

THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH RUSSELL NEWSLETTER

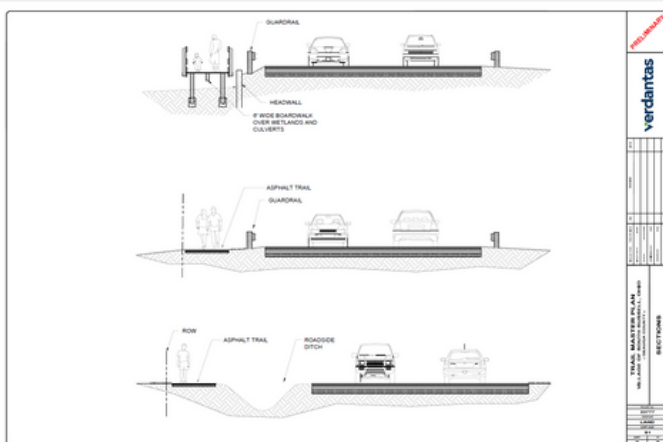


From the Mayor

Bell Road Path Updates

A year ago, Council approved the creation of an ad hoc committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport in order to evaluate and plan for safe bicycle and pedestrian transport through community engagement, safety education, and infrastructure improvements. A survey last winter indicated that paths along Bell Road were supported by many South Russell households. In response, Verdantas Engineering was asked to design and give an estimate of the cost for a five-foot asphalt path along Bell Road from Spring Drive to Chillicothe Road. The Verdantas report is now available on our website.

Although there has been no decision to build a path, the drawing below shows how a proposed path might be built to separate path users from the traffic on Bell Rd. and also shows how certain areas might have a ditch/green space separating path users from traffic while other areas might have a guardrail or a boardwalk.



Council Meeting Day Changes for 2026

The Village will begin holding its Regular Council meetings on the first and third Monday of each month except for June, July, August, and December when meetings will only be on the third Monday of each month. When meetings fall on a federal holiday, they may be rescheduled. Meeting dates can be found on the calendar on 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 2026



From the Village Departments



Reminder from the Police Department

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.

Snowplow Etiquette



With the blustery fall/winter weather Ohio has experienced thus far, snow plowing has been a challenge. However, there are some ways to help keep everyone safe and allow the Service Department staff to do their jobs. First, be aware of blind spots. The plow driver's field of vision is limited. If you cannot see the plow's side mirrors, the driver cannot see you. Stay two to three car lengths behind the plow. Snowplows drive below the posted speed limit. Please be patient and do not try to pass. Additionally, watch for sudden stops or turns and be mindful that the plows need room to work, which may include crossing the center line or the shoulder.

Don't Forget the Final Inspections!

When having work performed by contractors, residents are encouraged to ensure that a final inspection has been performed by the Village Building Official upon completion of the project. This is necessary in order to confirm that the work has been done in a satisfactory manner and is compliant with current codes. Some projects have construction deposits held by the Village until all permits have been closed. If there are any questions, please call the Building Department (440-338-1312) to verify that all permits have been inspected and closed.



Municipal Income Taxes

Municipal income tax returns for the Village of South Russell are due April 15, 2026. 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 2025, 90% of the tax due must be paid by January 15, 2026**, to avoid penalty and interest (subject to municipal ordinance).

Projects Around the Village

A significant building project planned for 2025 was the replacement of the Village's failing salt dome. The design-bid-build project was awarded and currently is at the design stage. The project will continue in 2026. The Village also planned to address flooding in the Chagrin Heights neighborhood through a culvert replacement on Hemlock Rd. This \$97,650 project will receive \$46,200 funding by OPWC. It is expected to be completed by the end of February 2026. To further address stormwater management in this area, the Village applied for an OPWC grant and loan money to tackle a large storm sewer and paving project on Hazelwood Dr. This project is slated for 2026-2027. Lastly, the eastern side of Bell Rd. was expected to be repaved in 2025 but has been postponed to 2026. It, too, will be partially funded by grants from OPWC as well as NOACA.

Another Village project this year was the planning and implementation of holiday lights and decorations on the Village campus. It was a truly collaborative process by the Properties Committee, residents, and Village employees to bring the joy of the season to all!



America will celebrate its 250th birthday on July 4th. All across the country events to mark Independence Day will be held throughout the entire year. South Russell will begin its 250th yearlong celebration with a raising of the 250th flag later this winter. If you would like to be a part of the planning process, submit your ideas to **mayor@southrussell.com** or attend a planning meeting on Tuesday, January 20th at 9 a.m. at Village Hall.

2025-2026 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, 2025; New Years, January 1, 2026; Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19, 2026; Presidents' Day, February 16, 2026



OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE...

Each year, the Village receives calls from residents regarding disposal of Christmas trees after the holidays. Typically, it is up to the individual resident to check with his/her garbage hauler to determine if the hauler will accept Christmas trees. In the event the garbage hauler will not take the tree, an option is to contact local landscaping businesses and/or garden centers to see if they will take them (for mulching). Unfortunately, the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District will not accept trees. For a fee, some junk removal services will pick up both real and artificial trees for disposal.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, cut Christmas trees can serve as an animal habitat if you happen to have a wooded area on your property. Additionally, tree recycling/mulching programs are beneficial in that the mulch can be used on playgrounds, hiking trails, gardens, for lake and river shoreline stabilization, fish habitat, and sediment management.



Upcoming 2026 Village Council Meetings

The meeting date, time, agenda, location, and links to the Village YouTube channel can be found on the homepage of southrussell.com. 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.