

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA**

In Council Chambers @6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Anyone can observe meetings live via cable Channel 5, (Community Access Yellow Springs) or on YouTube. ZOOM participation will be offered only for virtual meetings. Please contact the Council Clerk at 937-767-9126 or clerk@yellowsprings.gov for any questions regarding the Council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of August 17, 2026 Special Meeting: Work Session: Bowen Housing Study
3. Minutes of August 21, 2026, Special Meeting: Executive Session

REVIEW OF AGENDA

I. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS (6:10)

The Clerk will receive and file:

Letters in Support of Johnnie Burns:

Alex Price (2)
Amy Bailey
Amy Wamsley
Arthur and Julie Allison
Carl Champney
Carmen Milano
Carolyn Powers
Charlene Prestopino
Dorothee Bouquet
Holly Smith-Conway (2)
Joanne Lakomski
Johanna Northway
Johanna Northway re: Opposition to Village Funded Housing Initiatives
Joslyn LaFlamme
Julie/Matt Jones
Jyoti Miller
Kathryn Burkland
Lisa Abel
Lisa Kreeger
Lisa Woltersd
Lynn Adams
Mark Heise
Mitzie Miller
Patrick Lake
Patti Bates

Ryan Aubin
Samantha Williams-Eckenrode
Scott Bachmann
Sheila Dunphy/Dino Pallotta
Terri Holden
Tom/Elise Burns
Village Staff Members (10 signators)

Mayor's Clerk re: Monthly Report (2)
YS Home, Inc. re: Cascades Development
Mitzie Miller re: Xenia Ave Accessibility
Judith Hempfling re: Affordable Housing
Carol Allin-Cromer re: Glass Farm

II. CITIZEN CONCERNS (6:10)

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION (6:40)

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-15 Renewing a Franchise for Operation of a Gas Utility in the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio to the Vectren/Center Point Energy Company and Specifying the Terms and Conditions Thereof

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-18 Approving an Additional Third Quarter Supplemental

Reading of Resolution 2026-31 Accepting the Resignation of Johnnie Burns as Village Manager and Approving a Separation Agreement and Consulting Agreement with Johnnie Burns for Public Works Consultation

Reading of Resolution 2026-32 Approving an Agreement with the Management Advisory Group, LLC for Interim Village Manager Services

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS

V. MANAGER'S REPORT (7:00)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Status Update re: Village Manager Position (DeVore Leonard: 10 min.)

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS* (7:10)

Sept. 21: Swearings In/BZA
Ordinance 2026-19 Additional 3Q Supplemental
Strategic Plan RFQ Recommendation
Updated Glass Farm Public Engagement Timeline
Economic Development Progress Update
Goals Update
Sept. 28: Budget Session #1: 3-5pm
Oct. 5:
Oct. 12: Budget Session #2: 3-5pm
Oct. 19:
Oct. 22: Budget Session #3: 3-5pm

*Future Agenda items are noted for planning purposes only and are subject to change.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Council for the Village of Yellow Springs will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, September 21, 2026**.

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: WORK SESSION
MINUTES**

Council Chambers 5pm.

Monday, July 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. AVM/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo, Digital Media Manager Ben Guenther Solicitor Amy Blankenship and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present. Brown joined the meeting at 5:04 pm.

WORK SESSION

Rollout of New Village Website. Elyse Giardullo described updated features available on the new website, addressed questions and explained required accessibility features. She noted the leadership of Digital Media Manager Ben Guenther, who has taken lead on this initiative, and the support of Council.

Giardullo noted that Revize was selected for a number of reasons, in large part their familiarity with municipal platforms, and for ease of site usage.

Guenther and Giardullo then walked Council through various features and specific improvements over the current site.

The rollout was positively received overall, with several comments made regarding adding other features.

The plan is for the site to go live on July 27th.

DeVore Leonard asked for an annual report on website analytics.

Giardullo noted that Revize offers an every-four-years revision to the site to keep it modern and relatable.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:41pm, Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

The Village of Yellow Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the Village, Clerk of Council's Office at 767-9126 or via e-mail at clerk@yso.com for more information.

**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs
Regular Session Minutes**

In Council Chambers @ 6 P.M.

Monday, August 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Solicitor Sarah Sparks, sitting in for Amy Blankenship, Planning and Zoning Director Nia Holt and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

SWEARINGS IN

DeVore Leonard swore in Chad Runyon as a full member of the BZA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of July 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of July 20, 2026 Special Meeting: Work Session
3. Minutes of July 24, 2026 Special Meeting: Executive Session
4. Minutes of July 30, 2026 Special Meeting: Executive Session
5. Minutes of August 13, 2026 Special Meeting: Executive Session
6. Credit Card Statement for July, 2026

Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

DeVore Leonard added an Executive Session Under Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) To consider the appointment and employment of public employees.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Jeff Szkody re: Opposition to Glass Farm Development
Kaitlyn Alavattam-Grulick re: Opposition to Glass Farm Development
Mayor's Clerk re: Monthly Report (2)

Hsu reviewed communications.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Mitzie Miller presented photos regarding accessibility and infrastructure, stating that Village owned parking lots are not fully compliant.

Terri Holden commented on Council Goals. She commented on the Housing goal of affordable housing, stating that the Bowen study points out deficits in several housing types. She opined that Glass Farm should be considered for a diversity of housing. Holden stressed the need for infrastructure improvement and upgrades which should run parallel to housing development.

Pam Nelson commented that development of Glass Farm should be an issue decided by residents.

She stressed use of infill rather than greenfield development. Nelson referenced an online petition which she stated shows support for a vote on the matter.

Chad Runyon asked that Council consider zoning and policy prior to starting with Glass Farm development. He characterized this as pitting environmentalists against affordable housing proponents.

Daniella Joseph, a non-resident who visits several times a year, stated that there are only 2 spots on Corry Street on which she can park and exit her vehicle safely with a wheelchair.

Laura Curliss identified herself as a conservation attorney. She stated that greenfield development has resulted in significant loss of wetland in the US. She noted that there was no wetland delineation study conducted when she asked for such a study as a seated Council member. She concluded that best use may not be housing.

Ralita Hilderbrand Chambers commented on Council priorities listed in the Village Grapevine, stating that there are three housing developments underway in the Village. She commented that these will affect housing in the village overall. Hilderbrand cautioned against the less conservative budget proposed to allow “pet projects”. She asked that any expenditure on affordable housing go before voters, as should Glass Farm development. Finally, Hilderbrand stressed infrastructure as a priority.

Mike Chambers commented that Council has a duty of care to every resident which includes proper and sufficient infrastructure. He stated that infrastructure enables all that follows—housing, economic growth, etc.

Laura Bergman Burns spoke against Glass Farm Development, characterizing it as development of a wetland. She stated that the Glass Farm contains “wetland soils”. Bergman Burns commented on “multiple failed attempts” to develop the area.

Alex Nelson stated support for Council Housing goals but opposition to development of the Glass Farm. Nelson asked for community input into housing decisions.

Tad Hughes asked that development of the Glass Farm be put to a vote. He noted Council’s request for community consensus before proceeding with development.

Jodie Frisbee announced a documentary at the Little Art Theater. She offered Happy Birthday greetings Reilly Dixon and Ben Guenther.

Bettina Stohlsenberg cited preservation of the wetland and endangered birds and animals in requesting no development on the Glass Farm.

Jane Brahler asked for a delineation study prior to any development on the Glass Farm.

Nicole Stout spoke against development on the Glass Farm, opining that the land was tiled and that the land will revert to wetland as the tiling fails.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Semere MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO READ EMERGENCY LEGISLATION BY TITLE ONLY. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-14 Repealing and Replacing Section 206.04 “Credit Card Policy” of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Sparks noted that the ordinance updates existing credit card policy to comply with state level updates to ORC 717.31.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-15 Renewing a Franchise for Operation of a Gas Utility in the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio to the Vectren/Center Point Energy Company and Specifying the Terms and Conditions Thereof. No motion to approve was taken.

The Clerk explained that because Village Charter Section 57 limits franchise agreements to not more than ten years, the title and section one require changes to become compliant. These changes are considered substantive, so if the ordinance is thus amended it will need to return for a second reading and Public Hearing.

Brown MOVED TO AMEND TITLE AND SECTION ONE TO LIMIT THE AGREEMENT TO TEN YEARS, with amendment to the final sentence in Section One to read "The municipality may give two (2) years notice of its intent to terminate the Agreement any time after the seventh (7th) year." Pearce SECONDED.

Hsu stated that she had educated herself regarding franchise agreements, and that while she is in agreement with the ten year limitation language, she may have further questions at the second reading of the amended ordinance.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

The Amended Ordinance will return for a second reading and Public Hearing on September 8th.

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-17 Approving a Bad Debt Write-Off Policy for Village Accounts. Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Sparks noted that the Solicitor has reviewed the policy for Council's approval at the request of the Finance Director.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-30 Accepting Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

DeVore Leonard acknowledged that the resolution is a necessary piece of housekeeping. There were no questions.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Sewer Capacity Study Update. Ryan Brauen, Engineer and Vice-President of Wessler Engineering presented his preliminary report and recommendations.

Brauen noted that Wessler had been asked to assess the lift station that services 70% of the village. They also assessed capacity to serve the village if housing options are built out to capacity.

Brauen stated that the station is operating at 90% of capacity currently. After explaining how the system works and key features of the process, he explained status of those component parts with regard to code compliance and any repair/replacement concerns.

Brauen stressed that the report is meant to provide information to start the village planning process. The assessment also qualifies the Village to apply for grant and loan opportunities the earliest of those being due in early September.

Brauen offered several solutions to repair/replacement needs, offering pros, cons and most recommended options.

The recommended options carry a cost of 8.65 million as an “all-in” cost. Brauen went over funding options, recommending phasing and funding options to limit impact on consumers.

Brown asked whether UV disinfection would be an option.

Brauen stated that it is an option, but that he did not have cost available.

Responding to a question from Hsu, Brauen stated that the force main would be the top priority, followed by the lift station.

Burns stated that the loan for the wastewater plant upgrade falls off in 2030.

Burns noted that Todd Van Lehn was the last contractor to enact a repair on the force main.

Van Lehn commented on that repair, noting that it is aging and that if there is a rupture it will send wastewater into the Glen for at least several days before a repair could be done.

Van Lehn stated that the line where exposed to air can fail far sooner than the 75-year life expectation, opining that the line should be replaced as soon as feasible.

Semere expressed concern that Council would be held liable for damages should the existing line fail.

Wessler declined to offer a recommended timeline, stating that if the Village were to inspect the force main it would likely show that the line is in poor condition and should be replaced. He suggested that Council consider that section, how much of a priority it is and how the Village should approach repairs. He added that in the event of a rupture it would certainly be a major event, possible requiring up to three weeks to rectify.

A final report will be submitted in the next two weeks. Wessler noted that they will be submitting the report to the state for any available funding by September 4th, and that results on funding should be back in December of January.

EPA will ask the Village to nominate a project soon, Brauen said.

MANAGER’S REPORT

There was no Manager’s Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Housing Mission Statement. Hsu commented that Council is continuing to solicit feedback from the community regarding housing goals and Glass Farm.

The Clerk noted that the definition of affordable in the mission statement is not consistently referenced in the zoning code, and that Council might want to recommend to Planning Commission that this definition replace definitions in the zoning code.

Brown MOVED to replace current definitions of “affordable” in the zoning code with the definition presented in the Housing Mission Statement. Hsu SECONDED. DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Council decided not to pass the Mission Statement as a resolution.

Strategic Plan RFQ Update. DeVore Leonard reported that 22 applications have been received. Interviews with four of the applicants are set, and a recommendation on September 8th is anticipated.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Pearce made a plea for more involvement in Active Transportation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Sep. 8: **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-15** Renewing a Franchise for
 Operation of a Gas Utility in the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio to the Vectren/Center Point
 Energy Company and Specifying the Terms and Conditions Thereof.
 Updated Glass Farm Timeline
 Economic Development Progress Update
 Goals Update
Sept. 21: Sewer Capacity Study Discussion
Oct. 5: CRA/TIF Review

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:47pm Hsu MOVED to enter Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) To consider the appointment and employment of public employees. Semere SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION

At 9:59, Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:00pm Semere MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: _____

Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: _____

Judy Kintner, Council Clerk

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

Council Chambers 2pm.

Friday, July 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Village Manager Johnnie Burns and Solicitor Amy Blankenship were also present.

NARRATIVE

DeVore Leonard explained to the large gathering present that the expected order of events would be that Council would enter Executive Session. Once emerging from Executive Session there could be a motion made to terminate a contract. The motion would either be seconded or not. If seconded, the motion would then immediately be table. Following this, Council would set another Special Meeting to consider the motion and vote on it.

That second meeting, DeVore Leonard stated, affords the Village Manager the opportunity, per his contract, to request either a hearing in Executive Session or an open hearing. At that hearing, Blankenship noted, it is the choice of the Village Manager who is permitted to speak.

DeVore Leonard noted further that the agenda as it was set forth can be changed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:08pm, Brown MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 121.22(G)(1). The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION

At 11:10 Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Semere stated that Burns would first be given the opportunity to speak, followed by community input.

Burns thanked the community and asked that everyone in the room be respectful or not speak.

Burns read a statement to the effect that in the best interests of the Village and his staff, he was choosing, of his own free will, to resign as Village Manager.

Burns spoke highly of his staff, and his love for the community. He stated that the “ship has changed course and is going in the right direction” but that there is a new captain.

The following persons spoke in support of Burns:

Alex Price; Scott Osterholm; Max Crome; Sam Eckenrode; Patrick lake; Corry Whitacre; Jim Bailey; Eric Clark; Ralita Hilderbrand; Matt Kirk; Lisa Abel; Mitzie Miller; Jane Brahler; Amy Bailey; Phillip O'Rourke; Jill Pauley.

After the first 16 speakers, the mood shifted, and speakers became more accusatory of Council and more demanding of answers as to how the current situation had arisen, with several asking for Council resignations.

Max Crome; Matt Kirk; Rachel Dawes; Scott Osterholm; Alex Price; Patrick Lake; Dan Badger; Rachel Dawes; Alex Roland; Amy Bailey; Ruthe Ann Lillich; Sam Eckenrode; Lisa Kreeger; Patrick Lake; Jon Hudson; Jill Pauley; Robert Libecap; Ryan Albin; Jim Weiner; Patrick Lake; Lisa Wolters; Matt Kirk;

Several Village employees spoke of Burns' strong leadership and disappointment and sadness at his departure, most acknowledging their belief that the resignation was forced: Paige Burge; Ben Sparks; Tanner Bussey; Chelsey Skinner; Naomi Watson; Lane Dykeman.

Responding to repeated requests that Council and Burns reconsider, Burns stated that he had made a considered and final decision.

Semere made a brief statement regarding the difficulty of the situation for all concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:37 pm, Brown MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

The Village of Yellow Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the Village, Clerk of Council's Office at 767-9126 or via e-mail at clerk@yso.com for more information.



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Amelia Blankenship
Of Counsel
513 870 6579 Direct Phone
ablankenship@bricker.com

To: Village Council
From: Amy Blankenship, Village Solicitor
Re: Vectren Energy/ dba Centerpoint - Franchise Agreement Ordinance
Date: September 8, 2026

Per Section 56 of the Village Charter Council may, by ordinance, grant permission to construct and operate a public utility in the streets and public grounds of the Village or across private property when right of way has been acquired by agreement or condemnation. Section 57 of the Village Charter limits franchise agreements to a maximum of ten years.

Many years ago, a franchise agreement was granted to Vectren's predecessor for natural gas operations in the Village. CenterPoint Energy Ohio is now selling the Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio operations to National Fuel Gas Company. That sale is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2026. CenterPoint is currently doing due diligence with respect to its franchise agreements with municipalities in Ohio. The Village's franchise agreement, it was discovered, has expired.

This attached ordinance enters into a new franchise agreement with an "evergreen" provision which will allow the agreement to continue without expiration. The terms of the agreement are very similar to the previous franchise agreement. The agreement reserves significant authority to the Village to direct the franchisee to remove or relocate lines as needed to accommodate public work. This agreement has an initial term of 10 years and will automatically renew for additional 5 year periods unless terminated.

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
Ordinance 2026-15

**GRANTING TO VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF OHIO, LLC, ITS
SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A GAS FRANCHISE IN THE VILLAGE
OF YELLOW SPRINGS, STATE OF OHIO, FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10)
YEARS, AUTOMATICALLY RENEWING FOR ADDITIONAL PERIODS
OF FIVE (5) YEARS UNLESS NOTICE IS GIVEN, COMMENCING ON
THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adopt an ordinance granting Vectren Energy Deliver of Ohio, LLC, its successors and assigns, a gas franchise allowing the right and privilege of transacting business with the Village of Yellow Springs,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF
YELLOW SPRINGS, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:**

SECTION 1: Subject to the terms and conditions hereof, Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, LLC. ("the Company"), its successors and assigns, are granted the right and privilege for the period of ten (10) years, commencing on the effective date of this ordinance, to do, carry on and transact in the Village of Yellow Springs ("the municipality") including any area annexed thereto, the authorized business of the Company, including the business of supplying natural gas to the municipality and its inhabitants for the purposes for which natural gas is now or may hereafter be used, and to that end to enter upon and in, use and occupy the streets, alleys, avenues, public places and ways of the municipality to install, maintain and operate all necessary and proper lines, equipment and devices for carrying on its business pursuant to the terms and conditions listed herein. The rights granted to the Company pursuant to this Ordinance shall automatically renew for five (5) year periods. The municipality may give two (2) years notice of its intent to terminate this Agreement any time after the seventh (7th) year.

This grant shall apply to all such lines, equipment and devices used or useful for the aforesaid purposes, which are now owned by the Company in said municipality, and to such as hereafter may be installed, placed or erected by the Company.

