COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA

In Council Chambers @4:30 P.M. **Monday, November 2, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (4:30)

Under Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) To consider the evaluation or compensation of a public employee or official and 121.22(G)(2) to consider the acquisition of real estate, and 121.22(G)(3) to discuss pending litigation.

MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION (6:00)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of October 19, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of October 22, 2026 Special Meeting: Budget Session

REVIEW OF AGENDA

I. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS (6:10)

The Clerk will receive and file:

Heather Hughes re: Council Conduct Concern
Amy Bailey re: Active Transportation Information
Carmen Brown re: Values vs Actions
Theresa Mayer re: Accessibility Standards
Mitzie Miller re: Increase Sidewalk Budget

II. CITIZEN CONCERNS (6:15)

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION (6:30)

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-20 Repeal and Replace Section 1226.13 "Subdivision Fees" of Chapter 1226 "Subdivision Regulations" of the Village Planning and Zoning Code to Create New Section 1226.13 "Subdivision Fees and Deposits"
Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-21 Repealing Appendix A "FEE SCHEDULE" of Title 4 "Zoning" of the Village Planning and Zoning Code
Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-23 Approving 2027 Annual Appropriations for the Village of Yellow Springs and Declaring an Emergency
Reading of Resolution 2026-39 Honoring the Legacy of Wheeling Gaunt and Approving the Annual Distribution of Flour and Sugar to Village Widows and Widowers
Reading of Resolution 2026-40 Approving a Contract with Pracademic Partners, LLC for Village Manager Search Process

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS (6:45)

Quarterly Financials (Hartlaub: 10 min.)
Treasurer's Report (Kintner: 5 min.)

V. MANAGER'S REPORT (7:00)

VI. OLD BUSINESS (7:15)

Schedule Housing Retreat (Hsu: 5 min.)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS* (7:20)

Nov. 16: **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-20** Repeal and Replace Section 1226.13 "Subdivision Fees" of Chapter 1226 "Subdivision Regulations" of the Village Planning and Zoning Code to Create New Section 1226.13 "Subdivision Fees and Deposits"
Second Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-23 Approving 2027 Annual Appropriations for the Village of Yellow Springs and Declaring an Emergency
Reading of Resolution 2026-41 Employee Wage Increase
Reading of Resolution 2026-42 Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule

Dec. 7: Charter Amendment re: Recall Timing Discussion
Citizen Comment Discussion

Dec. 21:

*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, November 16, 2026**.

Council for the Village of Yellow Springs
Regular Session Minutes

In Council Chambers @ 5 P.M. **Monday, October 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown and Stephanie Pearce. Interim Village Manager Jeff Sheridan, Planning and Zoning Director Nia Holt and Solicitor Amy Blankenship were also present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:03pm, Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE 121.22(G)(1) TO CONSIDER THE EVALUATION OR COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OR OFFICIAL AND TO CONSIDER THE ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE. The MOTION PASSED 3-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Holt and Blankenship were present in Executive Session for the first 35 minutes.

Brown arrived at 5:14pm.

MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION

At 6:06pm, Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

DeVore Leonard asked for a motion to excuse Semere's absence. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO EXCUSE Semere. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

SWEARING IN

DeVore Leonard swore Matthew Raska in as a full member of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of October 5, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of October 5, 2026 Special Meeting: Work Session
3. Minutes of October 7, 2026 Special Council Meeting: Budget Session #1
4. Credit Card Statement for September

Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Hsu asked that a section be added for Council members to report on their activities. This was added after Board and Commission Reports.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly Report (3)

Ralita Hilderbrand re: Budget Considerations
Mitzie Miller re: Parking Requests
Heather Hughes re: Budget Request for Wetland Study
Judith Hempfling re: Citizen Participation in Council Meetings
Danielle Joseph re: Downtown Accessibility
MVRPC Public Participation Notice
Dean Pallotta re: Council Fiscal Responsibility

Hsu reviewed communications.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Heather Hughes spoke on behalf of "Friends of Frogtown" who are working to "save Glass Farm". Hughes asked for funds in the 2027 budget for a wetland delineation study.

Sylvia Jenae spoke on behalf of citizens regarding power outages, asking that the electrical infrastructure be "tightened up".

Mitzie Miller stated that a conservative budget is desired and asked Council to budget conservatively and plan for potential unexpected infrastructure needs. She opined that less should be spent on Home, Inc. housing and more on accessibility.

Ralita Hilderbrand noted items she has flagged for the 2027 budget as needed. She asked that any sale of public land go before voters. She objected to the hiring of a contracted Finance Director as a permanent financial manager, stating her belief that this might be opposed by ORC.

Lisa Abel continued her ongoing education campaign on aspects of YSDC as an economic agent. She then provided information as to the makeup of the YSDC.

Reilly Dixon of the Yellow Springs News spoke to the amount the person being hired as the interim Finance Director would be paid per hour. He asked whether the interim FD would be "ideologically aligned" with Council's values. He asked further whether Johnnie Burns was in fact being consulted with.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO READ EMERGENCY READINGS BY TITLE ONLY. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-20 Repeal and Replace Section 1226.13 "Subdivision Fees" of Chapter 1226 "Subdivision Regulations" of the Village Planning and Zoning Code. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Holt explained the legislation, stating that planning and zoning fees are currently established within the Village Zoning Code through Chapter 1226.13 and Appendix A. Changes to these fees require a formal text amendment and ordinance, including Planning Commission review and Village Council action, because the fees are codified.

The original proposed amendment removed the fee-related language from Chapter 1226.13, while retaining the requirement for park dedication fees associated with newly subdivided minor plat developments. The intent was to lay the groundwork for Village Council to adopt and adjust planning and zoning fees by resolution, consistent with the process Council adopted for building permit fees on July 6, 2026.

Planning Commission reviewed the original amendment at their September 15, 2026 meeting and have provided a positive recommendation to Village Council. Following that review, the Village Solicitor reexamined the proposed text and made a legal recommendation that the language related to subdivision deposits and

additional review fees be retained in Chapter 1226.13. Staff has presented a modified version of the text amendment identified as "Modified Exhibit A" that incorporates the Solicitor's recommendation.

The Clerk explained that because the changes would be substantive, if Council wished to amend the recommendation as suggested they would do so by motion and vote, and the amended ordinance would be brought as a first reading in November.

Hsu MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFIED EXHIBIT A TO ORDINANCE 2026-20. Pearce SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-21 Repealing Appendix A "FEE SCHEDULE" of Title 4 "Zoning" of the Village Planning and Zoning Code. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Holt explained that all fees listed in the code are contained in this appendix. The legislation removed the appendix from the code, thus allowing fees to be amended by Council resolution.

DeVore Leonard declined to call a vote on the first reading.

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-22 Approving Fourth Quarter Supplemental Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk noted that while several small amounts are either added or receipted in, there is a substantial appropriation into the Solid Waste fund. She stated that this is entirely related to the sharp increase in fuel surcharges, which caused solid waste rates to double starting in March. That situation has now depleted the fund, which will be made whole for the remainder of 2026 through this appropriation.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Ralita Hilderbrand commented that all costs related to petroleum will continue to go up into the foreseeable future. She urged Council to budget conservatively, commenting that the budget is in the red.

DeVore Leonard responded that the budget is not in the red, and that the budget is indeed conservatively constructed to provide for just such eventualities.

DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-35 Approving Check Signing Privileges for WesBanco Bank/General Checking & Guaranteed Deposits. Pearce MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk explained that this legislation removes employees no longer with the village and adds Larry Hartlaub, the incoming Interim Finance Director.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-36 Authorizing Payment of Invoices with a Then and Now Certificate for the Third Quarter Of 2026. Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk explained that the Supervisor was unable to enter the requisition, it being a Capital item which would normally have been added by the Village Manager. This need fell into the gap just as Burns was departing, so although the funds were appropriated, because the amount is in excess of $3,000, a Then and Now is required to provide evidence of existing funds for payment.

Pearce asked whether the relining was addressing an emergent issue or was part of ongoing work.

The Clerk responded that this was part of ongoing sewer improvement work.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-37 Approving Contractor Larry Hartlaub with Shared Resource Center for Interim Finance Director Services and Authorizing an Amendment to the Current Contract. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Blankenship explained that the Village has contracted with the SRC for several years for ongoing financial work. This would be an extension of that relationship, she said, and is a service that the SRC provides to a number of municipalities.

Blankenship noted that Council has an amended agreement before them, which was not in the packet. The agreement makes clear that Hartlaub is not a Village employee, will not receive benefits, etc. She noted the amount assigned to each category of service, stating that according to Tiffany Hiser, SRC Director, about 50% of Hartlaub's work will be categorized as "Finance Director", the top dollar amount, and about 50% will fall into the lower tier of payroll and processing.

Blankenship noted that she is asking Council to pass the contract in "substantially similar form" and explained several points of the contract she is still working through with Hiser.

