

# the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## MPCA Mother's Day Flower Sale

Get ready for spring and support your Community Association with this MPCA fundraiser.

**Deadline** - Please have all order forms and payments inside the slot in the front door or in the black MPCA mail box (inside the Community Building) by April 20. Make checks payable to "MPCA" or "Minerva Park Community

Association."

**Pick-Up** - Plants will be available for pick-up at the Community Building on May 9 (the day before Mother's Day) between 9a and 11a.

### 10" Hanging Baskets - \$17 each

Green-leaf Begonias	___ red	___ white	\$ _____
Impatiens	___ red	___ white ___ mix	\$ _____
Ivy Geraniums	___ red	___ white	\$ _____
Wave Petunia	___ red	___ white ___ blue	\$ _____
Verbena	___ red	___ white ___ pink	\$ _____

### Annuals \$15 per flat (whole flats only) 36 plants for green-leaf begonias & impatiens 48 plants for marigolds & wave petunias

Green-leaf Begonias	___ red	___ white	___ pink	\$ _____
Impatiens	___ red	___ white	___ mix	\$ _____
Impatiens	___ pink	___ salmon	___ violet	\$ _____
Marigold	___ yellow	___ orange		\$ _____
Wave Petunia	___ red	___ white		\$ _____
Wave Petunia	___ pink	___ blue		\$ _____

TOTAL \$

Name	Address	Phone

Important

## Dog News

on page 5.

## Donate Hostas



The Community Building is in need of hostas. If you have extra to donate, please bring them to the Community Building and place them near the front steps or call David Way at 895-9963 and he will pick them up from you. If you need help digging and splitting, David will be happy to help with that also. •

### APRIL DATES

- 2 (7:30p) ..... Planning & Zoning
- 4 (9a) ..... MinervaFlora Clean-up
- 4 (noon) ..... Easter Egg Hunt
- 5 (noon-5p) ..... Pool Sign-up Day
- 11 (8a) ..... Council Work Session
- 13 (7p) ..... Council Meeting
- 14 (4p) ..... Mayor's Court
- 15 (7:30p) ..... MPCA Meeting
- 18 (9a) .... MinervaFlora Clean-up
- 22 (5p) ..... Villager Deadline
- 25 (8a) ..... Lake Clean-up
- 28 (4p) ..... Mayor's Court

## MPCA News

### Resident Jim Kehl Recognized

At the NCC Banquet on March 6, MPCA President Bob Gale presented long-time resident Jim



Kehl with the President's Award. Jim and his wife Rella moved to Minerva Park in 1990, and between 1991 and 1997 Jim was Vice President of MPCA. In 1996, he chaired the Newcomers Committee, welcoming new residents to Minerva Park. Jim ended this role in 2004 and says during that time he visited 307 residences.

Congratulations, Jim!

### Scholarship

The Nancy Fisher Scholarship is available for two MP high school seniors (\$250 each), awarded annually. Submit an application and a short essay by June 15.



For information or to obtain an application, call Bob Gale at 882-8622.



### Four Season Garden Award Contest

The annual Four Season Garden Award Contest will be held this year in late April and early May (early spring). The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding achievement by Minerva Park residents in garden design and maintenance. If you would like to nominate a yard or be a judge, Bob Gale at 882-8622.

### MinervaFlora Clean-ups

Meet at the Community Building on April 4 & 18 at 9a to help keep Minerva Park beautiful. For information, contact Bob Gale at 882-8622.

Underwritten by your MPCA dues



### 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 2009

Beg balance general fund .....	\$264,157.67
Revenue collected .....	39,855.70
Expenses .....	(73,020.51)
Ending balance .....	\$230,992.86

## NORMAL IS BROKE BE WEIRD!

Dave Ramsey's  
**Financial Peace UNIVERSITY**

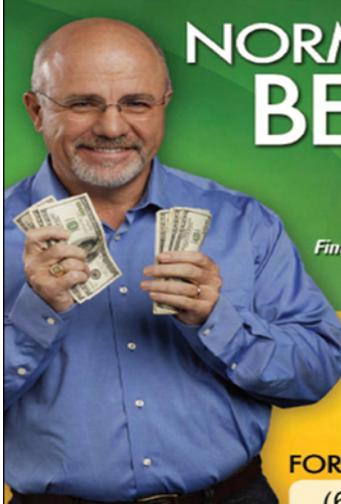
*Financial Peace University is a 13-week, video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before.*

**FREE PREVIEW**

Faith Life Family Church: 2580 Jordan Rd.: Sunday April 5th - 5PM and Friday April 17th - 5PM

FOR MORE INFO CALL

(614) 264-7793 [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com)




# MAYOR'S REPORT

*Lynn Eisentrout*



Spring is finally here! I know I say this every year, but it bears repeating—please watch out for our younger residents out on the streets biking, skateboarding, or just playing.

