

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA**

In Council Chambers @6:00 P.M.

Monday, February 2, 2026

Anyone can observe the meeting live via cable Channel 5, (Community Access Yellow Springs) or on YouTube. ZOOM participation will be offered only for virtual meetings. Please contact the Council Clerk at 937-767-9126 or clerk@yellowsprings.gov for any questions regarding the Council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of January 20, 2026 Special Meeting: Work Session
3. Minutes of January 23, 2026 Special Meeting: Retreat

REVIEW OF AGENDA

I. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

David Hergesheimer re: Re-open Short Street
Mitzie Miller re: Mills Lawn and Traffic
Evelyn LaMers re: Re-open Short Street
Barbara Mann re: Apply for AARP Grant
Jason Lavek re: Traffic Safety on Fairfield Pike
Ralita Chambers re: Comment and Suggestions to New Council

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION (6:15)

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-02 Approving a First Quarter Supplemental Appropriation and Declaring an Emergency

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-03 Repealing Chapter 220.01 “Rules and Procedures” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio and Enacting New Chapter 220.01 “Rules and Procedures”

Reading of Resolution 2026-04 Adopting the 2025 Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Reading of Resolution 2026-05 Authorizing the Village Manager to Apply for Loan Funds from the Environmental Protection Agency in an Amount of up to \$100,000

III. CITIZEN CONCERNS (6:35)

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS (6:45)

Short Street Presentation (Burns, Giardullo, Burge, Guest Speakers: 60 min)

Note: Citizen Concerns on Short Street will be taken after the staff presentation.

V. MANAGER’S REPORT (7:45)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS (7:50)

Board and Commission Seat Assignments (DeVore Leonard: 10 min.)
Draft Village Values/Village Goals Document (DeVore Leonard: 5 min.)
Retreat Follow-up Information (DeVore Leonard: 5 min.)
Nominations: Brian Gibson; Environmental Commission (new member); Johanna Schultz-Herman; Environmental Commission (returning member), Stephen Green; Planning Commission (returning member)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS* (8:10)

Feb. 17: 5pm Work Session (Village Values/Goals)
6pm Regular Meeting
Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-03 Repealing Chapter 220.01 “Rules and Procedures” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio and Enacting New Chapter 220.01 “Rules and Procedures”
Reading of Resolution 2026-06 Approving Dues for Regional Planning and Coordinating Commission of Greene County for 2026 **WANT THIS ON FOR 2/2?**
Reading of Resolution 2026-07 Designating Judy Kintner as Village Council’s Designee to Receive Public Records Training on Behalf of Each of the Elected Officials Pursuant to and in Accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 109.43(B) and 149.43(E) (1)
Reading of Resolution 2026-08 Approving Village Goals for 2026-2027
Reading of Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing the Village Manager to Apply for Grant Funding from Ohio Department of Transportation

March 2: Prioritization of Projects/Requests
Special Reports Topic Discussion
Quarterly Financials
End of Year Report: Finance
End of Year Report: Treasurer

March 16: Solicitor Evaluation
Annual Calendar Update
Personnel Policy Manual Ordinance

*Future Agenda items are noted for planning purposes only and are subject to change.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Council for the Village of Yellow Springs will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**, and will be preceded by a work session at 5pm.

The Village of Yellow Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the Village, Clerk of Council’s Office at 767-9126 or via e-mail at clerk@yso.com for more information.

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: WORK SESSION
MINUTES**

Council Chambers 5pm.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Solicitor Amy Blankenship, AVM/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo, Solicitor Amy Blankenship and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

WORK SESSION

Short Street Information, Expectations and Discussion. Burns introduced the topic, stating that the purpose of the session is to gather specifics regarding what further information Council is seeking in order to render a decision regarding the future of the Short Street project.

Hsu: Vision and financials.

Brown: Mock-ups/drawings; financial feasibility.

Semere: Timelines; traffic studies (impact of closure on schools and village as a whole).

Pearce: Financials; Expenditure to this point including hours spent on all aspects; projection of cost to provide ongoing upkeep; targeted feedback from businesses in downtown area; what has been added to date.

Semere asked for information regarding how the Short Street Project was decided upon initially.

DeVore Leonard: Programming plans and cost associated; business engagement (has there been robust outreach).

Hsu: Parking (number of spaces lost and how compensated).

Topics and Parameters for Work Sessions. Burns introduced the concept, relating an experience from a Managers' training session. He stressed the idea of more conversational discussion as well as the ability to look farther ahead on projects and upcoming agenda items.

The group discussed the tenor of the proposed sessions, with the idea of more content being addressed as well as the ability to converse rather than report/respond as in a traditional meeting.

The matter of public comment was raised and discussed briefly.

Town Halls were discussed as a method of gathering public input.

DeVore Leonard forwarded the idea of a three-minute option for Council members to share ideas or thoughts. The idea will be vetted during the Council retreat.

The idea of a checklist of information to be provided on topics was discussed, with the following ideas suggested: History/context; guided questions; pros/cons; budget impacts, including solicitor or contractors; relevant research/available data; who to involve in conversation.

DeVore Leonard noted that the time suggested for the work sessions conflicts with the regular Township meeting and asked for feedback. There were no objections to the time as selected.

DeVore Leonard stressed the need to get items on the Future Agenda list for those things to be on Council radar.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:48pm, DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

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**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs
Regular Session Minutes**

In Council Chambers @ 6 P.M.

Tuesday January 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Solicitor Amy Blankenship, AVM/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo, and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

SWEARING IN

President DeVore Leonard swore in Manager Burns as Deputy Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown read a statement regarding police limitations and role in situations involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. She urged citizens to inform themselves as to their rights and the role of local law enforcement in any ICE interaction.

Burns announced that Wastewater and Water Treatment Supervisor Brad Ault and his wife have welcomed a new son.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Credit Card Statement for December

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes made.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Quarterly Report
Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly (2)
Mitzie Miller re: McKee Group Event Flier
Judith Hempfling re: Citizen Comment

Hsu reviewed communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Hsu MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO READ IN ALL EMERGENCY LEGISLATION BY TITLE ONLY. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-01 Authorizing the Annual Transfer of Funds and Declaring an Emergency. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson noted that this moves money into the areas in which expenditures for 2026 have been approved through the budget process.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-02 Approving a First Quarter Supplemental Appropriation and Declaring an Emergency.

Robinson explained that the HVAC unit in the Village-owned building went out and must be replaced, and the Village received its Aid to Construction reimbursement from Cresco, comprising the total of the supplemental.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. Council voted 5-0 by roll call to pass the measure.*

*Although a vote was called and taken, because there was no motion made to approve, the legislation is invalid and must be brought back..

Reading of Resolution 2026-03 Approving Dues for Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission for 2026. DeVore Leonard MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Following discussion, DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Mitzie Miller announced a forum regarding Short Street for Tuesday. She requested that villagers have input as to uses for Short Street if the street is closed. She asked for a traffic study for the Short Street area.

Caroline Mullin, Senior Center Director, asked that the traffic study provided by Windsor for the PUD projects include the future Senior Center in terms of variables. She asked the Village to consider partnering with the Center on a grant application.

Amy Bailey, YS School Board, stated that she has been appointed School Board liaison to Council, and expressed her enthusiasm for working with the new Council.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Village End of Year Report. Burns presented highlights of the Village's work over the course of 2025.

Burns fielded a question regarding use of contractors.

Reilly Dixon, YS News, asked why new taps were listed as a "challenge".

Burns noted a significant increase in the number of taps, thus adding pressure to Public Works.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Burns commented that the Manager's Report will now be given once a month with a shorter update provided at the intervening meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Need to Schedule Meeting(s) with Other Taxing Entities. DeVore Leonard introduced the idea, asking whether Council is open to the idea of scheduling such a meeting for early Fall.

ODOT SRTS Grant Discussion. Burns stated that the grant application is due in March, so legislation will come to the next meeting.

Burns asked for a \$119,667 match for a one-million dollar grant. He noted that this is a 2026 submission for an award addressing 2029 design and installation. He confirmed that the design will include bump-outs and signage.

Responding to a question from Semere, Burns stated that the Village does solicit input from the schools regarding such projects.

Hsu asked for more information regarding the connection on East Enon in terms of how much it is used for school travel.

Pearce asked how certain it is that the match will not increase.

Burns stated that if the million dollars is not awarded, it will likely not be awarded at all.

DeVore Leonard asked whether the project could be reduced so that the million would cover the entirety of the project.

Burns stated in the affirmative, but stressed that a match improves the scoring for the project.

EPA Sewer Capacity Study Update. Burns explained that prior Council approved the Village to secure a zero-interest loan of up to \$59,000 for planning and design to upgrade Wastewater Treatment infrastructure. While that amount may be sufficient, he stated, it is a better strategy to secure a higher loan amount in the event that costs exceed the originally approved amount. He asked for approval of \$100,000 for the loan total.

Hsu asked what the initial estimate had been based upon.

Burns responded that the extent of the upgrade needed was underestimated and has been revised upwards as more has been learned.

Responding to a question from DeVore Leonard, Burns stated that if no further action is taken, the loan will need to begin repayment in three years. If funds are needed to rebuild, the loan can be rolled into the build phase of the project. The loan term is either a 20 or a 30-year loan.

Burns stated that a resolution will be brought to the next meeting, at which time a decision will need to be made.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Brown reported on current PACC activities, primarily involving work on a speaker series for the Village's America 250 affiliation.

Brown reported that EC is now able to meet and plans to focus on core deliverables such as: sustainable building practices; conservation development; community gardens and watershed protection. She noted several projects now under discussion, including sessions with entities now engaged in the listed projects.

Semere reported that YSDC has acquired the former hardware store and that this will involve a tremendous amount of effort in the coming months.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jan. 23: Council Retreat (9-4pm)

Feb. 2: **Resolution 2026-03** Authorizing the Village Manager to Apply for Grant Funding from Ohio Department of Transportation

Resolution 2026-04 Adopting 2025 Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Short Street Presentation

Quarterly Financials

End of Year Report: Finance

Treasurer End of Year Report

Board and Commission Seats

Draft Village Values/Village Goals

Retreat Follow-up

Draft Work Session Agenda

Feb. 17: 5pm Work Session (Village Values/Goals)

6pm Regular Meeting

Reading of Resolution 2026-XX Designating Judy Kintner as Village Council's Designee to Receive Public Records Training on Behalf of Each of the Elected Officials Pursuant to and in Accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 109.43(B) and 149.43(E) (1)

March 2: Prioritization of Projects/Requests

Special Reports Topic Discussion

March 16: Solicitor Evaluation

Annual Calendar Update

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57pm Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: _____

Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: _____

Johnnie Burns, Deputy Clerk

**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs
Regular Session Minutes**

In Council Chambers @ 9-4pm

Friday, January 23, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 9am.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Solicitor Amy Blankenship, AVM/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

DeVore Leonard chaired the retreat. Facilitated discussion was held on a variety of topics, primarily as reflected below, with all topics returning to regular Council meetings for further discussion or final determinations.

Council/Staff/Community interactions: Who directs whom; How best to communicate ideas, decisions and concerns within this framework.

Stop/Start Continue List: General discussion related to extent of Village's responsibilities and need to prioritize any projects outside of provision of essential services.

- list of current projects
- list of proposed projects

Process for introducing new projects or initiatives.

Work Sessions: How frequent; hold regularly or as needed.

Commissions/Boards: Overview, scope, history, and conversation regarding level of interest in continuing a particular commission, adding a commission and/or serving as liaison. Final determinations set for 2/2.