SECTION 2: The Company's Natural Gas Service General Service Rules and Regulations filed with and approved by The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio currently in effect, and as may be amended from time to time pursuant to the authority of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, shall apply to and shall control the furnishing of natural gas services to the Company's customers. Those sections of the Village of Yellow Springs Charter relating to public utility franchises: Section 56. Granting Franchises, Section 57. Limitations on Franchises, Section 58 Quality and Rates of Service, Section 59 Right to Purchase, Section 60 Extension of Service, Section 61 Consent Not Required, Section 62 Control of Location, are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3: Upon the installation, removal or relocation of any such lines, equipment and devices, the surface of each street or public way, which may have been disturbed or broken, shall be replaced in good and workmanlike condition by the Company.

SECTION 4: Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed as granting to the Company an exclusive right or privilege.

SECTION 5: Upon request of the municipality made no later than November 1st of each calendar year, under this franchise, the Company agrees to file with the municipality a Construction and Major Maintenance Plan ("Plan"), in a format mutually agreeable to the municipality and the Company, that includes the Company's currently scheduled and/or anticipated construction or major maintenance projects for the next calendar year located within the geographical boundaries of the municipality. Said Plan shall be filed on or before January 15th of the calendar year for which the Plan is applicable or on another mutually agreeable date.

SECTION 6: The Company recognizes that it owns numerous facilities and real property within the municipality and recognizes its commitment to maintain these facilities in a manner befitting the surrounding environment of each facility.

SECTION 7: Upon request of the municipality but not more than once annually, the Company shall provide to the municipality in the most advanced mapping format and in as much detail as currently available to the Company, maps covering the location of all of the Company's natural gas facilities located within the public rights of way within the municipality.

SECTION 8: Prior to the commencement of any construction activity by the Company within the public rights of way that requires a permit and otherwise is not exempted by this franchise, the Company agrees to take all reasonable steps to secure all applicable permits from the municipality. The municipality may impose reasonable conditions upon the issuance of any permit and the performance of the Company thereunder to protect the public health, safety and welfare of its constituents.

SECTION 9: The Company shall not be required to secure a permit for construction activity required as a result of any condition involving Company natural gas facilities located within the public rights of way, that poses a clear and immediate danger to life, health or safety to any person or a significant loss of real or personal property (an "Emergency"). Company shall notify the municipality as soon as reasonably possible upon learning of any event regarding Company natural gas facilities located within the public rights of way that the Company considers to be an Emergency. The Company agrees to restore the impacted public rights of way to its pre-Emergency condition or functional equivalent as soon as practicable after the Emergency ends.

SECTION 10: The Company, upon request by the municipality, shall remove, adjust or relocate any and all natural gas pipes, main, service pipes, conduits, valve, drips, curb boxes, manholes, vaults, regulators, or any other natural gas devices or appliances located within the public rights of way at no cost to the municipality when such removal, adjustment or relocation is requested to accommodate a municipal improvement involving streets, alleys, avenues, public places and ways of the municipality.

Section 11: The Company agrees to indemnify and hold the municipality harmless from any claims arising from the franchisee's operations within the Village.

Section 12: As a condition of this franchise, the Company represents that it presently is, to the best of its knowledge, and shall remain during the term of this franchise, in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations, including those relating to discrimination in the workplace.

SECTION 13: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Gavin DeVore Leonard, President of Council

Passed:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

Roll Call:

Gavin DeVore Leonard____ Angie Hsu____ Carmen Brown____
Senay Semere____ Stephanie Pearce____

CERTIFICATE

I, _____, Clerk of the _____ of _____, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. _____, passed by the Council of said _____ on the _____ day of _____, 20__.

WITNESS my hand at the _____ of _____, Ohio, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

COUNCIL CLERK

Supplemental Appropriation Worksheet

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Addition to Budget</u>	<u>Comments</u>
101-1003-53101	Other Contractual Services	\$55,000.00	Contracted Interim Village Manager Services
101-1003-53104	Professional Services	\$1,000.00	Reimburse from State of Ohio for indigent cremation
101-1201-54109	Special Events	\$1,000.00	Mills Park Hotel sponsorship of Safety Village
220-1201-53130	Solid Waste-Utility Round Up	\$500.00	To allow for increased budget for URUP funds
220-1201-53131	Electric-Utility Round Up	\$1,500.00	To allow for increased budget for URUP funds
220-1201-53132	Water-Utility Round Up	\$1,500.00	To allow for increased budget for URUP funds
220-1201-53133	Sewer-Utility Round Up	\$1,000.00	To allow for increased budget for URUP funds
220-1201-53134	Storm-Water Utility Round Up	\$250.00	To allow for increased budget for URUP funds
224-1201-54102	Operating Supplies	\$4,125.00	Community Foundation donation for Bowen Housing Study

\$65,875.00

101	General Fund	\$57,000.00
220	Utility Round Up Fund	\$4,750.00
224	Affordable Housing	\$4,125.00

\$65,875.00

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-

**2026 SECOND THIRD QUARTER SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO**

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2025-25 was adopted to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Yellow Springs, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Village Council makes supplemental appropriations to reflect adjustments which occur throughout the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary to preserve the public interest and provide for a special emergency in the operation of Village services, such emergency being the urgent necessity to provide for legitimate expenditures and amend the annual appropriation .

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO, HEREBY ORDAINS THAT:

Section 1. To provide for expenses and other expenditures of the said Village of Yellow Springs during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026 the following sums are hereby set aside and appropriated as follows:

Section 2. That there be appropriated from the GENERAL FUND :		CURRENT BUDGET	SUPPLEMENTAL 09/08/26	AMENDED BUDGET
	Council Total	\$336,483.00		\$336,483.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$180,283.00</i>		<i>\$180,283.00</i>
	Mayor Total	\$39,887.00		\$39,887.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$25,387.00</i>		<i>\$25,387.00</i>
	Administration Total	\$712,548.00	\$56,000.00	\$768,548.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$327,798.00</i>		<i>\$327,798.00</i>
	Auditor	\$46,350.00		\$46,350.00
	Commercial Rental Property	\$142,650.00		\$142,650.00
	Library	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
	Cable	\$95,328.00		\$95,328.00
	<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>\$77,380.00</i>		<i>\$77,380.00</i>
	Council Commissions	\$64,360.00		\$64,360.00
	Public Safety Total	\$2,249,176.03	\$1,000.00	\$2,250,176.03
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$1,805,416.03</i>		<i>\$1,805,416.03</i>
	Planning Total	\$404,601.00		\$404,601.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$2,296,711.00</i>		<i>\$2,296,711.00</i>
	Mediation	\$14,420.00		\$14,420.00
	Transfers and Advances	\$1,306,500.00		\$1,306,500.00
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$5,417,303.03	\$57,000.00	\$5,474,303.03

Section 3. That there be appropriated from the following **SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**:

202	Street Maintenance & Repair Total	\$781,583.00		\$781,583.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$287,983.00</i>		<i>\$287,983.00</i>
203	State Highway & Repair	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
204	Parks and Recreation Fund	\$824,597.00		\$824,597.00
	Parks Total	\$271,803.00		\$271,803.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$91,763.00</i>		<i>\$91,763.00</i>
	Pool Total	\$150,333.00		\$150,333.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$81,508.00</i>		<i>\$81,508.00</i>
	Bryan Center Total	\$374,338.00		\$374,338.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$232,068.00</i>		<i>\$232,068.00</i>
	Bryan Youth Center Total	\$20,123.00		\$20,123.00
205	Economic Development Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
207	Green Space	\$0.00		\$0.00
208	Motor Vehicle - Permissive Tax	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
210	Mayor's Court Computer Fund	\$500.00		\$500.00
212	Law Enforcement & Education	\$6,746.00		\$6,746.00
213	Coat & Supply Fund	\$2,675.00		\$2,675.00
215	Federal Forfeited Assets	\$0.00		\$0.00
216	State Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$2,747.00		\$2,747.00
218	YS Clifton Connector Trail Project	\$0.00		\$0.00
220	Utility Round Up Fund	\$10,000.00	\$4,750.00	\$14,750.00
224	Affordable Housing	\$311,247.00	\$4,125.00	\$315,372.00
902	Widow's Fund	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
903	Police Pension Fund Total	\$52,125.00		\$52,125.00
	<i>Personnel Services</i>	<i>\$51,404.00</i>		<i>\$51,404.00</i>
904	Security Deposit Fund	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
906	Mayor's Court Fund	\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00
	TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$2,037,720.00	\$8,875.00	\$2,046,595.00

Section 4. That there be appropriated from the **CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS**:

301	Police Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
303	Water - Capital Fund	\$117,896.24		\$117,896.24
304	Sewer Capital Improvement Fund	\$354,750.00		\$354,750.00
305	Electric Capital Improvement Fund	\$330,000.00		\$330,000.00
306	Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement	\$154,750.00		\$154,750.00
307	Facilities Improvement Fund	\$234,374.74		\$234,374.74
308	Capital Equipment Fund	\$17,873.00		\$17,873.00
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND APPROPRIATIONS		\$1,209,643.98	\$0.00	\$1,209,643.98

Section 5. That there be appropriated from the **ENTERPRISE FUNDS**:

601	Electric Fund Total	\$6,223,525.73		\$6,223,525.73
	Personnel Services	\$682,665.00		\$682,665.00
610	Water Fund Total	\$1,551,683.00		\$1,551,683.00
	Water Distribution Total	\$660,672.00		\$660,672.00
	Personnel Services	\$408,523.00		\$408,523.00
	Water Treatment Total	\$891,011.00		\$891,011.00
	Personnel Services	\$278,905.00		\$278,905.00
620	Sewer Fund Total	\$1,564,508.00		\$1,564,508.00
	Sewer Collection	\$529,298.00		\$529,298.00
	Personnel Services	\$369,648.00		\$369,648.00
	Sewer Treatment	\$685,210.00		\$685,210.00
	Personnel Services	\$265,554.00		\$265,554.00
	Sewer Transfer	\$350,000.00		\$350,000.00
630	Solid Waste Fund	\$435,606.00		\$435,606.00
	Personnel Services	\$15,006.00		\$15,006.00
640	Utility Ovepayment fund	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
650	Storm Water Fund	\$92,483.00		\$92,483.00
660	Municipal Broadband Fund	\$45,000.00		\$45,000.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND APPROPRIATIONS		\$9,917,805.73	\$0.00	\$9,917,805.73

Section 6. That the appropriation from the Total Fund Budget is as follows:

GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS ALL FUNDS	\$18,582,472.74	\$65,875.00	\$18,648,347.74
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Section 7. The Finance Director and the Village Manager are hereby authorized to draw warrants on the Village Treasury for payments from any of the foregoing appropriations upon receiving proper certificates and vouchers therefore, approved by an ordinance of Council to make the expenditures; provided that no warrants shall be drawn or paid for salaries or wages except to persons employed by authority of and in accordance with such ordinance.

Section 8. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary to preserve the public interest and for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Village, wherefore, this ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption by Council.

Gavin DeVore Leonard, President

Passed:

Attest:

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL:

Gavin DeVore Leonard
Angie Hsu
Carmen Brown
Senay Semere
Stephanie Pearce

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
RESOLUTION 2026-31**

**ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JOHNNIE BURNS AS VILLAGE
MANAGER AND APPROVING A SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND
CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH
JOHNNIE BURNS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSULTATION**

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2026, Mr. Burns announced his intention to resign from his role as Village Manager; and,

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2026, Mr. Burns and Village Council discussed entering into a consulting agreement with Mr. Burns for public works consultation; and,

WHEREAS, the Village Solicitor has provided Mr. Burns with a draft separation agreement and a draft consulting agreement for his review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, if the parties are able to come to mutually agreeable terms for the separation agreement and the consulting agreement, Village Council hereby authorizes the Village Council President to enter into these documents on behalf of the Village,

NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

Section 1: If the Village and Mr. Burns are able to come to mutually agreeable terms for the separation agreement and consulting agreement, then Council hereby accepts the resignation of Johnnie Burns from the role of Village Manager, approves a separation agreement, and approves a consulting agreement with Mr. Burns to provide public works consulting services to the Village.

Section 2: Council directs the Village Solicitor to continue to work with Mr. Burns or his legal counsel to reach mutually agreeable terms. Council authorizes Village Council President to assist the Solicitor in negotiating said terms.

Section 3: Council hereby authorizes the Village Council President to execute a separation agreement and a consulting agreement, in a form approved by the Village Solicitor.

Section 4. This Resolution is in effect immediately upon passage.

Signed: _____
Gavin DeVore Leonard, President of Council

Passed:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

Roll Call:

Gavin DeVore Leonard____ Angie Hsu____ Carmen Brown____
Senay Semere____ Stephanie Pearce____

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO RESOLUTION
2026-32**

**APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP, LLC
FOR INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Village will soon be in need for interim village manager services; and

WHEREAS, Management Advisory Group has the expertise and experience to provide such services;
and

WHEREAS, Village Council herein approves the agreement with Management Advisory Group and
authorizes the Council President to execute same,

NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS OHIO HEREBY
RESOLVES THAT:

Section 1. The agreement with Management Advisory Group, LLC to provide interim municipal
management services in a form substantially similar to Exhibit A, with a start date yet to be determined,
is approved.

Section 2. Council President is authorized to execute the agreement with Management Advisory Group
in a form substantially similar to the attached Exhibit A and as approved by the Village Solicitor.

Gavin DeVore Leonard, President of Council

PASSED:

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Council Clerk

ROLL CALL:

Gavin DeVore Leonard____ Angie Hsu____ Carmen Brown____
Senay Semere____ Stephanie Pearce____



August 25, 2026

Mr. Gavin DeVore
President of Council
Village of Yellow Springs
100 Dayton Street
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

SUBJECT: Proposal for Interim Executive Services

Dear Mr. DeVore:

The Management Advisory Group LLC (MAG) is pleased to submit to you this proposal for interim executive services for the Village of Yellow Springs.

Project Overview:

The Village desires to procure the services of an interim Village Manager to administer and direct the operations of the Village until the appointment of a permanent Village Manager is made. MAG shall engage, deploy, and compensate Jeff Sheridan to serve as the Interim Village Manager and shall make available other firm expertise and resources to assist Jeff Sheridan as needed.

The following duties shall be performed by Jeff Sheridan as the Interim Village Manager:

- Provide overall direction and management oversight for the departmental operations for the Village, including but not limited to Police, Service, Utilities, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Development, and Finance.
- Coordinate implementation of administrative and Council authorized services, policies and programs through the Village's management team.
- Work closely with the Village Council in developing Council meeting agendas and related legislation.
- Administer the budget in accordance within the policies and procedures of the Village and applicable provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.
- Ensure compliance with and enforcement of the Charter, laws, ordinances, policies and procedures of the Village of Yellow Springs.

- Foster a culture of problem-solving by working collaboratively on challenges affecting the organization, and demonstrating accessibility and approachability for the Council, staff, and citizens of the community.

The Village will supply to MAG/Jeff Sheridan the following resources:

- An office within designated Village offices
- Access to all enterprise resource and planning software necessary to perform the role of Village Manager including but not limited to personnel files, payroll, budget/accounting software, email systems, and all other relevant hardware and software
- All relevant documents in support of the administration and management process including but not limited to budgets, capital improvement plans, job descriptions, HR software or files pertaining to personnel evaluations, collective bargaining agreements, compensation and classification schemes and/or studies, and other relevant planning documents.

Project Start Date:

The project is proposed to have a start date of _____.

Project Fees:

This proposal is based on an average of 24 hours per week at a rate of \$135.00/hour until the position has been permanently filled (approximately 16 weeks from the start date of services). The Village may increase or decrease the scheduled hours of service provided to meet its business needs but shall first give Jeff Sheridan not less than 3 business days' notice of said schedule change. This fee is inclusive of travel expenses and commute time; the Village shall only pay for actual hours worked.

Billing will be made twice monthly, the first being after the close of the first half of the month and the second immediately following the second half of the month with payment due within 15 days of receipt.

We look forward to working with the Village of Yellow Springs on this project and will gladly answer any questions you may have regarding this proposal.

I hereby accept this proposal and authorize the work as specified herein:

Gavin DeVore, President
Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio

Date

Sincerely,

David A. Collinsworth
Managing Partner
Management Advisory Group, LLC.



Parks & Rec. Supervisor Samantha Stewart overseeing summertime fun at Gaunt Park Pool.

Photo by Ben Guenther

Staff Report

September 8, 2026
Village of Yellow Springs

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STAFF UPDATE

As we prepare for transition in leadership, there is no “Manager’s Desk” section of the report. Staff have provided their usual reports regarding ongoing projects and maintenance needs.

There has been continued progress across a number of Council’s goals, including housing, strategic planning, financial management, economic development, and project management. The updates below provide a current snapshot of work underway, including efforts being led by both staff and Councilmembers.

Cameron Fortin
Leadership Team Assistant

VILLAGE COUNCIL GOAL	ACTIONS TAKEN / PROGRESS
Develop a clear, data-driven housing strategy.	Staff worked with the Bowen team to complete the revisions discussed at the August 17 Council meeting. Bowen has completed the revisions and has sent a final draft for Village review.
Advance priority Village-led housing initiatives.	An appraisal is scheduled for the Glass Farm property.
Develop and run a thoughtful strategic planning process and complete a Council and staff supported plan.	The selection committee reviewed over 20 RFQ submissions, then narrowed it down and interviewed five finalists.
Align capacity and goals for current and proposed projects to assure manageable workload and improve outcomes.	Staff have selected a task tracking and project management platform. The Planning & Zoning Director will take the lead on build out in the coming months.

