

# 2025 End of Year Report

Johnnie Burns  
Village Manager





# ADMINISTRATION

## SUCCESSES

- **Administration team collaborated with Council** during goal-setting work sessions, fostering alignment and focusing on key Village priorities.
- **Held a productive one-on-one meeting with Governor Mike DeWine**, advancing relationships and highlighting Village priorities at the state level.
- **Appointed Elyse Giardullo as Assistant Village Manager**, strengthening leadership capacity in the Village Manager's office.





# ADMINISTRATION

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hosted the first 2025 Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association meeting**, welcoming regional leaders and strengthening partnerships across the Miami Valley.
- **Hosted the Ohio EPA** and other state representatives in Yellow Springs, highlighting collaboration on the Village's lead service line replacement project and securing funding to modernize infrastructure at no cost to residents.
- **Launched the New Managers Group**, connecting new municipal managers and administrators across the region and growing participation from 4 to 12 members.



## CHALLENGES

- **Periods of limited alignment among Council members** have created challenges in building consensus and making long-term decisions.
- **A high volume of work and competing requests**, combined with limited staff capacity, has constrained focus on long-term planning and initiatives.
- **Maintaining work-life balance** has been a challenge for staff given current workload and resource demands.



# WATER & WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

## SUCCESSES

- **Replaced all four chlorine dosing pumps** at the WTP with more reliable Watson-Marlow peristaltic pumps, reducing maintenance, time, and long-term costs.
- **Drilled a new monitoring well** in accordance with the Source Water Protection Plan, allowing upstream groundwater sampling to identify potential contaminants before they reach the well field.
- **Installed new ultrasonic level sensors** on sludge digesters that resist debris buildup, provide accurate readings, integrate with SCADA, and send high-level alarms to help prevent overflows.





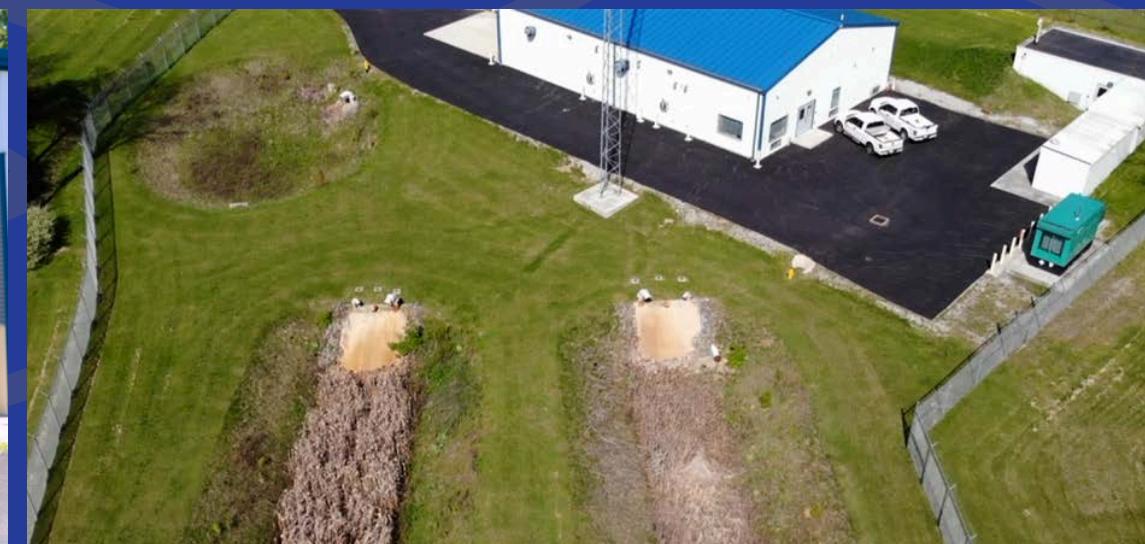
# WATER & WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Water Treatment Plant processes were improved** by upgrading pumps and reducing chlorine injector buildup, cutting maintenance time and the need for confined-space entries.
- **Staff training and certification** efforts advanced operator knowledge, resulting in two Class 1 certifications and ensuring ORC staffing compliance.
- **Treatment-plant-specific iWorQ tracking** was implemented to better document and manage maintenance at both facilities.

## CHALLENGES

- **WTP challenges** included replacing failed pumps, repairing chemical lines, updating the SCADA alarm system, and meeting all lab testing and regulatory requirements.
- **WRF challenges** included grit tank and pump issues, blower noise, leaking filtrate pumps, and mixer and gate failures.
- **Aging equipment** (38-year-old blowers, 16-year-old systems) made maintenance and regulatory compliance difficult within budget constraints.





# ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

## SUCCESSES

- **Center Circuit construction** is approximately 25% complete, with 5 new poles set and the fence extended; the next step is underground work.
- **Seven new reclosers**, purchased in 2024 and installed by November 2025, replaced 40-year-old units and are SCADA-capable, providing more accurate outage data.
- **Residential and demand meters** were upgraded to smart meters by December 2025, allowing real-time outage detection, voltage monitoring, and faster response to potential issues.





# ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Collaboration with the metering department** to accomplish the electric meter change out.
- **Two of our apprentices** making it into their last year of school.
- **Ben Sparks** graduating from lineman college.
- **Being able to travel to the Navajo Nation** to help the Navajo people in getting electric for the first time.



## CHALLENGES

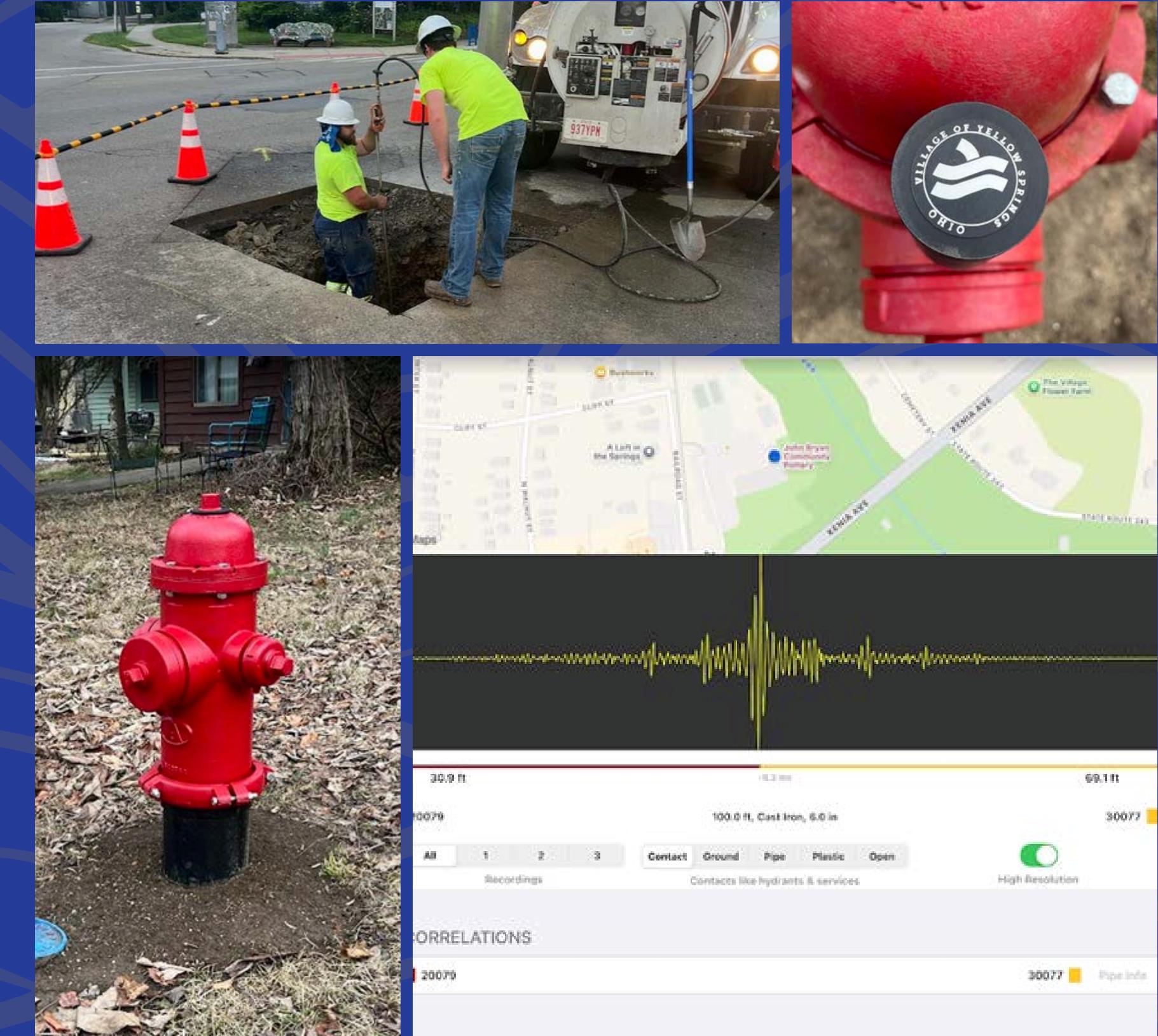
- **Village growth** in 2025 led to over 100 service releases, far exceeding the historical average of 15 per year.
- **Revenue opportunities** were pursued by installing service wire for new homes in developing plats and ensuring all aid-to-construction charges were properly assessed.
- **Limited staffing** has made it increasingly necessary to contract out work, as in-house resources cannot keep pace with current demand.



