



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~



From the Mayor:

Retirement of Street Commissioner

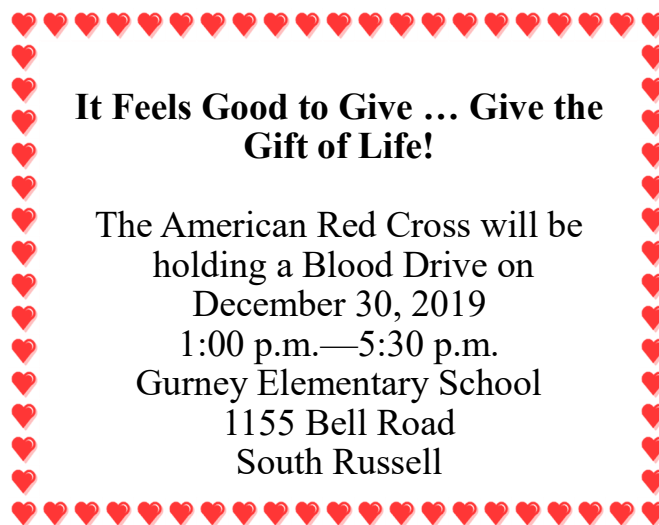


Darrell Johnson, the Street Commissioner for the Village of South Russell, announced his retirement October 31 after 25 years of service with the Village. Johnson was given accolades by the Mayor for his dedication to ensuring the Village's roads were the best in the area through a fiscally responsible Road Program. Likewise, the Mayor praised Johnson for the pride he and his staff took in the appearance of the Village properties to include Village Hall and the Village park. Johnson was also recognized for services provided to residents such as Trash Day and with stormwater issues. The Mayor noted that Johnson was self-sacrificing and did his job with dignity and pride, always keeping an eye on what was best for the residents.



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
2020

The Village will be developing a strategic plan during 2020. Look for a survey in January followed by a town hall meeting in February. Interested in assisting in the development of the strategic plan? Send an email to mayor@southrussell.com



It Feels Good to Give ... Give the Gift of Life!

The American Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive on
December 30, 2019
1:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.
Gurney Elementary School
1155 Bell Road
South Russell

Don't miss out on the latest Village Closings, Emergencies, and Notices

Sign up for our Village E-Blasts on the Services page at www.southrussell.com

Winter Reminders

Winter Snow Removal: The Village has an ordinance prohibiting pushing or blowing snow across Village Streets. When hiring a snowplow contractor to plow your driveway, inform the driver not to plow the snow across the road. By doing so, ice may form causing an unsafe condition after the roads have been treated. There is also a possibility of damaging neighboring properties. All private snowplow operators should be instructed to keep the snow upon the property of the customer they are servicing. Additionally, when using a snowblower, avoid blowing the snow onto the streets after the roads have been treated. (**South Russell Village Codified Ordinance #660.05**)

Snow Emergency Parking Ban: Whenever snow accumulation of two inches or more exists on any street or highway within the Village or is predicted to accumulate to such level by the National Weather Service, a snow emergency is declared to exist. No person shall park or cause to be parked any vehicle upon any Village street during any time or period when a snow emergency is declared to be in effect. Your vehicle will be towed. Thank you!

Winter Weather Driving Tips

- * Steer into a skid.
- * Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.
- * Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning—nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- * The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds, or longer if necessary. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.



A Note From the Service Department

The Service Department takes pride in keeping your roads clear and safe during the winter months. You can do your part in assisting this by placing your trash and recycling containers on your driveway apron and NOT on the paved surface of the roadway. This ensures the entire roadway will be clear of ice and snow for all motorists.



Municipal Income Taxes

Municipal income tax returns for the Village of South Russell are due April 15, 2020. 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. Local ordinance provides for both penalty and interest charges to be assessed for late filing for non-filing.

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

Individual Estimates are due January 15, 2020!

For the tax year 2019, 90% of the tax due must be paid by January 15, 2020 to avoid penalty and interest (subject to municipal ordinance).





