



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~



From the Mayor:

Thanks to residents for their patience when the first snow storm of the year struck early in the morning. With two of our drivers out for medical issues, our remaining drivers did the best they could to achieve the standards we expect. If a blizzard would occur, we have arrangements with surrounding communities to help us.

Thanks to Chagrin Valley Fire Department Fire Marshal and Iraqi War veteran Jim Finley who spoke to the thirty-eight veterans who attended the third annual Veterans' Luncheon.

Thanks to all who helped with the distribution/cost of wreaths at the graves of the veterans buried in one of our two cemeteries as a part of the Wreaths Across America program. The Rarick Cemetery on Bell Road contains the remains of a veteran of the War of 1812.

Thanks to the Cats Den Garden Club for planting 1,000 daffodil bulbs at the SRV Cemetery on Chillicothe Road. Last year they planted 1,000 daffodil bulbs at the park.

Thanks to the Chagrin Falls Masonic Temple for donating a flagpole recently installed in the East Washington side of the South Russell Village Park.

A total solar eclipse will occur on Monday, April 8th, 3:13 p.m. Send your ideas on how residents can be part of the event to mayor@southerussell.com.

There will be a special Council meeting on Tuesday, January 9th, 7:00 p.m. to gather residents' comments about possible crosswalks, sidewalks, and paths. Crosswalks have been suggested from Sugar Bush to Gurney School, Alderwood Dr. to the park, and across East Washington St. by the restaurants. Sidewalks have been suggested for the Rolling Ridge neighborhood. A multi-purpose path is under consideration along Bell to improve access to the park from Chillicothe Rd. to Daisy Ln. A survey related to the original proposed crosswalk location at Bell Road at Sugarbush Lane can be accessed at www.southerussell.com/crosswalk.

At the Council meeting on November 29th, Council voted to suspend collection of one mill for one year from the 1.5 mill Roads and Bridges levy to softened the higher property taxes coming in 2024 as a result of the higher appraisal values of our homes. Instead of an "average" increase of \$140 on Village taxes, residents will see an increase of an "average" of \$23. Please remember the Village receives 10 cents from every tax dollar. County and school taxes make up the vast majority of residents' property taxes.

Homestead Exemption

The Homestead Exemption provides a tax credit on the first \$25,000 of market value of your home. In Geauga County, the credit will average approximately \$456 in Real Estate Tax savings per year. To qualify for the Homestead Credit, you must be 65 years of age by December 31, 2021, or older or permanently disabled, occupying your home as your primary residence, and meet the income requirement. To apply for the Homestead Exemption, fill out the application found at <https://auditor.geauga.oh.gov/real-estate/homestead-exemption> and mail to 231 Main St., Suite 1A, Chardon, OH 44024. The deadline for filing is December 31st annually. Question may be directed to (440) 285-2222 ext. 1614.



Winter Reminders



The Village Snow Emergency Parking Ban runs from November 15th through April 15th when there is a prediction or accumulation of two or more inches of snow.

Regarding 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. Additionally, please keep garbage cans out of the roadway to facilitate the plowing of your street.

If heating up your car in the morning, keep your car locked! If available, use a remote start feature instead of having keys in the ignition.

For our First Responders, check that address numbers are clearly marked on the mailbox to aid 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.



Municipal Income Taxes

Municipal income tax returns for the Village of South Russell are due **April 15, 2024**. 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 April 15th, June 15th, September 15th and January 15th. For the tax year 2023, 90% of the tax due must be paid by **January 15, 2024** to avoid penalty and interest (subject to municipal ordinance).



Centennial Wrap Up



Our Centennial South Russell year winds down.

There were changes during my Dad's lifetime here, 1920-1972; great road improvement, the subdivisions of Bellwood, Lake Louise, Bel Meadow, Rolling Ridge and Maple Hill. Between 1950-1960 the population quadrupled from 349 to 1,276. It was still probable to drive Bell Rd. in the evening and only pass one or two cars. Dad wouldn't believe the changes in the last half-century....

In 1970 the traffic light was installed at Rt. 306 and Bell Rd., necessitating Rt. 306 travelers to stop for the first time. For months afterward, folks still stopped at the Bell Rd. approach to 306, accustomed to the STOP sign, and not the traffic light.

From my perch at the school bus window 1958-1970, I took in sights that remain in memory.

1966--Frank Book farm, 1101 Bell Rd, requisitioned by 'condemnation' by the CF Board of Ed. to build Gurney School., the remainder to Fox Run subdivision, c. 1994.

