

# Village of South Russell

## ~Newsletter~

Winter 2024-2025

### From the Mayor:

The Village is looking for volunteers to serve on the following boards and committees. Additional information about the boards and committees is on page 4.

**America's 250th** - The America 250-Ohio Commission is seeking the engagement of all 88 counties in Ohio to join them in celebrating the nation's 250th birthday in 2026. The Village of South Russell has registered as a participant and needs your help!

**Board of Building Code Appeals** - The Village is looking for residents to serve on the Board of Building Code Appeals. This board consists of three members who are qualified by experience and training to consider matters pertaining to building construction in the Village and hear appeals and requests for variances from the Building and Housing Code. The terms are three years and the board meets as needed.

**Architectural Review Board** - The board consists of three members who serve a three-year term. Two of the three shall be architects who are registered and authorized to practice architecture. The third is not required to be an architect but shall be a resident of the Village.

**Planning Commission** - The five-member board consists of two elected officials and three citizens of South Russell who serve a six-year term. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 713.01, the Planning Commission guides development and ensures compliance with Village codes and standards.

**Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport** - This committee is seeking to gather interested individuals from the community to discuss and organize a process for safe pedestrian and bicycle transportation in South Russell.

Inquiries for these boards and committees should be sent to [mayor@southrussell.com](mailto:mayor@southrussell.com).



### CAUTION!

#### ~ CROSSWALK AHEAD ~

The Village of South Russell began installation of a crosswalk at Bell Road and Alderwood Trail on November 26th. The crosswalk safety features include solar powered flashing lights and beacons to alert drivers as well as an activation button to allow pedestrians to signal their intent to cross. Completion of the crosswalk includes installation of the concrete approach and striping, which is weather dependent. Important safety reminders include the necessity for all pedestrians to exercise caution when crossing Bell Rd. Although it is state law that vehicles yield to pedestrians in a marked crosswalk, pedestrians should *never* assume that a vehicle will stop. Always check for oncoming traffic to ensure it is safe before stepping into the roadway! The crosswalk represents a proactive step toward enhancing pedestrian and traffic safety. Residents are reminded to be mindful of the new crosswalk while on foot and behind the wheel!

## Road Closure

The Village of South Russell will be performing a culvert replacement which will take place on Bell Rd. just east of Snyder Rd. There will be a localized closure here, with a road plate on site for any emergency vehicles. The detour route utilizes Munn Rd. and Music St. The plan is to start work December 16<sup>th</sup> and finish on December 23rd.



## Changes to Park and Pavilion Policies

Ordinance 2024-86 was passed in September 2024 and pertains to changes to the South Russell Village Park Pavilion reservation fee and park rules and regulations. Effective **January 1, 2025**, pavilion reservations will require the submission of a \$50 nonrefundable fee for residents and \$100 for nonresidents. Additionally, the park rules and regulations now prohibit alcoholic beverages in the park. The pavilion reservation form is available on the Parks Page of [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com).



## Municipal Income Taxes

Municipal income tax returns for the Village of South Russell are due **April 15, 2025**. 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 2024, 90% of the tax due must be paid by **January 15, 2025** to avoid penalty and interest (subject to municipal ordinance).

## Safer Walking and Biking in South Russell?



### Tell us your ideas!



The South Russell Village Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport wants to hear from South Russell residents and the broader community who travels through, works, attends school in, or visits parks and business in South Russell.

Are there places you would like to bike or walk to in South Russell? Do you already walk or bike in South Russell? What are your safety concerns?

Contact the committee at: [safetransport.sr@gmail.com](mailto:safetransport.sr@gmail.com)

**Printed copies of this flyer are available at Village Hall and the Building Department.**

## Projects Around the Village

2024 has been filled with planning a number of large projects around the Village that residents will hopefully see completed in 2025. This includes the long awaited park restroom that has been ordered and is slated to be installed before summer. The cost of the restroom will be \$116,551.

The Police Department had solar panels installed in 2024. Additionally, a new garage structure is being added and will house the SRPD Drone Vehicle. It will be going out to bid soon. Both the vehicle and garage were made possible through two generous donations.

A significant building project planned for 2025 is the replacement of the Village's failing salt dome. Although it has not yet gone out to bid, the estimated cost of this new building is \$775,000.

The Village also plans to address flooding in the Chagrin Heights neighborhood through a culvert replacement on Hemlock Rd. This \$92,400 project will have 50% funded by OPWC. Lastly, the eastern side of Bell Rd. is scheduled to be repaved later in 2025. It, too, will be partially funded by grants from the OPWC as well as NOACA.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE



**South Russell Police Department will be transitioning to Gauga County Dispatch effective 12/1/2024.**

**Please use the following phone numbers to reach us:**

<b>EMERGENCY:</b>	<b>9 1 1</b>
<b>NON-EMERGENCY:</b>	<b>(440) 338-7611</b>
<b>POLICE DISPATCH:</b>	<b>(440) 286-1234</b>
<b>FIRE/EMS:</b>	<b>(440) 247-7321</b>



## 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.



## Winter Weather Driving Tips

We have already received snowy and icy conditions before the winter season officially begins on December 21st. Here are some tips to make sure you're safe before and after your vehicle hits the road in the days and months to come:

1. Never warm up your vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
2. Make sure your tires are in good condition and properly inflated. Never mix and match all-season tires and all-weather tires!
3. Avoid using cruise control when driving on a wet, icy, or snowy surface.
4. Slow down! Accelerating. Stopping. Turning. These actions all take more time when you're on inclement surfaces compared to dry roadways. Give yourself the proper time to maneuver by reducing speed.
5. Make sure your mobile phone is charged to call for assistance in the event of an accident or if your car becomes disabled due to ice or heavy snow.

Have a safe, warm and happy holiday season from the South Russell Police Department!



**WISHING YOU PEACE AND HAPPINESS  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALWAYS!  
WE SEND BEST WISHES  
TO OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES  
FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS  
2025**





## 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: Elisa Budoff, Greg Bruhn, Phyllis Marino, Mark Porter, Mayor Koons, and alternate, Brad Fink.

**Board of Zoning 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 alternates Lindsey Self and Kevin Takacs.

**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.

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 calendar of the Village’s website [www.southerussell.com](http://www.southerussell.com)

### Upcoming 2025 Village Council Meetings

January 13th and 27th at 7:00 p.m.  
February 10th and 24th at 7:00 p.m.  
March 10th and 24th at 7:00 p.m.  
April 14th and 28th at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to be added to the meeting agenda, please contact [fiscalofficer@southerussell.com](mailto: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](http://southerussell.com)

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

### 2024-2025 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, 2024/New Years, January 1, 2025

Martin Luther King Day, January 20, 2025

Presidents’ Day, February 17, 2025

### South Russell Village Contact Information

#### Village Hall

440-338-6700 ext. 221

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

#### Police Department

440-338-7611 (non-emergency)

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

#### Building Department

440-338-6700 ext 233

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

#### Service Department

440-338-6700 ext. 236

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

