

## Village of South Russell Newsletter 2018



Please Notice This

SOUTH RUSSELL 2018 SPRING TRASH DAY DROP-OFF

### \*\*\*Please note this is the ONLY trash day in 2018\*\*\*

South Russell Village Service Department will provide Village residents a Spring Cleanup / Trash Day **SATURDAY, April 28, 2018 at the South Russell Village Hall campus parking lot from 8:00 AM—2:00 PM.** 

ITEMS THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED INCLUDE: General trash and debris, items containing Freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners), scrap metal, computer equipment, electronic equipment and white metal such as appliances. TIRES and BATTERIES <u>WILL BE ACCEPTED</u> AT THIS CLEANUP.

Residency I.D. **WILL** be required. Volunteers will be on hand to **assist residents** with unloading their trash.

\*\*\* NO YARD WASTE, NO HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS, NO CONTAINERS WITH LIQUEFIED PROD-UCTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. These items will be collected at special Geauga County Collection Events.\*\*\*

The South Russell Village Officials are joining forces with the Geauga County Department on Aging for the

### 2018 SENIOR CITIZEN SPRING RESIDENTIAL TRASH PICKUP DAYS

Note: These are the **ONLY SENIOR** Pickup days in 2018.

<u>WEST END OF THE VILLAGE</u> — Wednesday, April 25, 2018 - 8:00 am — 3:00 pm. (Includes homes on Chillicothe Road).

EAST END OF THE VILLAGE - Thursday, April 26, 2018 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Seniors, 60 years of age or older, living in South Russell Village and wishing to have a pickup scheduled on Senior Trash Collection Day must be registered by calling the **Geauga County Department on Aging between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, at 440-279-2130**, or 440-564-7131 at extension 2130, or 440-834-1856 at extension 2130. This spring pickup is on a first-come, first serve basis, and the number of senior residents that can be served is limited.

Information needed when placing your request for a pickup is: Your name, address, phone number, date of birth and items needing to be picked up. These special pickups will be sometime during the scheduled day - West End on Wednesday, East End on Thursday, depending on the route and demand.

- Seniors must be registered with the Department on Aging prior to pickup.
- Must be home the day of the pickup or have someone 18 years of age or older who is appointed by the senior, present to sign a release for the collection.

#### Please note the following guidelines:

NO liquids, paints, or other hazardous household materials, construction debris, rocks, yard waste, or household garbage will be accepted. Please, only 10 household items per home. We will accept up to 4 tires off the rims, appliances, electronics and miscellaneous items. The items must be from the senior's household only. All materials should be consolidated in strong boxes and not items that can be picked up during normal weekly trash collection such as newspapers and household waste. Items should be kept dry (tarped) if possible. Items to be picked up should be placed either outside your house or garage and in the driveway. South Russell Village employees are not permitted to enter the residence to remove items. Please do not place items at curbside.

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Living in Northeast Ohio means we will still see snow for the next 2 months. Please remember that a snow parking ban is still in effect until April 15th whenever there are two or more inches of snow on any village street or the National Weather Service forecasts a severe snow warning. Parking is **NOT** allowed on **ANY** street in the Village during a ban to ensure that the streets are open for plowing. For more details, please visit **www.southrussell.com** 

With tax time fast approaching, *TAX SCAMS* are on the rise. Telephone tax scams are the most popular form of scam during the tax season. The IRS respects taxpayers' rights and does **NOT** engage in angry, shake down, harassing, or threatening style telephone calls. The IRS has a formal process in place to assist people with their taxes. If you have any questions or concerns about the IRS or common scams, log on to IRS.gov or call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Here are 5 things the scammers will do but the IRS will **never** do:

- 1. The IRS will never call you and demand immediate payment. The IRS will also never call about taxes owed without first mailing you a bill. If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to work for the IRS it's probably a scam.
- 2. The IRS will never demand you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- 3. The IRS will never require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes such as a prepaid debit card.
- 4. The IRS will never ask for credit card or debit card numbers over the phone.
- **5.** The IRS will never threaten to bring in local law enforcement officials to have you arrested for not paying your taxes. The IRS will not threaten you with an arrest warrant or tell you an arrest warrant has been issued for you.

Remember, if someone calls you and states they are from the Internal Revenue Service, NEVER give them any personal information such as your date of birth or social security number. Also remember the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text message, or any social media to discuss your personal tax issues.

