

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minerva Park Festival of Lights 2012

Congratulations to the following winners of the annual Festival of Lights contest, and thanks to guest judges, Patti, Joe, Jack, and Finn. Thanks to all residents who decorated, making the Village a winter wonderland ... and to everyone who put out luminaries on a foggy Christmas Eve.



Underwritten
by your \$20
MPCA dues



Best Outdoor Tree
2540 Maplewood Dr.
Melinda Mullen

Tree at the street end of the driveway and illuminated with turquoise lights artfully arranged.

Runner Up
2840 Maplewood Dr.

Christopher & Courtney McCray
Multi-colored lights on the front tree by the driveway.



Best Entrance Way
2655 Maplewood Dr.
Sonny Williams

Lighted white door and garland, with matching wreath with white bows.

Runner Up
2736 Lakewood Dr.
Norine Corbett

Bright white lights on shrubs around front entrance with reflectors.



Best Religious Theme
3202 Minerva Lake Rd.
Craig & Liane Buckingham

Spot-lighted realistic manger in front yard with colorful figures.

Runner Up
2692 Wildwood Rd.

Karl & Bethany Freudenreich
Nativity backlit in blue on side porch. A perennial favorite.



Best Whimsical Display
3071 Minerva Lake Rd.
Steve & Lisa Thitoff

At a distance, the overall look of front yard with variety of LED colored lights, tying house & yard together. Up close, trees, figures, and mailbox stood out.

Runner Up
2806 Maplewood Dr.
Jack & Gerline Lude

Colorful lights & Santa in a sleigh with deer, filling the front yard. Lighted gate & poinsettias.



Best Outline Effect
3100 Minerva Lake Rd.
Jeff & Nicole Rigg

Beautiful LED lights framing all the windows, door, sidewalk, roofline. Line of candy canes and gingerbread men.

Runner Up
2631 Wildwood Rd.
Kellie Carmichael

Beautiful white lights framing windows, doors, gutters. Complemented the neighbor's display next door. •

Public Meeting

February 11, 6:30p, Community Bldg.
Attend a **PUBLIC MEETING** to consider Ordinance 5-2012, Waterfowl Feeding Prohibition.

NO PARKING on MP Streets

... before, during, or after snowfalls. Snowplows do a cleaner, better job clearing our roads when vehicles are pulled into driveways. This is especially critical on the courts and cul-de-sacs where maneuvering space is limited.

Variance Request

March 11, 7p, Community Bldg.
Attend a **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider a Planning & Zoning variance request. Marion Investment Company, 5236-5272 Cleveland Ave., for a child care center.

FEBRUARY DATES

5 (7:30p) **Planning & Zoning**
9 (7p) **Council Work Session**
11 (6:30p) **Public Meeting**
11 (7p) **Council Meeting**
13 (8:30a) **Mayor's Court**
13 (7:30p) **MPCA Meeting**
15 (5p) **Villager Deadline**
19 (7:30p) **Green Team**
27 (8:30a) **Mayor's Court**



Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are February 13 & 27, 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please call 882-1408.

December 2012

Citation payments	54
Village General Fund	\$3,202
Computer Fund	\$184
Remitted to the State	\$910
Cap. Recovery System	\$24
Franklin Co Muni Court	\$35
Total Court Receipts	\$4,384



Village Financials

If you have questions about the information provided here, please call the Fiscal Officer at 882-5743.

December 2012

Beg balance general fund	\$292,348
Receipts	\$29,735
Disbursements	(\$233,579)
Ending balance	\$88,504

Christmas Thank You's

Approximately 280 MPCA members and guests enjoyed the 11th annual Christmas Carriage Rides. Our thanks to Mayor Lynn Eisentrout for organizing the event and to the many volunteers.

Underwritten by your \$20 MPCA dues

The MPCA also wishes to thank Meijer for its generous donation of \$200 in gift cards. These funds were used to purchase the luminaries for the Carriage Rides and the entrances on Christmas Eve.

And a special thanks to Santa & Mrs. Claus for making the event special for our wee ones. •

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout



What a winter! I hope you are all staying warm and driving safely. Please remember to park your vehicles in your driveways (off-street) after any significant snowfall, whether or not a snow emergency has been designated. This will allow Blendon Township to more effectively plow our streets.

Belated Thank You: While extending my appreciation to all of the volunteers who helped with the Christmas Carriage Ride event, I forgot to thank Santa Claus and his lovely wife, Mrs. Claus. As busy as they were at that time of year, they generously stayed the entire three hours visiting with our little guests and posing for pictures. Many thanks and my apologies for the oversight.

