



YSPD Officers serving donuts and connecting with Yellow Springs students at Donut Day.

Photograph by Ben Guenther

Manager's Report

Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

April 7, 2025

Village of Yellow Springs

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American Public Power Association - Feature on the Village's Public Power Utility

The recent feature on the American Public Power Association website highlighted several key achievements of the Village of Yellow Springs' public power utility. The story emphasized our nearly 100 years of locally owned electric service and the significant improvements made in recent years. It pointed out the efforts we've made to modernize the system, including replacing over 250 utility poles, earning a Diamond-level Reliable Public Power Provider designation, and completing a two-year project to upgrade all customers to advanced metering infrastructure. The story also showcased our strong safety record, with zero lost-time incidents over the past seven years, thanks to a commitment to staff training and safety measures. Additionally, the feature highlighted the vital role our 100% renewable power plays in reducing our carbon footprint and how our community-driven utility fosters close relationships with residents.

At the bottom of the article, there is a link to a YouTube video from the Yellow Springs Historical Society on the history of the Antioch Power Plant. I encourage everyone to give it a watch — it's truly a fascinating piece of local history!



New Managers Luncheon

I recently hosted a luncheon to bring together new managers from surrounding communities for an afternoon of networking and idea-sharing. The goal was to create an opportunity for these managers to connect, exchange insights, seek guidance, and explore collaborative opportunities. Managers from Huber Heights, Vandalia, Oakwood, Tipp City, and West Alexandria attended, along with Jesse Lightle and Mark Schwieterman from the Shared Resource Center. A special thank you to Current Cuisine for providing the delicious, boxed lunches that contributed to a great event.

Annual Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce Awards Meeting

The Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards meeting on April 25. As I was on vacation that week, I asked Elyse Giardullo, Project Lead, and Aaron Arellano, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator, to represent us at the event. The evening included a look back at 2024, the State of the Chamber address, and the presentation of the 2025 Stars of the Springs Awards. A special thank you to Phillip O'Rourke, Chamber Director, for hosting the event and sharing the exciting plans for the future.

Recognition of Efforts – Water Meter Changeout Team

I want to recognize Adam Williamson and Lucas Valley for their continued hard work on the water meter changeout project. Over the past five weeks, they've replaced over 100 meters and are now down to fewer than 60 remaining. These have been some of the more challenging meters to replace, and Adam and Lucas have handled the task with persistence and determination. They've also managed the added responsibility of scheduling appointments with customers and working in less-than-ideal conditions. Their dedication to getting the job done is much appreciated. Thank you both for your efforts!

Greene County Public Health - District Advisory Council Meeting

On March 18, I attended the Greene County Public Health District Advisory Council meeting, where they presented their 2024 Annual Report. A few notable highlights from the report include the fact that in 2024, Greene County experienced 1,641 births and 1,644 deaths, a near match. The leading causes of death were heart disease, cancer, and strokes. While the number of deaths attributed to heart disease decreased compared to 2023, deaths from cancer and strokes both saw an increase.

Lawson Place Apartments - Lottery for Units 5 & 6

The Village owns and operates Lawson Place Apartments, and recently, two newly renovated upstairs units (Units 5 & 6) became available through a lottery. The names have been drawn, and we are currently working through the pre-application and application process with the selected tenants.



Posting for the lottery which is now closed.

Parking Collections

To date, the Village has collected \$987.44 in parking donations since the beginning of the program.

2025 HSIP Systemic Safety Application with ODOT

I was recently informed by ODOT that the Village of Yellow Springs' safety application for a sidewalk on Yellow Springs-Fairfield Rd has been submitted to ODOT's Safety Program for review. Applications will be reviewed throughout April, with funding awards expected to be announced in June.

2025 Spring Clean Up: May 5-9

The Village of Yellow Springs is excited to host the annual Rumpke Spring Clean Up, taking place Monday through Friday, starting May 5, 2025. During Spring Clean-up week, household items, both large and small, placed at the curb with regular trash pick-up will be removed by Rumpke.

Residents are responsible for properly packaging and placing their items at the curb to ensure they are collected. Please note that scattered debris will not be picked up. For a full list of Rumpke's bulk item guidelines, please visit the Village's website.

