



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~



Link to Virtual Newsletter

Fall 2024 Edition

This will be the FINAL PRINTED Newsletter!

As explained in the last newsletter, this will be the final *printed* newsletter. Instead, the newsletter will be virtual and posted on the Village website, southrussell.com. Additionally, a link to it will be sent to all recipients of the Village's eblast and posted on the Village of South Russell Facebook page. The newsletter contains important information about current news and upcoming events in the Village. Please consider signing up for the Village eblasts by either going to the home page of southrussell.com or utilizing the QR code to the right. A limited number of hard copies of the newsletter will be available for pickup at Village Hall.



From the Mayor

The wetland south of the playground is being expanded to hold more water and provide better drainage. Seven acres of hay on the East Washington park area were not harvested to provide fuel for a burn by the Geauga Park District next spring. A meeting to discuss the management of park property will be held on Monday, October 21, 6:30 P.M. All are welcome.

Staff Sergeant Maggie Carpenter will be the guest speaker at the fourth annual Village of South Russell Veterans event on Monday, November 11th, 9:00 a.m. at the Sleepy Rooster. Veterans wishing to attend should RSVP to mayor@southrussell.com by Monday, November 4, 2024.

The installation of solar panels on the south side of the police department was recently completed.

The Village escaped major property damage from the summer storms/tornados that affected many local communities. If you are ever without water, please go to the rear of the service garage where a water spigot is available for you to get non-potable water 24/7.

The Chagrin Falls High School Class of 2025 is offering light lawn care to South Russell seniors on Wednesday, October 9th. If interested please contact mayor@southrussell.com.

The Village will host a "Donuts with Tim" event on Monday, September 30th 7:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the Service Department to celebrate the former Street Commissioner's last day.



Mark your calendar! The Village of South Russell will be hosting the annual Fall Festival on Sunday, September 29, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at South Russell Village Park. There will be family friendly activities like bounce houses, face painting, a mobile farm, pony rides, a bubble performer, live music, complimentary hot dogs, drinks, and snacks, as well as an appearance by the Chagrin Valley Fire Department and the Life Flight helicopter! Trolley transportation will be provided to and from the parking lot of Gurney Elementary School.

In the event of inclement weather, the rain date for the festival will be October 6th, 2024.

Volunteers are needed to assist the Park Committee with the Fall Festival. Please email rcavanagh@southrussell.com for more information or to sign up.

Best Wishes to the Street Commissioner on his Retirement



At the end of September, we will say farewell to Tim Alder, the Village's Street Commissioner, who will be retiring after 25 years of service. Tim was hired in 1999 as a Driver/Operator for the Service Department under the former Street Commissioner, Darrell Johnson. Previously, Tim spent 12 years with First Energy. When he started with the Street Department, the crew consisted of Marty Denku, Ted Holt, and Tim. The job was not without its adventures. Tim shared that on one occasion, the department received a call about a turtle in the roadway on Mapleridge Rd. On arrival, they found that the snapping turtle in question was no less than 20 pounds. They managed to wrestle the creature into a cage in the back of the truck for transport to a pond in a neighboring development. However, when they arrived, they found that the turtle had escaped the cage and was crawling around free in the back of the truck. Through no small effort, the wayward reptile was ultimately apprehended and released into a more suitable habitat.

On the retirement of Darrell Johnson in 2019, Tim was appointed Interim Street Commissioner and ultimately as Street Commissioner in 2020. One of his main goals in the position was to replace the older equipment in the department like a backhoe from 1974 and a 1988 International plow truck. As Street Commissioner, he was directly involved in the Village's stormwater mitigation efforts which included the Central Retention Basin, the Manor Brook Stream Restoration project, major culvert replacements on both Bell Rd. and Chillicothe Rd., cleaning of the Bel Meadow ditch, clearing of the Federated Family Life Center retention pond, and countless driveway culvert pipe replacements, all of which helped to alleviate flooding problems for Village residents.

Reflecting on his career, Tim shared that what he has enjoyed and will miss the most are the people; the residents, co-workers, vendors, etc. When it came to the Senior Trash Pickup events, Tim's philosophy was "we'll get you taken care of," for residents who worried they had not made the pickup list. Tim admitted that what he would not miss was the politics, paperwork, plowing the roads in the middle of the night, and being awakened at all hours of the weekdays and weekends for weather emergencies. For the first snowfall of his retirement, Tim advised that his plan is to sit inside and watch it out the window!