If you have any questions or concerns about suspicious telephone calls from the IRS - please do not hesitate to contact the police department at 338-6700, extension 3.

Municipal Income Tax returns for South Russell Village are due Tuesday, <u>April 17, 2018.</u> 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 <u>not</u> fulfill your obligation to file a tax return. Local ordinance provides for both penalty and interest charges to be assessed for late filing or non-filing. <u>Retired residents</u> are required to file the Annual Exemption Certificate each year.

### FREE TAX ASSISTANCE at Geauga County libraries

Volunteers from AARP will help you file your 2017 federal and state taxes. This service is for anyone—you do **not** have to be a senior citizen.

Appointments are required; call your library to schedule.

Please bring to your appointment:

- Copy of your 2016 tax returns
- All 2017 tax forms
- Proof of identity
- Social security card

Bainbridge: 440-543-5611 Mondays: until - April 9

Saturdays: until April 14, except April 7

Chardon: 440-285-7601 Wednesdays: until - April 11

Geauga West: 440-729-4250 Thursdays: until - April 12

Middlefield: 440-632-1961

### **GOT TAXES? NEED HELP?**

http://www.co.geauga.oh.us/Departments/Aging/VITA -

Geauga County Department of Aging. During the traditional income tax season of January 1 through April 15, the Department on Aging provides tax services for **seniors** through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Staff and volunteers are certified through the IRS, and will not only assist with the preparation of tax returns but will also submit state and federal returns. For more information or to schedule an appointment during tax season please contact the Department on Aging at 440-279-2130.

http://ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us/
- This is CCA, the entity to which we pay our local taxes. Each year during the months of February—
April, CCA provides on-site assistance to taxpayers in many municipalities. Visit the website for locations, dates and times.



## Renting the South Russell Pavilion

Are you looking for a place to have your homeowners' association picnic, graduation or birthday party? Did you

know you can rent the South Russell Village Park Pavilion? The park pavilion is available to rent for \$25.00. Go to the '*Parks'* page at www.southrussell.com to check the calendar of availability and download the *Park Permit* form.



Thank you for your vote for the five-year, 1.5 mill road levy to repave five, over ½ mile roads. These additional funds will allow the village to continue to maintain our roads and avoid costly repairs if paving were delayed further.

The South Russell Village park property on East Washington is being studied as a possible location for privately-funded soccer and lacrosse fields. The village is working with local and state government agencies to secure permission and funding for the fields. A meeting to discuss these possible changes will be on Monday, April 23, 6:00 p.m. at SR Village Hall.

The South Russell Village park property on Bell Road is being considered for a \$50,000 donation for a playground. The proposed site is east of the pavilion and would allow for additional activities as donations are received.

Storm water continues to be an issue in many neighborhoods. The South Russell Village crew, in cooperation with the Bainbridge-located Family Life Center, installed a specially constructed drain pipe to reduce the speed of the water flowing from the FLC north to the Lantern, under route 306 and into Chagrin Lakes. The same volume of water is simply flowing at a much slower and much less erosion-causing speed.

- Mayor William Koons, Ph.D.

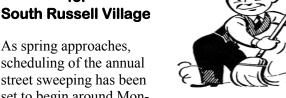


### Did You Know? Your Home Projects May **Require Permits**

Spring is fast approaching and so begins the construction season. It is the homeowners' responsibility to make sure that permits are obtained for work

being done at their homes, and to have the work inspected. The permits are required even if the homeowner does the work. This is specifically to protect the homeowner by making sure the work, at the least, meets the minimum building, zoning, and mechanical or other code requirements. It is also required to help uphold the quality and character of the Village as a whole, by maintaining setbacks for sheds and fences and other zoning regulations. All contractors working in the Village are required to register with the Building Department, which is an additional safeguard for homeowners. Contractors are required to maintain and provide copies of proof of liability insurance, workman's compensation, and a bond. Permits are *required* for roofing, electrical work, fences, sheds, hot water tank replacement, furnaces, air-conditioning, siding, decks and replacement windows. If you have any questions about whether a permit is needed, if your contractor is registered, and/ or has taken the permit on your behalf, please contact the Building Department at (440) 338-1312 or by email at: building@southrussell.com.

