



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~



From the Mayor:

Thanks to residents for their patience when the first snow storm of the year struck early in the morning. With two of our drivers out for medical issues, our remaining drivers did the best they could to achieve the standards we expect. If a blizzard would occur, we have arrangements with surrounding communities to help us.

Thanks to Chagrin Valley Fire Department Fire Marshal and Iraqi War veteran Jim Finley who spoke to the thirty-eight veterans who attended the third annual Veterans' Luncheon.

Thanks to all who helped with the distribution/cost of wreaths at the graves of the veterans buried in one of our two cemeteries as a part of the Wreaths Across America program. The Rarick Cemetery on Bell Road contains the remains of a veteran of the War of 1812.

Thanks to the Cats Den Garden Club for planting 1,000 daffodil bulbs at the SRV Cemetery on Chillicothe Road. Last year they planted 1,000 daffodil bulbs at the park.

Thanks to the Chagrin Falls Masonic Temple for donating a flagpole recently installed in the East Washington side of the South Russell Village Park.

A total solar eclipse will occur on Monday, April 8th, 3:13 p.m. Send your ideas on how residents can be part of the event to mayor@southrussell.com.

There will be a special Council meeting on Tuesday, January 9th, 7:00 p.m. to gather residents' comments about possible crosswalks, sidewalks, and paths. Crosswalks have been suggested from Sugar Bush to Gurney School, Alderwood Dr. to the park, and across East Washington St. by the restaurants. Sidewalks have been suggested for the Rolling Ridge neighborhood. A multi-purpose path is under consideration along Bell to improve access to the park from Chillicothe Rd. to Daisy Ln. A survey related to the original proposed crosswalk location at Bell Road at Sugarbush Lane can be accessed at www.southrussell.com/crosswalk.

At the Council meeting on November 29th, Council voted to suspend collection of one mill for one year from the 1.5 mill Roads and Bridges levy to softened the higher property taxes coming in 2024 as a result of the higher appraisal values of our homes. Instead of an "average" increase of \$140 on Village taxes, residents will see an increase of an "average" of \$23. Please remember the Village receives 10 cents from every tax dollar. County and school taxes make up the vast majority of residents' property taxes.

Homestead Exemption

The Homestead Exemption provides a tax credit on the first \$25,000 of market value of your home. In Geauga County, the credit will average approximately \$456 in Real Estate Tax savings per year. To qualify for the Homestead Credit, you must be 65 years of age by December 31, 2021, or older or permanently disabled, occupying your home as your primary residence, and meet the income requirement. To apply for the Homestead Exemption, fill out the application found at <https://auditor.geauga.oh.gov/real-estate/homestead-exemption> and mail to 231 Main St., Suite 1A, Chardon, OH 44024. The deadline for filing is December 31st annually. Question may be directed to (440) 285-2222 ext. 1614.



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.



Municipal Income Taxes

Municipal income tax returns for the Village of South Russell are due **April 15, 2024**. 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 2023, 90% of the tax due must be paid by **January 15, 2024** to avoid penalty and interest (subject to municipal ordinance).



Centennial Wrap Up



Our Centennial South Russell year winds down.

There were changes during my Dad's lifetime here, 1920-1972; great road improvement, the subdivisions of Bellwood, Lake Louise, Bel Meadow, Rolling Ridge and Maple Hill. Between 1950-1960 the population quadrupled from 349 to 1,276. It was still probable to drive Bell Rd. in the evening and only pass one or two cars. Dad wouldn't believe the changes in the last half-century....

In 1970 the traffic light was installed at Rt. 306 and Bell Rd., necessitating Rt. 306 travelers to stop for the first time. For months afterward, folks still stopped at the Bell Rd. approach to 306, accustomed to the STOP sign, and not the traffic light.

From my perch at the school bus window 1958-1970, I took in sights that remain in memory.

1966--Frank Book farm, 1101 Bell Rd, requisitioned by 'condemnation' by the CF Board of Ed. to build Gurney School., the remainder to Fox Run subdivision, c. 1994.

