

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Suspect(s) Targeting the Elderly

The Columbus Division of Police is currently investigating two incidents involving burglary suspect(s) posing as construction workers. The suspect(s) are knocking on doors of elderly residents and identifying themselves as part of a construction crew repairing waterlines in the area. The suspect(s) tell the residents they need to come in their homes and inspect the pipes in the basement.

The suspect(s) persistently request access to the basement of the victim's home to look at pipes and have the homeowner accompany the suspect to the

basement. In one incident, the homeowner refused and the suspect left. In another incident, the homeowner did accompany the suspect to the basement and came upstairs later to find ransacked bedrooms. The suspect(s) were not wearing any sort of uniform and were not wearing any kind of observable identification.

Citizens are reminded to be cautious of anybody wanting to have access to their home. Citizens are encouraged to call the Police if they believe an individual is attempting to access their home improperly. •

20% OFF Pool Membership

Sunday, April 13
noon - 5:00p
Community Building

This is your last chance to receive 20% off the Family Membership rate. Sign up to enjoy swim lessons, fenced baby pool, referral discounts, book children's & private parties, and more.

Download information, flyer, and registration form from <http://www.minervapark.org/pool/>

The pool opens
Memorial Day at noon

Village Clean-Ups

MinervaFlora Clean-ups - April 5, 12, 19

Join us at 9:00a at the Community Building

Lake Clean-up - April 26

Join us at 8:00a at the Community Building

Underwritten by your MPCA dues

Bring labeled rakes, clippers, chain saws, gloves, etc.

If you can work at other times, too, call **Bob Gale** at 882-8622.



APRIL DATES

- 3 (7:30p) Planning & Zoning
- 5,12,19 (9a) Clean-ups
- 13 (noon-5p) Pool Sign-up
- 14 (7:30p) Council Meeting
- 16 (5p) Villager Deadline
- 16 (7:00p) Street Meet & Greet
- 16 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
- 26 (8a) Lake Clean-up

MPCA News

Street Reps

We extend a big THANK YOU to these residents to help make our community an even better place to live. If an area is not listed here, why don't YOU volunteer to cover that territory? Call Lisa Craddock-Thitoff at 891-2166 to learn more.

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MPCA dues

- 2738-2791 Maplewood - Amy Szlapak
- 2801-5099 Maplewood - Dick Busick
- Alder Vista - Beth Weaver & Linda Natali
- 2638-2729 Lakewood - Bob Gale
- 2736-2804 Lakewood - Nancie Baker
- 2811-2888 Lakewood & Lakeland Ct. - Janet Kohn
- 2498-2636 Minerva Lake Rd - Mark Abbott
- 2769-2860 Minerva Lake Rd - Dave Way
- 2920-3148 Minerva Lake Rd & Valley Rd - John Rue
- 3163-3271 Minerva Lake Rd (odd numbers) - Irma Warren
- Woodley Rd - Laura Bolain
- Westbridge - Lisa Stockdale
- 2505-2661 & 5360 Cleveland - Sharon Bierman
- 2662-2753 Wildwood & Cardinal Ct - Lynnette Ebner
- 2758-2844 Wildwood & North Bay - Erin Canales
- Jordan Rd - Rose Hart
- Park Lane Drive & Ct - Donna Glenn & Minda Li
- East Shore Dr & Ct - Glenda Morris & Lori Vogel
- Kerrwood - Elbert Cates
- Ponderosa condos - Georganna Canniff •



Easter Egg Hunt



Despite the weather, the 2008 Minerva Park Easter Egg Hunt was a big success with 50-60 children attending again this year. The event, organized and underwritten by volunteers of the Minerva Park Community Association, was held at Hawthorne Elementary on Saturday, March 15. The children were delighted to be visited by and have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny. Each child carefully selected a dozen Easter eggs, and some were fortunate enough to find eggs with vouchers in them that entitled the children to a trip to the "prize patch center." Ten-year-old Isaiah Stockdale did a fine job distributing prizes and overseeing the "prize patch center." Each child received their very own small bag of assorted Easter candy. •

Underwritten
by your
MPCA dues



Street Meets

Residents who attended the March MPCA meeting received literature on

Underwritten
by your
MPCA dues

Ohio gardening tips for the months of March and April. Visit with your Community Association at its April meeting (Community Building, 7p) for the neighbor Meet & Greet and receive "Travel Ohio" car trips literature. We possibly will have a speaker on more gardening tips for our yards.