Blankenship responded to a question from Brown, stating that she believes that not only is this a feasible solution but is in fact the only solution available. She added that while the Village Manager position can be Interim for a period, the Village is required by Charter to have a permanent Village Manager. A Finance Director can, however, be a contract employee even permanently if needed, and more municipalities are moving this direction.

Again responding to Brown, Blankenship noted that fewer people are going into this type of work, making finding a full-time replacement increasingly difficult.

DeVore Leonard asked for a report on the hours spent in a month or so to give Council an idea of the level of engagement needed.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-38 Approving a Subdivider's Agreement with Enon Road Project I, LLC for Spring Meadows Extension. Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Blankenship explained that this covers Spring Meadows Phases 3 and 4. It spells out the expectations of all work done for the Rights-of-Way, and is similar to the agreement enacted for Spring Meadows Phases 1 and 2.

Per code, Blankenship explained, the developer has the option to either post bond or to complete this infrastructure work prior to Final Plat approval. The document protects the Village and assures that fees are assessed appropriately. She noted that several of the fees included are part of the reason she wanted fees replaced in ordinance 2026-20.

DeVore Leonard received feedback that this agreement is very standard and that there is nothing of concern contained in it.

Pearce asked how this agreement is different from the agreement for Phases 1 and 2.

Blankenship responded that the numbers are different, and that instead of a playground there is a garden, and that a sidewalk along Enon will be constructed. There is also no need for a lift station.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Sheridan provided highlights, noting the success of Street Fair, several meetings with Supervisors regarding the 2027 budget and has met with Wessler regarding the sewer assessment.

Sheridan commented that he is learning more about the Village's budget process in working with the SRC.

Hsu asked for an update on Mills Lawn safety issues. This will be addressed in a subsequent Manager's report.

DeVore Leonard asked for an update regarding PD staffing.

Sheridan responded that he believes that a former officer may be returning, which, he thought, would bring staffing back up to 100%.

Responding to a question from Hsu, Sheridan described the Dispatch issue as a change in the way that the county assesses cost, which will increase the financial burden for villages enormously. That conversation is ongoing.

Regarding a replacement to the OPWC board, Sheridan stated that this is being filled by a member municipality.

OLD BUSINESS

Village Manager Search Firm Recommendation. DeVore Leonard provided more information regarding Raftellis and addressed some questions. DeVore Leonard stated that he spoke with representatives in Tipp City and Kalamazoo regarding Raftelis who had had good experiences.

DeVore Leonard noted that Raftelis has about 200 employees, and that the employee who met with the search committee could likely be requested, since about 6 persons would work with the Village. He added that Pracademic has 8 total employees, and all 8 will work with the Village.

DeVore Leonard stated that he believes either firm could do a good job, though he leans slightly more towards Pracademic.

Council discussed the two firms at length.

Brown stressed the importance of engaging a firm that has women and persons of color in leadership positions, and that she continues to see Raftelis as the stronger firm in this regard.

Hsu suggested the possibility of going back to the firms to ask more questions about accessibility.

DeVore Leonard took an informal poll of Council members, stating that he would be happy to ask more questions, but wanted to know what information others wanted.

Realizing that gathering more information would mean another two weeks' delay, DeVore Leonard MOVED TO WORK WITH PRACADEMIC PARTNERS for the hiring of a new Village Manager. Pearce SECONDED and the MOTION PASSED 3-1, with Brown voting against.

Recall Process Ballot Initiative Follow-Up. Blankenship introduced the matter, explaining that if Council decides to place this issue on the May 4, 2027 ballot, the legislation must be submitted to the Board of Elections by February 3, 2027. Estimated cost should no items be otherwise placed on the ballot would be about $42,412.00.

Blankenship offered that the other option would be that Council can wait for the November elections to put the amendment on the ballot, when there would be no cost associated. She added that she would very much like to add the matter of virtual meetings to the ballot so that, if passed, it could be in the Village Charter. This would mean two ordinances, if Council is amenable.

Addressing questions from Hsu, Blankenship stated that if the issue passes, recall could be brought immediately thereafter, and it would appear on the next available ballot.

Blankenship affirmed that the language she would propose for the amendment will reflect the language of the ORC.

The matter was discussed, with several variables examined, given current term limits.

The matter will need to be decided by mid-November if Council is to consider placing this on the May ballot.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Pearce shared that YSDC had reviewed its scope of work for the upcoming two years.

Regarding the School Board, Pearce reported that students and teachers will be moving to their correct buildings and classrooms next week.

Hsu commented that housing work is ongoing, and Council will be compiling new actions towards that goal over the next several weeks in preparation for an upcoming Housing Retreat, yet to be scheduled. She noted that housing budget will be discussed, as will the form of the group—whether coalition, commission, etc. She stated that a listening session will be scheduled in the week prior to the retreat so that Council is addressing citizens' concerns.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Pearce commented on Hempfling's letter regarding citizen comments, stating that it seems to have a point and may warrant further exploration.

DeVore Leonard asked that an informal vote be called on items raised and if there is a majority it can be added to a future agenda. The group decided to add discussion of citizen comments to a future agenda.

Hsu commented on attendance at the OKI conference.

DeVore Leonard commented on the budget process, specifically regarding the manner in which items are added to the budget by outside entities.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Oct. 22: Special Council Meeting: Budget Session #3; 3-5pm
Nov. 2: Possible Budget Work Session
Nov. 2: Executive Session
First Reading of Ordinance 2026-20 Repealing and Replacing Section 1226.13 "SUBDIVISION FEES" of the Village Planning and Zoning Code.
Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-21 Repealing Appendix A "FEE SCHEDULE" of Title 4 of the Village Planning and Zoning Code
Reading of Resolution 2026-39 Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule
Reading of Resolution 2026-40 Flour and Sugar

Reading of Resolution 2026-41 Approving a Contract with Pracademic Partners for VM Recruitment
Quarterly Financials
Treasurer Report

Nov. 16: Ballot Measure Recall Decision

Dec. 7: **Reading of Resolution 2026-41** Employee Wage Increase Legislation
Discussion of Recall Process
Review of Council Rules

DeVore Leonard took a poll of Council to see whether there was any appetite to bring the sidewalk issue back to Council for review. There was not.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03pm Hsu MOVED and Pearce SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 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: BUDGET SESSION #2
MINUTES

Council Chambers 3pm. **Thursday, October 22, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu (via ZOOM) and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere (via ZOOM) and Stephanie Pearce. Interim Village Manager Jeff Sheridan, Finance Consultant Tiffany Hiser of Shared Resources was also present.

BUDGET UPDATE AND REVIEW

Capital Review/Update. Hiser reviewed all additions to the budget received at the meeting on October 7th.

Council discussed the added requests, reductions, and responses to questions asked in the first budget meeting.

DeVore Leonard asked about the likelihood of reaching a balanced budget, given the proposed additions totaling about $250,000.

Hiser noted that she budgets conservatively and based on full staffing, which is likely to create some wiggle room. She advised that timing projects so that some cross over years, can reduce the impact in a given year.

Hiser speculated that it is more likely that some projects may not be embarked upon rather than engaging and staying in a deficit.

Some discussion was had regarding the suggestion of funding a part-time ADA Coordinator position, with the allocation remaining.

Brown requested $15,000 for a wetland delineation study, referencing a 2021 memo from Laura Curliss which lists a scope.

DeVore Leonard noted that if funded, staff would take on obtaining such a study.

There was no objection to the request.

STAFFING

Budgeting Related to Cost of Living/Wage Increase. Sheridan recommended offering a wage increase of 4% to ensure retaining experienced staff members.

DeVore Leonard noted that the bump from 3.5 to 4% does not significantly impact the budget and puts the Village generally in line with area municipalities.

NEXT STEPS

Council members agreed that they are ready to hear the 2027 budget ordinance at this point. Other items associated with passage of the budget will be the Manager's recommendation for wage increase with resolution to follow, and amendment to the ordinance setting pay ranges for supervisors. The Clerk will schedule these accordingly.

In addressing a question from Semere, Hiser identified several funds that will need to be closed due to inactivity or lack of income source. These will be followed up upon in Finance Committee.

Hiser raised the issue of 27 pays in 2026, which will have a budget impact. She noted that any required additional funds will be seen in a supplemental appropriation towards the end of 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:19pm, Pearce MOVED and Brown 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.

The Village of
YELLOW SPRINGS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Village Council and Interim Village Manager

FROM: Nia Holt, Planning & Zoning Director

DATE October 29, 2026

RE: Ordinance 2026.20 - *Repealing and Replacing Section 1226.13 of the Village Planning and Zoning Code*

Background: Planning and zoning fees are currently established within the Village Zoning Code through Chapter 1226.13 and Appendix A. These fees are codified; therefore any change requires a formal text amendment and ordinance necessitating Planning Commission review and Village Council action.

Should Council to adopt this ordinance, planning and zoning fees can then be amended by resolution, consistent with the process Council adopted for building permit fees on July 6, 2026.

