

2024 End of Year Report

Johnnie Burns
Village Manager





New Employees in 2024



Andrew Bluma
YSPD Officer



Alex Croasmun
YSPD Officer



Sarah Crosby
YSPD Dispatcher



Daysi Cusick
YSPD Dispatch Supervisor



Cameron Fortin
Leadership Team Assistant



Elyse Giardullo
Project Lead



Noah Grooms
YSPD Officer



Lynda Highlander
Accounting & Payroll Manager



Bryan Rogusky
Streets, Parks & Sewers Crew



Employee Milestones in 2024



20
YEARS

Samantha Stewart
Parks & Recreation Supervisor



17
YEARS

Brad Ault
Supt. of Water & Wastewater



17
YEARS

Naomi Watson
YSPD Sergeant



15
YEARS

Judy Kintner
Clerk of Council



14
YEARS

David Meister
YSPD Officer



13
YEARS

Tanner Bussey
Streets, Parks & Sewer Foreman



11
YEARS

Johnnie Burns
Village Manager



11
YEARS

Jeff Beam
YSPD Officer & Property Room Manager



11
YEARS

Jeff Horn
Water Treatment Operator



11
YEARS

Ben Sparks
Supt. of Electric & Water Distribution



Village Events

We collaborated with event organizers for the Street Fair, Art on the Lawn, the Solar Eclipse, and Pride events to ensure community engagement.





On track for 100% renewable energy, again!

We successfully achieved 100% renewable energy for Village operations in 2021 and 2022. The Village is on track to maintain this achievement moving forward.





Balanced Budget

In 2024, we successfully developed a balanced budget for the 2025 fiscal year. Maintaining a balanced budget supports financial stability, ensures long-term sustainability, and allows us to align resources with our priorities.





LIHTC Application

Throughout 2024, Council and staff dedicated considerable effort to preparing an application to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) for a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). In February 2025, the proposal for the Enon Greene Affordable Housing project was officially submitted to OHFA. We expect to receive a decision on the application in June 2025.





Building Permits Issued

In 2024, we issued **169** building permits were issued in 2024, with a project value of **\$28,223,138 million**. This represents a **308%** increase in project value and a **29%** increase in total permits.

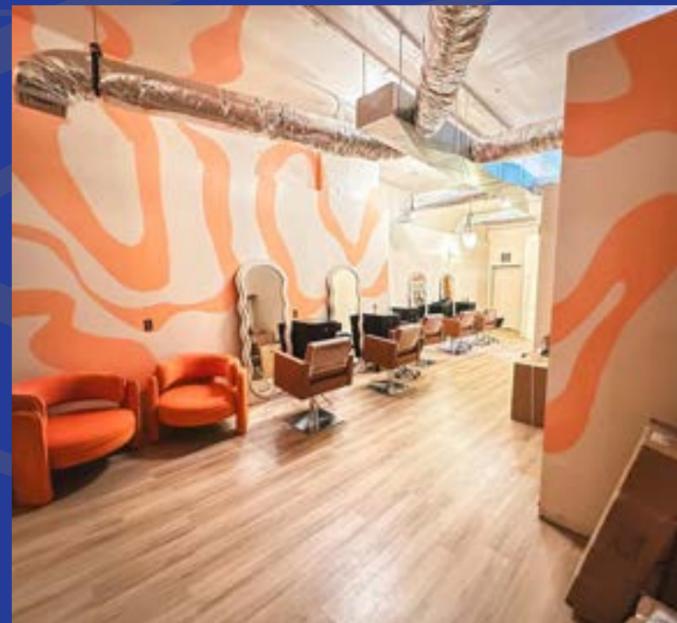
Without including the high school project, this would represent a **115%** increase in project value.

Type Approved	Number Approved
New Single-Family Dwelling	38
New Multi-Family Dwelling	3
Additions	7
Accessory Dwelling Units	0
Accessory Structures	22
Alterations / Remodels	17
Electrical	44
Mechanical	19
Gas	9
Fire Alarm / Sup.	4
Solar	6
Change of Use	1



New Businesses in the Village

Several new businesses opened in the Village in 2024, including The YS Firehouse, In Salon, YS Smokehouse, and Lucky Bunny Tattoo. The Village played an important role in supporting these developments through planning, zoning, and permitting efforts, helping to ensure a smooth path to opening and continued growth in the local business community.