1970--Homes fronting Sun Ridge Lane begun; subdivision, 1981.

c. 1979--Strip mall shops, Bank built near Southwest corner of Rt. 306 and Bell Rd.

1979--Horn's Flying School and Airport closed and sold, a calamity of skyrocketing fuel prices.

Subsequently followed by Kensington Green subdivision, 1985.

1980--Rickelman farm, 5084 Chillicothe, became Manor Brook condos, Whitetail subdivision.

1990--Roy Matthews farm, 1508 Bell Rd.(Green/Rarick) sold, Bramble Farms subdivision followed.

1999--The Kingswood Gun Club (target shooting) sold, Ashleigh subdivision developed.

c. 2017--Old Ozell McLaughlin farmstead, 5277 Chillicothe Rd., became the Chagrin Valley Lantern, preserving the barn and stately old home.

Ruth Cavanagh





House Watch Program

As South Russell Village has welcomed many new residents in recent years, we wanted to highlight the Vacation Watch program provided by the police department.



For a quick holiday getaway or an extended trip, residents can register their houses on our Vacation Watch program by visiting southrussell.com. A link to registering your home is located on the homepage under Police Services. You will be redirected to our Frontline homepage. Select "Submit Now" under Vacation Watch to create an entry. This entry can include details to help officers checking the property, such as identifying whether there are alarm systems, pets, and vehicles that will be present at the home during the time away. Additionally, homeowners can note whether any contract work will be done during their absence and provide contact information for people who may be at the property.

The service includes physical checks of the property to ensure your home is secured and spotlights to confirm your home has been undisturbed. Residents are notified via email after each check is conducted to help reinforce a peace of mind while your family is away from South Russell for business or pleasure. After your return, you will receive a complete report of the house checks from Lieutenant Todd Pocek.

On behalf of Chief Michael Rizzo and the entire South Russell Police Department, we wish a safe and happy holiday season to our residents!

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: Steve Latkovic, Elisa Budoff, Jim Flaiz, Mark Porter, Mayor Koons, and alternates Greg Bruhn, Brad Fink, and Phyllis Marino.

Zoning Board of 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 alternate Lindsey Self.

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 Cavanagh.

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 of the Village's website at www.southrussell.com

WISHING YOU PEACE AND HAPPINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALWAYS!
WE SEND BEST WISHES TO OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES
FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS
2024





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

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
South Russell
Ohio 44022
Permit #202

Upcoming 2024 Village Council Meetings

January 8th and 22nd at 7:00 p.m.
February 12th and 26th at 7:00 p.m.
March 11th and 25th at 7:00 p.m.
April 8th and 22th 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, and links to the Village YouTube channel can be found on the homepage of southrussell.com

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

2023-2024 Village Business Hours and Holiday Schedule

Village Hall

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

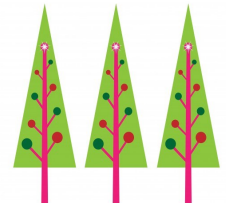
Building Department

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, 2023/New Years, January 1, 2024

Martin Luther King Day, January 15, 2023

Presidents' Day, February 19, 2024

South Russell Village Contact Information

Village Hall

440-338-6700 ext. 221

fiscalofficer@southrussell.com

Police Department

440-338-7611 (non-emergency)

police@southrussell.com

Building Department

440-338-6700 ext 233

building@southrussell.com

Service Department

440-338-6700 ext. 236

streets@southrussell.com





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.

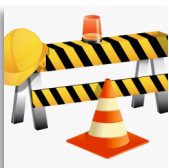
On the retirement of Darrell Johnson in 2019, Tim was appointed Interim Street Commissioner and ultimately as Street Commissioner in 2020. One of his main goals in the position was to replace the older equipment in the department like a backhoe from 1974 and a 1988 International plow truck. As Street 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!



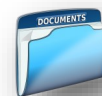
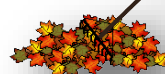
Welcome to the New Street Commissioner

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.)

