

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2008 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 2008 ...

Clerk/Treasurer

By Suzanne Coulter, Clerk/Treasurer ... It is hard to believe another year has gone by in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office. I cannot believe I have been doing this job now for 11 years. I have enjoyed each year and thank you, the residents, for voting to keep me here this long.

2008 was a strong year for Minerva Park. We were able to accomplish a lot of good while continuing to watch our bottom line.

The General Fund carry-over balance into 2009 was \$309,204.23, which is \$108,667.85 higher than the carry-over balance from 2007 to 2008 (\$200,536.38). This is attributable to many factors.

MP received a large inheritance check from Franklin County in 2008, but we know not to expect the same in 2009 because large inheritance receipts are unusual. Our Minerva Park 1% Income Tax fared well in 2008, bringing in \$248,297.56. This is still a bit under the \$265,000 per year predicted by the Regional Income Tax Agency. I believe this is

because there are still some residents who have not filed their Minerva Park Income Taxes for 2005, 2006, and 2007! These residents have been notified of their oversight, and our revenues should increase this year. Property taxes remained consistent with no drop in collected revenue, even with the ills of the housing market. Minerva Park seems to be weathering the downturn well with housing prices remaining stronger than in other areas of the city. The predictions from Franklin County for our property tax collections for 2009 remain pretty much the same, but I will continue to keep an ever watchful eye on it.

On the expense side, we again were very careful to monitor what the Village spent in 2008, trying to get the most bang for our tax buck. The change in expenses for 2008 in the General Fund was lower than 2007 expenditures by \$10,600.56. As you can see, each department within the Village government was watching how they spent your tax dollars.

Police - The Police continue to do a great job with little waste. A new car was purchased this year as part of our ongoing 3-year replacement cycle. Chief Hillard again was able to procure a grant

... continued on page 5

Win Add'l \$50 off 2009 Paid Pool Membership

See details on page 11.

Minerva Park "Ratings"

Franklin County Auditor Joe Testa's revamped website lists Minerva Park as a "stable" neighborhood with "very good" desirability and "nominal" traffic. Look up the specifics of your property at <http://franklincountyoh.metacama.com/>.

Correction



**Best Outline Effect
Nancy & Dave Riegle
2625 Jordan Road**

Elegantly decorated outline in white with wreaths. The MPCA extends its apologies to the Riegle family for misidentifying this beautifully decorated home during the recent MPCA Festival of Lights judging.

MARCH DATES

- 3 (4p) Mayor's Court
- 7 (8a) Council Work Session
- 6 (6p) NCC Banquet
- 7 (8a) Council Work Session
- 9 (7p) Council Meeting
- 11 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
- 17 (4p) Mayor's Court
- 25 (5p) Villager Deadline
- 31 (4p) Mayor's Court

MPCA News

MPCA Resident of the Year

Congratulations to **David Way**, recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award, a/k/a the Duck Award. Presented at the MPCA's December 2008 meeting, it is given to a resident or group of residents making the greatest contribution to improving the quality of life in Minerva Park. Thanks to David for all of his help with Lake Clean-ups, Safety Day, and improvements at the playground. •

Pool Discounts

April 5 is the last day to receive 20% off season pool rates. Join us on Sunday, April 5, noon to 5p at the Community Building to take advantage of this great savings. Learn more and download the application at <http://www.minervapark.org/pool>.

Win Add'l \$50 off 2009 Paid Pool Membership. See details on page 11.

Save the Dates!

March 6 NCC Banquet
 April 4 MinervaFlora clean-up
 April 4 Easter Egg Hunt
 April 18 MinervaFlora clean-up
 April 25 Lake clean-up
 June 7 Kid's Safety Day
 June 27 Family Fun Night
 June 28 Garden Tour
 July 11 Wine & Cheese Night
 July 25 Founders Day
 August 15 Garage Sale

777-4806



FORMER RESIDENT for 19 years!

Michael Rosati



4200 Roberts Road
 Factory - Showroom
 "See the Difference"

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614-444-7663

444-ROOF



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).

January 2009

Beg balance general fund (adj) ... \$309,204.23
 Revenue collected 30,638.25
 Expenses (75,684.81)
 Ending balance \$264,157.67



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!

