



Village of South Russell ~Newsletter~



Fall 2022 Edition

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, October 29th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Village Hall Parking Lot



This service is offered to South Russell residents at no charge! Protect your identity and dispose of your records securely!

SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE FALL FESTIVAL

The annual Fall Festival will take place Sunday, **September 25th from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.** at South Russell Village Park. There will be free food, drink, and family friendly entertainment. The event **rain date** will be Sunday, October 2nd.



Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed for the Fall Festival on September 25th. If you would like to volunteer or have a child age 16 or older who needs high school Community Service hours, this would be a great opportunity! Please email adminassist@southerussell.com for more information or call (440) 338-6700 ext. 222



Election Day Tuesday, November 8, 2022

The General Election will take place on November 8, 2022. The deadline to register to vote is October 11, 2022. Early in-person and absentee voting begin October 12th. Absentee voting ends November 7th. The polls are open on Election Day, November 8th, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. South Russell residents vote at Gurney School.

FROM THE MAYOR

The recognition luncheon for Village military veterans will be held Monday, November 14, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at the Sleepy Rooster. The guest speaker will be Vietnam veteran Dave Lange, former editor of the Chagrin Valley Times. If you were not involved with last year's luncheon invitation, please contact mayor@southerussell.com to register.

The South Russell Village Park Master Plan is being studied to determine if and how the Village implements the recommendations presented. Walking tours with the Foundation for Geauga Parks, the Geauga County Park District, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners have resulted in positive ideas on how to manage the park. The Village continues to plan for a burn of a portion of the park, probably in 2024. The Master Plan can be found on the Parks page of southerussell.com.

The latest storm water projects are underway south of Village Hall and at the intersection of Manor Brook Dr. and Chillicothe Rd. Both projects will capture, hold, and slowly release water to reduce damage to private property.

Back to School



With schools back in session, please be observant of the School Zone Speed Limit. When flashing, the speed limit is **20 mph**. Likewise, note that it is **ILLEGAL** to go around a stopped school bus. Please keep our children safe by adhering to these laws!

Geauga County Erosion Special Improvement District Program

The Geauga County Auditor's Office has created an Erosion Special Improvement District (ESID) to help residents creatively finance their often-expensive erosion control projects. Such projects include dredging and repair of privately owned lakes as well as a variety of stormwater-related issues. Involvement in an ESID is voluntary and may be a single resident or groups of residents. The property owners who elect to engage the ESID are obligated to repay the project costs via a special assessment placed on their tax duplicate by the County Auditor. The amortization period is typically between 15 and 20 years. What is unique about an ESID is that property owner(s) can sell their property with the assessment in place and the obligation would then be assumed by the new owner. Although the projects are subject to local and State permitting, the residents are responsible for engaging the contractors and engineers, thus alleviating the mandated expenses associated with a municipal project. This represents a significant cost savings to residents. For more information, please refer to the Council meeting minutes of 07-11-2022 available on southrussell.com under the Government tab or email fiscalofficer@southrussell.com

2022 Road Program



This year's Road Program included the paving of Louise Dr., Garden Park Dr., Ridgecrest Dr., and Fairview Rd. Pending finishing touches, the paving of these roads is complete. Residents are asked to refrain from parking on these streets until September 1st. Additionally, miscellaneous base repairs are planned throughout the Village as well as a chip seal of the Village Hall parking lot.

SEPTIC SYSTEM REMINDER



As of January 1, 2021, the inspection and cleaning requirement for septic systems installed in the Village of South Russell after September 23, 1996 changed from every two years to every **three** years. Any questions, to include when your system is due for cleaning and inspection, may be directed to the Building Department (440) 338-1312 or email building@southrussell.com

NOPEC and Rising Electricity Rates



NOPEC is advising residents in participating communities like South Russell to consider switching from NOPEC to the default Illuminating Company provider, FirstEnergy, for electricity. FirstEnergy's kilowatt per hour rate until September 30th, will be 6.832 Kwh and 6.714 from October 1 – May 2023. NOPEC's currently ranges between 8.9 and 12 Kwh. This is due to the timing of locking in supplier rates by both companies. NOPEC will have the opportunity to renegotiate with the next energy auction in January 2023. To switch suppliers, call NOPEC at 855-667-3201 and select the electric service option.



Village Of South Russell 100 Year Anniversary

Volunteers are needed to help plan the Village's 100th Anniversary in 2023. Concerts, a cemetery tour, senior citizen luncheon, ice cream social, bike tour, and lectures are all being discussed. Please email rcavanagh@southrussell.com if interested in helping.

