

Union VILLAGE VOICE

....news of Unionville and the surrounding area

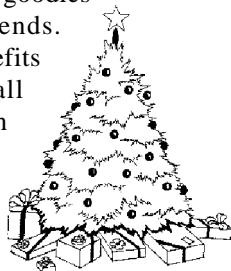
Volume 7, No. 1 Winter/Spring, 2000

We're Late, We're Late

Sorry we're so late. It seemed like winter never came in December. People inside and outside the village were late with cards, shopping, wrapping and cookie baking. Josie (DeSantis) confessed she never sent out Christmas cards. Josie along with millions of other Americans. Santa did remember to drop by the mayor's house and leave a welcome tin of cookies. Lights were on very early in the

morning and very late at night while industrious and 'never say die' cooks were at their ovens baking goodies for family and friends.

That's one of the benefits of living in a small town; neighbors often share their freshly baked Christmas cookies with those who live next door.



r n or Remember

The village will soon own the building across the street from the current village office. But what was there before? Minisink Rubber used to work from the building, and it had been Andy's Antique Shop.



Laura Hanford, who now lives near Utica, NY, came to Unionville in 1926, and at 96 she now qualifies as Unionville's oldest living resident...or survivor.

She first remembers it as Chardo's Creamery Building. In 1926 there was a pool hall there, "but it didn't stay too long." The building went through a series of owners. It went from someone who had a store in Sussex, then to a couple from New York City about 1930. When the owner died, his wife sold the store to Sy Melnick of Port Jervis. Laura said she and Sy "played the horses. He would close the store and go off to the races. He never had much stock in the store. That place was closed more than it was occupied," Laura Hanford recalls. But she did remember that Melnick probably sold the building to the Rubber Mill.

She did say the building was a milk station for years, where farmers brought their milk every day. (We assume she was talking about the adjacent building which now houses the village well.) We were not able to find a great deal of information about the old creamery except that it was a creamery at one time and the well there has been supplying Unionville with leased water for several years. Perhaps one of our readers has some memories of the building on Main Street.



Now the big question is how best to use it. It is large and was well-constructed. There has been thought of applying for grant money which may be available for rehabilitating municipal buildings. These grants, if available, could be used to restore the building. Some suggestions have been to move Village Hall from its present location and turn our current building by the playground into a senior citizen/teen center. Another popular idea is a library. At one time there was an Arts Council, although now non-existent, which had hopes for a museum on Railroad Avenue in the old firehouse. Perhaps there is still interest in a museum

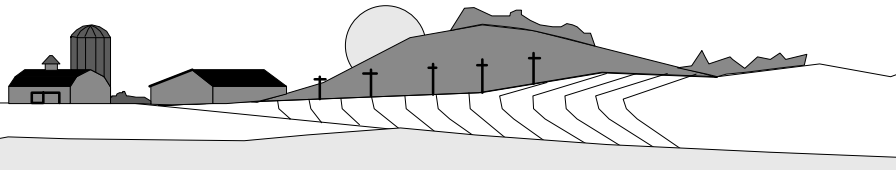
From the Mayor...

It's time to count noses again. Americans have been doing this for over 200 years. According to Article I, Section 2, of our Constitution, there is to be an enumeration every 10 years. When the counting first took place, if you were an Indian and untaxed, you would not be counted. If you were a slave, you were counted as 3/5 of a person. The 14th amendment was ratified in 1866, granting the right to vote to all male citizens.

Pax, sitting in for the mayor, went to the Kick-Off Meeting in Goshen. The Census 2000 begins officially on April 1, with questionnaires due back by April 21 deadline. Local help is needed, and the Department of Commerce will pay census workers \$13.+ per hour. It can take a worker from one week to the average 5 to 6 weeks. The census results are the basis for determining taxation and Congressional representation. If you have any questions, call the Clerk, Pax at 726-3681.

Dick Ludwick, Mayor

Editor: Pat Ludwick
Publisher: Roberta Youngblood



Out With '99

1999 was a painful year in the village for those of us who lost dear friends. And we lost a lot of those we imagined would be here forever: Mary McNeil, Frannie Storms, Dan Marino, Esther Varner, Bob Gilson, to name a few. If you were around for the Minisink Bicentennial in 1988, you may have read Fred Gilson's memories: *UNIONVILLE - As It Was, 1929-1939*. He sailed from England in February 1929, arrived in New York harbor on a "bitter cold day," went through Ellis Island where he got a tag tied to his arm which read Thomas Horler, an uncle who picked him up and took him to Unionville. Years later he married Bea Elston, they lived on High Street with their son, Bob.

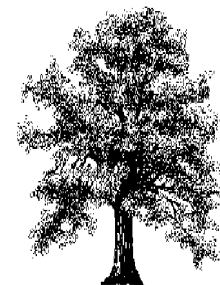
A death that has shaken a lot of villagers was the passing of Jo Anne Russell, our Village Clerk. She was always ready to help, show off her Christmas village, share her delicious Christmas cookies. She had become a fixture at Village Hall and became the right hand gal of the mayor. She will be greatly missed.

A Tree For Remembering

On the day people were gathered at the fire house to say good bye to Jo Anne, something wonderful happened. Jo Anne had been involved from the beginning of the playground arranging meetings, helping order and wait for delivery of equipment, taking her grandchildren to play. As a group of people talked with the mayor about starting a fund for planting a

tree in memory of Jo

Anne, John Clauson strode off to the kitchen for a few minutes. When he came back, he said, "From your lips to God's ears." The Minisink Hose Company bought an established ash tree in



memory of Jo Anne, and

John Clauson planted it by the bocce court. Whenever we see that tree in the playground, we can think of Jo Anne. A tree in a pleasant place, to remind us of a pleasant person in a pleasant village. Would you like to do the same thing to remember someone with a connec-

Picking Up the Reins

Used to pay a water bill or get information only the village had, you probably got an answering machine if you phoned or found a locked door if you stopped by the office.