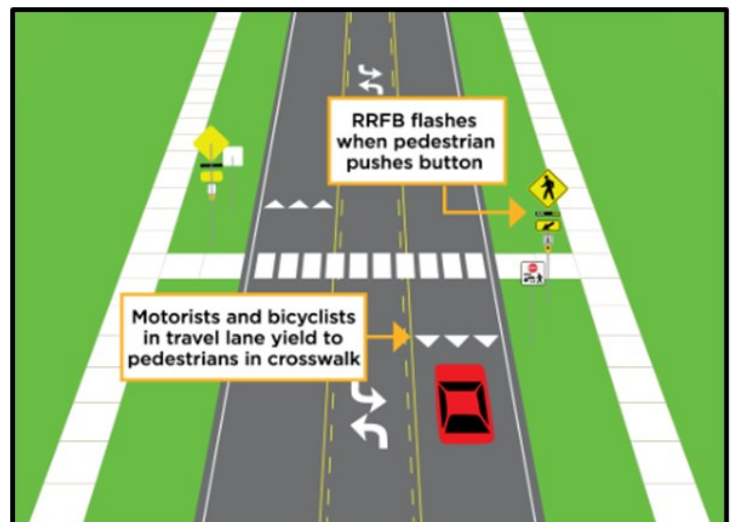
As always, we ask our residents and visitors to exercise good judgment and safe street crossing practices while using the crosswalk. Here are some tips as a reminder:

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!



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~

Spring 2024



Village Wide Yard Sale

April 20, 2024
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Clean out the closets, basement, and garage! Saturday, April 20th 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 24, 2024



EAST END OF VILLAGE
APRIL 25, 2024



PLEASE NOTE:

- Seniors, 60 years of age or older and living in the Village of South Russell **AND**
- Seniors must be **REGISTERED** with the **Geauga County Department on Aging for 2024 by April 17, 2024**. To register call (440) 279-2130. If you are already registered, simply call (440) 279-2130 by April 17th **to be placed on the pick-up list**.

GUIDELINES:

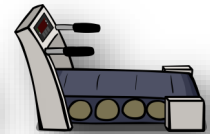
- NO** liquids, paints, hazardous household chemicals, construction debris, rocks, yard waste, or household garbage.
- Mattresses and upholstered furniture must be wrapped in plastic and taped securely to prevent possible bed bug transfer.
- ONLY** 10 household items per home.
- Limit of 4 tires (off rims) permitted as well as appliances, electronics, etc.
- Items should be consolidated (in boxes), **and placed outside in the driveway (NOT Curbside)**.

Village of South Russell

SPRING TRASH DAY

April 27, 2024
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Proof of Residency
REQUIRED



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!**

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

Projects for 2024

The Village is researching the removal and replacement of our present salt dome and a possible solar panel array.

The park received additional drainage to remove water that flowed between the parking lot and the playground. Behind the playground we will install a wetlands to capture water flowing down the hill. Eagle Scout candidate Jack Overman will be installing a kiosk about the Interurban Railway that runs through the middle of the park. On the East Washington side of the park we installed a solar-lighted flagpole, a gift from the Chagrin Falls Mason Temple, in honor of member David Toole. This summer will see a bench, plaque and brick walkway to complete the project.

Rarick Cemetery will receive much-needed landscaping and a railing along the steps from Bell Road.

Safety enhancement projects being discussed in 2024 are crosswalks across Bell Road at Gurney School and from Alderwood to the park. Paths and sidewalks continue to be discussed but there will be no construction in 2024.

The Veterans event on Monday, November 11th at The Sleepy Rooster will be a breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

If you have not already done so, please sign up for the Village's eblasts from the homepage of southrussell.com. Emails sent by eblast keep residents informed on happenings in the Village.

MUNICIPAL TAX DEADLINE UPDATE

The tax deadline for individual Municipal income tax returns is April 15, 2024. 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, southrussell.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.



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@southrussell.com.