Council Rules: Overview and timeline as to when/how these come to Council
--discussion of meeting protocol and use of Robert's Rules

Village Values/Village Goals: Overview and timeline as to when/how these come to Council /how to effectively use strategy screen as a vetting tool.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:09pm DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed:_____

Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: _____

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

**2026 FIRST QUARTER SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO**

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-25 was adopted to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Yellow Springs, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Village Council makes supplemental appropriations to reflect adjustments which occur throughout the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary to preserve the public interest and provide for a special emergency in the operation of Village services, such emergency being the urgent necessity to provide for legitimate expenditures and amend the annual appropriation .

NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO, HEREBY ORDAINS THAT:

Section 1. To provide for expenses and other expenditures of the said Village of Yellow Springs during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026 the following sums are hereby set aside and appropriated as follows:

Section 2. That there be appropriated from the GENERAL FUND:		CURRENT BUDGET	SUPPLEMENTAL 1/20/26	AMENDED BUDGET
	Council Total	\$336,483		\$336,483
	Personnel Services	\$180,283		\$180,283
	Mayor Total	\$39,887		\$39,887
	Personnel Services	\$25,387		\$25,387
	Administration Total	\$712,548		\$712,548
	Personnel Services	\$327,798		\$327,798
	Auditor	\$46,350		\$46,350
	Commercial Rental Property	\$142,650		\$142,650
	Library	\$5,000		\$5,000
	Cable	\$95,328		\$95,328
	Personal Services	\$77,380		\$77,380
	Council Commissions	\$64,360		\$64,360
	Public Safety Total	\$2,243,786		\$2,243,786
	Personnel Services	\$1,800,726		\$1,800,726
	Planning Total	\$404,601		\$404,601
	Personnel Services	\$2,296,711		\$2,296,711
	Mediation	\$14,420		\$14,420
	Transfers and Advances	\$1,306,500		\$1,306,500
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$5,411,913	\$0	\$5,411,913
Section 3. That there be appropriated from the following SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:				
202	Street Maintenance & Repair Total	\$781,583		\$781,583
	Personnel Services	\$287,983		\$287,983
203	State Highway & Repair	\$10,000		\$10,000
204	Parks and Recreation Fund	\$808,424		\$808,424
	Parks Total	\$271,803		\$271,803
	Personnel Services	\$91,763		\$91,763
	Pool Total	\$147,033		\$147,033
	Personnel Services	\$77,508		\$77,508
	Bryan Center Total	\$374,138		\$374,138
	Personnel Services	\$228,068		\$228,068
	Bryan Youth Center Total	\$15,450		\$15,450
205	Economic Development Fund	\$0		\$0
207	Green Space	\$0		\$0
208	Motor Vehicle - Permissive Tax	\$25,000		\$25,000
210	Mayor's Court Computer Fund	\$500		\$500
212	Law Enforcement & Education	\$1,000		\$1,000
213	Coat & Supply Fund	\$2,575		\$2,575
215	Federal Forfeited Assets	\$0		\$0
216	State Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$2,747		\$2,747
218	YS Clifton Connector Trail Project	\$0		\$0
220	Utility Round Up Fund	\$10,000		\$10,000
224	Affordable Housing	\$311,247		\$311,247
902	Widow's Fund	\$1,500		\$1,500
903	Police Pension Fund Total	\$52,125		\$52,125
	Personnel Services	\$51,404		\$51,404
904	Security Deposit Fund	\$1,000		\$1,000
906	Mayor's Court Fund	\$8,000		\$8,000
	TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$2,015,701	\$0	\$2,015,701

Section 4. That there be appropriated from the **CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS**

301	Police Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$0		\$0
303	Water - Capital Fund	\$79,860		\$79,860
304	Sewer Capital Improvement Fund	\$354,750		\$354,750
305	Electric Capital Improvement Fund	\$330,000		\$330,000
306	Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement	\$145,750		\$145,750
307	Facilities Improvement Fund	\$210,980		\$210,980
308	Capital Equipment Fund	\$4,620	\$13,253	\$17,873
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND APPROPRIATIONS		\$1,125,960	\$13,253	\$1,139,213

Section 5. That there be appropriated from the **ENTERPRISE FUNDS**:

601	Electric Fund Total	\$5,964,665	\$15,000	\$5,979,665
	Personnel Services	\$682,665		\$682,665
610	Water Fund Total	\$1,551,683		\$1,551,683
	Water Distribution Total	\$660,672		\$660,672
	Personnel Services	\$408,523		\$408,523
	Water Treatment Total	\$891,011		\$891,011
	Personnel Services	\$278,905		\$278,905
620	Sewer Fund Total	\$1,564,508		\$1,564,508
	Sewer Collection	\$529,298		\$529,298
	Personnel Services	\$369,648		\$369,648
	Sewer Treatment	\$685,210		\$685,210
	Personnel Services	\$265,554		\$265,554
	Sewer Transfer	\$350,000		\$350,000
630	Solid Waste Fund	\$435,606		\$435,606
	Personnel Services	\$15,006		\$15,006
640	Utility Ovepayment fund	\$5,000		\$5,000
650	Storm Water Fund	\$92,483		\$92,483
660	Municipal Broadband Fund	\$45,000		\$45,000
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND APPROPRIATIONS		\$9,658,945	\$15,000	\$9,673,945

Section 6. That the appropriation from the Total Fund Budget is as follows:

GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS ALL FUNDS	\$18,212,519	\$28,253	\$18,240,772
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Section 7. The Finance Director and the Village Manager are hereby authorized to draw warrants on the Village Treasury for payments from any of the foregoing appropriations upon receiving proper certificates and vouchers therefore, approved by an ordinance of Council to make the expenditures; provided that no warrants shall be drawn or paid for salaries or wages except to persons employed by authority of and in accordance with such ordinance.

Section 8. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary to preserve the public interest and for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Village, wherefore, this ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption by Council.

Gavin DeVore Leonard, President

Passed:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL:

Gavin DeVore Leonard
Carmen Brown
Angie Hsu
Senay Semere
Stephanie Pearce

Supplemental Appropriation Worksheet

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Addition to Budget</u>	<u>Comments</u>
308-1903-55103	Capital Equipment Fund-Public Works	13,253.00	New heater and A/C for 201 S. Walnut St
601-1302-54102	Electric Operating Fund-Operating Supplies	15,000.00	Reimbursement from Cresco for Aid to Construction

28,253.00

308	Capital Equipment Fund	13,253.00	
601	Electric Operating Fund	15,000.00	

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\$28,253.00

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO

ORDINANCE 2026-03

REPEALING CHAPTER 220.01 “RULES AND PROCEDURES” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO AND ENACTING NEW CHAPTER 220.01 “RULES AND PROCEDURES”

Whereas, Codified Ordinance Chapter 220.01 of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio provides for Council’s rules and procedures, as called for in Section 20 of the Village Charter; and

Whereas, Village Council has determined that it would be in the best interest of the Village to adopt a new Chapter 220.01 to update these rules and procedures,

NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO HEREBY ORDAINS THAT:

Section 1. Chapter 220.01 entitled “Rules and Procedures” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio be repealed.

Section 2. A new Chapter 220.01 entitled “Rules and Procedures” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio be enacted to read as set forth in Exhibit A with new language underlined and **bolded**, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force at the earliest date permitted by law.

Gavin DeVore Leonard, President of Council

PASSED:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

Roll Call:

Gavin DeVore Leonard____ Angie Hsu____ Carmen Brown____

Senay Semere____ Stephanie Pearce____

Exhibit A to Ordinance 2026-03

220.01 Rules and procedures.

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

Ethics

Council Members shall act with honesty and uphold the highest ethical standards so that public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of government are conserved and enhanced. Each member of Council, the Village Manager and Clerk of Council shall become familiar and comply with the most current version of the Ohio Ethics Laws (O.R.C. Ch. 102: <https://ethics.ohio.gov/education/factsheets/EthicsLawOverview.pdf>) and Related Statutes (O.R.C. Ch. 2921: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/chapter-2921>), specifically, as they apply to elected officials and public employees of Villages. The Clerk of Council will ensure that each Council member receives a copy of the Ohio Ethics Laws and Related Statutes upon his or her election or appointment. Any Council member or Employee who believes that they may have a conflict of interest with a pending issue should seek the advice of the Village Solicitor or Ohio Ethics Commission prior to entering into any discussion or voting on that issue.

Respecting Village Values

With regard to the Village Values of being “a model employer actively practicing diversity hiring” and to “intentionally promote anti-racism, inclusion, equity and accessibility through all policies, procedures and processes”, all members of Council will uphold the standards set forth for all Village employees in sections 607 and 608 of the **Village Personnel Policy Manual** to combat harassment and bullying in the workplace, promoting a safe and healthy environment for all Village employees .

With regard to the Village Value of creating “a welcoming community of opportunity for all persons regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, economic status, mental/physical ability or religious affiliation”, all members of Council shall conform to the **Guidelines** Council has set forth for its boards and commission members in interacting with all members of the public. In discussions of Village business, Council members shall refrain from making inflammatory, derogatory or slanderous remarks, and shall refrain from ad hominem attacks, blaming or assigning negative motives and from knowingly repeating false or inaccurate information.

Council Social Media Presence and Comments

Council members are expected to adhere to the same values stated above when engaging on social media. The only additional caveat is that elected officials should take care to be clear as to when they are commenting in their capacity as citizens, and when the comments are intended to reflect their view as an elected official. This caveat recognizes that there are times when public perception will assign the mantle of public official to the Council member regardless of any disclaimer.

Process for Addressing Complaints Against Council Members

Any complaint made by a citizen or by a Village employee against any member of Council will be conveyed to the Clerk of Council. The Clerk will direct Complaints made against the President of Council to the Vice President of Council, and will address all other complaints to the President of Council. The public official directed to manage the complaint has full authority to act at their discretion in a timely fashion.

In the case of a complaint made by another member of Council, the process is directed as above, with the added option that the public official handling the complaint has the latitude to bring a resolution of censure against the Council member in question, again, at their discretion.

In the case of a complaint made by a member of the Village staff or contractor against a Council member, the process followed is as above, and allows for the possibility of censure at the discretion of the public official handling the complaint.

Meetings

All meetings of Council shall be properly advertised and, with the exception of executive sessions (see below), shall be open to the public regardless of whether they are regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings or emergency meetings. Three (3) Council members constitute a quorum, which is required to hold any meeting.

Regularly Scheduled Council Meetings will convene at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Mondays monthly (except when Monday is a recognized holiday, in which case the meeting will be held on Tuesday of that week) in Council Chambers (unless otherwise advertised) located on the second floor of the John Bryan Community Center. The Clerk of Council will present a meeting schedule for the coming year at a regular Council meeting by December of the preceding year. Additionally, notice specifying time, place and agenda shall be published the week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting in a local newspaper of general circulation. Council will endeavor to conclude the regular meeting by 8:30 p.m.

Work Sessions may be called at times when Council wishes to hear more extensively from staff or advisors and wishes to facilitate additional citizen response and input than can be afforded in a Regular Meeting of Council. A Work Session agenda shall be noticed as a Regular Meeting agenda, and may omit some agenda items seen on the Regular Meeting agenda in the interest of increasing time for participation regarding the topic of the Work Session. Legislation may be heard at a Work Session and must be noticed per Charter specification.