# WATER DISTRIBUTION

## SUCCESSES

- **New residential water meters** were installed through collaboration between the Water Distribution and Metering departments; approximately 300 meters were completed in-house, saving money and already delivering benefits.
- **Old fire hydrants are being restored** by stripping to bare metal, priming, painting, and installing new gaskets and hardware, with some custom artistic work added.
- **Water loss was reduced by** deploying the ALFX system to monitor hydrants nightly for leaks and replacing a 2" galvanized line with a new 6" line.





# WATER DISTRIBUTION

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Collaboration with the metering department** with installation of the residential meters.
- **Learning a new way to make old hydrants new** while saving thousands of dollars.
- **Learning new technology** to help us find ongoing water loss.



## CHALLENGES

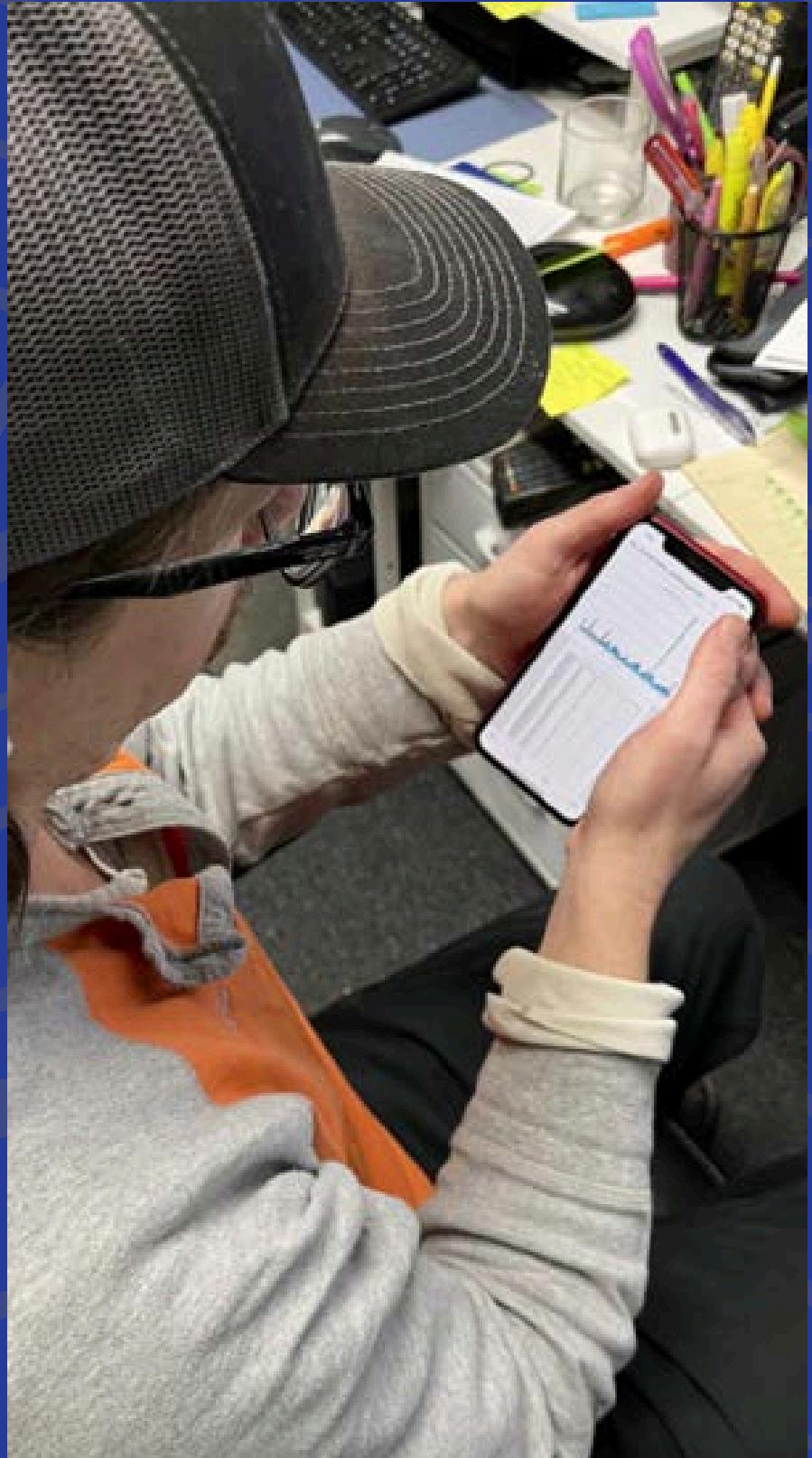
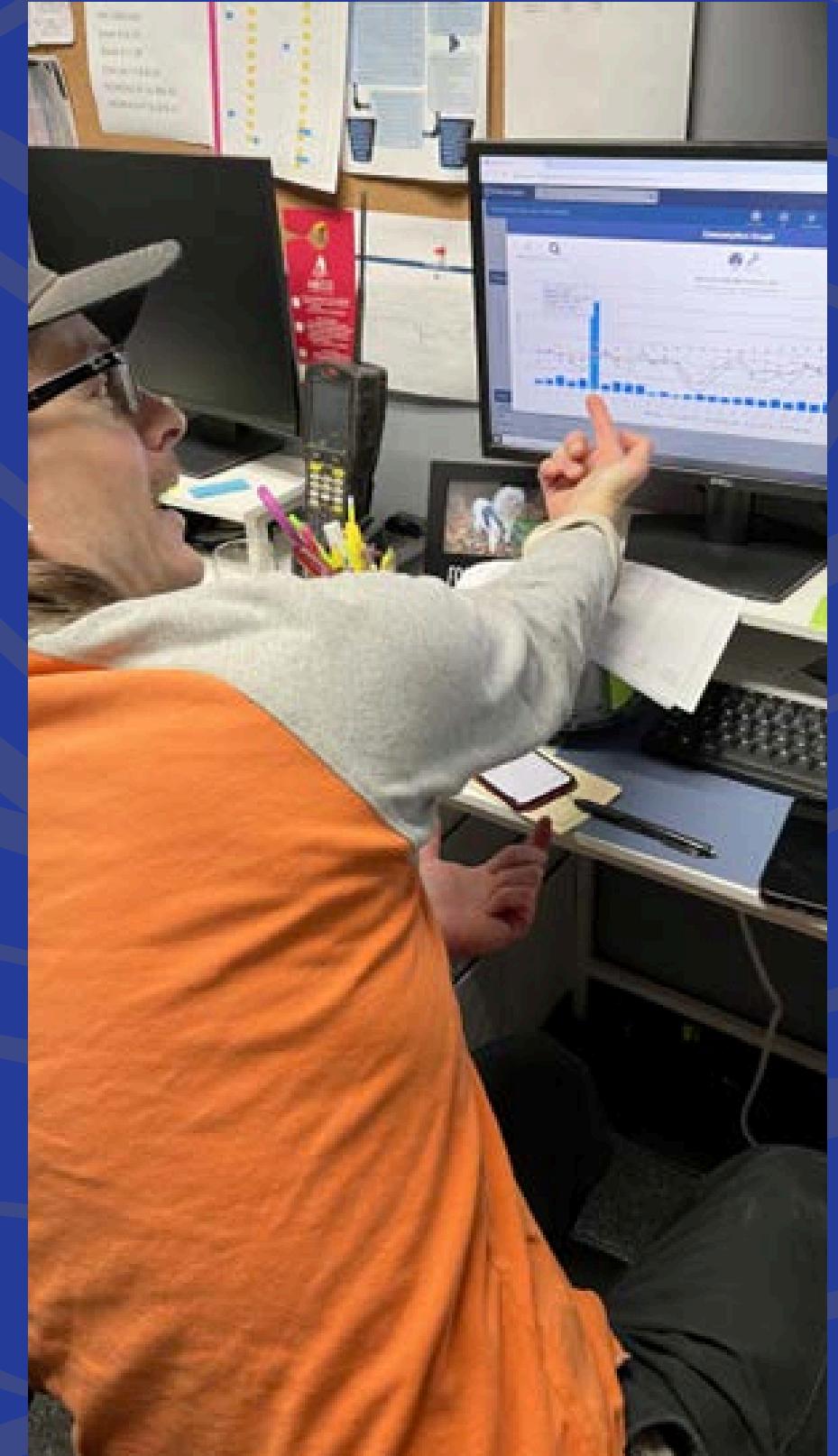
- **Valve exercising** is a critical part of the system that allows for shutting down lines during water main breaks; the program began in 2022 but has been limited due to costs and increased breakage of brittle valves in older parts of town.
- **Approximately 5,500 feet of 2" galvanized line**, installed in the 1940s, remain in service; these cannot be monitored with current leak detection tools, and replacing them would further reduce water loss.