### It's a CLEAN SWEEP for South Russell Village



scheduling of the annual street sweeping has been set to begin around Mon-

day, April 16, 2018. Sweeping will only continue if weather permits and large amounts of rainwater are not present.

All Village streets, cul-de-sacs and turnarounds will be swept to remove debris. If your street has a current gravel berm, this material can be used to fill in low areas and around mailboxes. On these streets, the material should not be placed on the hard asphalt road surface. If the grass line on your vard meets the edge of the road, material may be raked onto the first foot of the road surface. This will allow the sweeper to clean up while maintaining a neat grass edge line. No additional material is acceptable such as tree branches or vard waste.

While property and yard cleanup is taking place, it is a good time to inspect your ditch lines and driveway culvert pipes. These are the responsibility of each homeowner to maintain and should be kept clear of leaves, limbs and tall grasses. Leaf piles and debris such as old newspapers in plastic bags should not be in the Village right-of-way ditches, as they may cause blockages. No standing water should be present. Questions? Call Darrell Johnson at (440) 338-6700x 236 or email: streets@southrussell.com



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

Presorted Standard U.S. Postage PAID South Russell Ohio 44022 Permit #202



Our sincere thanks and appreciation to <u>Chris</u>
<u>Mariola</u> for designing and making this beautiful, custom kiosk/sign for his 2017 Eagle
Scout Project!

FirstEnergy.

First Energy now offers a smart phone app. Once the app is installed and the customer registers his/her FirstEnergy account, he/she can report power outages, get outage updates, view his/her bill, etc., directly from a smartphone. The app is available for Apple® and Android™ smartphones. Use the keyword "FirstEnergy" or search for your utility by name.

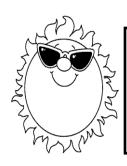


JUNE 10 - Cops & Kids Fishing at <u>Lake Louise</u>, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. More details to follow on the South Russell Village Police Facebook page and at www.southrussell.com

JUNE 12 - Concert in the South Russell Park - Bell Road Pavilion, 7:00 pm. www.southrussell.com
MAY 12 to OCTOBER 13 - Geauga Fresh Farmers'
Market at South Russell Village Campus. Every Saturday 9:00 am to Noon.

**SEPTEMBER or OCTOBER** - Annual Fall Festival. Date to be announced.

OCTOBER 13 - Paper shredding at South Russell Village Campus.



# Village of South Russell Newsletter 2018





### SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE~ Cops & Kids Fishing

The South Russell Police Department will be hosting our 6th annual Cops & Kids Fishing event at <u>LAKE LOUISE</u>, located at 33 Ridgecrest Drive in South Russell, on Sunday, June 10, 2018, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This catch and release event is geared towards youth and their parent(s) or guardian(s) for a day of fishing alongside local law enforcement officers. Bring your fishing pole and we will provide the bait. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Although we do not require pre-registration, we'd like to

hear from you if you plan on attending. Email the police department at police@southrussell.com and let us know how many are in your party.

DATE: Sunday, June 10, 2018 TIME: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm PLACE: Lake Louise Pavilion



FREE Concerts in South Russell Village Park 1000 Bell Road, South Russell.

Presented by The Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce.

☺ Bring your favorite lawn chair and picnic basket, enjoy the evening, and watch the fireflies with your friends and neighbors in our beautiful park.
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 Pizza will be available for purchase.
 Dogs must be leashed at all times.

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Yachtly Crue ~ soft rock genre

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. University Heights Symphonic Band ~ premier wind ensemble

### Important Severe Weather Information

As severe weather develops this season, keep in mind, a **tornado warning** means that a tornado is imminent, a tornado is occurring, or is expected to develop.

Tornado warnings are issued by the local National Weather Service office when any of the following occurs:

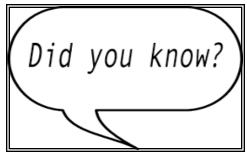
- Doppler radar indicates strong rotation within a thunderstorm.
- Dual-polarization Doppler radar detects a tornado debris signature, indicative of lofted debris from a tornado.
- Trained storm spotters have reported a funnel cloud (a circulation aloft not yet in contact with the ground).
- Trained storm spotters have reported a fully-formed tornado the circulation has made contact with the ground.