Special Meetings may be called by the President of Council, by two Council members, or by an affirmative vote of the majority of Council taken at any Regular or Special Meeting to conduct non-emergency Council business that should be addressed before the next regularly scheduled meeting. All news media outlets that have requested such notification will receive 24-hour minimum advance notification of any Special Meeting with time, place and purpose of the meeting being stated. Special meeting notices will be posted on the Village website within the same time period that news media notification is made.

Emergency Meetings may be called by the President of Council to address issues that are time-sensitive and must be addressed immediately. All such meetings shall comply fully with the requirements of **Ordinance 2009-20**, which is summarized in Attachment 3. Emergency Meeting notices will be posted on the Village website within the same time period that news media notification is made.

All Council members will be notified of the time, place and purpose of each Special Meeting or Emergency Meeting. The President of Council, Village Manager and Clerk of Council may jointly coordinate the notification of Council members.

The Clerk of Council shall be responsible for ensuring that advance notification of all meetings is accomplished and notices are displayed as described above.

Executive Sessions may be called at any meeting on affirmative vote of the majority of Council members in accordance with Ohio law: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-121.22>.

Meeting Agenda & Materials

The Clerk of Council shall work with the President and Vice President of Council, Village Solicitor, and the Village Manager in constructing the agenda for each Council meeting. Items to be considered for the agenda will be accepted from Council members until 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday ten days prior to the next scheduled meeting. In exigent circumstances, as determined by the President and Vice-President of Council, items may be added to the agenda after the aforementioned deadline.

The Clerk of Council shall cause to be placed into the possession of each member of Council and the Village Manager, seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the regular meeting, a packet containing the meeting agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, proposed/pending legislation, reports and communications. The same information will be available in the Bryan Center lobby, online at www.yellowsprings.gov, and at the Public Library, in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting.

The Clerk of Council will work with the Village Manager to provide comprehensive reports and other information as deemed appropriate to Council members by the most efficient means possible as soon as those items become available. When time allows, those materials will be added to the information available to the public, otherwise they will be provided in the next Regular Meeting packet. Meeting materials will also be available on a table outside Council Chambers on the day of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

The Clerk of Council will prepare and maintain full and accurate minutes of all meetings. These minutes shall provide sufficient facts and information to permit an understanding of the rationale behind Council decisions.

Order of Business

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
- 3. Executive Session
- 4. Swearings In (Third Mondays)
5. Announcements
- 6. Consent Agenda
7. Review of Minutes
8. Review of Agenda
9. Review Petitions/Communications
10. Citizens' Concerns
- 119. Public Hearings/Legislation
- ~~11. Citizens' Concerns~~
- 12. Special Reports
13. Manager's Report
14. Old Business
15. New Business
167. Standing Board & Commission Reports (Third Mondays)
178. Agenda Planning
189. Adjournment

Council may decide during ~~the~~ Agenda Review at the beginning of the meeting to vary from this order as needed.

Recess

The presiding officer has the discretion to call for a recess, for the convenience of the Council and citizen participants, or at the request of another Council person or staff participant, especially when a regular meeting extends beyond two and one half hours and is expected to continue for more than one half (1/2) hour. The amount of time needed for the recess will be stated when it is called and the meeting will begin promptly after the stated time.

Decorum

While the Council is in session, order and decorum must be preserved. Therefore, Council members and citizen participants shall observe rules for debate and participation outlined below, and shall not, by conversation or other means, delay or interrupt the proceedings or disturb duly recognized speakers. Council will endeavor to communicate Council rules during meetings, but persons who ignore or violate Council rules or refuse to follow the orders of the presiding officer may be asked to leave the meeting.

Rules of Debate

Council meetings will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order as a general guideline: <http://www.rulesonline.com/index.html>. The President, Vice President or other member of the Council who may be presiding shall not be deprived of any rights and privileges of a Council member (move, second and debate, etc.) by reason of acting as the presiding officer.

Council members shall wait until the presiding officer has recognized them before speaking. A member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted except under the general guidelines of parliamentary debate.

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Citizen Participation

Comments from the public are welcomed at two different times during the course of a regular meeting: (1) ~~Comments on legislative items when comment is open on those items (not inclusive of Public Hearings, which are required)~~ ~~Comments on items not on the Agenda will be heard under Citizens' Concerns~~, and (2) Comments on all items listed on the Agenda will be heard during ~~Council's consideration of said item~~ Citizen Comments, subject to the following guidelines:

1. The presiding officer must recognize citizens wishing to speak. When ~~they have been~~ recognized, ~~citizens they~~ shall ~~give their~~ provide name and affiliation with the Village and state the subject of ~~their~~ concern or comment.
2. Comments shall be addressed to the presiding officer. No conversations will be carried on between individual citizens in attendance or with individual Council members, except when as recognized by the presiding officer.
3. The use of profane or threatening language or gestures while making comments will not be tolerated, and may be cause for removal from the meeting.
4. Individual comments should be limited to three (3) minutes with only one (1) comment per person. Persons with other divergent views on the same subject will be given equal time for response. The presiding officer may terminate continued discussion at any point ~~in the discussion~~ during the comment period after opposing views have been equally addressed.
5. Citizens should address all staff and/or personnel matters to the Village Manager prior to coming to Council. Should a staff/personnel matter be raised by a citizen during the course of the meeting, it will be referred to the appropriate supervisor.
6. All cell phones shall be silenced during meetings.

Public Hearings

The second reading of each proposed ordinance is designated a Public Hearing, **the official opportunity for citizens to be heard**. Citizens are encouraged to comment and make inquiries as to the nature or impact of the ordinance or to offer their approval if that is their desire. The presiding officer will open the floor to public hearing after the second reading and following a motion to adopt and a seconding by Council. Following the public hearing, Council will hold a discussion and take appropriate action.

In time-sensitive situations, an ordinance may be declared an emergency, which means it will go into effect immediately rather than in thirty days as is standard for an ordinance. An Emergency Ordinance can have one or more readings with the final reading including a Public Hearing.

Resolutions will not normally require public hearing. However, the scope of the particular resolution may be such that it warrants such a hearing. When that is the case, the process will follow the same procedure for the second reading of an ordinance.

Public comments will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes with only one (1) comment per person. Persons with other divergent views on the same subject will be given equal time for response. The presiding officer may terminate comment at any point ~~in the discussion~~ during the Public Hearing after opposing views have been equally addressed.

Other Agenda Items

The presiding officer may recognize members of the public who are in attendance during discussion of other agenda items, when and to the extent it is appropriate.

Letters to Council

Letters to Council must be received by the Clerk of Council by 10:00 a.m. on the Friday preceding a regularly scheduled meeting to be considered in that meeting. Items received after 10:00 a.m., unless having direct bearing on a topic slated for discussion, will be held without review or action until the following regularly scheduled meeting unless it is determined that such delay would create an emergency or that the correspondence requires

special action on the part of Council or Village staff. Regarding the aforementioned: Items having direct bearing on a topic of consideration for that meeting will be made available to Council members at the Council table and by e-mail. To the extent possible, Council Members will endeavor to review all such material prior to the start of the Council Meeting.

Reserved Time Participation and Submissions for Council Meeting

Any group or individual wishing to make an oral presentation to Council may, by notifying the Clerk of Council not later than 10:00 a.m. on the Thursday ten days before the next regularly scheduled meeting, make a request to Council to be placed on the agenda. A short summary defining the intention of the presentation must be provided to the Clerk at that time.

Any such addition to the Agenda requires the approval of Council. Council may elect to defer the presentation to the following meeting, to request further information regarding the group or the presentation or, if appropriate, to deny the request altogether. In the latter instance, the group or individual may still elect to speak during Citizens' Concerns.

Council members wishing to champion projects or bring initiatives forward are urged to follow the process outlined in the "Council Initiatives Process" (https://www.ysc.com/egov/documents/1712859695_87356.pdf) document for bringing projects forward.

Any materials for inclusion in the Council packet must be delivered to the Clerk of Council not later than 5pm on the Thursday preceding the meeting.

Please contact the Clerk of Council regarding ~~these~~ procedures. ~~Appropriate time periods for public review and comment will be determined for each report.~~



The Village of **YELLOW SPRINGS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Village Council

FROM: Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

DATE: January 29, 2026

RE: Adoption of the Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Village Council,

Jurisdictions are required to adopt a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan every five (5) years to remain in compliance with the Stafford Act. Greene County has completed its most recent Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and all participating jurisdictions, including the Village of Yellow Springs, took part in the planning process.

Through this process, each jurisdiction identified goals, strategies, and mitigation projects specific to their community. The Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan includes mitigation actions and projects tailored to address the natural hazard risks facing the Village of Yellow Springs. All recommendations included for the Village of Yellow Springs were carefully reviewed and vetted by the Village Manager and Council Member Brian Housh to ensure they align with local priorities, needs, and feasibility.

By adopting the Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan through resolution, the Village of Yellow Springs will maintain compliance with federal requirements and become eligible to apply for federal hazard mitigation funding. Adoption of the plan allows the Village to pursue available state and federal mitigation grants to support and implement the mitigation projects identified for Yellow Springs when funding opportunities become available.

Approval of this resolution is recommended to ensure continued eligibility for mitigation funding and to support long-term resilience and hazard risk reduction within the Village.

Adopting the Updated 2025 Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Roll Call: Gavin DeVore Leonard____ Angie Hsu____ Carmen Brown____
Senay Semere____ Stephanie Pearce____



The Village of **YELLOW SPRINGS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Village Council

FROM: Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

DATE: January 30, 2026

RE: Planning Loan Cap – EPA Sewer Capacity Study

Village Council,

The Village is proceeding with an evaluation of the Bryan Lift Station, its associated force main, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant in order to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), also referred to as a General Plan. This work will be completed in accordance with Ohio EPA guidance for the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) and will document existing conditions, identify potential system improvements, and assess planning needs for future upgrades.

As staff continues to advance the WPCLF planning loan application in coordination with Wessler Engineering, a revised resolution is being presented to adjust the previously authorized planning loan cap. Council previously approved a resolution authorizing a planning loan in the amount of \$59,000. Based on current information, that amount remains sufficient for the anticipated scope of work. However, the WPCLF planning stage application was submitted with a maximum loan amount of \$100,000 to provide flexibility should additional testing, analysis, or unforeseen conditions arise during the evaluation.

While staff does not expect the full amount to be utilized, the Ohio EPA application process can be difficult to amend once work is underway. Increasing the authorized loan cap to \$100,000 represents a maximum authorization only and does not obligate the Village to draw or expend the full amount. The Village is only responsible for eligible project costs actually incurred and submitted for reimbursement, and any unused funds would not be drawn. At this stage, evaluation of the force main presents the greatest potential for unknown conditions that could affect the scope or cost of the planning effort.

Once the planning evaluation is completed, the WPCLF program allows the planning loan to transition directly into design-phase funding. Both planning and design loans carry a 0% interest rate and require semiannual payments equal to 1/40th of the eligible project costs for up to five years. At the conclusion of that period, the project must either transition into a design or construction loan, or any remaining balance becomes due as a balloon payment. Ultimately, planning and design costs are consolidated into the final construction loan, at which point long-term repayment terms are established. This

structure provides the Village with financial flexibility while supporting a phased and deliberate approach to infrastructure investment?

The revised resolution accompanying this memo reflects the updated planning loan cap consistent with the WPCLF application and is intended to ensure sufficient flexibility as the evaluation proceeds? Staff will continue to monitor costs closely and keep Council informed as work progresses? I am happy to answer any questions you may have?

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
RESOLUTION 2026-05**

AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE
VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF
WASTEWATER FACILITIES AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE
LOAN

Whereas, the Village of Yellow Springs seeks to upgrade its existing wastewater facilities; and

Whereas, the Village of Yellow Springs intends to apply for Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the planning, design and or construction of the wastewater facilities; and

Whereas, the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) requires the government authority to pass legislation for application of a loan and the execution of an agreement as well as designating a dedicated repayment source.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Council for the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio that:

SECTION 1. The Village Manager is hereby authorized to apply for a WPCLF loan, sign all documents for and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority for planning, design and/or construction of wastewater facilities on behalf of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio.

SECTION 2. The dedicated source of repayment will be sewer operating fund #620-1322.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Signed: Gavin DeVore Leonard, President of Council

PASSED:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

Roll Call:

Gavin DeVore Leonard____ Angie Hsu____ Carmen Brown____
Senay Semere____ Stephanie Pearce____



The Village of **YELLOW SPRINGS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Village Council

FROM: Johnnie Burns, Village Manager & Elyse Giardullo, Assistant Village Manager

DATE: January 30, 2026

RE: Community Space @ Short Street – Evaluation of Options and Staff Recommendation

Village Council Members,

At the November 3, 2025 Council meeting, Council directed staff to return on February 2, 2026 with a presentation of two potential paths forward for the Community Space @ Short Street pilot:

1. Establishing a year-round, pedestrian-focused community space, or
2. Implementing a seasonal community space that opens and closes annually.

The purpose of this memo is to summarize the two options, outline the relative benefits and drawbacks of each, and clearly state staff's recommendation.

Year-Round Community Space

A year-round community space would permanently maintain Short Street as a pedestrian-focused area.

Based on pilot observations, this option provides the greatest level of consistency and safety. Maintaining a permanent configuration eliminates repeated changes to traffic patterns, removes Short Street as a school-zone bypass, and reduces opportunities for risky driving behavior during peak periods. A year-round space also offers predictability for residents, businesses, and visitors, while supporting everyday use and programmed activity throughout the year.

For businesses, year-round activation supports predictability, encourages "foot traffic and dwell time," and allows the Village to enhance design and amenities. Research shows that pedestrian-focused streets attract more visitors, increase downtown activity, and encourage people to shop, dine, and linger, strengthening downtown as a vibrant gathering place.

Importantly, a year-round configuration allows the Village to design the space intentionally as a destination rather than a temporary setup. Features such as permanent surface

treatments, integrated seating, lighting, landscaping, and accessible design elements are not feasible if the space must regularly revert to a vehicle street. Over time, this approach allows for higher-quality design, clearer purpose, and more efficient use of public resources.

Seasonal Community Space

A seasonal approach would open Short Street to pedestrians during peak months and return it to vehicle traffic during the off-season.

While this option has a lower initial cost, staff identified several significant concerns.

While some feedback has supported seasonal use as offering positives for those who oppose closure and those who favor a pedestrian area, opening and closing the street multiple times per year creates inconsistent and potentially confusing traffic patterns. This approach would also reintroduce Short Street as a vehicle bypass during the school year, reinstating identified safety risks.

Operationally, the seasonal model requires repeated installation, removal, enforcement, and public reorientation each year. From a design standpoint, the space must remain “street-ready,” limiting the Village’s ability to invest in features that improve comfort, accessibility, aesthetics, and long-term use.

For these reasons, staff do not recommend pursuing a seasonal community space.

Staff Recommendation

Based on pilot observations, community and business feedback, safety considerations, and design feasibility, staff recommend that Council authorize moving forward with a year-round community space at Short Street.

If Council is not prepared to proceed with a year-round configuration, staff recommends returning Short Street to full vehicle traffic. Staff does not recommend a seasonal approach due to the safety, circulation, and operational limitations outlined above.

Attached to this memo are the presentation materials that staff will use to further walk Council through pilot outcomes, community input, and design considerations at the February 2, 2026 Council meeting.

Village of Yellow Springs

Community Space @ Short Street



Learning from the Pilot & Paths Forward



PRESENTATION CONTENTS



- **What was piloted**
- **What we learned**
- **How public feedback and real-time use shaped design thinking**
- **Options and considerations moving forward**
- **Staff recommendation**

From Street to Community Space

Tested a Community Space

- Short Street closed to vehicles, open for pedestrians
- Served as a downtown gathering spot
- Low-cost pilot to observe use and operations

Why Short Street? Central and Visible

- Heart of downtown, next to businesses and daily activity
- Ideal for testing a people-focused space

Not a New Idea

- Short Street enhancements discussed since the 1970s
- Pilot launched in 2025 after feedback from community members and businesses expressed a need for restroom availability at south end of business district



Not a New Idea

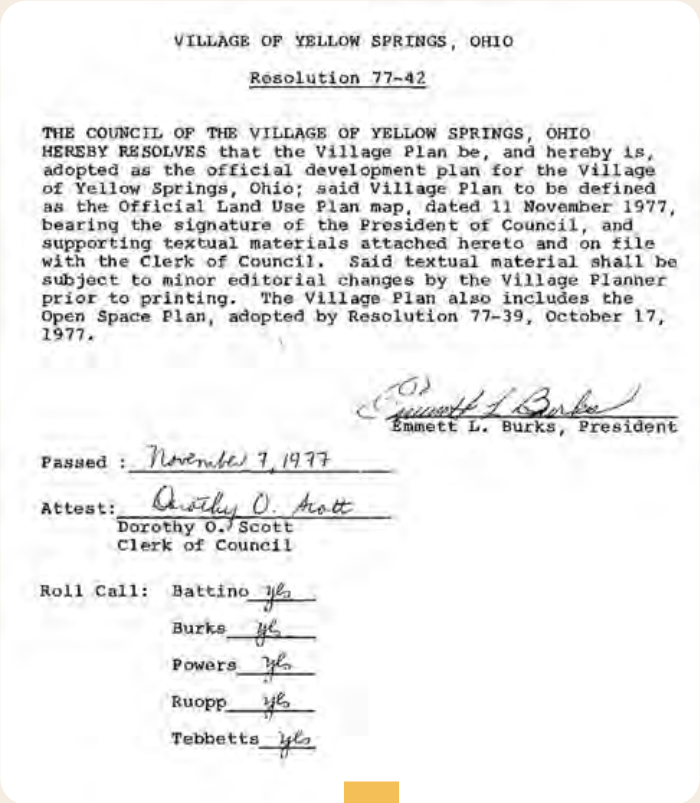
From the 1977 Village Open Space Plan

Discussed as a Downtown Gathering Space Since the 1970s

- Early plans highlighted social interaction and safer streets

2019 Plan Reaffirms Pedestrian Potential

- Active Transportation Plan identifies improvements to make it more people-focused



Short Street is planned for closure to two-way traffic, and for development as a one-way street west. With this modification would come development of a downtown social interaction area. As much Short Street parking as could be preserved, would be, after addressing the primary goals of one-way conversion and downtown "park" creation.

From the 2019 Active Transportation Plan

YELLOW SPRINGS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS					
Map ID	Location	Recommendation	Description	Priority	Possible Funding Sources
L-14	Trail from Enon Road to Allen Street	New Trail	This is a conceptual alignment for a trail between these two locations should this land ever become part of Yellow Springs and be developed. The Village should preserve a corridor to develop this trail if the opportunity presents itself.	3	GSCP (OPWC) CMAQ & TA (MVRPC)
L-15	Xenia Avenue from Allen Street to Kahoe Lane	Sidewalk Reconstruction	South of Allen Street, the sidewalk on the northbound side of Xenia Avenue is narrow and in disrepair. These conditions make it difficult to access Dollar General and other stores on this corridor and for residents in southern Yellow Springs to access more central amenities, especially if they use scooters or wheelchairs.	3	TA (MVRPC)
L-16	Allen Street from Xenia Avenue to LMST	New Shared Use Path	This shared use path in the westbound direction on Allen Street would better connect people across the lower portion of the Village. The shared use path would feed into the pedestrian/bicycle connection through new development (L-14) and to the education campus along L-5.	3	CMAQ & TA (MVRPC)
L-21	Short Street from Walnut Street to Xenia Avenue	Shared Street	Open Short Street to people by prohibiting cars other than delivery vehicles. Program the space with tables and chairs and consider other placemaking features. Bicycle parking, especially dimensioned for bicycles with trailers or cargo bikes, should be provided. This space also provides a connection for pedestrians and bicyclists from the path along Elm Street (L-18) to the commercial core. Closing this street to cars would also improve the safety of arrival and dismissal at Mills Lawn School by changing local circulation patterns.	3	TA (MVRPC)
S-10	Dayton Street at King Street	Traffic Calming/Crossing Treatments	Add signage, a crosswalk, and curb extensions at this location to alert drivers that people will be crossing to access Bill Duncan Park and the Greene CATS flag stop.	3	TA (MVRPC)
S-12	Mills Lawn School Dropoff Area	Traffic Calming/Crossing Treatments	The existing crosswalk at Mills Lawn School should be converted to a raised crossing to reinforce pedestrian priority at this location.	3	TA (MVRPC)
S-13	Walnut Street at Limestone Street	Traffic Calming	Curb extensions should be used at the northwest and northeast corners to tighten this intersection to reduce crossing distance for pedestrians and slow turning vehicles. The yield condition for southbound road users on Walnut Street should also be converted to a stop condition, which should increase pedestrian confidence when crossing at this location.	3	TA (MVRPC)
S-16	Davis Street at Xenia Avenue	Traffic Calming/Crossing Treatments	Curb extensions and enhanced crosswalks across Xenia Avenue should be installed at this location to help develop the southern gateway to the commercial center of the Village.	-	TA (MVRPC)

Community Space in Action

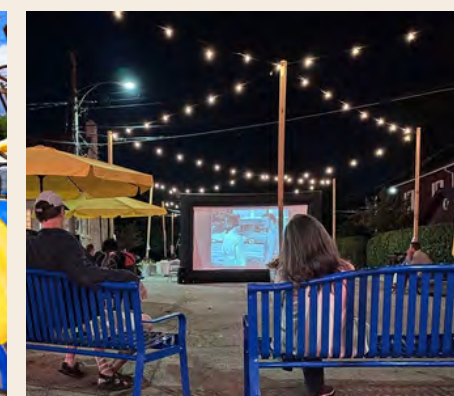
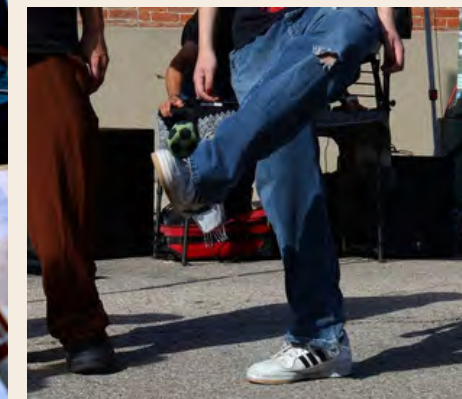
Like all of our parks, use was intermittent in the absence of dedicated event-scheduling

Organized Events:

- Hack Day by Yellow Springs Hackysack
- Holiday Toy Swap
- Little Art Marquee Unveiling Celebration
- New Year's Eve Ball Drop
- Spring & Fall Street Fairs
- Story Chain Book Drop
- Trick, Treat or Dance: Beggars Night Boogie by Lucky Bunny Tattoo Club
- YS Film Festival Twilight Zone Screening
- YS Labor Day Community Party: Battle of the DJs
- YSCF Summer Music Series
- YSPRIDE Festival

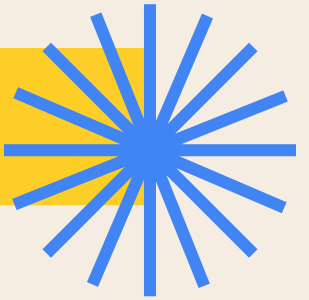
Spontaneous Uses:

- Dining with food from local restaurants
- Games & sports (e.g., hacky sack)
- Live music performances
- Relaxing, sitting, socializing



We Collected Community Feedback

Your voice is important!



