

Village of South Russell Newsletter



In This Issue:
Fall Festival 2025
TextMyGov Geofencing
Shredding Day
Road Program
Building Department
Info
Police Department
News
and more!

From the Mayor

Thanks to all who made our first Ice Cream Bike Ride a success. Over 70 riders rode ½ mile and then enjoyed ice cream treats!

It was ten years ago, July 18, 2015, when then-Mayor Matt Brett opened the new cemetery on Chillicothe Road. Now 25% full, the Cemetery Committee of Cindy Nairn, Patty Mills, and Ed Pyle worked for seven years to make a dream become a reality. In August, the former committee and past and present Village officials celebrated the success of the cemetery.

The Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee continues to work with Council to achieve its goal of a 5' asphalt path on the north side of Bell Rd. from the Bell/Chillicothe intersection to Spring Drive in Country Estates. The path would be in the right-of-way separated from the road by a grass area.

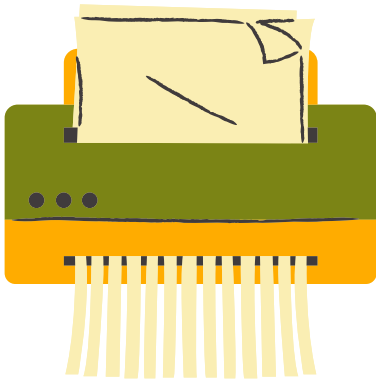
The Chagrin Valley Fire Department provides fire and EMT service for Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Township, Bentleyville, Hunting Valley, Moreland Hills and South Russell. This is a fine example of regionalism. Each community will see a 12% increase of contract cost each year for the next three years. Council will vote on this proposal in the fall.

Landscaping is being planned for the southeast corner of Bell and Chillicothe Roads. Your ideas and comments for what should be done with the property are welcome. Send them to

mayor@southrussell.com

Fall Festival 2025

The Village of South Russell will be hosting the annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the South Russell Village Park. As always, there will be family-friendly activities like bounce houses, face painting, petting zoo, a bubble performer, “touch a truck,” a variety of musical entertainment, and more! New this year there will be food trucks offering a variety of cuisine available for purchase. Trolley transportation will be provided to and from the parking lot of Gurney Elementary School. Volunteers are needed. If interested, please contact Ruth Cavanagh at rcavanagh@southrussell.com.



Shredding Event

The Village will be holding its annual shredding event on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Bag up those sensitive documents and head over to the Village campus to properly dispose of these materials. Please remove all metal including paper clips.

2025 Road Program

This year, Countryside Drive will be repaved as part of the 2025 Road Program in addition to base repairs around the Village. It is anticipated that the repaving will begin in September and take up to five weeks. Additionally, the Village hopes to have Reclamite (which helps extend the life of the pavement) applied to Woodside, Maple Springs, Chelsea, Southwyck, and possibly Countryside Drive, weather permitting. Questions about the Village’s Road Program may be directed to the Street Commissioner at streets@southrussell.com.



Save the Date!



H A L L O W E E N

This year, Trick-or-Treating will occur on Halloween, Friday, October 31st from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Village of South Russell.

Veterans’ Breakfast

The Veterans’ Breakfast will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Sleepy Rooster. Please RSVP to mayor@southrussell.com



TextMyGov NEWS

From the Building Department

If you have had work performed on your house within the past three years and would like the Village's copy of the plans, please contact the Building and Zoning Department by emailing us at building@southrussell.com, or calling 440-338-1312. The deadline for notifying us of your intent to pick up the plans is **October 15, 2025**. All residential construction or remodeling plans three years or older, and not picked up, will be destroyed by **November 15, 2025**.

Fall Leaves

The Village of South Russell does not offer curbside leaf collection service. If you see leaves at the edge of a 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.

Previously, eblasts were sent by the Village to relay time sensitive information to residents. Instead, the TextMyGov service is now being utilized to communicate important information. Many of you have opted in to TextMyGov, but in order to take advantage of the geofencing feature of the service, more information is needed from ***SOME*** residents. Geofencing allows the Village to send texts to specific neighborhoods and/or areas that may be impacted by power outages, downed trees, road closures, etc. A letter from the Village was sent to those homes that are not currently enrolled in geofencing. The letter provides the steps to sign up. If you are interested in receiving notifications and/or alerts for your specific neighborhood or uncertain as to whether you are already included, please follow the link: <https://southrussell.com/text> to register. Questions about this program may be directed to the Fiscal Officer, fiscalofficer@southrussell.com, or the Police Chief, policechief@southrussell.com.

Draining Pools

In past years, it has come to the attention of the Building Department that some pool owners drain their pools onto neighboring properties. This can result in issues and damage for these property owners. As the end of pool season approaches, it is respectfully requested that all pool owners take extra care to avoid this when draining some, or all, of their pool water. If a company performs this service for you, please instruct them accordingly. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Building Department at 440-338-1312 or building@southrussell.com



E-Bike Safety



The South Russell Police Department wants to encourage the safe use of electric bicycles and scooters by our residents traveling on our roadways! Electric bikes and scooters have become a more common means of getting around the neighborhoods or traveling longer distances within our Village limits - especially amongst kids! That being said, did you know that you must be **16 years of age** to legally ride a Class 3 E-Bike in the State of Ohio? Check the E-Bike status on the frame of your bike to make sure you're following the law! Additionally, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that children between the ages of 9 and 12 do not operate a vehicle that can travel over 10mph!

All e-bikes can reach speeds up to 20 mph, with Class 3 e-bikes able to reach 28 mph. Likewise, electric scooters typically operate between 15 mph and 25 mph. E-bikes and e-scooters leverage pedal-assist and hand throttle features to reach these speeds seamlessly with less physical effort, and sometimes we may not even realize how fast we're traveling while riding them. Riders should be aware of the correlation between higher speeds and an increased risk of injury in the event of an accident. So, it is important that we observe safe riding practices, including:

1. Wear your helmet - always!
2. Ride without headphones so you can hear traffic, pedestrians, and other riders around you.
3. Follow traffic laws when you are operating on the roadway!
4. Wear reflective clothing, especially in the early morning or after dark.
5. Be mindful of weather and roadway conditions, such as wet roadways, sun glare, sharp turns, or steep grades!

If you have any questions about bikes, scooters, or roadway safety please contact the South Russell Police Department at (440) 338-7611.

Upcoming 2025 Council Meetings

September 8th & 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

October 13th & 27th at 7:00 p.m.

November 10th & 24th at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to be added to the meeting agenda, contact 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

General Election – November 4, 2025

The General Election will take place on November 4, 2025. Voter registration deadline is October 6, 2025. The polls are open on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. and South Russell residents vote at Gurney School.

For the option of absentee voting, the registration deadline is seven days before election day. The absentee ballot must be received by the Board of Elections before 7:30 p.m. on November 4th to be counted. Election and voting information can be found at <https://www.boc.ohio.gov/geauga/>.

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



America will celebrate its 250th birthday during 2026.

Volunteer to help by emailing

rcavanagh@southrussell.com

or mayor@southrussell.com