

# Village of South Russell Newsletter

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### From the Mayor

#### Information Needed

If your child completed an Eagle Scout or Girl Scout 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@southrussell.com](mailto:mayor@southrussell.com). We are creating a permanent plaque to be installed in Village Hall to recognize his/her contribution to improving the Village.

#### South Russell Village Ice Cream Bike Ride

When: Date to be determined for August 2025 - details will be posted on [southrussell.com](http://southrussell.com).

Where: Meet at the South Russell Village Park and ride north on Alderwood Trail to Sorrelwood Lane and then return to the park for **free** ice cream. Helmets are required and walkers are welcome. Learn about the location of the proposed trails.



#### Trails Update

Thirteen ideas for walking/riding trails in the Village are being examined by the Village's engineering firm. The study will be presented to Council this summer. The purpose of the trails is to provide safe outdoor exercise areas for walkers, runners, and bikers. The Village received a grant for up to \$800,000 to build the trails with a 20% match from the Village.

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#### Upcoming 2025 Village Council Meetings

July 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

August 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

September 8 & 22, 2025 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 the 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).



# Summertime with South Russell Police Department

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## Cops and Kids Fishing

SRPD's marquee summer event is back! Cops and Kids Fishing will be held at Lake Louise, 33 Ridgecrest Dr., on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. Limited parking will be available on Ridgecrest Dr. and Gardenpark Dr. Show up on time to have a chance to win the First Fish Caught award. Bait is provided and we'll have extra fishing poles to share. Awards will be announced shortly after 11:00 a.m. when lunch is served, but feel free to keep on fishing! Giveaways and prizes will also be provided. See you there!



## Crosswalk Reminder

Summer is here and pedestrians will be using the new crosswalk on Bell Rd. and Alderwood Tr. to access the South Russell Village Park. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN** and observe the **crosswalk signal!** Likewise, pedestrians must be cautious when crossing. Safety is a two-way street!

## Introducing Kids' Day

Please join us for Kid's Day at the South Russell Police Department on Sunday, July 27th from 10am to 2pm. This open-house event will provide safe demonstrations of our drones, showcase our police cruisers, and display other police equipment. You'll find games, giveaways, and prizes throughout the campus, along with pizza and ice cream treats to keep us full and cool us down! Come join us and meet the officers who protect and serve our great community!



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# Save the Date and More

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## Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, October 5th from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in South Russell Village Park. Food Trucks and family entertainment are being planned. Please watch for details on the Village website at [southrussell.com](https://southrussell.com)

## Veterans Breakfast

The Village of South Russell will be holding a Veterans Breakfast this year on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Sleepy Rooster. Please R.S.V.P. to [mayor@southrussell.com](mailto:mayor@southrussell.com)



## Shredding Day

It's time to start bagging up all those old bank statements, bills, tax returns, etc. Shredding Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. It will take place on the Village Campus at the Service Garage.



## Projects Around the Village

Projects both big and small continue around the Village. The long awaited paving of Bell Rd. east will be delayed until next year due to NOACA funding.

In an effort to further address storm water issues, the Village sought and will be receiving funding to address the Hemlock Rd. culvert which affects residents in the Chagrin Heights area. This project is scheduled to go out to bid after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

On the Village campus, design-build bids have been received and reviewed for the salt dome replacement project. The Police Department garage project is nearly complete.

Council also approved funding for a tree replacement study to potentially plant screening around the Central Retention Basin and other campus locations, as well as a trail study to determine areas that would be conducive to establishing trails.

Last but not least, the South Russell Village Park finally has its very own restroom facility for all those who visit the playground, picnic at the pavilion, hike the park, etc.

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## Summer Storm Information

### Severe Weather and Storm Precautions

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Tornado warnings are issued by the National Weather Service Office. As severe weather develops this season, keep in mind that a tornado **watch** means the conditions are favorable and a **warning** means that a tornado is **imminent, occurring, or expected to develop**

If a tornado warning is issued in Geauga County, the Geauga County Sheriff's Office will activate our tornado siren. The siren is tested each Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and sounds for about 30 seconds. When there is a real alert, it will last 3 minutes.

Summer storms can produce high winds, lightning, and torrential rain resulting in yard and home damage and flooding. Although it may not be possible to completely avoid storm damage, there are precautions that may help mitigate the extent of it. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness recommends cutting down or trimming trees that may be in danger of falling onto your home. Additionally, clean/clear your drains and 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.

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.

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.

It is also recommended to consider surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to safeguard your home, appliances, and electronics.

Lastly, it is important to have a plan and to build an emergency kit for your home and vehicle.

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## **Your Council at Work**

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### **Building Committee**

- Tracking of occupancy permits
- Fire Prevention Officer duties
- Recent Board actions in business district
- Software transition for Building Department
- Free-range chicken policy discussion

### **Finance Committee**

- 2026 Tax Budget
- Salt structure design-build bids
- Transition to UAN state financial software
- Positive income tax trends and cash balance status
- Proposed hiring of a grant writer
- \$800,000 NOACA trails grant
- Long-term sewer projects and solar panel benefits
- Treasury Board appointment

### **Human Resources Committee**

- Hiring an additional Service Department employee
- CDL training funding and job description discussion
- Injured employee/FMLA issues
- Uniform policy
- Vehicle and employee recognition policies

### **Properties Committee**

- Clarification of committee responsibilities (e.g., Reserve Study)
- Financial commitments for park restroom and Village campus improvements
- Farmers' Market agreement
- Cemetery maintenance logistics
- Coordination with Parks Committee on park issues

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## **Your Council at Work (continued)**

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### **Park Committee**

- Restroom installation
- Eagle Scout projects: bat houses, observation platform, bocce ball court
- Fall Festival planning
- Rain garden adjustments
- Trail study
- E. Washington St. flag lighting issues

### **Public Utilities Committee**

- Pond monitoring agreement with Kensington Green
- Landscape planning
- Culvert and sewer line replacement projects
- EPA MS-4 report
- USGS well water monitoring upgrades
- Solar panel review
- Trail-related stormwater planning
- Gas line in stormwater pipe on E. Washington St.

### **Safety Committee**

- Dog Warden incident
- IT services
- Police staffing (full- and part-time officers)
- Drone vehicle garage
- Tornado siren
- Sign replacement
- Park signage (leash laws), proposed security camera
- Speed limit reduction on Chillicothe Rd.
- Crosswalk updates
- Drone donation
- Ohio Collaborative recertification

### **Streets Committee**

- Joint discussion with HR on staffing, injuries, and uniforms
- Road maintenance and drainage near park facilities
- Equipment replacement plans and truck use analysis
- Job roles for Street Maintenance Laborers (CDL optional)
- Salt structure bid review
- 2025 Road Program

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Village of  
South Russell



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**South Russell Village Cemetery**

South Russell Village Cemetery is located at 5230 Chillicothe Road. The Cemetery map and pricing for residents and former residents can be viewed on the Cemetery page at [southrussell.com](https://southrussell.com). For more information, call (440) 338-6700 ext. 222 or email [adminassist@southrussell.com](mailto:adminassist@southrussell.com).

**Village of South Russell Contact  
Numbers**



**Village Hall**

440-338-6700 ext. 221

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

**Street Department**

440 338-6700 ext. 236

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

**Village offices will be closed  
Friday, July 4, 2025 for Independence Day**