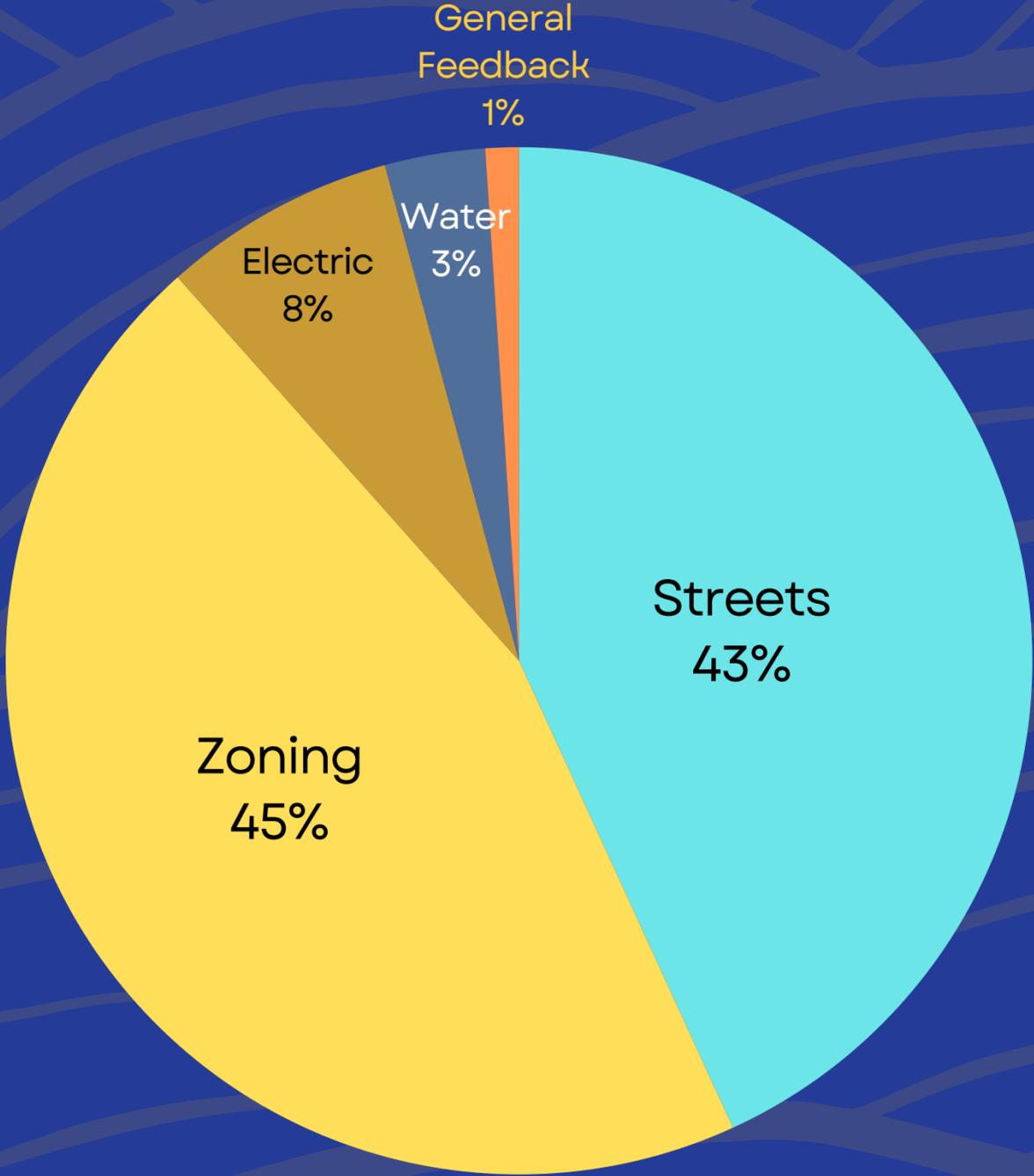




Breakdown of 2024 Citizen Requests by Type

iWorQ Citizen Requests

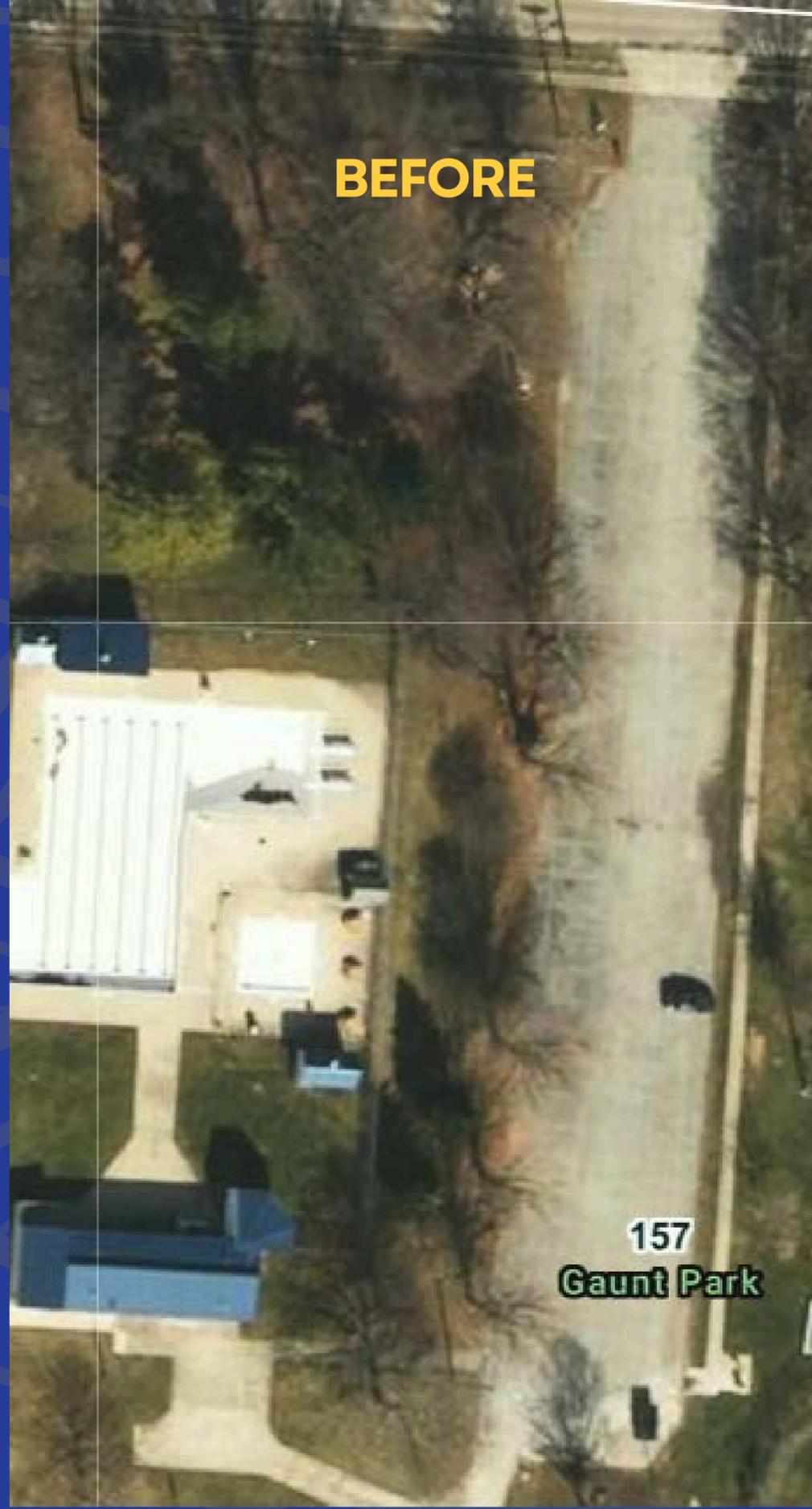
In 2024, the Village received 95 requests from citizens through the iWorQ portal. This allows us to better respond to the needs of the community.





Gaunt Park Resurfacing

In 2024, the full resurfacing of the Gaunt Park parking lot was successfully completed, significantly improving both the functionality and appearance of the facility. Additionally we repaired the drainage system around the lot.