Planning Commission reviewed a similar text amendment on September 15, 2026, and provided a positive recommendation to Village Council. Following the Commission's review, the Village Solicitor reexamined the proposed text and recommended that language related to subdivision deposits and additional review fees be retained in Chapter 1226.13. That modified language was provided to Council on October 19th.

Council voted to move the modified text amendment forward at the October 19th meeting. Since the modifications retain existing fee language rather than add new regulatory requirements, the changes do not require additional Planning Commission review.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that Village Council adopt the text amendment to Chapter 1226.13, as shown in Exhibit A.

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
ORDINANCE 2026-20

REPEAL AND REPLACE SECTION 1226.13 "SUBDIVISION FEES" OF CHAPTER 1226 "SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS" OF THE VILLAGE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE TO CREATE NEW SECTION 1226.13 "SUBDIVISION FEES AND DEPOSITS"

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission has considered amendments to Section 1226.13 of the Village zoning code to remove specific fees for all subdivision types so that these fees are referenced in a separate document, and

WHEREAS, following a Public Hearing on the matter, Planning Commission recommends approval of these text amendments to Council,

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

Section 1. Section 1226.13 "SUBDIVISION FEES" of Chapter 1226 "SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS", of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. A new Section 1226.13 "SUBDIVISION FEES AND DEPOSITS" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio is hereby enacted to read as set forth in Exhibit A, with deletions in ~~strikethrough~~, and additions **bolded and underlined**.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in force and effect at 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__

Exhibit A to Ordinance 2026-20

1226.13 SUBDIVISION FEES **AND DEPOSITS**.

(a) **Subdivision Fees Nonrefundable**. ~~Preliminary Plats. Concurrently, upon submission of any preliminary plat for Village review, the developer or his or her agent shall make payment for review services in the amount of two hundred dollars ($200.00). Such fee is nonrefundable and is applicable to each preliminary plat upon which specific action to approve or disapprove is taken by the Planning Commission. Resubmission of a previously disapproved preliminary plat shall require another payment of the fee provided for herein.~~ **Such fees are nonrefundable and are applicable to each plat upon which specific action to approve or disapprove is taken by the Planning Commission. Resubmission of a previously disapproved plat shall require another payment of the fees as provided in the fee schedule adopted by Village Council.**

(b) Final Plats **Deposits**.

(1) ~~Concurrently, upon submission of any final plat for Village review, the developer or his or her agent shall make payment for review services in the amount of one hundred dollars ($100.00) and, in addition, shall pay for review services of twenty dollars ($20.00) for each developable lot.~~

(2) Before final approval signatures are placed upon a final record plat, the developer or his or her agent shall deposit with the Village an amount of money to be used to defray the cost of inspection, review and legal services borne by the Village and directly attributable to the development. This sum shall normally he equal to four percent of the approved estimate of construction costs for bonding purposes. Upon acceptance of public improvements by the Village, this four percent fund shall be adjusted in accordance with actual expenditures for review and inspection services. If the money deposited exceeds the cost incurred by the Village, the balance shall be returned to the developer; alternatively, if costs incurred by the Village exceed the four percent deposit, additional money shall be paid by the developer before improvements are accepted.

(c) **Additional Review Fees**. ~~Minor Subdivisions. Before approval of any minor subdivision, the developer or his or her agent shall make payment for review services in the amount of fifty dollars ($50.00) for each new lot created (the residual of the original parcel shall be excluded). If the minor subdivision requires Planning Commission approval, a payment in the amount of one hundred dollars ($100.00) shall additionally be required.~~ **Additional fees may be collected in cases where recovery of incurred costs is necessary. Amendments to submitted plans requiring further review will be assessed such fees. The exact fee will be determined by the incurred cost of the review, the total of which will be passed on to the applicant.**

(d) ~~Replats. Before approval of any replat, the developer or his or her agent shall make payment for review services in the amount of twenty-five dollars ($25.00). If the replat requires Planning Commission approval, a payment in the amount of one hundred dollars ($100.00) shall additionally be required. Additional fees may be collected in cases where recovery of incurred costs is necessary. Amendments to submitted plans requiring further review will be assessed such fees. The exact fee will be determined by the incurred cost of the review, the total of which will be passed on to the applicant.~~

(e) **Minor Plat** Park Fees. ~~For any new subdivisions of less than five lots, the developers or property owners shall pay a park fee of five hundred dollars ($500.00) per lot created for capital improvements to the nearest dedicated park. For subdivisions of five lots or more, see Section 1226.07 .~~ **For any new subdivision of less than five lots, the developers or property owners shall pay the park fee listed in the approved fee schedule per lot created for capital improvements to the nearest dedicated park. For subdivisions of five lots or more, see Section 1226.07.**

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
ORDINANCE 2026-21

REPEAL APPENDIX A "FEE SCHEDULE" OF TITLE FOUR "ZONING" OF THE VILLAGE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission has considered repeal of the fee schedule for zoning fees as contained in APPENDIX "Fee Schedule" of Title Four "Zoning", and

WHEREAS, following a Public Hearing on the matter, Planning Commission recommends approval to Council this repeal to permit fees to be amended when necessary by resolution of Council,

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

Section 1. "Appendix" of Title Four—ZONING of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio is hereby repealed in its entirety, as shown below in Exhibit A.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect at 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__

Exhibit A to Ordinance 2026-21

~~APPENDIX A~~
~~Fee Schedule~~

~~The following amended fee schedule shall apply to non-governmental applications and appeals file pursuant to the regulations outlined in the Village's Zoning Code:~~

~~**Zoning Permits**~~	-
~~- Demolition permit~~	~~$25.00~~
~~- Fence~~	~~$35.00~~
~~- Home Occupation Permit~~	~~$25.00~~
~~- Sign Permit~~	~~$25.00 per sign~~
~~- Transient Guest Lodging permit~~	~~$25.00~~
~~- Working in the ROW permit - expires 30 days from scheduled date of completion~~	~~$50.00~~
~~- Zoning Compliance Permit~~	~~$25.00~~
~~**New Construction Zoning Permit**~~	-
~~- Accessory Structure~~	~~$75.00~~
~~- Addition~~	~~$100.00~~
~~- Deck~~	~~$50.00~~
~~- Single Family~~	~~$150.00~~
~~- Two Family & Single Family Attached~~	~~$200.00~~
~~- Multi-family & Commercial~~	~~$300.00~~
~~**Planning Commission Applications**~~	-
~~- Conditional Use Application~~	~~$200.00~~
~~- Lot Subdivision (Not associated with dev plan or PUD~~	~~$100.00 + $50 per lot (subject to a park fee - Ch. 1226.13 - Subdivision Fees)~~
~~- Map/Text Amendment Request~~	~~$300.00~~
~~- Planned Unit Development (PUD) Application:~~	-
~~- Preliminary Plan Application~~	~~$300.00~~
~~- Final Plan Application~~	~~$150.00~~
~~- Level B Site Plan Review Development Application~~	~~$100.00~~
~~- PUD or Level B Plan Re-application/Amendment~~	~~$50.00~~
~~- Right-of-way Vacation Request~~	~~$50.00 (if petition as included) per Section 1224.03(a) - $100.00 (if no petition included)~~
~~- **Board of Zoning Appeals Applications**~~	-

~~- Variance Application Request~~	~~$200.00~~
~~- Administrative Appeal~~	~~$100.00~~
~~- Village Council Appeal from Planning or Board~~	~~$100.00*~~
~~**- Other Related Fees**~~	~~-~~
~~- Fine for starting work without obtaining a permit~~	~~Cost of the permit, plus 100%~~
~~- Additional fees may be collected in cases where recovery of incurred costs is necessary. Amendments to submitted plans requiring further review will also be assessed such fees. The exact fee is determined by the incurred cost of the review.~~	~~-~~
~~*According to Section 1276.03(b)(6) - $30.00 refunded if appeal affirmed~~	

To: Council

From: Judy Kintner, Council Clerk

Re: Annual Budget: “Short Street ADA Ramp”

Date: October 30, 2026

You will recall that there were two items suggested for removal from the 2027 budget at your October 22 Budget session specific to Short Street as follows:

- Short Street Roof/Gutters: We removed this from 2027 because the project needed attention this year and is currently underway. Budget reduction of 45k.
- Short Street ADA Ramp: This project is being postponed. Budget Reduction of 25k.

Neither item was recognized by Streets Superintendent, Tanner Bussey, since he had categorized costs associated with the defunct Short Street project under “Short Street” while costs associated with 201 South Walnut were labeled as such in his filing system.

The roof/gutter project for 201 South Walnut is actively receiving bids and will be assigned to a contractor imminently, so that improvement does indeed get covered through 2026 Capital funds.

This leaves the “Short Street ADA Ramp”, now understood to be a ramp needed for full access to 201 South Walnut unfunded for 2027. Clearly this was not anyone’s intent.

To correct the situation, if Council will:

MOVE TO ADD $25,000 TO THE FACILITIES CAPITAL BUDGET/SECOND/VOTE

This item will then be replaced in the 2027 budget.