Alder Vista Residents

We look forward to meeting you at our next meeting, Wednesday, April 16, 7:00p, Community Building. ALL MP residents are invited. •



Perennial Swap

Bring 3 - Take 3.
Watch for more
information.



MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



I hope we have seen the last of the snow — I have never been more ready for spring. Even though we had a few glitches with the snow plowing, overall Blendon Township's Corey Fleig did a good job.

Congratulations: Ruth Lambert, a 48-year resident, celebrated her 90th birthday on March 26. It was quite interesting to hear Ruth's perspective on the changes in the Village and surrounding areas these past 48 years.

Condolences: You may have noticed the Community Building flags flying at half-staff twice during March. We were saddened to hear of the deaths of past Mayors Jack Murray and "Buzz" Cockerell who passed away March 17 and 24, respectively. Buzz served as mayor from 1980-1987 and Jack from 1993-2003. Long-time Wildwood Road resident and avid gardener Vida Schneider passed away March 17, and Carl Romine Jr passed away on March 27. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

Please Be Careful: You may have read a Citizen Alert in the Dispatch and reprinted on page 1 of this newsletter. Please be cautious when you answer your door and NEVER allow anyone access to your home unless you know who

they are.

Jordan Road, Park Lane Court & Drive: The televising of the sanitary and storm sewers is complete, except for an 8' section that is still under water. This should be televised by mid-April. I hope to meet with the residents and share the results of this report in May with another roundtable meeting.

Meetings: I met with the Loan Officer at the **Ohio Water Development Authority** to introduce myself and the Village's dam renovation project and to find out what kind of funding we could secure for repairs to the dam. Our type of project would be eligible for a 15-year loan at 4.95% (we receive .5% off because we have been mandated by ODNR to come into compliance). All of the expenses we have incurred thus far will be included in the loan application. We are eligible to file this application once bids are in and we have secured ODNR's approval of our plans. Our goal at this point is to secure ODNR's approval of our letter seeking a formal extension of our deadline to begin and complete this project. To that end, the Council approved an expenditure not to exceed \$14,500 for general engineering costs (\$1,500), spillway investigation (\$400), and construction documents to increase the spillway capacity (\$9,000). An in-depth report on the dam repair project will be included in my report next month.

I have met with **the ODNR Division of Water & Dam Safety Engineering Program Project Manager** to apprise her of our progress on the dam project. It was an interesting meeting because she suggested several ways to approach this project. More on this

next month.

After many meetings, phone calls, and emails with the Ohio Public Works Commission's Small Government Division concerning our **2008 Street Repair Project**, we are ready to submit our final application, but it doesn't look too promising. We have increased our total points on the criteria sheet from 41 to 64, but we may need 67 points to be competitive with the many other municipalities that have also applied. We should receive a final decision by mid-May.

Emergency Management Be-Prepared Kit: You may have seen the article in recent issues of the Villager about our Senior Wellness Clinics offered by the Franklin County Board of Health. RN Jane Van Fossen will not be available for several months (probably not until mid-fall) to conduct these clinics. During her last visit, she left Emergency Management Be-Prepared Kits for Home and Away that were assembled for individuals who have "daily functioning needs." Inside are checklists for an emergency plan at home, preparing to go to a shelter, and important people and papers. These are available at the Community Building. Please don't hesitate to call (882-5743) if you would like one of these kits but are unable to pick one up.

All Council members were present at the Regular Council meeting held March 10. The following departmental reports were made:

EMS: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reported that the Drug-Free Workplace Workshop that he and Clerk/Treasurer Coulter

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M – 8a-1p and 4p-6p
 Tu – 4p-6p
 W, F – 8a-noon
 Th – 6p-8p
 Sat, April 12 – 10a-noon



conducted on March 2 was well-attended. A second workshop will be held for those staff members who were unable to attend. He reviewed his monthly report—there was nothing further to add to the T-1 Line issue nor the Cleveland Avenue Payless QuickStop gas station.

