

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

A Pair of Rare Ducks

By 11-year-old Madelyn

In mid-December, my grandpa Paul Miller (East Shore Court) saw a pair of ducks that appeared to him to be unlike your average Mallard. He spotted the ducks in the North Lake, right in his back yard. When he saw the, immediately he got out his bird book and searched to see if any of the birds looked close to the ones in his back yard. When he got to page 82, he knew right then that it was the Tufted Duck. He could tell in the book that it was definitely the Tufted Duck because it obviously had a tuft, and it was the same colors. The book also showed the males and females. Over a 2-week period, my grandpa saw them swimming almost everyday out in the lake.

One afternoon I received a call from my grandpa saying that he had seen them again. He wanted me to see them so badly! The next day, I went over to his house for dinner. My grandpa was so eager for them to show up. While everyone was sitting the table, I was on the couch looking out at the lake, when all of a sudden I saw a pair of chicken-looking creatures sitting on a log out in the water! I knew they had to be the ones that my grandpa was telling me about, so I called him over, and he said, "Nope, those aren't it. They were much different." I asked him to get out the bird book and turn to the page that the Tufted Duck was on. Indeed, I



was right! The ones that I spotted were the female Tufted Duck. I just knew I was right!

The Tufted Duck is found in Europe and Asia - not the U.S. That is what makes them extremely rare here. It is smaller than a Mallard, and a male is black with a white circle on its back. The female is a brownish color with different shades of brown, yellow, orange, and tan. They both have bright orange webbed feet. The male has a black tuft, and the female doesn't have a tuft at all. One of the most interesting facts about the Tufted Duck is that it swims under water! It will dive under and come up in another spot! It was really cool to see it happen!

Still, we did not know what the unusual bird was for sure, so we decided to ask some people about it. Marcia Howden is a birdwatcher, and we told her everything we saw and all that we knew about the bird. She said, "It has to be a Merganser of some sort. If it were truly a Tufted Duck, you

continued on page 2 ...

Garage Sale

MPCA Seeks Chairperson

Help organize the 2012 Garage Sale ... call MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff, 891-2166, to learn what's involved.



Self-Defense Course

The MP Community Association is considering hosting a self-defense class taught by our own Police Chief Kim Nuesse. If you are interested in attending, call Lisa Craddock Thitoff at 891-2166.

MARCH DATES

- 8 (7:30p) Planning & Zoning
- 10 (8a) Council Work Session
- 11 (4p) Cmty Garden Kick-off
- 12 (7p) Council Meeting
- 13 (5p) Mayor's Court
- 14 (5p) Villager Deadline
- 14 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
- 27 (5p) Mayor's Court
- 28 (11a-1p) . Sing Along Pot Luck

continued from page 1 ...

would have birdwatchers from other states coming just to get a look at it." After what Marcia said, we decided to look up the Merganser. The moment we saw the images of the Merganser, we knew it wasn't it! It didn't have any of the characteristics of the Tufted Duck. After we talked to Marcia, we went to Birds Unlimited in Westerville and spoke with one of their managers, who said, "It sounds like the Tufted Duck, but that would be very rare in Ohio. There have been many birds from Europe and Asia sighted in Ohio this year, but I haven't heard of any Tufted Ducks being seen." Several people said it would likely be a Grebe because of the swimming underwater, but the color and size description did not match. Still this mystery continues.

My grandpa and I can't say for sure that this unusual duck is indeed the Tufted Duck. By looking at many pictures and reading much about it, we are convinced that it is. We would love to hear from you if you have seen this unusual bird ... contact my grandpa, Paul Miller, at 563-5150 or pemill@earthlink.net. You may contact Mayor Lynn Eisentrout, too. •

Editor's Note. To learn more about Tufted Ducks and other ducks in mid-Ohio, visit ducks.org.



Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop

Saturday, Mar 10 • 11:30a - 2:30p
 Registration required.
 Nominal materials fee.
 740-417-3131
klochko@earthlink.net

MPCA News

Matt Danzuso Receives "Citizen of the Year" Award

In January, the Community Association recognized Resident Matt Danzuso with the Citizen of the Year Award for 2011 (a/k/a the "Duck Award"). Matt, a former Council member, was acknowledged for expanding Safety Day, organizing Lake Clean-ups, starting Service Days, helping repair the playground, and conducting a Village tree survey and inventory on Village property. Pictured l-to-r are MPCA Past President Bob Gale, Matt, and MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff. •



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 MPCA dues

Scholarship

MP High School Seniors ...
 The deadline for the Nancy Fischer Memorial Scholarship is March 31. Applicants must be 1st-year college students under age 21 (prospective or accepted) and submit their own original materials. Visit www.minervapark.org/scholarship/ to download the application. •

Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7 • 11:00a
 Hawthorne School
 Bring your camera
 and Easter Basket.

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Getting to Know You

The Villager will begin a periodic personal-interest feature about MP residents to get to know people in our special Village and to deepen the sense of community. We believe that safety is in numbers, and the more neighbors we know, the safer we are. The feature will be personal in nature and not a business advertisement.

If you want to be featured (or you want to suggest another MP resident), email your full name (and/or resident's name) and your contact information to Rose Hart, rose_hart@hotmail.com. Please make the subject of your email "Getting to Know You." The features will appear in the order in which they are received and as allowed by the timing of interviews.

Rose Hart • 895-7522

MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



It has been a busy month for meetings. Here are just a few:

Pool: We had our first pool meeting on February 6 to plan the 2012 season. Our Discount Pool Membership Day will be held on April 15 from noon to 3p at the Community Building. Weather permitting, the pool will open Saturday, May 26, at noon. Upcoming events include one or two Wine & Cheese events, a Family Fun Night and perhaps a Resident Appreciation Day or Night (a new concept suggested by our Pool Manager, John Friedel). Dates and times are yet to be confirmed, so watch future issues of the Villager.

Coffee with Council: As I promised last year, an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) speaker, Gary Comer, addressed those who attended the January 23 Coffee with Council about controlling the Canadian goose population. Numerous programs and techniques were presented, such as harassment to discourage geese from nesting, habitat modification (planting tall vegetation along the shoreline), passing legislation prohibiting feeding of the geese and posting signs indicating as such, erecting barriers around the lakes such as pond grids, noisemakers, dogs as deterrents, addling (egg shaking),

nest destruction, and a goose round-up. These are all options the Council is considering. We will keep you informed and continue to seek input from the community.

2012 Street Project: Streets Committee Chairman Charles Legg, Village Engineer Mike Flickinger, Fiscal Officer Nancy White, and I met on January 24 to discuss the upcoming street repair project schedule. Please see Councilman Legg's report under the Streets Committee report.

March Council Meeting Speaker Scheduled: Lori Gischel from the Regional Income Tax Agency's (RITA) Worthington office will speak about income tax issues relevant to our Village, i.e., filers and non-filers, steps that can be taken to collect taxes from residents, and commercial vendors who are not paying, revenues collected. She also will cover RITA's customer service, the possibility of privatized and central collection by the state of income tax revenues, and how this may impact municipalities.

Playground: A representative from our liability insurance company arranged for a safety inspection of our playground equipment on February 6. I will share this report with you once I have received it.

All Council members except Roberto Segovia, who was absent due to illness, were present for the Regular Council meeting, held on February 13.

Speaker: Amelia Costanza from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) made a brief presentation about the 2012 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and talked about MORPC's role as a federally mandated

Metropolitan Planning Organization. The 2012 Plan will address issues such as traffic congestion, air quality, and mobility challenges through long-range planning. MORPC will coordinate planning with local governments to identify these needs and direct state and federal funding. Additionally, the 2012 Plan will be instrumental in setting objectives, mapping strategies, and measuring how goals are to be met. Areas

Westerville School Levy

To learn more, visit these websites:

For the tax levy ...
www.westerville.k12.oh.us/program_page.aspx?pid=32

Against the tax levy ...
www.levyfacts.com

Look up your property to see how proposed tax levy would impact you ... <http://franklincountyoh.meta.cama.com/>

included are all of Franklin and Delaware Counties and portions of Licking and Fairfield Counties. I will investigate any possibility of funding any future projects we may have.