Nursery • Children's Services
 Youth Services

Sunday 10:30a
 Wednesday 7:00p

Prayer Service
 Friday 7:00p

Living the Life Christ Created for Us to Live

898-7688

Pastor Dan & Kim Cascioli

Faith Life Family Church

MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



We have survived most of winter and a fairly heavy snowfall. Snow removal went fairly smoothly with a few exceptions of high piles of snow in front of mail boxes and driveways. Thank you to those who called to alert us to these problems; we will try to be more vigilant. Remember, please, to not park on MP streets before and during snowfalls. Snowplows do a cleaner, better job clearing our roads when cars are pulled into driveways. This is especially critical on the courts where maneuvering space is limited.

On February 11, we experienced windstorm damage (downed trees and wires) and electrical outages. Approximately 100 residents were without power for several days with the bulk of the outages affecting residents in the central part of Village and scattered outages on the south side. Uprooted trees and burned and downed wires were the main causes, according to our AEP liaison. When you experience an outage and if you are able, please call AEP at 1-800-982-4237 to generate a trouble ticket. That makes it easier to track AEP's progress resolving problems. I have received complaints from several residents in the central part of the Village about continued surges and

outages of short duration and will be meeting with our liaison and a Circuit Manager later this month to try to find out what's going on.

Yard Debris: There seems to be a lot of yard debris (branches, brush, limbs, leaves) at the curbs. Our trash haulers will only pick up (1) leaves that are bagged in yard waste bags or in trash cans clearly marked "YARD WASTE" and (2) branches, brush, and limbs cut in lengths four feet or less and bundled. Landscape companies also will collect yard waste.

Alarm User Application: You may have received in your water bill an Alarm User Application from the Columbus Dept of Public Safety's License Section. Do not pay this fee or fill out your personal information. These applications were sent in error to all Franklin County municipalities. If you have questions, call 614-645-8366.

All Council members were present for the Regular Council meeting held February 9.

Guest Speakers: Three representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers (an Engineer, a Community Planner, and a certified ecologist) spoke to the problems we are experiencing with the north lake and our waterways in general. The purpose of their visit was to inspect our lake shorelines and ravine areas and then advise us as to what role their agency might play in remediating some of the problems we are seeing in an aging lake system and what federal monies that might be available to us. After spending several hours walking those areas along with Councilman Stanley, they made several recommendations. First, we must identify our problem, determine any

outside sources of water feeding into our lakes, and what contaminants or excessive nutrients are being deposited in the lakes that are contributing specifically to the algae and odor problems. Second, we must form a plan of action. If we seek federal funding through the Corps, this must be a long-term rehabilitation effort through a Corps-sponsored program such as the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Section 206 Federal Program or the Section 594 Ohio Environmental Infrastructure Program. Section 206 would require a feasibility study (the first \$100,000 is an expense borne by the Federal Government; study expenses beyond that are shared 50/50 with the "non-Federal sponsor," meaning the Village). These types of restoration projects are designed for areas that affect water (lakes, ponds, and wetlands) and benefit the environment through "restoring, improving, or protecting aquatic habitat for plants, fish, and wildlife." This program is very popular-funding is sought from many municipalities and is very competitive. Section 594's main focus is assisting with projects such as sewer overflow problems and environmental restoration and surface water resource protection and development. Funding for 594 projects is 75/25 meaning 75% Federal funding and 25% matching local funds. What is our next step? We will, of course, want to treat the north and south lakes to prevent the recurrence of the algae problem we experienced last summer.

You will be kept up-to-date as we explore some of the options

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M – 8a-1p and 4p-6p
 Tu – 4p-6p
 W, F – 8a-noon
 Th – 6p-8p
 Sat, March 7 – 10a-noon

presented to us by the Corps representatives. Thanks to Councilman Stanley for contacting the Corps and arranging their visit.

The following reports were made:

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reviewed his monthly report. The Quick-Stop gas station at Cleveland & Woodley has not submitted the soil contamination report as required last year. This report was to reflect soil testing from where the gas tanks were removed. A letter was to be sent to the property owner mid-February. The Fire Department will receive a new Mobile Data Terminal, courtesy of the Columbus Fire Department. A new In-charge Medic, Todd Monroe, has been hired.

Police: Chief Bob Hillard reviewed his monthly report. The grant submitted for three new Mobile Data Terminals has been approved (no matching funds were required from the Village), and they have been delivered. The telephone harassment case has been solved - a family member was the culprit.

Engineering: Mike Flickinger reported that the bid specs for the pool renovation project have been delivered to the Mayor. Advertising for the project is in the Daily Reporter issues February 18 and 25, with the bid opening February 27. Council will award the contract at the March 9 Council meeting.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Dick Busick reviewed his report. He continues to work on a Wildwood property, he will conduct a survey to address a conflict between the maintenance code and the existing code on trailers on improved vs. unimproved surfaces, sink holes need to be investigated (weather permitting), and the Cleveland Avenue light is functioning.

