



Council Member Brian Housh enjoying Earth Day festivities.

Photograph by Bethany Gray.

Manager's Report

Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

May 5, 2025

Village of Yellow Springs

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Dayton Area Managers Association (DAMA) Meeting

On Friday, April 25, Project Lead Elyse Giardullo and I attended the Dayton Area Managers Association (DAMA) meeting, held in Kettering. The gathering included city and village managers, as well as assistant managers, from across the region.

The session focused on discussing the future direction of DAMA, including what members hope to see in future meetings, the content to be addressed, and areas for improvement. Elyse and I volunteered to assist with the networking component of future DAMA meetings, with the goal of fostering stronger professional connections among local government leaders.

2025 AMP Technical Services Conference

On April 29–30, I attended the AMP Technical Services Conference in Westerville, Ohio. This annual event is a valuable opportunity to expand technical knowledge, explore emerging technologies, network with AMP staff and fellow utility professionals, and exchange insights on current industry challenges and solutions.

The two-day conference covered a wide range of relevant topics, including satellite monitoring to enhance electric grid reliability, preventive maintenance using drone technology, substation relay panel upgrades, behavior-based safety practices, cybersecurity awareness and best practices for utilities, and managing large high-density load growth. The agenda also featured member-led project presentations and a Member Operations Forum to discuss operational trends and shared experiences.

As part of the program, Ben Sparks, Lane Dykman, and Alex Kraus delivered a 30-minute presentation on our recent trip to participate in the Light Up Navajo initiative, sharing highlights and takeaways from the experience with fellow attendees.

Ben Sparks Recognized as Certified Journeyman Lineman

Ben Sparks was part of the inaugural graduating class of the AMP Lineworker Apprenticeship Program and one of only 21 graduates. This program is certified by the U.S. Department of Labor, and successful completion marks a significant milestone in a lineworker's career. With this achievement, Ben is now officially recognized by the State of Ohio as a qualified journeyman lineman. His graduation reflects a strong commitment to professional development and enhances the capabilities of our electric department team.



Congratulations, Ben!



Vernay Update – Statement of Basis

The Village recently contacted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an update on the cleanup process at the Vernay Laboratories site. The EPA reported that on December 4, 2024, it requested additional information from the responsible party to support the development and review of the revised Statement of Basis.

The EPA received the requested information on February 14, 2025. Since then, the agency has been reviewing the submitted materials and simultaneously working to update the Statement of Basis. This process includes aligning the proposed actions with current federal administration priorities and re-evaluating site conditions to ensure they remain consistent with the recommended remediation plan.

5th Annual Earth Day & Community Habitat Celebration

On Sunday, April 27, Yellow Springs hosted its 5th Annual Earth Day and Community Habitat Celebration. This year's event saw a record turnout, with approximately 900 attendees (compared to about 400 last year). The celebration featured a wide range of activities, including native plant sales, educational booths on environmental topics, and a "Milkweed for Monarchs" raffle, where Mayor Pam's volunteers distributed free raffle tickets for more than 20 native milkweed plants.

New this year, the Mills Lawn School PTO hosted a free kids' clothing swap, which was well-received by families and contributed to the event's focus on sustainability. Additional features included a household battery recycling drop-off, children's activities, live music by The Corndrinkers, and food from local vendors such as Leerah's Vegan Treats, Salsa Brava, and Brother Bear's Coffee.



5th Annual Earth Day & Community Habitat Celebration activities.

Lineman Appreciation Day

Friday, April 18 marked National Lineman Appreciation Day. The Village recognizes the hard work and dedication of our Electric Department crew, who maintain essential services every day and respond promptly during storms and emergencies. Their commitment to safety and reliability is reflected in the AMP Diamond Awards the department has received for both safety and e-reliability. We extend our thanks to Ben Sparks, Lane Dykman, Alex Kraus, and Dewaine Blair for their continued service and professionalism in keeping the Village powered.



