Vol. 3, No. 1 (Fall 2026)

The Village Grapevine

A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS



NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE:
Building a Better Digital Front Door

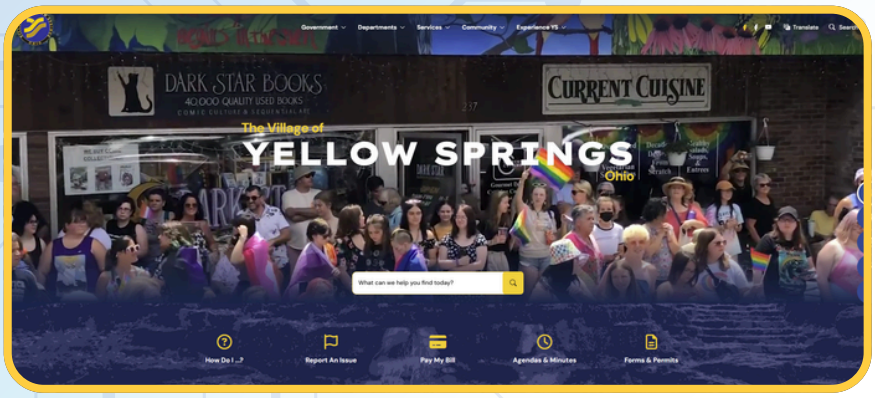
LET IT GROW:
Yellow Springs Tree Committee

FALL IN THE SPRINGS:
A Photo Collage

A LITTLE SPICE & A LOT OF HEART:
Tik's Thai Yellow Springs

SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS:
Flour & Sugar, Tree Lighting, NYE

NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE

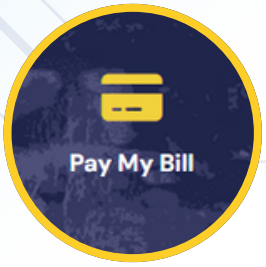


This summer, the Village of Yellow Springs proudly unveiled its long-awaited website update. The new site features an intuitive, streamlined design and quick access to meeting agendas, forms and permits, and other items frequently sought by community members.

Visit *www.yellowsprings.gov* to check out our improved digital front door!



alerts



bill pay



calendar



meetings



news & events

VILLAGE STAFF UPDATE



Sarah Bowen
YSPD Dispatcher

Abby Bryce
Interim FInance Contractor

Larry Hartlaub
Interim Finance Director



Danielle Kroh
YSPD Dispatcher



Aaron Wilburn
Water & Wastwater Plant Operator

Trees are an important part of Yellow Springs' character, providing shade, supporting wildlife, and adding beauty to public spaces. The Yellow Springs Tree Committee helps care for that canopy through tree planting, ongoing maintenance, and community education.

For committee president Jackie Bergdahl, the work grew out of a longstanding interest in trees and a desire to serve the community. "Well, I've always been a tree nerd," she said. "I was looking for something that I could, some community service I could perform."

That service continues long after planting day. Young trees need regular watering during their first three years, and volunteers often head out several mornings a week during the summer. Bergdahl counts watering among her favorite tasks. Driving the committee's truck in the cool morning air, she said, is "very fulfilling."

Macy Reynolds, a Greene County Master Gardener, became involved through volunteering and connections with early committee members, including Lloyd Kennedy, who helped establish the group. She still enjoys the work, describing those quiet mornings as pleasant and a chance to do something good for the trees.

Today, the committee coordinates planting locations with Village staff, particularly the Streets Department. Plantings take place in tree lawns, parks, school grounds, and other public spaces. Choosing the right tree for each location is essential.



A commemorative plaque by the Yellow Springs Tree Committee.



Large sugar maple tree planted at the John Bryan Center.

"We always say right tree, right place," Reynolds explained. A tree that thrives in a large yard may not be suited to a narrow tree lawn with overhead wires, sidewalks, or parked cars. Homeowners should also consider how large a tree will become before choosing where to plant it.

Native trees can support local insects and wildlife, but they are not always the best fit for every site. Soil conditions, available space, and a tree's growth pattern all influence the decision.