Save the Date

SRPD Wheels & Shields Touch a Truck - 7-14-2024, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Shredding Day - 11-2-2024, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Veterans Breakfast - 11-11-2024, 9:00 a.m.

Harvest for Hunger

March is Harvest for Hunger month, and the Chagrin Valley Fire Department has distributed donation boxes to many municipal buildings, including South Russell Village Hall.

Please consider donating some pantry staples to this collaborative effort to help address area wide food insecurity!





UPDATE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vacation Watch Program Spring and Summer Break



If your family is planning to take a brief trip or extended stay out of town for spring break or over the summer, South Russell Police Department encourages you to register your home with our Vacation Watch Program. The program features a combination of property walks, exterior door checks, and overnight drive-bys by South Russell police officers to make sure your home is undisturbed during your time away.

Registrants receive email notifications each time an officer checks on their home and a complete summary upon their return.

Residents can note in the “Comments” section if other people, like cleaners, contractors, or pet sitters will be visiting the home while they are out of town.

In the event something irregular is discovered, our officers will contact you or your emergency contacts directly.

Please allow us to help enhance your peace of mind about your home while you and your family are away. We'll see you when you get home!

Rules Regarding Door-to-Door Soliciting

No
Soliciting



With an increase in door-to-door soliciting over the past few years, SRPD has seen an upsurge in resident complaints. From a legal standpoint, the US Supreme Court ruled that door-to-door soliciting is a freedom of speech issue, and therefore is legal. While this is the case, there are some limitations placed on the solicitors, to include the Ohio's Home Solicitation Sales Act of 2021 which provides the following consumer protection:

- In door-to-door sales of \$25 or more, sellers must give consumers three days to cancel.
- The seller must provide a written agreement and written cancellation notice.
- The seller may not begin services until after the three-day cancellation period ends.
- If the consumer cancels, the seller must provide a refund within 10 days.

Other ways for residents to protect themselves include posting “No Soliciting” signs on their property. However, this cannot be posted for an entire village, subdivision, or street, and can only be done individually by each resident on his/her own property.

Although it is not required, the Village encourages solicitors to get a permit through the Police Department. Solicitors who have taken this step will have a lanyard displaying the permit.

Cops and Kids Fishing Event Sunday, June 2, 2024 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. at Lake Louise

Our marquee Cops and Kids Fishing event this year will be Sunday, June 2nd at Lake Louise!

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.

To beat the heat, we've shortened the time of this event to 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. The first youth to join us are best positioned to win awards like First Fish Caught and Biggest Fish! Come on out and drop a line in the water! Attendees are welcome to park nearby on Ridgecrest Drive and Garden Park Drive.



Bike Rodeo Event Sunday, June 30, 2024 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. South Russell Police Department

Just like our Cops and Kids Fishing event, we're hoping to have fun before the summer sun gets too hot! Starting at 9:30 a.m. sharp, our youth will take part in a bike safety checklist and go over the rules of the road. Friendly competitions and skills courses will be set up to keep riders engaged. Please bring your own bicycle or tricycle. **HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!**

The rodeo ends at 11:30 a.m. Riders and their families are welcome to stay after for pizza and frozen treats!

Attendees are asked to park in the lot near Village Hall. Get ready to ride!





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

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
South Russell
Ohio 44022
Permit #202

Upcoming 2024 Village Council Meetings

March 11th & 25th at 7:00 p.m.

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

May 13th & 28th at 7:00 p.m.

June 10th at 7:00 p.m.

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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



SIGN UP FOR EBLASTS



Sign up to receive **Eblasts** with important time sensitive information! Use this QR Code or the link on the homepage of southrussell.com.

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, 2024.

Village offices will be **CLOSED** in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, 2024.