Restoration at Gaunt Park

The Streets, Parks & Sewer crew continues to work to restore and repair the stone walls at Gaunt Park.





Creation of the Weekly Public Works Update

With the help of Digital Media Manager Ben Guenther, we now provide residents with an update on public works projects on a weekly basis.



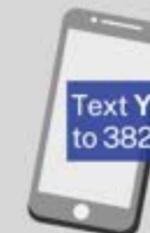
WHAT'S PUBLIC WORKS UP TO THIS WEEK? WEEK OF APR 14, 2025

 <p>ELECTRIC & WATER DISTRIBUTION</p> <p>Finishing up utility pole replacements on Dayton Street with assistance from AT&T.</p>	 <p>PARKS & RECREATION</p> <p>Youth Center Hours: Mon - Thu: 2:30-9 PM. Fri: CLOSED</p> <p>FREE Tutoring Tue & Thu 3:30-5 PM.</p> <p>Cincinnati Zoo field trip permission slips due by Tuesday, 4/15.</p> <p>Cincinnati Zoo field trip on Friday, 4/18!</p>	 <p>STREETS, PARKS & SEWERS</p> <p>Performing hard surface restoration of utility cuts in pavement around the village.</p> <p>Completing installation of decorative sign post at Dayton St. & Corry St.</p> <p>Mowing all parks, buildings, and right of ways throughout the village.</p>	 <p>METERING</p> <p>Finishing up water meter replacements inside of homes.</p> <p>To schedule your indoor water meter replacement, please call the Utilities Office at 767-7202, Option 2.</p>	 <p>WATER / WASTEWATER</p> <p>Routine water quality testing at Water Treatment Plant and Water Reclamation Plant.</p>
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SCAN ME

SIGN UP FOR NON-EMERGENCY ALERTS



Text YellowSprings to 38276



Internal Safety Improvements

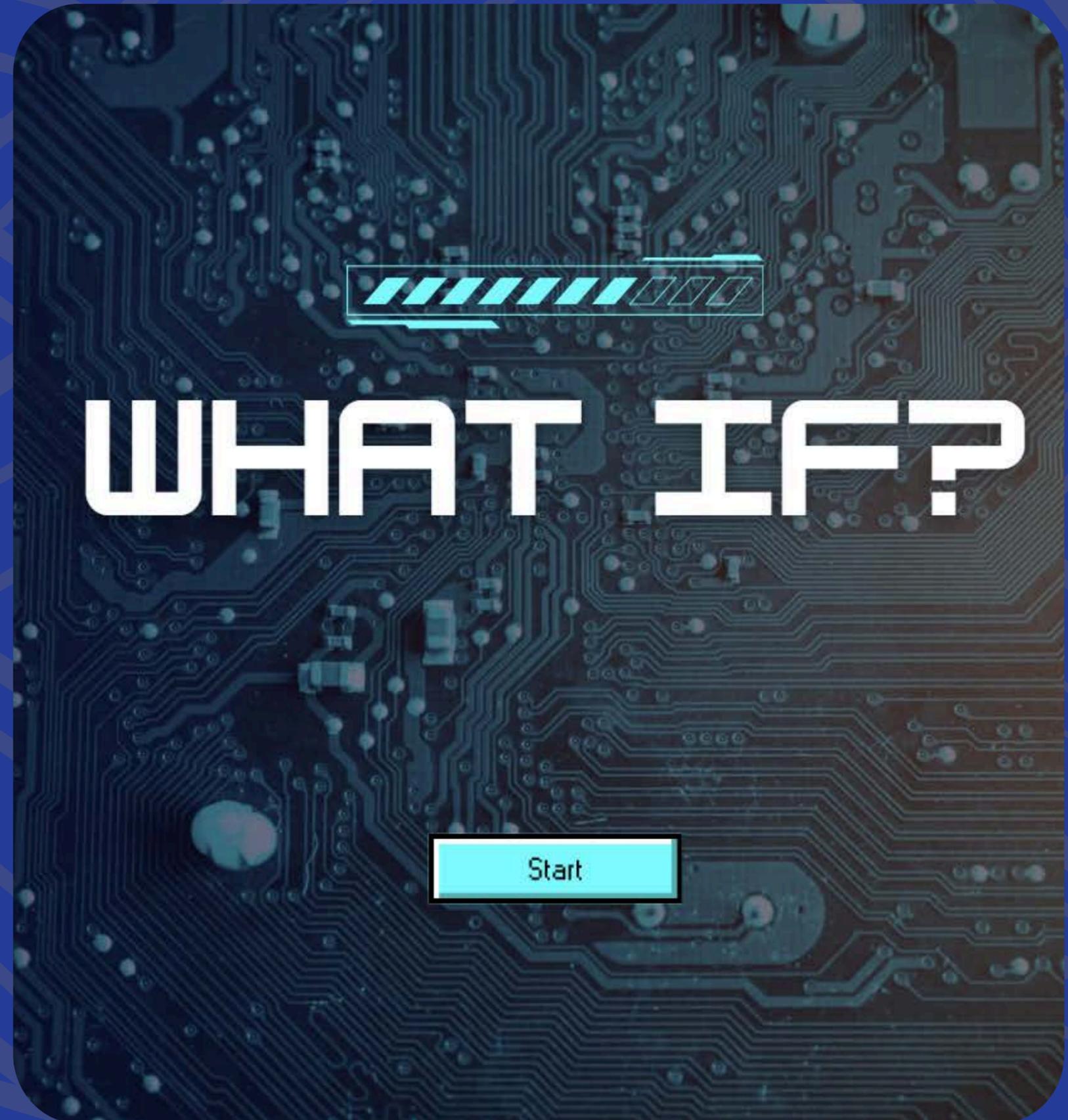
We began having mandatory, all-staff safety trainings through AMP. This led to the creation of safety posters for key Public Works locations (e.g., Sutton Farm, offices) as well as vehicles to remind staff of the importance of wearing safety gear.