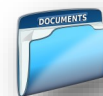
Welcome to the New Street Commissioner

The Village of South Russell welcomes our new Street Commissioner, Tim Young. Tim comes to the Village with 24 years of Service Department experience from Independence, Moreland Hills, and Pepper Pike.



Fall Leaves

The Village of South Russell does not offer curbside leaf collection service. If you see leaves at the street in your neighborhood, they were most likely put there by a privately hired landscaping company that will be back to pick them up. Leaves brought to the roadside by residents or landscapers must remain on the property and off the roadway. Residents should make sure that leaves are cleared and do not block storm drains, driveway culvert pipes, and ditches which could cause backups and flooding issues during heavy rains.



Shredding Day November 2nd!

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 November 2nd 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.

Election Day is November 5, 2024

The Village of South Russell will have a renewal levy on the November 5th ballot. A levy renewal maintains but does not increase taxes. The Safety Levy is a renewal of a 2.75 mill levy for 5 years and is used for current operating expenses of the Police Department. It brings in approximately \$425,000 per year to the Village and costs the taxpayers about \$51 per \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value.



News from the South Russell Police Department

Watch Out for South Russell Village's New Crosswalk!

South Russell Village is excited to announce the upcoming installation of a new crosswalk connecting South Russell Village Park and Alderwood Trail! The crosswalk will be in a north/south direction across Bell Road, with termination points in the South Russell Village Park parking lot (South) and west corner of Bell Road and Alderwood Trail (North).

The crosswalk will feature Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, or "RRFBs," to notify eastbound and westbound vehicle traffic on Bell Road to yield to pedestrians using the crosswalk. These flashing beacons will be affixed to poles with yellow Pedestrian Crossing signs on both sides of the street. Pedestrians will be able to activate the RRFB at either side by pressing the activation button. The lights on the RRFBs will continue to flash while pedestrians cross safely to the other side.

(Note: See below for examples of a Pedestrian Crossing RRFB sign and crosswalk layout.)

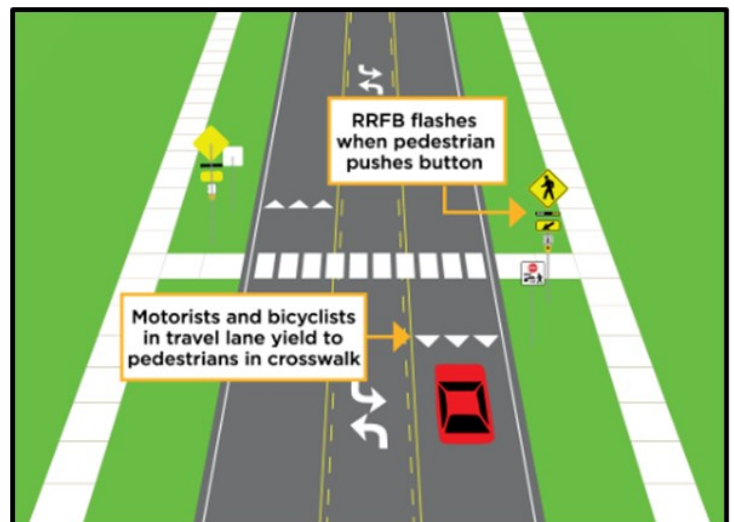
As always, we ask our residents and visitors to exercise good judgment and safe street crossing practices while using the crosswalk. Here are some tips as a reminder:

1. Stop, look, and listen after activating the crosswalk signal to see if oncoming vehicle traffic is nearby.
2. Do not cross the street until oncoming vehicles have come to a complete stop.
3. Make eye contact with drivers to ensure drivers see you!
4. Be prepared for new oncoming traffic to approach in the opposite direction.
5. Keep your heads up and smart devices down! Remove headphones or earbuds to make sure you are completely alert to your surroundings.

We expect this exciting new project to be complete in the first quarter of 2025.



Example of Pedestrian Crossing RRFB Sign



Example of RRFB Crosswalk Layout



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

Village Council Meetings

Upcoming Village Council meetings:

Sept. 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 14th and 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 11th and 25th at 7:00 p.m.

December 9th at 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 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.

Village of South Russell Contact Numbers

Village Hall

440-338-6700 ext. 221

fiscalofficer@southrussell.com

Police Department

440-338-6700 ext. 2000 (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,
November 11, 2024, to
observe Veterans 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. Sign up to receive **Eblasts** with important time sensitive information! The link to do so is on southrussell.com.

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!