Public Meeting: As you may recall, Ordinance 5-2012, prohibiting the feeding of geese on public lands within the Village, has been tabled for several months (minervapark.org/legislation). Our goal (Village Council and me) was to offer an opportunity for input from residents regarding this legislation. A public meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 11, 6:30 p.m., 30 minutes before the regular Council meeting. Gary Comer from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife will

be at this meeting to answer any questions relating to this first step. Additionally, he will discuss subsequent plans we hope to implement to control the goose population that is, for lack of a better term, out of control and destroying property. If you are unable to attend but have questions or concerns, please contact me or any Council member.

Golf Course: I have been receiving more comments, questions, and suggestions about the future of the golf course property. We are making every effort to work with all parties involved to ensure a favorable outcome while looking to the future of our Village and how a golf course or a lack of one will impact us, both aesthetically and financially. To that end, we have met to review numerous drafts of plans provided by Fischer Homes that include a 9-hole golf course and partial development of the property as well as plans with no golf course and a complete build-out of the property. All avenues of ingress and egress have been discussed with no decisions or recommendations made, merely viewed as possibilities from first drafts and as subjects of discussion.

These meetings have included the Minerva Lake Golf course property owners, the golf course manager, and golf course planners working with the Village to design a safe and attractive course layout in conjunction with the Fischer staff and their planners. A future town meeting will present the opportunity for all of you to view proposed plans.

If we are to save some of the

golf course land as a golf course, the Village will need to purchase that land through a bond issue that residents vote on. On Monday, January 21, the Village Council passed Ordinance 2013-4, "declaring the necessity of issuing bonds for the purpose of acquiring, improving, equipping, and furnishing a municipal golf course, and declaring an emergency." This piece of legislation was passed unanimously at this Special Council meeting and can be viewed at minervapark.org/legislation. The purpose of this ordinance was to request the Auditor's Office to certify the estimated average annual property tax levy for Minerva Park if a proposed \$1.4 million bond issue were to be placed on the May ballot. Please remember that this was only a first step toward placing this on the May ballot. As we continue to gather information, you will be kept apprised. Please watch for notification of a town meeting in the near future.

Earthen Dam: I have met with our rep from Buckeye Engineering and have spoken with our contact at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to discuss the steps necessary to reclassify the dam as well as any renovations and repairs, if the golf course were to be sold and developed. There will be more on this later.

All Council members were present for the regular Council meeting on January 14. Historically, the first Council meeting of the year is considered the organizational meeting where the President of Council is elected and new

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M – 8a-1p and 4p-6p
 Tu – 4p-6p
 W, F – 8a-noon
 Th – by appt
 Sat, Feb 9 – 10a-noon

committee assignments are distributed. Both current Council President Pam Park-Curry and Councilman Richard McCreary were nominated as the 2013 president of council. Councilman McCreary declined the nomination, and Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry was reelected. The vote was as follows: Ayes - Curry, Legg, McCreary, and Walter. Nays - Way. Abstentions - Segovia. Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry will serve as Council President position for 2013. Council Committee assignments will remain the same. They are:

- **Community:** Chair Dave Way, members Dick McCreary & Charles Legg
- **Finance:** Chair Pam Park-Curry, members Charles Legg & Roberto Segovia
- **Legislation:** Chair Dick McCreary, members Pam Park-Curry & Todd Walter
- **Safety:** Chair Todd Walter, members Dick McCreary & Pam Park-Curry
- **Service:** Chair Roberto Segovia, members Dave Way & Todd Walter
- **Streets:** Chair Charles Legg, members Dave Way & Roberto Segovia

The following reports were made:

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoehstetter reported that the medic vehicle had to be towed for what was suspected to be a coolant issue. The City of Columbus is lending our department a vehicle as they become available until the MP vehicle can be repaired. The Chief continues to gather information about billing to present at the February council meeting.

Police: Chief Kim Nuesse reported that all of the mobile and portable radios are being reprogrammed free of charge by the City of Westerville. The investigation of the rental scams related to the property on Wildwood

Road is ongoing, with our police department working closely with the Franklin County Prosecutor's office and the media. The investigations involving recent burglaries also are ongoing.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays was excused due to illness. Council liaison to the P&Z Commission, Charles Legg, reported that a variance request for a daycare at the shopping center at Woodley and Cleveland Avenue was heard. In a vote of 3-2, the Commission voted that the variance request be forwarded to the Village Council for its consideration at its March meeting. Please see page 1 for the posted notice.

Minerva Park Community Association: Councilman Dave Way reported that the monthly meeting was not held because of a lack of a quorum.