“What if” Training Sessions

We launched monthly “What If” training sessions, where staff take turns presenting scenarios for group discussion and response planning. This exercise helps identify potential gaps and strengthen our overall preparedness.





Diamond Status

We achieved Diamond Level status in two prestigious national awards from the American Public Power Association, recognizing excellence in safety and reliability within electric utility services— The Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Safety Award and eReliability Award.





Safety Village

Entering its third year, Safety Village is a week-long interactive and educational experience for children entering kindergarten or 1st grade in the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District. This year's dates are Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18.





Spring 2025

The Village Grapevine

In 2024, we brought back the Village Grapevine publication to keep all residents in the 45387 zip code informed of what the Village is doing, as well as upcoming events. The third edition has been completed and will be received shortly!

Fall 2024

Yellow Springs Vol. 1 No. 1
The Village Grapevine
 A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our revised Village Grapevine newsletter!
 This initiative marks an exciting step in fostering greater communication and transparency within our community. Our goal is to keep residents informed on important updates, events, and projects happening in the village, while also providing a platform to celebrate local achievements.

As your Village Council President, I am committed to ensuring that your voices are heard, and that we continue to build a stronger, more connected community. We look forward to sharing more with you in future issues, and encourage your participation and feedback.

Kevin D. Stokes | Village Council President

I am deeply honored to step into the role of Village Manager after ten fulfilling years as Superintendent and Public Works Director. The overwhelming support I have received from the community in this new role has been incredible. While I have lived in various parts of my life, Yellow Springs feels more like home, and I am enthusiastic about contributing to this vibrant and welcoming community. As we embark on developing our first-ever strategic plan, our team is energized and ready to move forward. We are dedicated to driving meaningful improvements, from expanding housing options and enhancing the CBE business park, to ensuring our downtown remains a vibrant and thriving hub. Thank you for your continued support and for being a vital part of this journey. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for Yellow Springs.

Johnnie Burns | Village Manager

Greetings and welcome to the first edition of the Village Grapevine.
 This will be yet another way to keep our citizens "in the know" about Village happenings. In my corner, you'll be hearing news from the Office of the Mayor. This will include information concerning Mayor's Court and the many ceremonial duties I'm performing, along with other possible topics of interest in which I'm engaged as your mayor.

Looking forward to future communications with you!