Village linemen Ben Sparks, Lane Dykman, Alex Kraus, and Dewaine Blair.

Bridey Jackson Concludes Internship with the Village

On Friday, May 2, Bridey Jackson concluded her internship with the Village of Yellow Springs. Over the past two months, Bridey has worked alongside Project Lead Elyse Giardullo, contributing to a wide range of initiatives. Her work included supporting the Spring 2025 edition of the Village Grapevine, researching and drafting an internal emergency response guide, and gaining firsthand insight into municipal operations through a tour of the Public Works facilities. She also deepened her understanding of records retention processes and day-to-day administrative functions.

Bridey graduates from Wright State University on Saturday, May 3, with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. We thank her for her meaningful contributions and wish her the very best in what promises to be a bright future in public service.



Congratulations, Bridey!

Police Update: 4/17/25 - 5/1/25

Calls for Service	731
9-1-1 Calls	30
Non-emergency Calls	591
Noise Complaints	5: (3) Gone on arrival/unfounded, (2) Advisement/Action taken
Traffic Stops	36

Recognition

Dispatcher Daysi Cusick (Youth Outreach Team Member and AM Dispatcher) received this year's *MHRB 2025 Greene County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Public Safety Telecommunicator (PST) of the Year*. Daysi was nominated by her supervisor Morgan Miller and will receive this coveted award on May 8. Upon receipt of the award additional details related to her nomination and why she was selected will be provided.



Dispatcher Daysi Cusick

Police Update: 4/17/25 - 5/1/25

Blue Envelop Program Launch

The Yellow Springs Police Department announced its participation in the nationwide Blue Envelope Program, aimed at improving communication and safety during interactions between law enforcement and individuals on the autism spectrum. This initiative was led by our Public Relations Team (Dispatcher Kierstin Armstrong & Officer Jeff Beam). Dispatcher Armstrong expressed interest in getting this program implemented in Yellow Springs since joining our department in July of 2024!

The Blue Envelope Program is a collaborative effort to create a more inclusive and understanding environment for drivers with autism spectrum disorder. The envelope contains important personal information on the front, helping officers quickly identify and understand the driver's needs. Inside the envelope, key driver documents and communication guidelines are included to help officers tailor their approach to the individual's needs. For more information or to request a blue envelope visit the Village website.

Cincinnati Zoo Trip

On April 18, members of the Yellow Springs Police Department's Youth Outreach Team (Officer A. Croasmun & Dispatcher D. Cusick) had the privilege of joining the Youth Center on an exciting trip to the Cincinnati Zoo. We're grateful to Sam Stewart and all the amazing kids for allowing us to tag along and share in such a fun and memorable day!



Officer Croasmun and youth at the zoo.

Community Outreach Officer Update: 4/16 - 4/30

Bus Tokens	6
Case Follow-Ups	4
COS Referrals	6
Food Vouchers	32
Gas Cards	2
Homeless / Housing	23
Mental Health Needs	6
Rent Assistance	2
Utility Assistance	5
Use of Phone	4
Welfare Check	12
Victim Advocate	10

YS or Township Residents Served	106
Visitors or Non-Residents Served	0
Homeless or At-Large Served	6
TOTAL SERVED	112

Dark Skies Talk

Aaron attended an engaging presentation on April 29th by Brad Kerry of Dark Sky Ohio, a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating light pollution across the state. Dark Sky Ohio, a 501(c)(3) volunteer-led nonprofit, brings together students, parents, government officials, and professionals with a shared mission: protecting the natural nighttime environment. The group advocates for responsible outdoor lighting practices that minimize light pollution, helping preserve the beauty of the night sky and support ecological and human health.

Kerry's talk highlighted the environmental and community benefits of thoughtful lighting design, such as energy efficiency, enhanced visibility, and reduced harm to wildlife. His message emphasized how local action can make a global impact. Working with Dark Sky Ohio presents a promising opportunity for Yellow Springs and surrounding communities to improve outdoor lighting infrastructure and take meaningful steps toward environmental stewardship.

