



# *The Village Grapevine*

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

## Rain, Rain, Go Away

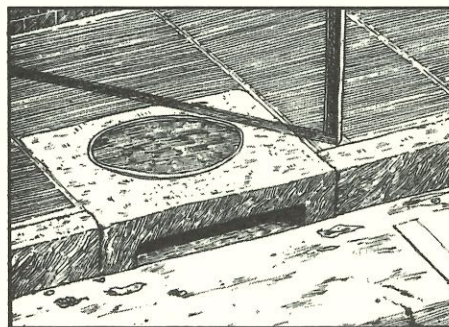
The near-record precipitation we've experienced since the first of the year—31.5" of snow and 13.4" of rain to date—has saturated the ground and kept the water table in and around Yellow Springs "perched" for weeks. This situation has caused headaches and frustration for many Villagers with basements that have become wet or flooded. Worst of all are those whose homes flooded as a result of sewage backing up into their basements.

The Village has two sewer systems: one that collects storm water and conveys it to the river and another that collects sanitary sewage which is piped to the wastewater treatment plant, treated and then released into the river.

The sanitary system contains many old lines that are cracked, broken, or have otherwise lost their impermeable integrity. These cracks allow groundwater to infiltrate the lines and flow to the wastewater plant. (The wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat an average of one million gallons of water daily—lately we have recorded flows of up to four million gallons!) Since all water entering the plant is screened and then processed, it backs up in the lines when the flows are this great, backing up the other lines upstream.

Recognizing the condition of the lines four years ago, the Village smoke-tested them to determine where storm water was entering the sanitary sewer. With that information we could then prioritize and plan corrective measures. We identified buildings with roof downspouts discharging into the sewer as well as some surface drains in parking lots. Most of these cases were corrected. While the ultimate remedy is to replace significant portions of the existing sanitary sewer system, the cost appears prohibitive.

In late 1993 we secured a \$153,000 Issue 2 grant, matched it with local money and completed an Inflow & Infiltration abatement project designed



to reduce the impact of these problems. The project involved replacing and sealing some sewer lines and manholes and the construction of storm sewers. (You may recall seeing water standing after heavy rains at Center College and High, Suncrest and Wright, Pleasant and Stafford, and Lincoln Court, for example. The water that once stood at those locations is now collected by storm sewers constructed during this project.)

A recent national survey shows that 50% percent of sewer infiltration occurs within the private lateral connections to homes and businesses. The situation is difficult to address except on a voluntary basis, with property owners opting to replace their leaking lines. If your yard has ponding water which disappears slowly, it may very well be infiltrating the system and adding to the problem. Also, if you have a sump pump discharging into the sanitary sewer, you are definitely contributing to the problem. If you have either of these situations, please correct them.

Also, if you have experienced problems with water backing up in your basement, you might consider the installation of a check valve. Plumbers have them and can install them for you. This is a relatively inexpensive yet somewhat beneficial approach.

We are continuously seeking funding as we plan future I&I abatement projects, with the goal of minimizing storm water impact on you, the sewer systems and the wastewater treatment plant.

## Housing Survey Results

An "Affordable Housing" questionnaire was distributed in January to Village residents and many who work in town. This effort was conducted by the Affordable Housing Task Force to identify housing needs that might be addressed by Village Council. Over 400 responses were tabulated by Kathy Beal at the Statistical Consulting Center at Wright State University.

Responses confirmed the view that housing prices in Yellow Springs are an obstacle for many who would like to own property here. Of those responding to the survey, 166 people said they would be interested in affordable housing. More than 35% of the respondents work in the Village but do not live here. Of those respondents who work here, 84 would like to live here but cannot afford present prices.

With regard to household size, 120 respondents reported a household of two, 85 have three members in their household, 73 reported four members, 86 are single-member households and 22 have five members in the household. Eighty respondents have one child age 18 or younger in their household, 75 have two children and 23 have three. There were 168 respondents who had no children under 18 years of age.

The preferred housing option of interested respondents was a single family dwelling, with duplexes as the second most-favored choice. Many respondents anticipated the need for monitored care (i.e. visiting nurses, meals, etc.) and special needs (i.e. handicapped accessible, one-story units, etc.). Many expressed interest in smaller homes to reduce operating cost and maintenance.



