



**YELLOW SPRINGS**

Village of Yellow Springs  
Greene County, Ohio  
(513) 767-7202

# *The Grapevine*

\* **Spring 1994**  
Volume 1, Number 1

## **SPRING "CLEAN-UP" WEEK**

Its that time again. Time to stir up the dust and rattle the rafters. The Village tradition of Spring Clean-up week is scheduled for MAY 2 – MAY 6. Consider it a "free-for-all" in terms of your regular trash pick-up. Items you consider trash — and again, as tradition goes, someone else sees as treasures — can be added to your routine trash for collection on trash day. Please remember: tires, demolition materials (concrete, asphalt, etc.), and hazardous materials should not be included. Other than those limitations, the sky's the limit.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Village Plan is the policy document outlining the Village's land development goals. The present plan was adopted by the Village Council in 1977 and amended in 1984. The Village Planning Commission is presently reviewing the plan and will generate amendments for Council's consideration.

The plan outlines goals for future residential, commercial, industrial, educational, recreational, and public service activities. Recognition of the importance of preserving community elements that make Yellow Springs a desirable place to live, support for efforts to preserve the Village's distinctive downtown, and pursuance of an acquisition plan to secure a continuous open space belt around the Village are examples of present goals.

One amendment being considered by the Commission involves the thoroughfare component of the plan that outlines street design standards. The revision being discussed will present design standards that allow narrower pavements on smaller rights-of-way, reflecting a continuation of the traditional Village street

## **New Village Manager**

After nine years as assistant Village manger, David Heckler has been appointed to succeed Kent Bristol as the new Village manager. David begins his new position March 26th.

design. Many of the older streets in the Village are narrower than the present plan requires and, if proposed for construction today, could not be built. The advantages of this new approach include an overall reduction in development costs and a more efficient use of land.

The Planning Commission will be working on the plan update throughout the year with hopes of completing the

work by the end of 1994. An accurate reflection of the community's future is essential since the plan guides any legislative action or other land use decisions made by the Village government. Realizing this importance, the Planning Commission is committed to providing an accurate depiction of the Village's desired future through the proposed amendments to this document. There will be opportunities for public input throughout the process. Once the Commission generates draft amendments, community feedback will be invited. Future announcements in the Yellow Springs News and on Channel 13 will provide more details. If you have questions or would like to work with the Commission on this project please contact any Planning Commission member, attend their regular meeting on the second Monday of every month at the Bryan Center, or contact Jo Scott at the Village offices.

## **ON THE WAY OUT . . .**

Since I will be leaving Yellow Springs soon, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who live here for the chance to work with you.

I frequently hear people say they wouldn't have my job for all the tea in China. A former co-worker once commented that my chief qualification seemed to be my tolerance for abuse.

In fact, a certain amount of that goes with any public office. Yellow Springs is the most benign environment where I have ever worked, which is why I have stayed for 15 years, when average tenure for a city manager is five or six years.

Yes, people in Yellow Springs are demanding. They are also realists — not expecting Uncle Sam to pay their way, nor looking for a "free lunch." It is true that Villagers are an outspoken bunch — again, much easier to work with than someone who expects

you to read their mind, becoming angry when you fail to do so.

Villagers share my belief that local government is a legitimate vehicle to help people shape the kind of place they want to live. That, and the many other kinds of support — for tax levies, utility rate increases and the like — not to mention the occasional thank you note or word or encouragement — are factors that make this an especially pleasant working environment for a public servant.

The people of Yellow Springs have given me the best treatment of any place I have worked, and I have done my best to return that favor. I thank you for the opportunity to work among you, for your tolerance of my foibles and occasional failures, and for what I feel have been 15 very productive and enjoyable years.

—Kent Bristol

*\*We're looking for suggestions about the title, The Grapevine. What do you think? Your comments about the title — or anything else in the newsletter — are welcome.*