Village of South Russell

~Newsletter~



Link to Virtual Newsletter

Summer 2024 Edition

Newsletter Transition to Virtual **ONLY**



Due to new USPS policies, the Village will no longer be able to use the discounted bulk postage rate system to mail out the quarterly newsletters to residents. Unfortunately, the alternative of sending it out with the full postage rate would be prohibitive. **Therefore, it will be necessary going forward to publish the newsletter virtually.** It will be posted on the Village website, southrussell.com, and 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. As you know, the newsletter contains important information about upcoming events and Village news. Please consider signing up for the eblasts! This can be done from the homepage of southrussell.com, which can also be accessed with the QR code to the right. If you would rather have a hard copy of the newsletter, a limited number will be available for pickup at Village Hall.



[Eblast Sign Up](#)






JOB POSTING

The Village of South Russell is seeking professional, experienced, qualified applicants for the position of **FULL-TIME STREET COMMISSIONER**

The Street Commissioner is responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of crews and staffing, maintenance and repairs, project assignments; scheduling and coordination of projects; managing department personnel, recommending discipline, and evaluating performance. The Street Commissioner performs property maintenance; reviews and inspects work of employees assuring compliance with accepted standards and codes; schedules work with outside contractors and ensures maintenance of all equipment repairs. CDL-Class B is required. Administrative responsibilities include preparing the department's annual budget requests, making recommendations on staffing levels, purchasing materials and tracking expenses, maintaining adequate inventories and preparing purchase order requests. This position communicates and works with the Mayor, Council, and/or department heads.

For consideration, qualified candidates can submit their resume and application by **June 30, 2024**, to: fiscalofficer@southrussell.com

SAVE THE DATE (Event Details Inside This Issue)

- SRPD Bike Rodeo: Sunday, June 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 
- SRPD Wheels & Shields Touch a Truck: Sunday, July 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - noon 
- Fall Festival: Sunday, September 29, 2024, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Rain date - October 6th) 
- Shredding Day: Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - noon 
- Veterans Breakfast: Monday, November 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m. at the Sleepy Rooster. 



The Parks Committee is busy planning the 2024 Fall Festival, which will take place on **Sunday, September 29th** from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. with a rain date of October 6th. Please watch for details on the Village website at southrussell.com and through ebblast.

Shredding Day

Fun Fact: What are the two most frequently asked questions called into the Village's Admin office?
Answer: When are Trash and Shredding Days? Unfortunately for those who missed it, Trash Day was April 27th. However, Shredding Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until noon! Start gathering those sensitive documents and we will see you at Shredding Day at the Service Garage on the Village campus.



Attention Veterans!

The Village of South Russell will hold a Veterans Breakfast this year on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Sleepy Rooster. Staff Sergeant Maggie Carpenter, Ohio Army National Guard, will be the guest speaker. Please R.S.V.P. to mayor@southrussell.com

Projects Around the Village

The 2024 Road Program will consist of the repaving of Southwyck Dr. over the summer. Residents of Southwyck Dr. who are interested in replacing their driveway culverts prior to the paving of the road should contact the Streets Department at streets@southrussell.com or 440-338-6700 ext. 236.

The Village will have to replace its salt dome imminently, and plans are underway to go out to bid for the design and building of the structure.

Additionally, the Public Utilities Committee has recommended the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Police Department in an effort to reduce Village energy expenses.

Last, the installation of handrails are planned for the steps up to the historic Rarick Cemetery on Bell Rd.

South Russell Village Park Updates

Reserve the Pavilion

Consider renting the South Russell Park pavilion for your next Homeowners' Association picnic, graduation party, birthday party, or class reunion! See the Parks page at southrussell.com for information and instructions.



New Alcohol Policy South Russell Village Park Pavilion

At the May 13th meeting, Council discussed prohibiting alcohol at the South Russell Village Park pavilion **effective January 1, 2025**. The matter is pending the passage of legislation, but the catalyst for the proposed change pertains to the Village's insurance coverage. Alcohol consumption is already prohibited in the remainder of the park.



Park Burn

A burn is being considered in the South Russell Village park. It will be similar to the type conducted by the Geauga Park District in Frohring Meadows Park. The park will be divided into five or six sections with only part of the park being burned each year. The purpose of the burn is to remove invasive plants that have established themselves in the park.