We apologize for any concerns caused to our Community Foundation colleagues who are renting and consistently improving that building as a community asset.

ORDINANCE 2026-23

APPROVING THE 2027 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO

WHEREAS, this ordinance is adopted to make fund level appropriations for expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Yellow Springs, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2027

NOW, THEREFORE, 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, 2027 the following sums are hereby set aside and appropriated as follows:

Section 2. That there be appropriated from the **GENERAL FUND**:

	Council Total	**$**	**533,679**
	Personnel Services		*233,029*
	Mayor Total	**$**	**39,926**
	Personnel Services		*25,426*
	Administration Total	**$**	**916,925**
	Personnel Services		*420,866*
	Auditor	**$**	**45,000**
	Rental Property	**$**	**144,214**
	Library	**$**	**7,500**
	Cable	**$**	**91,061**
	Personnel Services		*80,815*
	Council Commissions	**$**	**27,731**
	Public Safety Total	**$**	**2,384,704**
	Personnel Services		*1,854,504*
	Planning Total	**$**	**392,565**
	Personnel Services		*247,428*
	Mediation	**$**	**14,853**
	Transfers	**$**	**1,626,500**
TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS		**$**	**6,224,658**

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

202	**Street Maintenance & Repair Total**	**$**	**946,929**
	Personnel Services		*294,791*
203	**State Highway & Repair Total**	**$**	**10,000**
204	**Parks and Recreation Fund Total**	**$**	**871,370**
	Parks Total		**339,797**
	Personnel Services		*97,656*
	Pool Total		**156,673**
	Personnel Services		*81,585*
	Bryan Center Total		**357,900**
	Personnel Services		*205,948*
	Bryan Youth Program Total		**17,000**
205	**Economic Development Fund**	**$**	**81,500**
207	**Green Space**	**$**	**-**
208	**Motor Vehicle - Permissive Tax**	**$**	**225,000**
210	**Mayor's Court Computer Fund**	**$**	**515**
212	**Law Enforcement & Education**	**$**	**1,030**
213	**Coat & Supply Fund**	**$**	**2,652**
215	**Federal Forfeited Assets**	**$**	**-**
216	**State Law Enforcement Trust Fund**	**$**	**-**
218	**YS Clifton Connector Trail Project**	**$**	**-**
220	**Utility Round Up Fund**	**$**	**10,000**
224	**Affordable Housing**	**$**	**155,473**
902	**Widow's Fund**	**$**	**1,545**
903	**Police Pension Fund Total**	**$**	**58,022**
	Personnel Services		*57,279*
904	**Security Deposit Fund**	**$**	**1,000**
906	**Mayor's Court Fund**	**$**	**8,240**
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND APPROPRIATIONS		**$**	**2,373,276**

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

301	**Police Vehicle Replacement**	**$ -**
303	**Water - Capital Fund**	**$ 70,400**
304	**Sewer Capital Improvement Fund**	**$ 728,200**
305	**Electric Capital Improvement Fund**	**$ 309,000**
306	**Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Fund**	**$ 319,220**
307	**Facilities Capital Improvement Fund**	**$ 337,810**
308	**Capital Equipment Fund**	**$ -**
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND APPROPRIATIONS		**$ 1,764,630**

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

601	**Electric Fund Total**	**$ 6,137,237**
	Personnel Services	*770,217*
610	**Water Fund Total**	**$ 1,777,275**
	Water Distribution Total	**607,182**
	Personnel Services	*426,829*
	Water Treatment Total	**1,170,093**
	Personnel Services	*273,059*
620	**Sewer Fund Total**	**$ 1,590,154**
	Sewer Collection	**517,797**
	Personnel Services	*371,402*
	Sewer Treatment	**822,357**
	Personnel Services	*265,554*
	Sewer Transfer	**250,000**
630	**Solid Waste Fund**	**$ 557,137**
	Personnel Services	*16,387*
640	**Utility Overpayment Fund**	**$ 5,000**
650	**Storm Water Fund**	**$ 137,500**
660	**Municipal Broadband Fund**	**$ 45,000**
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND APPROPRIATIONS		**$ 10,249,302**

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

GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS ALL FUNDS	**$ 20,611,866**

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.

Signed:

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, OHIO
RESOLUTION 2026-39

HONORING THE LEGACY OF WHEELING GAUNT AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF FLOUR AND SUGAR TO VILLAGE WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

WHEREAS, Wheeling Gaunt, who was born into slavery in about 1815 did, through his own wit and will purchase his own freedom as well as that of his wife and a friend and did thereafter make his way to Yellow Springs, Ohio in the early 1860's, where he became a successful and respected member of the Village, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaunt, at his passing in 1894, left in his will a bequest that the "poor, worthy widows" of Yellow Springs "regardless of their race" be given "25 pounds of flour" during the Christmas season, this purchase to be made from the sale of crops grown on what is now Gaunt Park, and

WHEREAS, residents of Yellow Springs to this day enjoy the benefits of Gaunt Park as a result of the generosity of Wheeling Gaunt, and

WHEREAS, as a nod to the changing times, Mr. Gaunt's bequest has, over the years been amended to offer 5 pounds of flour and 5 pounds of sugar to both widows and widowers, all of whom are considered worthy, and

WHEREAS, as the holiday season approaches and we think of ways we can share our love and concern for all members of this community, it is fitting that we honor the memory of Wheeling Gaunt and the spirit of his gift in the manner he intended,

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

Section 1. The Interim Village Manager is hereby authorized and directed to procure the traditional supplies and distribute them as stipulated in the deed for Gaunt Park and as expanded by Council in 2012.

Section 2. The expenditure of up to $1,000.00 from the Widows Fund #902-1703-54102 is hereby authorized, as provided in the Village's annual appropriations.

_____
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___

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO

RESOLUTION 2026-40

AUTHORIZING COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PRACADEMIC PARTNERS, LLC FOR VILLAGE MANAGER CANDIDATE SEARCH SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Village requires the services of a professional firm to conduct a comprehensive search and vetting process for qualified, appropriate candidates for the position of Village Manager; and

WHEREAS, following an RFQ process and interview of five such firms, Council resident and Vice President recommend engagement of Pracademic Partners, LLC, who indicate the expertise and experience to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, Village Council herein approves Pracademic Partners, LLC to work through staff to provide a diverse candidate pool and a rich engagement process in our search for a Village Manager,

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

Section 1. The agreement with Pracademic Partners, LLC in a form substantially similar to Exhibit A is hereby approved.

Section 2. Council President Gavin DeVore Leonard is hereby authorized to execute the agreement with Pracademic Partners, LLC 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___

Exhibit A to Resolution 2026-40

PRACADEMIC ®
PARTNERS

Contract Proposal 10-27-2026

Angie Hsu, Council Vice President
Village of Yellow Springs, OH

Re: Executive Search / Talent Acquisition Services

Council Vice President Hsu,

I hope this message finds you well. Per our communications, please find attached a contract proposal for Executive Search consulting services for Yellow Spring's Village Manager position.

I have reformatted this into a simple agreement/contract and added a dual signature line here on this cover letter.

I have digitally signed. If the language and specifics are acceptable, please sign and return one copy.

Contract Proposal Sign-off / Approval

For Pracademic Partners
Ian M. Coyle

_____
(digitally signed: 10-27-2026)

For the Village

_____

Dr. Ian M. Coyle, President
Pracademic Partners

Situation Summary
The Village is in need of filling the position of Village Manager. The Village is desirous of outside consultative assistance for recruitment/marketing of this position and wishes to commence in an expeditious fashion.

Objective
Successfully recruit for the position of Village Manager.

Methodology and Consultant Deliverables
The consultative assistance in achieving the objective would include, but not be limited to, the following activities. Pracademic Partners will:

- Provide professional services associated with the executive search, including the Needs Assessment, Position Profile development, recruitment, candidate screening and evaluation, interview support, and selection and negotiation support.
- Conduct recruitment advertising, outreach, and candidate sourcing.
- Conduct background investigations, professional reference checks, and other finalist due diligence.
- Cover all administrative and project coordination expenses and advertisement expenses up to $2,000
-

An additional allowance of $2,500 is proposed for public engagement sessions involving finalist candidates. This may include facilitated community forums, stakeholder engagement, structured finalist interactions, and related activities designed to gather meaningful public and interested party input as part of the final selection process.

Measure of Success
Development of a sufficient candidate pool of quality applicants for the Village to consider for the position.

Timing
We are available to begin working with you immediately. We suggest an initial 75-90 day phase - due to job posting timeframes, the timing of targeted recruitment efforts, and the pre-interview and formal interview processes.

Village Accountabilities
The Village would provide Pracademic Partners with the job description in an editable format, along with high-quality digital images suitable for use in recruitment materials. The Village would also be responsible for posting the position on the following platforms: the Village's Indeed account, website, and LinkedIn account, as well as select professional association websites mutually agreed upon by the Village and Pracademic Partners (e.g., ICMA).

