



Ice accumulation at the Cascades in the Glen due to recent freezing temperatures

Photograph by Ben Guenther

Manager's Report

Johnnie Burns, Village Manager

February 17, 2026

Village of Yellow Springs

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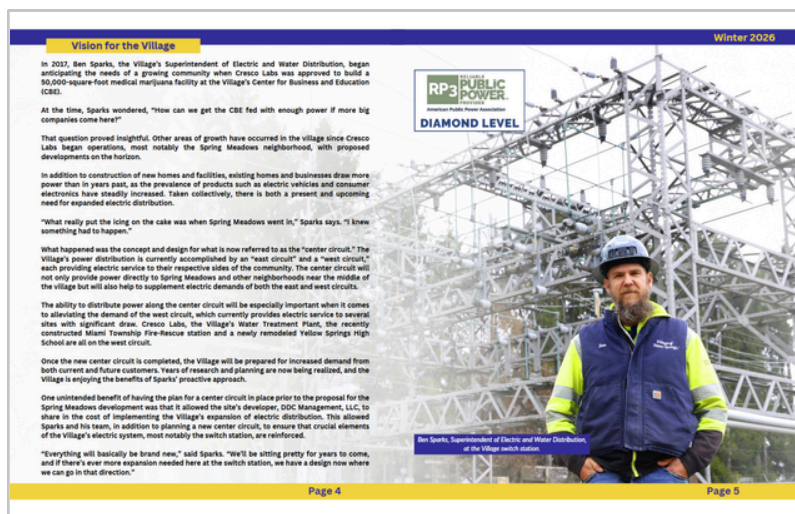
OCMA Annual Conference — February 25–27

Elyse Giardullo and I will attend the Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA) Annual Conference, taking place February 25–27 in Sharonville. This year's theme, "Future-Ready Leadership for Stronger Communities," focuses on forward-thinking strategies and collaborative solutions to help local government leaders address emerging challenges. The conference will feature educational sessions, peer discussions, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen leadership capacity and support effective service to our community.



Winter Grapevine Edition

The Village of Yellow Springs' quarterly newsletter, the Grapevine, has returned with the Winter 2026 edition. The newsletter is mailed to every household in the 45387 ZIP code, including all Yellow Springs residents and those in Miami Township. Although the recent snow event has caused delays within the United States Postal Service, delivery is expected to begin arriving in mailboxes within the next few days.



Cover (left) and centerfold (right) of the Winter 2026 Village Grapevine.

Brad Ault Resignation — Water & Wastewater Superintendent

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Brad Ault has submitted his resignation from the Village of Yellow Springs, with his final day of employment set for March 6, 2026. Mr. Ault has provided more than 18 years of dedicated service to the Village, including serving as Superintendent since 2015, during which he oversaw significant operational, regulatory, and infrastructure advancements across both departments. He has accepted a new professional opportunity focused exclusively on wastewater operations within a larger organization. Kevin Martin has stepped forward to serve as Interim Superintendent to ensure continuity of operations and regulatory compliance while the Village begins the recruitment process for a permanent replacement. The Village extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Ault for his many years of committed service to the community.



Brad Ault — thank you for your dedicated service to the Village of Yellow Springs.

Center for Local Government Membership

On January 7, Elyse Giardullo and I met with representatives from the Center for Local Government to formalize the Village of Yellow Springs' membership. This partnership provides access to a wide range of resources that support effective local governance, including professional development for staff and elected officials, policy and legal guidance, best-practice tools, and opportunities to collaborate with peer communities. Participation in the Center will strengthen the Village's operational capacity, keep leadership informed of emerging issues and legislative changes, and enhance our ability to deliver high-quality services to residents.

Active Transportation Plan Grant

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has notified the Village of Yellow Springs that our Active Transportation Plan application has been selected for funding. Through this award, ODOT will provide consultant assistance to guide the Village and its partners through the development of a comprehensive Active Transportation Plan in 2026.