Mayor Pam Conine

Winter 2024

The Village Grapevine Vol. 1 No. 2
 A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

JOHNNIE BURNS
 VILLAGE MANAGER

As we begin a new year, the Village of Yellow Springs has a number of budget-approved projects aimed at strengthening and maintaining our vital services and infrastructure. Local governments are increasingly balancing competing priorities and our work, funded from several levels of government to meet these needs, from maintaining essential infrastructure, to ensuring affordable housing for all. These challenges present opportunities to innovate and serve our community.

As a village, we take pride in owning and operating our own utilities: water, sewer, and electric. Investing in these systems is essential to the services that power our community. Investing in these systems is often an invisible necessity. Much of the critical infrastructure, including underground pipes, lines, and equipment, goes unnoticed until it fails. The backbone of our daily lives and future growth, while the cost of maintaining and upgrading these systems can be high, the long-term benefits are clear: a reliable, sustainable, and self-sufficient community that will continue to thrive for years to come.

In addition to ensuring our utility enterprises, we are responsible for a variety of other important needs. These include economic development, such as providing for Parks, Recreation & Education; maintaining our streets, ensuring public safety, and managing parks and recreation, including preparation of shared spaces like the Street Park and Youth Center. Each of these plays a vital role in the overall fabric of our village.

Although Yellow Springs is home to just over 3,700 residents, we consistently welcome a high volume of visitors who come to enjoy our unique shops and restaurants, special events and green spaces. The increased traffic puts additional strain on our infrastructure. It's our job to find ways to enhance visitor safety, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our village. The decisions we make today will shape the quality of life for generations to come.

In the right, you will find a breakdown and explanation of the high priority capital improvement projects for 2024, projects that will help us meet our goals and ensure a bright future for Yellow Springs.

2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Electrical Improvements

We are making several upgrades to improve the reliability of our electrical system. A new water control will help reduce the load on our electrical system, ensuring reliability on both the east and west sides. We're also installing additional transformers which help ensure power quality during storms. These new work will be safer, more reliable, and provide better service. In 2024, we installed our 22nd transformer, the lowest number since we began tracking in 2004. Additionally, we are upgrading all existing meters to smart meters that provide real-time data, allowing us to spot and address issues before they lead to outages.

Water Improvements

Improvements to our water system include installing a complete water meter and chlorine dose programming, that were the original water distributed from the plant to customer homes. The job will also include the change the new pipe to copper expansion after water flow. We will also install fluoride frequency flow (FFC) on the water to ensure water efficiency by regulating water speed, which reduces chlorine use. These FFCs will also help in monitoring water, a group of fluoride treatment that can improve water quality. Additionally, we're upgrading our chlorine pumps with new variable speed drives to increase pumping capacity. We've also received a \$25,000 grant to help pay costs associated with a portion of the work. We will be doing general commission before they reach the work.

Stormwater Improvements

We will install two new stormwater inlets, including upgrading concrete and curb curbs, including storm drain capacity. We will also install a new stormwater inlet. Additionally, we're upgrading our stormwater inlets with new variable speed drives to increase pumping capacity. We've also received a \$25,000 grant to help pay costs associated with a portion of the work. We will be doing general commission before they reach the work.

The Village Grapevine Vol. 1 No. 3
 A PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

JOHNNIE BURNS
 VILLAGE MANAGER

As the days grow longer and summer approaches, I find myself reflecting on the qualities that make Yellow Springs such a special place: our willingness to have difficult conversations, our sense of inclusivity, respect for one another, and the strong connections we share. These values are at the core of who we are, and they always will be.

Yellow Springs remains a beacon of inclusivity and respect for all. This summer, as we have done for years, we will celebrate the principles that unite us. Street Fair, our largest event of the year, gives us the opportunity to connect with the wider community and highlight our local talents. On June 19th, we will celebrate the ongoing journey toward fairness for all, and we will support the LGBTQ+ community during Pride and the ongoing fight for equality.

Yellow Springs has always been a place where differences are celebrated and respected. We understand that our community is stronger because of the variety of voices, backgrounds, and experiences that each of us brings to the table.