# METERING

## SUCCESSES

- **The EPA-mandated lead service line inventory** was successfully led by the Metering Department, increasing system knowledge and ensuring the Village provides water of the highest quality.
- **Customer leak detection** is now enabled by new smart meters, allowing the team to identify leaks from as small as one gallon per hour up to 200 gallons per hour, saving millions of gallons of water for both customers and the Village





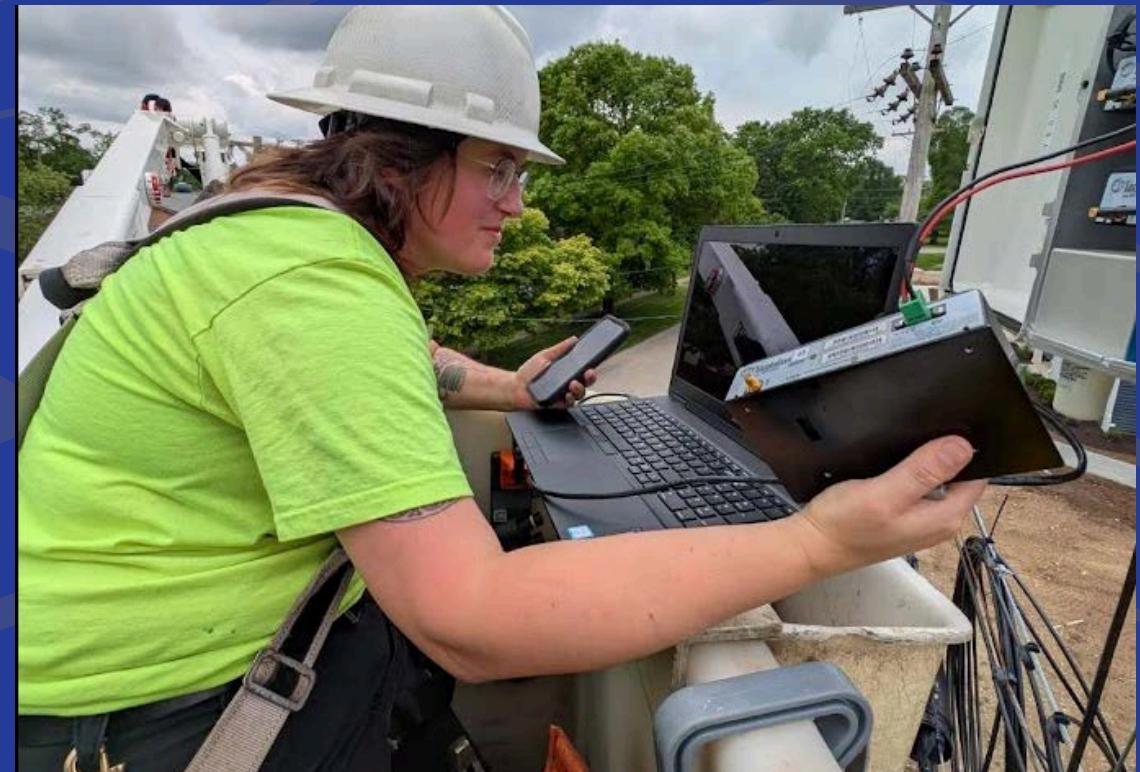
# METERING

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Collaboration with the Water and Electric departments** with installation of the residential meters.
- **Learning the new technologies** that are helping our customers on water leaks.
- **The ability to learn other tasks** and take on challenges that have never been investigated in the past.

## CHALLENGES

- **Adapting** to new water and electric meter technology, gaining daily experience and improving system knowledge.
- **Meter reader roles are evolving**, with defined responsibilities for each team member in 2026, ensuring continued adaptability and enhanced departmental performance.





# STREETS, PARKS, & SEWER

## SUCCESSES

- **Safe Routes to School improvements** included new curbing at intersections on W. Limestone, Phillips, Stafford, and South High Streets.
- **Park and community upgrades** included Limestone Wall restoration, picnic shelter and table replacements, outdoor drinking fountain installation, dumpster pad at Gaunt Park, signage restorations, tree island renovation, softball dugout installation, and decorative stop sign at Dayton & Corry Streets.
- **ADA and accessibility improvements** included six ramps on Edgefield Drive.
- **Pool and facility maintenance** included concrete replacement at Gaunt Park Pool and pool pump repairs.
- **Other infrastructure and vehicle enhancements** included hardscape work at John Bryan Community Pottery, deer fencing at Bill Duncan Community Gardens, lighting upgrades on all trucks, and a vehicle undercoating program.
- **Community projects** included installation of 365 project plaques along the Bike Path and at the Community Space at Short Street.





