

Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~

Spring 2025



Village Wide Yard Sale

April 19, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Clean out the closets, basement, and garage! Saturday, April 19th has been designated as the Village Wide Yard Sale day. No registration is necessary. The Village will advertise the event, and HOAs that plan to participate are asked to place balloons at the neighborhood entrance. Likewise, participating residents should also place a balloon at the end of their driveways. **Green balloons** are available at the Village of South Russell Building Department during business hours. The sale will run from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

***Please verify with your HOA that yard sales are permitted!**

South Russell

SENIOR TRASH PICKUP DAYS

WEST END OF VILLAGE
(INCLUDES HOMES ON CHILLICOTHE RD.)
APRIL 23, 2025

EAST END OF VILLAGE
APRIL 24, 2025

PLEASE NOTE:

- Seniors, 60 years of age or older and living in the Village of South Russell **AND**
- Seniors must be **REGISTERED YEARLY** with the **Geauga County Department on Aging** and by **April 16, 2025**. To register call **(440) 279-2130**. If you have already registered for 2025, simply call **(440) 279-2130** by April 16th to be placed on the pick-up list.

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.
- **ONLY 10 household items per home.**
- Limit of 4 tires (off rims) permitted as well as appliances, electronics, etc.
- Items should be consolidated (in boxes), and placed outside in the driveway (**NOT** Curbside).

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!**

Village of South Russell

SPRING TRASH DAY

April 26, 2025
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Proof of Residency
REQUIRED

NOT Accepted:

Yard waste, hazardous household chemicals, or containers with liquified products. For special Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste collection dates and locations, see www.gottagogreen.org

FROM THE MAYOR

A proposed burn of ten acres of the East Washington Park may occur, weather permitting. Geauga County Park District will be conducting the burn with assistance from the Village's Service and Police Departments. The burn is designed to reduce/eliminate invasive species and improve the habitat.

If your child was in Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts and completed an Eagle or Gold award project in the Village, please provide the scout's name, date of project completion, description of the project, and any other pertinent information to mayor@southerussell.com. We would like to create a permanent plaque to be installed in Village Hall to recognize their contribution to the Village.

The repaving of Bell Road east from Chillicothe to the Newbury line has been postponed until 2026.

The Village and over fifty county organizations are involved in preparations for America's 250th birthday. Look for a diverse group of activities beginning on January 1st.

At a recent Special Council Meeting, thirteen ideas for trails in the Village were received. The ideas will be examined by the Village's engineering firm, Verdantas, and presented to Council in the summer. The purpose of the trails is to provide safe outdoor exercise areas for walkers, runners and bikers. The Village received a grant for \$800,000 to build the trails.

Council recently enacted another one-year moratorium ban on any requests for marijuana businesses in the Village.

Solar panels have been installed on the south side of the Police Department. The long-awaited restroom at the park will be installed this spring.

For the second consecutive year, Village Council continued the reduction of property taxes to compensate for the recent high tax appraisals that occurred in 2023.

MUNICIPAL TAX DEADLINE UPDATE

The tax deadline for individual Municipal income tax returns is 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. This form is available online through ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us as well as at South Russell Village Hall and on the homepage of the Village website, southerussell.com.



Need assistance with your South Russell Municipal Tax Return? Utilize CCA's "Prepare my Return" program by completing the "Taxpayer Assistance Form" online at ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us - Tax Forms. See the website for more information, forms, and electronic filing. CCA - Division of Taxation can also be reached for assistance at 216-664-2070 ext.6714.

Home Improvements



Residents are reminded that permits are required for many home projects. This includes, but is not limited to, additions, decks, fences, garages, patios, pools, porches, and sheds. Questions may be directed to the Building Department at (440) 338-1312 or building@southerussell.com.

South Russell Village Park Pavilion

The park pavilion is available to reserve for your family gatherings, reunions, birthday parties and more! To determine availability, first check the **Park Calendar** on southerussell.com and then download the Park Pavilion Rental Application 2025. Submit completed application with the nonrefundable deposit (\$50 for residents, \$100 for non-residents) to the Building Department to secure the reservation. Just as a reminder, the pavilion is open from dawn until dusk and there are no alcoholic beverages permitted in the park.



UPDATE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Pedestrian and Vehicle Roadway Safety

As warmer weather approaches, we will see more traffic on our roadways. In addition to the increased volume of cars and trucks, be prepared for those sharing the road with us who are less visible. Watch out for motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians exercising!

South Russell Police Department has invested in electronic speed boxes strategically placed throughout the Village in an effort to reduce vehicle speeds and increase safety for those who travel our streets. Additionally, a marked crosswalk on Bell Road at Alderwood Trail safely connecting our residents and visitors to our Village Park is expected to be completed in 2025.

If you observe any unsafe traffic activity, please notify our police department!



Cops and Kids Fishing Event Sunday, June 22, 2025 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. at Lake Louise



The Cops and Kids Fishing event this year will be Sunday, June 22nd at Lake Louise from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Attendees are welcome to park nearby on Ridgecrest Drive and Garden Park Drive.

Meet us at the pavilion to grab some complimentary bait. We'll also have a limited number of fishing poles available to be shared for those without one.