While it would be possible to bring forward a Resolution on March 2 for a Safe Routes to School application, staff believes it would be more strategic to complete the updated Active Transportation Plan first to clearly identify community priorities before pursuing additional funding. I have discussed this approach with school representatives who are supportive of aligning timelines. Additionally, the schools' construction projects will be completed during this planning process, allowing the final plan to reflect current site conditions and infrastructure improvements, ultimately strengthening future Safe Routes to School applications.

Tom's Market Co-op Initiative Townhall

On January 14, the Yellow Springs Community Foundation hosted a town hall attended by approximately 250 community members to discuss the potential transition of Tom's Market to a cooperative ownership model. The meeting provided an overview of how a locally owned co-op could operate, along with potential benefits and challenges, and outlined a preliminary roadmap that includes feasibility analysis, community investment, and organizational planning. The strong turnout reflected significant community interest in preserving a locally owned grocery option, and discussions will continue as the exploratory phase moves forward.

Yellow Springs Development Corporation Town Hall

The Yellow Springs Development Corporation (YSDC) will host a town hall meeting on February 18 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the John Bryan Center (Rooms A & B). The meeting will focus on YSDC's recent acquisition of the downtown properties at 252 and 254 Xenia Avenue. YSDC representatives will provide an overview of the project, share preliminary plans, and answer questions from community members.

Dayton Daily News Tour of Water Treatment Plant

On Friday, February 6, the Village hosted Dayton Daily News reporter London Bishop for a discussion and tour of the Water Treatment Plant. The visit included Elyse Giardullo, Brad Ault, Ben Sparks, Rose Pelzl, Carmen Brown, and myself. The tour followed recent coverage noting comparatively higher local water bills and provided an opportunity to explain the key factors that influence rates, including debt obligations, system size, infrastructure maintenance, capital improvements, and stringent regulatory requirements. Staff also emphasized the expertise, monitoring, and oversight necessary to deliver safe, reliable drinking water, as well as the Village's ongoing commitment to high-quality treatment and long-term utility sustainability.



Water filtration at the Water Treatment Plant.

Police Update: 1/29/26 - 2/12/26

Calls for Service	1071
9-1-1 Calls	15
Non-emergency Calls	412
Noise Complaints	1
Traffic Stops	11
Business Checks & Community Policing	243 (221/22)

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.

Axon Camera System

Department staff have completed the final preparation and planning stages for a full transition to Axon body-worn and fleet camera systems. This move follows ongoing equipment malfunctions and service issues with the previous vendor. The installation and training phase is scheduled for February 18–19, with the department expected to be fully operational with the new technology by February 20.

Bicycle Modernization

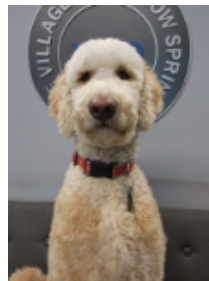
The department successfully submitted a grant application to the Gary Sinise Foundation to modernize our bicycle patrol fleet. If awarded, the funds will replace outdated traditional bicycles with two electronic police bikes. This upgrade supports our community engagement goals and provides a cost-saving benefit by reducing wear and tear on patrol vehicles. We currently have two certified bike officers and plan to certify up to three additional staff members this year.

2026 Body Worn Camera Grant

We are pleased to announce that the department has been recommended for funding through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. The department is slated to receive \$32,111.44 via the 2026 Body Worn Camera (BWC) Grant. These funds will be used to sustain and support the BWC program through the 2026–2027 cycle. To view the announcement, <https://ocjs.ohio.gov/about-us/news-and-events#topics=Recommended%20for%20Funding&page=1>

4 Paws for Ability

On February 10, Chief Burge and COS/VA Danny Steck accompanied our Service Dog in Training (SDiT), Brother, to his second Advanced Training evaluation with 4 Paws for Ability. Brother demonstrated significant progress, particularly in managing reactivity and basic commands. His "perfect gentleman" performance marks a successful milestone in his development; we are currently awaiting further updates regarding his next steps in the program.



Service Dog in Training (SDiT) Brother.