In addition to responses from the questions, many participants provided some interesting comments. The largest number of these reflected concern over the lack of moderately priced housing in Yellow Springs. Many respondents not necessarily interested in housing options for themselves expressed concern about "elitism" and were supportive of efforts such as this to help maintain the present diversity of Village residents. Others expressed questions about Village government's involvement in the construction of houses, the threat to existing green space, criticism over government subsidy of such an effort and what the final dwellings might look like.

The Affordable Housing Task Force presented the results of this survey to Village Council in March. Based on Council's response, exploration of some form of "affordable housing" will continue. Copies of this report are available at the Bryan Center. Present members of the Housing Task Force include Donna Denman, Barry Hoskins, Roger Lurie, Tom Nofle, Paul Richardson, Susan Stiles, and Ilse Tebbetts.



### ... And the Path Goes On

The bikepath, which presently terminates at Fairfield Pike here in the Village will be extended to Jackson Road this summer. A new bridge will be installed at Fairfield Pike and the eight-foot wide gravel strip will take cyclists and walkers to Jackson Road. The path will be paved as part of the Clark County bikepath project. This effort is being funded by the Greene County Recreation and Parks Division with the bridge installation being performed by the Greene County Engineer's Department. Completion is targeted for August; work on extension of the path into Springfield will follow.

### Electric System Improvements

The Village will be improving a portion of its electric distribution system this summer. These improvements include replacing approximately 6,000 linear feet of existing electric line with three-phase (336.4 kcm) primary and neutral line. The improvements will start at the intersection of Wright and West South College Streets and continue along West South College Street to South High Street to Herman Street and then continue south on Xenia Avenue to Brannum Lane. The electric line upgrade will provide customers along this route with a more efficient source of electric power. This improvement will also provide Yellow Springs Instrument Company with the electric power they need.

Continuing improvements are scheduled over the next five years. The goal of this effort is to provide low cost, reliable electric service to Village customers.

### Summer Sidewalk Plans

Although progress has been dormant for a few years, the sidewalk repair project here in the Village will be re-activated this summer. The last repairs were completed in 1994. At that time the remaining work included constructing new walks where there are gaps in the existing sidewalk network. This summer, property owners who are adjacent to these identified gaps will be notified of the need to construct new walk and given the opportunity to complete that work themselves. If those affected decide not to exercise that option, the Village will hire a contractor to construct the sidewalk. An assessment for the cost of that work will be passed on to the property owner. They will then have the option of paying the total amount to the Village or having the cost added to their property tax bill as a special assessment over a five-year term.

We will also be inventorying existing walks along Dayton, High, North and South College, Xenia Ave, Limestone, and Walnut Streets and identifying where repairs need to be done. The same procedure described above will be used to complete and pay for this work, also scheduled for later this summer.

### PROPERTY TAX REVENUE DISTRIBUTION

Many survey respondents noted the high property tax rates in the Village and urged Council to do something about it. The revenue generated by property taxes is divided among several entities, of which the Village government is one. The distribution of this revenue is:

Yellow Springs Village Schools	72.7%
Greene County	10.25%
Miami Township	8.36%
Village of Yellow Springs	4.2%
Greene County Career Ctr.	4.08%
Greene Co. Health Dist.	.43%

Based on the above distribution, it is obvious that the Village's direct effect on property tax revenues and/or rates is limited. The Village depends on the local income tax for the revenues to operate various Village programs.

## Stormy Weather

With the severe storm and tornado season already here, the police department has noticed that many residents are not fully aware of what to do if the emergency sirens are activated. If a tornado watch is issued by the National Weather Service it means that conditions exist that could result in a tornado. The sirens will not be activated for a tornado watch. If a tornado warning is issued for this area or tornado-like winds are experienced, the sirens will be activated. Warnings may be issued by the National Weather Service or may result from unconfirmed sightings by law enforcement personnel or citizens. When the sirens are activated you

should immediately seek shelter. There is no all-clear siren. Residents should monitor the radio or television to determine when the danger has passed.

The police department will also attempt to issue the warning over the cable television system. We have been experiencing technical difficulties with the system but are working with the cable company to resolve the problems. Residents should remember that the sirens and cable system are tested at noon on the first Monday of each month. If you have cable television and have difficulty receiving the test on your television we would like to know.