**Lake Clean-up:** Please help! Our annual spring Lake Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, beginning at 8 a.m. Councilman Dave Way and MPCA Board Vice President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff have put an extraordinary amount of effort into recruiting volunteers this year because we have a tremendous amount of work to do in the parklands, ravine, playgrounds and entranceways. You will receive a flyer asking you to take just a few hours out of your busy Saturday morning to help mulch, weed, and clear debris from around the Village. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors, enjoy a delicious breakfast and lunch, and take some ownership and pride in our beautiful Village.

**Pool:** Memberships are already being received by the Clerk-Treasurer's office. The pool improvement project will begin at the end of March and is scheduled for completion by the end of April. This project is funded in part by an ODNR grant (\$37,800) with

\$34,351 in matching funds from the Village to cap the remainder of the pool floor and replace about 75% of the cement deck around the pool. You will note under the Finance Committee report that an amount not to exceed \$25,000 was approved by the Council to disassemble and remove the slide that was donated to the Village by the former Westerville Athletic Club (now the Oakstone Academy) and transport it to our pool to be installed. The installation will not be completed before the pool opens—the permit application process is lengthy and complicated. The breakdown of the approximate costs are as follows: permits from the County (\$1,300), electrical work (\$4,000-\$5,000), concrete pad (\$3,000), disassembly, transportation to the pool site, and re-assembly and installation of the slide (\$7,500).

#### **2009 Street Repair Project:**

We have received notice that our application to the Ohio Public Works Commission's Small Government Division was not approved. We ranked much better than we had originally thought, scoring 61 points, competitive with other municipalities of similar size and scope of projects. Why didn't we receive this funding? Even though it is a good project and a well-prepared application packet, those ranked above us simply have streets in worse shape than ours. However, we are #5 on the contingency list, and we will wait and see what happens. Meanwhile, your Village Council Streets Committee will begin evaluating streets for pot hole repairs and a possible mill and fill project for only selected streets—

those most in need of repairs.

All Council members were present at the Regular Council meeting, March 9.

**Guest Speaker:** John O'Meara, Director of Metro Parks, spoke to Issue 1, a 0.75 mill levy that will be on the May ballot. This levy, which expires at the end of this year, requests 0.1 mill increase over the current 0.65 levy, at a cost of about \$23 a year per \$100,000 assessed home value. Funding will be used for maintenance of existing parks, adding three new parks over the next 10 years to accommodate the predicted population growth in Franklin County during the next 10-15 years, expansion of the regional bike trail system, educational programs for seniors and schools, a nature center at the Big Darby Watershed, and protection of the Big Darby Creek. For additional information, visit [www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net) or [www.vote4metroparks.com](http://www.vote4metroparks.com).

The following reports were made:

**EMS/Fire:** Chief Rick Hoehstetter reviewed his monthly report. A new cot to be held in reserve has been purchased at a significant discount for \$750 (they normally cost \$3,400). The current cot is not being replaced yet but the deal was too good to pass up. Recruitment efforts continue.

**Police:** Chief Bob Hillard reviewed his monthly report. The three new MDTs funded by a \$2,400 grant have been delivered and will be installed (a cost borne by the Village) in the cruisers. Officers performing security checks behind the three strip mall/

## MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M – 8a-1p and 4p-6p  
 Tu – 4p-6p  
 W, F – 8a-noon  
 Th – 6p-8p  
 Sat, April 11 – 10a-noon

shopping centers have noticed that there is an accumulation of trash that needs to be addressed and monitored.

**Engineer:** Mike Flickinger and Dick Busick commented on the sink holes on Wildwood and Maplewood, the Wildwood site being the worst. The Mayor will contact Columbia Gas and OUPS and have the areas televised to determine the extent of the problem and affect repairs.

**Law Director:** Kerry Boyle thanked the everyone on behalf of his wife for congratulatory wishes, flowers, and teddy bear acknowledging the birth of their daughter Evelyn Hope.