The committee also works to diversify the Village's tree canopy and reduce the number of Bradford pears. Planting a wider variety of species helps reduce the risk that a pest or disease could damage a large portion of the canopy at once.

Beyond street trees, volunteers help care for projects such as the Allen-Xenia ("AX") Park food forest, Ellis Park's arboretum and bird sanctuary, and areas along the bike path. The committee also organizes an annual fall tree sale, helping residents choose trees for their own properties.

Looking ahead, the committee hopes to keep strengthening its focus on maintaining existing trees while continuing to plant new ones at a pace volunteers can support. The work is a reminder that a healthy tree canopy takes more than planting day. It takes consistent care, thoughtful choices, and community members willing to return season after season.

To contact the Yellow Springs Tree Committee, reach out via email to: *ystreecommittee@gmail.com*.

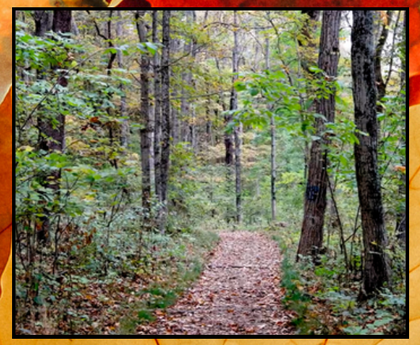
FALL IN THE SPRINGS





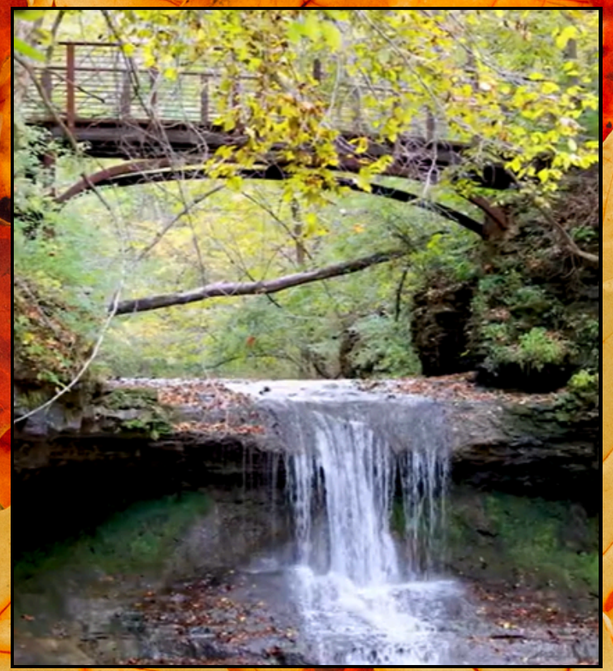




























A LITTLE SPICE & A LOT OF HEART

For Tik, owner of Tik's Thai Express, opening a restaurant in Yellow Springs represents more than another business venture. It is the collection of years of hard work, personal challenges, and a dream she never let go.

Tik's journey into the restaurant business began while raising her two young sons. To support her family while balancing motherhood, she began working at a mall food court. Her days often involved dropping her boys off at preschool, working a few hours, and rushing back to pick them up. Having grown up cooking Thai food, she combined traditional recipes with flavors and techniques she discovered at food fairs and festivals. That experimentation led to signature dishes, including Pad Thai paired with grilled bourbon chicken. Tik also enjoys bold, spicy flavors over dishes that are simply sweet.

Over the years, Tik opened several restaurants throughout the Miami Valley, including locations in Bellbrook and Springboro. She also operated food booths, food trucks, and festival stands. Eventually, managing multiple locations became too demanding, and she decided to focus her efforts on one business. Still, Yellow Springs remained on her mind.

Tik said the village reminded her of the rural community in Thailand where she grew up. She was drawn to its welcoming atmosphere, friendly people, and strong sense of community.



One of the many delicious dishes at Tik's Thai!



Tik's Thai Boba Tea

Previous opportunities to open a restaurant in Yellow Springs fell through, and a battle with cancer forced Tik to put those plans on hold. After surgery and recovery, however, the idea of opening in the village never disappeared.