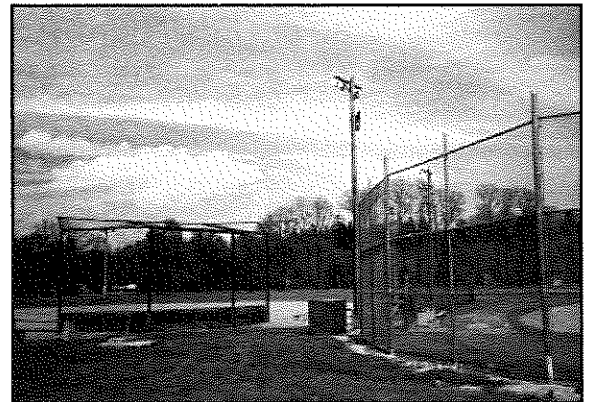
Please do not call the police department when the sirens are activated during storm conditions. You should seek shelter when you hear the sirens and monitor your radio or television. Many people call the police department when they hear the siren to inquire why they were activated. While we certainly understand your anxiety, our dispatchers and phone system are completely overloaded by callers wanting information. Someone with an emergency or other need for police services may not be able to get through. Please use the radio or television for storm information. Pamphlets detailing how to prepare for a weather disaster are available at the police department.

## Park Improvements

The Village's park system will be getting a much-needed boost this year. State funding for playground equipment was awarded and construction of the ballfield lighting, funded through the State last year, has begun. The toddler playground proposed for construction at the Bryan Center will be completed soon. It will include a modular play equipment system and toddler swings. Funding for this effort comes from the State grant and the Yellow Springs Recreation Committee. Additional playground equipment, including new swings, will be added to Gaunt Park.

The State grant also covers the purchase of picnic tables and park benches which will be placed throughout all the Village parks. These are made from recycled plastic, which is the basis for the State funding. Drinking fountains will be installed at Gaunt Park and Ellis Pond. The swimming pool will get a new coat of paint this year (if not in the spring then in the fall) and new lifeguard stands will also be installed.

This will also be the year when a comprehensive review of our park system will be undertaken. This assessment will identify the need for additional amenities and also look at where we can reduce ongoing maintenance costs. We will be looking at locations where land presently being mowed might be planted in groundcover or prairie vegetation which can exist in a nearly maintenance free setting. If you have ideas or input about the future of our parks, please talk with Jo Scott at the Bryan Center.



*New backstop recently installed at Gaunt Park baseball field*



## From the Police Department

- Congratulations are in order for Officer John Grote who recently completed an intensive three week training course at the Miami Valley Crime lab. John is now a certified evidence technician, having received one of the highest grades ever achieved by a student in the class. His newly acquired knowledge and skills will allow us to provide even better service for victims of serious crimes.

- Police officer Kim Monhollen has completed a one week traffic ac-

cident investigation course. This program was sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety department and taught by the Ohio State Patrol. This is some of the best training available to police officers and we are fortunate to have had a Yellow Springs officer participate.

- As you may already know, one of Yellow Springs' finest was recently injured in the line of duty. While attempting to apprehend a burglary suspect, Officer Al Pierce suffered multiple fractures of his right leg. He is doing well but may be out for up to four months. The police department wishes him the best and anxiously

awaits his return. You may want to give him a call or send a card. He has expressed great appreciation of everyone's kindness during this time.

- With the arrival of warm weather we are concerned about the number of complaints about young people using bikes, roller blades and skateboards on the sidewalks downtown. We ask that parents check to make sure their children know the law regarding the downtown area and respect others while exercising these forms of recreation in a responsible manner. Remember, financial liability for an accident may rest with parents.

## Scheduled Public Meetings at the Bryan Community Center

Village Council  
7:00 pm First/Third Monday

Village Mayor's Court  
7:30 pm Second/Fourth Monday

Village Planning Commission  
7:30 pm Second Monday

Environmental Commission  
7:30 pm First/Third Tuesday

Cable Advisory Panel  
5:00 pm First Wednesday

Human Relations Commission  
7:00 pm Second Monday

Wellhead Protection Advisory Commission  
7:00 pm Third Tuesday

### VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

100 Dayton Street  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

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Clerk of Council.....767-7220  
Gaunt Park Pool .....767-9064  
Fire, non-emergency .....767-7842  
Fire, emergency .....9-1-1  
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