The following reports were made:

Police: Chief Kim Nuesse was excused because she was at a training session. Council received her monthly reports.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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

Hoechstetter reported that their new Mobile Data Terminal (MDC) is up and working. He had included his monthly report in the Council packet.

Law Director: Jennifer Croghan had nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays was excused. There was no P&Z meeting in February.

Minerva Park Community Association: Councilman Dave Way reported on behalf of MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff. Northland Community Council - the 2012 NCC election of officers took place at the February 7 meeting with the following results: Emmanuel Remy was elected as President; Gerry O'Neil as Vice President; Brandon Boos as Secretary; Sandy LaFollette as Treasurer. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on March 23 at Villa Milano. The Rapid Bus service on Cleveland Avenue is being studied. Brandon Boos asked for a community profile for each association and for each representative to NCC.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Dave Way had nothing further to report.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval from the Council for the December financials totaling \$101,041.93 and the 2011 financials totaling \$1,462,049.27. A Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Legislative: Councilwoman Sharon Bierman asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation/):

Resolution 2012-2 - Accepting the Amounts by th Budget Commission. Waive 3 readings, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2012-3 - General Liability Insurance for May 2012 - May 2013, 1st reading.

Resolution 2012-4 - Pool Vending Machines contract, 1st reading.

Ordinance 1-2012 - Garage Sales, 1st reading

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

Service: There was no report.

Streets: Councilman Charles Legg reported on the 2012 Street Repair Project meeting. A tentative schedule was agreed upon. Engineering will begin on May 1 with advertising for bids during the weeks of June 11 and June 18, and

acceptance of bids on June 29. Council will discuss the bids at the July 7 work session, award the contract at the June 9 Council meeting. A pre-construction meeting with the contractor will be held on July 16. Construction will begin July 23. We hope to finish the project before school begins on August 15. As with past projects, the residents most affected will be kept informed as we progress.

2011 Year-in-Review Reports. We anticipate these will be in the April issue of the Villager. •

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Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

January 2012

In January, Medic 119 made 28 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 6 into Minerva Park, with 22 patients transported to local hospitals.

24 members volunteered a total of 644 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 644 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were **Cory Hutchinson** (76.2 hours), **Timothy Lockard** (65 hours), and **Todd Monroe** (48 hours).

MP Runs

- 1-11 Difficulty Breathing
- 1-19 Possible Stroke
- 1-19 Ill Person
- 1-24 Chest Pains
- 1-26 Auto Accident
- 1-31 Unconscious Person

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Minerva Park's Ballot

Below is a representation of the ballot you'll see at the polls this election.
You may make your selections on this sheet and take it with you to the polls.

ISSUE

#10 Proposed Tax Levy (additional) Westerville City School District

Shall a levy be imposed by the Westerville City School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the School District in the sum of \$16,540,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside the ten-mill limitations estimated by the county auditor to average 6.71 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.671 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2012, first due in calendar year 2012?

- For the tax levy
 Against the tax levy

REPUBLICAN

Delegates-at-Large & Alternates- at-Large for National Convention

- Newt Gingrich
 Jon Huntsman
 Ron Paul
 Rick Perry
 Mitt Romney
 Rick Santorum

District Delegates & Alternates to National Convention

- Newt Gingrich
 Jon Huntsman
 Ron Paul
 Rick Perry
 Mitt Romney
 Rick Santorum

U.S. Senator

- David W. Dodt
 Donna K. Glisman
 Eric LaMont Gregory
 Josh Mandel
 Michael L. Pryce
 Write-in _____

Representative to Congress (3rd District)

- John Adams
 Chris Long

Justice of Supreme Court

- Terrence O'Donnell

Justice of Supreme Court

- Robert R. Cupp

Justice of Supreme Court

- Sharon L. Kennedy

Member of State Central Committee, Man (3rd District)

- David Goodman
 Roland I. Lane

Member of State Central Committee, Woman (3rd District)

- JoAnn Davidson

State Representative (19th District)