"I want to give myself one more chance to try one more time," she said.

That opportunity eventually came for Tik's Thai Express to open in Yellow Springs. Her commitment to the restaurant also extends to the kitchen, where she spent approximately five years working to bring a cook from Thailand to join her team. After years of patience and persistence, the process was finally completed, allowing the cook to obtain permanent residency and join her team.

For Tik, success is about more than making money. She believes in treating customers fairly, helping those experiencing financial difficulties, and giving back to the community. She also hopes to support local events by providing food and encourages community members to reach out when they need a hand. As she explained, "You've been in business a long time. You have something already. Now you have to know how to give."

Reflecting on her journey, Tik shared a thought that captures just how much goes into building a business: "People don't see when I'm stuck. They see only when I'm done." Now, she hopes to make Tik's Thai Express a lasting part of the Yellow Springs community.

FLOUR & SUGAR DISTRIBUTION



The Village of Yellow Springs Public Works Department will begin its annual delivery of flour and sugar to local widows and widowers on Monday, November 23rd, with the goal of completing deliveries by Wednesday, November 25th, just in time for Thanksgiving.

This tradition dates back to the generosity of Wheeling Gaunt, a formerly enslaved man who purchased his freedom, settled in Yellow Springs, and became both a landowner and philanthropist. Upon his death in 1894, Gaunt donated farmland to the Village with a clear instruction: the rental income from the land should be used to purchase flour each Christmas for the widows of Yellow Springs.

Over time, the practice expanded to include both flour and sugar, and to reach widowers as well. The Village is honored to continue this meaningful expression of community. If you would like to be added to the list of recipients, please contact Cameron Fortin, Leadership Team Assistant at cameron.fortin@yellowsprings.gov.

COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING



The Village invites everyone to gather for the annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 5th at 7:00 PM, at Jackson Lytle Point, the triangle between Xenia Avenue and South Walnut Street.

This festive evening will feature holiday music, and warm beverages. Whether you're continuing a family tradition or joining us for the first time, there's something special about gathering with neighbors to welcome the holiday season together.

For decades, the Community Tree Lighting has brought the Yellow Springs community together at the start of the winter holiday season. Each year, the celebration offers a chance to connect with neighbors, enjoy some holiday cheer, and make new memories.

Bundle up and join us as we light the tree, celebrate the season, and continue this cherished Yellow Springs tradition!

NYE BALL DROP



The community will gather once again at the corner of Xenia Avenue and Short Street to celebrate the end of another year and ring in the new one at Yellow Springs' annual New Year's Eve ball drop. The gathering offers a chance for neighbors, friends, and families to come together, share in the excitement, and count down to the year ahead.

This year's ball drop marks a special passing of the torch, as Dan Badger takes over as the designated dropper from longtime tradition-keeper Lance Rudegeaire. We extend our thanks to Lance for his years of enthusiasm and dedication to making this community celebration a memorable one, and we look forward to seeing Dan carry the tradition forward.

Whether it's your first ball drop or a New Year's Eve tradition you've enjoyed for years, all are welcome to join the community in welcoming 2027!

Village of Yellow Springs

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937-767-7202 | www.yellowsprings.gov

VILLAGE COUNCIL & CLERK

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Senay Semere, Council Member
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Stephanie Pearce, Council Member
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Judy Kintner, Council Clerk
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Nía Holt, Planning & Zoning Director
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YSPD (*Non-Emergency*)
937-767-7206

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Steve McQueen, Village Mayor
mayormcqueen@yellowsprings.gov

MacKenzie Baird, Clerk of Mayor's Court
mackenzie.baird@yellowsprings.gov

MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Village Council
First and Third Mondays at 6:00 PM

Planning Commission
Second Tuesday at 6:00 PM

Environmental Commission
Second Thursday at 6:00 PM

Public Arts and Culture Commission
First Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Check out our YouTube channel to watch livestreams of Village Council and Planning Commission meetings:
youtube.com/@yellowspringscommunityaccess

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