



*Yellow Springs'*

Spring 1998 Vol. 3 No. 5

# *The Village Grapevine*

**A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS**

## **The 1998 Village Government Budget**

Village Council began working on the 1998 budget at a special workshop session on Saturday, February 14. The deadline for the official adoption of the budget is March 31. There are typically two or three special work sessions to complete the budget process. The budget is approved by ordinance, with that legislative action usually occurring at the regularly scheduled Council meetings in March.

The Village follows a cash basis accounting system prescribed by the State of Ohio. This process, utilizing "single entry" transactions, effectively double counts all transfers. A good example of this process is preparing payroll. The first step is to collect the necessary amounts from each Departments line item for wages and deposit those into a clearing account (i.e. payroll account) from which payroll checks are paid. The dollar amounts are shown and counted as they appear in both (as wages for each department and as a total balance in the payroll account) places and are effectively double counted. The Village has opted to use two "budgets" — one as an operating document where balances are only counted once — where they are spent, and another that reflects the legal requirement for the above "double-counting" method.

The proposed budget was presented to Village Council by the Village Manager as a balanced budget. All proposed expenditures were covered by projected revenues. As has been the approach in the past few years, expenditures are estimated high and revenues are esti-

mated low. The projected revenues for 1998 total \$7.9 million with projected expenditures totaling \$6.5 million.

Pending its formal adoption, the 1998 proposed budget provides funding for an in-house computer mapping system. This will allow information to appear on a map and will be used for public works activities (i.e. mapping utility improvements), planning and zoning information and can interact with additional mapping information available from the Greene County Auditor's office and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. A long-range goal is to have this information available on a future WEB site.

Funding for a project involving asbestos removal from the Library building is also included in the 1998 budget. The Greene County Library has plans to remodel the furnishings in the building and it was decided that the much-needed asbestos removal should be incorporated with that work. This will mean that the building will be closed while this work is being completed. The Library is planning to operate a satellite site during this time. More details will be available as the project takes shape. The anticipated cost of the asbestos removal alone is \$75,000.

Other projects budgeted for this year include water hydrant painting, sanitary sewer improvements on Tower Court and Rice Road, continuation of sidewalk repair work, utility pole replacement, and new equipment for Channel 13 cablecasts.

## **Our Latest Addition**

Tom Donley joined the Village organization just after Christmas last year. He will serve as the administrative secretary and provide support to the Village Manager, Police Chief, Assistant Village Manager, Parks & Recreation Director, and Public Works Director.

Tom grew up in Yellow Springs and is already proud to be working for "his" Village. His family has been a part of the Village for many generations. His father and grandfather built many houses here in Town and his great-grandfather held many elected positions, including Mayor during the early 1900s. Tom has worked as a civilian for Wright Patterson Air Force Base for the last 15 years, serving as an administrative secretary during the last three.

One of Tom's main duties is to oversee all scheduling of activities at the Bryan Center. Please contact him at 767-7202 if you are interested in reserving space in the Center.

## **Village Council Goals**

At a special session held on January 10, 1998, the Village Council adopted the following 1998 Goals:

- Continue to improve the democratic process and adopt Council Rules and Procedures; Council meeting efficiency
- Begin strategic planning process for Village operations
- Approve 1999 budget before 1999
- Develop a long range capital improvement plan

## **Keep Your Eye Out**

The Village is in the process of studying the feasibility of developing a fiber optic network here. One of the first steps in this effort will be to survey residents and determine their needs as they relate to fiber optics. Keep an eye out for a survey being sent to all Village residents. Your responses to this inquiry will help assess the need for a fiber optic network.



## A Tragic and Remarkable Story

One of the Village's Utility Service Workers, Dave Conley, was seriously injured on the job last Fall. Village crew members were loading utility poles onto a truck at the Public Works Facility. One of the poles broke free while being loaded and struck Dave. He suffered multiple fractures of the pelvis, which he knew from the moment it happened.

Emergency responders and fellow employees at the scene helped get Dave on his way to help. He ended up at Miami Valley Hospital where they eventually performed surgery to pin the broken bones back together. At that time, his recovery was expected to take up to a year with the first few months being spent in bed or some other non-weight bearing position.

Dave and his wife attended the Village employees' Christmas party in December. Everybody was glad to see them. It was difficult to see Dave in a wheelchair and looking completely exhausted. We have all come to know Dave as the "heartiest of men" and it was humbling to see him in this fragile state.

Since that time, Dave has stopped in to visit and is doing remarkably well. He eventually got out of the wheelchair and onto a set of crutches and began to look like himself again. The medical staff tell him that his recovery is progressing at a rate they would never have anticipated. The last time he visited us, he drove himself here and was down to one crutch. He reported that he will soon be total weight-bearing on both legs. It is hard to imagine that all this has taken place in about four months.

Dave has several fragmented memories of the entire ordeal: the excruciating pain, the ongoing visits he got from caring friends and family, the restlessness of being confined, and his own drive and determination that has been the spearhead of his progress. Dave has come to recognize that, as catastrophic as the situation was, he was very fortunate to end up where he is today. There is still a great deal of work to be done but Dave is determined to get there and, with the support of others, knows that it's just a matter of time before that happens.

## Train Station Schedule

Over the last two years there has been much talk and support for the proposed Yellow Springs Station, the new rendition of the original train station, to be built along the bikepath. It will contain public restrooms, an office for the local Chamber of Commerce and some gallery/exhibit space. Well, it is now official: all necessary funding has been secured and construction of the building is targeted for early Summer. Those involved in the project have found it very challenging and very rewarding. The final product will reflect input from many facets of the community, including some actual architectural elements from the original station. Construction of the building should take about 90 days with site finishing work to be completed thereafter. All said, the station should be in place, along the trail in Hilda Rahn Park, and operating by this Fall. Thanks to all who bought bricks and made donations toward the project and a special thanks to those who gave their time and energy and kept the project moving forward.

## The Future of Our Parks

A comprehensive plan for the Village's parks has been developed and is being reviewed by many interested parties. The plan provides some historical background about the various park facilities, introduces recommendations on improvements to those facilities, and provides cost estimates associated with those improvements.

One important element of the plan is a recognition of the need for community input with regard to what people want out of their parks. We can all recite examples of creations that sit idle and unused when no connection between a facility and people exists. Although there are national standards for recreational needs (typically expressed as "x" number of acres per "x" number of people), those involved in planning efforts have come to recognize that the standard should serve as a beginning point by which a community can then decide how it wants to deviate. It is relatively easy to collect this input from those using the park facilities by simply asking them while they are there, but additional outreach efforts will be undertaken to solicit input from all members of the Village. The goal of this effort will be to determine the role that parks and recreational activities can serve as one element of the larger community. With the exception of a specific survey for the Fair Acres neighborhood, done a few years ago, no comprehensive in-

put has been solicited from community members with regard to this topic for many years.

The plan outlines recommended improvements for the Village parks over the next 3-4 years. There are also a few suggestions for long-range planning efforts. The recommendations, basically, are enhancements to the existing parks system and include items like playground areas and walking paths at both Ellis Park and the Bryan Community Center grounds, a permanent concession stand at Gaunt Park and additional park benches and picnic tables throughout many of the parks. Again, this position is seen as somewhat temporary, with the hopes that additional community input providing guidance for any additional needs.

The plan recognizes other "park-like" spots in town and also acknowledges potential gaps in parks facilities in certain areas. Recommendations have an estimated cost associated with each and are also prioritized.

The plan will be discussed and reviewed by Village Council, the Village's Planning Commission and anyone else who is interested. Announcements regarding opportunities to participate in the discussion(s) will be provided through the *Yellow Springs News* and other informal means. Please plan to participate in this conversation and help make the Village's park system the best it can be.

## Police Department News



### **POLICE COAT FUND**

Thanks to members of the community who contributed so generously to our Police Coat Fund for those in need at Christmas time.

From your generosity, coats, hats, gloves and boots were purchased for 15 youngsters during the holidays. Eleven of the children were from the Mill's Lawn School and went on a shopping spree with officers. There was enough money left to purchase food and gifts for five families which included 16 children. This gave them a very special Christmas. The following members of the Department devoted their time to make all this possible: John Grote, Norma Lewis, Al Pierce, Lisa Crosswhite, Dennis Nipper and his daughter, Lori VanAusdal. This past holiday season, the Department received publicity in the "Neighborhood" section of the

*Dayton Daily News*, which gave us credit and recognition for our program. The members of the Department know that the real credit belongs to *you*, the members of this community who contribute so freely of the funds needed for the program. We received a letter from a recipient who expressed her thanks for making her children's Christmas special while she was dealing with difficult financial times. We thank you, residents of Yellow Springs, for bringing joy and thankfulness to others.

### **OFFICER AL PIERCE RECEIVES THE "BLUE KNIGHT" AWARD**

The Fairborn Knights of Columbus host an annual banquet to recognize the outstanding contributions of public service workers in the area. The recognition of a police officer is acknowledged in the "Blue Knight" award. Officer Al Pierce was the 1997 recipient of this award for his act of bravery on September 18, 1997. On that day, he was exposed, unarmed, to potential gunfire during a hostage situation where gunshots had already

been fired and successfully rescued an eight-month-old baby. Al's courage that day reflects his dedication to duty and to this community. Al received the "Blue Knight" award at a ceremony held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairborn on February 26.

### **WALK, DON'T RIDE ON DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS**

Please remember to obey our laws regarding the riding of bikes, skateboards and skates on the downtown business district sidewalks. The warm weather that is fast approaching will bring many people out to enjoy these activities. All officers have been instructed to increase enforcement and will not issue warnings to any adult found in violation. Those persons under 18 will have their items confiscated for ten days after one warning. Please be safe, obey this law downtown and do not risk having to pay fines to the court.

Look for future information about "town meetings" where you can meet with the Chief and discuss ideas and concerns or just ask questions.

## **Don't Litigate — Mediate**

The Village Mediation Program has recently gone through some changes. Probably the most significant one is that a new coordinator, Morissa Fregeau, has been named. Her predecessor, Marianne MacQueen, has moved on to direct Community Service, Inc., located here in the Village. Here are some frequently asked questions about the program:

### **— WHAT IS MEDIATION? —**

Mediation is the process where two parties with a conflict sit down together with a trained, neutral party (the mediator) to help develop an acceptable agreement.

### **— WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS DOES THE MEDIATION PROGRAM ADDRESS? —**

The Village Mediation Program is open to hearing about any problems that Villagers may have. Problems with neighbors, juvenile disputes, family disputes, landlord/tenant problems are just some examples of when mediation can help.

### **— HOW DOES MEDIATION WORK? —**

When you call the mediation program, a trained case manager will talk with you about your dispute. The case manager will call the second party and see if they are willing to mediate. The case manager then sets up a mediation time with two trained volunteer mediators. During the mediation, all parties are given an opportunity to present his or her side of the problem. Through this process, an agreement is sought.

### **— WE LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN, WILL EVERYONE KNOW MY PROBLEMS? —**

Mediations are kept strictly confidential. Even notes taken during a mediation are destroyed. The Mediation Program keeps copies of agreements for one year as a means of follow-through. All volunteer mediators are trained to be neutral and private.

### **— WILL IT COST ME ANYTHING? —**

Mediations are free to all Village residents. The program is funded by the Village Government and is staffed with trained volunteers.

### **— WHERE DO I CALL? —**

The Village Mediation Program can be reached by calling 767-7701. If you reach an answering machine, leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Rumpke 1998 Holiday Schedule for Garbage Pickup

Garbage collection throughout the Village will be delayed by one day following these holidays in 1998:

Memorial Day  
Monday, May 25

Labor Day  
Monday, September 7

Thanksgiving Day  
Thursday, November 26

Christmas Day  
Thursday, December 25

### Other Important "Waste" Dates

Used Oil Igloo back in service  
(Corry Street parking lot)  
March 1

Spring Clean-up Week  
May 4-8

## Scheduled Public Meetings at the Bryan Community Center

Village Council  
First/Third Monday  
7:00 pm

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

Village  
Planning Commission  
Second Monday  
7:00 pm

Environmental  
Commission  
First/Third Tuesday  
7:30 pm

Cable Advisory Panel  
First Wednesday  
5:00 pm

## VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

100 Dayton Street  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

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David Heckler, Village Manager

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Don Hollister  
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Chris Zurbuchen  
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Village Offices .....767-7202  
Police, non-emergency ...767-7206  
Police, emergency .....9-1-1  
Clerk of Council.....767-7220  
Gaunt Park Pool .....767-9064  
Fire, non-emergency .....767-7842  
Fire, emergency .....9-1-1  
Rumpke Waste .....1-800-223-3960  
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