Fee

The fee for the consultative assistance detailed above is $24,500. Fifty percent (50%) of the fee would be due and payable upon search commencement (joint sign-off from the Village and Pracademic Partners), 25% of the fee would be due and payable 60 days from search commencement, and the remaining 25% of the fee would be due at engagement closure/candidate selection. Per the Deliverables section above, an additional allowance of $2,500 is proposed for public engagement sessions involving finalist candidates.

Service Guarantee and Commitment

Pracademic Partners aims to find a candidate for the position who will honor a long-term commitment to the Village. However, in the event of a premature departure (within one year of appointment), we will conduct the next search free of any additional professional charges.

Village of Yellow Springs
Treasurer's Report for Period Ending September 30, 2026

Quarterly Comparison: As of September 30, 2026, the Village had under active investment $19,873,969. This amount represents a cash balance increase of $1,120,090 since your last report, given in September and reflecting second quarter figures. The total investment number is derived from combining the Star Ohio account, Raymond James account and WesBanco account information.

Interest on all investments for 2026 to date is $509,815.

CASH BALANCE as of **September 30, 2026**:

Account	Balance
Wesbanco (interest rate at 3.77%)	$7,650,097
Raymond James	$3,642,895
Star Ohio	$8,580,977
Total	$19,873,969

CASH BALANCE as of **September 30, 2025**:

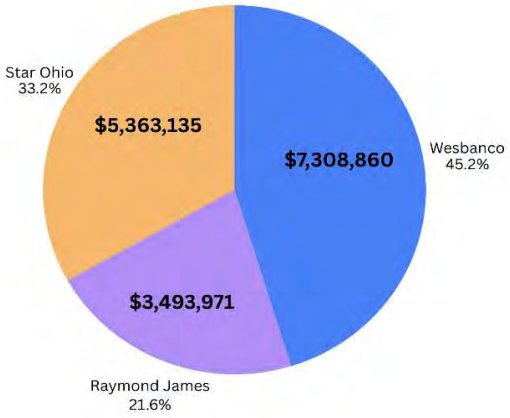
Account	Balance
Wesbanco	$7,308,860
Raymond James	$3,493,971
Star Ohio	$5,363,135
Total	$16,165,966

INTEREST INCOME Third Quarter of 2026:

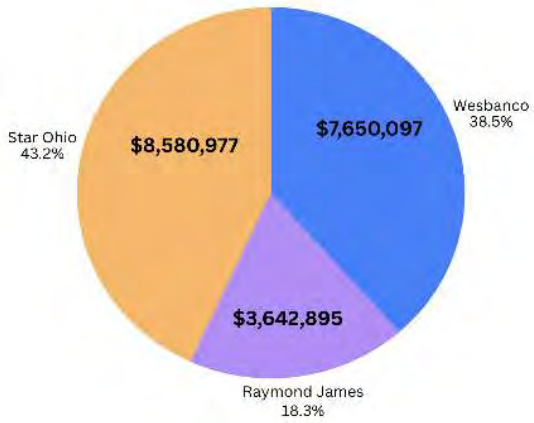
Account	Balance
Wesbanco (interest rate 3.77 as of March 31)	$90,632
Raymond James	$36,420
Star Ohio	$58,771
Total	$185,823

ANNUAL QUARTERLY COMPARISON BY YEAR: Q-3 Interest Income, 2025 with comparison to 2026:

Account	2025 Balance (Amount over/under 2026)	
Wesbanco	$77,877	(-$12,755)
Raymond James	$29,982	(-$6,438)
Star Ohio	$59,533	(+$762)
Total	$167,392	(-18,431)



Investment Distribution 2025



Investment Distribution 2026

Below is the Fixed Income Portfolio from Raymond James for the end of third quarter 2026.

***Face (Par) Value of Individual Securities:**			**$3,655,000**
Value of Money Market Funds			**$5,438**
Total Portfolio			**$3,660,438**
Security Type:			
	FDIC Insured Securities		**38.9%**
	US Treasury Securities		**57.8%**
	Federal Agency Securities		**3.2%**
	FFCB		**0.0%**
	FHLB		**3.2%**
	FHLMC		**0.0%**
	FNMA		**0.0%**
Liquidity:			
	Average Weighted Maturity	**2.36**	**Years**
	Modified Duration	**2.14**	**Years**
Yield:			
	Yield to Maturity at Purchase		**4.35%**
	Yield to Worst at Purchase		**4.35%**
	Current Average Coupon		**4.22%**
	Est. Annual Cpn Cash Flow		**$154,272**
Money Market Funds Estimated Yield & Annual Income		**3.84%**	**$209**

Total Portfolio Estimates	**Cpn Cash Flow**	**YTW**	**Mod Duration**
	$154,481	**4.35%**	**2.14 Years**

Interest rates for Star Ohio over the first two quarters of 2026 remained consistently in the 3.87-3.89 range, then jumped with the Fed increase of ¼% in September. Five-year Treasury hit a high of 5.15% in mid-October which began trending back down almost immediately. That downward trend is across the board, but is gradual. As of the week of October 26th, rates are slowly rebounding. The Fed did not increase rates at their October 27/28 meeting.

Treasury rates for October 27, 2026 are shown to the left and rates for September 28, 2026 are shown to the right in red:

1 Month:	(4.10)	(4.04%)
One Year:	(4.50%)	(4.59%)
Two Year	**(4.70%)**	**(4.92%)**
Five Year	**(4.82%)**	**(5.06%)**

WesBanco sets the Village interest rate at the Star Ohio 30-day rate as an upper limit, which means they will drop the rate if Star Ohio drops for a period of time, but will not increase the rate unless requested to do so. The rate for the WesBanco sweep account at the end of September 2026 was 3.77%; unchanged from first quarter 2026. I have contacted WesBanco and have requested an interest rate increase for the Village's sweep account. I anticipate a response within the next week.

The Star Ohio rate on October 27th was 4.18 (annual yield).

Submitted October 29, 2026,

Judy Kintner, Treasurer



Thanks to all invloved for another successful Street Fair.

Photo by Ben Guenther

Manager's Report

D. Jeffrey Sheridan, Interim Village Manager

November 2, 2026

Village of Yellow Springs

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MANAGER'S DESK

This report highlights key activities and developments from the past week, organized by topic. I will continue refining future reports based on Council's preferences and look forward to meeting individually with each Council member.

Emergency Services Dispatch
Chief Paige Burge and I met with Alan Stock, Township Administrator for Xenia Township, to discuss the County's proposed changes to emergency dispatch funding in Greene County. The proposal could significantly increase the Village's share of dispatching costs, as well as costs for the townships. Mr. Stock is working to coordinate township opposition to the proposed funding changes.

Antioch College
Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Hsu, and I met with Antioch College's Interim President Natalie Kubat for a productive discussion. The conversation suggested opportunities for the Village and the College to collaborate on shared goals and projects. I plan to continue meeting with Interim President Kubat regularly to support this relationship.

Electric Utility
Electrical and Water Distribution Superintendent Ben Sparks provided a tour of the department's facilities and the Center Circuit project site. Village staff are performing most of the construction work on this project

Finance
I met with our new Interim Finance Director Larry Hartlaub to review questions related to claims. I also met with Mr. Hartlaub and Ms. Tiffany Hiser, the Village's finance and budget consultant, to discuss outstanding budget matters.

Village History
Leadership Team Assistant Cameron Fortin loaned me a copy of *Two Hundred Years of Yellow Springs.* I began reading the book with the Village's earlier history, then moved to the section covering 1973 through the end of the book before returning to earlier chapters. It has been a fascinating opportunity to learn more about the Village's history.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Update: 10/1/26 - 10/30/26

9-1-1 Calls	**70**
Non-emergency Calls	**874**
Noise Complaints	**10**
Traffic Stops	**67**
Business Checks	**91**
Community Policing	**67**

Staffing Updates

The department has successfully brought officer staffing back up to full strength with the filling of our final officer vacancy earlier this month. Newly hired officers are currently working through their rigorous field training program and will soon be released to solo patrol duties across the village.

Halloween Prep & Beggars Night Fun

Preparations for Halloween are officially in full swing, including organizing our annual bonfire supply orders, securing event locations, and coordinating safety logistics for our upcoming trick-or-treat evening festivities. Officers will be out and about at designated community locations handing out candy during Beggars' Night on October 31st!



This year's bonfire informational flyer.

Police Update: 10/1/26 - 10/30/26 (Continued)

Annual Mill's Lawn Coat Event

On October 12th, we hosted our annual Mill's Lawn Coat event! This heartwarming tradition is funded entirely by generous community donations throughout the year and made possible by a collaborative team of school, village, and police staff. Thanks to this incredible community support, we were able to provide brand-new hats, coats, and gloves to nearly 30 Mill's Lawn students. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated, as well as to our local Target store for taking such wonderful care of the kids by providing extra staff, inventory, and — new this year — delicious hot chocolate and cookies!