This summer, perhaps more urgently than ever, we must continue to build on our legacy of mutual respect and support. Let's keep making Yellow Springs the best of places where everyone belongs, where everyone is seen and heard, and where we stand together in what we believe.

Thank you for being part of this community. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and engaging in the conversations, connections, and growth we will share in the days ahead.

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

STREET FAIR	6/14
JUNETEENTH	6/19
YS PRIDE	6/28
FOURTH OF JULY	7/4
ART ON THE LAWN	8/9
PORCHFEST	9/20



Multimodal Path Opened

We were awarded a \$1.8 million grant from ODOT for the creation of a multimodal pathway along East Enon Road and Dayton Street, extending to Stafford Street. The project included multiple bump-outs and rapid flashing beacons for improved safety, significantly enhancing the walking experience for residents along Dayton Street and parts of Xenia Avenue.





Public Safety Improvements

We enhanced public safety through the installation of numerous permanent speed bumps, LED stop signs, LED crosswalk signs, and an LED bike crossing, as well as improvements to safety on Polecat Road.





February Storm Recovery

Unexpected high winds took down multiple power lines along Bill Duncan Park. With mutual aid from neighboring communities, power in the village was restored in under 24 hours. The adoption of cross-training within the department greatly contributed to this efficiency.





Center Circuit Progress

Launched Phase I of a three-phase upgrade to the Center Circuit in 2024, designed to improve load balancing across the West Circuit and strengthen the grid's resiliency for future demand.





Electrical Outage Reponse

We secured new switch station equipment, designed to streamline issue diagnosis and improve response times. Yellow Springs' outage response time is 74 minutes—well below the national average of 135 minutes. This helps ensure residents face minimal disruptions.





Light Up Navajo Initiative

We coordinated participation of several Public Works crew members in the “Light Up Navajo” mutual aid initiative, assisting in bringing electricity to residents of the Navajo Nation who had been living without access to a power grid. Council has supported our continued participation, and AMP has agreed to sponsor some of the costs for our trip in July 2025.





Water Meter Changeouts

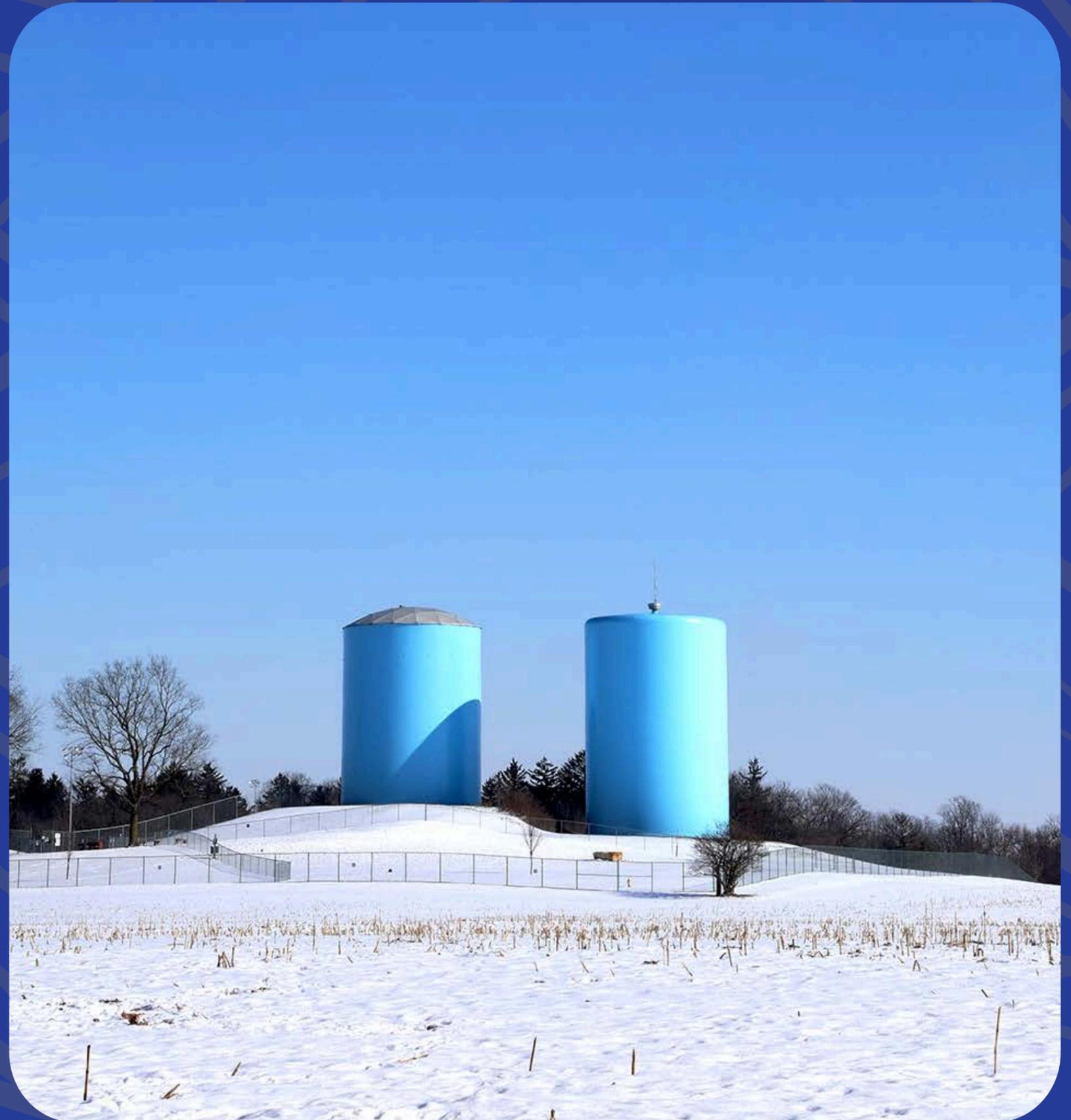
We implemented Tantalus metering across the entire electric grid system, with full deployment underway in 2024. This upgrade enhances data accuracy, allowing for better grid management and faster response times. Full completion scheduled for April of this year.





