyl siding, soffit, fascia, trim work, etc. Offer good off regular prices. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Limited offer. Call for details.</p>


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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, February 15, 5:00p

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