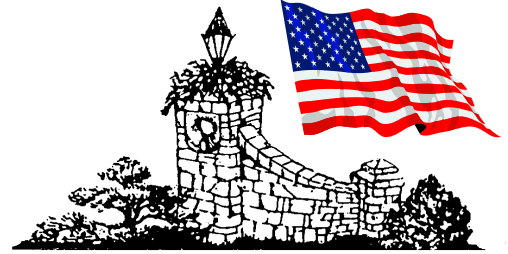


# the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## INCOME TAX BALLOT ISSUE

### #2 in a Series - Safety

By Councilman-Elect Ed Detwiler, Council President Pam Park-Curry,  
Councilwoman Jennifer Pauken, Mayor Lynn Eisentrout

On February 4, 2014, residents will have an opportunity to vote on a Minerva Park Income Tax ballot issue, which if passed would increase Minerva Park's income tax from 1% to 2%. This is the second in a series to help you become an informed voter. The article that appeared in the December Villager explained how the Village used cash reserves to provide services during a time when revenues were decreasing. This article discusses the safety services that have been provided to residents – the Police Department and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department – and why additional revenue is needed to continue to provide the preferred level of safety and security services. By funding our own Police Department, Minerva Park residents have:

- Visible police presence and coverage focused primarily in Minerva Park.

- Fast response time from officers who are familiar with our residents and neighborhood.
- Proactive traffic enforcement, resulting in safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Community outreach programs – house watch, block watch, and police officers familiar with families who have special needs and circumstances.
- Lower crime rate than surrounding areas ([sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov/links/](http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov/links/) > "Crime Map").

Safety and security protection has been the Village's single largest expense. In 2012, the Village spent nearly \$665,000 for Police and EMS, representing approximately 52% of the General Fund expenditures. The Village used cash reserves in 2012 to maintain that level of funding. Once out of cash reserves, the 2013 budget (with continuing decreases in

revenue) required both Police and EMS to cut back on spending and cut back on both spending and services as 2013 draws to a close.

Police Department  
In the Police Department, personnel is the largest

expenditure. To optimally staff for 24/7 coverage, which provides maximum responsiveness and flexibility, Police Chief Kim Nuesse implemented a mix of five full-time and three part-time officers. In 2012 (and using cash reserves), 24/7 coverage was maintained, and the Department handled more than 12,600 calls. In 2012, the remaining Police budget went toward operating costs, training, equipment, cruiser maintenance and fuel, and the purchase of a used police cruiser. With a reduced budget in 2013, despite cost saving measures, the Department was not able to replace one full-time officer and two part-time officers and was not able to maintain preferred staffing levels. In 2013, the Police Department did not purchase a needed replacement vehicle. In the continuing effort to contain and/or reduce expenses, Chief Nuesse has:

- Entered into an agreement with Gahanna to service MP's 3 cruisers, to contain costs and extend cruiser lifespan.

... continued on page 6.

Category	2012 Expenditures	Est. 2013 Expenditures
Police personnel	\$479,024	\$465,500
Police other	\$117,348	\$81,000
<b>Police total</b>	<b>\$596,372</b>	<b>\$546,500</b>
EMS personnel	\$47,215	\$32,000
EMS other	\$20,561	\$19,000
<b>EMS total</b>	<b>\$67,776</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>

### JANUARY DATES

6 (7p)	.....New Council Swearing In
7 (7p)	..... Planning & Zoning
8 (8a)	..... Mayors Court
11 (8a)	.....Council Work Session
13 (7p)	..... Council Meeting
14 (5p-8p)	.... Golf Course Open Hs
15 (7p)	.....MPCA Meeting
17 (5p)	.....Villager Deadline
20 (7p)	..... Coffee with Council
29 (8a)	..... Mayors Court

# MP Community Association News

## Children's Christmas Party

By Glenda Morris, Chair, MPCA Children's Committee

Underwritten  
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The Children's Christmas Party on December 14 had a wonderful turnout of children and parents! We met several families new to the neighborhood.

We made button-decorated Christmas tree ornaments, soaked gelatin capsules to find sponge animals, made marshmallow snowmen and other creatures, and put together a foam snowman craft. Many of the adults helped with our knotted felt

quilt that we plan to give to My Very Own Blanket, a Westerville group that gives a blanket to each child in foster care. The toddler area had pom-poms, winter animal play set, a Christmas tree ring toss, and a basketball hoop game. Some of the children played outside in the newly fallen snow. Our fast action event for the group was a package unwrapping game with wrapped boxes inside boxes. The last child blew a party blower. Santa visited

and gave each child a small present and candy cane.

Many sweet treats were provided by neighbors Jean McCall, Kathy Peters, Joann Steigerwald, Donna Glen, Teresa Bridgette, Marnie Schultz, and Linda Frazier. Our party and clean-up helpers also are much appreciated: Andy Morris, Mia Iacampo, Erin and Phillip Prendeville, Jen Root, Max and Dave Way. Thanks to all! •





### Mayor's Court

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next session is Jan. 8 & 29, 8 a.m. If you have questions, please call 882-1408.