Village, school, and Target staff joined together for the annual coat drive.

COS Monthly Activity Report: 10/1 - 10/30

Community Outreach Specialists - Monthly Activity Report
During October 2026, Community Outreach Services (COS) recorded 394 total service activities, an increase of 7 activities from September's 387. The largest category was Case Follow-up, followed by Mental Health Checks, Food & Vouchers, and COS Referrals.

The data reflects continued demand for ongoing case management, mental health support, basic needs assistance, and connections to community resources. Case Follow-up increased notably from September, while Food & Vouchers, Homeless/Housing, Victim Advocacy, and Welfare Checks decreased.
vices, while mental health checks and COS referrals declined compared to August.

Month-to-Month Comparison: September vs. October 2026
Overall service volume remained very consistent between September and October, with a slight increase in total services provided.

- September: 387 services
- October: 394 services
- Net Change: +7 services
- Percent Change: +1.8%

Significant Increases
The largest increases were in case follow-up and mental health checks, reflecting increased activity in ongoing client support and mental health-related services. Bus token assistance also more than doubled from September to October.

Compared with September:
- Bus Tokens: +7 (+117%)
- Case Follow-up: +55 (+93%)
- Mental Health Checks: +23 (+55%)
- COS Referrals: +8 (+23%)
- Rent Assistance: +2 (+22%)
- Utility Assistance: +3 (+13%)

COS Monthly Activity Report: 10/1 - 10/30

Annual Summary (January–October2026)

Through August 31, 2026, COS has provided:

- 677 Food & Voucher services
- 452 COS Referrals
- 492 Case Follow-up contacts
- 462 Mental Health Checks
- 277 Victim Advocacy services
- 239 Homeless/Housing contacts
- 200 Utility Assistance contacts
- 79 Rent Assistance contacts
- 194 Bus Token services
- 115 Use of Phone contacts
- 167 Welfare Checks
- 52 Gas Card services

Additionally, COS has documented:

- 2,699 YS/Township resident contacts
- 286 Visitor/Non-resident contacts
- 473 Homeless/At-Large contacts
- 3 Veteran contacts

Summary Insight

October activity remained steady overall, with a modest increase compared with September. The most significant change was the increase in Case Follow-up, which accounted for nearly 29% of all recorded service activities. Mental Health Checks and COS Referrals also increased, highlighting the continued importance of direct support, ongoing client engagement, and connecting individuals with appropriate services.

Basic needs assistance remained a substantial part of the program's workload, even as food and housing-related activity declined from the previous month. Continued monitoring of these trends can help identify changing community needs and guide resource planning.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Zoning Update

- This month's Active Transportation Committee focused on improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, addressing rising transportation needs at the senior center, talks around the village budget, and the progress of the Active Transportation Plan for through GFT.
- Nia met with Bryan Lucas this month. Bryan is Miami Township's Zoning Administrator and newly appointment Township Administrator.
- Nia attended the Environmental Commission monthly meeting to discussion sustainable housing and conservation subdivisions. There was also discussion on how the Environmental Commission can work with the planning Commission on making text amendment recommendations to Council on housing and data centers. The Planning Commission held their October meeting on October 12th. The Commission provided a positive recommendation to the Council on Smoke & Vape Shop Text Amendments. Chairperson Stiles gave a report on Data Centers.
- Cascade Phase II is moving forward. Staff met with Home Inc. leadership to discuss the project and required next steps.
- Staff meet with the Fire Inspector to discuss strategies for a more constant process between the two agencies. The conversation will continue in November with NIC at the table.
- The Community Foundation and Staff are exploring the possibility of a Miller Fellow to fill the Planning & Zoning Department's need for an intern in 2027.

Economic Development Update

- Staff attended the YSDC's October Executive Board meeting. Conservations on the professional development agreement continue. The current draft is under legal review.
- Miamisburg hosted a BusinessFirst! Business Walk in October. Aaron attended as a Yellow Springs representative.
- The strategic plan selection committee selected a finalist and is ready to make a recommendation to Council. A finalist has submitted a draft contract which is currently being reviewed by the Village Solicitor.
- Aaron attended the MVRPC TAC meeting on October 15th as the Yellow Springs representative.



Enhanced connectivity in the Spring Meadows Phase III development.

Permitting Update (Since 10/2/2026)

11 Zoning permits: 5 working in ROW, 3 single family home, 1 fence, 1 addition, 1 zoning compliance.

11 Building permits: 4 single family home, 2 gas line, 1 electric, 1 revisions, 1 remodel, 1 addition, 1 fire sprinkler system.

FINANCE & UTILITIES

IT Audit
The State Auditors have concluded the IT audit, and the report will be included in the financial audit.

2025 Audit
The State Auditors are still working on the 2025 annual audit. They have made 2 onsite visits and have sent 3 separate lists that the Finance Director and other staff members have been working on. We are nearing the end. We have a few punch list items to finish out. The Auditor's management team is reviewing the work of the onsite auditors now.

2027 Budget
We are in the process of preparing VIP to enter the 2027 appropriations and revenue estimates once council finishes their deliberations on the 2027 Budget.

New Interim Finance Director
Larry Hartlaub has started in the role of Interim Finance Director. He asked to thank everyone at the Village for making him feel welcome as he gets integrated into the team.

Utilities Department

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

Rumpke Yard Waste Pickup
November is the last month for Yard Waste Pickup the last Friday of each month. The price of these bags is $4.65/each, which includes pickup fees.

Rumpke Price Increases
Rumpke trash prices had an annual increase of 5% on November 1st, which will be reflected on the December bill.

Water Plant Update

Completed	• Monthly lab standardizations in water lab. • Received quote for pipe cleaning at plant. • Changed all tubing on chlorine pumps. • CDM Smith conducted another set of PFAS and other sampling on plant tap and all 4 well heads. • Purchased new stir plates, and other lab hardware.
Ongoing	• Working with EPA for Water Technical Assistance program on PFAS treatment plan. Attending regular monthly meetings and providing water quality data. • Conduct daily and weekly cleaning, monitoring, and sampling. • Old HSP motor also being repaired to have a backup for future use. • Scheduling pipe cleaning at plant. • Replacing pH probes in both softeners. • Purchasing a new pressure sensor from HSP #1 to allow slow open/shut valve to function properly.
Upcoming	• Video and cleaning of well #5. • Have new operator starting 11/9. • Preparing for Ohio EPA sanitary survey upcoming. This will involve an online questionnaire, gathering requested documentation, and a site visit.

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	8.69	6.827	1.576	18.14%
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				
TOTAL	**74.786**	**60.158**	**13.315**	**17.80%**

Wastewater Update

Completed	• Treated 10.186 million gallons in September. • 4.04 inches of rain in September. • Covid-19 sampling for September. • Ran belt press. • Repair work on filtrate wet well check valves completed. • Gate and stem from aeration tank C removed from tank. Stem was broken and will have to be repaired before replacement. • Cleaning of Admin building. • Cleaned and cleared drain by digester effluent valve. • YSI on site for field testing of a new sensor.
Ongoing	• Continuing to run microscopic bug counts on MLSS. Microorganisms look good. • Cleaning out and organizing work areas and storage areas in garage. • Looking for quotes to repair broken stem on gate valve for aeration tank C. • Getting quotes for new truck.
Upcoming	• New operator starting 11/9. • Preparing to stop chlorine, sodium thiosulfate, and rare earth chemicals during winter season.

Water Distribution Update

Completed	• Hydrant maintenance throughout the Village, including repairs and painting at multiple locations. • Water meter changeouts at two properties. • Replaced a missing curb stop lid. • Routine utility locates to support construction and maintenance activities. • Maintained biweekly cleaning of the shop.

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.

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

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. • 312 W. Whiteman St. service work. • Supply power to 777 Xenia Ave.

Ongoing	• Poly phase and Demand meters are being changed.
	  ◦ 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.
	  ▪ Ready to set pedestals.
	  ▪ Target date of end of November to done.
	• 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 22 meters have not been upgraded.
- 5 meters with bad valves, (all inside, one village-owned).
- 11 inside water meter customers have been unresponsive and made no contact to schedule their meter changeout.

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 11/19/26 • Electric disconnects 11/24/26 • Meter Audit: putting eyes on each water meter once a year, datalogging, checking ERT and meter numbers, checking service line material • The 2024 4H SLIM notice violation is now returned to compliance. • Service Line Inventory Material: Updated inventory and notice ID tool for 2026 and turned into OEPA. • Finish changing out FM2S electric meters • 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! • Building spreadsheets to compile and evaluate daily water usage from Tunet import files and datalogs.