## BUSY! BUSY! BUSY!

### In addition to all the routine things we did this year, your Village employees also:

- ✓ Successfully mediated the Street Fair arrest incident in a matter satisfactory to all the principals, if not our critics
- ✓ Got a \$153,000 grant to seal leaks in the sewer system and have nearly completed that project
- ✓ Completed an employee classification and pay study and are nearing adoption
- ✓ Continued to repair and replace defective sidewalks
- ✓ Began the work necessary to comply with new state and federal mandates
- ✓ Continued work on the U.S. Forest Service/IEP land use planning recommendations now at the point of rewriting our comprehensive plan
- ✓ Spent many hours trying to sell the Bean farm, old Village Hall and Johnson farm (to Glen Forest Cemetery) and developing an easement on the Sutton farm
- ✓ Significantly lowered our worker comp insurance costs by joining a pool
- ✓ Replaced many stopped or slow water meters
- ✓ Automated reading of electric and water meters (using hand-held computers)
- ✓ Completed an internal review of sewer billing
- ✓ Set a new record for donations to United Way
- ✓ Bid and let contracts for expanding the bath house and resurfacing the Bryan Center game courts
- ✓ Replaced underground fuel storage tanks with vaults
- ✓ Replaced one of two malfunctioning septic systems at Sutton farm
- ✓ Began a program to protect our water supply (wellhead protection)
- ✓ Devoted time, attention and money to the issue of the hazardous materials incineration at Southwestern Portland Cement
- ✓ Expanded recycling to include used oil and cardboard
- ✓ Continued to meet and cooperate with Miami Township (equipment exchange, oil recycling, land use planning)
- ✓ Provided more training for the Police Department in the last six months than took place in the prior ten years
- ✓ Installed more benches and litter barrels
- ✓ Auctioned off surplus personal property and unclaimed property
- ✓ Worked with developers on getting approvals and installing public improvements in two new developments (Kingsfield and Glenside)
- ✓ Reached agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and BP to provide downtown public restrooms
- ✓ Worked with consultant on grant application for park improvements (awaiting publication of application details)
- ✓ Applied for grant to expand police activities
- ✓ Bid and contracted for installation of new tornado warning sirens
- ✓ Began the process of securing lower rates for phone service to Dayton
- ✓ Planned a revamping and expansion/replacement of facilities at the public works complex
- ✓ Filed for authority to regulate cable TV rates and began that process
- ✓ Rebuilt part of the electric distribution system serving the business district
- ✓ Replaced our most heavily used bucket truck
- ✓ Drafted a 1994 budget on a new schedule, using a revised process (in effect, doing two budgets in one year)
- ✓ Created more bicycle parking downtown
- ✓ Fired a non-performing contractor on the sewer lift station project and took it over ourselves (it, too, is nearly complete)
- ✓ Dealt constructively with many citizen-initiated concerns (e.g. merchant use of sidewalks)



## RECYCLING UPDATE



We have all, at one time or another, experienced some confusion about what materials are being recycled by the Village's waste hauler, Rumpke. There are materials that are recyclable in theory or items that another community is collecting, that are impracticable to recycle here due to insufficient demand in the market for these materials. The materials that are not presently being collected by the hauler will be left in your curbside bin as one way of informing you that what you might consider recyclable is not presently being accepted by Rumpke. Currently, the materials being accepted for curbside recycling are:

- **Newsprint** (no glossy or office paper or cardboard of any kind)
- **Plastics** marked with the recycling numbers 1, 2 or 6
- **Coated paper beverage containers** (milk or juice cartons, aseptic drink boxes)
- **Metal cans**
- **Glass** containers (no window glass or light bulbs)

*Note that this list includes a few new items — plastics with the number 6 recycling symbol and the coated paper beverage cartons.*

An additional recycling service is provided by the Village and Miami Township through the provision of a used oil igloo and corrugated cardboard dumpster located in the Corry Street municipal parking lot between the C&O Skate Co. and Subway.



## **WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

As many may have already experienced, Village residents whose homes have water meters over fifteen years old are being visited by Ron Underkofler and/or Jane King wanting to install a new meter. This project began in June of last year. Since that time about 300 meters have been replaced, with two of those meters identified as 36 and 37 years old. A total of 600 meters have been identified for this first phase of replacement. If you have a water meter that is older than fifteen years, you can expect a similar visit.

The new meters are being installed at no cost to the customer. One benefit of these new meters is that they have "leak indicators" that show when water is passing through the system, even if no water is apparently being used. The benefit is to identify small leaks like running toilets, dripping faucets, etc. before these result in large water bills. Residents who have either Rockwell or Sensus meters will not be affected by this first round of replacements.

Even though the new meters will provide a better reading of actual consumption, access to read the meters remains a problem. If you receive future notification from the Village Utility Department about gaining access to read and/or replace a meter in your home, please contact them promptly and make arrangements for completion of the work.

## **EMPLOYEES IN TRAINING**

To better serve the public, the following Village employees are currently taking a class in wastewater collection: Dave Conley, Joel Crandall, Kelley Fox, Harold Hamilton and Kent Harding. Meanwhile, Mike Applin is completing a class in water distribution.

## **TESTING**

Hopefully, you heard — or heard about — the first testing of the Village's new emergency siren system on Monday, March 7, around 1:00 p.m. The two new sirens, one located at Duncan Park on Dayton Street and the other at the intersection of Livermore and Allen Streets, replace the previous siren at the old municipal building. After purchasing the sirens and accompanying hardware, the Village's electric and street crews were involved with the system installation. Regular testing of the sirens is scheduled to occur on the first Monday of every month at noon.

### **FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT DAVID HERGESHEIMER:**

Snow lingers in the shadows of bushes and buildings but we now awaken to the sound of cardinal songs, not snowplows. The ice and salt have pocked the Village streets but perhaps that helps keep the speeders in check. The street crews heave a sigh of relief as winter dwindles away.