VILLAGE GOAL	ACTIONS TAKEN / PROGRESS
Identify and implement cost cutting strategies while tracking progress on a return to a balanced budget by 2028.	• The FY 2027 budget proposal from each department has been submitted to the Finance Director. A schedule for Council FY 2027 budget finalization has been established. • The Finance Department has been working with the State Auditors to completed the Village audit.
Deepen our shared understanding of the budget and clearly identify what is considered a need.	The proposed zoning fee schedule text amendment is scheduled for Planning Commission. The amendment will remove fees from the zoning code, allowing Council to establish them more easily by resolution. It will also make the fees easier for residents and contractors to locate without searching throughout the zoning code.
Strengthen policies and tools for rental housing management.	Councilmember Pearce hosted roundtable discussions to engagement renters and landlords around this topic.
Prioritize environmental sustainability and energy efficiency into housing-related decisions.	The Planning & Zoning Director is scheduled to attend the October Environmental Commission to discuss conservation development and Zero Energy Ready Homes (ZERH). The discussion will be centered around the current code and proposed changes outlined in Councilmember Brown's white paper.
Evaluate zoning code vis-à-vis housing goals.	Planning Commission discussed researching/exploring the short-term recommendations which came out of the SWOT analysis at their August 11th meeting.

STAFF UPDATE

VILLAGE GOAL	ACTIONS TAKEN / PROGRESS
Evaluate and advance Lawson Place Apartments as a Village owned housing asset.	The Village Manager and Leadership Team Assistant are working with MTR to install Knoxboxes at the Lawson Place Apartments.
Explore policy tools to encourage property utilization and reduce vacancies.	The Planning & Zoning Department met with Lisa Abel (YSDC) to discuss strategies for address vacant lots and structures in August.
Clarify role of Village in economic development, including expectations for intergovernmental communication to support long-term planning.	Councilmember Semere and Planning & Zoning Department staff have met several times on this topic. Staff recommendations have been drafted and shared with Councilmember Semere.
Review CRA and TIF policies and consider legislation if needed.	- Planning & Zoning Department Staff has developed draft CRA application which have been sent the Village Solicitor for review. They are also developed a CRA guide which is available on the Village website based on the ordinance language. Staff is currently reviewing the ordinance and will recommend updates for the October 5th Council meeting. - Planning & Zoning Staff attend a webinar on public finance and incentives. TIFs and CRAs were discussed.

Police Update: 7/20 - 09/03

9-1-1 Calls	99
Non-emergency Calls	1251
Noise Complaints	9
Traffic Stops	56
Business Checks	539
Community Policing	539

4 Paws for Ability Update

Department 4 Paws for Ability Service Dog in Training Brother was promoted to Fabulous Flunky! He has officially been adopted by a loving family and will go to this forever home on September 8, 2026.



Brother enjoying his summer.

Congratulations, Danny!

Community Outreach Specialist and Victim Advocate Danny Steck, who graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University in February 2026, sat for her Licensed Social Worker exam on August 24, and we are happy to report she passed that exam with flying colors, making her an LSW. Congrats Danny; we are so proud of you.

Police Update: 7/20 - 09/03 (Continued)

Leadership Training

Earlier this year Chief Burge enrolled in Harvard Business Schools Organizational Leadership certificate program, on September 1st, she successfully completed that course earning her certificate in Organizational Leadership.

Closeout of Annual Survey

September 1st also marked the end of our 2026 Annual Community Survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our annual police department community survey; your feedback is genuinely valued and helps guide our continuous efforts to better serve you. We are currently finalizing the closeout of the survey and analyzing your responses; in direct response to what you've shared, we will be publicizing the complete results across all of the same channels and platforms where the survey was originally announced before the end of this year. We appreciate your partnership and commitment to keeping our community safe and connected.

COS Monthly Activity Report: 8/1/26 - 8/31-26

Community Outreach Specialists - Monthly Activity Report

Community Outreach Specialists (COS) provided 362 total services during August 2026. Overall service volume increased compared to July, reflecting continued demand for direct assistance, case management, referrals, and mental health support.

August activity was particularly concentrated in food assistance, mental health checks, COS referrals, and case follow-ups. Food & Voucher services remained one of the largest areas of need, while mental health contacts and referrals also represented significant portions of the month's workload.

Average service delivery for the month was approximately 12 services per day.

Month-to-Month Comparison

August represented a substantial increase in service activity compared with July, with 80 more services provided during the month.

- July: 282 services
- August: 362 services
- Net Change: +80 services
- Percent Change: +28.4%

Significant Increases

The largest increases were seen in case follow-up, COS referrals, food assistance, and utility assistance. This suggests increased demand for both immediate assistance and continued client coordination.

Compared with July:

- Food & Vouchers: +29 (+56%)
- Mental Health Checks: +8 (+13%)
- COS Referrals: +20 (+50%)
- Case Follow-up: +21 (+68%)
- Utility Assistance: +13 (+81%)
- Victims Advocate: +2 (+11%)

COS Monthly Activity Report: 8/1/26 - 8/31-26

Annual Summary (January–August 2026)

Through August 31, 2026, COS has provided:

- 616 Food & Voucher services
- 434 COS Referrals
- 371 Case Follow-up contacts
- 425 Mental Health Checks
- 264 Victim Advocacy services
- 158 Homeless/Housing contacts
- 180 Utility Assistance contacts

Additionally, COS has documented:

- 2,321 Yellow Springs/Township resident contacts
- 480 Homeless/At-Large contacts
- 258 Visitor/Non-resident contacts
- 3 Veteran contacts

Overall, the first eight months of 2026 have shown continued growth in community engagement and service delivery, with August representing a significant increase in activity compared to the previous month. Demand has remained particularly strong for food assistance, mental health support, case follow-up, and resource referrals, highlighting the expanding role of the COS program in connecting community members with both immediate assistance and ongoing support.

Planning & Zoning Update

- Bowen sent in the revised version of the Housing Needs Assessment based on the feedback they received at the work session.
- Nia serves on OKI (Ohio Kentucky Indiana) Regional Planning Conference Organizing Committee. The committee held an meeting on August 12th. Members of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals have been registered to attend the OKI Citizen Planner Bootcamp on September 30th.
- Nia and Susan Stiles, Planning Commission Chair, have begun preliminary research into Data Center regulations. Nia attended an webinar hosted by the Ohio American Planning Association chapter on this topic on August 7th. Susan has looked into other community regulations for best practices.
- On August 20th Staff met with GFT (consultant) to get a progress report on the update to the Active Transportation Plan. Since the first steering committee meeting GFT has held on pop up event at Art on the Lawn.
- The first Smoke & Vape Shop stakeholders meeting was held on August 18th. Representatives from the existing businesses, schools, and community were present. A second meeting will be held with only the existing businesses. Staff is working on definition development following the first meeting.
- Nia participated in the selection committee for the strategic plan process.

Economic Development Update

- Stakeholder engagement:
 - On August 4th Nia had an introductory meeting with the Tecumseh Land Trust staff.
 - Staff met with the Miami Township Fire Department on August 25th.
- Nia will be taking over as the Village staff representative at the YSDC Board meetings. She attended her first board meeting on August 4.
- Aaron took part in the Business First! meeting on August 12th to discuss local business needs and economic development initiatives. It was a virtual resource meeting.
- Village Staff supported local business growth and Chamber activities by taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Tik's Thai (August 13th).

Economic Development Update (Continued)

- Village staff met with Downing Community Advisors to learn more about the services that offer related to several of the Villages ongoing projects.
- Staff develop a CRA guide which is now available on the Village website site. Draft CRA applications have also been created and are undergoing legal review. Staff will have a memo prepared with recommendations for amendments to the CRA ordinance for the October 5th Council meeting.
- Nia participated in a downtown walking tour of Springfield. The tour started off with an economic development presentation which included a discussion of the Electra project. This investment will have an impact on the region and increase the demand on housing and other support services.

Permitting Update (Since 7/20/2026)

Staff completed research and developed recommendations regarding building permit fee updates.

24 Zoning permits: 7 fence, 10 working in ROW, 3 single-family home, 1 sign, 1 replat, 1 accessory structure, 1 home occupation.

23 Building permits: 7 electric, 4 HVAC, 3 single family homes, 3 tents, 2 roof, 1 demolition, 1 gas line test, 1 revision, 1 generator.

FINANCE & UTILITIES

Utility Round-Up

A total of \$633.34 in Utility Round-Up assistance was processed for July, and \$1,560.27 was processed for August, bringing the current fund balance to \$16,332.60.

State Audit

The State Auditors were in on August 20th to conduct an IT audit. The State Auditors also started the 2025 annual audit.

Utilities Department

Disconnects & Extended Hours

Disconnects are on Thursday the 24th and we will have extended hours (8-4:30) on Sept 15th, 23rd and 24th.

Rumpke Yard Waste Pickup

Yard Waste Pickup runs from April through November, the last Friday of each month. Customers must use Rumpke/Biosave yard waste bags, available only at the Utility Office. The price of these bags is \$4.29/each, which includes pickup fees.

Water Plant Update

Completed	• Monthly lab standardizations in water lab. • Deep cleaning completed on both Softeners. This includes draining completely of sand, using an acid base solution to help break down build up on Softener, and refilling with new fresh sand. • FeeCorp has completed video of piping from Softener to Filters and can see build up. Putting together a quote for cleaning. • Replaced ASCO valve for water feed on CO2 system. • Replaced bad check valve on OCV Control Valve on HSP#1. • Lead and Copper sampling completed. No results at or above action level. • Cleaned out and hauled away spent sand from WTP.
Ongoing	• Working with EPA for Water Technical Assistance program on PFAS treatment plan. Attending regular monthly meetings and providing water quality data. • Will probably conduct another PFAS testing with CDM Smith. • Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring, and sampling. • Old HSP motor also being repaired to have as backup for future use.
Upcoming	• Video and cleaning of well #5.

WATER PLANT

Water Plant and Billing Totals (2026)

MONTH	WTP TOTAL (MG)	BILLING TOTAL (MG)	WATER LOSS (MG)	WATER LOSS %
JAN	8.184	6.625	1.559	19.05%
FEB	7.384	6.282	1.102	14.92%
MAR	8.161	7.108	1.053	12.67%
APR	8.592	5.639	2.932	34.12%
MAY	8.779	6.589	2.042	23.26%
JUN	8.043	7.079	0.648	8.06%
JUL	8.894	7.207	1.474	15.57%
AUG	8.59	6.802	0.999	12.40%
SEP				
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				
TOTAL	66.096	53.331	11.739	17.76%

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 9.463 million gallons in July. • Treated 11.678 million gallons in August. • 2.42 inches of rain in July. • 4.65 inches of rain in August. • Covid-19 sampling for July and August. • Mixer back from the shop and ready to place back in service. • Cleaned chlorine contact tank.
Ongoing	• Looking to replace ORP probes in aeration tanks. This will help us better monitor the phosphorous treatment process. • Continuing to run microscopic bug counts on MLSS. Microorganisms look good. • Cleaning out and organizing work areas and storage areas in garage. • Scheduling repair work on Filtrate Wet Well and Gate C in Aeration.
Upcoming	• Working on getting quotes for new trucks.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• 520 Lincon Ct meter changeout. • 405 Stewart Rd hydrant repair and paint. • 335 Stewart Rd hydrant repair and paint. • 503 High St hydrant repair and paint. • S High/W.N College hydrant repair and paint. • 280 Park Meadows Dr hydrant repair and paint. • 128 Kenneth Hamilton hydrant repair and paint. • Antioch Midwest hydrant repair and paint. • Replace missing curbstop lid. • King St hydrant repair and paint. • 204 Dayton St hydrant repair and paint. • 888 Dayton St meter changeout. • 220 Elm St hydrant repair and paint. • Hydrant repair and paint — 155 Allen. • Hydrant repair and paint — Xylem 68 side. • 501 N High hydrant repair and paint. • 202 S Winter hydrant repair and paint. • Whitefall Farm hydrant repair and paint. • Tully St hydrant repair and paint. • Keep up with all locates. • Cleaning shop on biweekly basis.
Ongoing	• Keeping up with locates. • Install the rest of the water meters. Approximately 23. • Reading ALFX and looking for leaks. • Painting fire hydrants. ◦ Averaging 1 per week. • Installing new large water meters. ◦ We have 3 left at this time. • Should be done in next two weeks.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

Water Distribution Update

Upcoming

- GIS more of our water system.
 - Crew is GISing all assets street by street making maps more accurate
- Painting fire hydrants all over Village
- Finishing up on large water meters
- Spring Meadow phase 3 water line is installed
 - We will be purity testing it next week



Various Water and Electric Distribution Department activities.

Electric Update

Completed	• Completed multiple service calls. • Had transformer go bad at dollar general. • Had issues at Guant Park ball lighting, crew was able to get repaired (took 3 days). • Finished up center and east circuit to new take off poles at road. • Continue digging ditch at switchyard to continue conduit install • Completed bucket truck and pole top rescue • Located more problem areas on elm st branch line for tree trimmers • Removed temp service and meter for temp service at xenia st • Had village safety in morning • Called to troubleshoot ball field lights and replaced connections in flushmount box • Had three new service releases in Spring Meadows that we dug in and energized • Installed new pole on King St • Made connections on a 6 meter bank transferred meter from old meter bank to new meter bank with 500 mcm on Winter St
Ongoing	• Poly phase and Demand meters are being changed. ◦ Poly phase is done. ◦ Less than 30 small meters left. ▪ Target date of end of September to be finished.
Upcoming	• Keep working on PRP (pole replacement packets). • Pull OVHD to feed center circuit • Pull URD to feed center circuit • Install reclosers at the switch station. ◦ Crews now have materials at switch station ◦ Crew has started installing anchors for new pedestals • Installing voltage regulators in switch station. ◦ Trying to do this all-in house to save money ◦ Target date of end of November to have this done

Metering Update

5/8" Water Meter Replacement Update

- Total 23 meters have not been upgraded.
- 6 meters with bad valves, (all inside, one village owned)

Completed	• Added remotes to the large water meters that have wires.
Ongoing	• Potential High Water Use Causes: Toilets, Spigots left on or frozen, Water Softeners, Whole House Humidifiers, RO systems, back-up sump pumps, service line leaks. • Travis is collecting the data from the ALFX system monthly. • Payment Plan Disconnects 9/22/26 • Electric disconnects 9/24/26 • Meter Audit: putting eyes on each water meter once a year, datalogging, checking ERT and meter numbers, checking service line material • Scheduling inspections for Material Unknown service lines, have completed 13 inspections. • Working with Morgan Saunders from Arcadis on next steps for meeting all EPA requirements for the lead service line inventory. Sent out notification in all utility bills of Reporting Requirement Not Met. • Finish changing out FM2S electric meters • GIS service lines – Unknown and Galvanized maps • Water Reads – both manual and electronic • Working with Mapped Out to update and streamline Water Meter - Service Line Inventory map. • GIS new water and electric meters • Inspect and install new water services in Spring Meadows neighborhood. • Commercial Water Meter Change-out – inventory acquired and labeled, will schedule and create work orders for Water Dept to do changeouts. Almost complete!

Streets & Sewer Update

Completed

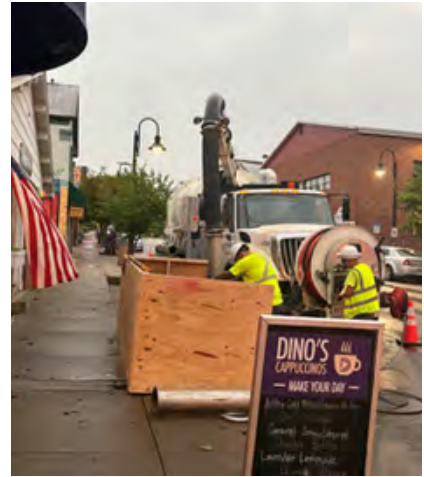
- Attended the fifth and sixth sessions of the CLG Leadership Academy (six sessions total).
- Raised the manhole in front of Yellow Springs High School and McKinney.
- Mowed municipal properties 10 times.
- Removed a dead sugar maple from the JBC parking lot island.
- Flail-mowed the Railroad/Cliff right-of-way.
- Mowed Village-owned rights-of-way.
- Trimmed branches along rights-of-way.
- Installed a new alternator on Truck 624.
- Rebuilt the front end on Truck 202.
- Installed new tires on the Ventrac.
- Repaired the HVAC system and rebuilt the thumb cylinder on the mini excavator.
- Root-controlled 4,000 feet of sanitary sewer.
- Began cutting brush around signs and clearing low-hanging branches.
- Cleaned a catch basin on Corry Street.
- Rebuilt the baby pool pump.
- Assisted with the repair of a lateral that was bored through at 139 E. Limestone Street.
- Installed a new shutoff switch on the baby pool pump.
- Repaired the driveway basin at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Installed new grade rings on the manhole on N. College Street.
- Serviced mowers.
- Flail-mowed the bike path spur crossing.
- Prepared fields for the softball league four times.
- Street-swept three times.
- Completed downtown cleanup three times.
- Repaired a catch basin on Tully Street.
- Painted curbs and crosswalks adjacent to Mills Lawn and Yellow Springs High School.

Streets & Sewer Update

Completed	• Patched six utility cuts. • Graded the Dayton Street parking lot. • Removed brush around the water towers. • Removed a diseased elm tree in front of Dino's. • Trimmed Village-owned rights-of-way with the flail mower. • Responded to five potential sanitary sewer backups. • Flail-mowed the E. Enon ditch. • Pressure-tested the sanitary sewer for Phases III and IV of Spring Meadows. • Mandrel-tested Phases III and IV of Spring Meadows. • Flail-mowed around the skate park.
Ongoing	• Street sweeping. • Utility locates. • GIS information. • Empty trash/litter pickup every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. • Problematic sanitary sewer checks every Friday. • Empty trashcans/ cleanup Short Street.
Upcoming	• Mulch playgrounds at JBC & Gaunt. • Continue ROW clearing. • Continue ally grading. • Full depth repairs on large potholes. • Continue park tree trimming.