Community Outreach Officer Update: 1/1/26 - 2/12/26

Bus Tokens	16
Case Follow-Ups	35
COS Referrals	21
Food Vouchers	103
Gas Cards	6
Homeless / Housing	20
Mental Health Needs	22
Rent Assistance	6
Utility Assistance	9
Use of Phone	5
Welfare Check	7
Victim Advocate	14

YS or Township Residents Served	193
Visitors or Non-Residents Served	11
Homeless or At-Large Served	61
TOTAL SERVED	265

Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce

Aaron attended the February 12 Chamber of Commerce meeting where the Board addressed several organizational and operational updates. The Chamber is continuing its transition to the GlueUp CRM system to streamline membership management and communications, with first-quarter rack cards scheduled for print on March 1. Street Fair planning is underway, with vendor registration opening March 15 and key contracts secured for tents, staging, sound, and sanitation services. Membership currently stands at 259 active members, with continued focus on launching a Chamber Ambassador Program and strengthening multi-channel communication strategies.

The Board also considered governance matters, including Resolution No. 2026-01 updating Article V of the Chamber Bylaws to clarify director's election procedures. Additionally, the Chamber discussed joining the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and reviewed updates to onboarding procedures and attendance policies. It was announced that beginning March 2, GoBus service will include a stop in Yellow Springs, with additional details forthcoming. Overall, the Chamber remains focused on membership growth, operational modernization, and event planning for the upcoming season.

Yellow Springs Development Corporation (YSDC)

At the February 3 YSDC meeting, the Board addressed organizational updates and ongoing redevelopment initiatives. The Township will appoint a replacement for the recently vacated board seat, and discussion continues regarding the project manager position. Financial reports and January meeting minutes were approved through the consent agenda. The Board received updates regarding the 252–254 Xenia Avenue property, including progress on fire safety corrections and preparation for a Town Hall scheduled for February 18. The Board also entered executive session to discuss matters related to the potential purchase or sale of real estate. YSDC continues to advance property stabilization efforts while evaluating strategic opportunities aligned with community development goals.

Crisis Readiness Webinar

Aaron participated in a crisis readiness webinar focused on the role of economic development professionals during unplanned disruptions. The session emphasized rapid assessment of economic impact, business continuity coordination, and clear communication with employers, utilities, and public leadership. The training reinforced the importance of proactive coordination with local and regional partners to ensure economic resilience and business support during emergency or disruption scenarios.

Clean Energy Opportunities in Ohio Webinar

Aaron attended a regional webinar focused on clean energy permitting and economic development opportunities across Ohio. The session highlighted the importance of clear and efficient permitting processes to attract utility-scale clean energy investment while maintaining transparency and local input. Discussion included emerging tools to assist chambers and economic development organizations in supporting business priorities related to energy reliability and cost competitiveness. As energy demand and investment continue to grow statewide, these discussions are relevant to long-term infrastructure and economic planning considerations.

MVRPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

At the January MVRPC TAC meeting, members considered several regional transportation planning items, including Resolution 26-01 delegating certain conformity determinations to MVRPC staff and Resolution 26-02 recommending adoption of Revision #7 to the SFY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Additional information included updates on DriveOhio’s Mobility Innovation eXchange (MIX) initiative and a presentation from Dark Sky Ohio. These discussions continue to inform regional transportation coordination and infrastructure planning efforts affecting Greene County and surrounding jurisdictions.

MVRPC Water & Environmental Subcommittee

Aaron attended the Water & Environmental Subcommittee where they reviewed progress on the Southwest Ohio Regional Water Study led by CDM Smith. The study aims to establish a long-term framework for public health protection, environmental sustainability, and water resource management while accounting for future changes in population, economic development, and climate conditions. The project will utilize groundwater, surface water, and integrated modeling tools to assess availability, connectivity, and future demand scenarios, with recommendations anticipated in late 2026. The subcommittee also received updates on the FPA Working Group process, including recently approved service area agreements in the region and a proposed 2026 timeline for policy review, stakeholder engagement, and potential revisions. These regional water planning efforts will be important for future infrastructure and growth discussions.

Permits (Since last reported):

22 Zoning permits: 15 working in ROW, 3 replat, 2 fence, 1 sign, 1 single family home,

10 Building permits: 3 HVAC, 1 fire sprinkler system, 1 emergency responder radio system, 1 cert of occupancy, 1 single family home, 1 electric, 1 gas, 1 generator

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

Rumpke Update

There will be no Rumpke delays, but the utility office will be closed Monday, February 16th for President's Day.