Just as seasons must change, so inevitably must village personnel occasionally shift, migrate and leave us. Kent Bristol has spent 15 winters monitoring the roads, fielding villager's queries, supervising projects, scrapping with state and federal authorities. Kent's legacy might be judged by some of the larger monuments brought to fruition in recent years — the wastewater treatment plant, the Bryan Center, the bike path.

However, Kent has not only been a planner-ribbon cutter. He has given a high level of personal commitment to this village. At 6 a.m. on street fair mornings, in cold and drizzle, Kent was on the street to help smooth the set-up; and when the exhibitors went home, he was still cleaning the street. His door was always open to villagers with a problem. We often met him about the village personally looking into neighborly disputes, alley vacations, tornado sirens and the like.

Surely Kent's legacy should also be measured by his avuncular good humor, even in the face of inevitable criticism; in his sound fiscal judgment which has given us long-term financial health; and in his confidence that local government and even "bureaucrats" can enhance and enrich the daily lives of those they serve. He has done these things and we all owe him a large measure of thanks. Good cycling Kent!

## **A NEW COAT FOR A WATER TOWER**

As a regular part of maintenance to the Village's water distribution system, the water tanks at Gaunt Park will be drained, cleaned and painted. During the week of March 13, one of the tanks will be drained and inspected. The two towers are 72 feet high and each holds

approximately one million gallons of water. When the exact scope of this work is further defined, the painting of one tower will be done around mid-summer. From now until completion, residents can expect slightly reduced water pressure due to only one tower being in service. It is estimated that nearly 100 gallons of paint will be needed to complete this project.

## **IN SEARCH OF WATER LEAKS**

In an effort to improve service and reduce maintenance costs, the Village will be inspecting the water distribution system using electronic detection equipment.

This method involves sending an electric signal between two points in the water pipes. Any variation in that signal indicates some activity in the pipe which could be leakage. This variation is investigated and resolved. Using this method, some communities have reduced water pumpage by as much as ten percent. The inspections should start by mid-spring.

## **NEW WELL PLANNED**

The Village's water demand is presently served by three water wells with an average total pumpage of 500,000 gallons per day. In order to assure an adequate supply of water for the Village, we are working on plans to drill a new water well at the Water Treatment Plant on Jacoby Road. A pilot well will be installed sometime this spring. Once drilled, the production and quality of the water pumped from the new well will be monitored. After reviewing this data, EPA will consider approval to allow the well to

become a production well. Once in operation, this well will supply an additional 350 gallons per minute of drinking water.



# 1994 BUDGET

Village spending for 1994, at \$5,434,691, is expected to be about the same as last year, according to a budget submitted recently by Village Manager Kent Bristol. That budget, which accompanied the annual appropriations ordinance, reduces allocations to 12 of the 23 Village operations. Increases in the remaining areas stem primarily from capital expenditures.

The largest increase was to the Library Fund — its allocation jumped 305 percent from \$11,700 last year to \$47,400 for 1994. Replacing the roof and repairing steps, at a total cost of \$40,000, accounts for the bulk of that increase.

The next largest increase in allocations was to the Utility Administration Fund, which this year will receive \$80,800, up 44 percent from last year's allocation. Updating the computer system used to administer Village utilities, at a cost of \$40,000, accounts for that increase. A \$250,000 street repair project on West Davis Street, as well as the need to replace a dump truck, boosted the Street Maintenance Fund by 32 percent to \$450,450.

Also receiving an increase will be the Parks Fund. Its \$160,000 allocation, up 31 percent from last year, will be used, among other things, to replace worn out equipment (\$35,000) and to resurface the

Bryan Center tennis courts. (The \$32,000 cost of resurfacing the courts is being carried over from last year.) The Bryan Center Fund will receive a 12 percent increase, jumping from \$151,000 to \$168,860, in order to fund the \$20,000 cost of purchasing equipment and making modifications to the building.

Also receiving increases will be Cable TV (37 percent, due primarily to an \$11,000 carryover from 1993); the Mediation Program (15 percent, due also in part to carryover funds); the Police Department (5 percent); the Swimming Pool (3 percent); and Water Distribution and Water Treatment (both 4 percent).

The fund receiving the biggest cut in allocations was the Sewer Collection Fund, down 40 percent from \$356,140 last year. The decrease is primarily in the area of capital expenditures, which dropped for this fund from \$219,000 in 1993 to \$71,500 this year. Expenditures for sewer treatment are also expected to go down. Bristol said the Sewer Fund, which has been the focus of concern, appears to be recovering. He also said the Solid Waste Fund, which has had its allocation reduced this year by 20 percent, is "doing well."

—Excerpted from the  
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## VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

100 Dayton Street  
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