STREETS & SEWER COLLECTION

Streets & Sewer Update



Various Streets, Parks & Sewer crew accomplishments around the village.

Gaunt Park Pool

Thank you to all our regular and new patrons that visited us this summer. We appreciate every one of you. Shout out to all the Village crews and staff that helped us maintain safety and equipment all summer long.

- We completed our 70th season of operations.
- 214 people attended Midnight swim on the 4th of July.

Youth Center Update

Completed	• An average of 18 youths were served per day, with 5-6 dinners provided each night. • Accepted deliveries of dinners and extra grocery donations from the Food Pantry and Beloved Community Project. • Accepted prepared dinners from Who's Hungry on Monday and Wednesday. • Accepted burritos from Beloved Community Project for evening dinners. • There have been 172 rentals in the building. • Collaborating with The Little Art Theatre, NCCJ and MLS PTO for Summer movie night at Gaunt Park.
Ongoing	• With Green County Public Library, the fall/winter FREE tutoring program will begin September 8 from 3:30-5:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Gym.

Digital Media Update

Completed	• Photographed YSPD Safety Village activities Tuesday, August 4 – Friday, August 7. • Covered Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, August 11. • Covered Village Council meeting on Monday, August 17. • Covered Village Council Special Meeting on Friday, August 21. • Recorded America 250 Speaker Series event on Friday, September 4.
Ongoing	• Updates to new website. • Village Grapevine newsletter.

Village Facebook Followers

7,894

+212 Followers



YSPD Facebook Followers

573

+21 Followers



YSCA Facebook Followers

282

+5 Followers



YSConnect Downloads

1,933*

*Unique downloads
(76 SMS Contacts)



YouTube Subscribers

879

+24 Subscribers





2026 Mayor's Court Report to Council

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS
Total Charges from PD	14	12	14	22	10	111	26	7					216
Charges sent to MC	11	11	9	13	6	96	16	5					167
Percentage of charges sent to MC	79%	92%	64%	59%	60%	86%	62%	71%					72%
Total Incidents	13	12	11	16	8	102	19	7					188
Total Incidents to MC	11	11	8	10	6	96	14	5					161
Percentage of Incidents to MC	85%	92%	73%	63%	75%	94%	74%	71%					86%
Total Charges in MC	11	11	9	13	6	96	16	5					167
Traffic	2	0	5	5	2	4	8	2					28
Criminal	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0					3
Parking	9	10	3	8	3	92	8	3					136
Payments													
Traffic/Criminal	\$ 220.00	\$ 309.20	\$ 325.00	\$ 345.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 555.00	\$ 410.00					\$ 2,979.20
Parking Tickets	\$ 300.00	\$ 635.50	\$ 160.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 1,510.00	\$ 520.00					\$ 5,345.50
Weddings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00					\$ 700.00
TOTAL	\$ 520.00	\$ 944.70	\$ 685.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 545.00	\$ 2,410.00	\$ 2,165.00	\$ 1,030.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,024.70
Expenses pd to State/Co													
Victims of Crime	\$ (9.00)	\$ (9.00)	\$ (27.00)	\$ (18.00)	\$ (18.00)	\$ (36.00)	\$ (36.00)	\$ (27.00)					\$ (180.00)
Indigent Defense Support Fund	\$ (25.00)	\$ (65.00)	\$ (70.00)	\$ (50.00)	\$ (30.00)	\$ (110.00)	\$ (120.00)	\$ (55.00)					\$ (525.00)
Drug Law Enforcement	\$ (3.50)	\$ (3.50)	\$ (7.00)	\$ (7.00)	\$ (7.00)	\$ (14.00)	\$ (14.00)	\$ (10.50)					\$ (66.50)
Child Safety Restraint	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -
Sealing Records - State	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -
Seat Belt Fines	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -
Indigent Drivers													
Alcohol Treatment - County	\$ (1.50)	\$ (1.50)	\$ (3.00)	\$ (3.00)	\$ (3.00)	\$ (6.00)	\$ (6.00)	\$ (4.50)					\$ (28.50)
Collections	\$ -	\$ (40.50)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ (40.50)
TOTAL	\$ (39.00)	\$ (119.50)	\$ (107.00)	\$ (78.00)	\$ (58.00)	\$ (166.00)	\$ (176.00)	\$ (97.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (840.50)
MC Check to Village	\$ 481.00	\$ 825.20	\$ 578.00	\$ 647.00	\$ 487.00	\$ 2,244.00	\$ 1,989.00	\$ 933.00					\$ 8,184.20
General Fund	\$ 471.00	\$ 795.20	\$ 548.00	\$ 627.00	\$ 467.00	\$ 2,194.00	\$ 1,949.00	\$ 893.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,944.20
MC Computer Fund	\$ 10.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00					\$ 240.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 481.00	\$ 825.20	\$ 578.00	\$ 647.00	\$ 487.00	\$ 2,244.00	\$ 1,989.00	\$ 933.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,184.20

Mayor's Court Report on 2026 YSPD Charges

Incidents Eligible for Mayor's Court

	YSPD's Total Incidents	Incidents sent to MC	Incidents Eligible but not Sent to MC	Percentage of Eligible Incidents not sent to MC	Reasons Not Sent to Mayor's Court
Jan.	13	11	0	0%	N/A
Feb.	12	11	0	0%	N/A
Mar.	11	8	0	0%	N/A
Apr.	16	10	0	0%	N/A
May	8	6	0	0%	N/A
Jun.	102	96	0	0%	N/A
Jul.	19	14	0	0%	N/A
Aug.	7	5	0	0%	N/A
Sept.					
Oct.					
Nov.					
Dec.					
Total	188	161	0	0.000%	

Incidents Ineligible for Mayor's Court and Reasons Why Ineligible

	YSPD's Total Incidents	Incidents Ineligible to be heard in MC	Lives out of area or occurred out of YS Jurisdiction	OVI	Jailed/ violent /felony	Juvenile	Child support	ORC requirement/ enhancement	Sex offense
Jan.	13	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Feb.	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mar.	11	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Apr.	16	6	2	0	2	0	0	2	0
May	8	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Jun.	102	6	0	1	2	0	0	3	0
Jul.	19	5	0	0	1	2	0	2	0
Aug.	7	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sept.									
Oct.									
Nov.									
Dec.									
Total	188	27	2	3	8	2	0	12	0

From: **Bailey, Amy** <abailey@ysshools.org>

Date: Thu, Aug 20, 2026 at 12:33 PM

Subject: Special Meeting on 8/21

Yellow Springs Village Council Members,

I am writing as President of the Yellow Springs Board of Education to express serious concern regarding the abrupt consideration of terminating Village Manager Johnnie Burns.

I recognize and respect that the employment and evaluation of the Village Manager fall within the authority of Village Council. I also recognize that Council members may possess information that is not yet available to the public. However, the potential termination of the Village's chief administrative officer, particularly in the middle of an existing contract, is not an isolated personnel decision. It has significant implications for Village operations, staff morale, institutional knowledge, ongoing partnerships, major community projects, and public confidence in local government.

Before taking such a consequential action, I believe the community deserves to understand the process that brought Council to this point.

Has Mr. Burns received formal evaluations or performance reviews identifying deficiencies in his work? Were clear goals and expectations established? If Council believed those expectations were not being met, was he informed of those concerns and given an opportunity to address them through a performance improvement process? Is there an investigative report or documented allegation of misconduct that warrants immediate termination?

If such documentation exists and is a public record, I believe the public should have the opportunity to review it. If it does not exist, Council should carefully consider the message sent by terminating a public employee in the middle of a contract rather than addressing concerns through an established evaluation and accountability process or ultimately choosing not to renew the contract.

Those are very different actions, and they communicate very different things to current employees, future applicants, and the community.

I am particularly concerned about the ripple effects of this decision. Public-sector leadership is difficult work. Village Managers, Superintendents, Treasurers, and other public administrators operate in environments where nearly every decision is scrutinized, and criticism is often unavoidable. We should absolutely hold public administrators accountable. But accountability should be based on clearly communicated expectations, documented performance, due process, and professional evaluation, not shifting political dynamics or personalities.

With three new Council members taking office within approximately seven months, an abrupt effort to terminate the Village Manager risks creating the public appearance of something personal or vindictive rather than a measured response to documented performance concerns. Whether that perception is accurate or not, Council should recognize that the perception itself can damage trust in Village government.

There is also a human and professional consequence to consider. Terminating a public administrator mid-contract can have a lasting impact on that individual's professional reputation and future employment opportunities. That does not mean termination is never appropriate. It means the seriousness of that consequence demands an equally serious, transparent, and defensible process.

I also ask Council to consider what this decision communicates to the Village employees who remain. The recent resignation of the Assistant Village Manager, a Yellow Springs graduate who served in the position for only approximately two years, already represents a significant loss of leadership and institutional capacity. Removing the Village Manager at the same time raises legitimate questions about continuity, workload, staff morale, retention, and who will carry the institutional knowledge necessary to keep major projects moving.

For Yellow Springs Schools, these concerns are not theoretical.

I worked directly with Johnnie during the 2023/2024 discussions surrounding the proposed LIHTC affordable housing project. At a time when an extraordinarily complicated project required the Village and School District to balance two legitimate community priorities: creating affordable housing while ensuring that the schools could replace land that would potentially be lost to the housing development. Johnnie and our Superintendent were **consistently** working to find a path forward.

Those discussions were not easy. They required an understanding of land, infrastructure, financing, governmental responsibilities, and the long-term interests of both the Village and the School District. From my perspective, Johnnie was committed to trying to make the affordable housing project work while also recognizing that the School District and our students could not simply absorb the loss of land without a viable replacement.

That history matters, particularly when Council continues to ask for constructive dialogue and collaboration regarding housing.

Johnnie has also been an integral partner in the implementation of our District's \$55 million master facilities project. A project of this magnitude does not exist within the boundaries of the School District alone. It intersects with Village infrastructure, utilities, streets, drainage, safety, planning, and countless details that require cooperation between our two governmental entities.

One of Johnnie's greatest assets has been his attention to those details. There are infrastructure needs beneath our streets and throughout this Village that most residents will never see and may

never think about. Johnnie possesses significant institutional knowledge about those systems, their limitations, their history, and what will be required in the future. Losing that knowledge abruptly has consequences.

As School Board President, I have serious concerns about who will step into that role for the remainder of our facilities project and how continuity between the Village and District will be maintained.

Council is accountable to **all** of the citizens of Yellow Springs. That includes the children of Yellow Springs. Decisions affecting Village infrastructure, public safety, housing, development, and the relationship between the Village and School District ultimately affect them as well.

Council should therefore be able to answer several fundamental questions before proceeding:

- What documented performance concerns justify termination?
- What evaluations or performance reviews support those concerns?
- What goals or expectations were communicated to Mr. Burns, and what evidence demonstrates that they were not met?
- Was a performance improvement plan or other corrective process considered or implemented?
- If immediate termination is necessary, what makes that action preferable to completing the contract and considering non-renewal?
- What is Council's succession and recruitment plan for the Village Manager position?
- Who will assume responsibility for the major projects currently dependent upon the Village Manager's institutional knowledge?
- How will Council address the impact on remaining Village staff and reassure current and prospective employees that Yellow Springs provides a stable and professional working environment?

I am also troubled by the manner in which this discussion has been scheduled. Council has repeatedly expressed an interest in constructive dialogue with its governmental and community partners, including the School District, particularly around housing and other shared priorities. Scheduling a consequential and unexpected daytime meeting during the workweek with approximately two days of public notice makes meaningful community participation extremely difficult.

Meeting the minimum requirements for public notice and creating meaningful opportunities for public engagement are not necessarily the same thing.

Yellow Springs is a small community. Our Village government, School District, businesses, nonprofits, residents, and community organizations depend heavily upon one another. When one institution experiences significant leadership disruption, the effects do not remain contained within that institution. A community that develops a reputation for abruptly discarding its public administrators will eventually have difficulty attracting talented people willing to serve here.

Public officials should be held accountable. So should public bodies.

If there is documented cause for terminating Johnnie Burns, Council should clearly articulate the process that led to this point to the fullest extent permitted by law. If there is not, I respectfully urge Council to consider the long-term consequences of taking an irreversible action in haste.

This is bigger than one Village Manager. It is about the stability of our local government, our ability to recruit and retain talented public servants, continuity on major community projects, the relationship between the Village and School District, and the confidence our residents place in the institutions that serve them.

I ask Council to provide the community with the information necessary to understand why termination is being considered, demonstrate that a fair and documented performance process has occurred, and clearly explain the plan for leadership and continuity before taking final action.

Yellow Springs deserves a process that reflects the same deliberation, transparency, and accountability we expect from the people we employ to serve it.

Respectfully,

Amy Bailey
Board President
Yellow Springs Board of Education



Amy Bailey (she/her/hers)

Board President

937-475-8813



www.ysschools.org

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Village of Yellow Springs Info](#)
Subject: NOTICE: YSO Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 9:32:07 AM

first_name = Lynn
last_name = Adams
email = lalabiko@yahoo.com
phone = 9376267458
subject = Johnnie Burns
message = Village Council,

I have learned that you have planned a special session to publicly announce the firing of Johnnie Burns. In the true spirit of best practice, shouldn't public announcements be given more than a couple of days notice? What has Johnnie done that warranted a quick action such as this? Did he steal, drink on the job, harass an employee? Is it because you simply disagree with him on an issue? And if that is the case then you have more to learn than I thought you did. Using power to get your point across sounds all too familiar and chilling. Are you listening, discussing, learning and negotiating in good faith? I expect you to learn, grow and listen to your cohorts and the people who voted for you.

You are a young and inexperienced Village Council. Three of you just started in January. How can you possibly make such a critical decision when you should be learning the ropes? The word is out, my hope is that you will listen to your constituents.

Lynn Adams

Client IP = 2603:6011:5000:ffe7:90c9:307c:cd92:6592

To: Village of Yellow Springs Council Members
Re: The Glass Farm
Date: August 26, 2026

Dear Sirs or Madams,

It was with ENORMOUS antipathy that I learned of your malformed idea to once more put the Glass Farm Bequeathment on the chopping block for additional "poor" housing in this village.

Approximately 20-25 years ago I did a solo march on the public Village Council Meeting regarding similar plans for this property. I spoke, and here is a brief repeat of what I said as a Reminder for you recent arrivals: ***The Glass Farm was bequeathed to the Village AS GREEN SPACE. Not Housing Development Land.***

What has happened to the spirit of Stewardship of the Land, which used to be one of the environmental pillars of this community? The small portion of the Glass Farm that remains as green space, wetlands preservation, as well as a very nice (SMALL) public park is certainly a credit to honoring 'some' of the original owners request and bequeathment. The public garden plots, tucked in back of the residential neighborhood adjoining it are also pleasant as well as practical, quiet, and non-invasive. Sharing the land equitably.

Additionally, more building went forward.. How many "affordable" homes were added in "Thistle Creek"? 30? A snug enclave of homes which do inhabit a couple of acres of the Glass Farm. Nice little homes, nice people too. Thistlecreek has provided more income for the village as well as space for families growing up here.

The Village of Yellow Springs has ***Taken Enough*** from this area. Leave the rest of it to the deer, rabbits, muskrats, foxes, frogs, dragonflies, skunks, red-wing blackbirds, (to name just a few) and all the rest of our wild neighbors. Those of us living on or near King Street have seen the changes and have adapted to all of the displaced deer (and other critters) needing to use our yards as a portion of their habitat.

I am strongly urging all of you to reexamine already built upon areas for housing overhaul. But, as one of the remaining 'old timers', (my husband and I are holding on by a thread to pay the EXORBITANT Utilities of this locale, in addition to Property Taxes—as if we lived in Newport Beach instead of Cornfield Ohio) I also want to remind you that your job is to maintain what is already in place. The infrastructure of the grid, the water treatment, the roads, etc. and to do so with mindful economy.

Thank you for your attention in these matters. WILD LIFE MATTERS.



Carol Allin-Cromer

161 King St.
Yellow Springs

615 Omar Circle,
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Thursday, 3 September 2026

To: Council Members of Yellow Springs:

Gavin Devore Leonard, Angie Hsu, Carmen Brown, Senay Semere, Stephanie Pearce

Clerk of Council, Judy Kintner

Johnnie Burns

Re: Johnnie Burns

My husband and I are unable to sign a petition to retain the full-time services of Johnnie Burns as Village Manager due to the fact that we are only half time in Yellow Springs until next year and are ineligible to sign. We are, however, in the village just less than half of each month, as we complete the build of an addition to our home, planning to move here permanently after the New Year.

We were unable to attend the recent special village council meeting and as a result, we write this to register our dissatisfaction of the outcome of it, where Johnnie Burns was put in a professional position so uncomfortable that he tendered his resignation as Village Manager, clearly not of his desire to move on.

We are not in the habit of relying on inuendo, half-truths or third-hand stories, and quite frankly none of that matters at this point. What does matter is the fact that Johnnie Burns has been a pillar of our community for many a year, in more than one capacity and more recently doing so concurrently, whilst juggling the many balls that being Village Manager demands.

We purchased our home late in 2021. As we navigated issues with utilities, Johnnie was accessible and available to answer our questions on-site, address our concerns effectively regarding electrical wires running through an old tree in our back yard and aging gas meter. We worked with him and were the test-bed property when remote water meters were being considered and installed, and removal due to performance issues. All this came under the title of his previous role.

Since then, we have been building an addition to our home. In the capacity of Village Manager, Johnnie personally guided us through some of the typical and unusual hiccups a home-build project encounters, when the office dealing with it was not available to answer questions at short notice. He provided us with his personal cell phone number should we need his further support.