South Russell Road Levy Update



In 2017, the Village of South Russell passed a Road Levy for the purposes of maintaining the current road program while beginning to address stormwater run-off issues. The passage of this levy has allowed the Village to continue to improve Village roads while at the same time allowing the Village to allocate approximately \$225,000 annually towards stormwater run-off. The Village was able to procure two grants that will assist in stormwater run-off allowing the savings to be redirected to a more robust road program in 2020. The Village is slated to complete Kensington Circle and Sheerbrook Drive in 2020 with the possibility of a smaller road depending on final estimates. Stormwater run-off is a major and costly challenge in our Village and the work is just beginning. Without the passage of the recent road levy, the Village would have had to delay road improvements or continue to neglect stormwater run-off.

Village Boards and Committee Members

In addition to work performed by the South Russell elected officials and employees, many residents volunteer their time serving on various boards and committees to help oversee the business of the village.

Residents serving on the boards and committees include:

Architectural Board of Review: Gary Neola, Denis Marino and Ryan Parsons

Parks Committee: Greg Pike, Chris Berger, Martha Bistriz, Bill Howell, and Ted Kruse

Planning Commission: Steve Latkovic, Elisa Budoff, James Flaiz, Dennis Galicki, and Bill Koons

Public Records Commission: Mary Ann Keesler

Tax Board of Review: Matt Brett, Vince Massa, Bob McIlroy

Zoning Board of Appeals: David Maistros, Andy Hitchcock, Bill Stone, Laura LaChapelle, TBA

Village Meetings are Open to the Public!

Take an interest in your local government and attend any or all of the following meetings:

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.

All meetings are posted on the home page of the Village's website at www.southerussell.com



Follow us on Facebook and check out our website at www.southerussell.com for Village news, meetings and event information





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

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Village Council Meetings

Upcoming Village Council meetings:

January 13h & 27th at 7:30 p.m.
February 10th & 24th at 7:30 p.m.
March 9th & 23th at 7:30 p.m.
April 13th & 27th 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

2019-2020 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.— 2:15 p.m.

Service Department

Monday—Friday 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Closed:

Christmas, December 25, 2019

Martin Luther King Day, January 20, 2020

Presidents' Day, February 17, 2020

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



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~

Spring 2020 Edition

Dear Residents:

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and in good spirits as we work through the COVID-19 crisis. We encourage you to continue to check on your neighbors and the elderly. Village services have continued with slight adjustments. The Police Department will continue the 24/7 patrols of our roads but the station is closed. One thing that would help the Village keep in better communication with residents is if each street, neighborhood or HOA would provide us with the contact information of a resident who might serve as an official or unofficial leader of the neighborhood. This information would help inform you about emergency situations, power outages, road closings, etc. Consider signing up for an SRV Eblast. An Eblast is sent to inform residents of power outages, street closings and other emergencies. Information is on the South Russell website.

It is a pleasure serving as your mayor. Please feel free to contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is mayor@southrussell.com, office phone is 338-6700 ext. 224.

Sincerely,

Bill Koons
Mayor

Storm Water Update

A storm water grant and Village funds were used to build a retention pond south of Village Hall and wetlands in the corner of the Village Park. This retention pond will slow the flow of water entering Chagrin Lakes.

A second storm water grant will help control the storm water that often floods the homes east of Chillicothe Rd. Construction in 2021 of a 1,400 square foot stream enhancement north of Manor Brook Drive will slow the water flowing from Bel Meadow west through Fox Run, Sugar Bush, and Southwyck. Finally, in 2022, a larger culvert will be built under Chillicothe Rd. just north of Manor Brook Drive. The new culvert and the stream enhancement will clean, store, and slowly release water, reducing damage to residents' property.



On behalf of the Village of South Russell
We congratulate all graduating Seniors of the Class of 2020
in our community!



