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Vol. 2, No. 3
Spring 2026

The Village Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

CELEBRATING SPRING & SUSTAINABILITY

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we're reminded of the natural beauty that defines Yellow Springs, from fourteen Village parks to the trails and woodlands of Glen Helen. April brings Earth Day, a time to reflect on our shared responsibility to care for the environment and celebrate the many ways our village supports sustainability. This "green edition" highlights ways to get involved, recent progress, and opportunities to strengthen our community's sustainability.

Join the Environmental Commission

The Village is seeking residents to serve on Council's Environmental Commission. This advisory body helps Council explore and recommend actions to preserve and responsibly manage our natural and built environment. Past efforts include supporting community gardens, researching sustainable building practices, and exploring conservation development. We are looking to fill two full member positions and two alternate positions. Members must reside in the Village of Yellow Springs; one Township resident with environmental expertise may be appointed. Residents interested in environmental issues are encouraged to contact the Clerk of Council at clerkeyellowsprings.gov.

New Hybrid Police Cruiser

Village Council approved the purchase of a 2026 Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid, the second hybrid in the Police Department's fleet. This vehicle reduces fuel consumption and environmental impact while supporting the department's operational needs and high-quality public safety services.

Celebrate Earth Day

Join us for the 6th Annual Earth Day and Community Habitat Celebration on Sunday, April 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on the lawn at the John Bryan Community Center. Enjoy live music by the Corndrinkers, native plant sales, environmental booths and activities, a kids clothing swap, and a household battery recycling collection. It's a great chance to come together, learn, and celebrate our shared commitment to the environment.



JOHNNIE BURNS
VILLAGE MANAGER

Yellow Springs Women's Park

Macy Reynolds, longtime Yellow Springs resident, has spent nearly 20 years helping care for the Yellow Springs Women's Park, a community space dedicated to honoring the lives and contributions of women. A dedicated gardener with a passion for native plants and pollinators, she now serves as one of the park's stewards, working alongside volunteers to maintain its ecological focus.

Dedicated in 1998, the park was inspired by founder Imogen "Gene" Trolander and designed as a place of reflection and recognition. Today, more than 800 tiles handcrafted by a local artist in honor of women are thoughtfully placed among native plantings along a winding path.

In the conversation below, Macy graciously shares insights into the park's history, gardens, and visitor experience.

For those who may not know the story, how did the park come to be?

Gene Trolander was visiting Florida and saw a park dedicated to women. She came back and said, "We're going to do this." She gathered a group who met regularly to plan everything, from the design to the location. They chose a long strip of land next to the bike path. It took coordination with both Village and County park systems, but they made it happen. The design came from local artists and community members.

How did you first become involved with the Women's Park?

I heard about it from someone who said, "We meet on Tuesday mornings." So I just showed up. That's how most of us get involved—someone mentions it, you come once, and then you get hooked. Before you know it, you're helping lead things. It's a wonderful park, and it's fun to work in. We have about 15 volunteers who come regularly. You don't have to be a woman, but most of us are.

What drew you personally to the mission of the park?

We don't use pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides, and we don't water beyond what comes from the sky. Everything is native. And once you start, it's really about the people as you're surrounded by others who are like-minded.

As a steward of the park today, what does your role look like on a typical two-week span?

We show up and tackle whatever needs attention. Every few years, we bring in professionals to add or adjust plantings since some plants don't coexist well. We're fortunate to have an endowment established early on, so we can cover larger needs like removing invasive species or adding new landscaping.



Volunteers regularly meet to maintain the park.

What made Gene Trolander's vision resonate so strongly with the community?

The project grew out of the Greene County Women's History Project, so there was already a strong foundation of people committed to honoring women. Gene's vision focused on everyday women, the ones who raised families, cared for others, and held communities together.

How has the park evolved since its founding, and what has stayed the same?

The mission has remained the same, but we've expanded our educational focus. We are adding more plant labels and planning guided walks to teach people about native plants, pollinators, and even birds. The park continues to serve as a habitat for wildlife while staying true to its original purpose.

The park contains more than 800 commemorative tiles honoring women. Are people still able to purchase one?

We've added tiles in phases over the years, but space is a consideration. If we continue adding more, we start losing planting space. It's something we revisit, but there's no current plan to expand. The tiles are handcrafted by a local artist, and great care goes into making and proofreading them. It's important to get every detail right.