Minerva Park Community Association: Councilman Dave Way reported for MPCA Vice President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff.

The following events have been scheduled: Lake Clean-up Day (April 25) and Children's Safety Day (June 7). Jim and Rella Kehl will receive the President's Award at the Annual NCC Awards Banquet to be held March 6.

Northland Community

Council: Don Champney reported that the Columbus Code Enforcement officer is having difficulty keeping up with inspections and following up on code violation complaints because of losing staff to the salary freeze. Columbus Housing Partnership presented plans for a housing development on Morse Road.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Dave Way itemized some ideas for more community involvement, such as a yearly calendar of events to be included in the Village Directory, tailgate parties held at the pool during away (OSU) games, chili cook-offs, senior activities at the Community Building, and an arts & craft show.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval from the Council for the December 2008 Financial Reports, the 2008 End-of-the-Year Reports, and the January warrants totaling \$75,684.81. A Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for February 23 at 7 p.m.

Legislative: Councilwoman Sharon Bierman had no legislation to introduce. She has received a list of past legislation that needs review and updating and a calendar of scheduled legislation for 2009. She is awaiting input from the Law Director regarding the Solicitation Ordinance and will be working with the Zoning Clerk to update the fee schedule and zoning code.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter distributed a spreadsheet he had created tracking police cruiser maintenance that included information comparing the cost of a

new vehicle vs. a used vehicle. Corporal Fenstermaker is scheduling Oral Boards of Review for two or three potential police recruits.

Service: Councilman Kent Stanley had nothing to add to the Corps of Engineers report.

Streets: Councilman Jeff Rigg reported that we have not heard from OPWC yet about MP's application for funding for the 2009 Street Repair Project. There is some damage on Maplewood that we have asked the Engineer to inspect. Councilman Rigg will be attending a free workshop February 27 at the law firm of Bricker and Eckler about the bidding process for infrastructure projects.

New Business: The Pool Discount Membership drive will be held April 5, noon to 5 p.m. at the Community Building. •

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

January 2009

In January, Medic 119 made 30 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 6 into Minerva Park; 19 patients were transported to hospitals.

19 members volunteered a total of 572 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 572. Leading volunteers for the month were Caleb Stelzer (85.5 hours), Tina Quinn (74.5 hours), Norm Jones (59.8 hours).

MP Runs

1-1 Chest pains
 1-17 Shortness of breath
 1-19 Ill person
 1-21 Unconscious person
 1-22 Unknown
 1-25 Injured person

continued from page 1 ...

for updated MDTs. These are the computers inside each police car that allow an officer to research information on a car and driver by entering the license plate number. MADD once again honored our men in black as one of the top forces in the State for DUI enforcement. And Officer Beach continued his great work at Hawthorne Elementary with the kids. Chief Hillard continues to look for other available grants for equipment needs in the department.

EMS - The "volunteer" EMS department also had a good year. Chief Hoehstetter and his crews continued their great work at having as many crews on during the year as possible and holding down their costs for supplies and equipment. The Village expenses for them for Worker's Compensation and Unemployment increased because we were required to have one paid paramedic on each shift in 2008.

Pool - The Village saw big changes at the pool this year. The office staff did a great job at implementing newly required accounting and entrance reporting by the State Auditor's Office. Our family memberships increased from 262 to 273. Tom Shannon keeps the place ship-shape and under cost whenever there was maintenance needed. Manager John Friedel had his best crew of lifeguards and kept us all safe this summer. Revenues increased by \$3,002.06 from \$68,588.59 in 2007 to \$71,590.65 in 2008. We hope to implement a new software package that will help the office staff this year keep track of membership entries and walk-ins; it can send e-mails to members about upcoming events. The MPCA Pool Committee did a wonderful job again with parties. I attended Family Fun Night and the Wine & Cheese

Night, and fun was had by all.

Grants - The Village applied for several this year, as always. The MDT grant by Chief Hillard, which the Village received. An OPWC grant totaling \$329,527 to mill & fill most of the rest of the Village streets - we have not heard yet on this. If we do not get this grant through OPWC, we hope to apply for some of the stimulus money to get the project done this year. An ODNR grant that the Mayor worked on many hard hours - received for \$37,800. This project will be finished before the pool season this year. We hope to continue our streak of receiving at least one grant a year in 2009. Sara Schumacher, resident, who was hired this year to assist the Mayor and my office with many things, will be searching in 2009 for even more grants for the Village to apply for and hopefully receive.