Village of South Russell
SPRING TRASH DAY
June 6, 2020 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Proof of Residency REQUIRED



Accepted items: General trash and debris, items containing freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners), scrap metal, white metal (appliances), computer and electronic equipment, batteries and **TIRES!**

NO Yard waste, hazardous household chemicals, or containers with liquified products accepted. For special Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste collection dates and locations, see www.gottagogreen.org

GUIDELINES:

- **NO liquids, paints, hazardous household chemicals, construction debris, rocks, yard waste, or household garbage.**
- **Mattresses and upholstered furniture must be wrapped in plastic and taped securely to prevent possible bed bug transfer.**

Fun Fact: Latex paint is not considered a hazardous material and DRY paint may be disposed of with the rest of your garbage. For tips on drying paint, go to <https://www.startrecycling.com/index.php/proper-disposal/latex-paint>

DUE TO THE COVID-19, there will be NO SENIOR TRASH PICK-UP this year.

Dirt Spoils List Proposal

South Russell Village Council is considering the adoption of a resolution to address situations where a Village project results in surplus fill dirt, road grindings, and other materials that have no value to the Village but may be desired by Village residents. The resolution, if adopted, would authorize the Mayor and/or another Village official, such as the Streets Commissioner, to create and maintain a running list of residents desiring such materials. The distribution of the materials would be to the residents appearing on the list in the order their names appear on the running list. The resolution will be considered and potentially adopted in the course of the June 8, 2020 Council meeting.

South Russell Village Park News



Use of the Village Pavilion and Playground are currently pending direction by the Governor. Updated information will be placed on the Village website. However, the park is open for a summer full of walks and play! Feel free to bring your family pet, but please remember that dogs must be on leash at all times when visiting our park (Ord. 618.19) Also, please be courteous and clean up after your pet!

Did You Know?

South Russell Village Park is home to the largest BOBOLINK population in Geauga County! These birds migrate from South America to our Village annually and have already been spotted this year in our park on May 11th. Bobolinks are ground nesters, and build their nests in the tall grasses that remain unmowed in our park until August. While walking on the park's trails, the Bobolinks can be seen rising up out of the tall grasses. The Bobolink is a mostly black bird with white markings and a pale yellow or cream colored "cap" on its head.



Septic Standards and Storm Water Meetings

Two Special Council meetings are planned for this summer. The meeting on Monday, June 8, at 6:00 p.m. will review septic standards in the Village. On Monday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m., the Mayor will provide an update of the Village's storm water situation. The storm on the weekend of March 28 & 29 resulted in over forty residents reporting water entering their homes.

The meetings are open to the public. Refer to the calendar on the Village website for details, www.southerussell.com

TAXES DUE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Municipal Income Tax returns are due **JULY 15, 2020**. 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. Local ordinance provides for both penalty and interest charges to be assessed for late filing or non-filing.

Need assistance with your South Russell Municipal Tax Return?

CCA – Division of Taxation has designated specific Auditors to assist you with any South Russell municipal income tax matter. For personalized service, please contact:
Deneen Wray 216-664-2070 ext. 1786 or call the main office at 216-664-2070 to reach any CCA auditor.

For tax forms or to file electronically, please go to www.ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us



Home Improvements May Require a Permit

With warm weather approaching, many residents will be diving into home improvement and construction projects. It is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that permits are obtained, and ultimately that the work is inspected, regardless of whether it is a DIY project or a contractor is used. Permits are required for roofing, electrical work, fences, sheds, hot water tank replacement, furnaces, air conditioning, siding, decks, and replacement windows. All contractors working in the Village are required to register with the Building Department.

The purpose of the process is meant to protect the homeowner and verify that the work meets the minimum code requirements. For questions regarding permits or to determine if contractors are registered, contact the Building Department at (440) 338-1312 or email building@southerussell.com.

Tornado Siren

Testing of the Tornado Siren will be occurring every Saturday at 2:00 during Tornado season!



South Russell Village Cemetery

South Russell Village Cemetery is located at 5230 Chillicothe Road. The Cemetery map can be viewed in Village Hall or on the Cemetery page at www.southerussell.com

Full Size Lots

Village Resident: \$1,000

Prior Resident: \$2,000

Cremation Lots

Village Resident: \$800

Prior Resident: \$1,600

Scattering/Memorial Garden

\$350 ~\$450—includes engraved paver

For more information, contact
Danielle Romanowski,
fiscalofficer@southerussell.com
(440) 557-5533



DON'T MISS THE BUZZ!