Even more recently, we were one of the unfortunate nine properties on Omar Circle to have weeks of Coca Cola colored water, which was later deemed to be manganese, breaking off the interior walls of the old water pipes when the new school's pipes and tanks received their initial filling. As it happened it was harmless, but it took time to test and retest to ensure we were all safe. In the interim, new filters were ordered and delivered to our homes to keep our appliances from becoming stained and clogged. In addition cases of water were also delivered to our home. It was a trying time, and countless hours were put in by the teams, and Johnnie himself. It seems to us that until this time the seriousness of the water pipe issues were not clearly known, but armed with this new information a focus shift would be required to address these old pipes.

Finger-pointing doesn't resolve anything. Moreover, it is important that instead of looking at the negative, a stronger bond could and should be forged between the Village Council as a whole and the Village Manager, to meet the needs of the community and maintain continuity of services and support.

There seems to have been a lot of name-calling and demands for resignation of Village Council members from what we see in social media. Continuity and growth doesn't come from this. Our following proposal could go a long way to the Council members redeeming their reputations, and keeping the Village on course to success:

Work with, rather than against each other, the Village and the Village Management, by refusing to sign off on the resignation of Johnnie Burns. A little humble pie eaten by the Council with an apology to Johnnie may be all it takes to have him back at the helm. No doubt, things could have been better all around. Ours is not to cast blame, but to see Yellow Springs whole again with a team who can communicate effectively and make the village the priority. Nothing will be the same and there will likely be mistrust initially, but time is a great healer. We urge you to do the right thing by not accepting Johnnie's resignation. He is an asset you and the Village can't afford to lose!

With kind regards and great respect for all who serve this village.



Arthur Allison



Julie Allison

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 10:16:38 AM

first_name = Scott
last_name = Bachmann
email = scottallanbachmann@gmail.com
phone = 9379740214
subject = Village Manager

message = The infrastructure of this community is what keeps the community functioning. I was highly concerned when the last village manager left (i met with him often). I don't have a relationship with Johnnie Burns, but I've liked the work he's done. Long ignored problems have been worked, and small things like dangerous sidewalks, where i've tripped on my dog walk, have been fixed.

He needs supported and needs an assistant. We have storm and sewer and power issues continually, and these will get worse as population is added to a strained system. His work is tough enough with all the things he does in so many directions. The previous VC brought us broadband after years of idle talk, and I know how much opposition he had to face, and problems to overcome, and that was on a project people wanted and benefitted business downtown. I cant imagine what Johnnie has to deal with.

I want to see the council supporting him, even if they have conflicting opinions on directions forward. He made the dog park i work with possible, before he was VC. That was extra effort to his job that was done anyway. People like this need to be treasured for their hard work and dedication.

I'm not concerned if there are disagreements, thats the nature of politics. What i care about is a hard worker, that was here before this current council, being supported in getting the day to day job done.

packet = Yes

Client IP = 2600:382:dd0d:c217:bd31:1b33:3de4:6dcf

August 20, 2026

Village Council,

It has come to my attention that you are holding special Council meeting tomorrow morning and that the purpose of this meeting may be to fire Village Manager Johnnie Burns. This would, in my opinion, be a grave mistake.

When I was contacted by Village residents yesterday to inform me of this pending action, it took me a bit grasp why this may be happening. The primary consensus was that it had something to do with the possible development of the Glass Farm for low-income housing. So, in that regard, I have some questions.

Has anyone done a recent soil analysis and a water table depth study of the Glass Farm? You may find that development will be costly due to a high water table and soils that won't support development without additional amenities, adding to the cost of development and, thus, increasing the price of the homes. What about capital funding? When I was the Village Manager, Council established, through my recommendation, capital budgets to support infrastructure development. It is my understanding that, while you still have capital budgets, you no longer contribute to them regularly. So, in order to develop any infrastructure, the Village would need to go into debt. Has Council requested a recent rate study? Rate studies, to be effective, must be repeated every 5-10 years. Rate studies, by the way, ALWAYS suggest capital budgets.

But let's get back to Johnnie Burns. Johnnie was already a Village employee when I was hired as Villager Manager in 2014, having come from the private sector. Over time, Johnnie adapted to life as a public servant and became one of the best, most dedicated public employees it was my privilege to work with in my 35 years of public service. He truly cares about and has dedicated himself to the Village of Yellow Springs and its residents. He is a hands on Manager, which is very difficult in a small municipality, where the Manager is required to be a jack-of-all-trades every single day. When I was hired as Village Manager, Councilperson Marianne MacQueen told me that she had called someone not listed on my references list and asked what they thought of me. That person said, "Public service is not what Patti does, it's who she is." I felt that was the greatest compliment anyone could give me, and I don't even know who said it. But I now say the same thing about Johnnie Burns. Public service is who he is. I believe he has found a "home" as Manager in Yellow Springs, and he has wholly dedicated himself to the Village.

If you choose to fire Johnnie Burns, he will find employment with another village or city, and he will do so with my heartiest recommendation. And you will have made the worst mistake of your Council careers.

Cordially,

Patti J. Bates, M.P.A.

Former Village Administrator, Village of Williamsburg, Ohio

Former Village Manager, Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio

From: [Dorothée Bouquet](#)
To: [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#); [Johnnie Burns, Village Manager](#)
Subject: Comment about tomorrow's executive session
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 11:54:09 AM

[Judy, could you please add this to the next council packet? Thank you.]

Dear Gavin, Angie, Senay, Stephanie, and Carmen,

I'm writing before tomorrow's special meeting, called on short notice to discuss the Village Manager's contract, with possible action to follow. I know executive session talks are private, and I'm not asking you to share anything you're not allowed to. But I want you to hear my concerns before you make a decision, because I think this move could cost the village a lot.

- We just lost the assistant village manager. Her resignation last week was a surprise and a disappointment. She helped educate the public on complicated village processes. She helped revamp the village website. Her departure is a big loss in terms of work output. Losing the village manager on top of that (especially if it's not a planned, friendly exit) would hit even harder.
- Ending a contract early usually costs money, between the severance pay and the real chance of a lawsuit.
- We haven't seen proof of cause, or any mention of cause, for that matter. From what I remember of past council meetings, the council hasn't set aside public money for an investigation into the manager. If that's true, it makes me think this isn't a for-cause firing backed by a clear contract violation. That makes a lawsuit more likely.
- Johnnie is hard to replace. He's our local expert on village infrastructure: water, electric, and sewage. Yellow Springs being unusual because it runs its own utilities means Johnnie's knowledge isn't something you can just look up or hand off easily. You'd be hard-pressed to find and train someone new to run three different utility systems for a village our size on top of running the rest of the village operations.
- When a top administrator leaves, especially in a messy way, the people under them often leave too. I saw this happen when Mario left as superintendent of the school district. About 25% of staff at MLS left along with him, and the district also had to replace both principals and other staff like the EMIS coordinator. It took a long time to fill, train all those positions, and get them on board with the same plan.

I worry this comes from a disagreement over priorities, not performance. I suspect part of the tension between the council and Johnnie is that the council wants to focus mainly on affordable housing, while Johnnie has been pushing to also invest in infrastructure. I want to say clearly: this doesn't have to be an either/or choice. We can't build more housing if our water, electric, and sewer systems can't support it. And we need more housing so more people can help share the cost of these expensive infrastructure projects. The two goals support each other. Housing and infrastructure need to move forward together.

I think this tension has already cost us. As an example, crosswalk and stop lines are supposed to be repainted every 3 years, and the last time it was done was in 2023, before the first day of school. That means Summer 2026 should have been about restriping traffic lines, and it

hasn't happened. The village staff did not elaborate on why it hasn't happened at the Active Transportation Committee meetings, but it felt connected to the friction between council and the village staff. Disagreements at the top are already slowing down simple, routine work.

Before you vote, I'd ask you to weigh the money this could cost, the disruption on top of losing the assistant manager, how hard Johnnie's specific expertise will be to replace, and the time it will take to hire and train whoever comes next.

I'd also appreciate knowing, as much as you're able to share publicly, what's driving the urgency of this meeting, and what you're doing to protect the village from legal and financial risk if the contract is ended.

Thank you for your service, and for thinking through these concerns before tomorrow's vote.

Sincerely,

Dorothée



From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 10:03:38 AM

first_name = Carl
last_name = Champney
email = cpcraces@hotmail.com
phone = 9372397189
subject = Village Manager
message = I urge you not to dismiss manager Burns. Unless this is a matter of extreme misconduct, it seems like a rash move which will cause undue harm to the Village. Just last December, you all granted Burns a 6% raise. Why then is he a target for dismissal now? I have not seen any sign of him being reprimanded or warned of anything by Council.

If there is a strong cause for this, we as villagers need to know more about it. This has all taken place in a disturbing shroud of secrecy.

packet = Yes

Client IP = 2603:6011:5000:6f35:d91d:b29f:25b5:87ed

From: [Elise B.](#)
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#); [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#); gavin.devoreleonard@yellowsprings.gov
Cc: [Thomas Burns](#)
Subject: Special Council Meeting Tomorrow
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 12:14:33 PM

You don't often get email from burnselise@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council,

We were quite disturbed to only this morning discover that the Village Council plans to fire Village Manager Johnnie Burns. We were aware that there had been Special Council meetings in late July regarding a village employee. We assumed that those meetings were to discuss the departure and replacement of the Assistant Village Manager, and regrettably, we did not pay much attention.

We do not know why the Council has been discussing this because the meetings were Special Council meetings that occurred behind closed doors and were not open to the public, nor were they reported or discussed openly in any other forum of which we are aware. Maybe there is some information that has been kept private that the general public does not know, but from our point of view, this course of action comes as quite a shock. We believe Johnnie Burns has been one of the best Public Works Directors and Village Managers that we have had in recent history. He has taken action to improve our outdated utility systems, including the stormwater improvement project in 2023 and the transition to Tunet meters for both electric and water meters. He has focused on improvements and projects that benefit all Villagers and make prudent use of our tax dollars. He has made improvements to our roadways, sidewalks, and walking paths and worked with Villagers, Council, and Village staff to make our Village safer and more accessible.

For many of these projects, he has applied for grants to help stretch our Village budget and make the most of our limited funds. (As a Village of about 3,800 people, managing competing interests on a limited budget is no easy task.) He has taken on a heavy workload related to new developments within the Village, such as the new school construction and Mills Lawn renovations, Home Inc.'s Cascade neighborhood, and the Fischer Homes Spring Meadows development. His priorities may not always perfectly align with the Council's priorities, but he has been more than willing to follow Council's lead and put his full focus on any projects that Council assigns to staff.

We have many questions for the Village Council. Why is the Council making this decision now when we are currently short an employee, having just lost our Assistant Village Manager? What is the reasoning? What is the plan going forward? Does the Village Council have another candidate for Village Manager in mind?

We are quite confused by the Village Council's choice in this matter, and we hope Council will address our and many other Villagers' concerns and possibly rethink their decision. We fear we may have heard of this development far too late for our opinion as Villagers to have any weight.

Sincerely,

Tom and Elise Burns (no relation to Johnnie)
Residing on W South College St

From: [Mark Heise](#)
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: Support for Johnny Burns
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:39:40 PM

Good day,

I am sorry I cannot be with you to deliver this in person, but I am out of town on my first vacation in more than seven years. Still, I am compelled to take time out of our schedule to send a note to Council to support Johnny Burns to continue in his role as Village Manager.

Johnny and I first met at 5am one morning after I called dispatch about water flowing through the walls of my basement. There had been no rain in days, but there were puddles in my gravel driveway. Johnny did not just send one of his crews as head of utilities, instead he got out of bed and got to us as quickly as he could and rushed to our home. That is the kind of tireless and dedicated servant of this community he has always been.

I was relieved when Johnny was hired as permanent Village Manager as both a resident and a business owner. Johnny is not a politician, and he does not play games or do things simply to pander to the wills of a privileged few. Johnny is a pragmatist that does what is best for the Village as a whole. When I led the Chamber, there were more than a few times I was not happy because Johnny told me no, but there was always a good reason. Johnny is the perfect balance between having the right experience to keep the Village running, and lead us into a balanced future. As a resident and a small business owner in the Village, I seriously worry about a future here without him at the helm and would have to reevaluate the future of our business and our family here.

I strongly encourage you to keep the Village in his good hands for the foreseeable future.

Emphatically,
Mark.



Mark Heise - Owner

888 Dayton St #116
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
P-937-802-4002
PPAI/640592

[Schedule a meeting](#)

You are not just our customer, you are our partner.

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

From: Judith Hempfling <jujuhempfling@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 1:32 PM
To: Stephanie Pearce, Council; Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President; Senay Semere, Council; Angie Hsu, Council Vice President; Carmen Brown, Council
Cc: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council; Johnnie Burns, Village Manager
Subject: For the Council packet regarding Affordable Housing/infrastructure

Hello Village Council members, I put this letter below in the newspaper, but thought I would also put a copy in the packet and send it directly to you. I have added a little to the letter that was in the newspaper, so it is not exactly the same.....

In Yellow Springs, we have a Council-Manager form of government. This is a form of local democratic governance which has citizen representatives, Village Council, who are responsible to set goals and priorities for the community each year, and a Village Manager who works for the Village Council to meet those goals. The Village Manager is professionally responsible to carry out the decisions made by our Village Council. While he provides input and advice regarding goals, it is the ultimate decision and responsibility of Village Council to set them and it is not his job to resist or undermine their decisions. I would expect the Village Council and Village manager to clarify to the community, what their respective roles are.

The current Village Council was elected having made it clear that affordable housing was an important priority. This is because they are attempting to stop the current trend of our community becoming "older, whiter and richer". Those of us who voted for them support that goal. And the biggest reason for that trend is the high cost of housing.

There are claims by some community members that because Village Council is attempting to address housing needs, they are not committed to caring for Village infrastructure. This claim is utterly false. I understand that some staff members are saying this and I'm wondering who's telling them this. Where is the evidence given the large amount of money budgeted for our infrastructure in 2026? (The 2027 budget will be discussed in the coming months.)

Early this year, the Village Manager recommended we spend \$800,000 to further improve Short Street as a small town square. That is a lot of money, but evidently, he believed that the Village coffers could absorb that expense. It was Council who decided not to spend our tax money on this nice, but expensive, and superfluous project given other priorities.

And now it is being said that there is no staff time or financial resources available for the priorities of the Council or any focus other than infrastructure. I would expect that both the Village Manager and Village Council would make clear this is false information.

We have elected Village Council members to direct the work of the Village Manager and to set the goals for the community, which is what they are doing. I find the threats of recall, and the vicious attacks on Council members, based on inaccurate information, ugly and unjust. I ask the community not to believe the attacks and fear mongering. Give our citizen representatives an opportunity to communicate, in spite of restrictive legal advice, regarding their recent actions and to clarify what has happened. Currently, we have heard only the Village Manager's side of the story. Let's hear from our representatives how they intend to meet the current

needs of the community as well as pursue other important goals. I urge the Village Council to hang strong and to engage more fully with the community, staying true to their commitments.

August 20, 2026

Dear Members of Council,

On Monday, August 17, I spoke at the Council meeting regarding the goals identified by Council in the Village Grapevine. I pointed out that housing-related issues appeared in seven of the seventeen priority goals listed. I note here that there is not a single infrastructure goal nor an economic development goal identified by Council, other than: “Clarify role of Village in economic development, including expectations for intergovernmental communication to support long-term planning.”

One issue I did not have an opportunity to address Monday evening because of the three-minute limit for public comments was that Council identified one of its four highest-priority goals as: “Develop and run a thoughtful strategic planning process and complete a Council and staff-supported plan.”

I find this particularly concerning for two reasons.

First, I have significant professional experience in the development of strategic plans and the goals that emerge from them. In my experience, a strategic plan—with meaningful input from constituents—comes before the creation of specific goals. It is the strategic planning process, informed by residents and other stakeholders, that establishes the priorities and drives the goals that follow.

Second, I believe two important words are missing from Council’s stated goal: “resident supported.”

I am deeply concerned that Council has identified seventeen goals before completing a strategic planning process, particularly when nearly half of those goals concern affordable housing. I do not use that term lightly. During my time in the Village, I have seen “affordable housing” become a highly charged term that, in my view, has been used by special-interest groups to advance their own agendas and, at times, to divide the community.

To be clear, I support affordable housing. But affordable housing cannot be considered independently of the Village’s infrastructure capacity. Our infrastructure is already under significant pressure. At the August 17 Council meeting, Wessler Engineering presented information highlighting more than \$8 million in work that our sewage system currently needs—before we are forced to address the potentially disastrous consequences of a system failure.

Please do not interpret my comments as opposition to affordable housing. What I oppose is the use of that term as an instrument to divide our community or as a reason to overlook the Village's other significant needs. I believe most Village residents recognize the need for diverse housing options, particularly—but not exclusively—for those with fewer financial resources. However, residents should have a meaningful voice in determining how we address the full range of housing needs in the Village.

If our goal is truly to help those who need it most, I believe we should also consider programs that partner with nonprofit organizations to help individuals and families purchase and own property. A ground-lease model, such as the one used by at least one nonprofit in the Village, does not provide the same opportunity to build generational wealth through property ownership.

I am also concerned that the politicization of affordable housing may be contributing to the apparent move to terminate Village Manager Johnnie Burns.

Council's apparent willingness to terminate a highly experienced, dedicated, and collaborative Village Manager is deeply troubling. There has been no public notice or discussion regarding an evaluation, performance concerns, or opportunities for improvement, if improvement is needed. I understand that Johnnie is an at-will employee and that Council has the legal authority to terminate him without cause. However, exercising that authority without meaningful public discussion creates the appearance that important decisions are being made privately and without sufficient community input or public accountability.

The Village is facing significant challenges, particularly regarding infrastructure and economic development. At this critical time, voluntarily terminating an experienced Village Manager who can help the Village navigate these challenges strikes me as extremely short-sighted and irresponsible.