Village Council Meetings

- Resident input during public comment

Direct Engagement

- Conversations at the JBC and Business Walk

Emails & Letters

- Messages to Council and staff

Phone Calls

- Input from residents via direct phone conversations

Official Village Survey

- 969 responses analyzed

Keep It Vibrant Survey

- 63 responses; Collaboration with YSCF, YSCOC, YSDC, VYS

YS News

- Submissions to the Community Forum

Social Media

- Unofficial feedback shared through local community groups

We Have Learned A Lot

Thank you for your feedback



Opportunities

- Improve communication & pilot clarity
- Recover 4 highly valuable parking spaces
- Increase pedestrian safety
- Improve unattractive pilot aesthetics
- Work more closely with businesses
- Explore alternative locations
- Establish clear funding plan
- Clarify potential business impacts

Successes

- Valued downtown gathering space
- Business support for potential economic activity
- Improved school pick-up/drop-off safety
- Reduced congestion
- Highlighted design and parking opportunities
- Increased downtown activity through local events
- Provided space for local art

TOP FOCUS AREAS

Through the pilot and community conversations, a wide range of input was shared. Four themes stood out, driving the most discussion and shaping our priorities.

1.

**Aesthetics
&
Design**



2.

**Business
Opportunities**



3.

**Parking
&
Accessibility**



4.

**Pedestrian Safety
&
Traffic Flow**



Let's Explore These 4 Areas →

1

AESTHETICS & DESIGN



Seasonal Community Space

Seasonal Community Space

6-Month Seasonal Community Space

- Active May–October during peak downtown use

~\$15,000 Annual Setup & Removal Cost

- Temporary installation and takedown each year

Add Retractable Bollards

- Install ~20 bollards (~\$50,000 total) to replace concrete barriers and manage access



Year-Round Community Space

*Live design walkthrough by
Max Crome, Architect & Yellow Springs community member,
Crome Architecture*

2

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



Engaging Businesses & Property Owners

Partnered with Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce on Stakeholder Feedback

- Chamber outreach and survey feedback complemented Village engagement and informed planning

Engaged Surrounding Property Owners and Tenants

- Village leadership met with property owners and tenants
- Feedback largely supportive a vibrant, community-focused downtown space

“

*Community Space @ Short Street offers the kind of flexible, people-centered infrastructure that modern communities need. It **supports local business by encouraging people to stay, gather, and engage** – all of which help build a thriving and vibrant downtown.”*

— Phillip O'Rourke,
Executive Director, YSCC

YSCCHAMBER

YELLOW SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

enterprising ideas + meaningful support

”

What We Heard from Businesses

- Space unattractive and needs improvement
- Process and communication were inadequate
- Most support some form of street closure
- Concept supported, but identity, programming, and potential uses need clarification
- Centrally located space seen as an economic opportunity
- Access and parking remain top priorities



Impact of Pedestrian-Focused Downtowns

Research shows **pedestrian-focused streets boost nearby businesses and community vitality**

More Foot Traffic

- Attracts more visitors, increasing downtown activity

Higher Local Spending

- Encourages people to shop, dine, and linger

Improved Property Value

- Enhances surroundings, supporting investment and local real estate

Sustained Economic Impact

- Walkable streets can increase shop entries and local spending by up to 40%



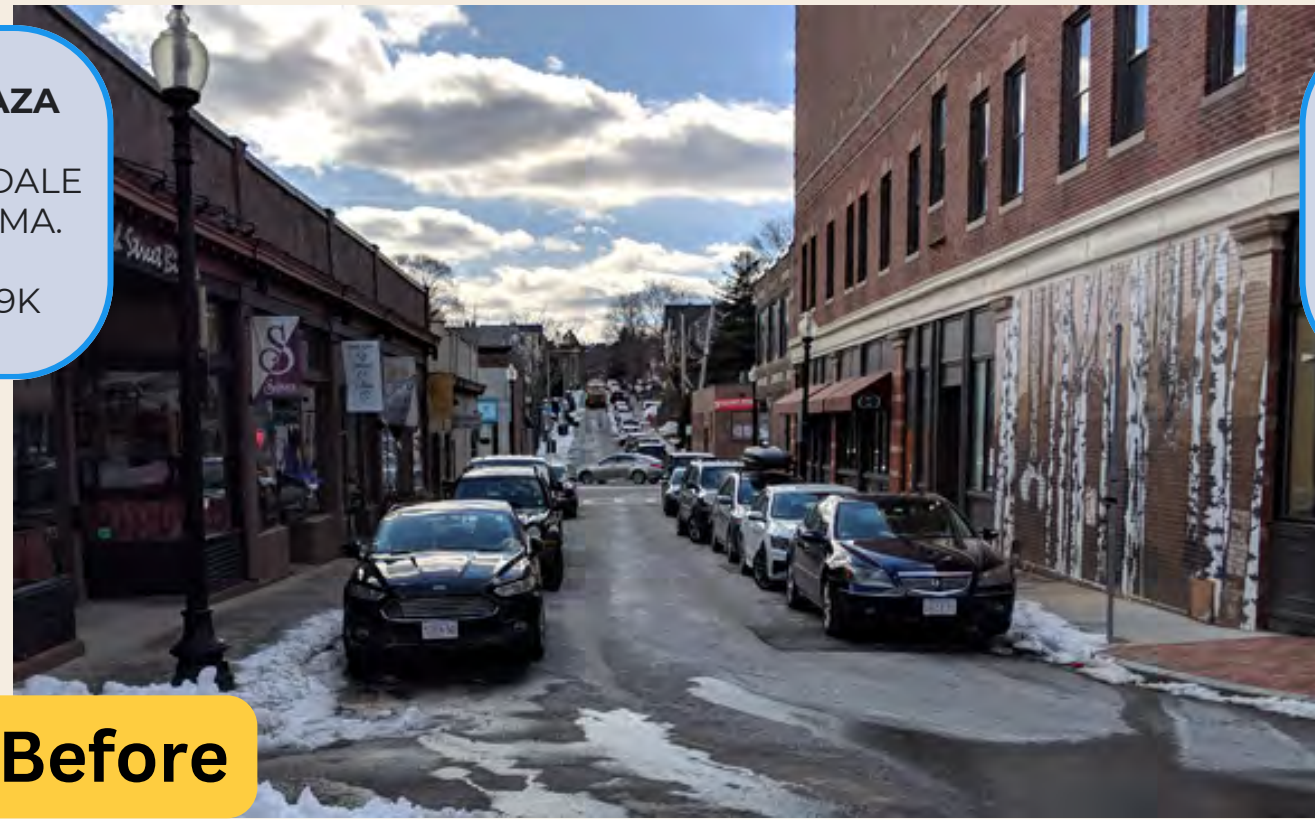
Sources: Michigan Association of Planning; America Walks

Two Case Studies

BIRCH STREET PLAZA

LOCATION: ROSLINDALE VILLAGE, BOSTON, MA.

POPULATION: ~ 29K



Before



After

Plaza pairs thoughtful **design with active programming** to increase community engagement and support local businesses.

CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE

LOCATION: BURLINGTON, VT.

POPULATION: ~ 45K



Before



After

A dedicated **commission oversees and programs** the public space.

Community Programming

Village support and community partnerships bring the space to life.

- **Village Parks & Rec** – manages event permitting & coordination
- **Community Partners** – Chamber, nonprofits, Community Foundation, community members
- **Collaboration** – community groups and partners energize the space



3

PARKING & ACCESSIBILITY



Parking & Community Access

Parking Is a Longstanding Downtown Constraint

- Downtown Yellow Springs has faced ongoing challenges with parking availability, including accessible spaces; pilot removed four valuable on-street spaces

Pilot Refocused Attention on Access

- Residents and business owners expressed concerns about access to businesses, overall availability of parking, and the need for accessible spaces

Next Steps Address Identified Parking Needs

- Upcoming slides show conceptual parking solutions; locations and quantities, including accessible spaces, will be refined through future design and engineering input



Parking Changes During Pilot Project

- **Overall Parking:** Net loss of 4 spaces (13 → 9)
- **Accessible Parking:** Net gain of 1 space (1 → 2)
- **Active Transportation:** Added bicycle parking

Before



After





Parking Improvements



35 With 8 Accessible — S Walnut St.



ADA requires 1 accessible space per 25 parking spaces

Discussed renderings with school leadership and Presbyterian Church



Additional Parking



71 With 8 Accessible — Elm St. & Phillips St.



8 with 2 Accessible — Corry at Beatty-Hughes



39 — Corry St.



DATE: 10/10/20
PROJECT NUMBER: 17020-01

Yellow Springs - Corry Street Parallel Parking Bike Drop Off Parking



Parallel Parking Concept



13
Parking
Zones

Parallel Parking Location Plan

4

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY & TRAFFIC FLOW



Safety Before & During Pilot

The pilot reduced traffic conflicts and high-risk driving, improving safety for pedestrians and the community

Before

- Short Street was frequently used as a vehicular cut-through
- Turning onto S. Walnut Street created conflict points with pedestrians and cyclists
- Commonly raised safety concerns included school drop-off periods, improper passing, and speeding
- Drivers were observed engaging in high-risk behaviors, such as improper passing, entering one-way traffic, and circumventing school drop-off congestion



During Pilot

- Observed a 100% reduction in a specific high-risk driving behavior directly attributed to the pilot
- Pedestrian-to-vehicle ratios improved, supporting a “safety in numbers” effect with slower, more attentive drivers
- Vehicle conflict points on S. Walnut Street were eliminated
- Removal of bypass access reduced cut-through traffic and high-risk driving behaviors in the school zone
- Some local traffic shifted to alternative routes

School Supports Change

- **Arrival and dismissal at Mills Lawn are safer and more manageable**
- **Reduced vehicle turning allows school staff to focus on student safety**
- **Pilot shows how traffic changes can improve predictability and reduce risk for students**

“

*Arrival and dismissal times at Mills Lawn are now **safer and more manageable for students, families, and staff**. The reduced vehicle turning has allowed school personnel to focus more closely on student safety rather than on directing traffic.*

— **Dr. Terri Holden, Superintendent,**
Yellow Springs Schools



”

Traffic Engineer Supports Change

Low Traffic Volumes

- Short Street functions as a low-volume roadway; closing it to vehicles is not expected to negatively impact surrounding streets

Fewer Conflict Points Improve Safety

- Removing the stop-controlled approach at Short Street and Xenia Avenue eliminates a potential conflict point, improving safety for vehicles and pedestrians

Traffic Conditions Do Not Warrant Further Study

- Given the low traffic volumes on Short Street, a formal traffic analysis would be unlikely to produce materially different conclusions regarding roadway operations

“

*Removing the stop-controlled approach from Short Street is anticipated to **improve vehicular and pedestrian safety along Xenia Avenue** by eliminating a potential conflict point at the intersection.*

— **Michael Goettemoeller,**
P.E., PTOE, Choice One Engineering

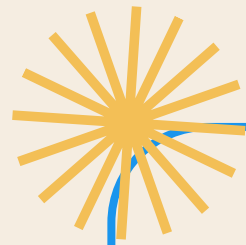


”

STAFF RECOMMENDATION



Staff Recommendation — A Year-Round Space



Pursue a year-round, pedestrian-centered community space on Short Street, shaped by community input

Enhances Safety

- Engineering and police observations indicate improved pedestrian and vehicle safety

Supports Local Businesses

- A consistent, people-focused space encourages foot traffic and longer visits, supporting downtown vitality year-round

Creates a Cultural & Social Hub

- Provides space for programming, performances, and daily interactions, strengthening community connection and vibrancy

Maximizes Design & Value

- Year-round use enables more features, thoughtful design, and long-term cost efficiency

ADVANCING THE COMMUNITY SPACE



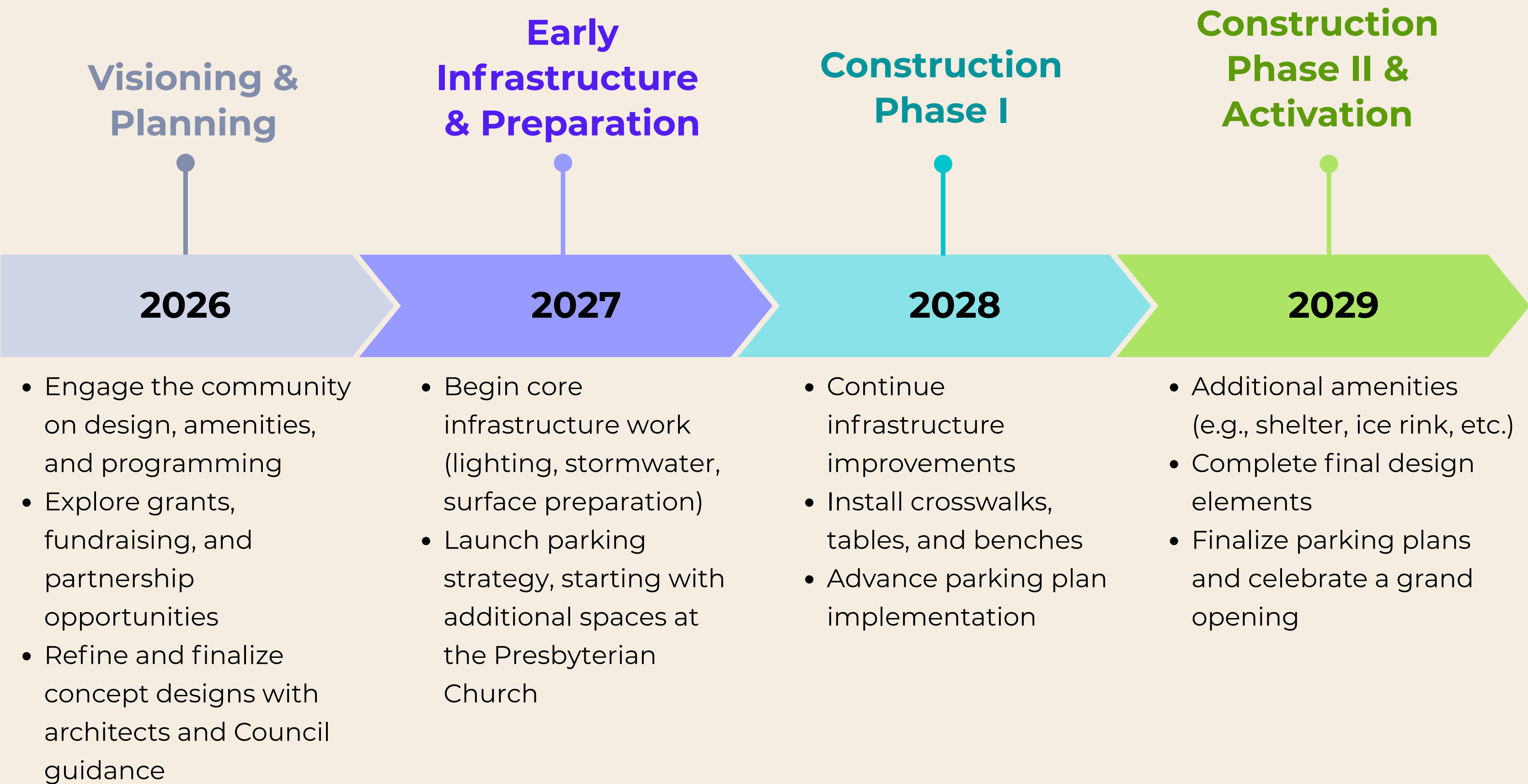
Interim Use: Improving the Space While We Build

Interim Enhancements During Construction

- Wind sails for shade
- Visual upgrades to barriers and cover for restrooms
- Street mural to active the space
- Landscaping and planters



Estimated Timeline & Phased Approach



Cost Estimates: Year-Round Community Space

- The following table shows rough budget estimates for the current design concept
- Estimates are preliminary and will be refined as design and community input progress

Item	Rough Budget Estimate
Flat Surface & Storm Work	~\$200,000
Electric Relocation	~\$40,000
Xenia Avenue Crosswalks	~\$60,000
Permanent Restrooms	~\$150,000
Shelter	~\$90,000
Seating & Tables	~\$30,000
Lighting Improvements	~\$35,000
Planter Bumpouts	~\$15,000
Greenery & Trees	~\$10,000
Contingency	~\$150,000
Total	~\$780,000

Proven Funding Sources

Successful community projects brought to life through public-private partnerships

Grant Programs

- State and County funding for placemaking, pedestrian safety, or downtown revitalization

Public-Private Partnerships

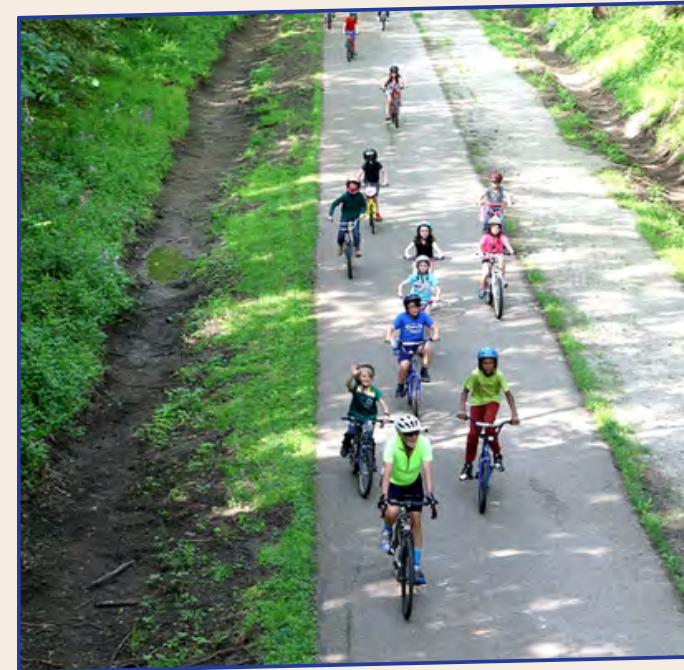
- Local businesses, nonprofits, and philanthropic support to fund amenities or programming

Community Contributions / Sponsorships

- Opportunities for residents or businesses to sponsor elements such as benches, lighting, or public art

Village Budget / Capital Improvement Plan

- Allocation through budgeting process





Questions

&

Discussion



APPENDIX



Pilot Investment Overview

- **Total investment to date:** \$18,802.77, covering materials, site preparation, and installation for the Short Street pilot
- **Durable, reusable assets:** Primary costs were tables, benches, and trash receptacles that can be redeployed for other Village projects or locations

Investment	Expense
Tables, Benches, and Trash Cans	\$15,170.67
Plants & Planting (Stoney Creek)	\$909.27
Umbrellas & Bases	\$604.00
Concrete for Temporary Lighting	\$594.00
Paint for Murals	\$543.02
Curb & ADA Parking Spot Painting	\$300.00
Boards for Murals	\$255.50
Painting Supplies	\$193.85
Signage	\$157.50
Straps for Tent	\$74.96
TOTAL	\$18,802.77

Estimated Parking Improvements & Costs

Location	Approx. Spaces	Accessible Spaces Included	Rough Budget Estimate
S. Walnut St.	~35	~8	~\$50,000
Elm St.	~38	~4	~\$120,000
Phillips St.	~33	~4	~\$120,000
Corry at Beatty-Hughes	~8	~2	~\$30,000
Corry St.	~39		~\$75,000
Total	~153	~18	~\$395,000

Accessibility Note:
With these additions, the Village would evaluate clearer, more visible signage for accessible parking across downtown



Parking on S Walnut St.



Pilot Timeline

- **June 2025:** Pilot launched during Summer Street Fair
- **October 2025:** Planned conclusion after Fall Street Fair
- **Pilot extended in October 2025**
- **November 2025:** Council requested staff return on February 2, 2026, with future options and cost estimates



Case Study: Birch Street Plaza

POPULATION: ~ 29K

LOCATION: ROSLINDALE
VILLAGE, BOSTON, MA.

What Happened

- One-block section of Birch Street transformed from a vehicle street into a permanent pedestrian plaza after a 2019 pop-up pilot.

Why It Worked

- With support from the City of Boston, local organizations, businesses, and residents, the pilot phase enabled testing and refinement before permanent changes.

Design & Features

- Pedestrian-only plaza with seating, landscaping, lighting, public art, and flexible space used by adjacent businesses for dining and programming.

Community & Economic Impact

- 63% of surveyed local business owners supported converting Birch Street from a vehicle street into a pedestrian plaza.
- Space has become a hub for local events and neighborhood activity.
- Mayor Walsh: “This project will make Roslindale Village even more vibrant, and we look forward to similarly transforming more street space at locations throughout our neighborhoods.”

Key Takeaway

- Pair physical design with active programming to drive community engagement and business benefits.



Case Study: Church Street Marketplace

POPULATION: ~ 45K

LOCATION: BURLINGTON, VT.

What Happened

- After experimental closures in the 1970s showed strong public support, Church Street was permanently transformed into a four-block pedestrian marketplace in 1981.

Why It Worked

- Managed as a business improvement district, aligning merchants and city leadership to maintain, program, and animate the space.

Design & Features

- Brick-paved pedestrian corridor with shops, restaurants, performers, festivals, and year-round programming.

Community & Economic Impact

- ~97% of storefronts in the pedestrian corridor are occupied by active businesses.
- Millions of visitors annually.
- Described as the “heart of our little city and a hub of commerce, activity, and community engagement.”

Key Takeaways

- A dedicated commission helps manage and program the public space.
- Mix of retail, dining, and events keeps the space vibrant.
- Central community spaces can sustain high occupancy and visitation.



References

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City of Boston. (2019, September 30). Birch Street Plaza in Roslindale to be permanently installed.

<https://www.boston.gov/news/birch-street-plaza-roslindale-be-permanently-installed>

City of Boston. (2025, October 22). Birch Street Plaza project page.

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/project/birch-street-plaza>

City of Boston. (2022, November 23). Roslindale Square business survey response report.

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Roslindale Village Main Streets. (n.d.). Our work. <https://www.roslindale.net/our-work>

Church Street Marketplace – Burlington, Vermont

Church Street Marketplace. (n.d.). History. <https://churchstmarketplace.com/history>

American Planning Association. (2008). Church Street Marketplace, Burlington, Vermont.

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Wikipedia contributors. (n.d.). Church Street Marketplace. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Street_Marketplace

Vermont.com. (n.d.). Church Street Marketplace. <https://vermont.com/activities/church-street-marketplace/>

Impact of Pedestrian-Focused Downtowns

https://americawalks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/9_19_19-AW-Economic-Fact-Sheet_final-1.pdf

<https://www.miplace.org/4a72d9/globalassets/documents/rrc/rrc-library/map-tear-sheets/quick-sheet---value-of-open-space-in-town-centers.pdf>

**COUNCIL COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES,
BOARDS and TASK FORCES**

Updated: January 2026

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>	<u>MEETING DATE/TIME/PLACE</u>
<u>Planning Commission</u>	Five Years	2nd Tuesdays at 6:00P.M. Council Chambers
Stephen Green	05/19/25	
Susan Stiles	04/20/26	
Gary Zaremsky	02/22/27	
Scott Osterholm	01/18/28	
Chad Runyon (Alternate)	09/17/28	
Anthony Salmonson (Alternate)	11/18/28	
Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council Liaison		
Carmen Brown, Council Alternate		
<u>Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	Five Years	Scheduled as Needed by VYS Planner
Anthony Salmonson	07/15/29	
Scott Osterholm	07/15/29	
Dino Pallotta	08/23/29	
Matt Reed	04/17/28	
Matt Raska	06/08/26	
Chad Runyon (Alternate)	09/17/29	
<u>Environmental Commission</u>	Three Years	Second Thursdays at 6pm Council Chambers
Johanna Schultz-Herman	09/07/25	
Lexi Kip	09/16/28	
Ruth Hoff	11/04/28	
Carmen Brown, Council Liaison		
Angie Hsu , Council Alternate		
<u>Public Arts and Culture Commission</u>	Three Years	First Tuesdays at 6:30 Council Chambers
Phoenix Fyre	02/06/27	
Kay Koeninger	02/21/27	
Kellye Pinkleton	09/16/28	
Kelly Carpe	09/03/28	
Carmen Brown, Council Liaison		
Stephanie Pearce , Council Alternate		

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>	<u>MEETING DATE/TIME/PLACE</u>
<u>Board of Tax Appeals</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>Scheduled as Needed by Admin.</u>

Library Commission**Three Years****Second Tuesdays in ~~Feb~~Jan.;
~~June~~May; ~~Aug~~July.; ~~Dec~~Nov.
@5:30pm at Library**

Tracy Phillips, Y.S. Library N/A
Karl Colon, Dir. GCPL N/A
YSLA - Bette Kelley N/A
Richard Zopf 05/04/25
Dorothy Smith 05/04/25
~~Angie Hsu~~, Council Liaison
~~Senay Semere~~, Council Alternate

Housing Committee**On Hiatus****Finance Committee****~~TBD~~Fourth Thursdays at 9:30**

Johnnie Burns
Michelle Robinson
Judy Kintner
~~Senay Semere~~, Council
Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council

Yellow Springs Development Corporation**Non-Government**

Senay Semere, Council Representative
Carmen Brown, Council Representative

Active Transportation Advisory Committee**Ongoing as Needed
Second Tuesdays at 8:30am
Non-Government**

Gary Zaremsky, Planning Commission Liaison
~~Stephanie Pearce~~, Council Liaison
~~OPEN, Council Alternate~~

Municipal Broadband/Fiber Task Force**Ongoing as Needed****Utility Dispute Resolution Board****Five/Three Years****As Needed Per Council Clerk**

Gary Zaremsky 03/16/26
Dino Pallotta 11/18/28

Village Mediation Council Liaison: Carmen Brown;

Greene County Regional Planning: Council Liaison: ~~Kevin Stokes~~~~Carmen Brown~~; ~~Brian Housh~~~~Senay Semere~~, Alternate

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission: Liaison: ~~Brian Housh~~~~Senay Semere~~; ~~Carmen Brown~~~~Kevin Stokes~~, Alternate

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
RESOLUTION 2026-08
ADOPTING VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS ANNUAL GOALS FOR 2026-2027**

Whereas, Village Council adopts goals to guide decision making and resource allocation for the Village, and

Whereas, Village Council has publicly collaborated as to the aspirations, needs and vision for the community, and

Whereas, Village Council has and will continue to seek input from Village staff and the community in goal setting for 2026-27,

**NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:**

Section 1. Council has affirmed the following values as the basis for their 2026-27 Goals:

Value 1: Deepen decision-making processes with ~~active~~ citizen participation and effective representative governance.

Value 2: Be a model employer actively working to ~~attract and retain a diverse workforce and provide excellent achieve diversity in hiring and employee retention and a provider of services services~~ within a responsible and sustainable fiscal framework.

Value 3: Create a welcoming community of opportunity for all persons regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, economic status, mental/physical ability or religious affiliation.

Value 4: Pursue a strong economy that provides diverse employment, creates a stable tax base and supports the values of the community, particularly affordability.

Value 5: Seek, in all decisions and actions, to reduce the community's carbon footprint, encourage sound ecological practices and provide careful, creative and cooperative stewardship of land resources.

Value 6: Intentionally promote anti-racism, inclusion, equity and accessibility through ~~Village all~~ policies, procedures and processes.

Section 2. The 2026-08-26 Village Goals as detailed in the attached Exhibit A are hereby approved.

~~Kevin Stokes~~, Council President

Passed:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL

~~Kevin Stokes_Y~~ _____ ~~Brian Housh_Absent~~ _____ ~~Gavin DeVore Leonard_Y~~ _____

| Ex. A Res. 202~~6-085-26~~

| ~~Carmen Brown_Y_____~~ ~~Trish Gustafson_Y_____~~

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2025 YELLOW SPRINGS VILLAGE GOALS

Community Engagement & Communications
Continue improved community communications re: Village activities, elevating website enhancements.
Financial Sustainability & Fiscal Responsibility
- Upgrade/make changes to VIP so that custom reports are fluid and easily available; conduct annual training with vendor. - Continue efforts to secure additional grant funding for infrastructure, housing, and public safety projects. - Explore options for cost-sharing agreements and partnerships to reduce financial burdens. - Conduct periodic internal financial audits to ensure fiscal responsibility and efficiency.
Municipal Infrastructure & Utility Development
- Create plan to resolve status and future of existing municipal broadband utility. - Develop long-term funding plan to continue focus on improvements in utility infrastructure. - Update the Village's Capital Improvement Plan to align with identified infrastructure needs and project priorities. - Review the Village's sidewalk policy to ensure it remains practical and effective. - Support the update of the Active Transportation plan to improve safe, equitable, and sustainable mobility in the Village.
Economic Development
- Collaborate with YSDC and other partners to execute actions highlighting that YS is open for business. - Strengthen partnerships with local businesses and organizations to promote sustainable economic growth and address any business concerns that are in Village staff purview. - Clarify role and responsibilities of YSDC vis a vis Village economic development, including expectations for intergovernmental communication (amongst taxing entities) for the purpose of long-term planning.
Housing Development
- Determine and implement a housing strategy that encourages and sponsors the development of affordable housing in the Village – based on a Council/staff agreed upon definition of affordable housing – through incentives and policies. - Establish clear policies and incentives for developers that align with Village values (refer to existing state law). Broaden decision-making by seeking external expertise and input on affordable housing options, consulting with professionals and experts outside the village to ensure a well-rounded and informed approach to policy and strategy development. - Continue strategic zoning improvements to support diverse housing options. - Advance the LIHTC project by securing funding, obtaining necessary approvals, and implementing the development plan, contingent on grant award.
Leadership & Professional Development
- Develop and run a thoughtful strategic planning process and complete a Council and staff supported plan (timeline and process agreed upon in 2025). - Complete a comprehensive wage study for all Village positions using appropriate comparables; use this information to prepare pay ranges for each position. - Create a clear process for Council-managed staff evaluation and contracts/pay, including check-ins during the year/between evaluations (including Solicitor). - Achieve clarity regarding Village staff salaries and benefits that impact Council-managed decisions (payrates, longevity, contracts, etc.). - Expand networking/relationship building, growing regional leadership role and opportunities.

29 January 2026

To: Council for the Village of Yellow Springs

From: CAPT Ralita Hildebrand, USN (Ret)

Subject: 2026 THOUGHTS, DISAPPOINTMENTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. First, I would like to welcome our new Village Council members. Thank you for your willingness to serve, and your willingness to put personal agendas aside in favor of the issues that matter to your constituents, the people residing in the Village of Yellow Springs.

2. Second, the last year of the Village Council was disappointing to me in a number of ways. Primarily, because I saw a lack of accountability and willingness of Village Council members to hold themselves to the same standards they require of Village staff members. These issues are addressed in the recommendations, below.

a. It's also extremely disappointing that the previous Village Councils have allowed the non-profit organization, Home, Inc., to use public funds as their own personal bank account. This is not a condemnation of the Home, Inc. organization, but it is a condemnation of the methods used to acquire PUBLIC FUNDS for Home, Inc. There are numerous examples of behind-the scenes discussions and communications between Village Council members and Home, Inc employees and board members, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars designated for ONE PARTICULAR NON PROFIT, Home, Inc., above all others. I was most recently disappointed by Mr. Gavin DeVore Leonard, then Council Vice President, who – at the December 1, 2025 Village Council meeting – decided to provide answers to my question regarding the portion of the budget that would be allocated to Home Inc., then closed comments, and promptly brought up a request for additional funding made by Ms. Emily Seibel, Executive Director of Home, Inc., ON A PHONE CALL. The request was not in writing, and it was not available to the entire Village Council or to the public for review prior to the budget vote. The discussion was discombobulated, which I believe was purposeful. Ultimately, the additional funds to Home, Inc. were approved with Mr. Kevin Stokes, Mr. Gavin DeVore Leonard, and Mr. Brian Housch voting for the increase. Not only was this increase completely without analysis or transparency, it was also unprofessional and subversive, in my opinion. My hope is that this Village Council will review requests for funding from Home, Inc. with a lens of public transparency and fairness, with requests being submitted in advance, in writing, and subject to scrutiny by Village staff, Council, and the public prior to Village Council meetings.

b. Although I did not attend the first two Village Council meetings of 2026 in person, I watched them real-time. Some observations of these meetings are also disappointing. First of all, I believe Ms. Carmen Brown should have been Village Council President. She has a demonstrated track record of coming to meetings prepared, and of being articulate and transparent with her thought process regarding Village issues. The fact that she wasn't even nominated for the position of President makes me think that NONE of the new Council members have paid attention to past meetings and decision making. Secondly, the meetings have been disorganized and it has appeared in both meetings that Mr. DeVore Leonard was not prepared for even the basics of running a meeting, despite being previous Vice President. Honestly, Sir, how much time would it take for you to call the Village Clerk and go over the agenda with notes on what you are supposed to say? It would make the meetings a lot more professional if you were prepared. Finally, a recommendation was made by Ms. Brown to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, and I support that recommendation wholeheartedly, and hope the Village Council moves to adopt this change post haste.

c. My charge to the new Village Council members is to show us how much you care about the Village by acting with integrity, listening to us, being transparent, and putting aside your own agendas and self-aggrandizement. I heard a lot of goals and ambitions during your campaigns, and that's all fine and good. However, your ACTIONS and the MANNER IN WHICH YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF are what is most important to me. We are a community that demands integrity in our state and federal elected officials, but we seem to be fine with "the ends justify the means" in our Village Council. Well, that's NOT OKAY WITH ME. I will expect you all to conduct yourselves with the highest ideals of professionalism, integrity, and courage as we navigate very turbulent times in our country, state, and Village.

