How about that snow! I think somebody forgot to turn off the machine. I guess the old-timers who keep saying, "We don't have winters like we used to," won't be able to use that phrase this year. We can thank our township friends for doing a good job of plowing our streets.

At the first council meeting of the year, the following people were appointed to chair the various committees: Finance/Jon Self, Service/Dave Stahr, Safety/Lynn Eisentrou, Legislative/Pam Curry, Community/Jeannie Blair, Streets/Bob Landy. If you have any suggestions or concerns, I hope you will communicate with these people and express your thoughts from time to time.

We have had a large number of breaks in our waterlines already this year, and I'm sure there will be more before warm weather. We are still hoping for loan assistance from the State to replace the line on Minerva Lake Road. If the loan is approved early enough, we could get the work done in 1996.

Council approved a bid to repair the community building roof, and just in time! Several leaks have developed. This project should get underway as soon as the weather breaks a little.

I overheard this at the barber shop: "Have you ever noticed that a woman who says she has nothing to wear, needs several closets to keep it in?"

Attention All Parents!
Children's Committee Meeting to be Held

There will be a Children's Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the community building. Anyone with suggestions, criticisms, comments, ideas, complaints, innovations or anything to say, please come. Our next event is the Easter Egg Hunt. Many volunteers are needed for the egg hunt, both ahead of time and on the day of the event. Tentative date for the egg hunt is Saturday morning, March 30th. Look for more information in the March Villager. If you can't attend the meeting and would still like to help, call Nancy Fry at 890-6845.

February Dates

Feb. 1 Planning & Zoning Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6 Children's Comm, Mtg, 7 p.m.
Feb. 11 Village Council Mtg., 8:00 p.m.
Feb. 12 The Villager Deadline, 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 13 M.P.C.A. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 31 Ground Hog Day
12/1/95  Burglary in Progress (false alarm). at 3:24 p.m., dispatched to the 2500 block of Jordan Rd.

12/2/95  Lost Credit Card. Between Oct. 27 at 8:00 a.m. and November 9 at 8:00 p.m., a resident in the 2900 block of Kerrwood lost a credit card.

12/3/95  Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle. At approximately 9:30 a.m., a known suspect removed a vehicle from a garage in the 2600 block of Wildwood Rd., without the owner consent.

12/4/95  Burglary. Between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m., person(s) unknown did, by using force, gain entry into a residence in the 3100 block of Minerva Lake Rd., and removed several items.

12/6/95  Robbery in Progress (false alarm). At 12:45 p.m., dispatched to Gordon Food Service at 5400 Cleveland Ave.

12/10/95  Burglary in Progress (false alarm). At 3:24 p.m., dispatched to the 2500 block of Jordan Rd.

12/15/95  Criminal Damaging. At approximately 9:55 p.m., person(s) unknown did put a hole in a living room window using a BB or pellet gun.

12/16/95  Burglary in Progress (false alarm). At 4:12 p.m., dispatched to the 2800 block of Lakewood Dr.

12/17/95  Burglary in Progress (false alarm). At 4:33 p.m., dispatched to the 2800 block of Lakewood Dr.

12/19/95  Burglary. At 11:00 a.m., a previous home owner in the 3200 block of Minerva Lake Rd., reported the home burglarized prior to removing furniture and personal items.

12/20/95  Telephone Harassment. Between Dec. 18 at 12:00 p.m. and December 29 at 12:49 p.m., person(s) unknown did place annoying telephone calls to a resident in the 2500 block of Minerva Lake Rd.

12/22/95  Breaking and Entering in Progress (false alarm). At 7:59 p.m., dispatched to Nipps, Andreas, Brown & Ruff, CPAs at 3205 E. Dublin Granville Rd.

12/24/95  Burglary in Progress (false alarm). At 4:59 p.m., dispatched to the 2600 block of Jordan Rd.

12/24/95  Burglary in Progress (false alarm). At 2:37 a.m., dispatched to the 2900 block of Berry Lane Court.

12/29/95  Aggravated Burglary. At time unknown, person(s) unknown did gain entry into a residence in the 2600 block of Aldervista through an open garage door and removed a snow blower.

12/31/95  Breaking and Entering in Progress (false alarm). At 5:17 a.m., dispatched to the Mt. Calvary Church of Christ at 2580 Jordan Rd.
Quick Mexican Soup

Mexican food is growing more and more popular. Here is a very easy and tasty soup with an authentic Mexican flavor. A good homemade soup with just a few ingredients ...

What you will need for 4 servings:
* 1 lb. ground beef
* 1 quart water
* 3 yellow or white onions
* 3 carrots
* 2 stalks celery
* 1 tsp. salt
* Dash cumin
* 1 can (14.5 oz.) crushed tomatoes
* 1 tsp. chili powder

Toppings:
* 1 ripe avocado
* 4 Tbsp. sour cream
* Dash salt
* Dash chili powder
* 1 tsp. lemon juice

In a large saucepan, add ground meat to water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. cover. Cook for about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, peel and slice onions, carrots and celery. Add to pan with salt, cumin, crushed tomatoes and chili powder.