# STREETS, PARKS, & SEWER

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **The addition of new crew members** has been a very smooth transition (Michael Werling & Darius Brown).
- **The emphasis on Safety** has truly been a team effort.
- **The planning & installation of Community Gardens** for sustainable future.

## CHALLENGES

- **The Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIP) program** addressed aging wastewater collection infrastructure but could not continue in 2025 due to funding limitations.
- **New federal CDL regulations** have made acquiring qualified drivers more difficult.





# POLICE

## SUCCESSES

- **Community support services were expanded** with a second Outreach Specialist and the addition of formal Victim Advocacy programs.
- **Interagency collaboration led to successful outcomes**, including the investigation and resolution of a homicide, strengthened relationships with BCI and Greene County agencies, and recognition in Crisis Intervention Training: Dispatcher Daysi Cusick as CIT Telecommunicator of the Year and Officer Alex Croasmun nominated for CIT Officer of the Year.
- **Dispatch modernization and protocol formalization** centralized previously informal procedures.
- **Grant funding and equipment acquisitions** included \$95,484.83 in FY26 funding for advanced training (CPT and ALICE) and critical safety equipment.
- **LEADS audit compliance was fully achieved**, meeting FBI standards for sensitive law enforcement data.





# POLICE

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Department outreach and engagement** included launching the official Facebook page, reintroducing officer-led business safety assessments, and strengthening partnerships with organizations such as the Yellow Springs Community Foundation.
- **Community programs and training** included the “Pack the Cruiser” food drive, ALICE active-threat training at Antioch College and Greene County Educational Service Center, and participation in events like Safety Village, Street Fair, and Trunk or Treat.
- **Staff recognition and collaboration** saw seven members formally commended, with strong teamwork among dispatchers, officers, and COS staff supporting daily operations, complex incidents, and large-scale community events.
- **Partnered with 4Paws for Ability** to host and train service dog Porter, engaging Village staff, Council, and the community in a year-long initiative that successfully placed Porter with his permanent companion.

## CHALLENGES

- **Retention and staffing challenges** caused recurring vacancies and ongoing recruitment, while onboarding and training new hires strained supervisors and existing personnel.
- **Increased demand during the government shutdown** saw COS service contacts spike 177% in the fourth quarter, from 89.6 to 248.5 per month.
- **Operational adjustments** were required due to unexpected changes in municipal court prosecution and victim advocacy, while shifts in partner agency funding reduced access to critical services.





# FINANCE

## SUCCESSES

- **Budget development and oversight** included creating and managing operating and capital budgets for the General Fund and other funds, collaborating with the Village Manager, staff, and Finance Committee to address deficits and prioritize essential services and infrastructure.
- **Policy and system improvements** involved reviewing and updating financial and utility-related policies and procedures to enhance efficiency, internal controls, and departmental consistency.

Fall 2025

Issue 10 – November 4, 2025

### 2025 Levy Renewal Information

- **What is Issue 10?** – Issue 10 is a 5-year property tax levy renewal at the current rate of 8.4 mills. A mill is a unit used to calculate property taxes. This renewal does not increase taxes, except for new construction, and is estimated to generate approximately \$850,000 annually for the Village's General Fund.
- **How is the General Fund used?** – In 2024, the General Fund totaled \$5,471,725. These dollars support essential Village services and provide transfers to other areas such as streets, parks, and capital improvements that do not generate enough funding on their own.
- **How has state funding changed?** – State funding for local governments has decreased significantly over time. In 2008, the Village received \$487,323 in state and local support; by 2024, this amount had been reduced to \$130,269 due to reductions in local government funds and the elimination of the Estate Tax.

Income Tax	Property Tax	Levy Proceeds	Other Sources
\$2,623,729	\$387,057	\$848,842	\$1,612,097

**What did the General Fund support in 2024?**

Category	Percentage
Transfers Out	37%
Public Safety	35%
General Government	18%
Community Outreach	4%
Misc. 1%	1%
Planning & Zoning	5%

Affordable Housing  
Facilities Improvement Fund  
Parks & Recreation  
Police Pension Fund  
Public Safety Capital  
Streets