- Anne Gonzales

Judge of Court Common Pleas

- Guy Reece

Judge of Court Common Pleas

- David E. Cain

Judge of Court Common Pleas

- Valoria Hoover

Judge of Court Common Pleas

- Charles A. Schneider

Judge of Court Common Pleas

- Jim Mason

Judge of Court Common Pleas

- Chis Geer

County Commissioner

- James M. Pfaff

Prosecuting Attorney

- Ron O'Brien

Sheriff

- Michael K. Herrell

County Recorder

- Daphne Hawk

County Engineer

- Dean C. Ringle

Member, County Central Cmte

- Lynn Eisentrout

DEMOCRAT

Delegates-at-Large & Alternates- at-Large for National Convention

- Barack Obama

U.S. Senator

- Sherrod Brown

Representative to Congress (3rd District)

- Joyce Beatty
 Ted Celeste
 Mary Jo Kilroy
 Priscilla R. Tyson

Justice Supreme Court

- Robert W. Price

Justice Supreme Court

- William M. O'Neill
 Fanon A. Rucker

Justice Supreme Court

- Yvette McGee Brown

Justice Court of Appeals

- Gary Tyak

Justice Court of Appeals

- Peggy Bryant

Member of State Central Committee, Man (3rd District)

Joseph P. Rugola

Member of State Central Committee, Woman (3rd District)

Veda Rugola

State Representative (19th District)

Al Donahey

Judge of Court Common Pleas

Kim Brown

Judge of Court Common Pleas

Stephen L. McIntosh

Judge of Court Common Pleas

Elizabeth Gill

County Commissioner

Paula Brooks

County Commissioner

John O'Grady

Clerk of Court of Common Pleas

Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

Sheriff

Zach Scott

County Recorder

Terry J. Brown
 Cortez Lee Bogard

County Treasurer

Edward Leonard

Coroner

Jan M. Gorniak

Member County Central Cmte

Edwin England

GREEN

U.S. Senator

Write-in _____

Representative to Congress (3rd District)

Bob Fittrakis

Member County Central Cmte

Thomas Burgess
 Bob Fittrakis
 Connie M. Hammond
 Suzanne Patzer
 Tekla Taylor-Lagway

LIBERTARIAN

U.S. Senator

Write-in _____

Representative to Congress (3rd District)

Richard Ehrbar

State Representative (19th District)

Write-in _____

Take your ID to the polls ... driver's license, Ohio photo ID, bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, any government-issued document showing your current address. **Caveat Emptor** - This recap is provided here so you can become familiar with our own particular ballot before you arrive at the polls. MPCA is not responsible for any errors! Study the issues. Make up your own mind. And then GO VOTE!



January - MP Police made 1 misdemeanor arrest, transported to the Franklin County jail.

- 1-3 9:32p, 2500 blk Minerva Lake Rd, burglary
- 1-4 4:10p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr, missing juvenile
- 1-13 .. 10:58p, Dub-Gran Rd at Farview, receiving stolen property reported
- 1-17 .. 12:50p, 2700 blk Alder Vista Dr, grand theft reported
- 1-20 .. 9:31p, Dub-Gran Rd at Farview, contraband impound
- 1-23 .. 6:57p, 2500 blk Woodley Rd, recovered property
- 1-24 .. 11:10p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr, missing person •



Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are March 13 & 27 at 5p. If you have questions, please call 882-1408 (Community Building).

January 2012

Citation payments	30
Village General Fund	\$1,852
Computer Fund	\$69
Remitted to the State	\$400
Total Court Receipts	\$2,469



Community Garden Kick-Off

March 11 • 4p

Last year's gardeners who want to continue gardening this year and residents who are interested in learning more about the gardens and possibly renting a plot for the season should attend this meeting. A 100 sq.ft. plot rents for only \$25 for the entire growing season, April through October. Available sizes are 4' x 25' or 10' x 10', but availability is limited. Gardeners are required to pay their fee and sign the 2012 MP Community Association Garden Guidelines and Rules to reserve a plot. •

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MP's Ballot on Page 6



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the Villager Staff

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sbierman@columbus.rr.com ... 899-7731 fax

The Villager is mailed to all MP homes for delivery by the 1st Monday of each month. Residents are invited to submit articles & other items of interest. Use the drop box inside the front door at the Community Building. The Villager reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items presented for publication must include the contributor's signature and phone number. The Villager is online at:
minervapark.org/villager

Next deadline:
Wednesday, April 18, 5p

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