

Manager's Desk - Johnnie Burns

Kicking Off the Year: Yellow Springs Hosts GDMMA's January Meeting

On January 8, 2025, the Village of Yellow Springs had the honor of hosting the first meeting of the year for the Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association (GDMMA). The event was held at the Mills Park Hotel and featured presentations from key industry leaders, including speakers from Cresco Labs and CenterPoint Energy.

Mayor Pam gave welcoming remarks, setting a positive tone for the meeting and highlighting our community spirit. Joseph Chek, Facility Director for Yellow Springs, provided valuable insights into Cresco Labs' operations in the village, particularly in cannabis and medical marijuana. He shared that since the legalization of adult-use cannabis in August 2024, Cresco's staff has nearly doubled from 85 employees (when the operation was medical-only) to 145, marking a 71% increase in their workforce.

Walt Hibner, Director of Government Affairs, and Mike Wilson, Director of Operations for CenterPoint Energy, discussed their ongoing application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to recover costs associated with building a safer, more modern natural gas system for customers in their 16-county service area across West Central Ohio.

The meeting served as an excellent opportunity to highlight Yellow Springs' achievements and strengthen our relationships with neighboring municipalities. I would like to extend my gratitude to Jay Weiskircher, Executive Director of the Miami Valley Communications Council, for organizing the event. A special thank you to the Mills Park Hotel for being such gracious hosts, and to our Village staff for their contributions to making the evening a success. I'd like to particularly recognize Cameron Fortin, our Leadership Team Assistant, who created a fantastic Yellow Springs highlight reel that played in the background, showcasing the vibrancy of our community.

Winter Weather Response and Snow Removal Update

We began the year with a significant snowstorm, receiving 10-12 inches of snow. This winter event marked the debut for several new members of our Public Works team, some of whom had never encountered this level of snowfall before. Despite this, our crews have been diligently working to clear the snow, with a small bobcat and front-end loader used to tackle the downtown area.

Throughout the clean-up process, we experienced several equipment failures—four pieces of machinery broke down—but our team was able to quickly address and resolve each

issue. Additionally, we placed an order for 200 tons of salt to ensure we have sufficient supplies for the rest of the season. Our brine machine has also been set up and will be deployed as conditions allow, as it requires dry roads for effective application.

A special thanks to our Public Works crew, many of whom worked around the clock, ensuring our roads remain safe and passable for our community.

Mandatory All-Staff Safety Meetings: Building a Culture of Safety

This year, we've taken a significant step in reinforcing the importance of safety across all departments by implementing mandatory safety meetings for all staff. Previously, only our Public Works team participated in these monthly sessions with Kyle Weygandt, Director of Member Safety for AMP (American Public Power).

Our very first all-staff safety session took place on January 8th and was called "Not on my watch! Don't look the other way!" This session emphasized that safety is a shared responsibility—one that goes beyond just the Public Works team. It's about creating a culture where safety is a priority for everyone, in every department.

By making these meetings mandatory, we aim to empower all employees to actively participate in fostering a safe work environment. Together, we are working to ensure that safety isn't just a policy, but a core value that guides everything we do.

Public Works Facility Tours

As part of their integration into the Village team, new staff members have recently participated in tours of our public works facilities to gain a deeper understanding of the core services that are essential to our community. Cameron Fortin, Leadership Team Assistant, and Lynda Highlander, Accounting and Payroll Manager, have taken part in tours of key facilities such as the Water Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sutton Farm, the solar array, and our parks.

While Cameron and Lynda don't work directly within Public Works, these tours are an important opportunity for all staff to familiarize themselves with the critical infrastructure that supports the Village. Gaining insight into these operations helps strengthen collaboration across departments and ensures that everyone on the team understands the vital services we provide as a government entity.

Introducing Our New Dispatcher, Sarah Crosby

We are excited to introduce Sarah Crosby as the newest member of our Village team, serving as a Dispatcher with the Police Department. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome if you happen to see her around. We are thrilled to have Sarah on board!

A little about Sarah:

Sarah resides in Brookville with her boyfriend and their five beloved pets—two dogs and three cats. As passionate animal lovers, Sarah brings a personal connection to caring for all creatures great and small. With over 10 years of experience in police dispatching, she is dedicated to community service and thrives on helping others, whether it's during an emergency or simply answering a question. Sarah is an avid reader and enjoys relaxing with a hot cup of tea. She is eager to learn more about Yellow Springs and looks forward to connecting with the community in the coming months.

**Police - Paige Burge - Ongoing**

[Insert bi-weekly stats here (calls for service, etc.)]

Calls for Service: 12/12 - 12/26 652 (12/30 12:11PM) +174

Non-Emergency Calls to Dispatch: Can't access (12/30) -

9-1-1 Calls to Dispatch: 18 (12/30) +10

Noise Complaints: 1 (12/30) +1

Traffic Stops: 35 (12/30) +6

December 14 Officers participated in the Mill's Lawn PTO Winterfest setting up a build your own ornament booth for the youth in attendance

Community Outreach - Florence Randolph

[Insert bi-weekly stats here (calls for service, etc.)]

