



Public works staff preparing to deliver flour and sugar throughout the village.

Photograph by Ben Guenther

Manager's Report

Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

December 1, 2025

Village of Yellow Springs

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Happy Thanksgiving to All

As we head into the holiday week, I want to extend warm wishes to everyone for a happy, restful, and meaningful Thanksgiving. The holidays offer a valuable moment to pause, reflect, and recognize the many things we have to be grateful for. I am especially thankful for our committed Village staff, the residents we serve, and the opportunity we have to live and work in a community as special as Yellow Springs. I hope each of you enjoys time with family, friends, and loved ones, and returns refreshed for the work ahead.

Honoring the Legacy of Wheeling Gaunt

On Monday morning, November 24, the Yellow Springs Public Works team once again helped carry forward the legacy of Wheeling Gaunt by delivering flour and sugar to widows and widowers in our community. This annual tradition, rooted in Mr. Gaunt's generosity and commitment to caring for his neighbors, remains a meaningful reminder of the values that define Yellow Springs.

Thank you to Tom's Market for helping facilitate this project, and to WYSO for covering the story and helping keep this important local history alive.

"Not what we have but what we share." – Wheeling Gaunt



Public works staff delivering goods to the Village's widows and widowers.

Honoring Black History in Downtown Yellow Springs

Recently, the 365 Project and Yellow Springs Public Works unveiled newly installed plaques in the Downtown Business District recognizing locations significant to the Black history of Yellow Springs. These markers provide residents and visitors with greater insight into the people, places, and stories that helped shape our community. The plaques are located at the intersections of Dayton Street & the Little Miami Scenic Trail, and Xenia Avenue & Corry Street.



Village staff and 360 Project members teamed up to install the new Black history plaques downtown.

Dayton Area Managers Association Meeting

On Friday, November 21, I, along with Elyse Giardullo, Assistant Village Manager, attended the Dayton Area Managers Association meeting, which was held this month in West Carrollton. The gathering included time to connect with fellow managers over lunch, followed by an update on the upcoming OCMA annual conference scheduled for February. We also look forward to attending the end-of-year meeting in December, which will bring together managers from Cincinnati and surrounding communities.

Quarterly Goals Update

The second quarterly update on staff's progress toward Council's goals is underway. With the Thanksgiving holiday and a shortened work week, this quick status report will be shared at the second Council meeting in December, providing a brief snapshot of where we currently stand.

Welcome New Team Members

We are excited to welcome several new team members to the Village, especially on the Public Works team. Please join us in welcoming:

- Darius Brown, Utility Service Worker
- Wesley McAfee, Water Distribution Utility Service Worker
- Mike Werling, Utility Service Worker

We're thrilled to have them on board and look forward to the skills and energy they bring to our team.



Left to right: Darius Brown, Wesley McAfee, Mike Werling.

Police Update: 11/13/25 - 11/23/25

Calls for Service	946
9-1-1 Calls	4
Non-emergency Calls	275
Noise Complaints	0
Traffic Stops	15
Business Checks & Community Policing	467(433/34)

Pack The Cruiser

YSPD Community Outreach Specialists hosted the second “Pack the Cruiser” community food drive at Mill’s Park Hotel on Wednesday, November 19. The community turned out and roughly ten donors made generous contributions. Thank you to both Community Outreach Specialist’s, the community and to our host for this event Mill’s Park Hotel!

Online Community Outreach Requests

The COSs have also published an online form for easier access to services. This form can be submitted by scanning the QR code above. For those unable to access the QR code, a physical copy of the form can be collected at the Police Department dispatch window or, those in need can request to speak to the COSs by calling the Department 937-767-7206 option 2 or stopping by anytime!



Open camera, point, tap link.

Community Outreach Officer Update: 11/13/25 - 11/24/25

Bus Tokens	5
Case Follow-Ups	23
COS Referrals	41
Food Vouchers	43
Gas Cards	3
Homeless / Housing	7
Mental Health Needs	30
Rent Assistance	3
Utility Assistance	23
Use of Phone	2
Welfare Check	17
Victim Advocate	27

YS or Township Residents Served	180
Visitors or Non-Residents Served	25
Homeless or At-Large Served	19
TOTAL SERVED	224

Active Transportation Committee

The Active Transportation Committee met on November 5, 2025, at the John Bryan Community Center. Discussion focused on finalizing the ODOT Active Transportation Planning Assistance Grant application due December 1, reviewing community survey results, and drafting a recommendation letter to the Planning Commission for the Spring Meadows Extension development to strengthen pedestrian and bike connectivity. The committee also discussed sidewalk compliance progress, upcoming Safe Routes to School grant coordination, and committee member transitions. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2025.

Safe Routes for All

A Safe Routes for All Plan is being developed to enhance transportation safety and accessibility across the region. Public open houses will be held on November 18 and 19, with an online survey available from November 17 through December 17 to gather community feedback. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for December 18, with a draft Safety Action Plan anticipated by December 2025.

YSDC

The YSDC discussed the potential purchase of 252–254 Xenia Avenue and the importance of preserving this location for the community. A postcard announcing the initiative and upcoming town hall meeting was mailed to all Village residents within the 45387 ZIP code at the end of last week. The community town hall was held on November 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Rooms A and B of the Bryan Center. The Board also discussed attendance and membership policies, noting the need to clarify these provisions in the YSDC bylaws. Additionally, Meg Leatherman announced that she will be stepping down as Executive Director of YSDC as she transitions out of her role as the Village's Planning and Economic Development Director.

Centerville Business Walk

Aaron assisted the City of Centerville with a business walk on November 20th. This event was a great opportunity to connect with local businesses, share available programs and services, and thank them for being an essential part of Centerville's community.

Permits

0 Zoning Permits: N/A

2 Building Permits: 1 garage, 1 commercial addition.

Congratulations, Kori!

Kori Whittaker will be moving over to the Police Department starting December 1st, we wish her all the best in her new endeavors. In the meantime, we will be transitioning back to 2 employees in the Utility office.

Utilities Department

Utility Round Up

Just a quick reminder to all Villagers with the upcoming holidays: If you'd like to make a donation to someone else's utility account, utility clerks are happy to help!

If you are a customer in need of assistance, Utility Round Up funding is available if you have not used the program in the last year. Please apply now if you are at risk of disconnection this month.

There is plenty of funding available, and it is a very easy application! Paper applications are available at the John Bryan Center, or you can use the form on the Village website and email it to utilitybilling@yellowsprings.gov.

Water Plant Update

Completed	• Congratulations to Operator Jeff Horn! Jeff recently passed his Water Treatment Operator Class 1 Certification test. Submitted application to receive OEPA certification. • Choice one out to locate new monitoring well for agreement with Glen Hellen. • Completed monthly lab standardization in Water lab.
Ongoing	• Visit the link below to view the 2024 Water Quality Report. To request a hard copy please call 767-7208. https://www.yellowsprings.gov/egov/documents/1744898163_02282.pdf • Blew down softener and add sand to the other one. • Mowing and weed trimming around the plant. • Working with Ben Sparks on water loss. Created a new spreadsheet taking into consideration the total amount of unbilled water. • Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring, and sampling.
Upcoming	• Acid washing softener #1 to remove buildup hardness scaling. • Video and cleaning of well #5. • OEPA lab analysis operator certification.

WATER 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	9.428	6.754	2.674	28.36%
MAY	10.33	6.145	4.185	40.51%
JUN	9.478	7.188	2.29	24.16%
JUL	9.772	6.623	3.149	32.22%
AUG	10.04	7.3	2.74	27.29%
SEP	11.171	8.486	2.685	24.04%
OCT	9.131	7.273	1.858	20.35%
NOV				
DEC				
TOTAL	98.164	67.966	30.198	30.76%

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 9.156 million gallons in October. • 5.94 inches of rain in October. • Congratulations to Operator Dale Fisher! Dale recently passed his Wastewater Treatment Operator Class 1 Certification test. Submitted application to receive OEPA certification. • Recently some spots in the driveway were repaired and patched. • Completed weekly sampling for Covid-19.
Ongoing	• Looking to replace ORP probes in aeration tanks. This will help us better monitor the phosphorous treatment process. • Cut grass and trimming weeds around the plant. • Waiting for quotes to repair seals on LS pump, Phosphorous supernatant pumps. • 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 on 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 the plant to complete mowing. • Completing yearly maintenance around WRF. • Completing prepping and painting of air header for aeration tank and digesters.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• Keep up with locates. • Continue GIS • Read AFLX sensors. • Met with lead detection and was able to find water leak • Finished up another hydrant on Xenia Ave. • Had new hydrant installed on Wright St. • Flour and sugar distribution.
Ongoing	• Keeping up with locates. • Finding the rest of the curb stops for meter changeout. • Installing the rest of the water meters (approximately 23). • Reading the ALFX sensors every two weeks. • Paint fire hydrants. Averaging 2-3 per week. • Scheduling and installing new large water meters.
Upcoming	• Valve exercising (Springtime). ◦ This is on hold at this time • GIS more of our water system. ◦ Crew is GISing all assets street by street making maps more accurate • Painting fire hydrants all over Village.