2009 and beyond will no doubt bring its own challenges to the Village, and my office will keep on top of any and all changes regarding our fiscal health. The Village will continue to try to provide all residents with the services we have become accustomed to, while continuing to watch how much they cost. Minerva Park continues to be a jewel in the rough in Columbus, and I hope to help to keep it that way as your Treasurer and a fellow resident.

Police Department

By Chief Bobbie Hillard ... Because of the high costs of continuing to maintain used police cruisers, the Village replaced one of our used cruisers with a new 2009 Ford Crown Victoria. The \$21,700 is anticipated to more than offset the costs of repairs to another used cruiser.

For the third year in a row, the MP Police Department will receive

an Award of Excellence from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) for its campaigns in 2008. The award is given in recognition of our continued commitment to removing drunk drivers off our roadways.

The Dept also received a Certificate of Merit from Franklin County for continued participation on and support of the DUI Task Force.

And for participation in various State of Ohio projects (Over the Limit Under Arrest and DUI enforcement), the dept. received a laser radar unit (valued at \$2,500) and an opportunity to receive two more radar units in 2009.

We submitted a grant application for three new Mobile Data Computers, but have not heard word yet.

Through our continued community efforts, we had an opportunity to win a new cruiser at the Law Enforcement Expo - but we didn't. It's not official yet, but we will have another opportunity to win a new cruiser at the 2009 Expo.

Our Training Sergeant, Sgt. Jim Meade, will be returning home again from Iraq in March.

Your Police Department continues its community outreach efforts and collaboration with area agencies to help keep our Village safe. Our 2008 statistics are as follows:

Dispatched runs	984
Nondispatched runs	462
Assist area agencies	408
Misdemeanor arrests	142
Felony arrests	16
9-1-1 calls	22
Animal complaints	25
Assaults	13
Auto thefts	1
Breaking & entering false alarm	25
Breaking & entering	4
Burglaries	11
Burglary in progress false alarm	12
Criminal damaging	7
Criminal mischief	2

Deaths 3
 Domestic disputes or violence 9
 Homicides 0
 Menacing 7
 Missing people 5
 Motorist assists 57
 Passing bad checks 2
 Receiving stolen property 4
 Robberies 1
 Sex offenses 1
 Stolen vehicle recoveries 1
 Suicides 1
 Suicide attempts 1
 Suspicious people 126
 Suspicious vehicles 93
 Telephone harassment 5
 Thefts 33
 Traffic citations 1,311
 Traffic warning citations 23
 Trespassing 7
 Vandalism 3

Fire Department - EMS

By Chief Rick Hoechstetter ...

The Fire Department responded to 285 runs in 2008 and treated 297 patients. Within the 2008 data, 9% of the calls originated from an address in Minerva Park, 19% from Blendon Township, 66% from Columbus, and 6% from Westerville other areas.

Members served a total of 5,558 hours in 2008. Sixty-four percent of this total represents paid hours; the rest is volunteer time. We have been operating in compliance with the Franklin County Fire Chief's Association's Standard Operating Policy 7-28 for a year and a half, which requires all Advanced Life Support vehicles have, at a minimum, two part- or full-time paid paramedics on duty. The remaining members of each crew are volunteers. The 5% increase in time served this year is a direct result of the efforts that the entire membership has made to make this new employment structure work. I would like to express my appreciation to Mayor Lynn Eisentrout, Clerk/Treasurer Suzanne Coulter, Council President

Pam Park-Curry, and Council for their support. Norm Jones worked the most paid hours as a medic, and Brian Bates volunteered the most hours in 2008.

The Fire Department did not make any major capital expenditures this year. Last year's acquisitions were enough to last for a few years, although we did replace the dispatching and public address hardware. The equipment was provided by the Columbus Fire Communications Department and greatly enhances the potential use of the system. It includes both a traditional 800 Mz radio link with the Columbus Fire Alarm office and has the capacity to support a 900 Mz data channel. The Columbus Fire Communications Office plans to implement a new program on the data channel to provide detailed maps to call locations and secure communications in the near future.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to former Lt. Wayne Miller for his service as the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) officer for the past 7 years and welcome Lt. Jon Packer to the position. Wayne consistently monitored compliance in the run reports with our Region V protocols and resolved all issues in a timely manner. Jon brings a wealth of experience to the position with his many years as a paramedic. He is also Adjunct Professor of EMS at Columbus State Community College. Thank you very much, Wayne, and welcome to Jon.