Planning & Zoning: Code Enforcement Officer Dick Busick reviewed his monthly report. There was a lengthy discussion about encouraging the Mayor and Code Enforcement Officer to bring violators into compliance in a more timely manner. A variance request by attorney Michael Christiansen for a sign on Cleveland Avenue was approved.

Minerva Park Community Association: Councilman Dave Way reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for March 15 at Hawthorne Elementary School. A planning meeting for the Annual Founders Day Celebration was held, and it was decided that only residents who have paid their MPCA dues will be admitted, four meal tickets per family will be provided, and there might be a DJ.

Minerva Park Pool: The Annual Discount Pool Sign-up has been scheduled for Sunday, April 13, noon to 5:00 p.m. We are considering some changes to the current office procedures to more efficiently tabulate daily membership logs and to account for revenues.

Northland Community Council: Councilman Kent Stanley was unable to attend because of a death in his family.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Dave Way reviewed additional information for the playground project and asked the Council to approve an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for improvements. He hopes to include **volunteers** to defray some of the cost.

Finance: Councilwoman Sharon Bierman asked for and received approval of payment warrants totaling \$55,448.72.

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

Resolution 2008-03 -

Expressing Council's opposition to legislation pending in the Ohio General Assembly to eliminate Mayors' Courts in Ohio, to urge the Ohio General Assembly to defeat said legislation, and declaring an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2008-04 -

Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract with Dick Busick for the services of Village Code Enforcement Officer and to declare an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2008-05 - Submitting a permanent appropriations budget for expenses and other expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008 as an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2008-06 -

Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract for General Liability insurance. First reading accepted.

Ordinance 03-2008 - Adopting Chapter 860 of the Minerva Park Codified Ordinances regulating peddlers, solicitors, and canvassers. First reading accepted.

Ordinance 02-2008 - Increasing the salary of the Clerk/Treasurer and to declare an emergency. Explanation - the salary increase of \$5,000 is because of an increased workload created by more HR duties, e.g., pool staff and full-time EMS medics. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

Service: Councilman Kent Stanley has gathered more data on native trees and tree management.

Streets: Councilman Jeff Rigg contacted Columbus again about the street light at the intersection of Jordan Road and Cleveland Avenue that has still not been repaired and about the street sign at the same intersection that is askew. •



Villagers

Welcome
Our New
Neighbors!

Underwritten
by your
MPCA dues

Keith McKenzie & MaryAnn Smith, 3263 Minerva Lake, 206-1832, from Westerville

Barbara Napolitano & Bob Cloud, 2726 Alder Vista, 579-3145, from New Albany

John and Anita Pryjda, 2847 Lakewood, 746-0312, from North Columbus

Magen & John Sharpe, 2792 Alder Vista, 571-5909, from Obetz

Brooke Wiehoff, 5360 Ponderosa, 392-2031, from Westerville

If you learn of any new residents, please advise the

Newcomers Committee

John Rue, 899-1360
Steve & Lisa Thitoff - 891-2166
Gretchen Persohn - 898-0903
Glenda Morris - 882-2359



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).

February 2008

Beg balance gen fund (updated) \$179,081.65
 Revenue collected 287,329.47
 Expenses (68,358.83)
 Ending balance \$398,052.29



2580 Jordan Road

We want to welcome you to FAITH LIFE FAMILY CHURCH. We are a church where God is training His people to live successfully in Him. FAITH LIFE FAMILY CHURCH is a place where you can come, no matter your situation, and meet a God who will elevate you to a higher level of living. You will hear the word of God taught with an opportunity for practical application in your everyday life. You will meet a God who says nothing is impossible for them that believe!

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Providing Places to Raise Young

By Resident Naturalist Greg Wittmann

Recently I have spent time studying to be a National Wildlife Federation wildlife ambassador. All this really means is that I get to show up to special events and teach folks how they can bring more wildlife to their own backyard.

Creating places and spaces in your yard to help wildlife raise their babies is easier than most people think. In fact, many of us are already doing it and don't even realize it. We have a gold mine of opportunity for habitat in our neighborhood. With the ravine, mature hardwood trees, moving water, and the lakes, we are a veritable nursery. Besides the obvious nesting boxes that are fun to make with the kids, there are many ways we can provide for nesting needs naturally. If you would like to learn more about making nesting boxes, visit the National Wildlife Federation's website at www.nwf.org/bwh. You might also search the web for "build your own wildlife nesting boxes."