If a tornado warning is issued in Cuyahoga County OR an adjacent county, the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center will activate our tornado siren. The siren will sound for a 3-minute cycle and repeat every 15 minutes while the tornado warning is in effect

Although local weather conditions may not indicate severe weather, the siren may activate as a storm event approaches our area.

Please do not call the dispatch center to inquire why the siren was activated. Our dispatchers may be handling emergency telephone and radio traffic as a storm passes through other communities in its path.

If you have any questions, please contact Police Chief Rizzo at 440-557-5535.

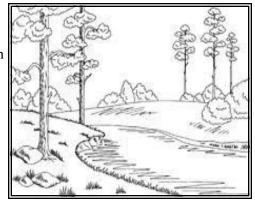


The Chagrin River Watershed plays an important role in maintaining the health and purity of the Great Lakes ecosystem; in northern Ohio, we are all connected to Lake Erie. South Russell Village is in the Chagrin River Watershed, which is known statewide as having a very unique habitat quality and many cold-water designated streams, a relatively rare designation in the state of Ohio. The Ohio EPA gave this classification to the Chagrin River Watershed; it is a very rare, a very high-quality designation and is extremely hard to obtain. In fact, there are no other watersheds where an entire "sub" watershed has been designated a cold-water habitat like ours. This means we have cold water fish and aquatic insect species (macroinvertebrates) in our

streams. These fish and aquatic insect species have to live in cooler temperatures and exceedingly high-quality waters. The North Branch of McFarland Creek has been designated a cold-water habitat stream by the Ohio EPA. This stream flows through South Russell Village (just east of South Russell Village Park) before flowing to McFarland Creek and eventually to the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River. People that live here, as well as people that live outside of the Chagrin River Watershed, love to travel here for fishing, hiking and recreation. Our designation as one of the highest-quality aquatic life areas plays a major role in attracting people to the Chagrin Valley.

There are things you can do in your own backyard to help keep South Russell Village's streams healthy, regardless of whether or not you have a stream on your property. If you have a stream on your property, consider allowing native, deep-rooted vegetation to grow along the stream in a "no-mow" zone and avoid dumping lawn waste into the stream as this can contribute to streambank erosion and water quality issues. If you don't have a stream on your property, consider

disconnecting your downspouts and directing storm water runoff from your roof into a rain barrel, where it may be captured for reuse, or into a rain garden that will filter and slowly release storm water before it reaches local streams. Rain barrels work day in and day out to keep rainwater out of storm drains and sewers. Why is this important? Every time it rains, unabsorbed water rushes to storm drains and directly into our local waterways. Oftentimes this runoff carries with it pollutants it has picked up along the way. Rain Barrels are available from the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District. Their phone number is 440-834-1122 and their website is www.geaugaswcd.com. Remember to consult with the Village prior to any downspout disconnection. - Courtesy of Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc., and Geauga Soil & Water Conservation District.



<u>Lawn Maintenance Reminder</u> - Summer is finally here! Beautiful weather has arrived in South Russell and everything is in bloom. The Village of South Russell Ordinance No. 2001-31, Section 1a, requires that residents must keep property free and clear from all noxious weeds and rank vegetation and, where a grass lawn exists, to keep the average height of the grasses of said lawn to no greater than eight inches at all times. Thank you for helping to keep South Russell Village beautiful. ⊚

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Gurney Elementary School
1155 Bell Road, South Russell
Monday, June 25, 2018
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

### **E-Commerce Safe Zone**

The South Russell Police Department has an "E-Commerce Safe Zone" located in the visitor parking area of the Police Station. This safety zone provides a safe place for citizens to make purchases or exchanges after conducting online transactions. Visit the *Police* page at **www.southrussell.com** for more information.



## Reserving the South Russell Pavilion

The Pavilion was built with the help of a generous donation from the Chagrin Valley Jaycees in 2014. The pavilion is available to rent on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$25.00. It is a perfect location for your next homeowners' association picnic, graduation or birthday party, or class reunion.

Go to the 'Parks' page at www.southrussell.com to check the calendar for availability, and download the Park Permit form.