The number of fire code violations we pursued in 2008 increased slightly because of change in State policies. The Ohio State Fire Marshall's office has divested primary compliance monitoring responsibility to local jurisdictions so we pursued some cases this year that could have been monitored by the State Fire Marshall's Office in the past. The most serious cases in 2008 involved the placing of the boiler in the U.S.

Cleaners facility at 5424 Cleveland Avenue beyond use and bringing the Anderson strip mall into full compliance. In the category of ongoing issues, to date, no further action has been taken to remediate the contamination issues involved in the removal of the fuel tanks from the Payless QuickStop Gas Station property at 5620 Cleveland Avenue. The current step (Tier I) was supposed to have been completed in October 2008. Efforts are underway to address this lapse. I wish to recognize Fire Inspector Tom McClannahan for his exemplary efforts this year, with the assistance of Assistant Chief Vern Ord of the Ohio Fire Marshall's Office of Bureau of Underground Cisterns and Tanks Regulations (BUSTR).

The 2008 run data are as follows:

Illness 93
 Injury 80
 Vehicle-related 45
 Difficulty breathing 31
 Chest pain 19
 Fire 7
 Other 22

Zoning

By Arlene Stuart, Zoning Clerk ... With spring approaching and various property improvements looming, I'd like to remind you about the permitting process. Any project that requires zoning approval must be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission that meets on the first Thursday of each month. If you are planning renovations, call early to inquire about the application process. Below are the deadlines for P&Z meeting dates (basically the third Wednesday before the meeting):

by March 18 for April 2
 by April 15 for May 7
 by May 20 for June 4
 by June 17 for July 2
 by July 15 for August 6
 by August 19 for September 9
 by September 16 for October 1

Garage Sales - If you are going to host a private garage sale, stop by the Community Building to pay your \$7 permit fee. Garage sale signs can be erected out of the right-of-way at your property's main entrance – they cannot be tacked to telephone poles, trees, traffic signs, or any Village monument. Knowing when your sale is scheduled helps our Police Department when patrolling the Village and helps you if an adverse situation arises. The official MP community garage sale will be held in August 2009.

Permits in 2008 (totalling \$1,137) included:

Block party	1
Concrete work	3
Deck	1
Electrical	2
Fence	7
Garage sale	1
Handicap ramp	1
Home business	2
Plumbing	8
Pool	1
Shed	4
Sign	2
Zoning Variance	2

Learn more at minervapark.org/zoning/.

Zoning Violations

By Dick Busick, Code Enforcement Officer ... During 2008, there were 36 violations written and 11 citations into Mayor's Court, for a total of 48 notifications with several cases sent to Franklin County Environmental Court. This was similar to the 46 notifications sent in 2007. Many more issues were resolved via personal contact with cooperative residents. Of those receiving violation notices, 33% were for trailer-truck-automobile code infractions, 11% involved high grass or weeds, and 60% of the citation cases involved trash or debris in yards.

In 2009, we will continue to apply the relatively new Building Maintenance Code to the long-term accumulation of trash around

homes, which continues to be a problem generally restricted a handful of residences. We will also monitor the use of trash dumpsters and storage pods, which are permitted only for a limited duration.

Please continue your own excellent efforts to keep our Village looking good. Because of the several severe storms we have experienced recently, some attention needs to be paid to the resulting tree debris. We certainly would not want welcome spring, an especially pleasant time in our Village, with these problems unresolved. When code violations occur, we try to resolve the issues first by personal contact and then by violations notices that establish relatively short resolution deadlines. Citations into Mayor's Court are issued only after these efforts are unsuccessful. We want Minerva Park to continue in its tradition of being a unique area where we are all proud of our unique environment.

MP Community Association

By Bob Gale, MPCA President ... The MPCA continues to have steady membership of Village residents with 77% of Village households as dues-paying members as of December 2008. In 2008, the MCPA hosted more than 20 activities paid for by your \$15 MPCA dues, advertising in The Villager newsletter and annual Resident Directory, the annual Garage Sale, and in-kind donations: 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, Founders Day, Children's Christmas Party, Publicity Committee, Candidates Night, Northland Community Council participation, Resident Directory, Festival of

Lights, Christmas Carriage Rides, Family Nights at the pool, Adult Wine & Cheese events at the pool, the Street Reps, and The Villager Newsletter.

The Duck Award was presented to David Way for his work with organizing Lake Cleanups, starting a Children's Safety Day, spearheading a clean-up and rehab of the Maplewood playground, and his work with other activities of the MPCA.

As you can see, the MPCA was busy in 2008, and we expect to continue our activities at the same pace in 2009. We need volunteers to do these activities. Many thanks go to current members of the MPCA board (minervapark.org/mpca/board.htm) and all the Street Reps!