Do any particular tile inscriptions stand out to you?

What stands out most is watching people read them. Visitors often become emotional. Some describe the experience as "spiritual." Seeing those reactions is really meaningful.

Why do you think recognizing individual women resonated so strongly?

It allows people to honor someone important in their lives—whether that's a mother, teacher, or friend. It's very personal, and it connects people to the space in a lasting way.

Why are native plants and pollinators such an important focus?

Native plants support the entire ecosystem—bees, birds, and other wildlife. Pollinators are essential to our food systems and the health of the environment. The park reflects a natural balance and highlights the importance of caring for those systems.

When is the best time to visit the park?

July is when many of the flowers are in full bloom, but there's something happening year-round. Even in winter, the garden supports wildlife. If you visit in late fall, you might see flocks of goldfinches feeding on seeds.

Are there plants or species visitors tend to notice?

Some plants aren't showy but are incredibly important. For example, figwort isn't especially attractive, but it's full of nectar and draws a wide variety of bees. Another favorite is partridge pea, which bumblebees pollinate through vibration—something called “buzz pollination.” There's always something fascinating happening if you take the time to look.

What does the volunteer effort look like?

We send out weekly updates and gather on Tuesday mornings. Volunteers are provided with tools, gloves, and even T-shirts. We also try to make it educational by highlighting specific plants or weeds we're working with.

What would you say to someone interested in helping?

Just come out on a Tuesday morning. We're there from about 8:30 until the sun comes over the trees and it gets too hot. We'll get you connected.

What are your hopes for the future of the park?

I want to make sure it continues to thrive and inspire people. As needs arise, we address them. We've added things like informational brochures to enhance the visitor experience while staying true to the park's mission.

For first-time visitors to the park, what would you tell them?

Come with your senses open. Notice what you see, hear, and smell. There's something for everyone if you take the time to experience it.

What do you hope people feel when they visit the park?

I hope they leave feeling happier than when they arrived. That's what it does for us!

To visit: The Yellow Springs Women's Park is located along the Little Miami Scenic Trail, south of the Foundry Theater.



Location of the Yellow Springs Women's Park

Village Solar

One of Village Solar Co.'s Rivian electric vehicles in a solar field.

Since its founding in 2020, Village Solar has become more than just a solar installation company in Yellow Springs—it's a pillar of the community. “We're really trying to incorporate a triple bottom line dynamic, where it's people, planet, and, of course, profit,” says founder Alex Rolland.

Unlike larger national companies, Village Solar emphasizes a personal mission-driven approach. Rolland recalls his early work installing off-grid solar arrays in rural Mexico: “It was very much a mission rather than a job... It was never about the money. It was always about impact, and how do we create the greatest impact within our communities?” Today the company tends to focus mainly on residential solar, helping homeowners reduce utility bills and gain control over their energy use, while also maintaining and supporting existing local installations.

The environmental benefits are clear. Rolland notes: “You're generating it from the sun in the moment... over the lifetime of the system, we're talking the equivalent of removing dozens of vehicles off the road for a year.” Beyond carbon reductions, local solar contributes to grid stability, helping residents manage peak electricity demand especially during hot summer days.

Located at the Millworks Business Center, Village Solar also makes the transition accessible. Rolland explains, “We explore a variety of different options... it's a conversation among friends. We let you know what we can do for you, and then you decide if you want to move forward.” With financing and incentives, like the 15% discount currently offered, solar is not just an environmental choice but also a smart financial one. “Solar is one of the few home improvement projects you can do that really starts saving you money right out of the gate,” he adds.

For residents considering renewable energy, Village Solar represents one of several local pathways toward reducing energy use and environmental impact. As interest in solar continues to grow, conversations like these are helping shape how the community thinks about energy.

DID YOU KNOW?...

- There are **14 parks and green spaces** maintained by the Village of Yellow Springs.
- **77 acres of public space** are mowed each week by the Streets, Parks & Sewer Department.
- Across all parks there are **3 playgrounds, 3 shelters, 3 community gardens, 7 drinking fountains, and 3 pedestrian bridges.**
- Crews maintain **10 trash bins and 5 recycling bins** to keep parks clean and safe.
- Our parks host **youth sports, summer leagues, community festivals, Street Fair, Fourth of July fireworks, Earth Day events,** and more.
- The Village cares for approximately **1,000 trees**, with ongoing planting, trimming, and removal of hazardous or invasive trees.