**November 2013**


Citation payments.....	41
Village General Fund.....	\$2,478
Computer Fund.....	\$180
Remitted to the State.....	\$994
Cap. Recovery System.....	\$0
Columbus .....	\$27
<b>Total Court Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$3,679</b>



### Police Report

**November** - MP Police made 1 felony and 2 misdemeanor arrests.

- 11-13...5:08p, 2600 blk Minerva Lake Rd., menacing
- 11-14...12:18p, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd., soliciting
- 11-14...8:39p, Lakewood & Briar Rose, abandoned vehicle
- 11-17...8:46p, 2900 blk Minerva Lake Rd, suicide threat
- 11-21...5:33p, 5200 Cleveland Ave., suspicious person •



### Village Financials

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

**November 2013**

Beg balance general fund.....	\$189,800
Receipts.....	\$38,004
Disbursements.....	(\$65,268)
<b>Ending balance.....</b>	<b>\$162,536</b>

# MAYOR'S REPORT

*Lynn Eisentrout*



I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season, celebrating this special time of year in your own way with family and friends.

This will be a short report because the Council meeting was brief, we have an early deadline for the Villager because the printer will be closed for an extended period of time for Christmas, and I have a lot of work to do for the Carriage Rides.

**Golf Course Property:** This project and the upcoming income tax issue seem to be uppermost on residents' minds. Golf course project first.

As you read in last month's Villager, there are some upcoming meetings of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Village Council, and the Fischer Homes reps to discuss the development text and zoning. An Open House has been scheduled for January 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Building for residents to view preliminary plans and speak with the Fischer Homes staff.

Where are we now? Fischer Homes has filed the Pre-Annexation documents with the Franklin County Commissioners for their consideration. Residents who have homes adjacent to the golf course property received a formal notice from Catherine Cunningham, Fischer's attorney acting as their

agent, of the intent to annex these [golf course property] parcels into the Village. This is standard and part of the process. One resident asked me if he needed to sign anything, and the answer is no.

**Income Tax Ballot Issue:**

Please see page 1 for the second in a series of articles, addressing safety services ... the costs associated with Police and EMS services and how the passage or failure of this income tax will impact these services.

All Council Members were present at the Regular Council meeting held December 9.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the November 6 Special Council meeting were approved unanimously. The minutes for the November 11 Regular Council meeting were approved with the following votes: Ayes - Curry, Legg, Pauken, Walter, Way. Nays - Segovia.

**Police:** Chief Kim Nuesse reported that we have an online police investigative resource, LEADS Online, to monitor, record, and relay information for the purpose of quickly tracking stolen property. Chief Nuesse was elected President of the Franklin County Chiefs' Association and will be working closely with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office on various initiatives for law enforcement. She mentioned that retired Sgt. Jimmy Boyers has been volunteering several times a week, Officer Sean Hensley has accepted a position with Blendon Township, and Officer Dave Wolfel will be retiring the end of the year.

**EMS:** Chief Rick Hoehstetter reported that \$1,403.58 has been received since EMS billing was initiated. The EMS Department

will start using software provided by their billing company, MCA.

**Legal:** Law Director Jennifer Croghan mentioned that legislation for establishing a policy for online auction will be added to the standard year-end resolutions. The Barry Harp unemployment case was dismissed.

**Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement:** Councilman Legg had no report because there were no cases to be heard and no

## Open House

January 14, 5p-8p  
Community Building

Residents are invited to meet with representatives from Fischer Homes to discuss preliminary golf course plans.

P&Z meeting in December. There would be a joint P&Z and Village Council meeting with the Fischer Homes representatives to discuss preliminary plans, development text, and zoning issues on December 18. Lt. Waldenmyer continues to work with businesses and sign & banner issues.

**Minerva Park Community Association:** Councilman Dave Way reported that there are 362 member households. The MPCA will distribute a flyer to encourage residents to display luminaries on Christmas Eve.

**Northland Community Council:** Councilman Dave Way reported that NCC rep Bob

## MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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

## Coffee with Council

January 20, 7p  
Community Building

Residents are encouraged to discuss the Income Tax Issue on the February 4 ballot.

Gale, Mayor Eisentrout, and he attended the NCC Holiday Dinner on December 3. While this was an abbreviated business meeting, the Northland Plan 1 was unanimously passed. This document defines land use, addresses urban design, and natural resources' role in development.

The following committee reports were made:

**Community:** Councilman Dave Way continues to work on the Veterans Memorial.

**Finance:** Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval from the Council for October expenditures of \$92,068.29. There would be a Finance Committee meeting on December 16 at the Community Building.

**Legislation:** Councilman Roberto Segovia asked the Council to consider the following legislation ([minervapark.org/legislation](http://minervapark.org/legislation)):

**Resolution 2013-31 –**

Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into contract with the Franklin County Public Defender's Office for legal services. Please note that it was erroneously reported last month that this resolution was passed. It was not. It was tabled until we receive a contract, and this resolution remains tabled.

