

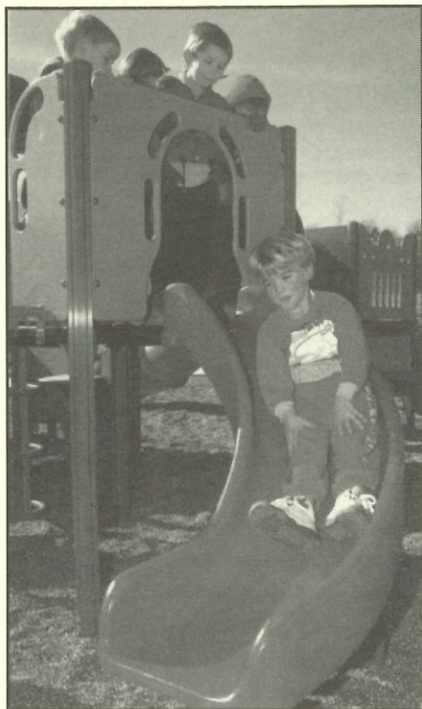


Yellow Springs'

Winter 1996 Vol. 2 No. 3

The Village Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS



In Pursuit of Park Amenities

The Village Parks & Recreation Department has applied for a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention for playground equipment, park benches and recycling receptacles. The grant program provides local governments financial assistance for activities such as the purchase of materials made from recycled material and litter collection. The program also funds local recycling efforts.

Of a total \$24,720 requested, just over \$15,000 is for playground equipment and park benches; the remaining \$9,000 is for recycling containers. If awarded, the playground equipment will be located at the Bryan Center. The recycling containers will be placed in the downtown area and the most frequently used parks.

The Village will be notified in March if the grant has been awarded.

....Keep an eye out for

New ballfield lighting scheduled for installation this Spring at the baseball/soccer field at Gaunt Park. This improvement is being partially funded with State Issue 1 money awarded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; of a total estimated cost of \$49,000, \$36,500 is provided by the State. This improvement will allow

expanded use of the fields and enhance safety. A new drinking fountain will also be installed this Spring to replace the "drink spigot" at the park. The fountain was funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the Greene County Commissioners. Installation will be done by the Village crew.

Village Council News

Village Council will hold its March 4th meeting in the meeting room of the Friend's Care Center, 150 East Herman Street, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be videotaped by Channel 13 and aired after the meeting. No live broadcast will be available.

What Does a Village Utility Cost ?

In May of 1995, Village Council appointed a Utility Rates Task Force and, with that appointment, issued the following charge: to review the rate structure of each Village utility with particular attention to the current cost of operation, current revenue, effective rates, effects on business and low-income households, conservation, future maintenance and capital improvements.

The Utility Rates Task Force presented an interim report to Village Council on January 16. The report summarized the work of the Task Force during the last few months and requested feedback from Village Council regarding the proposed direction of the group. In the report, the Task Force indicated they had found no consistent pattern in the distribution of utility costs when the utility rate was determined.

The group wants to see that utility rates reflect the actual costs of pro-

viding specific utilities to customers. To identify that cost, the Task Force has examined the costs they feel are appropriate in establishing any particular utility rate. As an initial test, the Task Force outlined all elements they feel should be included in the water utility rate. Those items included eight major elements: 1) operation and maintenance; 2) debt service; 3) emergency fund; 4) extension of water service for new developments; 5) planned improvements; 6) major capital improvements; 7) transfers; and 8) indexing.

The Task Force's report states that it is clear that utility revenues are presently funding non-utility activities. This means that if rates change to reflect only the actual cost to operate that particular utility, other Village activities presently supported through these utility revenues may be impacted.

Village Council accepted the information presented and indicated their support for the process outlined by the Task Force.



From the Police Department

DARE: Yellow Springs Officer Debbie Foster is working with Greene

County Deputy Helen Holmes in presenting the DARE program at Mills Lawn elementary. This is in anticipation of Officer Foster teaching the program herself next school year. The police department and school officials feel that regular communication between our officers and young people within an educational setting is beneficial. Deputy Holmes has been doing an excellent job and is very supportive of handing this duty over to Officer Foster.