To keep up with Village news, meetings, and events, follow us on Facebook and check out our website at www.southerussell.com. To receive Eblasts with important time sensitive information, visit the Services page at www.southerussell.com and sign up!



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Village Council Meetings

Upcoming Village Council meetings:

June 1st at 7:00 a.m.
June 8th at 7:00 a.m.
June 8th at 6:00 p.m.
June 8th at 7:30 p.m.
July 13th at 7:30 p.m.
July 20th at 7:00 p.m.
August 10th 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

Village of South Russell Contact Numbers

Village Hall

440-338-6700 ext. 222
fiscalofficer@southrussell.com

Police Department

440-338-6700 ext. 2000
(non-emergency)
police@southrussell.com

Street Department

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

Building Department

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

Village Offices will be Closed on Monday, May 25, 2020 for Memorial Day and Friday, July 3, 2020 for Fourth of July.





Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~

Fall 2020 Edition

South Russell Village Park Playground **OPEN**

On August 26, 2020, Council voted unanimously to reopen the South Russell Village Park playground. The playground had been closed due to the pandemic. In an effort to reopen the playground, the Village researched sanitizing products and methods. Ultimately, it was determined that treating the playground equipment with ProKure V once a day would satisfy the sanitization criteria outlined in the Governor's plan. ProKure V is a chlorine dioxide anti-microbial treatment which leaves no chemical footprint. The product is used to purify drinking water and is used in food and beverage production industries. Additionally, it is used in sterilizing medical equipment and surfaces in hospitals. Most importantly, the product is child safe.

The playground equipment will be sanitized each day before 8:00 a.m. This plan has been approved by the Geauga County Board of Health. The playground is now open from 8:00 a.m. until dusk.

Visitors are expected to:

- Follow the guidelines of the State of Ohio
- Wear a mask and social distance
- Provide adult supervision of children
- Limit participation to a maximum of 30 people
- Hand sanitize before and after using the playground

Do to the Pandemic, the 2020 South Russell Village Fall Festival has been cancelled.



From the Mayor

The storms on March 28th-29th, May 15th, and September 7th caused water to enter into residents' homes and/or properties. Some residents had minor flooding, some had sewage backup. Please send an email to mayor@southrussell.com so we can determine the extent of the damage from the storms and begin to create a solution.

2020 Road Program



This year's road paving program involves Daisy Lane, Kensington Circle, Maple Hill Dr., and Sheerbrook Dr. along with repairs throughout the Village. Total cost will be under \$800,000. Through an Ohio Public Works Commission grant and permissive tax monies, the Village was able to address a larger road program this year.

Shredding Day

South Russell Village will provide document/paper shredding on Saturday, November 7, 2020 9:00 a.m. – Noon in the Village Hall parking lot. This service is offered to South Russell residents at no charge! Protect your identity and dispose of your records securely!



Preventing Crimes of Opportunity

When it comes to your home and your vehicle, never leave doors unlocked or windows open, and ALWAYS close overhead garage doors, especially at night.

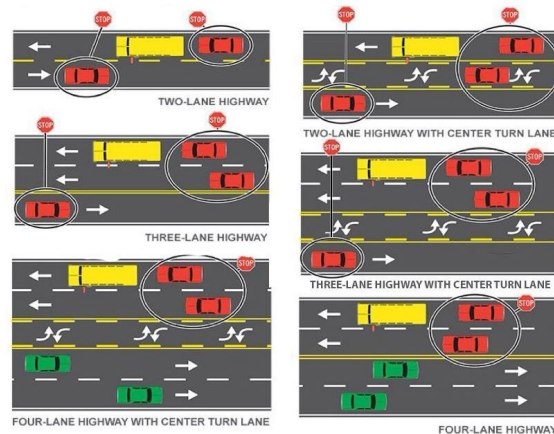
Theft from an unlocked vehicle is a common crime of opportunity. The most effective way to prevent this type of crime is to limit the criminal's ability and/or opportunity to commit the crime. Below are a few suggestions to keep you from becoming a victim:

- Keep your vehicle locked at all times – even in your own driveway or garage
- Do not leave valuables in plain view
- Keep all valuables in the trunk or take them with you
- Do not leave any cell phone chargers, cables, or electronic devices in plain sight. It may give the impression that you have electronics somewhere inside the vehicle
- Once home, unload your valuables immediately and do not store them inside your vehicle
- Close your garage door

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. Please also be aware of changing School Zone flashing light patterns due to pandemic school scheduling. Likewise, note that it is ILLEGAL to go around a stopped school bus. Keep our children safe by adhering to these rules!

