



# Village of South Russell

## ~Newsletter~



Late Summer 2023 Edition

### From the Mayor

Thanks for your patience as road repaving continues on East Washington from Burntwood to the park, Maple Springs in Chagrin Lakes, Woodside in the Rolling Ridge development, and Chillicothe from Russell Township to Bainbridge Township.

Replacement of the traffic signal at the intersection of Bell Road and Chillicothe will improve safety and traffic control. Please be careful as timing and turning lanes will be changing.

We have seen a decline in courtesy with respect to speeding on residential streets, barking dogs kept outdoors for hours, and burning of yard waste that stinks up the neighborhood. Please keep being good neighbors and residents by thinking of others.

The storm on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 25, demonstrated some success and some needed areas of improvement. The storm saw basement flooding, a car destroyed when water entered the garage, a business lost its flooring, and other issues. The floodplain at the intersection of Chillicothe and Manor Brook functioned as designed with water flowing into the floodplain and eventually being released at a controlled rate. Flooding on the east side of Chillicothe was greatly reduced by the installation of new culverts in drive-ways and under the highway. The retention basin behind Village Hall also worked well with two feet of storm water being retained and slowly released, greatly reducing flooding of Chagrin Lakes. Some of the neighbors of the park and the park itself experienced flooding and damage because the water came so fast and so strong that the ground could not absorb the deluge. We continue to meet with surrounding communities to create solutions to the water flowing from one municipality to another. **The next storm water update meeting will be Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall.**

Our Centennial Celebration continues with a "History of the Village" presentation on Thursday, September 14, 11:30 a.m. at Augie's. RSVP to Council member Ruth Cavanagh [rcavanagh@southerussell.com](mailto:rcavanagh@southerussell.com) ASAP. We have room for a maximum of 50 people.



### A Bit More Village History by Ruth Cavanagh

Sincere people have kept track of Western Reserve's old homes. This beautifully preserved gem is perched at the entrance to Maple Hill. Henry Champion accompanied Moses Cleaveland in 1796 as part of the speculative Connecticut Land Company. He purchased parcels that included the land on which this home sits. Champion originally owned land encompassing Paw Paw Lake, Silver Springs, Maple Hill and then some! Upon Henry's death in 1836, he willed the land to son, Aristarchus Champion (1784-1871). Aristarchus' name is listed on many property deeds in this neck of South Russell, including South Russell Village Park, the former Muggleton Farm. Owned for more than 60 years by members of the Fuhry family, it is documented to have been built pre-1860. The 'basement' was a crawl space: Decades ago, the late Mr. Fuhry and sons John, David, and Ken hand-dug down to be able to stand upright...hardly enviable labor.

Stay tuned neighbors, as we hope to learn more about this home.



Mark your calendar! The Village of South Russell will be hosting the annual Fall Festival on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Fan favorites like hayrides, hot dogs, bounce houses, and face painting will be returning as well as some new attractions and historical activities commemorating the Village's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The rain date is October 8th. More information will be available on [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com).



### Storm Precautions

With the recent strong storms that produced torrential rain, yard and basement flooding was experienced throughout the Village.

Although it may not have been possible to completely avoid the flooding that occurred with the storm, there are precautions that may help mitigate such future events.

First, if there are right-of-way ditches on the property, inspect them for debris to include leaves, limbs, tall grasses, old newspapers, planter pots, plastic bags, etc. that can clog them and prevent the flow of water. Likewise, for driveway culvert pipes, ensure that they are kept clear.

Next, do not underestimate the value of clean rain gutters! Clogs force rainwater over the edge of the gutters causing water to run down the sides of the home, down the foundation, and into the basement through even the smallest of cracks.

For homes with sump pumps, the average life of this equipment is seven to ten years. It is also important to check the battery backup! And don't forget to inspect floor drains to make sure they are operating properly.

More extensive precautions may include extending downspouts to flow away from the home, re-grading the yard, installing window well coverings, repairing foundation cracks, and foundation waterproofing.



## Village of South Russell 100th Anniversary

Despite thunder, lightning, rain, and wind, the Village celebrated its official 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 23, 2023, at the South Russell Village Park. Those in attendance ranged from the very young to the seasoned but young at heart. All enjoyed cake and ice cream and were treated to a local history lesson by Council member Ruth Cavanagh. For those who were unable to attend, a new Village History document can be viewed from the homepage of [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com).

Located at the Rarick Cemetery on Bell Rd., this kiosk was constructed by Eagle Scout candidate Charlie Robinson. It provides the history and grave identification for the cemetery.



## Rarick Cemetery History

Rarick Cemetery is located in South Russell, Ohio. The property is on the south side of Bell Street about a half mile west of Chillicothe Road (SR 306). Rarick Cemetery was the first public burial-ground in both the township of Russell and South Russell Village.

On November 15, 1849, Rarick Cemetery was developed, when one-half acre of land was purchased from S. R. Willard for forty dollars. In 1863 the space was enlarged when a strip thirty-three feet wide was bought from Isaac Rarick's widow, Melinda Rarick, for ten dollars and added to the already existing burying-grounds. The addition of a public burial ground was important for the community because before this time, many of the dead were buried in family burying-grounds.