Streets & Sewer Update

Completed	• Finished pool closure for the 2026 season.
	• Shutoff water sevice.
	• Mowed municipal properties 4 times.
	• Replaced sidewalk on Glen St.
	• Mulched flowerbed on Dayton St. & trimmed bushes.
	• Trimmed invasive species at Ellis Park.
	• Block Party street shutdowns.
	• Finished cutting/splitting wood for Halloween bonfires.
	• Set out wood for Halloween bonfires.
	• Closed gorge side of JBC for Halloween event.
	• Jetted 350' of Corry Street.
	• Repaired street sweeper.
	• Street Fair setup/cleanup
	  ◦ Setup/takedown detours.
	  ◦ Setup/takedown digital message boards.
	  ◦ Stage/remove concrete bin blocks.
	  ◦ Setup/takedown beer garden.
	  ◦ Line Cemetery Street parking lot.
	  ◦ Close parking at Sutton Farm.
	  ◦ Aided Village Solar in setup/removal of solar panel.
	  ◦ Aided port-a-potty setup.
	  ◦ Street final cleanup.
	• Mowed ROW's (right-of-way's).
	• Trimmed branches in ROW's.
	• Street swept 7 times.
	• Downtown cleanup 3 times.
	• Removed invasive species from Whiteman turnaround.
	• Performed grade work for YSTC bench install.
	• Moved Village Limit signs on Spillan & E. Enon to reflect expanded footprint.
	• Began installing/testing snow removal equipment
	• Sealed parking lot at Sutton Farm

Streets & Sewer Update

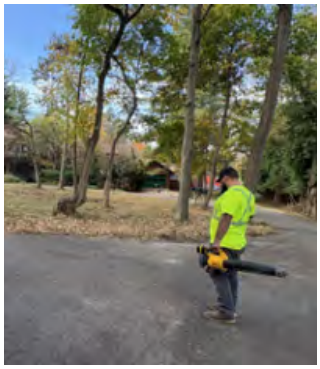
Completed	• Trimmed wildflower field at Ellis Park • Repaired water heater pan the Train Station • Repaired AC compressor on the north end of the JBC • Removed unneeded gravel from Dayton Street parking lot • Repaired lifted section of sidewalk in front of 243 Xenia Ave.
Ongoing	• Street sweeping. • 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 Update













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

Youth Center Update

Completed	• An average of 19 youths were served per day, with 12-15 dinners provided each night.
	• Accepted deliveries of dinners and extra grocery donations from the Food Pantry.
	• Accepted prepared dinners from Who's Hungry on Monday and Wednesday.
	• There have been 66 rentals in the building.
	• Collaborating with The Little Art Theatre, NCCJ and Village Impact Project for our Halloween Movie Bash.
	• Replenished art and craft supplies.
	• Kings Island 2026
	  ◦ 33 youth attended.
	  ◦ With fundraising we were able to pay for most of the attendees plus provide a Haunt Pass and all-day dining passes.

Ongoing	• Wednesday craft nights 5:30-7:30. • Thursday movie nights 5:30-8. • We are continuing to support our Jr. and HS athletes by attending home games with the youth center. Thank you to the Yellow Springs Schools for providing us with season game passes!





Recent Youth Center trip to Kings Island.

Digital Media Update

Completed	• Covered Village Council meeting on Monday, October 5. • Edited Episode 89 of The Naturalist with Don Cipollini for YSCA. • Covered Village Council Budget Session #1 on Wednesday, October 7. • Covered Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 12. • Covered Village Council meeting on Monday, October 19. • Covered Village Council Budget Session #2 on Thursday, October 22. • Edited videos of Miami Township Trustees' October 5 and October 19 meetings. • Photographed Maggie Heston musical *Are We American?* on Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23 for YSCA.
Ongoing	• Editing America 250 Speaker Series video. • editing video of radio play *Vice in the Village* for WYSO.
Upcoming	• Updates to Village website. • *Village Grapevine* newsletter.

Village Facebook Followers

8,053

+46 Followers

YSPD Facebook Followers

630

+35 Followers

YSCA Facebook Followers

288

+0 Followers

YSConnect Downloads

1,977*

*Unique downloads (79 SMS Contacts)

YouTube Subscribers

888

+2 Subscribers

COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:
HOUSING RETREAT

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION
November X, 2026, 5-6:30 PM (tentative)

The intent of this listening session is to hold it a week before the housing retreat to allow the community to share any insights on the topics that will be discussed at the retreat. We also encourage community members to share in writing by this date, and all communications will be included in the retreat packet as will the minutes from the listening session.

The format will be similar to Citizens' Concerns, in that all present who would like to speak will have an initial 3 minutes. After all have spoken, the Council members facilitating will have the opportunity to ask questions for clarification or further information. At that point, any person can have an additional 3 minutes. This format is intended to give equal airtime for anyone interested, but also allow for a different form of back and forth with questions from Council.

HOUSING RETREAT
November X, 2026, 3 hours (Time stamps are tentative)

12-12:30 Refresher on Council Goals on Housing
Why does this matter to you and to us?
Review of Housing Mission Statement and Goals
Overview of Bowen Housing Report

12:30-12:45 Housing and Village Budget
Reviewing how much the village spends on affordable housing, in the past and planned for 2027

12:45 - 2:00 Review of the 7 Housing Goals
Using the tracking document in excel, we will review the steps taken and next steps of the previously determined 7 housing goals.
We will also review if any changes need to be made to goals themselves.

2:00-2:45 Discussion about Format for Housing Work
Review pros/cons of a committee, commission or coalition

2:45-3 Wrap-up
Parking lot (any topics that were not discussed yet)
Review next steps

ADJOURNMENT

Active Transportation Update

Corner of Elm and Walnut — Recommendation: Flashing Stop Sign

- **Limited visibility when turning from Elm Street onto Walnut Street:** Drivers turning from Elm onto Walnut cannot adequately see oncoming traffic without pulling forward into the crosswalk. This creates a potential pedestrian and vehicle safety concern.
- **Drivers rolling through the stop sign:** Cars occasionally fail to make a complete stop at the intersection. A police officer was present at the corner on most school days during the first week to monitor the intersection.
- **Volunteer observations during the first week of school:** Volunteers counted vehicles that rolled through the stop sign without coming to a complete stop:

Total: 73 vehicles were observed rolling through the stop sign during the first week, averaging **14.6 vehicles per day**.

Stop-sign violations observed during first week:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Number of Cars Observed	**17**	**17**	**12**	**12**	**15**

- **Recommended improvements:** Install a **flashing stop sign** to increase visibility and alert approaching drivers that a stop is required at the intersection.





Intersection of Elm and Winter — Recommendation: Larger Sign and Painted Curbs

- **Current K–4 Bus Drop-off Point:** This intersection is currently identified as the designated area for bus drop-off.
- **No Parking sign is too small:** The existing sign is difficult for drivers to see. Vehicles have been parking in the designated drop-off area, creating a potential safety hazard for students. On one occasion, a bus was unable to pull fully off the road and had to unload students from the roadway.
- **Curbs are not clearly marked:** The curbs are not painted or otherwise clearly identified as a no-parking area. The lack of visible markings makes it unclear where vehicles should stop and creates a concern about vehicles parking too close to the crosswalk.
- **Recommended improvements:** Install a **larger, more visible No Parking/Bus Drop-Off sign** and **paint or otherwise clearly mark the curbs** to establish a safe no-parking zone extending an appropriate distance from the crosswalk.


Elm St
Elm St
Elm St
212
136
139
S Walnut St
S Walnut St
Short St
U.S. Bank Branch







Crosswalks Along Walnut Street — Recommendation: Handicap Spots moved back one spot

- **Current K–8 Parent Drop-off Point:** This area in front of the school is currently identified as the designated area for student drop-off.
- **Cars parked in handicap spots are obstructing the crosswalk:** Vehicles parked in the designated handicap spots must pull into the crosswalk and back into the parking spaces. The parked vehicles can obstruct the view of oncoming traffic, making it difficult for drivers to see students who are preparing to cross at the identified crosswalks.
- **Recommended improvements:** Move the designated handicap parking spaces one space away from their current locations and leave the currently marked handicap spaces as a clear area to improve visibility for both drivers and students.





What's the distance between our values and our actions?

During Council discussions on October 5th and 19th regarding prospective firms to conduct our Village Manager search, I expressed my preference for Raftelis, in part because of the representation of women and women of color within its leadership and professional ranks.

I was deliberate in my choice of words. I said women *and* women of color, contrary to popular belief, White women are not excluded from the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Their representation in positions of authority matters, just as the representation of women of color matters. Our histories, obstacles and lived experiences are not identical, that's impossible, but neither group should be relegated to invisibility.

I found two of the responses to my observations particularly interesting. First, that Pracademic, the firm the majority ultimately selected, contributes to HBCU's, and Second, that I should cite my sources or rather, " So where are you…" [seeing this information] from Council President.

I have no problem citing sources. In fact, I welcome the opportunity especially when I am not put on the spot.

This from Raftelis's website, women hold several significant executive positions, including:

Elaine Conti, Chief Administrative Officer

Christine McIntyre, Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Ferguson, Executive Vice President

Melissa Levin, Executive Vice President

Henrietta Locklear, Senior Vice President

These are five among nine members of the firm's executive leadership; this suffices as evidence of women occupying positions of authority within the organization.