Winter Weather: The police department wants to thank all those residents and businesses who recently worked very hard at keeping their sidewalks clear during the very heavy and frequent snowfalls.

Your consideration for pedestrians is very much appreciated. For those who did not clean their sidewalks we would remind you again that you are required to do so within 24 hours after a snowfall. There is always the potential of liability if someone falls and you have not attempted to clean your sidewalks. If you have some need for assistance in clearing the walk, the following information may be of interest to you:

Assistance Available: The department was contacted by Jane Reilly, Director of the Bonner Scholars Office at Antioch College. Bonner Scholar students, when given the opportunity, become active and involved in community service. Jane would like the help of the Yellow Springs Community in identifying deserving families, individuals or

organizations that could use their services. Some examples of past work includes assisting senior citizens with transportation, errands, cooking, reading, etc.; snow removal; odd jobs, and tutoring for students of all ages. They have also worked with the Outdoor Education Center, Children's Center, Friends Care and the schools. If you have a particular need for such services or know of someone else who may qualify for assistance, you can call Jane at 767-6307 or Chief Jim Miller at the Police Department, 767-7206.

Reminders: If you see anything suspicious, don't hesitate to call us. Neighbors need to help neighbors and keep a watchful eye for anything unusual. We can only provide the best service possible with your help and cooperation. And one last reminder, don't keep valuables in your vehicle and be sure to lock your car doors.

The 1996 Village Council Goals

At a special session held on Saturday, January 13, Village Council established its goals for 1996. They included:

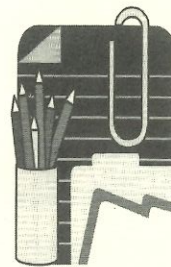
- ✓ Completion of a Personnel Policy Manual
- ✓ Continuing Support for Housing Initiatives
- ✓ Performing Personnel Evaluations
- ✓ Bringing the Finance Department into Compliance with State Auditor Recommendations
- ✓ Continuing the Greenbelt Acquisition Efforts

Others of importance included:

- Support for the Economic Development Task Force
- Reduce the Village's Thru-traffic Impact
- Adopt the 1997 Budget by 12/31/96
- Develop a Comprehensive Parks Use/Maintenance Plan
- Increase Public Participation
- Review the Capital Budget
- Clean Streets and Gutters
- Establish a New Pay & Benefits Agreement with Village Employees
- Establish a Home Page on the WorldWide Web for the Village Government
- Create an Arts/Parks & Recreation Board

Village Council review these goals throughout the year to assess progress.

Economic Development Loan Fund Program Report



A year-end summary report on the Economic Development Loan Fund Program was presented to Village Council in December. The report was endorsed by the

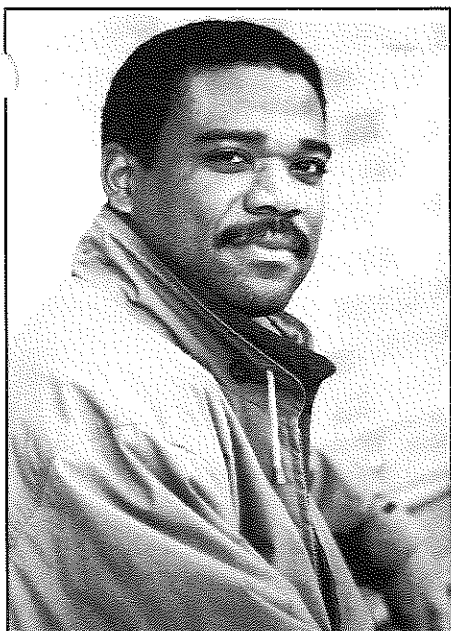
Loan Review Committee, a group formed by Council earlier in the year. The Loan Fund Program provides gap funding for local business ventures or expansions.