Rarick Cemetery is named for the Rarick family and Russell township citizen, Adam Rarick. Adam was born in 1779 in New York, and was buried in one of the original graves in Rarick Cemetery. The Rarick's were among the first people to settle and live in what is now South Russell Village. Adam Rarick served in the war of 1812. In 1828, Adam, his sister, her husband and his son Isaac moved west to Ohio, first Cleveland then Bainbridge, and finally Russell, now South Russell Village. In 1851, Adam died of unknown causes. His son Isaac then moved to the family farm, so he could support his mother. It is where he would spend the rest of his life.

Isaac Rarick, son of Adam Rarick, was a significant contributor to the Bainbridge and Russell community. Isaac exemplified strong moral convictions and beliefs that were uncommon where he lived, and the time in history. Isaac was an early abolitionist, so he took great personal risk in aiding runaway slaves to gain their liberty. His home was a prominent station for the Underground Railroad for an approximate period of twenty years. Although he was met with bitter opposition from his neighbors, he still held firm to his beliefs. It is from this family that Rarick Cemetery is named. Rarick Cemetery is a true gem of South Russell.

*This marker commemorates the centennial anniversary founding of the Village of South Russell dedicated by Charles J. Robinson, Boy Scout Troop 241 and the Chagrin Valley Rotary Club of Chagrin Falls, Ohio on July 23, 2023.*





## Back to School

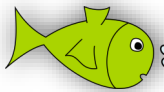
It is that time of year again. The yellow flashing school zone lights will soon be blinking, which means reducing speed to **20 miles per hour!** Likewise, school busses will be on the roads and in neighborhoods picking up and dropping off our younger Village residents. For their safety and yours, please remember it is **ILLEGAL to pass a stopped school bus!**



## News from the South Russell Police Department

### Thank You For Your Support! A Recap of SRPD's Community Events

The annual Cops and Kids Fishing Event and Bike Rodeo were back again on the first and third Sundays of June!



For the Cops and Kids Fishing Event, families and SRPD officers surrounded the banks of Lake Louise. It was a hot day at the lake, but the fish were biting as kids were catching them left and right! After a morning of catch-and-release, folks cooled down with a sandwich lunch at the pavilion followed by awards and participation medals. Thanks again to the homeowners association of Lake Louise for allowing cops, families, and kids to use their beautiful lake to fish and make memories!



Just a few weeks later, SRPD hosted the Bike Rodeo event at the South Russell Village campus. Each participant received a bicycle helmet just for showing up! To kick things off, Officer John Zippay gathered the riders and went over some bike safety basics. Chief Rizzo again led the challenging "reverse race" followed by some head-to-head sprints. After just over an hour of riding, we retreated to wherever shade could be found to enjoy pizza and ice cream treats. Lieutenant Pocek launched a drone to capture some aerial group photos at the end of the tiring, but fun-filled morning!

### Dogs and Pets at the South Russell Village Park!



SRPD would like to thank dog owners for keeping their pets on a leash while visiting the South Russell Village Park. As a reminder, pets are required to be leashed in all areas of the park at all times (even if it seems like nobody else is around). Leashes may not exceed 8 feet in length and pets must be controlled at all times.

We appreciate your cooperation in making the South Russell Village Park a fun and welcoming place for everyone to bring their four-legged friends, while experiencing the great meadows, nature, recreation, trails, and wooded areas the park has to offer!

### Reminder from the Building Department

When hiring a contractor, be sure the contractor is registered with the Building Department and permits are pulled for the job. These steps serve as safeguards for residents against potentially questionable contractors and unsatisfactory work.



### Shredding Day October 21st!

Now is the time to start digging out and bagging up all of the old bills, bank statements, and tax returns. The Village will be holding its annual **Shredding Day on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon on the Village campus.** Protect your financial and personal privacy by securely disposing of documents containing sensitive information.



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

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South Russell  
Ohio 44022  
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### Village Council Meetings

Upcoming Village Council meetings:

**Sept. 11th and 25th - 7:00 p.m.**

**Sept. 19th (Storm water) 7:00 p.m.**

**Oct. 9th and 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

**Nov. 13th and 27th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Dec. 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

If you would like to be added to the meeting agenda please contact [fiscalofficer@southrussell.com](mailto:fiscalofficer@southrussell.com) or call 440-338-6700 ext. 221 no later than the Thursday before a meeting. There is a 5-minute limit to address Council.

The meeting agenda, location details, and links to the Village YouTube channel can be found on the homepage of [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com).

### Village of South Russell Contact Numbers

#### **Village Hall**

440-338-6700 ext. 221

[fiscalofficer@southrussell.com](mailto:fiscalofficer@southrussell.com)

#### **Police Department**

440-338-6700 ext. 2000 (non-emergency)

[police@southrussell.com](mailto:police@southrussell.com)

#### **Building Department**

440-338-6700 ext 233

[building@southrussell.com](mailto:building@southrussell.com)

#### **Street Department**

440 338-6700 ext. 236

[streets@southrussell.com](mailto:streets@southrussell.com)



**Village offices will be  
CLOSED Monday,  
September 4, 2023 for  
Labor Day.**

### Stay in Touch

To keep up with the Village news, meetings, and events, follow us on [Facebook](#), and check out our website at [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com). Sign up to receive **Eblasts** with important time sensitive information! The link to do so is on [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com).

#### **Attention HOAs!**

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