Mayor's Office

By Mayor Lynn Eisentrout ... Well, 2008 certainly has flown by. It was a year of steadily pursuing larger ongoing projects, grant funding, meetings with neighborhood and business organizations, and saying good-bye to those who served our Village.

In **January**, I attended the Northland Area Business Association Watch Meeting to lend our support to their crime-fighting efforts. The formation of this group was a direct result of the rash of break-ins and robberies of businesses in the Northland area.

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) designated us a Smart Community for our outstanding recycling and litter-prevention efforts.

We received notification from the Ohio Department of Agriculture that our Gypsy Moth infestation has been eradicated. To date, there have been no additional problems.

After more than 25 years of service to our Village, 30-year resident Don Champney retired as Chairman of the Finance Committee

and Council person. Don later returned as the representative from the MPCA to the Northland Community Council.

In **March**, we received the good news that we were approved by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to receive \$37,800 in grant money for pool improvements. Sadly, March was the same month that we lost two past mayors — Jack Murray and Buzz Cockerell died March 17 and 24, respectively ... this after losing Hugo Wenzel in January. Hugo was our longest-serving mayor, from 1957-1975, Buzz served from 1980-1987, and Jack served from 1993-2003.

I again met with the manager from the ODNR Division of Water and Dam Safety concerning our earthen dam and their mandate to remove the trees from the dam area. I then met with the Ohio Water Development Authority to explore funding opportunities for this project. I found that our type of project would be eligible for a 15-year loan at 4.95% (we would receive .5% off because we have been mandated by ODNR to come into compliance). All of the expenses that we have incurred thus far (about \$13,000) would be included in the loan application.

After several communications with the Ohio Public Works Commission, we submitted our 2008 Street Repair Project to the Small Government Division.

Along with other mayors, I had the opportunity in **April** to present testimony in opposition to House Bill 154 before the House Judiciary Committee. HB 154 was the bill introduced by then Representative Larry Wolpert to abolish mayors courts. Evidently, our efforts paid off because the bill never made it to the full Senate for a vote.

We received word that same month that our 2008 Street Repair Project application was not approved.

September proved to be

memorable, as we and the rest of Ohio endured the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. Winds struck with a vengeance, leaving many uprooted trees, downed wires, and homes without electricity for days.

We submitted an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding the 2009 Street Repair Project (same project, new name) — now a \$329,527 mill-and-fill project for Alder Vista Drive, East Shore Drive, Kerrwood Drive, Maplewood Drive, Berry Lane Court, East Shore Court, and North Lake Court.

As a follow-up to the wind storm, Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter and I met several times in **October** and **November** with FEMA and insurance representatives to recover the expenses incurred by the Village through our clean-up efforts.

In an effort to collect delinquent income taxes, we held our first Subpoena Program with the Regional Income Tax Agency on October 28. Subpoenas were sent to 199 residents (at an administrative cost of \$8 per subpoena) indicating that about one-third of our residents have not paid their 2005, 2006, or 2007 income taxes or, in some cases, all three years.

Along with a few Columbus

officials and Northland representatives, I met with the liaison from the Nassimi Company (the owners of the Northland Plaza) to discuss the lack of tenants, the rash of break-ins of the unoccupied units, and what assistance we could offer them.

As expected, we heard in **December** that our 2009 Street Repair Project application to OPWC did not receive approval in the first round of funding and was referred to the Small Government Division for further consideration.

Many thanks to you all for your support these past four years. We have accomplished a great deal, although we have much more to do. To name a few, we must now turn our attention to an aging lake system, the long-neglected ravine areas, eroding shorelines, and streets sorely in need of repair after a bad winter.

In these tough economic times, we are more mindful than ever to spend your tax dollars wisely and to explore every funding opportunity we possibly can.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints, please contact me at my office (882-5743), my home (891-0985), or by email (mayor@minervapark.org).

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House**





Minerva Park Police

January - MP Police made 6 felony arrests and 2 misdemeanor arrests; 7 were transported to Franklin County jail.