Volunteer with YS Tree Committee

The YS Tree Committee is organizing several landscaping events in the coming weeks and is seeking volunteers for tasks like weeding, mulching, and pruning at AX Park, the Lloyd Kennedy Arboretum, Ellis Park Bird Sanctuary, and along the bike path. Tools will be provided, but volunteers should bring gloves, sturdy footwear, and eye protection. Here are upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- **Saturday, April 12: AX Park (9:00 am - 11:30 am)**
Weeding, mulching, and deer fencing repair.
RSVP: yunusbrevik@gmail.com
- **Before May 1: Bike Path Weeding**
Preparing the path for mulching and protecting trees.
RSVP: mblevins24@gmail.com
- **Thursday, May 1: Bike Path Mulching (6:30 pm - ~1.5 hrs)**
RSVP: mblevins24@gmail.com
- **Saturday, May 10: Lloyd Kennedy Arboretum and Ellis Park Bird Sanctuary (9:00 am - 11:30 am)**
Weeding, mulching, pruning.
RSVP: ajfrabotta@gmail.com

5th Annual Earth Day & Community Habitat Celebration

The 5th Annual Earth Day & Community Habitat Celebration will take place on Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at a new location: the lawn at W.N. College & Livermore Streets in Yellow Springs. This event will feature a variety of activities, including native plant sales, eco-friendly booths, and a "Milkweed for Monarchs" raffle. There will also be kids' activities, a clothing swap, household battery recycling, live music, and a food truck, offering something for everyone to enjoy. It's a great opportunity to celebrate sustainability and connect with the community.

Earth Day Banners

Unfortunately, damage occurred to the Earth Day banner before we were able to remove it. We are currently assessing the extent of the damage and hope to have both banners up soon.

Police Update: 3/13/25 - 4/2/25

Calls for Service	687
9-1-1 Calls	4
Non-emergency Calls	449
Noise Complaints	3
Traffic Stops	51

The Yellow Springs Police Department recently participated in the "Bike Bus" event for Mills Lawn Elementary School, assisting with traffic control in high-traffic areas to ensure a safe and smooth ride for students. We plan to continue supporting this event throughout the year as availability allows. Additionally, the department is preparing for several upcoming summer events aimed at engaging with the community and local youth, reinforcing our commitment to public safety and positive community relationships.

Additionally, we'd like to update the community on the severe weather we experienced this past week. Due to updates from the National Weather Service indicating severe weather and tornado warnings, our police dispatcher activated the tornado sirens out of an abundance of caution on March 30th and April 2nd. The National Weather Service issues warnings notifications through HyperReach, based on specific pinpointed weather paths they monitor, and these warnings are activated accordingly by their staff.

Stay tuned for more details on our upcoming events, and as always, we encourage everyone to stay informed and prepared for weather alerts.

Community Outreach Officer Update: 2/12/25 - 2/27/25

Bus Tokens	14
Case Follow-Ups	7
COS Referrals	11
Food Vouchers	71
Homeless / Housing	2
Mental Health Needs	1
Rent Assistance	1
Utility Assistance	7
Welfare Check	2

YS or Township Residents Served	102
Visitors or Non-Residents Served	12
Homeless or At-Large Served	2
TOTAL SERVED	116

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC)

Climate Action Plan – MVRPC is leading a Regional coalition of jurisdictions and partner agencies to develop a first-of-its-kind Regional Climate Pollution Reduction plan for the Dayton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Funding for this work is from a US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant awarded in the summer of 2023. The CPRG program provides \$1 million to support a four-year project to inventory greenhouse gas emissions, set regional goals for emissions reductions, evaluate and select projects and programs to meet regional goals, and measure community benefits from reduced pollution. It is also an opportunity to plan for workforce development needs related to the clean energy economy in the Miami Valley. Through this effort, Staff is working with MVRPC to identify climate goals specific to Yellow Springs that will be reflected in this plan. Staff attended a 2nd meeting with MVRPC consultants on April 4th.

Technical Advisory Committee – Aaron Arellano attended the Regional Technical Advisory Committee on March 20th. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th.

BusinessFirst! Regional Economic Development Organization

Aaron represented Yellow Springs at the monthly BusinessFirst! Outreach Specialist meeting held on March 27, 2025, at Sinclair Community College's National UAS Certification Center in Dayton.

The meeting featured a panel discussion on the impact of robotics and automation in manufacturing, with expert insights from Roger D. Christian, Divisional Leader of New Business Development at Yaskawa America's Motoman Robotics division, along with Sinclair Community College representatives Adam Rain, Program Coordinator for Electronics, Robotics, and IST, and Michael Freed, Manufacturing Specialist for Workforce Development.

During the member updates portion of the meeting, Aaron outlined Yellow Springs' plans for potential BusinessFirst! collaboration, including organizing a business walk for downtown establishments, developing a comprehensive CRM system for tracking local businesses, and expanding networking opportunities throughout the region. The official vote for Yellow Springs to join the BusinessFirst! initiative is scheduled for the upcoming May 22nd meeting. This partnership would connect Yellow Springs businesses with regional resources and development opportunities available through the BusinessFirst! network.

