Our neighborhood is undertaking a program to reduce residential crimes by establishing a block watch. This network of concerned citizens will communicate with other neighbors and the MP Police Dept. regarding crime-related problems.

Two training sessions have been scheduled: March 16 & March 23, 7:00p - 9:00p, at the Community Building.

A third meeting will be held Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30p in conjunction with the MPCA meeting. This month, we will contact those residents who expressed interest by filling out the survey last year. Anyone else who would like to participate, too, is welcome and may contact either:
Chief Bob Hillard at 882-1408 or Lynn Eisentrout at 891-0895.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, on the lawn at Hawthorne Elementary School. This year, we will have four age groups, and we are going to stagger the starting times. All groups will begin promptly at their starting times. Don’t be late!

10:40a .......... Babies through age 2
10:50a .......... 3-, 4-, & 5-year-olds
11:00a .......... Kindergarten & Grades 1 & 2
11:10a .......... Grades, 3, 4, & 5

The Egg Hunt is the Children’s Committee’s biggest event of the year. We need help on the day of the egg hunt and before! There will be an egg stuffing get-together at the Community Building on Thursday, March 19, at 7:30p. Please volunteer to help — it takes a lot of people to make the egg hunt a success. Call Nancy Fry at 890-6845 or Tammy Bennett at 890-5913 if you can help.
Beatrice Resigns as The Villager Editor

This issue of The Villager will be the last for long-time editor Betty Beatrice. The Minerva Park Community Association thanks her for her many years of service to the community as the newsletter's guiding force. We hope she continues to contribute her valuable insights in future issues.

The new editor is former community reporter Felicia Busick. If you have anything you would like to be considered for publication in The Villager, either deposit it in the Community Building drop box, or mail it to Felicia at 2769 Minerva Lake Road. Don't forget about the publication deadlines!

Hello!

My name is Sarah Eisentrout, and I am the writer of the new column just for preteens and teens. I mean, let's face it, not many teens read The Villager, but now that we have a voice in the Park, maybe more of us will. Being the editor of a column isn't easy! I will need lots of input, ideas, and responses from all the teens to make this article successful. A title would be a good start. Any ideas?

Mother's Day is coming up soon. That's the day we should appreciate our moms and all they have done for us throughout all of our lives. To show appreciation, I have thought of a contest — an essay contest, actually.

To enter, just write a short essay on the maternal figure in your life, explaining what she has done for you and why you think she deserves to be honored. The winner will have his/her essay printed in The Villager. Please type or print your essay and mail it to me. Please include your name, your subject's name, and your telephone number. Anyone between the ages of 7-18 years is eligible to enter.

Also, if you have any suggestions for the column, please feel free to submit them to me.

Minerva Park Swim Club (MPSC) News

Fifth Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, March 21
5:00p - 7:00p
Blendon Township Senior Center
6340 Hempstead Rd.
Westerville
Carry-out available.
Adults $6 ... Children 10 & under $4

Plan now to attend, enjoy, and share good food for the body and great fellowship for the soul, with friends and neighbors at this annual happening. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, roll, beverage.

Tickets may be obtained during the door-to-door sales effort or by calling Jerri Wunderle at 882-5023 or Debbie Evans at 899-9939. So we can have an accurate headcount and be best prepared to serve you well, we would appreciate it if you would purchase your tickets in advance.

Volunteers are needed. If you can help before, during, or after the dinner, please call us!

1998 Pool Memberships

We think you'll be pleased, both with the pool renovation effort and with the 1998 membership fees (same as the 1997 season!). Further information regarding fee structure, scheduled pool activities, lessons, etc., will be provided in subsequent Villager issues or by your calling Jerri Wunderle at 882-5023.

Pool Renovations & Improvements

During the past several months, several structural renovations and improvements to the pool have been completed, including:

- New stainless steel gutters and the recirculation system for the main pool.
- Removal of the old and installation of a new concrete floor in the shallow and swim lane portions of the main pool.
- New non-slip concrete perimeter, piping, and filtration-recirculation system for the toddler pool.

Additional improvements are planned as funds become available (so help support the spaghetti dinner!).
Flora Says

By Mary Yost

Sometime in March, we usually have a week of warm weather after the ground thaws and before the spring rains start. This is the ideal time to clean out the flower beds and turn the ground over.