Raftelis has also documented recruitment outreach through the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, the Local Government Hispanic Network, and the League of Women in Government. Previously published recruitment numbers reported that approximately 39% of completed recruitments resulted in hiring women and 21% in hiring people of color.

Worth naming plainly: Pamela Wideman of Raftelis, whom the Council President says he spoke with, is a senior manager there, not a bystander. Twenty-five years leading local government teams, millions of public dollars under management and over five-thousand affordable homes created or preserved. She developed a rent-subsidy program for Charlotte, North Carolina and is

a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators and served as president of its Southern Piedmont Chapter.

That's the Resume.

Pracademic Partners is a much smaller firm, and there was no comparable publicly reported demographic information about its leadership or recruitment outcomes. Not that the absence of similar information is evidence of an absence of diversity, but it raises a reasonable question about what information the President and Vice President of council considered when evaluating the firms against the values we claim to hold.

I respect Pracademic's support of HBCU's, but philanthropy isn't the same as representation in leadership. Even the Trump administration funded HBCU's. That alone doesn't answer the question of who holds power, my concern was representation inside the firm.

And it is *precisely* this distinction that I believe deserves our attention.

Village council has long held itself to be committed to justice, equality, and inclusion. In my opinion, at times, we are more than comfortable with the language of progress than the action. We talk the talk.

But there is a difference between being well versed in the language of all things social justice and being willing to act, walking the walk.

Reading Ibram X. Kendi does not an anti-racist make. Additionally, a Black Lives Matter bumper sticker tells us little to nothing about what happens when a Black colleague speaks at the dais.

It's possible to believe whole-heartedly in equality yet still take part in practices that preserve existing power dynamics. That's a hard contradiction for this body to face: it's the gap between how we see ourselves and the consequences of the choices we make.

In no way am I suggesting that Council was obligated to select Raftelis solely because of the representation I identified. I'm not suggesting that Pracademic is incapable of conducting an excellent search. Professional qualifications, experience, methodology, and the ability to meet the Village's needs are legitimate considerations.

But if diversity, equity, and inclusion are among our guiding values, they can't disappear from consideration as soon we are charged with decision making-especially when that's our most important job.

And when a colleague raises those values, the appropriate response should involve more than a request for documentation. It should also involve a willingness to engage seriously with the substance of what has been said, unless of course following process or deadlines supersedes any of this.

I am concerned with how readily this body can celebrate diversity in the abstract while becoming uncomfortable when someone asks us to account for it in practice.

This is not simply about two executive search firms. It is about the standards we apply to ourselves as elected officials. It is about whose observations we take seriously, whose experiences we recognize as relevant, and whether our stated principles have any meaningful influence over the distribution of opportunity and public resources. We don't get to pick and choose where these standards apply, and we don't get to choose when to be fiscally responsible and when not to be.

I'm asking Council to consider whether we're content merely to be recognized as a body that values diversity, or whether we are prepared to demonstrate that commitment in the decisions that we make from the dais.

At the end of the day equity is not achieved through the appearance of agreement, and inclusion means very little if the perspectives we invite into the room are not taken seriously once they arrive.

Carmen V. Brown
Member, Yellow Springs Village Council

Raftelis — Leadership Directory
https://www.raftelis.com/about/people

Raftelis — Staff Directory
https://www.raftelis.com/about/staff

Pracademic Partners — Official Website
https://www.pracademicpartners.com/

Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

From: Heather Hughes <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2026 4:07 PM
To: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council
Subject: Formal Communication for Packet: Regarding October 19, 2026 Council Meeting – Treatment of Council Member Carmen Brown During Search Firm Discussion

Hello Judy,

Please find below a formal communication for President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Hsu, and Council Member Pearce (knowing that Council Member Senay Semere was absent on October 19).

Thank you for assisting in sharing this with the Council and including it in the next packet.

Sincerely,
Heather Hughes

To President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Hsu, and Council Member Pearce:

I am writing to formally voice my deep concern regarding the conduct displayed during the October 19, 2026 Village Council meeting, specifically during the discussion under *"New Business: Village Manager Search Firm Recommendation"*.

During this discussion, Council Member Carmen Brown offered a thoughtful observation comparing the candidate firms, noting that while Proacademic looked better on paper, Raftellis demonstrated greater representation of women and persons of color in leadership positions. Incorporating considerations of diversity, equity, and representation is essential when selecting a firm to recruit top leadership for our Village.

What unfolded following Council Member Brown's comment was deeply troubling and caused significant discomfort to me and others observing the proceedings (based on conversations held with neighbors afterward). Council Members Hsu and Pearce repeatedly challenged Council Member Brown, pressing her multiple times to cite her sources for her observation. Enforcing an evidentiary standard on Council Member Brown, while requiring no such citations from the Council President who voiced preferences or justifications between Raftellis and Proacademic, was factually unfair and procedurally hypocritical.

Furthermore, this incident underscores a disheartening double standard within Council dynamics. While some Council members seem quick to challenge and confront Council Member Brown publicly, they routinely fail to hold the Council President to any similar level of scrutiny. Even when it is evident that the Council President often lacks basic familiarity or education on the topic being discussed, Council members never outwardly challenge him or demand that he cite his sources. Selective accountability that targets specific members while excusing others erodes the integrity of public governance.

The behavior directed toward Council Member Brown was unprofessional and unacceptable for a body representing Yellow Springs. Council Member Carmen Brown diligently serves our municipality day in and day out. Subjecting her to hostile scrutiny and making her feel diminished in front of the community she works tirelessly to support undermines both her service and public trust in Council proceedings.

I urge the Council to address this behavior, restore equal standards of decorum and accountability for all members, and (as long as Council Member Carmen Brown feels comfortable) issue a formal public apology to her.

Thank you,
Heather Hughes

Letter to the editor
October 26, 2026

If you haven't had time to read the wonderful article in the October 23, 2026 Yellow Springs News by Reilly Dickson titled "Downtown, via her wheels", I recommend that you go back and give it a read. Riley pointed out many of the impediments people with disabilities content with daily in this Village.
I would like to thank Council for putting a line item in the 2027 budget to do an ADA ("Americans with Disabilities Act") compliance evaluation and a line item to hire someone for 10 hours a week for one year to oversee the Villages's compliance with this law.
What I didn't see in the budget was a line item to cover the cost of doing any work to bring the Village up to the minimum standards of the federal ADA law. If there is no money in the budget to do the work that is required to bring the Village into compliance with the federal law, what is the person they will hire to oversee compliance going to do for a year?
A quick background if you don't know much about the Americans With Disabilities Act. It was passed into federal law on July 26,1990. It set federal minimum standards for what a community is required to do to make it's public accommodations accessible for people with disabilities.

I know. People tell me to be patient. Government moves slowly, but this act was pasted 36 years ago. The Village of Yellow Springs, a community that says it accepts all people, is just now doing an evaluation to see if it complies with the law! That's a lot of years of patience. When will there be a line item in the budget to actually get the work done to make our Village accessible?

Theresa Mayer
937-776-3371
3940 State Route 370
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

October 24, 2026

Dear Council,

I'm asking Council to reevaluate the $20K included in the 2027 budget for the Sidewalk fund and increase this amount. In past council meetings, there were discussion about making property owners responsible for sidewalk repair and replacement, but, it appeared that Council did not wish to move forward with this suggestion As I understand it, the budget amount of 20k was based upon making this change. The streets capital budget states that it was reduced because "the need is down" and I have seen no data indicating how many repairs have been identified and how many were actually completed. Even with a prioritized schedule, I do not believe 20k would be enough to repair or replace the most critical sidewalks.

In prior years $50,000 was allocated to sidewalks. I hope you can have additional discussion on this topic to allocate an amount that will be sufficient, so that the critical sidewalk repairs can be done. I would propose that you continue the $50,000 in the Sidewalk Fund to address serious issues in the downtown area and in our community. There are many sidewalk safety issues that have been reported to the Village two to three years ago that still have not been addressed. Some of these issues are on the safe routes to school and on Dayton Street, which is part of our downtown area. Please refer to the AARP audit done by the Active Transportation committee and volunteers in 2024.

Also, I'm also requesting you to go back seven years and see if the money appropriated in this fund had actually been been used or was this money moved into another fund or used as returns at the end of the year.

Before the next council meeting the Yellow Springs Citizen Action group for safe sidewalks will be doing a survey of our sidewalks and identify the most needed repairs for pedestrian and bicycle safety. We will present this data at the next council meeting and advise the Village of our findings.

While the sidewalk grinding projects was very successful in correcting many sidewalk issues, it is time to address the tree root issues that has caused many sidewalks to buckle up and become severe safety concerns for pedestrians, individuals with mobility devices, our students and bicyclist.

In closing, I hope you will reconsider the amount you've allocated in the Sidewalk fund and increase it.

Thank you,

Mitzie Miller

Mitzie Miller