Moreover, if the motivation for terminating the Village Manager is, in part, his effort to bring other important Village priorities—such as infrastructure—to Council's attention, that would represent an abdication of the broader responsibilities entrusted to Council. The Village needs leadership that can consider all of these issues together, not leadership focused so narrowly on one priority that other essential needs are overlooked.

I urge Council to proceed with great caution.

If our infrastructure fails—and it will without adequate attention, investment, and a long-term plan—there will be five people who own the consequences of that failure: the five members of Council.

I am willing to be part of the solution. I would be happy to serve on a committee or otherwise contribute my time and professional experience to addressing these issues. However, I believe that can only be productive with a Council that values broad resident input, embraces transparency and accountability, and recognizes the full scope of its responsibility to the Village.

Our community deserves a thoughtful, inclusive strategic planning process—one that begins with residents, establishes a comprehensive vision for the Village, and then develops priorities and goals accordingly. Housing is an important part of that vision, but it cannot eclipse the equally critical needs of infrastructure, economic development, responsible governance, and the long-term sustainability of our Village.

Central to that is an experienced, collaborative, and committed Village manager. Please keep Village Manager Johnnie Burns.

Terri L. Holden

251 King Street

August 20, 2026

Dear Members of Village Council,

I am writing to express my support for Village Manager Johnnie Burns and to encourage Council to recognize the value of the work he has done on behalf of Yellow Springs.

I understand that some have criticized Mr. Burns for focusing too heavily on infrastructure and core municipal operations rather than on broader community goals. I respectfully disagree with that criticism.

The foundational responsibility of local government is to provide and maintain the systems that allow a community to function: infrastructure, public safety, sound finances, effective staffing, policy implementation, and the careful gathering of facts and analysis that enable Council to make informed decisions. When these responsibilities are neglected, none of our other aspirations are achievable. A village cannot successfully pursue economic development, affordable housing, sustainability, or other community priorities without first ensuring that its basic governmental functions are strong and reliable.

This is not to say that Mr. Burns has ignored Council's broader goals. In fact, under his leadership, the Village has continued to advance affordable housing initiatives. For example, the Village's acquisition of the 16-unit Lawson Place apartment complex created a significant opportunity to preserve and expand affordable housing options in Yellow Springs, and the Village has continued to explore ways to build on that investment.

At the same time, affordable housing, economic development, and other community initiatives often require partnerships among many organizations, nonprofits, developers, and community stakeholders. While the Village plays an important role, it is appropriate that these efforts be shared rather than becoming the primary focus of the Village Manager at the expense of the core responsibilities of municipal government.

What I appreciate most about Mr. Burns is that he appears focused on the duties that matter most to the long-term health of the Village: maintaining infrastructure, safeguarding public resources, supporting staff, strengthening public safety, implementing Council policy, and providing Council with the information necessary to make sound decisions. These are the essential functions of a professional manager, and they are often the least visible to the public precisely because they are being handled effectively.

Most importantly, Mr. Burns has consistently demonstrated that he cares about Yellow Springs and the people who live here. His commitment to the community is evident in his work and in his willingness to take on the difficult responsibilities that keep our Village functioning well.

I urge Council to recognize and support the good work Mr. Burns has done. Strong municipal management is not always glamorous, but it is indispensable. Yellow Springs benefits when its Village Manager remains focused on the fundamental responsibilities that make all other community goals possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kreeger, Yellow Springs Resident

Joslyn LaFlamme
Mills Park Hotel Event Director
3980 State Route 235
Fairborn, OH 45324
August 20, 2026

Yellow Springs Village Council
100 Dayton St.
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Subject: Letter of Support for Johnny Burns

Yellow Springs Village Council,

My name is Joslyn LaFlamme, and I am the Event Director at the Mills Park Hotel. I also coordinated and executed Street Fair post Covid to get it back up and running after the pandemic halted the event. In that time and my capacity in both roles, I received the opportunity to work with Johnny Burns in a close capacity first as the Director of Public Works and then as the Village Manager when the previous occupant of that role not only abandoned the position but left a mess in his wake. I worked closely with Johnny on many projects from adjusting street signage and electric hookups to ordering new trash receptacles in order to elevate the cleanliness and eco-friendly elements of this major town event. Whether he was physically moving barricades to give his men a break or navigating the numerous vendor issues and nuanced complaints in order to accommodate every single person, Johnny filled each role, responsibility, and task with grace, patience, and an immense amount of knowledge.

That knowledge extends not only from his experience in Public Works and in-depth understanding of how Yellow Springs functions and operates on a physical level, but also to his patient comprehension of the people of Yellow Springs - every business owner, village employee, vendor, volunteer, and individual. He kept the integrity of Yellow Springs as a community at the forefront of event planning and worked countless overtime, unpaid hours to ensure that the event not only happened smoothly but safely as well and in a manner that boasted of the values of Yellow Springs. As someone who has executed hundreds of events in many capacities, I have never worked with anyone more capable, helpful, kind, or competent than Johnny Burns.

In addition to the roles mentioned above, I am also a high school teacher at the Greene County Career Center. I teach students whose goals it is to get out into their vocational fields by

graduation if not before. I teach about 21st Century Skills, employability, professionalism, empathy, and the grit and perseverance required to become experts in their many different fields. In a nutshell, Johnny is the type of person I use as an example of what my students should aspire to be. He leads with grace and empathy; he dedicates himself to accomplish whatever task is asked of him, whether it falls under his job description or not. He never uses lack of knowledge as an excuse but rather takes the time to learn how to do and be better in every element of his many roles. He is exactly the leader and manager that every community should wish to have.

Johnny Burns' loss in this community would be a gross disservice and injustice not only to Johnny and his years of commitment to Yellow Springs but also the businesses and community members within. I urge you to look closely at the wide-ranging scope of everything he does and is - at everything he has taken on and achieved. This community will never grow without people who notice the lacking areas, bring attention to those areas, and do something about them. Johnny is that person. He wants to see Yellow Springs exist far into the future, and he spends his time ensuring that possibility. Please take the time to see beyond your own predispositions and biases in order to view the bigger picture - the one in which Yellow Springs maintains its reputation but also grows and expands. You will be hard-pressed to find someone more qualified or motivated to achieve the longevity and growth Yellow Springs needs than Johnny Burns. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 12:21:17 PM

first_name = joanne
last_name = lakomski
email = jilakomski@gmail.com
phone = 5074016927
text-1785421988198 = Village Manager
message = August 20, 2026

Good afternoon -

I have just submitted the message below to each member of Council, and am also submitting it to you. Thanks!

Greetings,

I am Joanne Lakomski, resident of the Village of Yellow Springs.

I am writing to advocate that the Council continue Mr. Burns' employment.

My advocacy is multi-faceted.

I have lived in the Village for about 30 years. I am experiencing the quality of the services provided by the Village to be at their best right now. I feel the Village is benefiting from having Mr. Burns' operations background. I believe that his understanding of the infrastructure and his relationships with the personnel have enabled the Village to approach infrastructure issues steadily and thoughtfully, thereby preserving money and other resources while providing good systems that will last into the future.

Of course, systems may fail in extreme situations - Mr. Burns' efforts to enhance and broaden communication have helped in such situations by informing residents about what is occurring and remaining informed about status and timelines. The communication systems are used to positive effect for all realms of Village life; events, activities, changes, and general community information.

I also appreciate Mr. Burns' pragmatism and have experienced him being pragmatic while supporting the Village's stated values and his willingness to adapt in support of the needs and interests of this, at times, very trying community. He shows respect for the community in all its variety - and I have been amazed he has stayed and continued to add value for Yellow Springs.

I anticipate the loss of Mr. Burns will lead to an extended period of diminished quality of services and overall function. I expect Village employees to be concerned about the decision and their own security and a loss of trust in the Council. This may lead to turnover. The cost of replacing employees ranges from 50% to 300% of salary and that doesn't include the cost to the employees who absorb extra duties while positions are open.

I am aware that involuntary termination is an option for the Council as noted in Mr. Burns' contract. As a human resources practitioner I am aware that egregious issues may be in play,

and that could alter my advocacy for Mr. Burns.

"Egregiousness" is a more dramatic bar than I am guessing is in play in this situation though. Tension between Mr. Burns and Council does not meet the bar of egregious and I find it very unlikely that an egregious cause, understandable and acceptable to the community, will be identified if Council proceeds with this termination.

If the Village Council votes to break the contract the Village has with Mr. Burns, there will at least six months of compensation to be paid, in addition to the costs of replacement and other costs potentially incurred as noted above. I encourage you to be more thoughtful about how the money and resources in your trust are used.

The emotional, social, and functional cost is already increasing. I encourage you to seek a way to set aside whatever judgment has led here and seek a mediation approach, or similar, with Mr. Burns to create a strong foundation that will benefit all parties going forward, especially the community.

Thank you for your attention -

Joanne Lakomski

packet = Yes

Client IP = 2603:6011:5002:104d:c40d:c2d:a93f:8cdb

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 2:21:18 PM

first_name = Carmen
last_name = Milano
email = kulacooperative@gmail.com
phone = 9375320010
subject = Rumor of firing Johnnie Burns
message = Hello Council members,

There is word going around on the rumor mill today that YS Village Council is holding a meeting tomorrow morning, Friday, August 21st, to fire Johnnie Burns from the Village Manager position. If that is not the case you can ignore this all together. However, if that is in your plan I have some thoughts and questions.

I do not work for the village and I have not had personal and direct contact with Johnnie Burns since he has taken the Village Manager position. However, I would like to share that overall communication, from his office, to the village at large, has been quite fabulous. Sending out the weekly emails of what the village employees are working on each week, communication that lets us know that they are aware of things like power outages and are working on them is a game changer, updates about actions that may cause brown water to come out of my faucet makes me very happy and the colorful news flyer that comes monthly is very welcome in my mailbox. My overall impression has been that Johnnie is doing a great job and I personally have felt and hoped that we were going to have someone in that position for more than the typical two or three year flip that has been happening over the last 15 to 20 years. Additionally his deep roots with our village infrastructure and maintenance is a big plus.

I'm well aware that there are instances where terminating an employee must be done quickly. These might include harassment, impropriety, stealing or fraud among other things. However, if that is not the case, I hope that all of the appropriate steps and documentation of a well thought out and carefully crafted Performance Improvement Plan have been taken with Johnnie leading up to consideration of termination. As you all most likely know, retaining and redirecting an employee, especially in the position of Village Manager, is far more economical, in terms of time and money, than recruiting, hiring and training a new person in that role.

If you are moving in the direction of ending Johnnie's tenure as Village Manager please be sure you can justify that action to our community.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Carmen Milano

packet = Yes
Client IP = 2600:1009:b11e:f593:0:2f:26c0:f301

Aug 25, 2026

There is a real disconnect and serious problem with our current village council. Many community members in Yellow Springs believe that affordable housing is council's only priority and focus. In addition, members of village staff have been informed that funding will only go towards affordable housing and not village infrastructure. Putting our village infrastructure and needs aside for affordable housing is irresponsible behavior by our council. It is time to get back to our key operational responsibilities, protecting and upgrading our infrastructure, reevaluating our zoning ordinances and strengthening them. We should provide a safe community for our residents and children as we move forward. I encourage you to involve our community in dialogue and discussion moving forward especially with the current recommendation of 8.65 million dollars in wastewater improvements and the environmental concerns of Glass Farm. It is time to regroup and make our infrastructure your priority for our village.

Marci Miller

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 3:23:25 PM

first_name = Johanna
last_name = Northway
email = joannorthway@gmail.com
phone = 9377679307
text-1785421988198 = Aug 21 Council meeting
message = To the Council members,

I have found that Mr. Burns as the village manager has done a fine job. He has a keen knowledge of the village infrastructure. He has had a successful plan for improvements to the water system. He has a much needed plan for improvements to the sewage system. Please do not lose track of these basic needs for ALL village citizens.

I am very concerned that the current council is losing track of basic infrastructure needs at the expense of giving tax dollars towards affordable housing. I have lived in the village all my life. My household just misses the cut off for several village support programs. My household is unable or to support more taxes for projects that we all wish we could afford. Please allow Mr. Burns to work at completing the much needed infrastructure improvements for all. You MUST find outside sources for the wishes we have for all. I am well aware of how long this wish has been on the radar, but I don't think it should come at the cost of the portion of the village you claim a desire to support. I see Mr. Burns as actually taking actions that do support all.

Thank you for your time, Johanna Northway

packet = Yes

Client IP = 76.92.26.67

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

Subject: FW: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission

first_name = Johanna

last_name = Northway

phone = 9377679307

subject = Did not speak to all

message = I pay attention to meeting schedules. I watch them on Ch. 5. I write to council and other village boards. I have not spoken to any of you directly. When I see or hear the members of council say that they have spoken to everyone or everyone wanted this. I find it presumptive. When I hear or see those comments it just makes me think that several of you have selective hearing, sight and minds. I have lived hear all my life. I don't have a great income or any trust fund. I have worked hard for what I have. I do not have much extra money to support others who want low to no income housing. I do not want increased taxes or increased utility bills to keep my house running smoothly.

I would rather see village budgeting for necessities than wishes. I do not think we need to keep increasing the population of Yellow Springs just because someone cannot find the house that fits there needs or life wishes.

I wish Johnnie Burns was going to continue to be our village manager. I wish we had people as village council persons who had true historical incite into Yellow Springs and real financial knowledge of keeping the infrastructure functional. I wish for flying goats. I understand the realities of all this I can't afford many things I wish for, but I understand that.

Please don't tell me you have talked to everyone and this is what they want.

Thank you, Joan Northway

packet = Yes

Client IP = 76.92.26.67

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Village of Yellow Springs Info](#)
Subject: NOTICE: YSO Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 10:56:08 AM

first_name = Carolyn
last_name = Powers
email = cwp873@aol.com
phone = 5132360411
subject = Village Manager
message = To members of Village Council:
I implore you not to consider dismissing our Village Manager.

I also implore you to make a bigger priority of village infrastructure. Problems compound over time, as does the cost of repairing them. Preventative maintenance is crucial.

Thank you,
Carolyn Powers
Client IP = 71.65.71.113

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 11:12:15 AM

first_name = Charlene

last_name = Prestopino

email = charleneprestopino@hotmail.com

phone = 937 5726513

subject = Village manager employment

message = I am opposed to removing the Village Manager from his position. The council has given no indication that they are unhappy with his performance or there is any kind of investigation into malfeasance that would warrant such an action. The lack of transparency by this council is astounding. I have noted five executive sessions in last month and a number of special sessions all of which prevent public comment or engagement. I assume that whatever issue council has had with the manager has been discussed in private sessions and is void of any public input. I personally feel Mr. Burns has done a good job and has worked hard to improve the infrastructure of the village. I am concerned that this council is so focused on affordable housing that it is ignoring very real infrastructure issues. I believe it will do serious detriment to the Village to have to replace the manager. I hope you will reconsider your actions and find ways to be more transparent in your work. I am deeply disappointed with this council.

packet = Yes

Client IP = 2603:6011:5000:6f35:9002:926:1c5f:9fae

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 4:53:26 AM
Attachments: [Support for J. Burns_082126.pdf](#)

first_name = Alex
last_name = Price
email = alex@millsparkhotel.com
phone = 4196188282
subject = Letter for Review
message = Dear Council,

Respectfully, please see the attached letter as Council considers taking what I believe to be an unnecessary and extraordinarily consequential emergency action without an appropriate, successful, or even clearly conceptualized transition plan in place.

Regardless of the personal feelings, disagreements, or egos that may be involved, removing an individual who is integral to the daily operation and institutional function of the Village - without first demonstrating a clear understanding of the operational, financial, personnel, legal, and community repercussions of that decision - is not responsible governance.

Any Council member prepared to take an action of this magnitude should also be prepared to explain, publicly and specifically, the justification for it, the alternatives considered, the risks identified, and the plan for what happens the following morning. If Council cannot answer those questions before taking action, then Council is not prepared to take the action.

I am particularly concerned that three members of this Council are serving their first terms. Experience is not a prerequisite for sound leadership, but an appreciation for the gravity of the office absolutely is. A seat on Council carries considerably more responsibility than simply having an opinion or casting a vote. It requires due diligence, restraint, accountability, an understanding of consequences, and an obligation to place the long-term interests of the Village above personalities and individual agendas.

Council should therefore seriously examine this proposed action against the Village's own stated values. If this decision is fundamentally in tension with Values 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 - five of the six values the Village itself has identified as guiding its governance - then every member supporting it should be prepared to explain how that decision nevertheless serves the community they took an oath to represent.

That is not an insignificant contradiction.

Before taking an emergency action with lasting consequences for Village operations, staff, residents, businesses, and the future direction of Yellow Springs, I urge each of you to ask yourselves whether you have actually performed the due diligence this decision demands; whether you fully understand its immediate and long-term repercussions; whether a credible transition plan exists; and whether your vote can be reconciled with the principles you have committed yourselves to uphold.

If those questions cannot be answered clearly and publicly, then the responsible action is not to proceed simply because the votes exist to do so. The responsible action is to stop, obtain the necessary information, develop a credible plan, and fulfill the obligations of the offices you hold.

The authority to make a decision should never be confused with having established that the decision is responsible.

Respectfully,
Alex Price
packet = Yes
Client IP = 65.189.54.112

To the Members of Yellow Springs Village Council:

I am writing as a local business owner and stakeholder with a significant investment in the long-term economic health and vitality of Yellow Springs to express my dedicated support for Johnnie Burns and his continued service as Village Manager.

My support for Johnnie is not based simply on personal interactions or general impressions of his leadership. It is based on what I believe Yellow Springs needs from its Village Manager at this particular point in its history: institutional knowledge, practical experience, a willingness to make difficult decisions, an understanding of the infrastructure upon which this community depends, support for responsible economic development, and, importantly, the willingness to try something new even when success is not guaranteed.