Billing

Level Billing catch up month is March where all customers on level billing will either have a credit applied to their March bill or need to pay the full current balance with their bills due on March 15th.

Disconnects

Disconnects are on Wednesday, February 25th, and we will have extended hours (8-4:30) on February 24th and 25th.

Water Plant Update

Completed	• Monthly lab standardizations in water lab. • Operation Staff completed OEPA lab analyst certification. All Operators are able to run daily test in the Water lab for compliance. • Buckeye power completed regular maintenance on generator. • Students from Cedarville University visited to conduct a sample for fluoride in our well water for a class project. • Sent bottles for National Rural Water taste competition in Washington D.C.
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. • Working with Ben Sparks on water loss. Created a new spreadsheet taking into consideration the total amount of unbilled water. • Working with EPA for Water Technical Assistance program on PFAS treatment plan. Attending regular monthly meetings and providing water quality data. • Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring, and sampling.
Upcoming	• Acid washing softener #1 to remove buildup hardness scaling. • Video and cleaning of well #5. • Service lawn mower for season. • Tower warranty repair work.

Water Plant and Billing Totals (2026)

MONTH	WTP TOTAL (MG)	BILLING TOTAL (MG)	WATER LOSS (MG)	WATER LOSS %
JAN	8.184	6.625	1.559	19.05%
FEB				
MAR				
APR				
MAY				
JUN				
JUL				
AUG				
SEP				
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				
TOTAL	8.184	6.625	1.559	19.05%

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 9.776 million gallons in January. • 0.37 inches of rain and 12+ inches of snow in January. • Repaired grit pump. Tightened union on suction line and pump was able to run normally. • Covid-19 sampling for January. • Buckeye power completed regular maintenance on generator.
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. Appears union on suction line is not tight enough, trying to find big enough wrench to tighten. • Continuing to run microscopic bug counts on MLSS. Microorganisms look good. • Meet with Buckeye pump and American pump repair for quotes to replace RT68 LS pump.
Upcoming	• Working on getting quotes for new trucks. • Repair filtrate wet well pump. • Repair aeration gate. • Maintenance chlorine equipment. • Service lawn mower for season. • Change oil in trash pumps.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

Thank You to our Crews

I want to personally thank all of our crews for the tremendous effort over the past month. We have faced the largest snowfall during my tenure here at the Village, along with three water main breaks. Despite these challenges, every department stepped up and worked tirelessly to ensure our community continued to receive the service it depends on.

What stands out most is how well everyone worked together. The coordination and teamwork across departments made a difficult month manageable. At the same time, we continued to keep up with daily maintenance tasks — replacing bad poles, making necessary repairs, and even keeping up with painting fire hydrants. That level of commitment does not go unnoticed

I am truly grateful for your dedication, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond. The Village is better because of the work they do each day.

Thank you,

Ben Sparks, Electric & Water Distribution Superintendent



Teamwork in action.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• Continue GIS. • Read ALFX sensors weekly. • Clean shop and power wash floors. • Birch hall Antioch leak. • Water main break N. College St. and Phillips St. • Water pressure check 1141 Xenia Ave. • Dig dump pit and build enclosure at Sutton Farm. • Burn brush pile and grade out at Sutton Farm • Repair and paint hydrant corner of Pleasant St. & N Stafford St. • Snow plowing. • Snow removal downtown. • 411 W. North College St. frozen meter. • Livermore St. water main break. • Haul away brush from power line fire that was trimmed. • AMP safety. • Set up sandblaster in shop. • Dig out hydrants from snowstorm.
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



Recent water main repairs around the Village.