At first none of us were aware of how sick Jo Anne was. As the days turned into weeks and the weeks into months, village business was piling up. At first the mayor and the board relied on Linda Timko, Village Treasurer, and Carol VanBuren, Minisink Town Clerk, for emergencies. But both had a full plate of duties at Town offices. Board member Anna Divito started coming in for a few hours when she could and tried to find out where records were, what needed to be done with them, how to work the new computer program which figured the water bills.

Before Christmas Kitty Kinney started coming into the office in the morning to answer the phone and relay the messages to the proper person. More pressing... who would take over as Village Clerk?



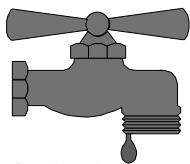
From American Legion Post 1607

Our local post mailed letters to residents of Unionville, Westtown, Johnson and Slate Hill hoping to raise \$5000 to aid in the construction of a national memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC. to what NBC's Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation."

As of January 20, 2000, they have received contributions totaling \$3000. The first donation of \$100 came from Cub Scout Pack 741 which is sponsored by Minisink Hose Company. They raised the money by selling candy bars. From those of us who share Brokaw's view, we thank Minisink Hose for their sponsorship, we thank Pack 741 for their salesmanship and we thank all those people who risked dental problems for their generosity and citizenship.

Finished Yet?

~~We're finally getting~~ ting down to dotting the 'iis' and crossing the 'tts' with our water project. First and Second Avenues still must be linked as well as High Street with Route 284. The main must be extended along Route 284 to the LaStella and Bailey properties and connected back to Lewis Street. Then most of the system will be continuous and "dirty water" should be a thing of the "good old days."



Starting the New Year With New Faces

The year 2000 seemed to be starting out just where 1999 left off...unseasonably warm for January. Then we hit the bitterly cold January days with the relentless winds. But the village desperately needed a new clerk. Kitty Kinney lives next door to the Village Hall, so she was first approached, just to answer the phone and take messages...no more.

Nobody can replace someone in your family or in a job. But someone had to take care of village business and mail. Enter Casie Miller who lives right down the street from Village Hall. She is the 21-year-old daughter of Leigh Miller. Casie is just starting out and must have tons of energy and patience. She works five days a week at Friendly's in Goshen, but works irregular hours. She has one morning and two evening classes at OCCC with a major in accounting. But probably her biggest job is Jared, her 2 1/2 year-old son. As Assistant Clerk, Casie will be at the village offices for four hours on Tuesday and Thursday.

Farther down Main Street lives the relatively short time Unionvillager, recently married, newly appointed Village Clerk, Pax Vliestra. She comes from a job in the city where she worked for over five years as a junior finance officer for a Fortune 500 corporation. Since moving to the 'country' she's worked for a local veterinarian.

She's "really excited" about learning the ropes. The girls from Minisink town hall have been "really great." This is her first experience working in a government job. Kitty Kinney has made life easier by answering the phone, taking messages,

meeting people at the door. Kitty is "very helpful handling the phone and walk-ins. After office hours she can look out her window next door and see deliveries being made and can open up the office."

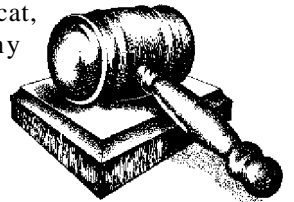
The new Village Clerk will hold hours from 10am to 1pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Pax is a "coffee fanatic," so to ensure she lets you in the door, bring her a cup of



Java. (Just for your information Pax is not a typo. She was born in the 60's and anyone born then or who's had Latin I in high school knows the meaning of 'pax.' Her last name - that's your problem.)

Another "new" face you'll see at Village Hall is a victory for all senior citizens. Kitty will continue to man the phone and front door. Take a look at the sign on her desk (a gift from her proud grandson).

On another front we have a new justice, Kim Auberger, to fill out Howard Timko's term. She completed her courses and passed her tests. She is now qualified to sit and preside over village court. (Kim and Joe have a Rottweiler in case Lucky, the village's resident guard cat, has any trouble.)



Minisink Heritage Days 2000

Peggy Johnson is deeply involved in planning for Minisink's Heritage Days 2000 coming June 2. Last year Peggy's invitation to join in the Heritage Days celebration came after we went to press. This year we're starting early.

Open house begins with the 4th graders viewing the museum and watching the New Jersey Re-Enactors show the kids how people lived "back then." Everyone is invited to the open house/reception Friday evening to see the museum and have cake and coffee. Think about volunteering (traffic control, parking, vendors, crafts, museum help. Call Peggy Johnson (726-0959) or Carol VanBuren (726-3838.)

The Museum is running out of space. Donations, grants and fund-raisers are the only sources of money for the Museum, a very worth-while project to keep our heritage alive. More in our next UnionVILLAGEVOICE.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO NEW ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION



Assessor Mary Gurda wants you to be aware of changes in the STAR exemption. You must be 65 during the calendar year. Siblings - only one must be 65.

Your exemption application for any type of exemption must be in Mary's hands by March 1. Any questions, call Mary Gurda at 726-3700.

BE SURE TO VOTE!
Village elections take place on
March 21.

The next issue of the UnionVILLAGE VOICE will be published in April. Call Pat Ludwick at 726-3894 if you have coming events or items of interest you would like to be included.