3. Finally, I would like to reiterate a few recommendations that I have made throughout the past two years regarding accountability and transparency of the Village Council.

a. All Village staff members are required to take Cyber Security training, and to sign acknowledgements regarding cyber security, including the fact that public employees should not use government email accounts or computers to conduct personal business. To my knowledge, that is not the case for Village Council members, and I am flummoxed by that fact. PLEASE hold yourselves to the same standards that you hold Village employees, and complete the Cybersecurity Training and sign the acknowledgements that you will comply, or face censure.

b. All Village Council members are required to take Public Records Training, in accordance with ORC Section 109.43(B) and 149.43(E)(1). However, when the issue

surfaced last year of Village Council members using personal emails to conduct Village business (and, therefore, impeding the public records request process), I realized that Yellow Springs Village Council members DO NOT personally take the training. As is allowed by law, they designate the Council Clerk, Ms. Judy Kintner, to receive the training on their behalf and then pass along notes to each council member. Additionally, there is no acknowledgement signed by each Village Council member, stating that they have attended the training and will comply with the policy of not using personal emails to conduct public business, as well as other legal requirements. There are no ramifications for failing to comply with this policy. Again, I ask, WHY is this the case? PLEASE take the training and sign an acknowledgement that you will comply, or face censure. I see that you will be voting on “passing the buck” at the Feb 17th Village Council Meeting, and I highly encourage you to revisit this decision. (Proposed agenda item for February 17, 2026: Reading of Resolution 2026-XX Designating Judy Kintner as Village Council’s Designee to Receive Public Records Training on Behalf of Each of the Elected Officials Pursuant to and in Accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 109.43(B) and 149.43(E) (1))

5. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ralita Hildebrand, CAPT, USN (Ret)

716 S. High St

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

From: David Hergesheimer <davidhclay@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:06 PM
To: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council
Subject: Short Street

[You don't often get email from davidhclay@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Council Members-

I am a member of Yellow Springs Pottery in Kings Yard and a long- time Villager. I attended the James McKee meeting on the Short St. closure last week. My impression was by about 80-20 Villagers were in favor of reopening Short St. It was a short- term experiment that somehow dragged on to an indefinite closure.

Our pottery store customers never complain about parking. They often ask where to eat, complaining of long wait times and a dearth of restaurants. Short Street seems to be much more an issue of residents' inconvenience, forcing dangerous cutting thru Tom's parking lot, and awkward manoeuvring around downtown. The danger of handicapped persons parking and exiting on Rt. 68 is also a real concern.

Short St. can easily be closed for special events and Streetfair but it is not designed for pedestrian use. It is also essential for any future use of the old hardware store, the bank, and a number of downtown businesses, which continue to be the vital heart of our community. Please reopen Short Street as soon as possible.

Best regards, Dave Hergesheimer. YS Pottery

Sent from my iPad

Pottery^{Yellow Springs}



Kings Yard
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387
937 767 1666

Yellow Springs Village Council
100 Dayton Street
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

January 13, 2026

Dear Village Council:

As a downtown business owner, I urge you to reopen Short Street as soon as possible.

The goal to provide a community gathering space was not a good one in the first place. Short Street supports downtown businesses by providing convenient access to and from Xenia Ave. Short Street turns have a calming effect on thru-traffic on Rt. 68. Short Street provides convenient parking access to shopping, theater, and banking (30 min. and handicap.)

The goal of providing a community gathering space never happened. The walled off space, as you know, has been deserted. The visuals are terrible - no curb appeal, just forlorn, vacant space.

This poorly conceived pilot project has already cost the village \$18,000. Do not waste any more taxpayer money! Open Short Street and support Yellow Springs' downtown business district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evelyn LaMers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Evelyn LaMers

Dear Members of Council,

This is going to be a long one, so grab your coffee and your readers.

I want to begin by welcoming the newly elected council members and thanking you for stepping into these roles. I also wanted to take a moment to share some background on Fairfield Pike, particularly for those of you who may not have been on Council when many of these traffic concerns first arose.

Residents along Fairfield Pike have been raising concerns about speeding for years. This stretch of road is posted at 25 mph, but both from daily experience and from formal speed studies, it's clear that a significant number of drivers regularly exceed that limit, especially vehicles entering the village.

A few years ago, after repeated concerns from residents, a temporary speed bump was installed as a short-term measure. That temporary speed bump was eventually stolen. Following that, three permanent speed bumps were installed along Fairfield Pike approximately two years ago. While they weren't a perfect solution, they did make a noticeable difference for those of us who live here.

Yesterday, the most western of those three speed bumps — located just west of King Street heading west on Fairfield Pike — was removed. As I understand it, this was due to the speed bump crossing the jurisdictional boundary between Village and Greene County right-of-way. From what I understand, Stephanie Goff (county engineer) had multiple complaints. While I understand why it couldn't remain in place, the removal was upsetting for residents and represents an immediate change in conditions on Fairfield Pike. Many of us are concerned that without a clear next step, speeding and aggressive behavior will continue to increase.

It's also important to note that Fairfield Pike has always had a speed feedback sign and a village entrance sign on the approach into Yellow Springs. Those measures were in place long before the temporary or permanent speed bumps. While they help with awareness, speed study data collected near our home shows that a large number of drivers continue to exceed the posted 25 mph speed limit. Living here day in and day out, it's clear that signage alone has not been enough to meaningfully change driver behavior.

To provide some context for that data, the speed studies recorded tens of thousands of vehicles over multiple weeks in both directions of travel. A significant percentage of drivers were traveling above the speed limit, many by a wide margin. The 85th percentile speeds were well above 25 mph, and extreme speeds were recorded that go far beyond what anyone would consider safe for a residential area. This shows that the issue isn't just a handful of drivers, but a consistent pattern tied to how this road functions and how drivers perceive it as they enter the village.

In addition to the safety concerns related to speed, my family has also experienced ongoing harassment tied to this issue. Drivers regularly honk aggressively at our house, often late at night or very early in the morning. This has been happening for years and continues to this day. It's disruptive, unsettling, and honestly exhausting. What may seem minor to someone just passing through has become a constant quality-of-life issue for those of us who live here.

I also want to specifically ask for increased and visible police presence on Fairfield Pike, particularly during the times when speeding and aggressive driving are most common. Having officers periodically

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

From: Barbara Mann <bmann7856@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council
Subject: Fwd: Barbara, Boost Your Community with an AARP Challenge Grant!

You don't often get email from bmann7856@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Judy - Would you please forward this email to members of Council? I expect at least some of them know about this opportunity already, but it looks like something the Village should at least investigate. Thanks.

Barbara Mann
937-470-3726
116 W. South College St.
bmann7856@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: AARP Ohio <OHAARP@email.aarp.org>
Date: Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 6:02 AM
Subject: Barbara, Boost Your Community with an AARP Challenge Grant!
To: <bmann7856@gmail.com>



Community Challenge



Apply for a Community Challenge Grant for Your Community Organization by March 4

Applications are open for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grants to support projects that can help YOUR Ohio community become more age-friendly for all residents, especially those 50 and older. The program funds quick-action projects to make communities more livable and spark long-term change.

Applications are being accepted through **March 4, 2026 at 5 p.m.** for grants to improve public places, housing, transportation, digital connections and community resilience across three funding opportunities—Flagship Grants, Demonstration Grants and Capacity-Building Microgrants.

Since 2017, roughly 40% of Community Challenge projects have been awarded in rural communities—with a total investment of \$9.1 million! Grants fill several purposes in rural communities, including meeting small-scale capital needs, generating momentum and visibility, and attracting additional support.

You can attend the AARP Livable Communities' national webinar on **January 27 at**

2 p.m. [You can register here.](#)

Visit [online](#) to apply and explore past grantees to see how they've revitalized buildings, created vibrant public spaces, improved walkability, and more.

Learn More and Apply



Community Challenge

For updates on the Challenge, including when applications will open next, sign up for the Livable Communities e-Newsletter.

Sign Up >

Yellow Springs Village Council, Village Manager January 23, 26

The safety of our students and families is one of our school districts top priority. Providing staffing, adult volunteer supervision at street crossings, student crossing guards and the bike bus to school program, bike safety program, developing safe routes to school all shows the commitment to safety by our school district. Our village has also played an important part by providing a school resource officer, providing supervision during drop off and pick- ups, covering events as needed, involvement of the active transportation committee, applying for grants, signage, establishing safe routes to schools and addressing safety issues. As a long time resident of Yellow Springs and former teacher I spent several mornings and afternoons, observing the drop off and pick up at Mill Lawn elementary school the week of January 5, 2026 to better understand our school districts, Village, governments, police departments and families concerns for keeping Short street closed. I wanted to educate myself and develop clarity and understanding of their concerns. I wanted to share my observations with you in hopes we can improve the safety of this process for our students, families and community members in the future. Whatever ever happens with Short street we still have to deal with these issues and I know you will put this at the forefront of your agenda for the safety for our students and families. I hope you will address some of these issues and questions to reassure us of your commitment to safety.

Here are my observations:

It's Wednesday 7:40 am. I continue to do my observation at Walnut and Elm Street this morning. Eight out of ten or 80% of the drivers on Elm Street are rolling through the stop sign at Walnut Street. The crossing guards are on each side of Elm Street and at crossings. There are adult volunteers and staff monitoring. I'm noticing vehicles speeding on Walnut Street during school hours. Currently we have a speed limit of 20 miles an hour on Walnut Street which I think needs to be reduced to 15 miles an hour during school hours in the future. This morning our

police chief stopped a woman who was speeding near the school entrance crosswalk and gave her a warning. She apologized for being on the phone. I learned our police officers are only allowed to give citations if they're in their vehicle. I'm a supporter of having an officer at our Elementary School during morning drop off and pick up daily after my observations today. We need to be utilizing flashing speed limit signs during school drop off and pick up times, flashing crosswalk signs and crosswalks need to be repainted. A police officer's car was blocking the banks drive through for safety. Drivers are using it as their new short cut to get to Xenia Avenue since Short Street is closed.

I would ask the school district if they've had a traffic study done at the Elementary and High school recently or will this happen in the future? This certainly would be good information for signage and safety.

I know the Active Transportation Committee, Village government, Police department, staff, parents and our school district are working together on these issues. Our Village manager, Johnnie Burns is working on a grant for signage, finishing the multipath near the high school, finishing up the sidewalk on Phillips Street which is part of the safe routes to school and bike racks and bike shelters at our schools with our School District. I have to commend Johnnie Burns for really stepping up and make Yellow Springs more pedestrian friendly and safer for our communities and children. There is one more issue that I would like to address. I know I'm going to take flack for this and the kids get a lot of enjoyment from the therapy dog. I would like to see our Police Department use their therapy dog in some other capacity at the Elementary. I think the dog distracts from the officer doing his or her job which should be providing safety for our students and monitoring the streets in front of the school. I want to thank our police chief for explaining her concerns and observations on Walnut Street, Elm Street and Short Street. I appreciated the thoughtfulness and safety put into

the afternoon student pickup policy set up by our school district and staff. All these issues will have to be addressed if Short Street is open, closed, or open for events only. It sure has been an educational experience, but I'm looking forward to sleeping in tomorrow.

I did contact the Ohio Department of Transportation who confirmed it is our Village's responsibility to provide signage and a traffic study, if warranted. I would ask that a school traffic study be considered to address street flow, signage, crosswalk painting, staff's observations, cross walk locations, and pickup and drop off locations. I hope currently our School District will work with the Village government to make some temporary signage changes around our school streets prior to permanent signage being considered. I believe we need to know the decisions on Short Street and for the construction to be completed before final decisions can be made. Let's put the safety of our students first.

*Thank you
Yellow Springs Village resident
Misty Miller*