Planning Commission (PC)

The Yellow Springs Planning Commission is set to review two Planned Unit Development (PUD) applications at its upcoming meeting on May 13th, both tied to redevelopment proposals by the Windsor Companies for properties located on Antioch College's campus.

The applications focus on two key structures: the former Kettering Building and the Old Student Union Building. Windsor Companies, a regional development firm, is pursuing separate PUD approvals for each project as part of a broader interest in revitalizing unutilized spaces on campus.

As part of the PUD process, neighbor notices were mailed out on April 21st to inform nearby residents and property owners of the pending applications and upcoming public hearing.

The May 13th Planning Commission meeting is expected to provide more detail on the proposed uses for the buildings and give the public an opportunity to comment on the redevelopment plans.

Greene County Annual Report to the Community

Meg Leatherman and Johnnie Burns attended the Annual Report to the Community Breakfast, which highlighted key accomplishments from 2024. During the event, the prestigious E.J. Nutter Award was presented to Gussie Jones in recognition of her extensive volunteer contributions across multiple community initiatives. Additionally, it was reported that Greene County construction valuations reached a total of \$475,581,206 for the year 2024, reflecting strong development activity across the region.

MVPRC Annual Spring Dinner

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVPRC) hosted the Annual Spring Dinner on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the Marriott at the University of Dayton. Meg Leatherman, Johnnie Burns and Council member Brian Housh attended the MVPRC annual spring dinner. This annual dinner is a celebration of the accomplishments of the Region. MVPRC's Chairperson and City of Riverside Council Member, Sara Lommatzsch, First Vice-Chairperson and City of Troy Mayor, Robin I. Oda, Second Vice-Chairperson and Greene County Commissioner, Richard Gould and Third Vice-Chairperson and Preble County Commissioner Rachael Vonderhaar along with MVPRC's Executive Director, Brian O. Martin, presided over the event which was attended by nearly 300 guests. During the dinner, the Arthur D. Haddad Regional Steward award was presented to Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge and the Regional Partner Award was presented to Mike Bowers from Darke County Economic Development.

The Arthur D. Haddad Regional Steward Award recognizes someone with an innovative spirit for solving regional challenges; who builds broad support toward a shared regional vision; and who is a regional steward promoting economic, social and environmental progress.

Judy Dodge, Montgomery County Commissioner, received this award for her commitment to improving the quality of life for everyone in the Region. Ms. Dodge serves on boards and commissions that further her commitment to the betterment of all including the Food Equity Coalition, Family & Children First Council (FCFC), and the Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation, MVPRC's Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the past 15 years and MVPRC's Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities.

Greene County Planning & Coordinating Committee

Meg and Aaron attended the Greene County Planning & Coordinating Committee GCPCC meeting on April 22, 2025. members discussed recent developments across the county, including new municipal participation and funding opportunities. The City of Xenia was welcomed as the newest member of the committee, joining ongoing efforts to coordinate regional planning. During the meeting, the committee approved two new subdivision proposals in Beavercreek Township, reflecting continued residential growth in the area.

The committee also reviewed available grant funding through the State's HTAP (Housing and Transportation Assistance Program). The overview included insights into how communities can apply for and leverage HTAP funds to support infrastructure, housing, and transportation initiatives.

MVRPC Climate Planning Seminar

On April 23rd, local community members Meg and Aaron attended a seminar featuring Brian Ross, AICP, Vice President for Renewable Energy at the Great Plains Institute. The event focused on strategies to encourage the expansion of solar energy while balancing other community development goals.

Mr. Ross offered expert guidance on how municipalities can effectively support solar growth, emphasizing the importance of creating by-right installation opportunities — zoning and permitting processes that make it easier for property owners to install solar systems without requiring special approvals.