If you find lumps of clay, let it dry more before continuing — lumps turn into a rock-like substance that does not disintegrate. However, if the lumps break up easily, continue digging and incorporate mulch, compost, or peat moss so the bed will be ready to plan when the time comes. If you are planning new beds or enlarging existing ones and didn't get the job done in the fall, hurry to do so now. Your annuals will do fine in a shallow bed, but every shrub or perennial needs a million dollar hole (and by the time you finish double digging a bed, you'd gladly pay someone a million to do the next bed ... that is, if you had a million).

While resting from digging, ride around the park to see what looks good. Anything that does at this time of year is worth considering for your own yard. Also, note the shapes or distribution of beds that create a pleasing effect without all the summer greenery and color. You may discover you want more than a strip of evergreens along the foundation and two big trees in the front yard. Look for the corners that are built out and rounded, with low-growing shrubs or a small tree and ground cover.

Consider a bed along the driveway or property edge or the street, in order to have a sunny bed. Impatiens are the backbone of many of our gardens because we all have so many trees, but it's fun to have some spots where we can raise some other plants that we "can't live without."

A word of caution: start small and enlarge the bed over several years, and/or confine your renovations to one area of your property. Newly-planted perennials or shrubs or trees take 2-3 years of extra care, and dragging hoses all over on a hot August day is not fun.

Arrange plants so watering doesn't require too many moves of the hose. If you don't have a hose connection on every side of the house, it may be desirable to have the plumber come and install them. Also, if you are going to be doing quite a lot of watering in the next few years, you might want to install a second water meter for outside faucets, so you don't have to pay sewer charges on that portion of the water that doesn't go into the sewer. I probably recovered the cost of putting in a second meter in approximately 3 years.

We all love the spring bulbs that are blooming now, but our attempts to raise them are thwarted many times by the squirrels and chipmunks. What to do?! In our area, trapping them is not a reasonable option, as there are too many of them all over. The best solution is to select varieties that the animals don't like, such as daffodils, hyacinths, chionodoxa (glory of the snow), dog-toothed violets, grape hyacinths, anemone blanda (windflowers), iris reticulata (which never repeated well for me), snowdrops, scilla, leucojum (but its foliage takes all summer dying back), Spanish bluebells, winter aconite, and fritillaria imperialis (smells awful but looks wonderful).

If you must have tulips or crocuses, cover the ground with hardware cloth (or better yet, plant in cages) or soak bulbs in Ropel before planting. However, really hungry animals will eat anything. Another technique is to overplant and hope the animals leave you some plants which will bloom. Also, avoid planting in the areas where you frequently see the squirrels playing or feeding.

Finally, if last fall you planted some bulbs in pots and put them in the ground in the window wells or in the refrigerator, you should be enjoying them in February and March indoors. If you didn't, make a note on November's calendar to do so next year.

Mystery Solved!

In judging for the MinervaFlora Committee's Best Outdoor Tree award in the 1997 Festival of Lights Contest, the judges wondered how Joan & Marvin Baker at 2824 North Bay Dr. managed to get a star on top of their tall evergreen. It's a complicated process! While neighbors Don & Jane Miller hold the ladder, the Baker's daughter, Erin, climbs up and tosses a tomato cage (with the star attached to the pointed end) over the peak of the tree. When everything is aligned properly, the star sits straight, and the tomato cage is not visible from the ground. Nice to know that neighbors are so helpful in Minerva Park!
THE ROAD TO WESTERVILLE (Continued)

At the completion of the street railway line to Westerville a grand banquet was held at Minerva Park for prominent citizens of Westerville. Part of the celebration was an excursion trip of inspection from the Holmes Hotel at the corner of Main and State Street in Westerville to the opposite end of the line at Schiller street, Columbus, 21 miles from Westerville. On the return trip the special excursion cars stopped at the Milo Car Barn located on the southeast corner of Cleveland and Reynolds Avenue (near 2nd Avenue) to allow everyone to walk through the Power House and Car Repair Complex to view the amazing new switchboard which controlled the mammoth dynamos and boiler room. The automatic firing apparatus was something new to the visitors. The Milo Business and Ticket Office is still located on the northeast corner of Cleveland and Reynolds Avenues at 838 Cleveland Ave. After the tour the cars headed toward Minerva Park for supper at the Pavilion.