THE LEVY PROVIDES 15.5% OF THE TOTAL FUNDING FOR THE GENERAL FUND

Homeowners would pay \$168 per \$100,000 of assessed value each year

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# FINANCE

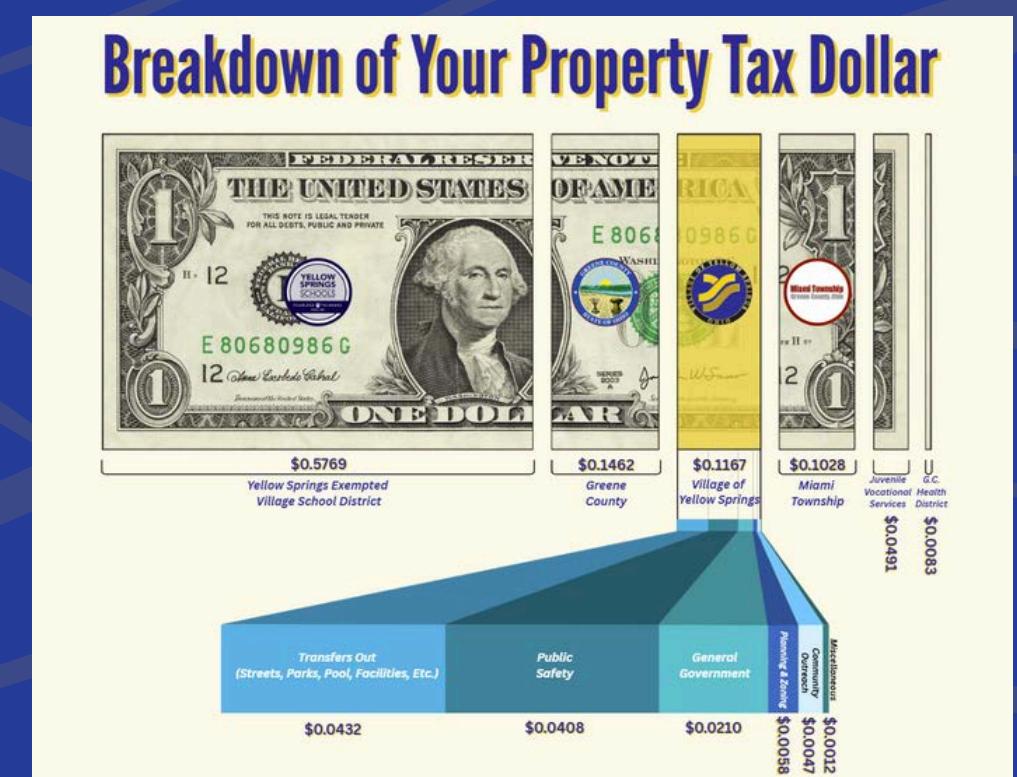
## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Utility billing and revenue collection** ensured accurate, timely billing, payment processing, and account management while maintaining responsive customer service.
- **Payroll, accounts payable, and utility transactions** were processed accurately and on schedule with proper authorization and documentation.
- **Customer service and interdepartmental support** provided prompt resolution of issues and clear guidance to departments, employees, vendors, and utility customers.



## CHALLENGES

- **The new timekeeping system** required workflow adjustments, with staff actively addressing initial issues to ensure accurate payroll and reporting.
- **Rising operating and capital costs** amid limited revenue growth continue to challenge financial planning and budget management.
- **Staffing constraints and competing priorities** have increased workloads, requiring careful balance between daily operations and long-term initiatives.





# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## SUCCESSES

- Successfully established a **Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) district** and advanced a **Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project** to encourage reinvestment and support priority development areas.
- **Major development and capital projects** progressed, including Spring Meadows, Yellow Springs Schools, and the Cresco addition.
- **Permit and payment processing was efficient**, with timely approvals and reliable credit card software contributing to a 9.5% increase in total permits issued.
- **Strong interdepartmental communication and active boards** ensured smooth daily operations, project coordination, and consistent review of zoning, land use, and variance requests.

**186 building permits were issued in 2025, with a project value of \$18.3 million.**

Year	Total Permits	Project Value
2025	186	\$18.3 Million
2024	169	\$28.2 Million
2023	131	\$6.9 Million
2022	114	\$9.4 Million



# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Development and planning activity** included approval of 3 conditional uses, 2 preliminary PUDs, 4 zoning text amendments, and review of 2 right-of-way vacations.
- **Zoning code modernization** improved bicycle parking requirements, clarified definitions (including ADUs), and expanded site plan review exemptions for minor residential projects.
- **Permitting and construction** trends included 186 building permits totaling \$18.3 million, with increased permit volume despite lower overall project value.
- **Boards and commissions** held 6 BZA meetings, approving variances for setbacks, fence height, density/parking, and transient guest lodging.
- **Spring Meadows development** progressed with 90 single-family homes planned, 39 sold, 25 closed, and 3.3 acres preserved as open space with trails and a park.
- **Commercial and business** growth included WYSO construction, Windsor PUD approvals, Lark Overland expansion, and 5 new businesses opening in 2025.