Among the key programs discussed was SolSmart, a national designation program that recognizes cities for making it faster, easier, and more affordable to go solar. Springboro, Ohio, was noted as having achieved SolSmart Bronze status for its efforts. Other resources included Project Sunroof, a Google initiative that helps users assess solar potential for individual rooftops using satellite imagery.

Permits

Since last reported:

- **11 Zoning permits:** 3 single family homes, 4 fence, 2 sign, 1 ROW, 1 addition
- **15 Building permits:** 4 electric, 3 single family homes, 2 additions, 1 HVAC, 1 sign, 1 revision, 1 temp pole, 1 fire suppression, 1 extension

Health Insurance Renewal

The May health insurance renewal has finished, and employees should be receiving their new insurance cards.

New Time Keeping System

Lynda has started the process of working with EPNB Solutions providing our employee data to start the implementation process for the new timekeeping software.

Utility Software Training

CIVICA will be onsite on May 8th for a one-day training with the utility office employees. The office will be closed from 9am to 4pm that day.

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.
- Pool Fills: Any Villagers who are filling a pool may apply for a credit for sewer by contacting the utility office and giving 24 hours notice. They will then have 48 hours to fill up their pool before we take a second read.
- Summer Sewer/Gardening Program: Our Summer Sewer program sign-up is open. This is a program where homeowners (or renters with landlord permission) who garden may receive a sewer credit for extra water used for gardening and water plants. If you have registered at your current address at any time since May 2018, you do not need to re-register. There is a short form to fill out available online or at the Utility Office. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.
- Yard Waste pick up is the last Friday of the month, April through November. Customers MUST use Rumpke bags available for purchase at the Utility Office window. Yellow Springs Hardware is no longer carrying yard waste bags. 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	• Jeff H. and Kevin M. drained detention tanks and unclogged chlorine injectors. • Completed setup and training with Iworqs on adding water treatment to our program. We are able to track our maintenance digitally to make it easier and more efficient. • Jeff H. changed out malfunctioning asco valve on high service pump #1 check valve. Also changed out strainer and backflow valve.
Ongoing	• Repairing mechanical seal on caustic chemical pump #2. Jeff was able to take the pump apart and should be repairing the seal soon. • Finished 2024 water quality report (CCR) and posted it on website. A link will be on all monthly bills and notice in the YS News. Once all have been completed i will submit to OEPA. • 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. • Staff will be attending the Ohio Rural Water state conference in Dublin 5/5-5/7. Where we will be competing in water taste contest.

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	9.428	6.754	2.674	28.36%
MAY				
JUN				
JUL				
AUG				
SEP				
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				
TOTAL	38.242	24.951	13.291	34.75%

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 20.311 million gallons in March. • 3.98 inches of rain in March. • Completed setup and training with iWorQs on adding wastewater treatment to our program. We are able to track our maintenance digitally to make it easier and more efficient. • Completed upstream and downstream readings. • Put Chlorine and thiosulfate feeds online. • Ran sludge press for 3 days this week. • Used vac truck to clean grit out of grit tank and jetted grit pump line. Grit pump seems to be working correctly now. • Completed weekly sampling for COVID-19.
Ongoing	• Looking to replace ORP probes in aeration tanks. This will help us better monitor phosphorous treatment process. • Chris Davis out to repair effluent sampler. Have loaner sampler in place and operating until parts arrive for repair. • Cutting grass at plant. • Working with Dave Mathews for blower replacement plan and quote. • 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	• Trimming up trees around plant to complete mowing.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• Keep up with locates. • Keep up with GIS. • Continue meter changeout project. • Clean break room. • Power wash and clean shop floors. • Mow Sutton Farm. • Mow solar field and paths. • Vac. two holes for pole replacement. • Reset 5 curbstop boxes, backfill, seed and straw. • Cut in new curbstop on East Herman. • Check water loss at 1 Cedar Ct. • Check no water at 1496 Southgate.
Ongoing	• Keeping up with locates. • Finding the rest of the curb stops for meter changeout. • Installing the rest of the water meters.
Upcoming	• Valve exercising (Springtime). • Changing out fire hydrants. • GIS more of our water system.