- 1-3 3:21p, 2800 blk N. Lake Court, false alarm
- 1-6 7p, 2800 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft reported
- 1-9 9:45p, Kiddy Fashions & Avon, 5262 Cleveland Ave., auto theft
- 1-11 .. 2a, 2600 blk Woodley Rd., theft reported
- 1-12 .. 7:15a, 2800 blk Maplewood Dr., theft & criminal trespass
- 1-12 .. 11a, Minerva Park Nursing Home, 5460 Cleveland Ave., assault
- 1-15 .. 9:40a, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., criminal damaging & criminal trespass of Oct 31 - Jan 15 reported
- 1-15 .. 3:25p, Hawthorne Elementary, 5001 Farview Dr., Dec 16 assault reported
- 1-21 .. 5:50p, Inskeep Brothers Printers, 3193 E. Dub-Gran, false alarm
- 1-22 .. 5:41p, Kumasi Central, 5258 Cleveland Ave., breaking & entering
- 1-25 .. 11:35p, 2900 blk Berry Lane Ct., aggravated burglary & grand theft reported
- 1-25 .. 2:35p, Minerva Park Nursing home, theft
- 1-26 .. 11:30p, 5300 blk Ponderosa Dr., telephone harassment
- 1-27 .. 11:30a, Okwahuman Fabrics, 5264 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 1-30 .. 12:50p, Minerva Park Nursing Home, identity fraud
- 1-31 .. 1:30p, 2800 blk Alder Vista, aggravated burglary & theft
- 1-31 .. 2:20p, 2800 blk Maplewood Dr., false alarm •



REAL RESULTS

Minerva Park ... 2nd half 2008

(July 1 - December 31)

9 transactions *SOLD*

5 of them listed by *Gena Latimer*



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The Facts about FACT

By Naturalist and MP Resident
Greg Wittmann

Editor's Note - Correction -

Minerva Park falls within the Alum Creek watershed, supported through Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries (FACT), not FLOW as indicated in the December newsletter.

* * *

Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) is one of the main organizations that help to maintain, protect, and preserve tributaries to Alum Creek. Minerva Park's ravine is one of these tributaries. If you are looking for a way to help the greater good and become environmentally active in preserving the health of our stream and ravine, then we have found an easy way for you and your family to become engaged.

FACT is a non-profit community organization formed in 1998, dedicated to preventing the filling of wetlands and streams. They clean up and remove trash from our streams; plant native species of plants, shrubs, and trees to improve habitat; and provide opportunities for you to enjoy and learn about all aspects of Alum Creek and our ravine.

We are losing too many natural resources that may take centuries to recover. Doing things in nature with kids, or even as adults without kids, helps to instill the value of earth and nature as an important component of our mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. We are in an era where it is imperative that we make significant changes in positive ways to help this planet. Giving back to the community and the land is perhaps a goal that we all might think about in the coming months through our

financial crisis and political transitioning.

FACT is continually seeking volunteers to find ways to "get their hands dirty" by giving back to the community. Whether your gifts are with creek clean-up, fundraising, education, or stream monitoring, FACT has many opportunities to get involved, with or without your kids helping, too.

To learn more about FACT, visit their web site at www.friendsofalumcreek.org and, remember – every day is earth day. •

Door-to-Door Sales

Editor's Note - This alert was sent to Minerva Park by the Northland Community Council. Although it addresses a growing problem in Columbus, it nonetheless is applicable for Minerva Park residents to be wary. Note that a peddler's license for Columbus is NOT valid in Minerva Park. Peddlers in Minerva Park must produce a valid Minerva Park peddler's license.

Residents of the Northland area have reported individuals going door to door in residential districts attempting to sell subscriptions to the Columbus Dispatch. At least some of these sales visits have been initiated after 6p and by individuals who did not have or could not produce a valid Peddler's License issued by the Department of Public Safety, both prohibited within the city under Columbus City Code chapter 523 (<http://municipal.codes.lexisnexis.com/codes/columbus/>).

Barden Circulation, Inc. (BCI) is a marketing company under contract to the Dispatch. A BCI official advised by phone that he believed that their door-to-door sales activities for the Dispatch

were exempt from the requirements of Chapter 523 because BCI salesmen offer residents free copies of the newspaper before inquiring about subscription. Section 523.03 provides that individuals or organizations "selling by sample only" are exempt.

Officials with the License Section of Public Safety and the Columbus City Attorney's office advise that "selling by sample only" means just what it sounds like — leaving a free sample, without knocking, ringing a doorbell, or otherwise attempting to speak in person with a resident. They believe that the Franklin County Environmental Court, with jurisdiction over complaints concerning this type of activity within the city of Columbus, is unlikely to agree with BCI that the offer or provision of a free sample before or after actively attempting to contact the resident makes the sales activity exempt.