## CHALLENGES

- **The absence of a Planning & Economic Development Director** has constrained capacity for planning and economic development initiatives.
- **Permit distribution and payment issues** caused delays in approvals and required extra coordination to complete transactions.
- **High permit volume** necessitated careful attention to workflow efficiency and accuracy to maintain service quality.





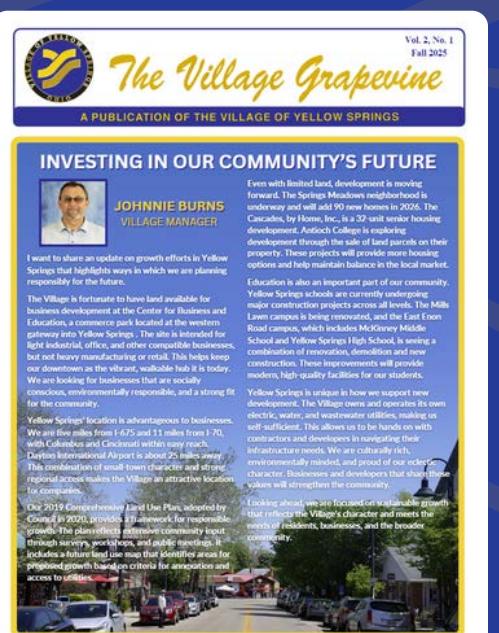
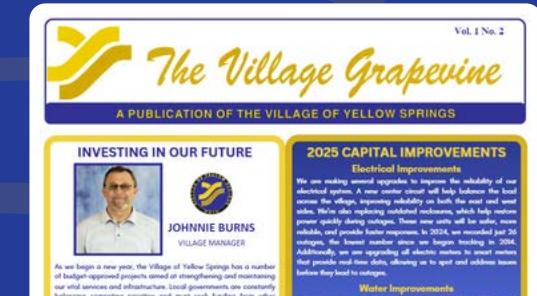
# DIGITAL MEDIA

## SUCCESSES

- **Launched the YSConnect app** with improved functionality, exceeding the goal of doubling CivicPlus users with 1,700+ downloads and 50+ text subscribers, receiving overwhelmingly positive community feedback.
- **Initiated a new Village website** rebuild to meet ADA requirements, selecting Revize as the vendor and completing design and sitemap work, with a launch anticipated by Q1 2026.
- **Upgraded department equipment and digital capabilities**, including major video equipment improvements, enhanced livestreams, obtaining an FAA drone pilot license, and modernizing the Village Digital Media department.



YSConnect App



2025 Editions of the Grapevine



# DIGITAL MEDIA

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Village Communications Team**—Elyse Giardullo, Cameron Fortin, and Ben Guenther— worked cohesively on the Village Grapevine, YSConnect launch, and new Village website, combining complementary skill sets for high productivity.
- **Grapevine production** has become streamlined, with Aaron Arellano’s addition to the team providing significant support.

## CHALLENGES

- **Finding a vendor for the new website** was initially challenging, as contract concerns with a prospective vendor caused a nearly three-month delay.





# JBC YOUTH CENTER & POOL

## SUCCESSES

- **The Youth Center** continued to provide safe, welcoming spaces for ages 10–18, offering meals, school supplies, games, computers, art, and supportive staff engagement.
- **Fundraising and community support** supplemented the budget, enabling low- or no-cost field trips, special events, and replenishment of supplies.
- **Youth volunteer engagement** remained high, with participants earning community service hours during events and programs.
- **Pool operations** benefited from experienced staff and training, ensuring smooth daily operations and swimmer safety.
- **Lifeguard training and certification programs**, including community-funded courses, reduced barriers for youth entering the workforce.
- **Free swimming lessons and programming** served residents of all ages and hosted the local swim team, the Seadogs.





# JBC YOUTH CENTER & POOL

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Youth Center field trips and experiences** included Kings Island, the Cincinnati Zoo, Otherworld Columbus, and local school, park, and pool outings, with meals, transportation, and special attractions provided.
- **Community events fostered engagement**, including Trunk or Treat and Free Movie Day, with youth involved in planning, setup, and cleanup.
- **Pool highlights** included the Midnight Swim, which returned after a prior-year cancellation with 224 attendees.
- **Mechanical issues were addressed quickly**, with a major pump repaired in 10 days, allowing the season to start early and providing flexible work for new staff at the pool and Youth Center.

## CHALLENGES

- **Youth Center transportation and volunteer challenges** included limited charter bus availability and high costs for field trips, as well as difficulty securing volunteers for large events like Street Fair parking, partially offset by Streets Crew support.
- **Pool infrastructure and staffing challenges** included aging equipment with limited backups, ongoing maintenance needs, and difficulties recruiting and retaining lifeguards due to certification costs and competition from higher-paying facilities.





# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION