



The new mayor and council members of the Village of Yellow Springs at their recent swearing-in ceremony.

Photograph by Ben Guenther

Manager's Report

Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

January 5, 2026

Village of Yellow Springs

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Village Staff Holiday Party

On Wednesday, December 17, the Village held its annual staff holiday party to celebrate the year's accomplishments, recognize years of service, and enjoy a meal together. Staff participated in a fun trivia game created by Digital Media Manager Ben Guenther. The winning team included Village Manager Johnnie Burns, Meter Readers Roze Pelzl and Travis Hotaling, and Custodian Les Groby.

Accounting & Payroll Manager Lynda Highlander took home the prize for best ugly sweater, while Brad Ault, Superintendent of Water & Wastewater Treatment, claimed first place in the cookie-baking competition. The event was a wonderful opportunity for staff to relax, share laughs, and celebrate the season together.



Accounting & Payroll Manager Lynda Highlander with her award-winning ugly sweater.

Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party

On Thursday, December 11, I, along with the Assistant Village Manager and Chief Burge, attended the Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday party. The event's theme was "Emerald & Evergreen," and while the three of us didn't quite match the theme, we thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with local business owners.

Tom's Market Co-Op Model

On Wednesday, January 14, from 6:00–7:00 p.m., a town hall meeting will be held at Presbyterian Westminster Hall to discuss the potential transition of Tom's Market to a cooperative (co-op) model. Additional information and event details are included in the flyer on the following pages.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR TOM'S MARKET?

Help us keep Yellow Springs' grocery store thriving for generations to come!



HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

- The Opportunity: Transition Tom's to a community-owned co-operative grocery store, ensuring it stays in local hands and serves Yellow Springs for decades to come.
- Tom's is financially healthy, but owner Jeff Gray is ready to pursue new interests and wants to sell the business to someone who will keep it local and sustainable.
- The Yellow Springs Community Foundation and Hall Hunger Initiative are leading this effort with community input.
- The Yellow Springs Community Foundation is exploring financing the transition of Tom's to another type of local ownership

THE TIMELINE

- **Now through January:** Community feedback
- **January 14:** Town Hall meeting
- **Early 2026:** Decision on ownership model
- **2026-2027:** Possible transition to a Co-op

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

- Your input on whether a co-op model is right for our community
- Your vision for the future of Tom's Market
- Your participation in shaping this transition

Scan QR code to take our 2 question survey:



TOWN HALL MEETING
Wednesday, January 14th | 6-7PM
Presbyterian Westminster Hall

Do you support a community-owned co-op?
What matters most to you about Tom's future?
Get involved: Email chloe@yscf.org

WHAT'S NEXT FOR TOM'S MARKET?

Help us keep Yellow Springs' grocery store thriving for generations to come!



Understanding Food Co-ops

WHAT IS A FOOD CO-OP

A grocery store owned by community members (not a corporation). Focuses on local sourcing, community needs, and member input on operations.

WHO CAN SHOP THERE?

Everyone! You don't need to be a member to shop.

WHAT DO MEMBERS GET?

- Discounts and special perks
- Dividend payouts (potential)
- A voice in store operations, including electing the board

WHAT WILL MEMBERSHIP COST?

Our community will decide! Typically it costs between \$30-\$150 to join a Co-op. Financial assistance options may be built in.

DO YOU HAVE TO VOLUNTEER TO BE A MEMBER?

No. Some co-ops offer volunteer options, but volunteering will not be required.

WILL PRICES GO UP?

Research shows co-ops are price competitive. Unlike corporate stores, co-ops don't profit off customers—they're owned BY customers. Prices reflect community values like fair wages and local sourcing.

COULD A CO-OP WORK IN YS?

It depends on **YOU**! Yellow Springs has a strong history of community collaboration. With enough member commitment, a co-op can thrive

WHAT IF CO-OP ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT?

