

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minerva Park Events

June 7 - Kids Safety Day, 4p to 7p, Community Building

We will have picture IDs for the kids. The Fire Department will have a smoke house to teach safety in case of fire. Bouncy House, hot dogs, chips, popcorn, Melody the Clown, music. Please come and get your children ID'd. It will be lots of fun for all.

June 20 - Community Creeking, 10a, Community Building

Join neighborhood naturalist Greg Wittmann to explore our ravine tributary to look for frogs, aquatic bugs, insects, and other stream indicators to help collect information to determine the quality of our stream. Use seine nets and other equipment while we wade the creek together. This activity will last about an hour and requires closed-toed shoes. Greg Wittmann - 523-2178.

We could use much more help with these events. If you can lend a hand, please contact the person in charge of the event.

July 11 - Wine & Cheese, 9p to midnight, Pool

Steve Thitoff - 891-2166.

July 25, Founders Day, 5p to 8p, Pool

Bob Gale - 882-8622.

August - Family Fun Night

Watch for rescheduling information.

August 15 - MP Garage Sale, 9a to 4p

Diane Poncinie - 882-0012.

August 15 - Wine & Cheese, 9p to midnight, Pool

Steve Thitoff - 891-2166.

Pool Owners

The Columbus Water Department has notified the Village that, because of an Ohio EPA initiative under the federal Clean Water Act, it is changing its policies and will no longer grant permits to residents to fill their private pools using a fire hydrant. The municipal pool has been exempted from the new policy, which will take effect on July 1.

Grass Clippings

See the Mayor's Report about a special announcement.

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. Let us know if you need help digging and splitting.



JUNE DATES

- 4 (7:30p)..... Planning & Zoning
- 6 (8a)..... Council Work Session
- 7 (4p-7p) Kids Safety Day
- 8 (7p)..... Council Meeting
- 9 (4p)..... Mayor's Court
- 10 (7:30p)..... MPCA Meeting
- 17 (5p)..... Villager Deadline
- 20 (10a)..... Creeking
- 23 (4p)..... Mayor's Court

\$20 Gift Certificate - Max & Erma's

See page 6 for details.

MPCA News



Garden Tour Sunday, June 28 1p - 4p

- 2690 Lakewood Dr. - Gale
- 2806 Maplewood Dr. - Lude
- 3071 Minerva Lake Rd. - Thitoff
- 2832 Wildwood Rd. - Volpe
- 5239 E. Shore Dr. - Wright
- Mary Yost Garden at the end of Lakewood & Maplewood

At this date, additional gardens are being solicited for the tour. Watch www.minervapark.org for updated information.

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Four Season Garden Award

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by your
MPCA dues

Congratulations to the Four Season Garden Award for early spring - Eric and Heather Gregg, 2800 Park Lane Drive. They received a Certificate of Recognition and will be listed on the plaque in the Community Building.

Judging took place the weekend of May 16-17. Judges commented that they liked the nice overall design with flowers going up front walk. Two-tone pink azaleas were blooming. Various sizes, shapes, and colors of hostas were throughout the front in well designed

beds. Ornamental trees of various colors were well placed in beds. Impatiens that had just been planted were in a side garden.

Other gardens included in the judging were:

- 2525 Lakewood Dr. - Zickefoose
- 2660 Lakewood Dr. - Braun
- 2729 Lakewood Dr. - Noll
- 2722 Minerva Lake Rd. - Slight
- 3071 Minerva Lake Rd. - Thitoff
- 3128 Minerva Lake Rd. - Coulter
- 5274 Cardinal Court- Flautt & Hillis

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



With summer quickly approaching, we seem to be off to a good start for a successful pool season. We already have 210 members, better than I can remember in a long time for so early in the season - before Memorial Day. Many thanks to Tom Shannon and Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter for assisting in all of the last-minute preparations to guarantee that we would open on May 23. This year presented its own unique challenges. All pools were federally mandated to install drain covers and to have them certified and inspected before opening. While we only have two drains (the deep end of the main pool and the baby pool), the age of our pool and the unique measurements of these drains coupled with every pool across the country scrambling to procure and install drain covers, we were fortunate to have the installation completed on time to fill the pool. We also had our pool renovation project to complete (capping the remainder of the pool floor and replacing 2,700 sq.ft. of deck around the pool). We also lost our awning on the pump house in the February wind storm and needed to contract for extensive electrical work. The good news is that we passed our inspections by the Dept. of Health

and the Franklin County Board of Health in plenty of time to open. If you have a moment, I would suggest that you visit our beautiful pool and take a dip.

Help: We still need a Planning & Zoning member to replace Scott Rubert who would like to retire because of increased demands from his job. Scott has been kind enough to continue serving for the past few months but needs to find a replacement. The P&Z Board meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 at the Community Building. Meetings are usually less than two hours. Please call me if you are interested or if you have any questions (882-5743, 891-0895).

Grass Clippings: While driving and walking around the Village, I have stopped at some homes and asked residents who are or who have mowed their lawns to please not leave their grass clippings in to the street. Unfortunately, some residents are still choosing to do this. Why is this important? Let me give you an example as to how this impacts our sewer system. You may be aware of the sink hole on Wildwood Road. In an effort to resolve this problem, I have had to call OUPS, the gas company, and a company to televise the sewer to make sure that there is no damage to the line or collapsing before we proceed with any repairs. A project that I was originally quoted \$600 ended up costing \$1,650. While televising the line, the crew ran into a block of debris and fearful the camera would become irretrievably caught in the blockage, a crew member went down into the line to hand-dig the

blockage twice but was unsuccessful.

The blockage was comprised of some of the usual run-off one expects from a street but also yard waste. Ultimately, other machinery had to be brought in to clear the blockage, hence the additional \$1,050 expense. (The sewer line is undamaged, I am happy to report.) You may not think that the small amount of grass from your yard makes a difference, but cumulatively it does. Please take a little extra time to clear the streets in front of your home. This makes a difference in the health of our aging sewer system and contributes to the beauty of our Village.

North Lake: We are scheduled to treat for algae problems before the end of May. The plan is to treat the North Lake for problems we are once again seeing and the South Lake as a preventive measure. We are continuing to look at a maintenance program for the North Lake.

All Council members were present at the May regular Council meeting. The following reports were made:

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoehstetter is working with Police Chief Bob Hillard to secure an Mobile Data Terminal to replace the his department's 15 year-old MDT. Chief Hoehstetter will monitor the hose and hydrant used to fill our pool May 19.

Police: Chief Bob Hillard reviewed his monthly report. He is investigating a senior well-being program that allows for "checking

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M – 8a-1p and 4p-6p

Tu – 4p-6p

W, F – 8a-noon

Th – 6p-8p

Sat, Jun 6 – 10a-noon

up" on our elderly residents to make sure they are doing well. With more damage to the rock wall near the spillway and walking path being seen, the foot patrol will be "beefed up" during the summer months.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Dick Busick reviewed his monthly report. There are several cases involving overgrown yards, unmowed lawns, and a large wood pile in a front yard. Two fence permit applications and a room addition application were approved at the May Planning & Zoning meeting.

Minerva Park Community Association: Councilman Dave Way reported for MPCA Vice President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff. The first pool event, Family Fun Night is scheduled for June 27, a swing at the playground needs repair, the slides need cleaning, and the first-time flower sale went well with a profit of \$125.

Northland Community Council: Don Champney reported that the Fourth of July Committee still needs help and financial aid for the event. Chairman Steve Thompson is hoping for one representative from each member organization to help on the day of the parade.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Dave Way was finalizing preparations for the Children's

Safety Day to be held June 7 at the Community Building starting at 4:00 p.m., the bench at the playground needs to be painted, and brush south of the spillway needs to be removed.

Financial: Council President Pam Park-Curry received Council's approval of April expenses - \$100,163.66. She is hoping to schedule a Finance Committee meeting mid-June.

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

Resolution 2009-07 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for General Liability insurance and declaring an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency. NOTE: This resolution was passed as an emergency to avoid any lapse in insurance coverage for the Village by going into effect immediately.

Resolution 2009-09 - Submitting a tax budget for the expenses and other expenditures during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2009-10 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for a Court Magistrate and declaring an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

NOTE: In that Magistrate Breckinridge resigned, this resolution allowed for a new magistrate to preside over court the following day.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter reviewed a spreadsheet he had distributed reflecting a breakdown of the quarterly expenses for cruiser repairs. There will be a Safety Committee meeting June 1.

Service: Councilman Kent Stanley asked Village Engineer Mike Flickinger to comment on the Findings and Orders the EPA has mandated to limit and/or eliminate water overflow and infiltration from the sanitary sewer system to the storm water sewer system. As a first step, Mike's company, CH2M Hill, will help the Village draft a maintenance schedule and a 5-year plan to televise the sewer lines. An amount not exceed \$10,000 from the Sewer Capital Projects Fund was approved for the project.

Streets: Councilman Jeff Rigg reported that the Village still had not been approved for OPWC funding of the 2009 Street Repair Project. The Village will move forward to mill and fill the following streets: East Shore Drive, Kerwood, Ponderosa, Berry Lane Court, East Shore and North Lake Courts, and Alder Vista Drive at a cost not to exceed \$200,000. The project should be completed by the end of the summer.







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**Minerva Park
Police**

- April** - MP Police made 8 misdemeanor arrests & 2 felony arrests; 6 were transported to Franklin County jail.
- 4-6 ... 10:40a, 2600 blk Minerva Lake Rd., aggravated menacing
 - 4-6 ... 11:27a, Hawthorne Elementary, 5001 Farview Dr., unruly juvenile
 - 4-9 ... 2:11p, 2600 blk Jordan Rd., false alarm
 - 4-9 ... 3:15p, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd., criminal trespass & criminal mischief between Mar 1-16 reported
 - 4-14 . 4:30p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., assault
 - 4-18 . 12:05p, 5000 Maplewood Dr., family dispute, FCCS referral
 - 4-17 . 10:10a, 2500 blk Woodley Dr., animal running at large between Apr 1-17 reported
 - 4-17 . 6:00p, Newcomer Funeral Home, 3047 E. Dub-Gran, theft reported
 - 4-21 . 11:35p, 2800 blk Minerva Lake Rd., phone harassment of Apr 18-21 reported
 - 4-25 . 12:01a, 2600 blk Jordan Rd., false alarm
 - 4-27 . 6:38p, 2700 blk Jordan Rd., suicide
 - 4-27 . 7a, 3100 blk Minerva Lake Rd., public indecency •

Storm Drains



Please be MP neighborly and help keep the storm drains cleared of debris. After all, a wet basement is something we all can relate to!



*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).

April 2009

Beg balance general fund	\$462,149.93
Revenue collected	95,900.48
Expenses	(100,163.66)
Ending balance	\$457,886.75

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Sunday 10:30a
Wednesday 7:00p

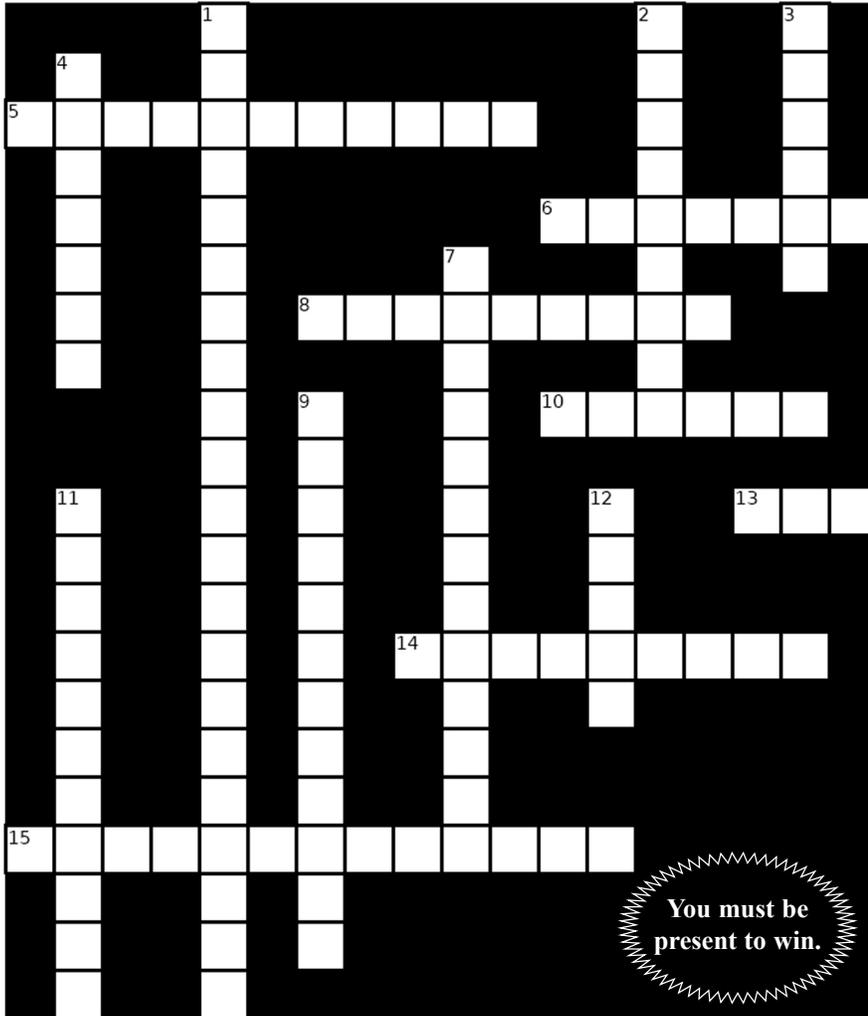
Prayer Service
Friday 7:00p

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Open to MP residents - Review the May 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 June 8, 6:30p. Of those puzzles with all correct answers, a drawing will be held at the June regular council meeting (June 8, starting at 7p) for a \$20 gift certificate to Max & Erma's. You must be present to win.