Some of the habitat components necessary to raise young include the following:

1. Space to engage in courtship and mating. Water and native plant species help this along immensely. I always say that "if you want to see wildlife in your yard, just add water."
2. Space and materials for nest building. Again, native plant species such as tall grasses and wildflowers can provide the material needed, but only if it is left up through the nesting season. Many gardeners clean up their nesting materials in the fall, which won't provide what spring nesters need to survive the nesting season. Snags, smaller dead trees, and woody debris attract insects that can provide

an important food source for many different species. These snags can also provide cavity-nesting birds and mammals places to live and raise young. Brush piles and rock piles also provide this along with protection for some species.

3. Space to dig dens and burrows. I have left part of my back yard more natural and not so manicured, so chipmunks, mice, snakes, and toads can burrow in both for protection from the elements and from predators. The thing to remember about providing wildlife space of any kind is to provide it in an adequate arrangement. In other words, make sure things are in relatively close proximity so wildlife doesn't have to venture into another territory just to get water for example.
4. Safe conditions for egg laying and live births. CATS! Dogs, too, if they are the digging-for-mice kind. Cats kill more upland game birds than hunters do. We need to realize how detrimental our pets can be to wildlife and do what it takes to protect wildlife

from them.

5. Appropriate food water and cover. Go to the National Wildlife Federation's website for many wonderful resources on this topic, and you will have ample information to include this element.

Knowing when to help young wildlife once they have strayed or fallen from the nest is very important. Do pick fledgling birds up and gently place them back in the nest. It is a myth that human scent will cause the mother to abandon their young.

If you see young wildlife that you think could be abandoned or in danger, call the Ohio Wildlife Center at 793-WILD. They will help you know if the animal is in danger. Let me assure you that 9 out of 10 times, the young baby animal is just fine and needs no help at all. •



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Minerva Park Police

February - MP Police made 14 misdemeanor arrests and 3 felony arrest; 14 were transported to Franklin County jail.

- 2-1 8:21p, Life Extension, 5248 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 2-1 Westerville Auto Group, 5309 Westerville Rd., passing bad checks reported
- 2-3 5:31p, E. Dub-Gran Ave., stolen vehicle recovered
- 2-4 5:24p, 2500 blk Wildwood, false alarm
- 2-11 .. 12:28a, Hawthorne Elementary, 5001 Farview Rd., false alarm
- 2-14 .. 3:12a, Maplewood & Briar Rose, individual was apprehended & charged with receiving stolen property
- 2-15 .. Westerville Auto Group, passing bad checks reported
- 2-20 .. 11:43p, 2800 blk Alder Vista, individual arrested for outstanding warrants; later charged with possession of drugs & conveying drugs into a detention facility
- 2-21 .. 2:00p, 5246 Cleveland Ave., an individual was assaulted following an argument about a parking space
- 2-21 .. 7:32p, 5300 blk E. Shore Dr., telephone harassment
- 2-23 .. 5:50p, 5256 Cleveland Ave., individual attempted suicide by jumping in front of a moving vehicle
- 2-24 .. 3:14p, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm
- 2-26 .. 8:45a, Minerva Place Nursing Home, 5360 Cleveland Ave., theft reported
- 2-26 .. 1:45p, Faver Fashion, 5244 Cleveland Ave., assault
- 2-27 .. 12:25p, Hawthorne Elementary, assault •

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

February 2008

In February, Medic 119 made 27 runs - 2 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 2 into Minerva Park; 13 patients were transported to hospitals.

20 members volunteered a total of 509 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 882. Leading volunteers for the month were **Tim Lockard** (65.5), **Norm Jones** (62.0), and **Tom Ballientt** (56).

MP Runs

- 2-3 Injured person
- 2-3 Difficulty breathing



Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are April 1, 15, 29 - 4:00p.

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

February 2008

Complete payments - 15	
Village Computer Fund	\$ 75
Village General Fund	2,367
Remitted to the State	360
Total Court Receipts	\$2,802

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the Villager Staff

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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, April 16, 5:00p

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