Other local ownership options include:

- Multi-share locally-owned business
- Individual local buyer with a sustainable plan

Scan QR code to take our 2 question survey:



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TOWN HALL MEETING

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Police Update: 12/11/25 - 12/30/25

Calls for Service	1403
9-1-1 Calls	26
Non-emergency Calls	1271
Noise Complaints	4
Traffic Stops	17
Business Checks & Community Policing	534 (482/52)

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: 12/11/25 - 12/29/25

Bus Tokens	4
Case Follow-Ups	33
COS Referrals	35
Food Vouchers	44
Gas Cards	1
Homeless / Housing	17
Mental Health Needs	9
Rent Assistance	5
Utility Assistance	5
Use of Phone	1
Welfare Check	2
Victim Advocate	7

YS or Township Residents Served	146
Visitors or Non-Residents Served	8
Homeless or At-Large Served	9
TOTAL SERVED	163

MVRPC SS4A Stakeholder Meeting

Aaron attended the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Stakeholder Meeting on December 18th. The meeting focused on reviewing and providing input on the development of the regional Safety Action Plan, a federal SS4A-funded initiative aimed at improving roadway safety and reducing deaths and serious injuries. Participants included elected officials, technical experts, and community stakeholders, and the plan will help participating jurisdictions become eligible for future implementation funding once completed in early 2026.

Building Permits

0 Zoning Permits: 0 Total

3 Building permits: 1 revision, 1 kitchen exhaust hood, 1 generator switch

Utility Round-Up

For the month of December, a total of \$1,084.58 in Utility Round-Up assistance was processed. The current balance of the Utility Round-Up fund is \$15,897.

Year-End Update

Lynda and Michelle have been preparing for year-end close activities, as well as entering the beginning-of-year budget and payroll information.

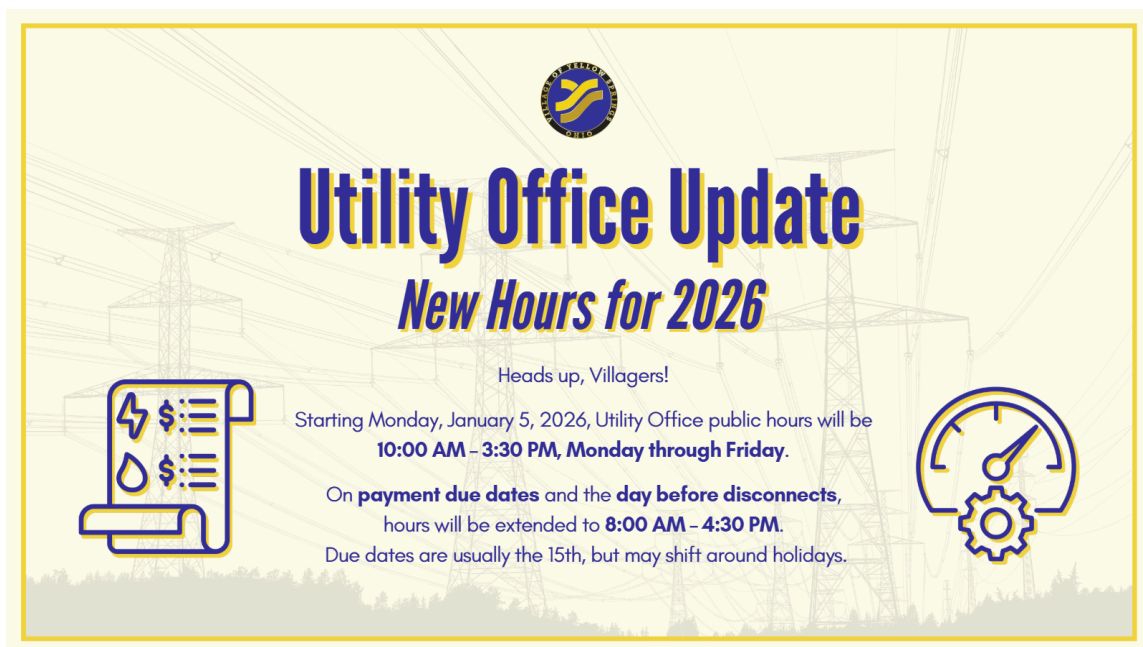
Utilities Window

We are pleased to welcome a familiar face to the Utilities window. Rose Pelzl will be splitting their time between meter reading duties and working in the Utilities office, where Rose will assist with resident calls and questions, payments, and billing.

Utilities Department

Starting Monday, January 5, 2026, the Utility Department will have new service window hours. The Utility service window will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. On the 15th of each month, when bills are due, and on the day before disconnects, the service window hours will be extended from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Solar credits from the end of the year will be processed and mailed to eligible customers in January.



Water Plant Update

Completed	• Monthly lab standardizations in water lab. • Completed all daily lab work, softener blowdown and filter backwashes throughout the holiday weeks. • Received bottles for National Rural Water taste competition in Washington D.C. Will be cleaning bottles and preparing to grab samples.
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. • National Rural Water taste competition in Washington D.C. Will be sending samples for contest in February.