According to the report, 12 loans have been awarded since the Village began the program in 1985. A loan of \$275,000 from the Ohio Department of Development to Antioch Publishing Company for the purchase of equipment was the seed money which began this program. The State allowed the loan repayment to be held and administered locally once the Village government agreed to establish a revolving loan fund program whereby loans are made for other similar expansion/creation efforts. The amount loaned since its inception has been \$328,000.

Two loans — the original Antioch Bookplate (\$275,000) loan and a loan to Young Concepts for \$50,000 — were repaid this year. All other outstanding loans are being repaid with the exception of one which is being renegotiated. About \$60,000 was deposited into the fund this year from outstanding loan payments.

If anyone is interested in more information about the Loan Fund Program, please contact Jo Scott at 767-7202.

Our Latest Addition



Terrence Nealy is the latest addition to the Village staff. As the Public Works Director, Terrence oversees all utility departments and performs the administrative duties associated with those operations. Mr. Nealy will

direct the renovation of the Village's public works facility and will be reviewing current operations with an eye out for ways to increase efficiency and track internal spending. Other priorities include overseeing the construction of an additional electric distribution line through the Village and providing guidance with storm sewer improvements. Terrence manages about \$2.5 million of the Village's annual budget.

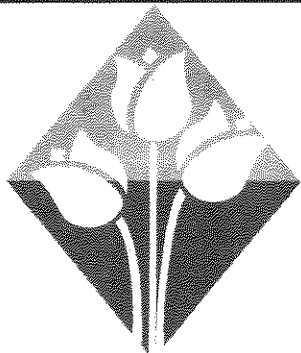
Terrence is married and has a 22-month-old son. As a consultant with Worl Engineering, he has worked with the Village crew in the past. This helped provide a general orientation to Village operations and has already given him some perspective on the routine decisions he now makes. He is also getting lots of input from co-workers and Yellow Springs residents.

Terrence was somewhat surprised to find that, upon his arrival, he was

responsible for creating his own office space. He promptly proceeded to locate the necessary office items and also got help from the public works crew in hanging paneling to finish off his new space. He is settled now, but looking forward to the planned improvements at the public works facility.

With an engineering background, Terrence is impressed by Village streets that have amenities not seen in most other communities. The best example of this for him is the large tree "in the street" on South Walnut Street near the King's Yard parking lot. Seeing street pavement curve around trees is not a "normal" street alignment. It's these kinds of nuances that present a different picture to work with. Terrence says that, so far, he is having a good time at his job and enjoying the day-to-day challenges.

SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK



A reminder for those of you anxiously awaiting the opportunity — Spring Clean-up Week will be Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 10. Please keep in mind that you do not have to wait until that time to dispose of bulk items. Individual bulk items (e.g. one couch or appliance) can be placed at the curbside on your regular trash pick-up day following notification to Rumpke at 1-800-223-3960. These will be hauled away at no extra charge. If you are planning to move and want Rumpke to pick up a large amount of material resulting from the move, please

contact the Village utility department at 767-7202 and make arrangements for that to be done. You will be billed for the special pick-up service with the cost depending on the amount of material to be hauled away.

Cardboard at the Curbside

As you hopefully know, the Village's curbside recycling program includes pick-up of corrugated cardboard when flattened into 2'x2' bundles. That being the case, the additional cardboard recycling containers located at the Bryan Center parking lot and the Corry Street municipal parking lot will be removed. Any cardboard you may have previously deposited at these locations can now be placed at your curbside in the appropriate bundles.

Scheduled Public Meetings at the Bryan Community Center

Village Council

7:00 pm First/Third Monday

(March 4th meeting at Friends Care Center Meeting Room)

Village Mayor's Court

7:30 pm Second/Fourth Monday

Village Planning Commission

7:30 pm Second Monday

Environmental Commission

7:00 pm Thursday after First Council Meeting

Cable Advisory Panel

5:00 pm First Wednesday

Human Relations Commission

7:00 pm Second Monday

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

100 Dayton Street
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

Winter 1996

VOL. 2, NO. 3

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