Johnnie brings to the Manager's office an institutional knowledge of Yellow Springs that would be extraordinarily difficult to replace.

He joined the Village in 2014 as Electric Superintendent and became Public Works Director in 2018 before assuming the role of Interim Village Manager in 2023 and permanent Village Manager in 2024. His years overseeing public works have given him firsthand knowledge of the Village's electric, water, wastewater, streets, parks, sewer systems, facilities, and capital infrastructure. As Village Manager, that operational background matters. The decisions being made today about development, housing, utilities, and Village finances cannot be separated from the physical systems required to support them.

The results of that experience can be seen in the Village's own records. Under Johnnie's leadership, the Village has advanced major water-main improvements, water and electric meter replacements, sewer rehabilitation, fire-flow improvements, electrical-grid modernization, SCADA implementation, and other long-term infrastructure initiatives. These are not necessarily the projects that attract the most public attention, but they are precisely the projects upon which the future capacity and resiliency of Yellow Springs depend.

Johnnie understands something that will be increasingly important over the coming decade: **preserving Yellow Springs does not mean preventing Yellow Springs from changing.**

Our community faces the same pressures confronting communities throughout the region—rising costs, limited housing, aging infrastructure, changing consumer habits, increasing competition for businesses and visitors, and the need to keep a sustainable tax base. Yellow Springs cannot simply assume that its historical success guarantees its future.

Johnnie has proven a willingness to engage with those realities.

The Village's own 2025 reporting shows 186 building permits representing approximately \$18.3 million in project value. The Village established a Community Reinvestment Area and advanced Tax Increment Financing as tools for responsible reinvestment and development. Major projects continued at Spring Meadows, the schools and the Center for Business and Education. The CBE

itself represents years of persistence through setbacks, changing political priorities and difficult development circumstances.

Johnnie's approach to that development has also not been growth at any cost. He has publicly articulated a vision of attracting businesses that are socially conscious, environmentally responsible, and compatible with the character of Yellow Springs, while maintaining downtown as the walkable commercial and cultural center of the community.

As a business owner, I believe that balance is essential.

We should be able to advocate for economic development without sacrificing the qualities that make people want to live in, visit, and invest in Yellow Springs in the first place. Those objectives are not mutually exclusive. In fact, our long-term economic success depends upon achieving both.

Short Street is perhaps one of the clearest examples of why I support Johnnie's leadership—even though the project itself has been imperfect and controversial.

Johnnie was willing to take a risk.

The temporary closure was conceived as an experiment: convert a small downtown street into a pedestrian gathering space, provide seating and amenities, create opportunities for people to remain downtown longer, reduce sidewalk congestion and potentially translate increased dwell time into greater activity for downtown businesses.

There were legitimate concerns. Some businesses reported negative effects. Parking and traffic became issues. Residents and businesses disagreed about whether the experiment should become permanent. The Village's own survey ultimately reflected a divided community.

That does not make the experiment a failure.

Good municipal leadership cannot consist exclusively of pursuing ideas guaranteed to succeed. If that becomes our expectation, innovation within Village government will become impossible.

What matters is whether leadership is willing to identify a problem, try something different, measure the results, listen when concerns arise, acknowledge shortcomings and adjust course.

Johnnie continued to call Short Street what it was intended to be—a pilot. When Council asked for more information, his administration gathered public feedback. When Council subsequently requested greater detail regarding costs, design, parking, programming, business engagement and long-term management, Johnnie returned to the process rather than simply insisting that his original vision was correct.

That willingness to take ownership of an initiative, including its setbacks and criticism, is a leadership characteristic I value.

And despite the controversy surrounding Short Street, we should not lose sight of what Johnnie was attempting to accomplish: creating a welcoming public space where residents and visitors could gather while simultaneously supporting the economic vitality of downtown Yellow Springs.

That intersection—**economic development and public community space**—is exactly where Yellow Springs needs thoughtful leadership.

There will undoubtedly be decisions made by Johnnie with which I disagree. There already have been. That is not a reason to lose confidence in a Village Manager. I do not expect a Manager to make every decision I would make as a business owner, nor should Council expect a Manager to simply implement the individual preferences of five elected officials.

I expect a Village Manager to listen, evaluate, recommend, execute, learn and be accountable.

I expect the Manager to tell Council when infrastructure cannot support an idea, when finances make a project unrealistic, when an opportunity deserves consideration, and when an established way of doing something may no longer be sufficient.

I also expect Council to provide the Manager with clear policy direction, measurable expectations and a reasonable degree of professional latitude to manage.

Johnnie's record demonstrates substantial progress. His performance materials document improvements to critical infrastructure and operational capacity. His administration has continued pursuing economic-development opportunities while addressing housing and long-term capital needs. His own proposals for Council work sessions have sought more substantive conversation and earlier Council involvement in complicated projects. The Village's published economic-development materials demonstrate an effort to reconcile growth with environmental responsibility and community character.

Those are not insignificant accomplishments.

Perhaps most importantly, Johnnie knows Yellow Springs—not simply politically or culturally, but operationally.

He knows where our infrastructure has limitations. He knows the history behind projects that have taken years to advance. He understands the Village's utilities and capital systems. He knows the employees responsible for keeping those systems operating. He understands the relationship between development and infrastructure because he has spent years responsible for the infrastructure itself.

That knowledge has enormous value as Yellow Springs enters an increasingly complicated future.

Continuity should never protect a public employee from legitimate accountability, and I would never advocate that Council overlook genuine performance deficiencies simply because someone

has served the Village for many years. Johnnie should be evaluated rigorously, objectively and fairly against the responsibilities and goals Council has established for the Village Manager.

But those evaluations should also recognize what is working.

From my perspective as someone whose livelihood, employees, property, investment and future are directly connected to the economic health of this community, I believe Johnnie Burns remains capable of leading Yellow Springs forward.

I would encourage Council not merely to ask whether Johnnie has made mistakes. Every executive entrusted with meaningful authority will.

Instead, I encourage Council to ask the more consequential questions:

Has he demonstrated the ability to learn from them?

Does he understand this community and its infrastructure?

Is he willing to make difficult decisions?

Can he work collaboratively with residents, businesses, staff and Council?

Does he recognize that responsible economic development is necessary to the Village's long-term sustainability?

Can he balance that development with the preservation of Yellow Springs' character, accessibility and sense of community?

And does his overall record demonstrate that Yellow Springs is better positioned for its future because of his leadership?

Based upon the record I have observed and the Village's own reporting, my answer is **yes**.

Yellow Springs needs leadership willing to respect what this community has been while also preparing it for what it will become. I believe Johnnie Burns possesses the institutional knowledge, practical experience and willingness to evolve necessary to help accomplish that.

For those reasons, I strongly support Johnnie Burns continuing as Village Manager and respectfully ask Council to evaluate his performance based upon the entirety of his record, objectively, professionally and with the long-term interests of Yellow Springs at the forefront.

Respectfully,

Alex Price
Owner
Mills Park Hotel

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 1:33:22 PM

first_name = Holly
last_name = Smith-Conway
email = smithconwayh@gmail.com
phone = 5133191528
subject = In Support of Johnnie Burns
message = To the Members of Yellow Springs Village Council:

I am writing to express my support for Village Manager Johnnie Burns and my serious concern that Council may be considering his termination. I strongly oppose any effort to remove Johnnie from his position and urge Council to retain him as Village Manager.

Johnnie has served the Village of Yellow Springs for over a decade with professionalism, sound judgment, and a deep commitment to this community. In that time, he has developed an exceptional understanding of the Village's operations, challenges, and long-term needs. His extensive experience in public works and municipal utilities provides him with invaluable knowledge of the infrastructure systems on which every resident, business, school, and community organization depends. Neither that expertise nor the institutional knowledge he has gained over the past 10 years can be easily or quickly replaced.

Johnnie has also consistently demonstrated a willingness to collaborate with and support other local and state agencies. He understands that the Village does not operate in isolation and that strong relationships among the Village, the school district, Miami Township, county agencies, and state organizations are essential to the long-term success of our community. He approaches those relationships professionally and with a genuine desire to solve problems and support the people he serves.

Council's apparent willingness to consider removing such an experienced, dedicated, and collaborative leader is especially troubling given the lack of public notice, open discussion, and opportunity for community input. Considering the termination of a manager with 10 years of service outside meaningful public scrutiny creates an appearance of secrecy and raises legitimate concerns that Council is proceeding without community support. Even the appearance of avoiding public accountability undermines trust. This is particularly concerning at a time when Yellow Springs faces significant infrastructure needs that require sustained attention, careful planning, institutional knowledge, technical expertise, and responsible financial stewardship: all qualities Johnnie brings to his role.

Maintaining our water, sewer, electric, streets, sidewalks, and other essential systems is not optional. Affordable housing is also an important community priority, but it cannot become Council's exclusive focus or come at the expense of these fundamental responsibilities. Housing initiatives cannot succeed without reliable utilities, adequate streets, sound public facilities, and the infrastructure necessary to support additional development. As a resident, I appreciate Johnnie's recognition that the past practice of either ignoring or postponing those needs is shortsighted and will ultimately place greater financial burdens on future residents.

Council must take a more balanced and comprehensive approach to governing and must respect and rely upon the expertise of the professionals employed by the Village. Council's responsibility is not to advance one priority at the expense of all others, but to protect the long-term health, safety, stability, and financial sustainability of the entire Village.

Terminating Johnnie would deprive Yellow Springs of 10 years of institutional knowledge, technical expertise, and proven leadership. It would create unnecessary instability at precisely the time when the Village needs the experienced, steady, and knowledgeable management Johnnie has consistently provided. Such a decision would not serve the best interests of Yellow Springs. Council should affirm its confidence in his leadership and work collaboratively with Johnnie and Village staff to establish clear, balanced priorities. Those priorities must address affordable housing while also making the infrastructure investments necessary to sustain our community and support additional housing, whether affordable or market-rate.

Yellow Springs deserves thoughtful, transparent, and responsible leadership, not decisions made without meaningful public discussion or driven by a narrow agenda and short-term thinking. Johnnie Burns has demonstrated his commitment to this Village. Council should demonstrate its commitment to him and to the long-term future of Yellow Springs by retaining him as Village Manager.

Sincerely,

Holly Smith-Conway
Resident, 251 King Street

packet = Yes
Client IP = 66.203.31.74

Village of Yellow Springs Council Members,

We, the undersigned staff, do not support the termination of Johnnie Burns.

We were not involved nor consulted in this process, and the decision is in contradiction to Village Value #2, recently approved on March 16th, 2026.

Value 2: Be a model employer actively working to attract and retain a skilled workforce to provide excellent services within a responsible and sustainable fiscal framework.

The loss of Johnnie Burns is demoralizing and destabilizing. He has been an exemplary leader and losing him and his years of profound institutional knowledge is devastating. Attempting to replace him will increase the burden on staff which will ultimately be felt by villagers.

Signed, *Les Smalley*, Buildings Custodian

Staff Member, Job Title

Ken Rege, meter reader, Utility Billing Clerk

Lynda Highlander, AP/Payroll officer

Tom H..., meter department,

Elise Burns, Utility Clerk

Alex K... Village electric dept. Lineman

Jean Merquand Village Lineman

2 Dyr Village Lineman

Chelsey Skinner, Assistant to Council Clerk + Planning + Zoning

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President](#); [Angie Hsu, Council Vice President](#); [Carmen Brown, Council](#); [Senay Semere, Council](#); [Stephanie Pearce, Council](#)
Cc: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 11:40:35 AM

first_name = Lisa
last_name = Wolters
email = lisawolters@gmail.com
phone = 9374162496
subject = Village Manager decision
message = Hello Council Members,

I truly appreciate the work that you all put into our Village and your willingness to listen to community members.

I would like to share my thoughts about what I'm hearing about Friday's special Village Council meeting for you take into consideration regarding Manager Johnnie Burns' position. As a long time business owner and employer in the Village, I have always been super supported by Johnnie with any question and/or problem that we've brought to him. He has worked to understand any issue and to come to a solution in a reasonable manner.

It seems short-sighted to relieve him of his position in favor of someone else who might not have the same history of our Village infrastructure and operations that are so vital to the survival of our town's businesses. I urge you to continue working with him in the future while finding a way to pursue your other goals.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lisa Wolters
Yellow Springs Brewery
packet = Yes
Client IP = 70.92.121.131

8/20/26

Dear Yellow Springs Council,

By this time, you have received some letters that may cause you to feel put on the defensive regarding the August 21 special council meeting. Maybe not. Either way, take a deep breath and let yourself be open to what you are hearing, reading, and feeling. We will all be grateful for a pause.

You are facing a very big decision with unknown, long-term consequences that will ripple out beyond you, to your family, your friends, and all of the people who live and work here.

Because there has not been any explanation from council ahead of this meeting and vote, it is hard to imagine how removing the village manager is so very urgent. The process will not work like the simple act of ripping off the bandaid. Instead, it will become a community wound that takes a long time to heal.

You have the power and control to slow down this process, postpone the decision, explore options, and communicate what needs to happen and why so you can gain community buy-in and trust. Go slow to go fast.

Consider: Instead of voting to remove the village manager on August 21, you can abstain, and ask your fellow council members and the community for more time. This could give you some open space, time for clarity and considering options. Wouldn't it be great to create a win-win situation that we all can celebrate?

If you have never managed salaried professionals who hold complex jobs, I'll let you in on a little of my experience. It is impossible to know, understand, comprehend, and appreciate all that they do. You likely have never held that job. So to measure their performance, you need to establish metrics, conduct surveys, and observe impacts. This takes time and, in the case of the village manager, must involve fair and balanced input from the people who live and work here.

One last piece of advice: Choose wisely. Firing someone should not be done in haste, with exception for illegal or other egregious behavior. Firing someone will wrench your heart and soul more than you anticipate, not matter how skilled you might be at compartmentalizing. Believe me, I've lived this.

Ask yourself, have you given your assessment, conclusion, and the village manager justice? Have you deeply explored alternatives? Are you ready for the consequences? Can you remain on council and engage with the repercussions and setbacks? Can your family and friends do the same?

Please, for your sake and that of the village, take a deep breath (maybe several, but don't pass out), stop, and ask for more time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Abel". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Abel" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Abel, resident

Ryan Aubin
Mills Park Hotel
321 Xenia Ave
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
August 20, 2026

Yellow Springs Village Council
100 Dayton St.
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Re: Johnnie Burns

To the Members of Yellow Springs Village Council:

I am writing as a local business owner, employer, property owner, and long-standing stakeholder in the Village of Yellow Springs to express my unequivocal opposition to the apparent effort to terminate Johnnie Burns as Village Manager.

I find myself genuinely appalled that I even have to write a letter defending the continued employment of someone I have come to respect so deeply.

I have worked with Johnnie Burns collaboratively in the post-COVID Street Fair era, and I have had the opportunity to observe him both as Public Works Director and as Village Manager. I have never known Mr. Burns to be anything other than honest, forthright, genuine, and deeply committed to this community. He is, without question, one of the most knowledgeable people in the Village when it comes to its infrastructure, its operations, its employees, and the realities facing this municipality.

Johnnie is not there to be your friend. He is not there to glad-hand elected officials or tell Council what it wants to hear. He is there to protect the Village, its residents, its businesses, its infrastructure, and its long-term viability. Sometimes protecting the Village means delivering facts that people do not want to hear. *That is precisely what I expect from a Village Manager.*

Apparently there are concerns about the way Johnnie communicates. Perhaps he does not communicate in the manner Council President would prefer. Perhaps he does not write emails or speak in precisely the way certain members of the dais would like. But if the fundamental problem is that the Village Manager does not communicate in the preferred style of the Council President, I would suggest that the responsibility for resolving that communication problem does not rest exclusively with the Village Manager.

The Council President leads the dais, and it is his responsibility to communicate effectively with the Village Manager, just as it is Johnnie's responsibility to communicate effectively with Council. If there is a communication breakdown, Council should consider its own role before reaching for termination, particularly when the person being considered has no publicly known history of corrective action, has continued to meet Council's expectations, and has demonstrated a willingness to be transparent with both Council and the public, even when the information is unpopular.

That is not insubordination. It is not incompetence. That is management.

Johnnie actually lives the values he espouses. And, somewhat ironically, those are many of the same values this dais frequently claims to champion: honesty, service, accountability, humility, compassion, and concern for the broader community.

It is difficult to reconcile those stated values with what appears to be happening here.

The Village has been through enough turmoil in its administrative leadership. The previous Village Manager's tenure was, at best, divisive and, at worst, characterized by conduct that left many people questioning whether they could trust their own local government. Johnnie stepped into that environment and has worked to provide something this Village desperately needs: competence, continuity, institutional knowledge, and stability.

He knows this Village from the ground up.

He understands its electric, water, wastewater, sewer, streets, facilities, and other infrastructure because he spent years directly responsible for those systems. That knowledge cannot simply be replaced by hiring someone with the right résumé and the right communication style.

The Village's own records demonstrate the value of that institutional knowledge and his willingness to address difficult issues, including major infrastructure improvements, utility modernization, development, housing, and long-term capital needs. As another letter submitted to Council has noted, his administration has continued advancing significant infrastructure and economic-development initiatives while navigating the competing demands of preservation, growth, and sustainability.

I do not believe Johnnie is perfect. I do not believe any Village Manager is perfect. But there is an enormous difference between legitimate performance management and what appears from the outside to be a decision that appears rooted more in personal conflict than demonstrated performance deficiencies. If Council has legitimate performance deficiencies to present, then present them. Put them on the record. Explain what expectations were established, what was not met, what corrective action was taken, and why termination is proportionate and justified.