Northland Community Council: Mayor Eisentrout reported for Bob Gale. The President's Award Banquet will be held on April 11 at Villa Milano. The NCC needs volunteers to help with the Awards banquet.

Community: Councilman Dave Way reported that he would hold a Community Committee meeting on January 21 at 7 p.m. to discuss the Veterans Memorial.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry reported that final approval for the December financials would take place at a later date. A Finance Committee meeting would be held on February 12 at 7 p.m.

Legislation: Councilman Richard McCreary asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation):

Resolution 2012-47 - Affirming the final appointment of Officer Barry Harp. Withdrawn.

Resolution 2013-1 - Amending the 2012 Permanent Appropriations Budget. Suspend the rules & waive

the 3 readings. Ayes - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry, Walter, Way. Abstain - Segovia. Passage - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry, Walter, Way. Abstain - Segovia.

Resolution 2013-2 - Affirming the final appointment of Officer Anna Tomaro. Suspend the rules & waive the 3 readings. Ayes - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry, Walter, Way. Nays - Segovia. Passage - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry, Walter, Way. Nays - Segovia.

Resolution 2013-3 - Contract for Special Bond Counsel, declaring an emergency. Suspend the rules & waive the 3 readings & passage. All ayes.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

Service: Councilman Roberto Segovia had nothing to report.

Streets: Councilman Charles Legg had nothing to report. •

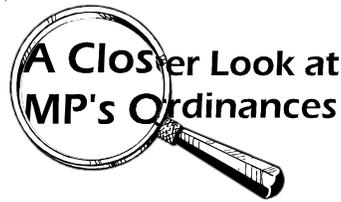
Butterfly & Bird Habitats

The MPCA Green Team is sponsoring a presentation by Beth Richardson, native landscape designer and member of Wild Ones Columbus. Her topic is "Creating a Bird and Butterfly Habitat in Your Own Yard." Village residents and their guests are invited to her presentation on Saturday, March 2, at 1p. For further information, contact Karen Cogley at 899-2024.



Join yoga classes on Feb 5 and 12, 9a, at the Community Building ... continue from there. Contact Lisa at 891-2166 for information.

Did You Know?



There are several MP ordinances that address “the enhancement of the public health, safety, and welfare by eliminating conditions favorable to pestilence, disease, and generally unsafe conditions, while at the same time improving the quality, appearance and, most likely, the value of residential property for all residents of the Village” [1272.04(a)(1)].

Boy, that’s a mouthful, ain’t it?! Not really — when you think about it. Keeping Minerva Park a great place to live and pride of ownership sound like reasonable goals.

The village has contracted with Local Waste Services to pick up the trash and recyclables on **Monday beginning at 8:00a.** As listed in your “MP Directory” on page 1, there are exceptions as follows:

If one of the following **holidays** is on Monday, the trash is delayed that week until **Tuesday** - the holidays are New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

Accordingly, please put out your trash for collection no earlier than the evening before pick-up and remove your empty containers by the evening of pick-up.

Here’s the ordinance:

“Condition of Premises: Waste Accumulation. No person shall cause or permit waste, garbage, trash, or any debris, such as lumber and building materials, unused tires or other material, to accumulate or remain on his or her property, except as follows:

A. Trash and garbage properly located for normal and regular pickup is permitted, provided that no

such items shall be permitted to remain exposed **to open view beyond normal pickup times**” [1272.04(c)(1)(A)].

“To open view ...” If you have a front-facing garage and little or no side-lot with a sight barrier, please **keep your garbage cans and recycle bins inside your garage or securely covered behind your house.**

Why? Because garbage is an eyesore, and it’s a danger to people, pets, and wildlife.

Hey, look - another exception:

“Customary building materials may remain on the premises during such times as a building permit shall be in effect for the premises, provided that adequate measures are taken to prevent unsafe conditions and, if the items are to remain for a prolonged period, that sufficient screen is provided from neighboring occupied premises” [1272.04(c)(1)(B)]. And section 660.045(d) limits the timeframe for building materials to 30 days.

There’s also the issue of **accumulated garbage, refuse, and rubbish** (remember the fellow on Morse Road?) ...

“No person

shall ... fail to keep the exterior of all residential and commercial premises in good condition and well-maintained, including painting, if necessary, and such persons shall, within a reasonable time, after notice, remove or remedy all unsightly, dirty, and unsafe conditions” [1272.04(c)(3)]. So let’s define [660.045] garbage, refuse, and rubbish ...