Miscellaneous Park News

The park received additional drainage to remove water that flowed between the parking lot and playground. The area behind the playground will have another wetland established to catch, hold, and clean water that flows down the hill towards Bell Rd.

Discussions and exploration continue for a permanent restroom at the park.



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



News from the South Russell Police Department

Cops and Kids Fishing Event Recap

The South Russell Police Department 2024 Summer Community Events are off to a great start! On Sunday, June 2nd from 9am-11am, local families surrounded the banks of Lake Louise to drop some lines in the water. An overcast day with light rain and a mid 60s temperature made for a perfect day for the annual Cops and Kids Fishing program. Siblings Poppy and Owen captured 2 of the 3 signature awards with Poppy hooking the First Fish Caught of the day, and Owen hauling in the Biggest Fish Caught - a 17" bass! Another participant, Levi, reeled in a 12" catfish, earning him the Most Unusual Catch trophy. Donuts and sandwiches were provided to the junior anglers throughout the event so everyone felt like a winner.

Special thanks to the Lake Louise Homeowners Association for supporting us in this amazing annual event!



Wheels and Shields Touch a Truck Event Sunday, July 14, 2024, 9am to 1pm

South Russell Police Department will be hosting its first Touch a Truck event, *Wheels and Shields*, on Sunday, July 14th. We will be featuring TONS of cool emergency and service vehicles from around the area, including SRPD's brand new Aviation Unit vehicle! Come get an up close and personal look at the vehicles used to provide essential services to our community and meet the people who operate them! All are welcome.



Bike Rodeo - Sunday, June 30th

Kids of all ages and skill levels are invited to the South Russell Police Department for the annual Bike Rodeo. Riders will receive safety tips, experience skills courses, and participate in some friendly games of competition! More important than anything is having some fun. Come hang out with our officers and make some new friends!

Make sure your riders are checked-in by 9am to receive our group safety briefing. Following the event, there will be pizza and ice cream treats to replenish the energy lost from a full morning of riding! The event ends at 11:00 a.m.



To register, use the QR code or log on to southrussell.com/bike-rodeo/



Summertime Safety



School is out! With college students returning and K-12s spending more time at home, expect to see increased play and vehicle activity on neighborhood streets!

Please look out for children playing in the street and be mindful of local speed limits and traffic control devices. We want all families of the Village of South Russell to have a fun and safe summer!

Nationwide, summer months traditionally lead to an increase in property crimes, such as theft. To protect yourself from being a victim, make sure to **keep your car doors locked and homes secured**. Remove any valuable items from plain view in your vehicles and secure them in the trunk or bring them inside. Our police officers will be patrolling Village streets after dark with the well-known **blue cruise lights** to let our residents know we are providing watch and making any would-be criminals aware of our presence.

Yard Maintenance



Summer and the growing season are here! Section 678.01(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Russell requires that residents keep property free and clear from all noxious weeds and rank vegetation and, where a grass lawn exists, keep the average height of the grasses of said lawn to no greater than eight inches at all times. When there is a violation, the Village notifies the resident via mail and if the grass is not cut, a landscaper is hired to mow and the cost goes on the resident's tax bill. Violations may be reported to the Building Department, (440) 338-6700 ext. 233.

Thank you for helping to keep the Village beautiful!



Crosswalks

Based on resident input, Council has explored the installation of crosswalks across Bell Rd. at Alderwood Dr. to the South Russell Village Park and another at Gurney Elementary School. Depending on budgetary needs of the Village, the Safety Committee has recommended starting with the creation of the crosswalk near the park this year. Although residents are eager to see the crosswalks implemented, Council has given this matter considerable thought, particularly with regard to pedestrian safety and the need for public education so as not to facilitate a false sense of security for individuals using the crosswalk.



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

Village Council Meetings

Upcoming Village Council meetings:

July 8th at 7:00 p.m.

August 12th at 7:00 p.m.

September 9th and 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

October 14th and 28th 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

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Street Department

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streets@southrussell.com



**Village offices will be
CLOSED Thursday,
July 4, 2024 for
Independence 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!