- → South Russell Village is in the planning stages to build a playground just south and west of the Pavilion area. Using no public money all private donations the \$120,000 playground is scheduled to be built in the spring of 2019. If you would like to donate and/or purchase a piece of playground equipment, contact Mayor Bill Koons at 338-6700, extension 224. or you can also email the mayor at mayor@southrussell.com.
- → A South Russell Village resident would like to raise funds to build a lacrosse and soccer field on the East Washington Street side of the park. Using no public money, the privately-funded athletic fields would be built on the 10 acres closest to East Washington Street. Look for construction to possibly begin in 2020.
- ♦ South Russell Village is being pro-active in combating storm water that floods yards, houses and roads. We worked with the Family Life Center to reduce the speed of water that flows from the Family Life Center north into the Lantern, under Chillicothe Road, and into Chagrin Lakes.

The water flowing west from Kensington Green toward Village Hall and then under Chillicothe Road, into the Chagrin Lakes swim lake, is creating a problem that will hopefully be addressed by a grant from the EPA. We hope to build a bio-swale to capture the storm water and slowly release it.

North of Bell Road, east of Chillicothe Road, west of West Bel Meadow Lane, is the most difficult storm water area in the Village. Estimates from our engineering firm estimate the cost to slowly and safely move storm water from this area to be at least \$100,000 for a new drain pipe under Chillicothe Road. A bio-swale retention pond would be almost \$750,000. We will seek alternate plans or financial assistance before we begin to address this storm water problem.

- → The Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market began its 16th year on Mother's Day and will continue each Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., until October 13, 2018.
- → Thank You for passing the five-year, 1.5 mill road levy to bring in an additional \$225,000 for the next five years to repave our roads. Our efforts in 2018 will hopefully concentrate on the Lake Louise roads of Cascades Drive, Morning-side Drive, Garden Park Drive and Louise Drive, along with Annandale Drive and Wolfpen Drive in Kensington Green. Final plans based on our budget and the bids from paving companies will be determined by the end of June 2018.



### **Retired Flag Drop Off**

Did you ever wonder where you could properly dispose of your used, worn flags? South Russell Village has a worn flag col-

lection box on the Village campus at the corner of our Service Department building. The collection box was an Eagle Scout Project, and is an old U.S. Mail box that is painted with stars and stripes. The flags collected throughout the year are gathered annually to be properly disposed of at a formal ceremony on Flag Day.

### Park History

The South Russell Village Park, located at 1000 Bell Road, is 87 acres extending from Bell Road south to East Washington Street. It was purchased with help from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy in 2006, and the park is one of the few remaining sanctuaries for the Bobolink - a migratory bird that nests each spring in the hayfield at the park. By August 1, the Bobolinks depart for the south, and shortly thereafter, the hay is able to be baled from the park field.

## Vacation

The South Russell Police Department encourages you to take advantage of our "Vacation Watch Program" in which Police Officers conduct security checks of your property while you are away. Simply contact the Police Department at 440-338-7611 or use the online form to request that your residence be placed on the watch list. Officers will visually and physically check your doors and windows to ensure security, and inspect for damage, tampering, or signs of unusual activity. When you return, a log of the officers' checks and any activity noted can be emailed to you or picked up at the Police Department.



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

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## Emergency Contact Magnet

New Emergency Contact Magnets are available for pick up by residents at either South Russell Village Hall or the Police Department. How do these magnets work?

- 1. Residents pick up a magnet and fill it out with information such as their name, emergency contact information and phone numbers of those to be contacted in the event of an emergency. Write in any medical conditions, allergies, medications taken—any information that the first responders should know. This information can be absolutely vital in a case where first responders are dealing with someone who is unconscious or unable to talk.
- 2. Residents are encouraged to place their magnet on the refrigerator or another area where it can be easily seen. This information will then be used by first responders in the event of an emergency. Emergency personnel look on refrigerators for family contact information.



MAY 12 to OCTOBER 13 - Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market at South Russell Village Campus. Every Saturday 9:00 am to noon, rain or shine.

JUNE 10 - Cops & Kids Fishing at <u>Lake Louise</u>, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Details on the South Russell Village Police Facebook page and at www.south russell.com

**JUNE 12** - Concert in the South Russell Park - Bell Road Pavilion, 7:00 pm. Yachtly Crue.

**JULY 10** - Concert in the South Russell Park - Bell Road Pavilion, 7:00 pm. University Heights Symphonic Band.

**SEPTEMBER 8** - Police Department open house. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Details to follow.

**SEPTEMBER 23** - Annual Fall Festival. 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Details to follow.

**OCTOBER 13** - Paper Shredding at South Russell Village Campus. Details to follow.