MEET TANNER:

Tanner Bussey, Streets, Parks & Sewer Foreman, has been serving the Village of Yellow Springs since May 2012, when he joined the team as a Utility Service Worker. A Beavercreek native, Tanner grew up with a love of the outdoors and sports, an early passion that continues to shape his work today. He studied at Wright State University and Sinclair Community College, and worked for the Village of Enon before making his way to Yellow Springs.

Today, Tanner oversees maintenance of the Village's streets, sidewalks, sewers, and parks, with a strong emphasis on quality and long-term care. He especially enjoys that each park has its own unique character and takes pride in helping maintain spaces that the community can enjoy.

Tanner sees himself as a steward of the parks, guided by the vision and wishes of the residents who use them. A fun fact he likes to share: the only place he's ever seen wild foxes is right here in Yellow Springs. And if you're looking for a favorite spot, he recommends the view from the hill at Gaunt Park, the highest point in the village.



SHIRTS AVAILABLE!

Scan the QR code to reserve a t-shirt in advance. Shirts may also be purchased in person. A minimum \$25 donation is required, with all proceeds benefiting the Youth Center.

Pick up your YS Parks t-shirt at the Administration window on the second floor of the John Bryan Community Center.

Cash or check only. Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

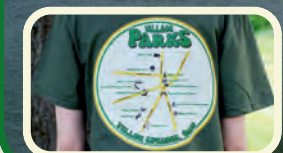
SCAN ME



FRONT



BACK



Leading Miami Township

Following the 2025 General Election, Miami Township welcomed Lori Askeland to the Board of Trustees. Marilan Moir was re-elected to a second term, and Trustee Chris Mucher continues to serve, with his term running through December 31, 2027.

Since joining the Board, Askeland has already made a positive impact by enhancing agenda planning and meeting procedures. She has also taken on oversight of the Zoning Department, IT and digital services, and cybersecurity compliance.

Miami Township Trustees



TERM: JAN. 2026 - DEC. 2029

Lori Askeland



TERM: JAN. 2026 - DEC. 2029

Marilan Moir



TERM: JAN. 2024 - DEC. 2027

Chris Mucher

Miami Township Fiscal Officer Update



Cyndi Pauwels

The Township said farewell to Fiscal Officer Jeanna GunderKline, who officially resigned April 1 to pursue other life priorities. GunderKline's service to Miami Township for the past two years ensured a successful transition.

The Trustees appointed staff member Cyndi Pauwels to complete GunderKline's four-year term, which ends on March 31, 2028. The Trustees chose to go with a person of talent already working with the Township because they view consistency and stability as what is needed right now. Pauwels brings many years of public service in dispatch and federal courts to the job. Serving as Fiscal Officer Assistant for over three years, she has attended almost every meeting and has weathered many changes with the Township. Pauwels has been training to take over this position for the past two months.

MTFR Community Paramedic

Miami Township Fire-Rescue's new community paramedicine program is a prevention-based endeavor, focusing on home visits, medication reviews, and safety assessments for at-risk residents. Community Paramedic Steffnie Brewer, along with YSPD's Community Outreach Specialists, has begun a wellness check program called Safe at Home. This program offers scheduled weekly calls to at-risk residents within Yellow Springs, Clifton, and Miami Township. They also check in on member residents prior to severe weather that emerges in the forecast.

Family members, caregivers, neighbors, and residents themselves can reach out to Brewer to be added to the Safe at Home program list. She can be contacted by phone at 937-767-7842, Ext. 4, or via email at communityparamedic@mtfr.org.

Information for this article was provided courtesy of The Yellow Springs News.



Steffnie Brewer

Gaunt Park Pool Season

The
pool opens
May 23rd!

Spring 2026



Gaunt Park Pool serves multiple communities as the **ONLY** outdoor public pool in Greene County.

The pool offers **FREE** swim lessons to village residents, and a Junior Guard Camp for future lifeguards.



The Village provides discounted pool passes through its "Swim for All" program.