Electric Update

Completed	• Dug out sub-mount pedestal and installed a new above ground pedestal along Dayton St. • Disconnected temp services, connected new UG services and installed new electric meters for several new homes at Spring Meadows. • Removed brush and trees and hauled off the debris in preparation for backyard work off of Brookside. • Hydro-excavated two holes for two new wood poles off of brookside; installed new 45'/III poles. • Installed cover up for near future work on those poles. • Installed a 35'/III secondary lift pole and transferred the secondary for two houses at 1324 & 1328 Shawnee Dr. • Removed the rotten/broken pole at the above addresses. • Troubleshoot and attempted to trace the issue with an outage connected to one of the reclosers along the bike path. • Continued with preparation for future switch yard expansion. • Removed old open wire secondary and installed two new service drops for two, newly rebuilt OVHD electrical services for 2nd floor apartments on Corry St. • Completed work at the cascades project including the pulling of primary and secondary cables, building the UG primary riser and installing the pad mount transformer. • Removed a portion of a large tree that had fallen onto an OVHD primary conductor along E. Enon Rd. • Reattached an OVHD residential electrical service and restored power to 707 S. High St.
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.

Electric Update**Upcoming**

- Set new Three Phase pole at corner of Dayton and Kenneth Hamilton for new center circuit.
 - To be scheduled.
- Keep working with AT&T on new poles on Dayton St
- Keep working on PRP (pole replacement packets).
- Planning out installation of new banner poles.
- Installing reclosers at switch station.
- Installing reclosers on main line.
- Installing voltage regulators in switch station.
 - Getting prices for concrete pads.
- Installing new controls in the switch station.
- Installing banner poles.
 - Have locations laid out and OUPS called in. Plans are for drilling next week and forming up.

ELECTRIC



Recent electric department projects.



Metering Update

Meter Replacements

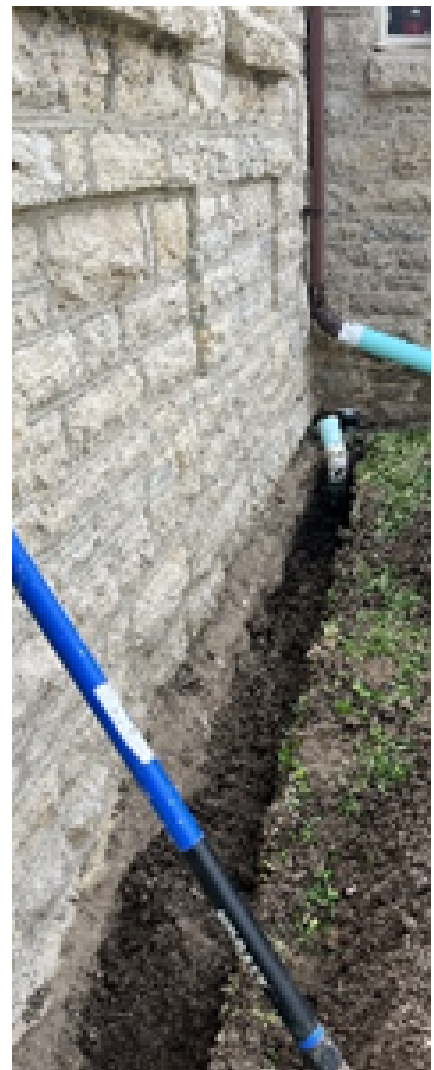
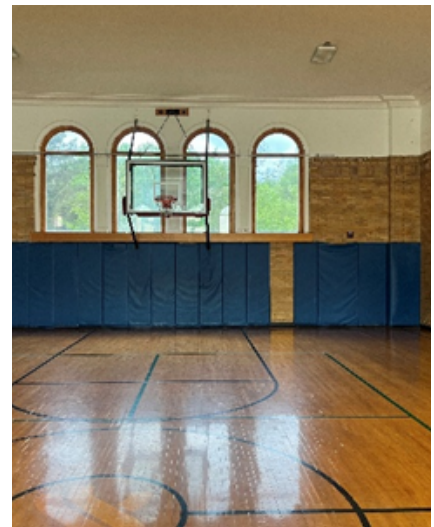
If you haven't yet had your inside water meter changed out, you can expect the Water Department to knock on your door and leave a notice to schedule a time to come change your meter at no cost to you. The Water Department will be turning off the outside "curb stop" valve and will quickly change out your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