[Insert additional content here (Not required)]

Planning & Economic Development - Meg Leatherman

A Selection committee was formed to review four proposals received in response to the RFP issued for the E. Enon LIHTC affordable housing project. Woda Cooper Companies was selected. Several meetings with staff and Woda Cooper have been held to prepare for LIHTC application submittals. A Pre-application was submitted by Woda on January 3rd and the final application is due February 27th.

A new position was approved through the budget process -Planning & Economic Development Coordinator. This position was advertised, and the first round of interviews have been scheduled for January 21st.

The Planning Commission met January 15th and recommended approval of a Right-of-way Vacation application and discussed goals for 2025. and recommended approval of repealing the Gateway Overlay Zone. Further discussion of goals will occur at their February 11th meeting.

Attended YSDC January 7th, MVPRC Water & Environment Subcommittee on January 8th, and Economic Development Forum at Wright St. on January 16th.

Building & Zoning Permits - Chelsey Skinner

So far this year we've received:

3 zoning permits: 2 fence, 1 new construction (single family home)

1 building permit: new single family home in phase 2 of Spring Meadows

Finance - Michelle Robinson

It has been a busy first two weeks of 2025.

Lynda has been entering the 2025 wage increases and processing payroll. We have been working on verifying the 1099's before they are processed for the 2024 reporting year. Processing all the beginning of the year purchase orders.

Utilities - Elise Burns

- Thank you for your patience with the Rumpke trash delays due to the winter storms during the week of January 6-10.
- Water rates will increase 8% and Sewer will increase 5% in the next billing cycle. Please see Village Ordinance 1046.02 for more information.
- In December, we only had two applications for Utility Round Up. Don't forget that if you are at risk of disconnection, applications are due by noon on the 20th of each month and there are funds available to help!

Water Plant - Brad Ault

2024 Water Plant and Billing Totals				
Months	WTP Total MG	Billing Total MG	Water Loss MG	Water Loss Percentage
Jan	8.978	6.084	2.894	32.23%
Feb	8.492	5.786	2.706	31.87%
Mar	9.482	6.28	3.202	33.77%
Apr	9.071	6.19	2.881	31.76%
May	9.883	5.407	4.476	45.29%
Jun	10.204	7	3.204	31.40%
July	10.185	8.009	2.176	21.36%
Aug	10.566	6.267	4.299	40.69%
Sep	11.519	8.377	3.142	27.28%

Oct	9.820	6.963	2.857	29.09%
Nov	8.701	6.116	2.585	29.71%
Dec	9.022	6.583	2.439	27.03%
Total	115.923	79.062	36.861	31.80%

Completed

- Repaired chlorine leak on chlorine pump #3.
- Removed part of chlorine plumbing on pump #4.
- Changed SCADA alarm settings to call out every 30 min instead of every 5 min.
- Submitted ODNR water withdrawal report for 2024.

Ongoing

- Blew down softener and added sand to other one.
- Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring and sampling.

Upcoming

- Working with Dan Markle from MKD technologies to install a new alarm system not reliant on the SCADA computer to operate. This will ensure working alarms if the computer fails again.
- Purchased new peristaltic chlorine feed pumps. Once they arrive, we will install.

Wastewater Plant - Brad Ault

Completed

- Treated 11.75 million gallons in December.
- 4.49 inches of rain in December.
- Submitted 2024 SSO report and 2024 Sludge report.
- Used Vac truck to jet out grit pump line. Used sewer camera to view and find grit blockage.
- Removed grit pump blockage and returned tank to service.
- Complete yearly totals and averages of flow and lab test results.
- Completed weekly sampling for Covid-19.

Ongoing

- Continuing to run microscopic bug counts on MLSS. Microorganisms look good.
- Running daily samples of aeration to check operation/effectiveness of biological phosphorous removal. Adjusting treatment based off results.
- Conduct daily tests to determine plants detention time, treatment time and F/M ratio to monitor plant performance and operation.
- Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring and sampling.

Upcoming

- Remove grit blockage in NP water line.
- Complete yearly maintenance on mowing equipment.
- Complete yearly maintenance on chlorine equipment.