Electric Update

Completed	• Installed fault indicators at three locations throughout town. • Took down and stored the Holidays in the Village banner. • Assisted on the W. North College St. water main break. • Sorted, organized, and shelved material from Chris/North Carolina auction. • Completed streetlight repairs at Allen and Corry, Pleasant and Park Place, and at Xylem. • Completed the transfer on the pole at Herman Street and High Street. • Oversaw Encompass Engineering in the reprogramming of the reclosers at the switch station. • Assisted on the Livermore Street water main break. • Assisted with snow removal. • Removed the string lights and posts on Short Street.
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.
 - Crew has started installing anchors for new pedestals.
- Installing voltage regulators in switch station.
 - Trying to do this all in-house to save money.



Recent Electric pole 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.

Completed	• Completed EPA Service Line Inventory for 2025 and submitted the Inventory, the Notice ID Tool and the Verification Form. • Sent “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” and “Material Unknown” letters to residents on Dec 18th.
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.

Streets & Sewer Update

Completed

- Removed picnic tables, trashcans, benches, tent, concrete bin blocks, art restrooms & snow from Short Street Pilot Project.
- Repaired rear gym exit door at JBC.
- Replaced plow cutting edges.
- Installed new feet on snowplows.
- Repaired wiring on Jacobsen mower.
- Repaired threshold in main entrance at JBC.
- Installed surround sound in Youth Center at JBC.
- Repaired two side inlet catch basins.
- Inspected 4 sidewalk & 2 driveways installs.
- 2 sanitary backups (Elm & Meadow).
- Used 90 tons of salt.
- Removed snow piles from downtown sidewalks & hauled away.
- Took delivery of 50 tons of salt.
- Cleaned Short Street for New Year's ball drop.
- Made/ applied 2,000 gallons of brine on roadway surface.
- Assisted Water Department on water main break on Livermore.
- Replaced bench hit by car at Bill Duncan.
- Rebuilt burner, replaced cad cell & electrodes on asphalt hot box machine.
- Rebuilt hydraulic unit on Ventrac.
- Replaced power steering pump on F450.
- Rebuilt tailgate salt spinner on Kenworth.
- Continued commercial driver's license training.
- Removed snow from ADA mats.
- Cleared snow from multimodal path.
- Installed new bench downtown at 231 Xenia Ave.
- Complete surface restoration on diving boards.
- Plowed/salted town & municipal parking lots from 3 snow events totaling 14" of accumulated snow.
- Repaired 7 leaks in JBC roof.

STREETS & SEWER COLLECTION

Streets & Sewer Update

Ongoing	• Street sweeping. • Utility locates. • GIS information. • Empty trash/litter pickup every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. • Problematic sanitary sewer checks every Friday.
Upcoming	• Rework Corry Street Community Gardens & install deer fence.



Snow clearing and repairs around the Village.

Youth Center Update

Completed	• An average of 23 youths were served per day, with 12 dinners provided each night. • Accepted deliveries of dinners and extra grocery donations from the Food Pantry, parents and the Youth Bulldog Basketball group. • Re-stocked our cupboards for after school tutoring and daily youth attendance. • Valentine's celebration with crafts and pizza generously donated by Karla Horvath. • Accepted prepared dinners from Who's Hungry on Monday and Wednesday. We also have youth that like walking uptown to get their own dinners on these days
Ongoing	• Junior book group has started the Scythe series. • Craft night on Wednesday from 5:30-7pm. • Movie nights Thursday from 5:30-8pm. • Free Tutoring with Greene County Public Library Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-5 pm.



Valentine's Day celebration activities.

Digital Media Update

Completed	- Covered regular Village Council meetings on Monday, January 5; Tuesday, January 20; and Monday, February 2, 2026. - Covered Village Council Retreat on Friday, January 23, 2026. - Attended AMP Safety Training on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, and Wednesday, February 4, 2026. - Published Winter 2026 edition of Village Grapevine - Recorded 16th Annual 10-Minute Play Festival for Channel 5 / YouTube channel. - Received annual Performance Evaluation from Elyse Giardullo.
Ongoing	- Website redesign project - Spring 2026 edition of Village Grapevine.

Village Facebook Followers

6,706

+23 Followers



YSPD Facebook Followers

467

+11 Followers



YSCA Facebook Followers

257

+8 Followers



YSConnect Downloads

1,780

+36 Downloads
(+61 SMS Contacts)



YouTube Subscribers

833

+11 Subscribers