When to stop for a school bus in Ohio



Utility Information

WATER SERVICE:

The west end of the Village receives **water services from Chagrin Falls Water Department: 440-247-5050.**

For developments with their own water system, contact the **Homeowners Association or Management Company** if issues arise. Homeowners with private wells should contact individual service providers in the event of well or pump failures.

SANITARY SEWERS/WASTEWATER:

Sanitary Sewer System issues should be directed to the **Geauga County Department of Water Resources 440-279-1970.**

FIRST ENERGY:

To report a power outage, call **1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877)** or [report the outage online](#).

DOMINION EAST OHIO GAS:

Customer service is available **7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday – Friday—1-800-362-7557**
For emergency service, **24 hours a day—1-877-542-2630.**

Attention!

On July 13, 2020 the Council of the Village of South Russell passed the following legislation:

Resolution authorizing the Village to discard refuse, street scrapings, and other personal property, such as dirt, grindings, and mulch, that is under the control of the Village Street Department but not needed for the improvement of Village property and no longer necessary to the Village Street Department and determined by the Village to be not needed for public use and of no value to the Village.

Individuals interested in being placed on a list to obtain such materials when they become available should contact Street Commissioner Tim Alder at (440) 338-3891 or email streets@southrussell.com





ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The deadline to register to vote in the November 3, 2020 General Election is **October 5th, 2020**. Registration or change of address may be done at any public library branch, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, high schools or vocational schools, Office of the Board of Elections, or by mail.

Anyone who is registered to vote may do so by **Absentee Ballot**. A separate application must be completed for EACH election. Applications can be found on the Board of Election website <https://boelections.co.geauga.oh.us> or by contacting the Board of Elections (440) 279-2030. The application for an absentee ballot must be received by the Geauga Board of Elections by noon on October 31, 2020. If returning the ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by the day before the election, November 2, 2020. If returning it to the Board of Elections, it must be submitted by 7:30 pm election night. A drop box is available outside the Board of Election offices for ballot submission as well.

Ballots will begin to be mailed October 6, 2020, and **early voting** at the Geauga County Board of Election begins October 6th and ends November 2nd.

Rules for Sheds in South Russell

Sheds provide an excellent storage solution for many of us. Before installing one, please consider the following rules:

- Where applicable, first obtain approval by the HOA. The drawing of the shed should be signed by the HOA to indicate approval.
- Next, a zoning application, drawing (picture of shed), size of the shed (to include height), and a site plan to show location of the shed and distances to all property lines must be submitted to the Building Department.
- Once submitted, the application and documentation are reviewed. Either a permit is issued at that time or if necessary, it is forwarded to the appropriate Boards for approval (ARB and/or BZA). After approval, the permits are then issued.



SAVE THE DATE

Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market
May 11—October 10, 2020
Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Shredding Day
Saturday, November 7, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Get the Scoop!



Did you know you can attend the Village Council meetings via Zoom during the pandemic? The links and passwords to the meetings as well as other Village news and events can be found on the website calendar at www.southerussell.com. You can also follow us on Facebook or visit the Services page on our website to sign up for Eblasts for important time sensitive information.

South Russell Village Cemetery

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Prior Resident: \$2,000

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October 12th and 26th at 7:30 p.m.
November 9th and 23rd at 7:30 p.m.
December 14th at 7:30 p.m.

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fiscalofficer@southerussell.com

Police Department

440-338-6700 ext. 2000 (non-emergency)
police@southerussell.com

Street Department

440 338-6700 ext. 236
440-338-3891
streets@southerussell.com

Building Department

440-338-6700 ext. 233
440-338-1312
building@southerussell.com