Planning Commission Alternate

The Village is looking for a volunteer interested in serving as an alternate to the Planning Commission. No expertise is needed, just a desire to be involved in shaping the future of the Village. Interested residents should email mayor@southrussell.com



The **Fire Inspector** wants to remind residents to check **smoke** and **carbon monoxide detectors**. Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years and CO detectors every 5 years.

Save the Date

Halloween Trick-or-Treat
Monday, October 31, 2022
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.





South Russell Village Police Department

The South Russell Police Department would like to thank our community members who showed up for the Cops and Kids Fishing and Bike Rodeo events!

We kicked off the start of summer with our 9th Annual Cops and Kids Fishing event, which was held at Bellwood Lake. Our attendance this year was incredible, as was evident in the amount of pizza and donuts consumed! Residents of all ages circled the lake and braved the heat to (hopefully!) catch fish and make good memories. Cops and kids met on the beach for a group photo to conclude the outing. There were so many of us it made quite the challenge for our professional photographers (aka moms and dads) to fit us all in one frame! See you next year!

A few weeks later, we hosted our first ever Bike Rodeo at the South Russell Village Campus. Officers shared some bike safety tips with our riders, who were organized into groups based on age and ability. The kids got to test their knowledge and skills at different stations, including the Slow Bike which was managed by Chief Rizzo! For this race, the rider who crossed the finish line last without putting her/his feet down won! In this competition, steady balance was crucial. The biggest challenge of the day was deciding on which ice cream treat would cool us down on the hot afternoon!

Our police officers are very thankful that the South Russell community members would choose to spend their summer Sunday with us. Thank you for your support!

Friendly Reminder: Lock Your Doors!



Recently, local communities have seen an increase in preventable thefts. South Russell Police Department is asking our residents to help reduce crimes of opportunity. Many people around the country have started to embrace the "9pm Routine" before going to bed to shore up security for the night. These safety checks include: (1) Removing any valuables from cars, (2) Locking all vehicle doors, (3) Locking all exterior doors to your home, and (4) Turning on an exterior light. We would like to add a 5th! **Never, ever leave your car keys in the vehicle overnight.**

South Russell is a safe place to call home for our residents. Together, we can send a strong message to any would-be criminals that South Russell is NOT a place for easy crimes of opportunity. **Let's lock it up!**



History Around South Russell

This 182-year-old home still stands at 5277 Chillicothe Rd. and is a reminder of the determination of the old pioneers. Built in 1840, Alexander McLaughlin (1830-1881) bought the home in 1864, and on his death, it was passed to his son, Ozell McLaughlin (1858-1940). Ozell's daughters were Lillie (1891-1970), Laura Bezdek (1894-1987), and Ruth Hawkins (b. 1901). Laura built a home across the street from Ozell's home. Ruth's daughter, Shirel Pitz, built the home just north of Ozell's, and Ozell's great grandson, Dave Pitz, built the home just north of Shirel's. This was a natural progression in farm families, with five generations living in the same location.

Shirel Pitz and her children sold corn and pumpkins from the property for years in the 1960's and 70's. Members of the McLaughlin family are buried in Rarick Cemetery on Bell Rd.

The home now serves as offices for The Lantern of Chagrin. Preservation of the home and barn were a priority to both the Village and developer in conjunction with the transition of the property to a business.



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

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Upcoming Village Council Meetings

September 12th and 26th - 7:00 p.m.
October 10th and 24th - 7:00 p.m.
November 14th and 28th - 7:00 p.m.
December 12th - 7:00 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, location, and links to the Village YouTube channel can be found on the homepage of southrussell.com

Village of South Russell Contact Numbers

Village Hall
440-338-6700 ext. 221
fiscalofficer@southrussell.com

Police Department
440-338-7611 (non-emergency)
police@southrussell.com

Building Department
440-338-6700 ext. 233
building@southrussell.com

Street Department
440 338-6700 ext. 236
streets@southrussell.com



Village Offices will be CLOSED Monday, September 5, 2022 for Labor Day.

Get Connected

Keep up with the Village news, meetings, and events; follow us on **Facebook**, and check out our website at southrussell.com. From the homepage, sign up to receive **Eblasts** with important time sensitive information!



Attention HOAs!

Please help the Village update its records by providing current HOA Board info to adminassist@southrussell.com or call (440) 338-6700 ext. 222. Thank you!