The pool has its own Lifeguard Training Program. If interested, email **Samantha Stewart** to apply.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Adult swim	MON-FRI 11AM-1PM	SAT & SUN 12PM-1PM	MON-SUN 7PM-8PM
All ages	MON-SUN 1PM-7PM	*includes baby pool	

SEASON PASS

	VILLAGE RESIDENT	NON- RESIDENT
Age 3 & under	FREE	FREE
Age 4-18	\$78	\$129
Age 19-61	\$113	\$180
Age 62 & over	\$78	\$129
Adult + 1 dependent minor	\$130	\$250
Household (5 or fewer members)	\$150	\$267
Each add'l member	\$17	\$23

POOL RENTALS

• After hours ONLY • Mon-Sun, 8PM-11PM	1 hour	\$220
• Up to 100 guests • Add'l \$75 for extra guests	2 hours	\$280
• Min. 2 week advance notice • No rentals on swim meet days	3 hours	\$340



Samantha Stewart | Parks & Recreation Supervisor
samantha.stewart@yellowsprings.gov

SAFETY VILLAGE



Tuesday, August 4 – Friday, August 7

HOW TO SIGN UP

If you would like to enroll your child in Safety Village, or serve as a volunteer, scan the QR code to the right! Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.



SCAN ME

Entering its fourth year, Safety Village is a four-day interactive and educational experience for children entering kindergarten or 1st grade in the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District.

Yellow Springs Police Department officers, along with guest speakers, will provide age-appropriate instruction on various topics, including traffic safety, pedestrian and bike safety, fire safety, stranger awareness, school and bus safety, 911 usage, and more! Children will also be able to enjoy a miniature town where they can "drive" around the streets and walk along the sidewalks with crosswalks, stop signs, and traffic signals.

To register, please complete an enrollment form available on the Village website (yellowsprings.gov) and return it to YSPD. You can submit registrations or direct any questions to the following email addresses:

Danny Steck: danielle.steck@yellowsprings.gov

Chief Paige Burge: chief@yellowsprings.gov

If you prefer to submit a paper copy of your completed registration, it can be dropped off at the Dispatch window at 100 Dayton Street.





POSTAL CUSTOMER
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Village of Yellow Springs

100 Dayton Street, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387
937-767-7202 | www.yellowsprings.gov

VILLAGE COUNCIL / CLERK

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gavin.leonard@yellowsprings.gov

Angie Hsu, Council Vice President
angie.hsu@yellowsprings.gov

Carmen Brown, Council Member
carmen.brown@yellowsprings.gov

Senay Semere, Council Member
senay.semere@yellowsprings.gov

Stephanie Pearce, Council Member
stephanie.pearce@yellowsprings.gov

Judy Kintner, Council Clerk
clerk@yellowsprings.gov

VILLAGE STAFF

Johnnie Burns, Village Manager
johnnie.burns@yellowsprings.gov

Elyse Giardullo, Assistant Village Manager
elyse.giardullo@yellowsprings.gov

Paige Burge, Chief of Police
paige.burge@yellowsprings.gov

Michelle Robinson, Finance Director
michelle.robinson@yellowsprings.gov

Aaron Arellano, Planning & Econ. Dev. Coord.
aaron.arellano@yellowsprings.gov

YSPD (Non-Emergency)
937-767-7206

MAYOR / CLERK

Steve McQueen, Village Mayor
mayormcqueen@yellowsprings.gov

MacKenzie Baird, Clerk of Mayor's Court
mackenzie.baird@yellowsprings.gov

UPDATED!

MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Village Council

First and Third Mondays at 6:00 PM

Planning Commission

Second Tuesday at 6:00 PM

Environmental Commission

Second Thursday at 6:00 PM

Public Arts and Culture Commission

First Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Check out our YouTube channel to watch livestreams of
Village Council and Planning Commission meetings:
youtube.com/@yellowspringscommunityaccess



OPEN CAMERA,
AIM,
TAP LINK

EVENTS CALENDAR



4/26

**EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION**



6/13

STREET FAIR



6/19

JUNETEENTH



6/27

YS PRIDE



**Download
YSConnect**

*The Official App of the
Village of Yellow Springs!*

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- View Latest Updates
- Receive Notifications
- And more...



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