**Resolution 2013-33 –**

Approving temporary appropriations of funds for the current expenses and expenditures from January 1, 2014 and ending March 31, 2014.

Motion to suspend the rules and waive the remaining readings, all ayes. Passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2013-39 –**

Specifying municipal services to 102 acres pending annexation. Motion to suspend the rules and waive the three readings, all ayes. Passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 10-2013 –**

Amending Ordinance 2-2003 regarding the pay frequency of Council members. Motion to suspend the rules and waive the required readings, all ayes. Passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 11-2013 –** Motion to repeal Zoning sections 412.02 (zones of quiet), 414.025 (Minerva Lake Road not being a through street), and 452.15 (overnight and daytime parking) of MP's Traffic Code. First reading accepted.

**Safety:** Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

**Service:** Councilwoman Jennifer Pauken reported that Engineer Mike Flickinger had sent the first draft of the Village's Emergency Response and Notification Plan for the Ohio EPA's Director's Findings and Orders. She contacted Rumpke to notify them that the yard waste materials were not picked up on December 9, and Rumpke generated a work ticket to have the remainder of the yard waste picked up.

**Streets:** Councilman Legg reported that some sealing still needed to be done on Maplewood, Wildwood, and Lakewood. Because of contractor repairs, there was discussion about paying the full amount or withholding a portion of the payment. The agreement with the contractor will be reviewed. Any additional street repairs will need to wait until spring. •

## Thank You

Please accept this belated thank you to Jeff Rigg for moderating Candidates Night, attended by approximately 60 residents.

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*continued from page 1 ...*

- Received approximately \$9,170 in grants to purchase portable radios and ballistic vests.
- Purchased used radar equipment from another police agency.
- Received a donation of 15 pieces of gently used office furniture.
- Procured low- or no-cost officer training.
- Deferred purchases of new equipment and used online auctions to sell old equipment.

Because the remaining Police budget did not have funds to replace one full-time and two part-time officers, the Franklin County Sheriff, Blendon Township, and City of Columbus Police have been dispatched to respond to calls.

If the Village did not continue to provide Police services, the Franklin County Sheriff and Blendon Township would respond to calls. Recent estimates show outsourcing would cost approximately \$575,000 to \$800,000 annually for 24/7 police protection. This amount would vary, depending on the level of services the Village would request from an outside agency.

### Emer. Medical Services (EMS)

The Minerva Park EMS Department operates under a Franklin County Automatic Response District protection agreement. In essence, because MP funds, staffs, and maintains an EMS that provides emergency services to surrounding areas, Minerva Park is provided with complete 9-1-1, fire, rescue, EMS coverage by the City of Columbus through a reciprocal agreement. Additional benefits of funding our own EMS Department include:

- Faster EMS emergency response when Minerva Park EMS staff members are on duty.
- Familiarity with our seniors and residents at risk.



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- Cost-effective, routine, and consistent fire hydrant maintenance, flushing, repairs, inspections.
- Community outreach – fire safety education and programs for children at Hawthorne Elementary, CPR and First Aid classes, File of Life program, etc.

In 2012, Minerva Park spent \$67,776 for Emergency Medical Services, representing approximately 5% of the General Fund expenditures. During that time, the Department responded to 437 emergency calls, and EMS members served nearly 5,300 hours.

Without its own EMS service, Minerva Park residents would have to contract with another municipality for fire protection, rescue, and 9-1-1 service. Because estimated costs are approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000 annually, eliminating the EMS Department has not been formally considered.

Because of budget constraints in 2013, Chief Hoechstetter kept staffing levels to a minimum and paid minimum wage to the staff. To generate revenue, the Minerva Park EMS began billing for all emergency runs in September 2013. He also reduced expenses by repairing the current EMS vehicle, i.e., replacing the box on the existing chassis twice and repairing the underpowered engine

to extend its life. When a newer EMS vehicle is needed, it will cost in excess of \$140,000.

Additional revenue from an income tax increase will allow the Village to replace the EMS vehicle when the need arises, return to previous levels of staffing, and continue to provide services to the Village and surrounding areas in exchange for Columbus providing fire protection, rescue, and 9-1-1 response to Minerva Park.

**Summary**

In recent years, the Village relied on cash reserves to maintain preferred levels of safety service. In 2013, less revenue resulted in the Police and EMS having to reduce their levels of service, mostly in the last quarter of 2013. As we look to the future, it is clear

that current revenue levels are not sufficient to maintain preferred levels of safety services.

If MP voters support the income tax increase on February 4, Minerva Park could return to previous levels of staffing. If MP voters do not support the income tax increase on February 4, Minerva Park will need to explore (1) contractual obligations for police services or rely on the Franklin County Sheriff and Blendon Township to respond to calls and (2) contract for fire and EMS services.

Watch for additional information to help you become informed about the Income Tax Issue that will be on the February 4, 2014 ballot. Also attend Coffee with Council on January 20, 7 p.m., to discuss this and other subjects. •

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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 [minervapark.org/villager](http://minervapark.org/villager).

Next deadline:  
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