Bring to a boil again. Reduce heat. Cover.

Cook over medium-low heat for about 15-20 minutes until soup is thickened. Season to taste with more salt and spices, if needed.

For topping, peel and mash avocado. In a bowl, combine avocado, sour cream, salt, chili powder and lemon juice.

Serve soup piping hot in bowls with a dollop of topping.

Good Served With:
Crusty garlic bread or tortillas, beer or other beverage of your choice.
Dear Mr. Mayor:

"Why the new stop signs? Certainly not because we have had a rash of crashes between two or more cars. I can’t remember ever hearing of a two-car crash in the Village due to right-of-way problems. If we got them because they were paid for by Federal or State governments, they weren’t free. Somewhere, some taxes went up, or the Federal department jumped a few more hundred bucks. I wonder which it was."

Dick Paugh

Dear Editors:

"... I commend you on your work in the Villager. I very much like the changes and the layout. However, in the January issue, I was concerned with the "Cop Beat" section. I feel that listing suicide attempts and domestic violence and identifying the block and street is an invasion of privacy. If someone is having problems, such as depression, and attempting suicide, having others know about it, or perhaps talking about and/or judging them could be devastating. I ask you to please take this into consideration in the future. You describe Minerva Park in the January issue as a great and friendly place to live. Please let’s keep it that way..."

Marie Tokars

Dear Marie:

Point well taken. In this edition, Minerva Park police involvement, where the call was of a personal nature, have been omitted. Until we hear another side of the story, we will continue to take your advice.

Donn & Susan Ditzhazy
Editors, The Villager

Feedback: requested

We’re interested in your input! Please call 899-7154 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to leave a message with your opinions, ideas and comments ... They’re all welcome! We’re also actively looking for closet writers, photographers and illustrators to contribute to the newsletter ... Give us your ideas! Hope to hear from you soon.

Council in a minute...

by Jeanne Blair

All members were present. Jeanne Blair and Lynn Eisentrout were sworn in. Lynn Eisentrout was re-elected Council President. Minutes of the November 11 and November 29 meetings were approved. The Mayor gave a report on roof repairs for the Community Building with three bids offered. Efforts will be made to secure a 5 year warranty on repairs before accepting a bid.

Bob Landy was approved to be on the Zoning and Planning Commission for the rest of his current Council term. Reports were given by Village Officials as well as Committee reports. Rolla Wagner gave a report from the Community Association. A citizen complaint about the Police Department will be taken up by the Safety Committee at their meeting next week.

Legislation: 1) An acceptance of taxes as determined by the budget committee to certify taxes to the County Auditor were passed. 2) a resolution for a smoke-free community building was passed 3) The annual budget was passed.

Council was given a report from the Clerk-Treasurer of items needing review, to study and work on. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m. Complete minutes are available at the Community Building.
Flora Says ...  
by Mary Yost

Last Fall, as I stood near Paugh’s (2860 Minerva Lake Rd.), someone said, “Isn’t it too bad that that big evergreen died?” I replied that it wasn’t dead, that it was a deciduous tree, known as a “Dawn Redwood”. It is known as a living fossil because its fossil deposits were found in Japan in 1941 and coincidentally, later that same year in China some unusual trees were found which turned out to be the same thing. It eventually became available in the nurseries and Dick bought his some 20 years ago from Wayside Garden, Garden Lane Dept. FG, Hodges, S.C., 29695-0001 and the tree is still available from them if you want one and have the space for it. It eventually will reach 100 feet in height, growing 3-5 feet per year in full sun and providing shade in summer. But, give it space (information obtained from an article by Minning in Flower & Garden Magazine, 1995 late.

Things to Do in February:
Read all the catalogues that come in the mail. If you don’t get one from Wayside Garden, send for one (Address above), as they have wonderful pictures and good information on cultural practices. If you don’t get any garden catalogues, call Jeanne Blair – she has lots. I like to look the catalogues over and, having decided what new plants I want, visit the garden stores to see what will be available. De Monty’s raise their own, so they know what they will have. Oakland and many others know what trees and shrubs will be coming in, but probably not which annuals. At this time of year, the knowledgeable employees are around and available to give you time. I never order from a catalogue unless the plant isn’t available locally because the plants always seem to arrive in a blizzard or too late.

Watch for early bulbs in other people’s yards. Find out what they are, and then plant some next Fall.

Rose Lovers should try the new ground cover rose “Flower Carpet”, which will grow in sun or semi-shade, needing no spray and after the first year, no winter protection.

I am a lover of Hostas and Daylilies. The fancy ones at Handy hatfield’s or Wade & Gatton’s can cost from $10-$250. but I can see what they look like, have them dug then and take them home with me. The more common ones are available potted in all good Nurseries when in bloom or from your neighbors early Spring or Fall.