Keeping Your Neighborhoods Safer Preventing Stolen Vehicles

In recent years, the Village of South Russell and neighboring cities have seen an increase in vehicle thefts when the weather warms up. These thefts are typically crimes of opportunity that could have been prevented with safe practices. Car thieves often times come from outside of our area and take advantage of unsuspecting residents because of the generally safe community in which we live. South Russell Police Department *implores* its residents to help deter vehicle theft in our Village by practicing the following overnight safety habits:

1. Lock all car doors and make sure the windows are completely up.
2. Park all family-owned vehicles inside a secure garage, if able.
3. Never leave a spare vehicle key inside a locked or unlocked vehicle.
4. Remember to remove all valuable items from your vehicle. If you must keep a valuable item in your vehicle, remove it from plain view and consider placing it in a secure trunk out of sight.
5. Never leave a garage door opener inside a vehicle parked in the driveway.
6. Ask guests or visitors staying overnight at your residence to practice the same vehicle safety habits listed above.
7. Install motion-activated lighting in your driveway area.
8. Install home security camera systems – and ensure coverage of garage doors and driveways.

If you observe any suspicious activity overnight at your home or a neighbor's home, please contact South Russell Police Department immediately!



South Russell Village Cemetery



The South Russell Village Cemetery is located at 5230 Chillicothe Rd. Cemetery lots may be purchased by current and former residents. A map showing lot availability can be found on southrussell.com under the Cemetery tab. Pricing is as follows:

Full Size Lots

Village Resident: \$1,000
Former Resident: \$2,000

Cremation Lots

Village Resident: \$800
Former Resident: \$1,600

Scattering/Memorial Garden

\$350 ~\$450 (includes engraved paver)

For more information, please call 440-338-6700 ext. 222 or email adminassist@southrussell.com

Volunteers Needed!

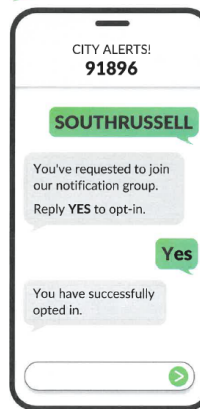
The Village is looking for volunteers to serve on the following boards and committees. More information can be found on the homepage of southrussell.com. Inquiries should be made to mayor@southrussell.com.

- **America's 250th**
- **Board of Building Code Appeals**
- **Architectural Review Board**
- **Planning Commission**
- **Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport**

Retired Flag Drop Off

The Village has a worn flag collection mailbox (painted with stars and stripes) located on the Village campus at the corner of the Service Department building. The flags collected throughout the year are gathered annually to be properly disposed of at a formal ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, 2025.

TextMyGov



Village of South Russell



Sign up to receive village text message notifications!

Opt in today,

Text: **SOUTHRUSSELL**

To: **91896**

What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to opt in.
- You may receive multiple text messages per month.
- You can text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification group.



View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions

Upcoming 2025 Village Council Meetings

April 14th & 28th at 7:00 p.m.

May 12th & 27th at 7:00 p.m.

June 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

Street Department

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

Police Department

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

Building Department

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



Village offices will be **CLOSED** in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2025.

Your Village Council at Work

- **Building Committee:** Chairperson Cavanagh, Council Member Porter
 - Issues in the Washington Street business district
 - Residential and business renovations/improvements
 - Upcoming software transition
 - Village campus projects (SRPD garage addition, salt structure)
 - Updating zoning code
- **Finance Committee:** Chairman Canton, Council Member Porter
 - Monthly financial reports review
 - Proposed funding requests to the state
 - Salt structure building update
 - Roadwork and infrastructure projects (Bell Rd. paving, gas line work)
 - Geauga County ADP IT support expense and value
 - Employee Gift Policy
 - Police Department solar project analysis
 - \$10,000 NOPEC Energized Community grant
- **Human Resources Committee:** Chairman Bell, Council Member Berger
 - Employee education and harassment training
 - Clarification of administrative supervisory roles
 - HR policies (Street Dept. peak season hours, Village vehicle use, employee recognition and travel/event attendance)
 - Employee evaluations and review process
 - NIMS training for elected officials
- **Properties Committee:** Chairman Cavanagh, Council Member Galicki
 - Analysis of Reserve Study for Village
 - Capital financial commitments (salt structure, park restroom, drainage for park parking lot, Police Dept. garage addition)
 - Northeast corner Village campus development (landscaping after salt structure completion)
 - Service garage improvements (doors, floor, pillars)
 - Village flag policy change
 - Future discussion: columbarium in South Russell Village Cemetery, Rarick Cemetery landscaping/headstone repair
- **Park Committee:** Council Representative Berger
 - Future discussions: Park burn, hike event, Eagle Scout project, Fall Festival
- **Public Utilities Committee:** Chairman Porter, Council Member Canton
 - Stormwater issues and projects
 - Screening request at Central Retention Basin
 - Hemlock Rd. Culvert replacement (potential bidding June 2025)
 - Stormwater mitigation in Hazelwood Dr. area (\$880,000 estimated cost)
 - Sugar Bush silt pond dredging discussions
- **Safety Committee:** Chairman Bell, Council Member Galicki
 - IT contract with Geauga County ADP for Police Dept.
 - Implementation of TextMyGov notification system
 - Fire contract renewal with Chagrin Valley Fire Dept. (CVFD)
 - Staffing issues
- **Streets Committee:** Chairperson Cavanagh, Council Member Galicki
 - Salt truck problems
 - Request for part-time employee to cover injured/vacationing employees
 - Staffing for Trash Day
 - Miscellaneous roadwork