Electric Update

Completed	• Started putting up holiday lighting. • Set new pole at Herman and High St. • 4 service releases. • Finished up on Poly Phase meters.
Ongoing	• Tree trimming continues on the South side of Village. ◦ Should be done by next week. ◦ Village inspection coming soon. • Center circuit build out of switch station. ◦ Installed new padmount to feed reclosers. ◦ We received the bypass switches. ◦ Ready to start underground. ▪ Just ordered conduit • Poly phase and Demand meters are being changed. ◦ Polyphase complete. ◦ Less than 30 small meters left.
Upcoming	• Keep working on PRP (pole replacement packets). • 312 West Whiteman service work. • Finishing up holiday lighting. • Install reclosers at the switch station. ◦ Crews now have materials at switch station. ◦ We are starting this on 10-31-2025. • Installing voltage regulators in switch station. ◦ Trying to do this all in house to save money.

Metering Update

Water Meter Replacement Update

- 26 meters have not been upgraded.
- 6 meters with bad valves (all inside, one village owned).
- 15 inside water meter customers have been unresponsive and made no contact to schedule their meter changeout.

Ongoing	• Finish changing out FM2S electric meters – GIS Unknown Types and order any meters we’re missing. • GIS service lines – Unknown and Galvanized maps • Add remotes to the large water meters that have wires. • Water Reads – both manual and electronic • Daily checks of high reads and potential water leaks and data log high usage and contact customer • Potential High Water Use Causes: Toilets, Spigots left on, Water Softeners, Whole House Humidifiers, back-up sump pumps, service line leaks. • Working with Mapped Out to update and streamline Water Meter - Service Line Inventory map. • Working with Morgan Saunders from Arcadis to have clarification on next steps and meeting all EPA requirements for the service line inventory. • EPA Service Line Inventory – send “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” letters by end of December • GIS new water and electric meters • Inspect and install new water services in Spring Meadows neighborhood. • Commercial Water Meter Change-out – inventory acquired, will schedule and create work orders for Water Dept to do changeouts.
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Streets & Sewer Update

Completed	• Installed new curb and sidewalk on Glen St., also painted curb. • Began onboarding of new employee, Michael Werling. • Removed ROW tree on W. Whiteman. • Jetted 330' of sanitary line on Park Place. • Cleaned/ organized shop (tools, materials & equipment. • Installed hardscape at Yellow Springs Community Pottery. • Removed 2 dead deer. • Fabricated two new teeth for 2' bucket on track hoe. • Delivered Glycol for the boiler system upgrade. • Cut & split wood for Halloween. • Delivered wood to 8 Halloween bon fire locations. • Repaired wipers on wheel loader. • Repaired hydraulics on jackhammer attachment for track hoe. • Repaired golf cart electrical issue. • Continued ROW trimming. • Poured concrete/installed plaques for The 365 Project. • Repaired large crack in sidewalk at Xenia & Corry. • Root controlled nearly 2,000 ft of sanitary sewer lines on the east side of Xenia Ave. • Tore out/ repoured 90 ft of sidewalk in 200 block of W. South College St.
Ongoing	• Street sweeping, Utility locates, GIS information. • Empty trash/litter pickup every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday • Problematic sanitary sewer checks every Friday • Empty trashcans/ cleanup Short Street.
Upcoming	• Install fence around softball dugouts • Prepare equipment for winter • Remove pool pump for assessment • Rework Corry Street Community Gardens & install deer fence • Unveiling of "The 365 Project" plaque columns

STREETS & SEWER COLLECTION

Streets & Sewer Update



Various Street Department projects around the Village.

Youth Center Update

Completed	• An average of 21 youths were served per day, with 12 dinners provided each night. • Accepted deliveries of dinners and extra grocery donations from the Food Pantry to supplement current community needs. • Accepted deliveries of dinners from Who's Hungry. • Finished the Maze Runner series for movie nights. • Jr book group is reading the Hunger Games series. • Replenished craft supplies and games. • Extended hours during YS schools holiday break. • We are very thankful to the Sammons Family for supplying us with 6 full Thanksgiving meals to give out!
Ongoing	• Craft night on Wednesday from 5:30-7pm. • Movie nights Thursday from 5:30-8pm. • Free Tutoring with Greene County Public Library Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-5pm.



Thank you, Sammons Family!

Digital Media Update

Completed	• Covered Village Council meeting on Monday, November 17. • Shot video for upcoming YSPD Grinch content on Wednesday, November 19. • Livestreamed YS Library Association Tea event on Saturday, November 22. • Photographed Flour & Sugar pick-up and distribution on Monday, November 24.
Ongoing	• Editing YSPD videos for lead-up to Community Tree Lighting. • Creating Winter 2026 edition of Village Grapevine. • Continuing website redesign project.