Keep looking to see where you need more Evergreens.

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Keep looking to see where you need more Evergreens.
January and February bring some crazy weather—we get a foot of snow followed by a 50 degree thaw. There's an old saying that especially fits this time of year, 'If you don't like the weather...just wait a minute, and it will change.'

I remember years ago when I was at a sales meeting with Reps from across the country. As the topic of weather came up, we found ourselves repeating that same old line, which we had all thought of as unique to our individual states (Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, Florida, etc.). I think back at that time now and know one's own perspective is a product of the world we live. How many times do we eat at a restaurant, experience a poor server and immediately tell everyone that the restaurant is "a terrible place" to eat. It's an example of how we make a judgement about the entire scenario based on one lousy element.

But, being in the marketing business, I know that image is everything. After purchasing our home five years ago, I couldn't get over how friendly Minerva Park residents were. Why? Because you couldn't drive, bike or walk in your front yard without a wave from a passing motorist...or a friendly chat along the curbside. A sincere image of a picture-perfect neighborhood: a sort of Norman Rockwell of the '90s. Well, maybe not that good, but that was my perspective.

The point is, a healthy, safe community starts with a friendly wave to a passing motorist or a helping hand to a winter-bound neighbor. I don't see that as much as I used to. It's not because people keep to themselves more, it's probably has more to do with the whirlwind lives we all are living...running from here to there. Maybe in light of Valentine's Day, our neighborliness should be an aspect that doesn't waver...or change in a minute like the weather.

"Send your loved one flowers...think of a reason later." - Life's Little Instruction Book
Minerva Fauna
By Dick Paugh

Winter thoughts, be sure and feed the birds. When the ground is covered as long as it has been in December and January, there is little to eat. With the grass covered, the ducks need some help. Long periods of snow cover makes for an ideal time to check your yard to see what critters are passing by. Mostly, we get rabbits, raccoons, woodchecks, oppossum, cats and foxes. It's a challenge to try to read the tracks. If you need an I.D. sheet, call ahead and pick up one for .10 at my house (2860 Minerva Lake Rd.)

To the Village graffiti expert, Beougher, I really don't have a problem with ostriches, it's the storks I worry about. As a matter of fact, when the Herons come calling, I check out their I.D.'s to make sure the loads they leave ARE footballs. Which brings to mind a seasonal problem. How come my favorite sport -- football -- is only 3+ months long and the season of the hairy amputis runs over six months? Anybody got an answer for that? As far as our "national sport" goes, I could never stay awake for nine innings so I can't judge the inherent excitement.

I usually hear an owl or two at this time of year. This year, I have not. If anyone hears one without first overdoing the eggnog, please let me know. No, I don't list my birds, that is the task of Ernie Limes. I just like to hear owls. I also like the call of the loon. However, last year when one was screeching around the North Lake, it didn't say anything.

Here's hoping all the Village residents have a great 1996!
Jeannie Blair, widow of former Mayor Dave Blair, lives at 3126 Minerva Lake Rd. She was elected Minerva Park Councilwoman and is now Chairperson, Community Relations. She was a teacher at Sullivan School where she was introduced to Dave by his niece, another teacher. They clicked immediately and were married in 1956. They had three sons: Dave Jr. died in 1980. For seven years they worked together on a farm in Delaware County. Jeannie pitched hay and ran the farm machinery assisting husband Dave. They came to our village in 1963 and immediately became involved in everything. Jeannie is an alumna of Miami University and a retired teacher. Now a days she spends most right along with Mary Flora Yost, helping to keep our park beautiful. We procrastinating couch potatoes, who use age for an alibi, could learn a lot from her, we wish you much success in your new role as Councilwoman Jeannie.

Police and Squad Reports

Why can’t we have a little more information on our police and squad runs?

The Westerville papers give a reasonable account of what happens up there.

After all we’re a big family here in the park and we shouldn’t have to go to Jim Fischer to find out what’s going on. Here are two examples to follow:

Police: On Friday, Jan 16th 3:14 AM, Tom Dusky 79 left on foot property without food or shelter in sub-zero weather, charged with cruelty to animals and thrown into slumber. No bail. SPB/SA pressing charges.

Squad: Friday, Jan 17th 3:00 AM. Ray Brougher, holdy old man 3231 Maplewood Dr. Skipping rope on ice: broke leg — shot.

Larry & Ernie

Don’t you have any plates?

I’ve given you every spare box in the place.

I’ll say this — they march.

Every time Larry and wife Renee leave town, they have armloads of leftovers, and we think they’re trying to get a complete set on dishes.

Bonnie Limes

The bright spot of my wintry day, is waiting for the mail. Man and hoping Bonnie Limes has remembered me again. Beautifully illustrated calendar, yummy cook books with all kinds of tasty recipes and all sorts of useful knick-knacks. She’s a year round smutty clause. Wonder what kind of business she is in to pay for all those goodies.