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	8.664	6.529	2.135	24.64%
DEC				
TOTAL	206.828	74.495	32.333	30.27%

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 8.969 million gallons in November. • 2.28 inches of rain in November. 2 inches of snow in November. • Troubleshooting grit pump. • Completed daily readings, sampling and supernatant throughout the holiday weeks. • No Covid-19 samples during the holiday weeks. Will resume regular testing on January 6, 2026.
Ongoing	• Looking to replace ORP probes in aeration tanks. This will help us better monitor the phosphorous treatment process. • Grit pump is not pumping, working on figuring out why and fixing it. • 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 prepping and painting of air header for aeration tank and digesters.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• Keep up with locates. • Continue GIS • Read ALFX sensors. • 142 Marshall hydrant repair. • Antioch Midwest hydrant repair. • 993 s high hydrant repair. • 214 Dayton St. water pressure check. • S High /West Center College hydrant repair. • Main break N. College / Tully intersection (see more details on the next page). • Clean shop and power wash floors.
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.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

Water Main Break

On December 29th, we received a call with water coming up out of the road. Upon arrival, we found a substantial leak. We were able to get two valves throttled down to slow the flow down. The water plant was pumping at 600 gallons per minute, and the towers had fell two feet in one hour. We were able to get it dug up and repaired by 10:30 pm.

I want to give a thank you to the those that assisted in this. It's always a beautiful thing when multiple departments come together to get a job done. Thank you all again!



Crew members successfully addressing the recent water main break.

Electric Update

Completed	• Responded to outage on Spillan and patrolled line and refused branch line. • Worked at switch station for work on Center Circuit. • Responded similar outage on Spillan patrolled line and refused branch line. • Made up urd connections and pulled secondary triplex through conduit set meter on several URD services. • Responded to wind damage on lighting circuit at Short Street made lighting safe. • Removed pole sets from short from wind damage. • Made repairs on water main break to supply customer's water • Removed banner on Xenia Ave. • Responded to outage on E. Hyde Rd. from a phase to phase short replaced all three cutouts and fuses from glass to poly. • Set reclosures to one shot if necessary for any tree trimming or primary work.
Ongoing	• Center circuit build out of switch station. ◦ Installed new padmount to feed reclosers. ◦ We will receive the double bypass switches next week. ◦ Ready to start underground. ▪ Just ordered conduit. • Conduit arrived. • Poly phase and Demand meters are being changed. ◦ Poly phase is done. ◦ Less than 30 small meters left.

Electric Update

Upcoming

- Keep working on PRP (pole replacement packets).
- 312 West Whiteman service work.
- 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.



Recent Electric crew work around the village.

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	• Took delivery of 125 tons of salt. • Prepared Short Street for New Year's ball drop. • Made/ applied 500 gallons of brine on roadway surface . • Undercoated plow trucks for rust protection. • Installed side strobes on brine application truck. • Assisted Water Department on water main break on North College. • Serviced Bobcat mini excavator. • Replaced bench hit by car at Bill Duncan. • Regraded parking lot & drive to dog park. • Regraded drive to pool rear entrance. • Trimmed brush around three fire hydrants on the south end of the village. • Salted town & municipal parking lots from snow event. • Installed new stop sign at Marshall & Xenia Ave.
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. • Rework Corry Street Community Gardens & install deer fence.



Trimming around fire hydrants (left and center), salt for road brine (right).

Youth Center Update

Completed

- An average of 24 youths were served per day, with 15 dinners provided each night.
- Accepted deliveries of dinners and extra grocery donations from the Food Pantry to supplement current community needs.
- Starting winter holiday party planning and craft projects like a group cardboard camper playhouse.
- Junior book group is reading the Hunger Games series.
- Replenished craft supplies and holiday supplies.
- Added some much asked for rugs to game room.
- Chaperoned youth center to basketball home games.
- Free community showing of Shrek 2 at Little Art Event Saturday, December 13.

Digital Media Update

Completed	- Covered Village Council meeting on Monday, December 15. - Hosted trivia at staff holiday party on Wednesday, December 17. - Photographed New Year’s Eve activities.
Ongoing	- Winter 2026 edition of Village Grapevine. - Continuing website redesign project.

Village Facebook Followers

6,683

+74 Followers



YSPD Facebook Followers

456

+12 Followers



YSCA Facebook Followers

249

+3 Followers



YSConnect Downloads

1,744

+136 Downloads



YouTube Subscribers

822

+5 Subscribers