Ongoing	• Daily checks of high reads and potential water leaks and datalog high usage and contact customer. • Potential High Water Use Causes: Toilets, Spigots, Water Softeners, Whole House Humidifiers, back-up sump pumps. • Residential Electric Meter Change-outs, 511 left to change-out • Commercial/Demand Electric Meter Change-outs, ticket with Tantalus for Demand reads not coming in correctly, meeting next week about it. • 7 Payment Plan reminder letters. • Replacing 5/8" and 1" water meters – Water Dept changing about 2 meters a day. Meter dept 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	• Meet with Tree Committee volunteers to GIS memorial trees. • Tantalus Conference in Indiana end of April.

Streets & Sewer Update

Completed	• Removed dead tree from Kieth's Alley parking lot. • Cleaned/ removed debris from all catch basins in town. • Mowed all municipal properties three times • Prepared baseball & softball diamonds. • Repaired loader braking system. • Installed new street sign at Green/W. Limestone. • Installed new street sign at S. Winter/Dayton. • Bush hogged Glass Farm. • Assessed 4 street trees. • Repaired broken window at JBC. • Soft surface restoration at Dayton/S. High. • Performed two driveway & sidewalk inspections at Spring Meadows. • Inspected sanitary line install at Cascades. • Removed split tree at Beatty-Hughes. • Installed digital sign at St. Rt. 235 for Rt. 70 detour. • Installed new drain to drinking fountain at Gaunt Park. • Delivered wood chips to bike path near Women's Park. • Repaired broken gutter drain line at 201 S. Walnut. • Removed old wall mats in gym.
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. • Asphalt restorations from utility cuts. • Onboarding of new employee.

STREETS & SEWER COLLECTION



Recent streets and parks projects.

Youth Center Update

Completed	• Average 20 youths per day. • 12 dinners per night with some being provided by The Beloved Community Project and Who's Hungry. • Visited the Cincinnati Zoo on 4/18 with Alex & Ariel Croasmun and Daisy Cusick from the Police Department, thank you! • Received a donation of Bentino's and hot dog buns from Florence Randolph • We have gone back to our Mount Olympus series of books for book club. • The Wellness Center allowed us to rent their pool for an in-person lifeguard certification course. We will be pulling 5 new guards from this class.
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.



Recent John Bryan Youth Center activities.

Digital Media Update

Completed	• Attended AMP safety training on Wednesday, 4/9. • Covered Village Council Special Meeting on Monday, 4/11. • Attended OH-KY-IN IPAWS Regional Training in Cincinnati on Wednesday, 4/16. • Upgraded A/V equipment in Council chambers. • Published Spring edition of the Village Grapevine newsletter. • Established production timeline for Summer edition of the Village Grapevine. • Discontinued use of CivicPlus notification platform. • Received performance evaluation from Johnnie Burns and Elyse Giardullo.
Ongoing	• Formulating story ideas for next edition of Village newsletter. • Continuing weekly Public Works Updates.
Upcoming	• Producing various internal and external videos.

Digital Media Update

Media Stats

Since 4/22/2025

Facebook Followers

5,885

+24 Followers



New Non-
Emergency
Alert System
**COMING
SOON!**

YouTube Subscribers

739

+3 Subscribers