By the summer of 1897, street rail service to the park needed to be doubled. Ten new cars were delivered to Columbus and put in service on the Minerva Park, “Green” line. Some of the new cars were the handsome trailer type, especially suitable for summer use.

In addition to the increased car service, the route from Linden through the country to the park was double-tracked to insure absolute safety and faster service.

The Minerva Park line toward Westerville ended in December 1929, with the entire line to Minerva Park officially abandoned Oct 13, 1931. The rails were salvaged and sold for scrap. The cross ties, nearly 10,000 of them, were hauled away on National Guard trucks for storage and use by the Salvation Army for fuel for the needy during winter. Some of the ties were stored on the old South Barn property of the Columbus and Southern until such time as the Salvation Army people could find additional storage.

Besides the MILO TICKET OFFICE at Cleveland and Reynolds Avenue, the WESTERVILLE CCR DEPOT & CAR BARN located at North State Street and Old County Line Road still remind us of lazy summer days long ago.
So you can start making plans... the MP annual garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 16. In upcoming Villager issues, there will be more information concerning registration, the collective group advertising, information packets for the participating homeowners, etc.

Get involved!

So many things are happening in Minerva Park, and we will try to report the highlights of these events and initiatives in this newsletter. But reading about local goings-on is no substitute for getting involved. The Minerva Park Community Association encourages you to attend council and community association meetings, to serve on a community committee, and to express your concerns and questions in the Forum section of The Villager. We know you are busy — we all are. But with all the opportunities to help make the park an even better place to live, there is sure to be one activity that you can fit into your schedule. This is your community. Get involved.

January 1998

In January, Medic 119 made 92 runs with 28 into Blendon Township (exclusive of Minerva Park) and 7 into Minerva Park. Thirty-seven patients were transported to local hospitals. Leading volunteers for the month were Aaron Wilbur (147 hours), Tom Pickett (119.5 hours), and Frank Meredith (73 hours). Aaron Wilbur leads the year-to-date totals with 147 hours.

MP Runs
1-4 ..... Cleveland Ave., ill person 1-4 ..... Cleveland Ave., ill person 1-10 ..... Woodley Rd., injured person 1-10 ..... Jordan Rd., ill person 1-20 ..... Berry Lane Ct., injured person 1-25 ..... Cleveland Ave., fire alarm 1-30 ..... Minerva Lake Rd., chest pains

Grosh and Hicks to Hold Zoning and Planning Positions

Marty Grosh, 2587 Briar Rose Ave., and Larry Hicks, 2570 Maplewood Dr., have been appointed to serve on Minerva Park’s Planning and Zoning Commission. The commission reviews and approves applications for the permits needed for a number of projects, including new structures, additions, fences, plumbing, and electrical work. The group’s meetings are held in the Community Building on the first Thursday of each month. Minerva Park residents are invited to attend.
Mayor’s Corner

Well, we’re finally getting around to replacing the water supply lines on Minerva Lake Rd. We have the lines on Woodley and Wildwood yet to go. The Minerva Lake Road project will be funded by an 80% government loan administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. The loan is for 20 years at 3% interest.

There will be some inconvenience for the residents along the route during construction, but hopefully it will be nothing you can’t live with. Effort has been made to limit the amount of disturbance of the yards and driveways. There will be some disturbance, however, but I think the benefits will make it worthwhile.

We have had several natural gas line leaks recently, which could be very dangerous. So, if you detect the odor of gas, either inside or outside your home or your neighbor’s home, call the gas company at 461-1576. This number is answered 24 hours a day, and there’s no charge for a gas leak inspection!

Have you noticed the new white fence across Kilbourne Run at Cleveland Avenue? I think it looks very nice. I also like the idea that it didn’t cost us anything.

Our Police Department is working with the Columbus Police Department to develop a block watch program. I would like to hear from you as to what you think about such a program. For or against, let me know.