Name, MP Address, Phone #

Puzzle ...

ACROSS

- 5 Century 21 realtor
- 6 Lake Clean-up Date
- 8 Guest Speaker
- 10 Family Fun Night Date
- 13 # of pool memberships to date
- 14 \$20 gift certificate to which restaurant
- 15 Carpet-cleaning process

DOWN

- 1 Jordan Rd. church
- 2 Special thanks to which college
- 3 Founders Day date
- 4 Lawn care service
- 7 Will be returning in July to Columbus Square
- 9 Person to contact if interested in MP kids association
- 11 HER realtor
- 12 Children's Safety Day date

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Decorative Yard Stripes or a Carpet of Little Yellow Flowers - You Decide

By Greg Wittmann - Neighborhood Naturalist

As I was trying to order my very first environmentally friendly battery-powered lawn mower a couple of weeks ago, I was asked if I wanted to order a yard striper to go with that. "A what?" I replied. "A yard striper," the representative repeated. "You know! When one pass of the lawn mower leaves a darker stripe and the next pass leaves a lighter stripe." "Oh!" I said, as if I really had to think hard whether or not I really wanted one. Then I confessed that I was one of those neighbors who other neighbors really love to hate during dandelion season. I appreciate the beautiful carpet of little yellow blossoms blanketing my lawn as if I am purposefully cultivating them for the sake of beauty or something. Hate me or not, they do look kind of pretty.

While we start this new growing season, I thought I'd share some ideas that I try to incorporate to keep an environmentally friendly approach to lawn and garden care.

Rule #1 - Try to attract wildlife to your yard with your behaviors and practices. Make every decision in your yard based on how wildlife is impacted. To reap the rewards of wildlife in your own back yard, try some of the following techniques:

- Compost your yard waste - Adding decomposed leaves, twigs, grass clippings, garden trimmings, and even table scraps can create a very fertile soil that will help amend the horrible clay soils that were left by the glaciers a few million years ago. Compost is a great way to have extremely healthy plants with the least negative impact to the earth.

I have five composting situations going on in my backyard. One is just for sheep and cow manure (enclosed in a plastic garbage can-like container) that I get from farmers I know. Another plastic composter holds nothing but table scraps and red wiggler worms. This is called a vermicomposter and if done properly can make very effective use of unwanted table scraps. I call it "garden-to-table-to-garden." Put a pound of these red worms in your composter and let magic happen. I promote this method for folks wanting to teach kids about things like decomposition and earth-friendly garden care. If you want to learn more about my composting methods, call me.

Our Village yard waste is collected by "Local Waste." Unfortunately, they send our yard waste to be recycled only during the months of April through November. The rest of the time it is placed in a landfill, which can create problems for the landfill. What a great thing it would be if we incorporated more yard waste recycling in our own backyards by composting.

- Buy earth-friendly garden products. Every lawn and garden purchase you make could help, hurt, or have neutral effects on wildlife. Read product labels - sometimes there are products that are just as effective but more environmentally friendly.
- Use organic fertilizers and other products when possible. Corn gluten is supposed to help prevent crab grass and dandelions. After a couple of seasons, it systemically works to ward them off.
- Use heirloom variety seeds when planting. Heirloom varieties help

promote healthier plants with more vitamins.

- Remove non-native invasive plants such as Bush Honeysuckle and garlic mustard. These non-indigenous plants take the growing space of beautiful native wildflowers such as Virginia Bluebells, Adders Tongue, Cecil and Large-flowered Trillium, and many more. Did you know that Purple Loosestrife is very invasive to downstream watersheds and can be very difficult to control?
- Use manual- or battery-powered tools instead of exhaust-spewing gas equipment. This is a hard one for me. I am still working on this one.

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

April 2009

In April, Medic 119 made 28 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 3 into Minerva Park; 21 patients were transported to hospitals.

26 members volunteered a total of 764.3 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 2,471.6.

Leading volunteers for the month were **Caleb Stelzer** (95.6 hours), **Rick Hoehstetter** (54.5 hours), **Tina Quinn** (51.8 hours).

MP Runs

4-22 Unconscious person
4-26 Ill person
4-29 Difficulty breathing

Minerva Park the Villager

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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, June 17, 5:00p

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