Planning Commission (PC)

At their March 11th regularly scheduled meeting, the Planning Commission outlined goals for 2025:

- Complete ADU Guide (add hyperlinking, add inspections)-led by Staff
- Zoning Code Clean-up, including refining PUD Chapter-led by Staff
- Review of Food Truck Guidelines – led by Scott Osterholm and Gary Zaremsky
- Review of TGL Guidelines – led by Stephen Green and Gary Zaremsky

The topic of Keith's Alley (trash collection, pedestrian flow, and safety) will first be evaluated by Public Works and Choice One. Growth and Inclusionary Zoning were moved to the Council for discussion at their upcoming Goal setting meeting, with the agreement that if there is not enough time for the Council to address these two items they will come back to the PC for consideration.

PC members, Susan Stiles and Gary Zaremsky attended a tour of Windsor developments in Dayton on March 19, 2025, this included viewing the Deneau building (40 W 4th St) which is still under construction but includes renovation of a historic mid-century skyscraper from office space to apartments. The Huffman (100 Huffman Ave) and Elk (104 E. 3rd St.) building are other properties that have been converted to apartments by Windsor Companies and are fully operational. Windsor Companies is interested in re-developing properties on Antioch's campus and will move forward with two separate PUD applications: 1-Kettering building and 2-Old Student Union building. These applications are scheduled for their May 13th meeting.

Yellow Springs Development Corporation (YSDC) Update

The Yellow Springs Development Corporation (YSDC) held their monthly Board meeting on April 1st, 2025, where new board president Will Foster introduced a comprehensive strategic vision aimed at bolstering local economic development. During the meeting, Foster presented six key goals that YSDC members will refine and submit comments for before being finalized at the next board meeting on May 6th. These draft initiatives include strengthening more than 50 local businesses by 2026, mobilizing experts to provide over 500 hours of in-kind support, launching a digital resource hub with 500+ curated tools, hosting an innovation & entrepreneurship conference, launching a pitch competition with 10+ entrepreneurs, and organizing a strategic kickoff event in May. Comments on the initiatives are due before April 15th and are to be sent to Meg Leatherman.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Representatives from Dayton Photonics and Seer Consulting attended as guest speakers, outlining potential partnerships and support opportunities for YSDC's upcoming initiatives. As well as Lisa Crum from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) who is an available free resource for businesses in Yellow Springs. Foster emphasized core values that will guide his leadership, including transparent communication, collaborative decision-making, and developing sustainable systems for long-term growth in Yellow Springs' business community.

The board plans to implement a structured meeting format moving forward, with dedicated segments for financial updates, strategic discussions, local business development, emerging opportunities, and community feedback. The next YSDC meeting is scheduled for May 6th, 2025.

The Downtown Subcommittee Meeting on March 17th, 2025, convened members Aaron Arellano, Jeannamarie Cox, Allison Moody, Phillip O'Rourke, and Lisa Abel to brainstorm ideas aimed at revitalizing the downtown area. Discussion centered around launching a targeted marketing campaign, developing initiatives to boost business transactions, increasing foot traffic, and exploring other creative strategies to enhance the district's vibrancy and appeal.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) convened on April 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a variance request for a property located at 802 S. High Street. The applicant sought permission to construct a 5-foot fence, exceeding the standard 4-foot maximum height regulation.

After deliberation during the public hearing, the BZA approved the variance request with a 2-1 vote. The decision was based on the property's unique status as a corner lot, which technically has two front yards according to zoning regulations, creating special circumstances that warranted the exception. The approved variance will allow the property owner to proceed with installation of the 5-foot fence.

Permits

2 Zoning permits: 1 new construction (single family home), 2 fence.

10 Building permits: 5 electric, 2 HVAC, 1 single family home, 1 porch, 1 fire alarm.

Health Insurance Renewal

Working on finalizing our health insurance plans for 2025. Once it is approved by Council, we will be having McGohan Brabender out for an informational and enrollment meeting with all benefit eligible staff. Then, Cameron Fortin and I will be getting all the employee selections into the insurance system for a May 1st start date.

Ohio Deferred Compensation Program

Cameron Fortin is setting a date for our representative to come out for an informational meeting with all staff.