Garbage means “all putrescible waste ... resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of foods ... and any containers that have contained food or liquids for consumption by humans or other beings.” **Refuse** means “such matter as is either in fact noxious or has been refused by its owner as worthless.”

Rubbish means “wire, chips, shavings, bottles, broken glass, crockery, tin, cast or wooden ware, boxes, rags, dead weeds, paper circulars, handbills, boots, shoes, ashes, or any waste material other than garbage or offal.”

Please **do some exterior housekeeping** where warranted. **“There goes the neighborhood”** is a phrase we don’t want to hear about Minerva Park! •





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Community Garden 2013

By Karen Cogley

Residents can rent 100 sq.ft. garden plots for only \$25 for the entire growing season, April through October. Plots are 4'x25' or 10'x10'. Availability is limited. Last year's gardeners and others with interest should attend the **2013 Community Garden Kick-Off meeting, Sunday, March 10, at 4p in the Community Building.**

Gardeners are required to pay their fee and sign the 2013 Minerva Park Community Garden Guidelines and Rules to reserve a plot. If you have interest but can't attend this meeting, contact Karen Cogley at 899-2024.

What is the Community Garden?

The MP Community Garden is a place where residents have a common interest in organically growing and maintaining various types of plants. It provides access to land for people who may not have enough space to accommodate a garden or enough sunlight for plants to flourish. It can be a fun, inexpensive, and healthy way for people to grow their own produce and/or flowers.

The Community Garden is a group effort both in terms of getting the garden established in the community and in the decision-making process. The group established accountability for the upkeep and maintenance of the garden. It's a great place to meet other Minerva Park residents.

The Community Garden location is on the southeast side of Hawthorne Elementary School. You'll know it by the compost bin at the back of the gardens, the straw bale border, and the picnic table in the center of the garden.

Editor's Note. The Green Team is a committee of your MP Community Association, consisting of concerned residents who work to create an environmentally friendly and sustainable neighborhood. All MP residents are invited to the next meeting on February 19, 7:30p, at the Community Building. •

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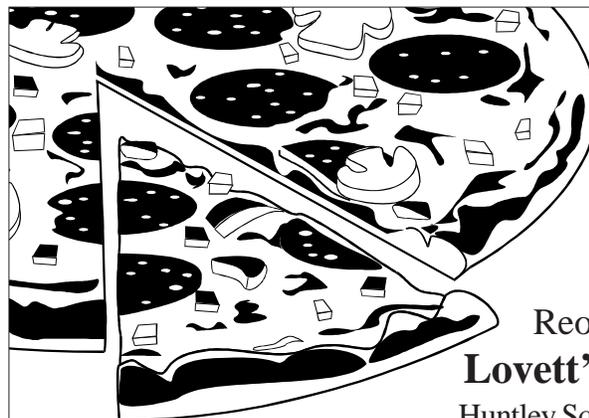
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Minerva Park
Police

- December** - MP Police made 1 misdemeanor and 2 felony arrests.
- 12-7 .. 11a, 2600 blk Wildwood Rd, theft by deception reported
 - 12-8 .. 2:53p, 2500 blk Briar Rose Ave, burglary
 - 12-13. 8:39p, 2500 blk Lakewood Dr, domestic violence
 - 12-16. 9a, 2600 blk Lakewood Dr, theft reported
 - 12-17. 12:31a, 2500 blk Alder Vista, information report
 - 12-17. 2p, 5200 Elmhurst Ave, theft reported
 - 12-19. 12:12p, 2700 blk Alder Vista, theft reported
 - 12-19. 1:12p, 2800 Lakewood Dr, theft reported
 - 12-20. 6:54a, 2700 blk Minerva Lake Rd, domestic dispute
 - 12-23. 1:43p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, theft reported
 - 12-25. 8:16a, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd, criminal damaging reported •



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Medic 119 ...
 Where are you?

December 2012

In December, Medic 119 made 24 runs - 3 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 1 into Minerva Park, with 20 patients transported to local hospitals.

15 members volunteered a total of 265 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 6,415 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were **Brian Horton** (43.5 hours), **Tony Williams** (33.3 hours), and **Brian Bates** (28.8 hours).

MP Runs
 12-10 ... Ill Person



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Save the Dates

- Mar 2 - Bird & Butterfly Habitats
- Mar 10 - Community Garden Kick-off Meeting
- Mar 11 - Public Hearing - Variance Request
- Mar 30 - Children's Easter Egg Hunt

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the Villager

Sharon Bierman 899-3755
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sbierman@columbus.rr.com
MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff 891-2166

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, February 15, 5p

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