



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~

Winter 2020-2021

From the Mayor:

Calling all Veterans

If you or a family member served or are presently serving in the military, please send your contact information to mayor@southrussell.com. Please include a phone number, address, email, dates of service, branch, and a picture if possible. Our plan is to create a database so we can honor our veterans at a future event. Thanks for your help and service.

Changes

This past year, Tim Alder became our new street commissioner, Ruth Griswold is the new building department employee, Thad Blair is new to the street department, and Sean Davis is our new fire marshal. During these changes, we worked to make these transitions as smooth as possible. However, if you have any concerns, please let us know by emailing the mayor@southrussell.com. Thanks for your patience.

South Russell Village Park

With the approval of the Geauga County Health Commissioner, the playground equipment and park benches will not be COVID-19 disinfected over the winter season. Additionally, there will be no pavilion rental until further notice.

Please Note!

**For the safety of all,
masks are required when con-
ducting business in ALL Village
departments.**



WISHING YOU
PEACE AND HAPPINESS
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
AND ALWAYS!
WE SEND BEST WISHES
TO OUR NEIGHBORS,
FRIENDS, AND BUSINESSES
FOR A HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS
2021



Winter Reminders

- ◆ Check that address numbers are clearly marked on the mailbox to aid safety forces in locating your residence in case of an emergency. If your mailbox is located across the street from your home, please be sure to have numbers visible on your house.
- ◆ Snow Removal: Privately contracted snowplow drivers should keep the snow on the customer's property and should not push snow onto properties across the street or into roadways.
- ◆ Snow Emergency Parking Ban goes into effect for all streets in the Village when there is a prediction or accumulation of two or more inches of snow.
- ◆ Do your part to help the Service Department staff keep roads clear and safe by placing your trash and recycling containers on your driveway apron and **NOT** on the paved surface of the road.



First Energy Smart Meter Installation

The Illuminating Company has been installing Smart Meters throughout the service area since earlier this year and will continue through the first quarter of 2021. The meters are part of a three-year investment approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to modernize the electric distribution system in Ohio. It will enable automated meter readings and may enhance the ability to respond to outages faster and more efficiently. The cost to each customer is estimated to be \$3.00 per month over the three-year period. In the event the meter is declined, the customer can expect to see an additional charge of \$28.29 per month to manually read the non-communicating meter. There are also charges associated with removal of a Smart Meter after it is installed.

The installation is being performed by both FirstEnergy and its contractor, Wellington Energy (888) 317-8815. Prior to installation, efforts will be made to contact the resident. Two calls will be placed to the customer to obtain verbal consent **if** service will be interrupted. If no customer contact is made, the installation will only occur if no service interruption is anticipated. Furthermore, installers will be taking appropriate precautions relative to COVID-19. Detailed information about this process and frequently asked questions about the Smart Meters can be found on the FirstEnergy Corp website at <https://firstenergycorp.com/help/smart-meters/oh-smartmeter/resources.html>.

New Septic Inspection and Cleaning Requirements as of January 1, 2021

In July, 2020, the Council of the Village of South Russell amended Section 1024.09(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Russell to require inspection and cleaning of septic systems installed in the Village after September 23, 1996 to **every three years**. Residents are required to provide a certificate to the Building Inspector each triennial that such septic system is in proper operating order. The changes were made to account for the more efficient and larger capacity septic systems which alleviate the need for a more frequent inspection and cleaning schedule. The requirement goes into effect January 1, 2021. The new ordinance, 2020-40, can be found on the Village website under Departments > Building Department > Zoning Code.



Municipal Income Taxes

Municipal income tax returns for the Village of South Russell are due April 15, 2021. All residents 18 years of age and older are required to file an annual return with the Central Collection Agency (CCA). Local income tax withheld by your employer does not fulfill your obligation to file a tax return.

Retired residents are required to file the Annual Exemption Certificate each year.

Individual Estimates are due January 15, 2021!

For the tax year 2020, 90% of the tax due must be paid by **January 15, 2021** to avoid penalty and interest (subject to municipal ordinance).

Notes from the Building Department

When considering contractors for home repairs, feel free to contact the Building Department to obtain a list of contractors registered with the Village. While the Village cannot make recommendations, utilizing a contractor who complies with Village rules is a plus.

Village Meetings are Open to the Public!

Council – Meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings in June, July, August and December will be held on the second Monday of the month only at 7:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board – Meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission – Meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals— Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the meetings are conducted via Zoom. All meetings and Zoom information are posted on the home page calendar of the Village's website at www.southerussell.com

From the Mayor:

A Village stormwater meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Details on the village website in January.



Stay in Touch!

Don't miss out on the latest Village news, meetings, and events! Be the first to know about closings, emergencies, and notices! Follow us on Facebook and check out our website at www.southerussell.com. While you're there, sign up for Village E-blasts from the Services page.



Village of South Russell
5205 Chillicothe Road
South Russell, OH 44022

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Village Council Meetings

Upcoming Village Council meetings:

January 11th & 25th at 7:30 p.m.

February 8th & 22th at 7:30 p.m.

March 8th & 22th at 7:30 p.m.

April 12th & 26th at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to be added to the meeting agenda please contact fiscalofficer@southrussell.com or call 440-338-6700 ext. 221 no later than the Wednesday before a meeting.

There is a 5-minute limit to address Council.

The meeting agenda can be found on the Village calendar link at southrussell.com

2020-2021 Village Business Holiday Schedule

Business Hours:

Village Hall

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Building Department

Monday—Thursday 8:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.— noon

Service Department

Monday—Friday 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Closed:

Christmas, December 25, 2020 and New Year, January 1, 2021

Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2021

Presidents' Day, February 15, 2021

South Russell Village

Mayor 338-6700 ext. 224

Village Hall 338-6700 ext. 221

Building Dept. 338-6700 ext. 233

Streets Dept. 338-6700 ext. 236

Police Dept. 338-6700 ext. 2000