New Time Keeping System

We have been meeting over the past couple of months with EPNB Solutions to purchase a new timekeeping system for the Village. The group is comprised of myself, Elyse Giardullo, Chief Burge, Lynda Highlander, Ben Sparks, and Johnnie Burns. We have been looking to streamline the process for timekeeping, since several different departments each use a different way for timekeeping. Plus, the new timekeeping system will also be able to upload directly to our accounting system. This project will start on May 1, 2025 and should be fully functional within 12 weeks.

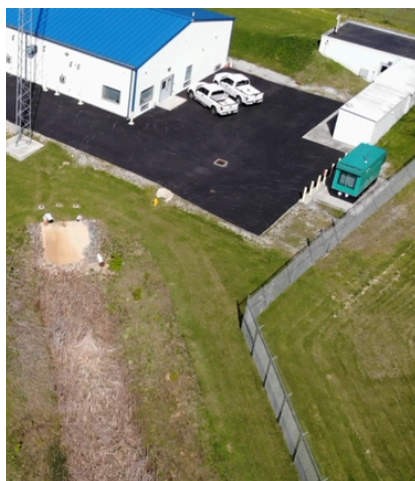
Utilities Department

Utility Update

- Spring Clean-Up will again be the first week of May: May 5-9th on your regular trash date. As always, anything upholstered and mattresses will need to be wrapped in plastic. More details will be posted on our website as the date approaches.
- Yard Waste pick up begins April 25th and is the last Friday of the month, running April through November.
- Customers MUST use Rumpke bags available for purchase at the Utility Office window or YS Hardware. The price of the bags includes the cost of the pick-up. These bags are biodegradable so please keep them under an awning or in a garage or shed if you begin cleaning early!

Water Plant Update

Completed	• Dan Markle finalized alarm programing. HMI screen installed and added some extra alarms. • Conducted monthly lab standardizations.
Ongoing	• Working with IWORQ's to add the water plant into our system. This will make it easier and more efficiently to track our annual O&M. • Dan Markle finalizing alarm programing. • Preparing 2024 water quality report (CCR). • Blew down softener and added sand to other one. • Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring and sampling.
Upcoming	• Working with OEPA to start the process of drilling new monitoring wells outlined in the Village source water protection plan. • Preparing 2024 Metrics data for OEPA due June 30.



Yellow Springs Water Treatment Plant

Water Plant and Billing Totals (2025)

MONTH	WTP TOTAL (MG)	BILLING TOTAL (MG)	WATER LOSS (MG)	WATER LOSS %
JAN	10.019	6.064	3.955	39.47%
FEB	9.027	6.185	2.842	31.48%
MAR	9.768	5.948	3.82	39.11
APR				
MAY				
JUN				
JUL				
AUG				
SEP				
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				
TOTAL	28.814	18.197	10.617	36.85%

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 20.311 million gallons in March. • 3.98 inches of rain in March. • Cleaned Effluent contact tank. • Maintenance of chlorine equipment. • Completed maintenance on blower #2 and changed air filters. • Chemicals delivered for the start of summer season. • Completed weekly sampling for Covid-19.
Ongoing	• Looking to replace ORP probes in aeration tanks. This will help us better monitor phosphorous treatment process. • Working with Iworqs to add the wastewater plant to our setup. We are able to track our maintenance digitally to make it easier and more efficient. • 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	• Setting up sludge press and hose. Will be running press in April. • Install and set up chlorine feed. • Install and set up thiosulfate feed.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• Keep up with locates. • Keep up with GIS. • Yard restoration at 1302 Shawnee Dr. from main break. • Yard restoration at 421 Fairfield Pike from main break. • Yearly maintenance on vehicles. • Clean shop and power wash floors. • Demo Bad Elf GIS unit with sales rep. • Haul topsoil from Mad River Mulch. • Continue changing out water meters.
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. • Changing out fire hydrants. • Use GIS to map more of the water system.



Recent yard restorations following water main breaks.

Electric Update

Completed	- Continued with the transfer of OVHD utilities on the recently installed AT&T poles along Dayton St. - Replaced a primary pole at 666 Omar Circle. - continued transfers on the Dayton St. AT&T poles. - Replaced the two, newest LED fixtures at the Iron Table gravel lot on E. Limestone with costumer-purchased Bluetooth compatible LED fixtures. - Called in a locate and made plans for replacing a riser pole on the Xylem property. - Repaired underground, secondary cable that had been hit and damaged by an excavator. - Installed a secondary pedestal and built a secondary URD riser for the electrical service at 611 Xenia Ave. - Installed a new messenger cable between the two banner poles at the north end of town and hung the Earth Day banner. - Worked on clearing brush, trees, and material from the property line at the switch station in anticipation of a new expanded fence.
Ongoing	- Center circuit build out of switch station. - Choice One engineering is working on Right of way. - Received and reviewing new drawings from Encompass. - Poly phase and Demand meters are being changed out. - Should be done by end of July.
Upcoming	- Phase 2 of Spring Way is underway. - Set new Three Phase pole at corner of Dayton and Kenneth Hamilton for new center circuit. - Keep working with AT&T on new poles on Dayton St - Keep working on PRP (pole replacement packets). - Installing reclosers at switch station and on main line. - Installing voltage regulators and new controls in switch station. - Security fence will be expanding fence at switch station to accommodate new regulators

ELECTRIC



Recent electric and metering projects.