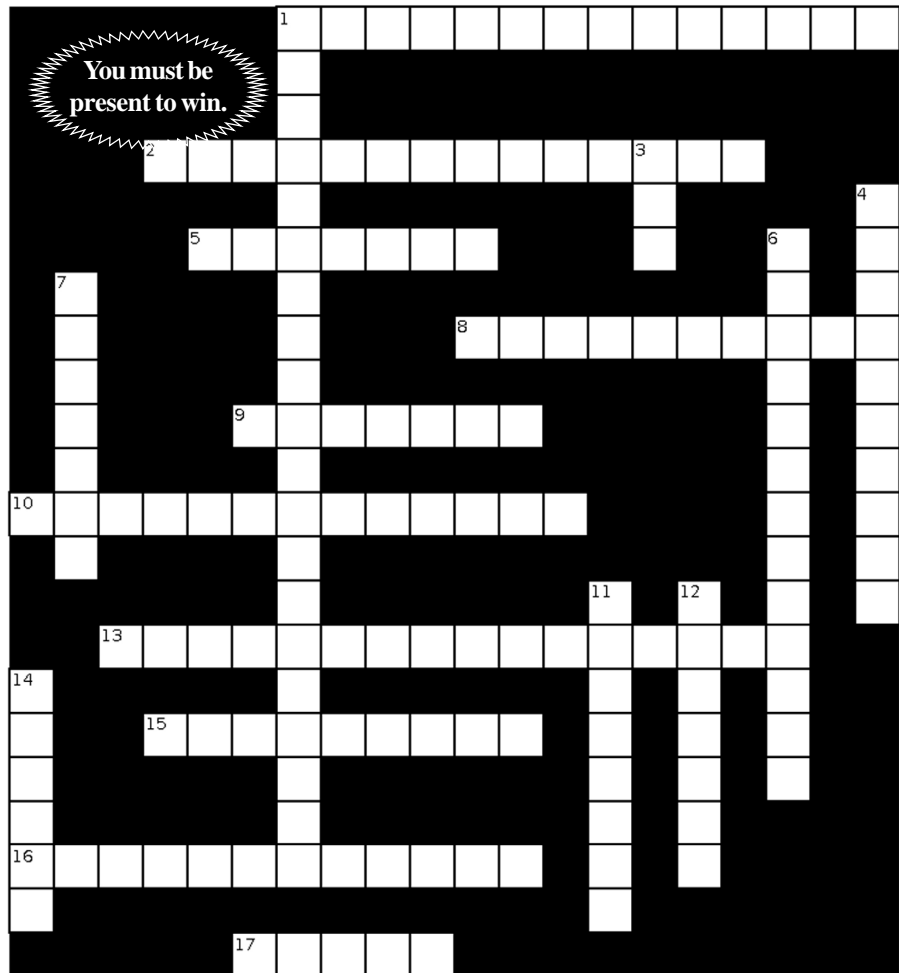
We have been told that BCI has not been issued a Peddler Promoter's license, required under Chapter 523 for any BCI employee (who must also have personally been issued and display a valid Peddler's License) to legally conduct door-to-door sales in Columbus residential neighborhoods at any time of day.

Please contact Columbus Police at 645-4545 [and the Minerva Park Police at 882-1408] if you are visited at home by someone attempting to sell subscriptions to the Dispatch [or anything else] between the hours of 6p and 9a or who is unable to produce a valid Peddler's License when requested.

Questions about Peddler's Licenses and other requirements of Chapter 523 can be directed to the License Section of the Department of Public Safety at 645-8366 [or to the Minerva Park Police Department at 882-1408]. •

Win an Additional \$50 off 2009 Paid Pool Membership

Open to MP residents - Review the February issue of the MP Villager (minervapark.org/villager/) to complete this puzzle in its entirety. Please deliver your completed puzzle in the "puzzle box" inside the Community Building by March 9, 6:30p. Of those puzzles with all correct answers, a drawing will be held at the March regular council meeting (March 9, starting at 7p) for an additional \$50 off your 2009 paid pool membership. You must be present to win.



Name, MP Address, Phone #

Puzzle ...

ACROSS

- 1 MP Mayor
- 2 MP Clerk-Treasurer
- 5 Spring clean-up date
- 8 MP Police Chief
- 9 Mowing & trimming
- 10 MP Council President
- 13 MP Fire (EMS) Chief
- 15 Illuminate your spirit
- 16 Red Cross Certified
- 17 Children's Safety Day

DOWN

- 1 MPCA Vice President
- 3 Handyman
- 4 Safety Councilman
- 6 Finance Councilwoman
- 7 Community Councilman
- 11 Streets Councilman
- 12 Service Councilman
- 14 Windows

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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 25, 5:00p

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