1970--Homes fronting Sun Ridge Lane begun; subdivision, 1981.

c. 1979--Strip mall shops, Bank built near Southwest corner of Rt. 306 and Bell Rd.

1979--Horn's Flying School and Airport closed and sold, a calamity of skyrocketing fuel prices.

Subsequently followed by Kensington Green subdivision, 1985.

1980--Rickelman farm, 5084 Chillicothe, became Manor Brook condos, Whitetail subdivision.

1990--Roy Matthews farm, 1508 Bell Rd.(Green/Rarick) sold, Bramble Farms subdivision followed.

1999--The Kingswood Gun Club (target shooting) sold, Ashleigh subdivision developed.

c. 2017--Old Ozell McLaughlin farmstead, 5277 Chillicothe Rd., became the Chagrin Valley Lantern, preserving the barn and stately old home.

Ruth Cavanagh





House Watch Program

As South Russell Village has welcomed many new residents in recent years, we wanted to highlight the Vacation Watch program provided by the police department.



For a quick holiday getaway or an extended trip, residents can register their houses on our Vacation Watch program by visiting southrussell.com. A link to registering your home is located on the homepage under Police Services. You will be redirected to our Frontline homepage. Select "Submit Now" under Vacation Watch to create an entry. This entry can include details to help officers checking the property, such as identifying whether there are alarm systems, pets, and vehicles that will be present at the home during the time away. Additionally, homeowners can note whether any contract work will be done during their absence and provide contact information for people who may be at the property.

The service includes physical checks of the property to ensure your home is secured and spotlights to confirm your home has been undisturbed. Residents are notified via email after each check is conducted to help reinforce a peace of mind while your family is away from South Russell for business or pleasure. After your return, you will receive a complete report of the house checks from Lieutenant Todd Pocek.

On behalf of Chief Michael Rizzo and the entire South Russell Police Department, we wish a safe and happy holiday season to our residents!

Village Council, Boards, and Committees

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. Village meetings are **open to the public**. Take an interest in your local government and attend any or all of the following meetings:

Council – 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00 p.m. 2nd Monday only in June, July, August, and December.
Council: Mayor William Koons and Council members Mark Porter, Gerald Canton, Dennis Galicki, Chris Berger, Ruth Cavanagh, and Chris Bell.

Architectural Review Board – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Board members: Gary Neola, Ryan Parsons, and Denis Marino

Planning Commission – 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Commission members: Steve Latkovic, Elisa Budoff, Jim Flaiz, Mark Porter, Mayor Koons, and alternates Greg Bruhn, Brad Fink, and Phyllis Marino.

Zoning Board of Appeals— 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Board members: Andy Hitchcock, John Buda, Cindy Matejcik, Mike Mulloy, Martin O’Toole, and alternate Lindsey Self.

Park Committee members: No set schedule. Please refer to the Village calendar for meeting dates. Ted Kruse, Martha Bistriz, Greg Gamm, Greg Studen, Libby Sharkey, and Council Representative Cavanagh.

Finance, Streets, Building, Safety, Human Resources, Properties, Parks, and Public Utilities Committee meetings can be found on the Village calendar once a schedule is established for the year.

All meetings are posted on the homepage of the Village’s website at www.southrussell.com

WISHING YOU PEACE AND HAPPINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALWAYS!
WE SEND BEST WISHES TO OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES
FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS
2024





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

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

Upcoming 2024 Village Council Meetings

January 8th and 22nd at 7:00 p.m.
February 12th and 26th at 7:00 p.m.
March 11th and 25th at 7:00 p.m.
April 8th and 22th at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to be added to the meeting agenda, please contact fiscalofficer@southerussell.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, and links to the Village YouTube channel can be found on the homepage of southerussell.com

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

2023-2024 Village Business Hours and Holiday Schedule

Village Hall

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

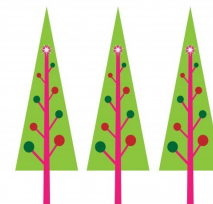
Building Department

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, 2023/New Years, January 1, 2024

Martin Luther King Day, January 15, 2023

Presidents' Day, February 19, 2024

South Russell Village Contact Information

Village Hall

440-338-6700 ext. 221

fiscalofficer@southerussell.com

Police Department

440-338-7611 (non-emergency)

police@southerussell.com

Building Department

440-338-6700 ext 233

building@southerussell.com

Service Department

440-338-6700 ext. 236

streets@southerussell.com