Water Tower Rehabilitation

We completed rehabilitation of both water towers, applying new paint to extend their lifespan by 20 years and prevent rust and corrosion.





PFAS Mitigation

We are continuing to test for PFAS in the water. Via the recommendation of the EPA, we began attempting to decrease the amount of PFAS through “blending” water from the various wells. If this proves to be successful, we will add variable frequency drives to the system.





Sewer Relining Project (CIPP)

We completed phase four of the sewer relining project (CIPP), improving wastewater system efficiency and reducing long-term maintenance costs.





HB168 Progress

We applied for House Bill 168, securing approval to increase water line sizes from two inches to six inches to support future growth. This improvement will enhance infrastructure capacity and accommodate planned development.





Lawson Place Renovations

We completed full refurbishments on 2 units and refreshed 2 additional units. Added 16 parking spaces, improved landscaping, and installed sidewalks leading up to the buildings. Upgraded water heaters and ensured ongoing maintenance of boilers and the sewer system.





Springs Meadows

We collaborated closely with DDC from the early stages of the Springs Meadows project, advising on utility placement and infrastructure needs. Once the project was transferred to Fischer Homes, oversight and guidance continued throughout the development, ensuring that utility capacities were considered and managed effectively.





Grant Procurement

We successfully secured multiple grants in 2024, including funding through the House Bill 168 Allocation, the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. In total, grants and low-interest loans awarded amounted to **\$1,589,684.63.**





JBC Youth Center

The JBC Youth Center averaged 25 kids per day and served an average of 16 meals a night. Additionally we added a new kitchen to the Youth Center, providing a space to prepare meals for local children.





Gaunt Park Pool

We made various improvements to Gaunt Park Pool, the only public pool in Greene County. The pool continues to offer free swim lessons to village residents, and a Junior Guard Camp for future lifeguards. We are also continuing to provide discounted pool passes through its "Swim for All" program.





Closing Thoughts

After a year filled with hard work and real accomplishments, I want to take a moment to say thank you.

Thank you to Village Council for your continued support and leadership.

Thank you to our incredible Village staff for your hard work, dedication, and care in serving our community.

Thank you to the residents of Yellow Springs for your engagement and your commitment to making this a better place for all.

It is an honor to serve this Village. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Johnnie Burns'.

Johnnie Burns
Village Manager