If that evidence exists, the public deserves to see it. If it does not, then what exactly are we doing? Because from where I sit, this looks less like responsible municipal governance and more like personality conflict elevated into an employment action. That should concern every resident and business owner in Yellow Springs.

The potential liability created by a termination without a demonstrated performance basis is significant. If Council proceeds, I sincerely hope Mr. Burns exercises every legal right available to him. If there is one thing I have learned about the Village of Yellow Springs, it is that the Village has demonstrated a remarkable ability to lose court cases. This would be one more entirely avoidable feather in the cap.

More importantly, however, the cost will not simply be legal fees or a potential settlement. The Village will lose institutional knowledge that cannot be quickly replaced. It will lose one of the few people who understands its infrastructure at the depth necessary to make informed decisions about its future. And it will send a very clear message to every competent professional working for the Village that telling elected officials difficult truths may be a career-ending offense.

That is an extraordinarily dangerous precedent.

There is no better person for this role than Johnnie Burns. You will not find someone of his caliber, institutional knowledge, operational understanding, and commitment to Yellow Springs simply by opening a job posting. You may, however, find someone who is more agreeable.

Those are not the same thing.

If Council terminates Johnnie Burns because he is direct, insufficiently deferential, or does not communicate in the preferred manner of the Council President, then you are not improving the Village's leadership. You are selecting for compliance over competence.

You will have single-handedly ensured that the Village of Yellow Springs is placed in less capable hands. That will be your legacy.

I have spent years investing in this community. I employ people here. I operate one of the largest businesses in Yellow Springs. My livelihood is tied directly to the health, stability, and reputation of Yellow Springs. I therefore have a vested interest in who is making decisions about the future of this municipality. I have no interest in watching Council destroy one of the most valuable institutional assets this Village has.

If Council proceeds with Johnnie Burns' termination, I want to be very clear about what that decision will mean to me: **I will have no faith in the current dais.**

You will have demonstrated that personal relationships and political personalities matter more than institutional knowledge, professional competence, and the long-term interests of the Village. You will have chosen compliance over competence.

That is a consequential decision, and the community should treat it as such. If this Council is willing to make a decision of this magnitude without demonstrating a legitimate performance basis for it, then the people of Yellow Springs deserve the opportunity to reconsider who is representing them.

You should be recalled.

This action is indefensible, inexcusable, and embarrassing for Yellow Springs.

Do better.

From: noreply@revize.com
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: NOTICE: Village Council Contact Form Submission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 7:36:20 PM

first_name = Kathryn
last_name = Burkland
email = kathryneburkland@gmail.com
phone = 937 825 9306
text-1785421988198 = I support Johnnie Burns
message = This message is to all current council members,

I was outraged when I read on FaceBook, of all places, that the Village Council was conducting an executive session tomorrow to potentially remove Johnnie Burns from his position of Village Manager. I am writing to protest this potential action. The timing is highly questionable (announced on FB the day before?), and now I read that there will be no public session before or after to hear what the citizens of the village think. Never forget that you represent all of us.

I have lived in Yellow Springs since 1998 when I began teaching at the high school. I know and care for our young people and their futures. I am retired, and I love the village and the values it has always represented. We are supposed to hold ourselves to higher standards.

Johnnie Burns has done more for our village than anyone else in my time here. He addressed serious infrastructure issues that had been ignored for many decades with leadership, expertise, and experience. I support him and how he has conducted himself on behalf of all Yellow Springers.

Please consider your actions carefully. Think hard..

We are beyond fortunate to have Johnnie Burns as our Village Manager.

Kathryn Burkland
packet = No
Client IP = 2603:6011:5003:adef:a10b:e519:25e1:43a2

August 20, 2026

Dear Village Council Members:

We are writing in support of Village Manager Johnnie Burns. If something egregious did not happen that warrants firing, VC is making a mistake! You all ran your campaigns on transparency. This is not transparency. Your agenda should be what is best for the Village 3500 residents, not your own agenda.

You are supposed to represent the Village's needs as a whole. We have infrastructure needs that cannot be neglected, streets to keep up, sidewalks, etc.... yet VC is still focused on housing only.

The institutional knowledge that VM Johnnie Burns has is vital to the Village. Not only does he understand the infrastructure and the needs of the village he has the experience needed to marshal to correct resources to get the job done properly. His vast experience, knowledge and industry contacts are a tremendous asset to the Village.

VM Johnnie Burns highlights we see:

1. He shows up at every emergency and is prepared to deal with it no matter day or night – fires, electric outages, flooding streets, etc...
2. The staff support for him as VM and his support for staff
3. Johnnie's vital institutional knowledge of the Village
4. Vast Experience in Public Works and Administration
5. Contacts in the industry that benefit the Village as a whole
6. The temperament changed for the better in the Bryan Center as soon as Johnnie stepped in after Josue left
7. Realistic understanding of what it takes to budget and plan for projects (even though they may not be as fast as this VC likes he is realistic because of his experience.) Reality matters.

What is the cause? Do his performance evaluations show egregious offenses to warrant termination? Didn't you just give him a 3.5% salary increase in January and a 2.5% salary increase in March with the comment in the resolution "Whereas Council has determined Mr. Burns has met or exceeded the expectations of his position, and this effort and diligence is deserving of a salary increase." (Resolution 2025-14)

What is next? Does Council have a plan?

VC Terminates VM Johnnie Burns or he resigns because you force him out:

1. Repercussions of staff and Bryan Center / Staff culture – likely will lose more great employees – business stops and everyone is worried – productivity is impacted on already overworked staff.
2. Hiring a new VM? WE DO NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR A VM SEARCH! Stop wasting taxpayer dollars. Focus on true VC responsibilities.
3. Costs associated with a search- temporary VM person – training them, fixing mistakes they make due to lack of Village knowledge / experience
4. Lost time on current projects – delays on scheduled projects
5. Getting a new VM up to speed
6. Who would want to work/apply for the VM position after what VC just demonstrated to the public? They will relieve a highly regarded employee of their job without just cause. (if this is the case).

I think the short sightedness in this decision will have big impacts on already shaky public trust with Council. The optics are not good and you are setting the Village back years. This is stunning and incredibly disappointing.

Best,

Sheila Dunphy Pallotta

Dino Pallotta

From: [Jyoti Miller](#)
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: Support for Johnnie Burns
Date: Friday, August 21, 2026 7:35:14 AM

You don't often get email from jyoti.miller@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing in support of Mr. Burns. The village has let so many things go in terms of infrastructure and Mr. Burns is working hard to fix those issues. I was just thinking about how transparent and informative he is with the newsletters that get sent out. VC is making a grave mistake if they choose to get rid of him. Please, don't make this mistake!

Sincerely,
Jyoti Miller

Aug 20, 2026

Dear Members of Village Council,

We are writing to place on the record my personal experience working with Johnnie Burns and my observations of his service to Yellow Springs.

My husband and I worked directly with Johnnie during the preparation and submission of a LIHTC application related to affordable housing. Although the State ultimately did not award the funding to Yellow Springs, the application was a strong contender and represented months of significant work and coordination. Johnnie played an important role in bringing together many moving parts, including the school district, Agraria, the soccer community, property considerations, infrastructure questions, and other community interests. We saw firsthand his willingness to collaborate, work through complicated issues, and keep a difficult project moving forward.

We have also worked with and observed Johnnie's involvement in the Mary's Way Bike Trail. The project involved years of planning and a careful consideration of the land, the easements, the infrastructure, communication, and the concerns of various parties. Because he understood these details and conveyed what was needed, Yellow Springs and Agraria successfully completed the trail.

We have also talked at length to Johnnie about the possibility of the Village annexing our land. During these discussions, we have always found him to be honest, direct, and transparent when speaking about the opportunities as well as the infrastructure and development problems involved.

We have supported, and continue to support, the idea that affordable housing should be part of our land's future. Through that process, however, we have gained a much greater appreciation for how much technical knowledge, institutional memory, and practical experience are required to evaluate annexation, utilities, roads, development costs, and the many other issues that accompany growth.

Apart from our own experiences, Johnnie has built a strong professional reputation among the people we have met in Greene County, including county engineers, private builders, engineers, and others involved in development and infrastructure. We have also witnessed several Council meetings where he answered detailed questions from a position of years of practical experience.

During his tenure, we have seen substantial attention given to Village infrastructure, communication, and the practical work of maintaining and improving the community. We have also been impressed by Johnnie's commitment to service outside of his professional responsibilities, including volunteering his personal time to help bring electrical infrastructure to Native American communities where residents had been living without it.

It has been a genuine pleasure to learn from and work with Johnnie. Our experience of working with him has been professional, knowledgeable, transparent, cooperative, and dedicated to public service.

Since the decisions regarding Village leadership are serious, we hope the Council's discussions take into account Johnnie's professional record, his institutional knowledge, his relationships across the county, and the direct experiences of residents and community partners who have worked with him for many years.

We request that this statement be included in the public record.

Sincerely,

Matt & Julie Jones

Handwritten signatures of Matt and Julie Jones in black ink.

From: [Patrick Lake](#)
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: Support for Village Manager Johnnie Burns
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 8:39:38 PM

You don't often get email from pdlake79@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening,

Patrick Lake, resident of Yellow Springs at 321 North Walnut Street, writing with grave concern over the intent of this Village Council to remove or not extend current Village Manager Johnnie Burns. Johnnie has impressed me over his many years of service to the village, with his knowledge base, experience, and approachable and civil demeanor. If any change should be made to his contract status, it should be announcing a raise and extension.

Be advised, I will be filing a Referendum Petition to strip council of powers pursuant to Yellow Springs Charter, Article III Sections 67 & 69. Once the requisite valid, registered resident signatures are collected, I will submit the petition packet to the Clerk of Council for compliance review and submission to the Greene County Board of Elections.

Respectfully,

Patrick Lake
321 N. Walnut Street
Yellow Springs
Pdlake79@gmail.com

From: [Amy W](#)
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#); [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#)
Subject: For Council
Date: Friday, August 21, 2026 6:58:01 AM

You don't often get email from aawc13@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Judy,

I'm not sure if this is late or timely. Please share this with council of possible.

Thank you and I hope you are well.

Amy Wamsley

Dear Council,

I have had my fair share of interactions with Village employees and management over the last 20 years. The one consistent who has tried to resolve issues and brought experience and knowledge to the table is Johnnie Burns. He has worked very hard for this Village and knows many things about the infrastructure that is of importance. He listens and strives to find common ground and meet the needs of this community with minimal resources and team members.

Given his earned PTO payout, Mr. Burns hasn't even taken significant deserved vacation, but has instead worked hard to manage the needs of YS.

With that said, I know Johnnie is not always the easiest at times. We all have our moments. I'm aware that some development in the role may be needed and administrative support is required. I'm assuming a cost the Village was aware of at the time of hire into the new position. He has not been professionally trained in government matters, but has grown his career through Public Works. The Village agreed to the employment contract and agreed to have Mr. Burns perform 2 roles for our Village in an effort to save money. It was a questionable decision, but one made none the less. Therefore, without an egregious act on the part of Mr. Burns, he should remain in his position.

Johnnie knows the Village. A Village that has significant and unique issues based on the age of our infrastructure and what I'm sure are "patches" to keep it running. They say everyone is replaceable and that may be the case, but removing Johnnie from his position would cause significant growing pains that may cost the Village even more than an extra employee to assist Mr. Burns.

I'm asking that a plan be developed that will mitigate any transition when contracts are up for renewal. Perhaps even hire and develop a succession plan for an incumbent in the assistant role which creates a tier step compensation based on performance markers. I think that there are other opportunities here that need to be explored prior to ending Johnnie's contract. Any decision is costly, but the one that requires us to fill two massive positions within our Village and the learning curve of those incumbents is the most costly of all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Wamsley

From: [Samantha Williams Eckenrode](#)
To: [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#); [Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council](#); [Lauren \(Chuck\) Shows](#); [rdixon](#)
Subject: Support for Village Manager Johnnie Burns
Date: Friday, August 21, 2026 8:30:40 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.png](#)
[ATT00002.png](#)

To the Village Leadership Team,

I was deeply concerned to learn yesterday that there may be a movement afoot to remove and replace our current Village Manager, Johnnie Burns.

In my opinion, to do so would be a grievous error. In my experience working with him and his staff, which has been frequent, he has been the very model of a dedicated and capable public servant.

To lose his years of experience, commitment, expertise, and institutional knowledge—not to mention patience and clearly demonstrated love for our village—would be a tragic loss; one from which it would be very difficult for Yellow Springs to recover.

Council, I hope that cooler heads among you will prevail. Please do not make this serious mistake.

Sincerely,

Sam Eckenrode
Villager since 1962



SAM ECKENRODE

REALTOR®, Associate Partner
Coldwell Banker Heritage
LIC# SAL.2004018652

 (937) 470-1867

 sameckenrode@gmail.com

 www.yellowspringsproperties.com

[Read My Reviews](#)

[Visit My Website](#)

Most of my business comes from referrals of friends and past clients...so if you know of someone planning a move, please call me. I can help you & your family & friends find a real estate expert anywhere in the world!

Cascades Phase II Rental
Yellow Springs Home, Inc.
PO Box 503, Yellow Springs, OH 45387

August 20, 2026

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Judy Kintner
Clerk of Council, Village of Yellow Springs
100 Dayton St
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

RE: Cascades Phase II Rental

Dear Council Members,

The purpose of this letter is to apprise your office that Yellow Springs Home, Inc. plans to be the developer and owner of a residential rental development located in or within a one-half mile radius of your political jurisdiction, and will submit an application to utilize the multifamily funding programs of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) for the development of this property.

This project is 9 rental units, a continuation of an earlier phase of senior-focused, new construction rental housing. The project will be located on the 100 block of E. Herman St. in Yellow Springs and serve households making less than 80% of Area Median Income.

The proposed development will be financed with HDAP funds through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, HOME-ARP, AHP funds through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, CCA funds through the Department of Developmental Disabilities, permanent financing through Wright Patt Credit Union, grants from Centerpoint Energy Foundation, the Village of Yellow Springs, the Finance Fund, and Enterprise S4.

Development Team:
Developer: Yellow Springs Home, Inc
Contractor: To Be Bid Out
Property Manager: Nelson and Associates

Project Address: Parcel F19000100080030100, Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Number of Units: 9

Program(s) to be utilized
in the Project: Housing Development Assistance Program, HOME- ARP

Right to Submit
Comments:

You have the right to submit comments to OHFA regarding the proposed project's impact on the community. Any objection to the project must be submitted in writing and signed by a majority of the voting members of the legislative body. Comments must be received by OHFA within 30 days of the mailing date of this notice.

The person to be notified at OHFA and their address is:

Director of Multifamily Housing
Ohio Housing Finance Agency
2600 Corporate Exchange Drive, Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio 43231

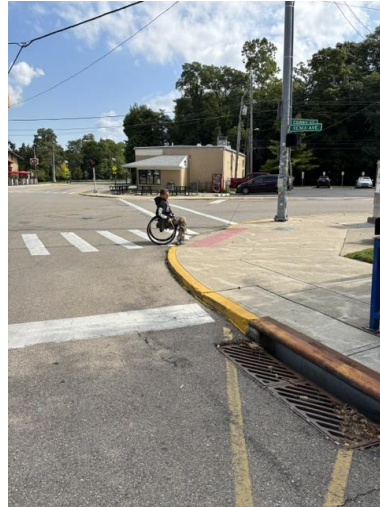
OHFA will provide a written response to any objections submitted under the terms outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Seibel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" and last name "Seibel" clearly distinguishable.

Emily Seibel

Executive Director
Yellow Springs Home, Inc.
937-767-2790



This is the handicap parking spot in front of The Winds Wine Cellar, and this totally disabled individual must use a wheelchair for mobility. She is able to drive her vehicle with modifications, and has a therapy dog that travels with her. These photos highlight the safety issues with handicap parking on Xenia Avenue when there are not curb cuts forcing one to wheel on the street to the crosswalk and ramp to access the sidewalk. This does not meet ADA guidelines and we must work together to resolve these issues now while there are free resources available from the state and also grants available for our downtown area to make improvements. Please clarify how you plan to proceed beyond just saying "capital improvement plan". We need to avoid an incident that will be a financial issue for the Village. Let's move forward productively and get some simple things done now and show progress!

YELLOWSPRINGS REVIVAL SCHEDULE
September 25, 26 and 27
Sponsored by Public Arts and Culture Commission

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Roots and History
John Bryan Community Center Gym

5:00–5:30 p.m – Arrival and gathering
5:30–6:30 p.m – Dr. Joe Zavaan Johnson: African Roots of the banjo it's impact on American music
6:30–6:45 p.m – Intermission
6:45–7:45 p.m – Banjo performance
7:45–8:00 p.m – Q&A and wrap-up

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
John Bryan Community Center Front Lawn

2:45–3:00pm (Second Line from Emporium) 3:00–3:45 p.m – Phil's Big Ass Brass Band
3:45–4:00 p.m – Changeover
4:00–4:45 p.m – Eric Henry Band
4:45–5:00 p.m – Changeover
5:00–5:45 p.m – Sharon Lane & Danny Sauers
5:45–6:00 p.m – Changeover
6:00–6:45 p.m – Mojo Power
6:45–7:00 p.m – Changeover
7:00–7:45 p.m – Tony Huston & Prime Time Blues Band
7:45–8:00 p.m – Changeover
8:00–8:45 p.m – Georgia Anne Muldrow

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
John Bryan Community Center

2:45–3:45 p.m – Open Mic
3:45–4:00 p.m – Changeover
4:00–4:45 p.m – Geoff Hohwald
4:45–5:00 p.m – Changeover
5:00–5:45 p.m – Mark Babb
5:45–6:00 p.m – Changeover
6:00–6:45 p.m – George Byrd
6:45–7:00 p.m – Wrap-up