**Planning & Zoning/Code Enforcement:** Dick Busick reported that an application for a temporary sign permit for the Falcon Building was approved at the March Planning & Zoning meeting. Several residents still have not properly disposed of piles of yard waste from the February wind storm. An inventory of trailers, campers, and boats on improved and unimproved surfaces is being conducted.

**Minerva Park Community Association:** MPCA Vice President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff reported that Jim Kehl was the recipient of the President's Award at the annual Northland Community Council Awards Banquet for their service to the Village (see page 2). The Easter Egg Hunt is to be held at Hawthorne Elementary School, April 4 at noon.

**Northland Community Council:** Don Champney reported that the former Don Pablo's restaurant site has been under investigation by the Columbus Police Department for after-hours parties. The Route 161 Clean-up is scheduled for March 28, 9-noon.

The following committee reports were made:

**Community:** Councilman Dave Way received approval from

the Council for an amount not to exceed \$300 to purchase ID cards for the Children's Safety Day to be held June 7 at the Community Building. There was a lengthy discussion about a landscaping plan for the beds in front of the Community Building. He will put a plan together and report back to the Council in April. Shane Walter—with his name drawn at random from all correct entries—was the winner of an additional \$50 discount off a 2009 pool membership by correctly completing the crossword puzzle that appeared in last month's Villager.

**Finance:** Council President Pam Park-Curry asked for approval of the warrants totaling \$73,020.51. An amount not to exceed \$25,000 was approved to disassemble and move the slide from the Oakstone Academy and to re-assemble and install it at the pool.

**Legislation:** Councilwoman Sharon Bierman asked the Council to consider the following legislation:

**Resolution 2009-02 -** Establishing a new pay schedule for the Clerk of Courts. First reading accepted. This resolution addresses changing the pay schedule from monthly to every 14 days.

**Ordinance 01-2009 -** Establishing the position of Office Assistant. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2009-03 -** Establishing a range of hourly pay for office assistant(s). First reading accepted. The pay range for this position is \$12-\$20/hour, also paid every 14 days.

**Resolution 2009-04 -** Submitting a permanent appropriations budget for the expenses and other expenditures during the fiscal year 2009. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency so as to take effect immediately.

**Resolution 2009-05 -** Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for the 2009 ODNR Minerva Park Pool Project. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency to expedite contract signing and completing the project to meet the pool opening deadline.

**Safety:** Councilman Todd Walter led a discussion about posting rules for playground usage (age appropriateness) and restrictions when Dick Busick commented that he had spoken to several teens and young adults abusing the playground equipment. Chief Hillard

## MP Kids Association

My stepmother Lisa and I were taking a walk, and we had a great idea. What if Minerva Park had a kid's association.

We thought this was a good way for MP kids to get involved. So this letter in the Villager is for the "Kids Association."

If you are a child or teen and would like to get involved with helping plan parties, fundraisers, events, or programs, think about joining this group. Ask for Jamie at 891-2166 Sunday through Tuesday or email me at happybunny0996@aim.com if you are interested or want to join.

Jamie Thitoff

requested that the Police Department be notified immediately when this happens.

**Service:** Councilman Kent Stanley stated that further discussion is needed about the lake issues and our involvement with the Army Corps of Engineers. Engineer Mike Flickinger will submit a proposal detailing the amount and the cost of the work to

be done by the Village to comply with the EPA Director's Orders regarding the sanitary sewers as agreed to by the Village. The first step is instituting a 5-year plan for televising the sewer system.

**Street:** Councilman Jeff Rigg commented on the status of our OPWC application for funding the 2009 Street Repair Project and the need for pot hole repairs. He has researched EMS billing for non-residents through a provider for the Village of Grandview Heights and plans to discuss this at the next Safety Committee meeting. •



Welcome

Our New Neighbors!

Underwritten by your MPCA dues

**Gina & Damon Carfagna,**  
2801 Park Lane Dr., from Clintonville.

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

## Woof! Woof!

Dogs are not EVERY "man's best friend"—not when they're a nuisance. Here are some of Minerva Park's ordinances governing the pooches.

### 618.01 Dogs and Other Animals Running at Large.

(b) No person who is the owner or keeper of dogs ... or other animals shall permit them to run at large upon any public way or upon unenclosed land.

(c) No owner, keeper, or harbinger of any female dog shall permit it to go beyond the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger at any time the dog is in heat, unless the dog is properly in leash.

(d) No owner, keeper, or harbinger of any dog shall fail at any time to keep it either physically confined or restrained upon the premises of the owner, keeper, or harbinger by a leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision, or secure enclosure to prevent escape, or under reasonable control of some person.

### 618.07 Barking or Howling Dogs.

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any dog within the Municipality which, by frequent

and habitual barking, howling, or yelping, creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises of such a character, intensity, and duration as to disturb the peace, quiet, and good order of the Municipality ...

### 618.13 Nuisance Conditions Prohibited.

(a) No person shall keep or harbor any animal ... in the Municipality so as to create noxious or offensive odors or unsanitary conditions which are a menace to the health, comfort, or safety of the public.

(b) No person, being the owner, keeper, or person having control of any animal, shall permit such animal to dig or defecate on any public or private property in the Village, other than the property of the owner or person in control of such animal, or allow any animal to damage any part of a lawn, tree, shrub, plant, building, or other property, other than the property of the owner or person in control of such animal, by means of urination. The foregoing prohibition as to defecation shall not apply when the person in control of such animal immediately removes all feces deposited by it and disposes of the same in a sanitary manner. •

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# OhioEPA

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention for the Home

### What is Stormwater Runoff?

In open fields, forests, and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets, and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called stormwater or stormwater runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

### What is Stormwater Pollution?

According to the U.S. EPA National Water Quality Inventory, polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to U.S. water bodies that do not meet water quality standards - nearly 40% of those surveyed. This discharge can destroy fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.

Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, stormwater pollution comes from many different sources. Stormwater runoff can dissolve, pick up, and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automatic waste, lawn chemicals, paints, and eroded soil are all pollutants. Many types of litter also can create stormwater pollution.

### Prevention Tips You Can Do

- Never allow any chemicals, yard waste, or any other materials to

be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may bypass the wastewater treatment plant and go directly to lakes or rivers.

- If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, buy only as much as you need and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage, and disposal. Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event. For more information, call 644-2621.
- Use a garbage can for trash and recycle reusable materials. Improperly discarded trash may be carried by runoff into the storm sewer.
- Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn instead.

Watch for auto maintenance tips in a later issue of the Villager. •

## Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

### February 2009

In February, Medic 119 made 8 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 3 into Minerva Park; 2 patients were transported to hospitals.

17 members volunteered a total of 442.6 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 1,014.6. Leading volunteers for the month were Caleb Stelzer (86.2 hours), Tonya Crenshaw (60.7 hours), Norm Jones (60.7 hours).

### MP Runs

2-18 .... Medical alarm

2-18 .... Difficulty breathing

2-27 .... Ill person



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Residential and Commercial



# Minerva Park Needs YOUR Help!

This year, the Village has faced some unusual weather events that have brought additional challenges to our lakes and ravines ... fallen trees, additional brush in the ravines, limbs, and more.

Donating an hour or two of your time means that the Village will **not have to spend your tax dollars** to pay for clean-up, so desperately needed.

### Do you have a chainsaw?

There are fallen trees and limbs that need to be cleared from the ravines.

### Do you garden?

There are areas near the Community Building that need sprucing up.

**Residents Who Wish to "Give Back"**

**Students or Scouts Needing Community Service**

**Celebrate Earth Day**

## Hot Coffee, Free Breakfast, Free Lunch for workers

**April 25 - 8:00a**

Free breakfast and lunch for workers. Please bring labeled rakes, clippers, chain saws, gloves, etc., and join us at the Community Building.



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890-5316 fax

## Your Pledge to the Village

By Resident Greg Wittmann, Naturalist

Given the push for "going green" and given that this is the time of year we celebrate Earth Day, I wanted to give you a couple of thoughts to ponder before the big push for the new growing season graces our neighborhood. The following is a pledge by ecologist and professional storyteller Jackson Gilman: "I pledge allegiance to the web of life Of which we are each a strand And to our planet earth on which we stand. One ecosystem under the sun, interdependent with diversity and respect for all."

We are lucky to live in a neighborhood that has so much potential to be a cradle for wildlife. Just the trees alone can set the tone for a wonderful habitat for Red Tailed Hawks, Red Bellied Wood Peckers, Screech Owls, Opossum, and many more critters that we sometimes take for granted. While you are readying your yard for beautiful flowers and plants for this year's growing season, I invite you to add some behaviors to your daily living that can help the environment in amazing ways.

Almost everything you do inside and outside your house impacts the environment in some way. Choose a way that impacts the environment the least.

- Nurture your trees by correctly pruning them. Especially, though, KEEP VINES OFF TREES. Most vines choke out and stress the tree, leaving it vulnerable for disease and insects to destroy it. Drive around the neighborhood and notice all the trees with vines on them. Often they are weaker and have sparser foliage, leaving them victim to the next stump removal company that grins every time they cruise by our neighborhood. Vine removal is really important for good tree health.
- Buy organic lawn and garden fertilizer. It's about the same price as all of the other products that can hurt the amphibian population. One American Toad can eat up to 2,000 mosquitoes in about 10 days. Which would you rather

have, mosquitoes or toads?

- Compost your table scraps and yard waste. Doing this can nurture the soil in important ways and fertilize your soil enough that you won't need to add so many chemicals to control insects and disease. Remember, a healthy plant starts with healthy soil.
- Buy native plants and heirloom variety plants and seeds for your gardens to be able to keep healthy viable plants here that were meant to be here.
- Wash your car in the grass. When the soapy water washes into the yard, most of the soap absorbs into the lawn so the water that goes into the street and down to the creeks is not as toxic for the animals that live there. The fauna in the creeks can die with too much soapy water, let alone all of the other chemicals that make their way there. Another option is to wash your car at the car wash because all of that water goes to the sewage treatment plant to be treated.
- Certify your yard as a backyard wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Go to [www.nwf.org/bwh](http://www.nwf.org/bwh) for more great tips on attracting wildlife.
- **Volunteer during Lake Clean-up Day on April 25** to help keep the Village looking as beautiful and healthy as it is capable of looking.

Finally, make your own pledge this growing season to keep your yard safe for all that live there, especially you. And remember, every day is Earth Day. •

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## Pancake Breakfast

... to benefit the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band Fund for travel expenses to the 2010 Rose Bowl Parade.

Join the Easter Bunny at the Good Shepherd Methodist Church (corner of Sharon Woods & Beechcroft Road) on

**April 11, 8a to 11a**

**Easter Egg Hunt at 10a**

Tickers are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, orange juice. •

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RESIDENT

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**Michelle Minor**

[mminor712@hotmail.com](mailto:mminor712@hotmail.com)

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# Zoning Rules & Regs

By Arlene Stuart, Zoning Clerk

The weather is starting to stay sunny and warm, and I know we are all looking forward to spring. Residents are out clearing away the winter debris from their lawns and sprucing up their homes for the season. This is probably a good time to make some suggestions to help keep the Village up to Code and keep the pride that we all have in our community.

If anyone is looking around and thinking they may like a deck, shed, fence, or any improvements that would involve construction, please call me at 882-5743 to talk about it. Many forms of construction do need permits. We may think a fence, a shed, deck, etc., is not a major thing because it doesn't affect anyone but ourselves, but that is not the case.

Almost all construction projects have to be reviewed for your safety and compliance with the Village Zoning Code. Some additions could also present a problem if you decide to sell your home. The plat description may have changed

because of an addition not listed. That could result in a delay of sale to clear the title.

I have received calls asking about back-up generator installations. If you are considering purchasing and installing a backup generator (here's hoping we don't have another major power failure), please let us know the type, wattage, and size of the generator. We would like to know about the installation and give you any information you or your contractor may need to complete the project. Make sure it is placed in an area in the rear of the residence. If you have questions or need to clarify the need for a permit, call me at 882-5743.

Remember to check the March Villager for Planning & Zoning review deadlines if a review process is necessary. We would hate to delay your project because of a missed deadline.

Enjoy the sunshine and remember not to overdo the yard work.



- February** - MP Police made 1 felony arrest and 10 misdemeanor arrests; 9 were transported to Franklin County jail.
- 2-5 .... 5:19p, 2800 blk Maplewood, false alarm
  - 2-7 .... 1:05p, Minerva Park Nursing Home, 5460 Cleveland Ave., domestic violence & assault
  - 2-12 .. 3:51a, 2800 blk N. Lake Ct., false alarm
  - 2-12 .. 12:45p, MP Nursing Home, menacing threats
  - 2-16 .. 5:25p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., assault
  - 2-25 .. 11:20a, 5200 blk Cardinal Ct., false alarm •



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# Minerva Park the Villager

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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 22, 5:00p**

## Thinking of Selling Your Home?

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- Member of the Columbus Board of Realtors \$25 Million Club



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Joe Walker & Assoc.



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