There will be a tornado warning test of our siren on March 25 at approximately 9:50 a.m. This test is to alert us to the possibility of severe storms that sometimes occurs during the spring. In the event of an actual severe weather condition, do you have a plan? Where is the safest place in your house? Most experts recommend a basement. My wife says I should go to the doghouse.

Will Rogers once said, “I don’t make up these jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.”

Jack Murray

Don’t Forget ...

When getting your license plates, indicate Minerva Park for your residence. Some of that motor vehicle money comes back to the Village, and it may save you money!
The Town Pump

by Beuguie

COMING TO BE ANN.

AN EXCITING INFORMATIVE COLUMN BY ANN. CONCERNING CURRENT EVENTS HERE IN THE PARK, SUCH AS, PROCRASTINATING, RUMORS, ROMANCE, SAGE QUOTES, DATING SERVICES FOR SENIORS, SPECIAL OCCASIONS, CABBAGES AND KINGS. TO BE ANN.

OUR MINERVA PARK A SHADY SYLVAN REFUGE IN A TURBULENT WORLD, WHERE PEOPLE WAVE TO EACH OTHER AS THEY PASS BY. TENSION IS LIFTED. THE MINUTE WE TURN IN FROM HEAVILY TRAVELED CLEVELAND AVE.

WE HAVE A UNIQUE COMMUNITY. VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT FOR EVERYTHING. OUR STREETS ARE SAFE FOR OUR CHILDREN. MOST OF OUR DRIVERS ARE VERY CAREFUL. TRAFFIC IS ALMOST NIL. EXCEPT AT GOING AND COMING FROM WORK TIMES, OUR SWIMMING POOL, GOLF COURSE AND THE LAKE MAKE US LIKE A VACATION SPA. THE ONLY THING WE LACK IS A SKI JUMP. ABOUT EVERYTHING WE NEED IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE. GROCERIES, RESTAURANTS, HARDWARE, A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, CHURCHES, AND FINALLY, A BEAUTIFUL FUNERAL CHAPEL. WHEN WALKING IS DONE.

HARRY & ERNIE

WE DON'T SPEAK UP.

WE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE SOON ABOUT OUR SOUTH LAKE IT WILL BE AS DRY AS A SOFT BALL FIELD, WITH JUST A TRICKLE OF WATER RUNNING THROUGH. WE DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN. DO WE? WHATSOEVER IS DONE IN THE WAY OF DREDGING WILL COST—SO WHAT'S NEW? WOULDN'T IT BE ROMANTIC IF WE COULD HAVE CANDLING ON IT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE?
Cooking for Two

Beef Tenderloin in Mushroom Sauce

1 tsp vegetable oil
4 tbls butter, divided
2 beef tenderloin steaks or fillets (1" thick)
1/2 c chopped fresh mushrooms
1 tbls chopped green onions
1/8 tsp salt
Dash pepper
2/3 c chicken or beef broth
1/8 tsp browning sauce, optional

In a skillet, heat oil & 2 tbls of butter over medium-high heat. Cook steaks for 6-7 minutes on each side or until meat is done as desired. Remove to a serving platter & keep warm. To pan juices, add mushrooms, onions, and remaining butter. Saute until tender. Add flour, salt, & pepper. Gradually stir in broth until smooth. Add browning sauce if desired. Bring to a boil. Boil & stir for 2 minutes. Spoon over the steaks. Serve immediately.


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It's that time of year again!

INCOME TAXES

If you dread this time of year because you're not familiar with the IRS way of doing things and you haven't read up on all of the new tax laws for 1997, let someone who is familiar with all of these items — and has 10 years of accounting and personal tax experience — fill out your tax forms this year. You will either lower your tax bill to the state and federal governments, or you will get back more money from the government than you thought possible!

Suzanne Coulter
3128 Minerva Lake Rd.
891-7346

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........................................ Sarah Eisenroux
........................................ Bob Stuart
........................................ Mary Yost

The Villager is distributed to all Minerva Park homes on the 1st Monday of each month inside a plastic hang bag - either alone or with advertising flyers. Residents are invited to submit articles, letters to the editor, & other items of interest by the deadline. There is a drop box at the Community Building.

A business-card size advertisement costs $10 and must be prepaid. The Villager reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items submitted for publication must include the contributor's name and phone number.

Next deadline: Friday, March 20, 5:00 p.m.

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