Metering Update

Meter Replacements

If you haven't yet had your inside water meter changed out, you can expect the Water Dept to knock on your door and leave a notice to schedule a time to come change your meter at no cost to you. The Water Department will be turning off the outside "curb stop" valve and will quickly change out your inside meter.

Ongoing	• Daily checks of high reads and potential water leaks and datalog high usage and contact customer. • Example of leaks found: water softener running. • Residential Electric Meter Change-outs, 599 left to change-out • Commercial/Demand Electric Meter Change-outs, ticket with Tantalus for Demand reads not coming in correctly. • Ticket with Tantalus for read files not updating after 3/29 • Replacing 5/8" and 1" water meters – water dept changing about 5 meters a day. Updating work orders and billing records and decode values for decimal place. • EPA Service Line Inventory – Update Spreadsheet, send "Galvanized Requiring Replacement" letters and make inventory available to the public. • GIS new water and electric meters. • Inspect and install new water services in Spring Meadows neighborhood. • Commercial Water Meter Change-out – acquired inventory of five 2" meters.
Upcoming	• Tantalus Conference in Indiana, end of April.

Streets & Sewer Update

Completed	• Vac'd & jetted 3 catch basins. • Cleaned/ removed debris from all catch basins in town. • Cleaned downtown from storm debris. • Prepared baseball & softball diamonds. • Repaired gates to little league dugouts. • Rebuilt Gaunt Park stone wall. • Removed mildew & painted janitors closet at the Train Station. • Removed honeysuckle at JBC. • Painted outdoor drinking fountains. • Jetted sanitary on Iris in Spring Meadows. • Removed fallen tree on W. Whiteman island. • Replaced 3 street signs. • Repainted Gaunt & Ellis Park Signs. • Added gravel berm at Xenia/ Kahoe & W. Limestone/Phillips. • Performed soft surface restoration at JBC from water main break. • Moved Mayor's Office. • Installed mailbox & performed soft surface restoration at Lawson Place. • Installed new decorative signpost base at Corry/Dayton. • Began rehab of Ellis Park shelter houses.
Ongoing	• Street sweeping. • Utility locates. • GIS information gathering of Spring Meadows. • Empty trash/ litter pickup every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. • Problematic sanitary sewer checks every Friday.
Upcoming	• Install decorative signposts at Dayton/Corry (1 left). • Remove/replace 20' of sidewalk on Southview. • Pour concrete top on stone walls at Gaunt Park. • Asphalt restorations from utility cuts. • Begin mowing for the season.

STREETS & SEWER COLLECTION



Recent streets and parks projects.

Youth Center Update

Completed	• Average 18 youths per day. • 10 dinners per night with some being provided by The Beloved Community Project and Who's Hungry. • Book club is back with us reading the Hunger Games series. • Replenished our cupboards with after school snacks and drinks. • Upgraded the Gameroom computers. • Adjusted hours for Spring Break. • JBYC staff certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. • Planning our first field trip of the year, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical gardens.
Ongoing	• Bi-weekly tutoring with GCPL 3:30-5pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. • Craft Wednesdays take place from 5:30-7:30pm for ages 10 & up. • Thursday movie nights 5:30-8:30pm for ages 10 & up.



Having fun playing ping pong at the Youth Center.

Digital Media Update

Completed	• Covered Village Council Special Meeting on Monday, 3/31. • Covered Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Wednesday, 4/2. • Conducted interviews and took photographs for upcoming Spring newsletter. • Attended drone demonstration by Precision Laser & Instrument, Inc. • Attended various meetings for upcoming projects.
Ongoing	• Finalizing Spring newsletter. • Upgrading broadcast equipment in Council chambers. • Continuing weekly Public Works Updates.
Upcoming	• Obtaining FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate for drone operation. • Producing video highlighting Florence Randolph.

Digital Media Update

Media Stats

Since 3/17/2025

Facebook Followers

5,780

+47 Followers



CivicPlus Users

516

+5 Users



YouTube Subscribers

736

+0 Subscribers