Water distribution - Ben Sparks

Completed

- Working on finding curb stops for meter change out
- Doing locates as they come in
- Water main break on Fairfield Pike
- Cleaned up barn and power washed floors
- Cleaned up trucks from water main break
- Assisted with snow removal
- Cleaned sidewalks in downtown area
- Helped with disposal of Christmas trees
- Changed two meters out
- All staff had AMP safety meeting

Ongoing

- Keeping up with locates
- Finding the rest of the curb stops for meter changeout
- Getting pressure reads twice a week for data input

Upcoming

- Valve exercising (springtime)
- Changing out fire hydrants
- GIS more of water system





Electric Distribution - Ben Sparks

Completed

- Working on service releases at Spring Way
- Working with ATT on pole changeouts on Dayton St.
- Installing underground wiring on Kenneth Hamilton Way for center circuit
- Had one outage on New Years Day. Due to tree falling on guy wire
- Completed first of two outages for High School
- All staff attended AMP safety training
- Completed metering at Mills Lawn
- Completed all metering at 314 Dayton (total of 3)

Ongoing

- Working with High School and Elementary on getting electric to mobile units
- Finishing up on Kenneth Hamilton Way URD
- Center circuit build out of switch station
 - Choice One engineering is working on Right of way
- Poly phase and Demand meters are being changed out
 - Should be done by end of March

Upcoming

- Outage for high school electric.
 - Had first outage on 1-13-2025
 - Next outage planned 1-18-2025
- Build metering and energize electric for Elementary school
 - Metering done waiting on electric release
- Phase 2 of Spring Way in underway
- 314 Dayton St metering to complete
- Set new Three Phase pole at corner of Dayton and Kenneth Hamilton for new center circuit
- Keep working with ATT on new poles on Dayton St
 - (5 left)
- Start with pole inspections for 2025
 - PO in waiting for weather
- Keep working on PRP
- Service for Glen Helen on Corry St.
- Remove holiday lighting
 - Waiting on snow melt
- Installing reclosers at switch station
- Installing reclosers on main line
- Installing voltage regulators in switch station
- Installing new controls in the switch station
- Meeting with Anixter on getting Scada to new reclosers
 - Meeting 1-15-2025



Metering - Rose Pelzl

Completed

- Manual Water Reads for January
- Payment Plan Letters
- Lead Service Line – Status Unknown Letters

Ongoing

- Residential Electric Meter Change-outs
- Commercial/Demand Electric Meter Change-outs
- Replacing 5/8" and 1" water meters – water dept finding curb stops for inside change-outs
- EPA Service Line Inventory – Update Spreadsheet and send "Galvanized Requiring Replacement" letters
- GIS new water and electric meters
- Datalog potential water leaks

Upcoming

- Commercial Water Meter Change-out – acquire inventory
- Tantalus Conference in Indiana

Streets & Sewer Collection - Tanner Bussey

Completed

- Unclogged sanitary line at Pottery
- Two large snow events
- Removed snow piles from downtown sidewalks
- Cleaning/ organizing Quonset at Sutton Farm
- Applied 500 gallons of brine to road surface & municipal parking lots
- Applied 28 tons of salt to road surface
- Removed foosball table from Youth Center & installed new one
- Holiday tree pickup
- Inspected gym wall due to fractures in masonry
- Had 209 tons of salt delivered
- Installed new cutting edge on Kenworth plow
- Install new flags on Kenworth plow
- Repaired International dump

Ongoing

- Street sweeping
- Utility locates
- GIS information gathering of Spring Meadows
- Comprehensive park picnic table reclamation
- Painting/ board replacement of remaining ground mount benches at parks

- Empty trash/ litter pickup every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
- Problematic sanitary sewer checks every Friday

Upcoming

- Guardrail repairs at:
 - Xenia Ave./St. Rt. 343
 - Grinnell Rd.
 - Dayton St. near Xenia Ave. intersection
- ADA ramp install on Edgefield Dr. (6 total)

Parks & Youth Center - Samantha Stewart

Average 17 youth per day, 10 dinners per night with some being provided by The Beloved Community Project and Who's Hungry

Current Cuisine provided breakfast sandwiches and other treats when school was cancelled due to weather

Completed

- Cold weather means a hot cocoa bar with generous donations from The Beloved Community Project
- Our new multi activity play table was put together and already being used



Ongoing

- Bi-weekly tutoring with GCPL 3:30-5pm Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Winter craft Wednesdays take place from 5:30-7:30pm for ages 10 & up



Digital Media - Ben Guenther

CivicPlus users: 452 (+34)

Facebook followers: 5,507 (+74)

YouTube subscribers: 727 (+1)

Completed

- extensive community messaging re: inclement winter weather
- photographed Greater Dayton Mayors & Managers Association meeting; ran A/V
- posted Lawson Place lottery information on website and social media
- submitted preliminary proposal for Glass Farm development

Ongoing

- finalizing Winter newsletter
- continuing weekly Public Works Updates
- establishing 2025 goals and project list
- Website updates are currently on hold due to uncertainty about the new ADA requirements that all government sites must adhere to in the next couple of years. We are working to figure out what these mean for us and how these specifications might impact our plans for redesign. Once we hear back from Amy Blankenship re: what these requirements are, and confirm with CORE (our current webhost) what elements might already be in place, we will have a better idea of how and when we'll be able to move forward.

Upcoming

- beginning layout for Spring newsletter
- upgrading Digital Media equipment for upcoming projects
- producing video highlighting Florence Randolph

COVER PHOTO OPTIONS:

