



South Russell Village NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

www.SouthRussell.com

August 2005

Mayor's Message . . .

Next Village Public Forum Session Set for August 31st

In an effort to ensure that the village has properly mapped out future development, South Russell has taken on two monumental tasks this year. We are approximately half way through both the comprehensive plan along with the master use study. The comprehensive plan proactively reviews the village's zoning code to ensure that it is strong, defensible, up-to-date, and in line with what we want to see as residents. This process has been compared to the process of an annual audit of a company's business financials. The master use study is a process of identifying all of the village owned properties, identifying a property's unique characteristics, and identifying potential uses and applications for each piece of property.

The end result for the comprehensive plan will be the documentation and background of our zoning code, along with recommendations from the planner for updates to the zoning code. With the submission of the recommendations, both Council and the Planning Commission will review and potentially look to adopt the various recommendations.

The end result for the master use study will be to have a general plan for the properties controlled by the village. The process for developing this plan has been to review previously identified initiatives, gather new ideas, review for best fit and application, and

ultimately build consensus between residents and elected officials. The general consensus from the first public session held on June 15th was to leave the recently acquired 87 acre farm for passive applications, primarily walking trails. The other applications that seemed to have support were for a cemetery, general ball fields/open fields for multiple uses, and other semi-passive recreational use for the properties to the south of Village Hall on either side of Chillicothe Road.

While we had a great turn out at the first public session on June 15th, we are encouraging residents to attend the second session on August

31st at 6:30 PM at Gurney Elementary School at 1155 Bell St. A critical part of this process is resident participation. While the village officials constantly work to ensure that we are following the desires of our residents, due to long range planning implications it is more important then ever to get a broad perspective of views from our residents.

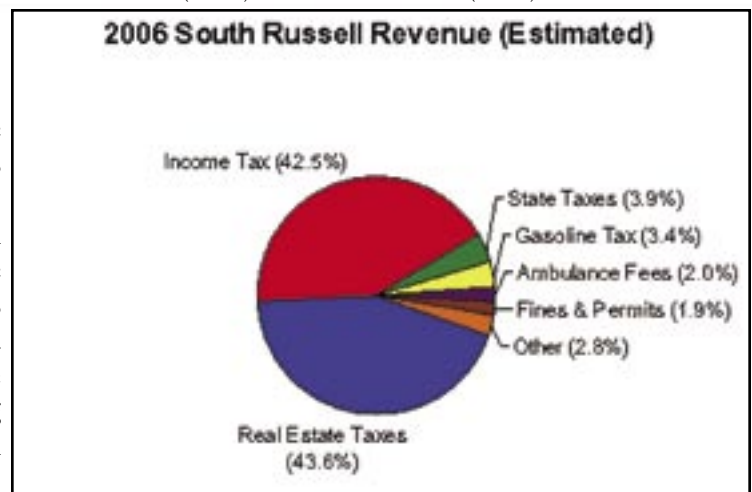
Please feel free to contact me at Village Hall if you have any questions about this process or meeting. (440) 338-7843.

We look forward to seeing you on August 31st.

Mayor Matthew E. Brett

2006 Budget

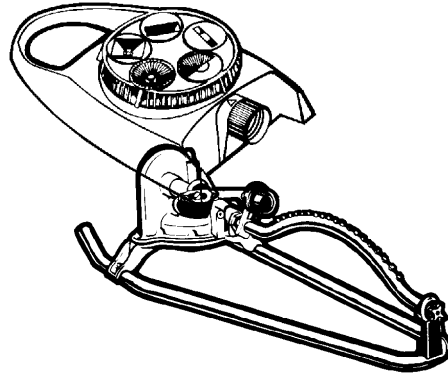
Although the 2006 South Russell Budget has not been finalized, Village officials expect revenues to offset operating expenses in 2006. Total projected 2006 revenue for the village will be just over \$2.7 million. The majority of revenue will come from real estate taxes (44%) and income taxes (43%). Other sources of revenue include: state taxes, gasoline taxes, ambulance fees, and fines and permits. A breakdown of Village expenditures will be provided after the entire budgeting process has been completed.



Watering Restrictions

Fortunately, the heat waves this summer have been interrupted a bit by some much needed rain. When the temperatures heat up everyone looks to their browning grass and wilting plants and the first impulse is to turn on the sprinklers.

Since 1989 South Russell Village, like many other communities in the area, has had a specific ordinance regarding the watering of lawns and the use of automatic sprinkler systems mainly due to the fact that the majority of



our residents use wells as their primary water source. As you can imagine, unlimited long term use

of water for sprinkling could cause significant problems for all of our residents over the long term if it is not managed properly. Therefore, South Russell has an ordinance on the books to help limit the use of sprinklers in order to conserve our water resources. The South Russell ordinance states the following: “Persons may, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. only, water any lawns, gardens, trees or shrubs by any method, including automatic devices. Watering at other times is prohibited.”

What this means is that you are permitted to water your lawns, gardens, etc. from 6 p.m. in the evening until 9 a.m. in the morning. Not only does this help conserve our water supply but it just makes good common sense. Most experts agree that much of the water sprinkled during the heat of day is lost to evaporation. Experts say that watering in the early morning or late evening is most effective. Here are some effective watering tips:

- Water only when lawns or plants show signs of needing water
- Watering in the early morning is the most effective time
- Water slowly so that most of the water is absorbed – no runoff
- Watering too frequently and lightly can actually damage grass root systems
- Use sprinklers that produce drops of water, don't water with a fine mist spray
- Don't cut the grass too short, this can actually burn out the grass
- Don't fertilize too heavily during the heat, this too can burn out the grass

Good luck!

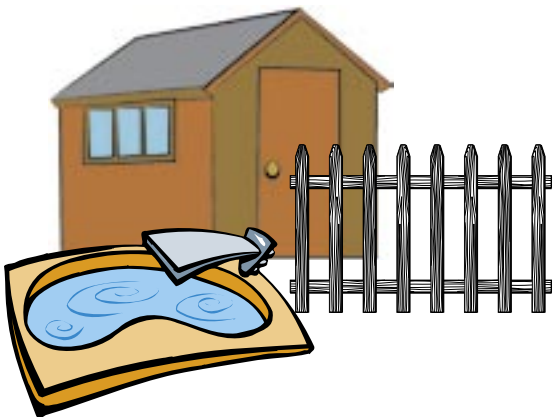
Accessory Structures

Now that summer is well under way and everybody has cleaned their garage, it's time to consider where to put all of that out-of-season winter equipment. And, this winter, where will you store that patio set? We are often asked about putting up gardening or storage sheds. The South Russell Zoning Code defines an accessory structure as a “subordinate building detached from, but located on the same lot as the main structure, the use of which is customarily incidental to that of the main structure or use.” Sheds, swimming pools, and fences are all considered accessory structures. Yes, you will need a zoning permit and a building

permit, and yes, there are a few restrictions. If the proposed shed is under 200 square feet, however, there are no fees for the permits. The maximum height permitted is fifteen feet and the size is limited to 500 square feet per acre of land (combined for all accessory structures). In other words, if your lot is 2 acres, you are permitted to have a shed as large as 1000 square feet if you have no other accessory structures.

If the shed you are proposing does not meet these restrictions, you would have the option of applying for a variance. There are also setback restrictions as to side and rear property lines, and accessory structures are not permitted in the front yard. Also, if electricity is being run to the shed, an additional permit is required.

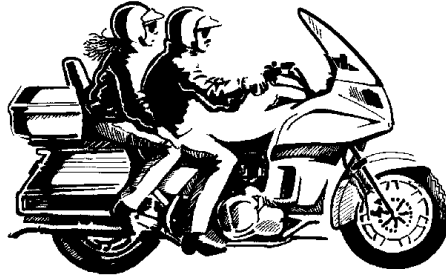
An application for the zoning permit is available at www.southerussell.com, or you can pick up a copy in our office. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 440-338-1312.



So What Are The Rules For Motorcycles?

It has been a great summer so far. With all of this wonderful weather, kids want to spend as much time as possible outside doing all sorts of things.

With the sudden increase in popularity of miniature motorcycles and other types of motorized bikes



passengers, other vehicle operators and pedestrians. In addition, they are just good common sense. Please advise your children of these laws and help us keep all of our kids safe.

Summer Vacation Is Over Schools Open August 24



As summer comes to a close soon, driver attention should be redirected from children riding their bikes and playing ball to walking to the street corner to catch the school bus to return home.

Many bus routes only pick up and drop off students at intersections rather than traveling the entire side streets with multiple stops. Drivers should be aware of intersection bus stops. Students awaiting the bus and parents who shuttle children by vehicle to the stop should keep the intersection clear for traffic. Through traffic including larger vehicles (such as for garbage collection) must be able to clear the intersection freely.

Please pay special attention at these bus stops. Awareness and slower driving practices will prevent an incident before it happens. **DRIVE SAFELY!**

there have been many questions regarding the safe and legal operation of these vehicles, especially by children. The laws are as follows;

1. No motorized vehicle may be operated on any public roadway without displaying the proper license plate, issued by the State and bearing the appropriate County identification sticker.
2. Any individual operating a motorized vehicle on any public roadway must have a valid and current operator's license issued by the State.
3. Any "novice" operator of a motorcycle (in the 1st year of issuance of their motorcycle endorsement) **MUST** wear a helmet. Additionally "novice" operators may not ride at night, may not carry a passenger and may not ride on the freeway.
4. Any juvenile (under the age of 18), whether an operator or a passenger, on a motorcycle must wear a helmet.

These laws are designed to protect the motorcycle operators,



Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market

The Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market will hold its annual tomato tasting contest from 10:00 a.m. to Noon on September 3. Come and join in the fun. The market is open Saturdays, rain or shine, from 9:00-1:00 p.m. in the South Russell Village parking lot at Rt. 306 and Bell St. through September. The purpose of the Market is to provide local farmers with a means to sell their produce and other products directly to consumers, and to afford residents the opportunity to meet friends and buy the freshest seasonal produce. The Market features seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh flowers, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, jams, herbs, cheese, crafts, soaps, and a variety of other locally hand-made products. The Village is looking for volunteers to help with parking, traffic, and special events. Those interested should call the Village, 440-338-7843 or Joyce and Greg Studen, 440-338-1325. Stop on September 3 to join in the annual tomato tasting contest.

The Benefits of Working Together

In the village, we continually look for new ways to improve our methods and programs. We look for these improvements through a number of different avenues. One of these avenues is being a part of the Chagrin Valley Inter-Governmental Council. This Council is made up of mayors, trustees, and county commissioners from the Chagrin valley. This council meets quarterly to discuss pressing issues, common interests, and potential group projects or initiatives that will bring value or savings to residents.



One of the benefits of being involved with this group is simply the sharing of information. Typically, each of the individual communities face the same or similar challenges or issues. Sharing or understanding how one community has addressed an issue can drastically save time and money, along with providing valuable insight on other aspects.

Another benefit of this group is actually working together. Recently, several of the Chagrin Valley communities were faced with a loss in the ability to bill for insurance components of the ambulance runs. This potential loss of revenue for these groups was in excess of \$100,000 annually. Instead of each community attacking the issue individually, we formed a group and worked together. Ultimately by joining together, we were able to learn from each other, cut the potential of performing redundant activities, and have a larger group represented. Ultimately, this leads to a cost savings for all of our residents and faster route to a good solution for everyone.

The village will continue to work with our fellow communities to evaluate ways of providing enhanced services as one of the tools for driving cost reduction.

Mayor Matthew E. Brett

Wood Chips Made Available



Great idea!

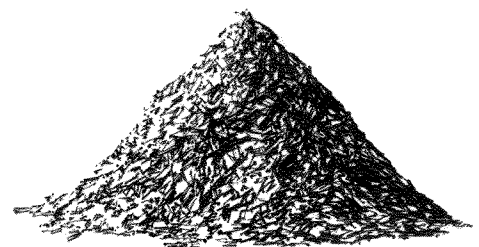
*Wood Chips from the
Spring Storm Damage
Clean-up to be made
available to village residents*

- Program starts August 22, 2005.
- Pickup area is the Village Parking Lot driveway to the police department.
- Yard open each day of the week now through October 28 during daylight hours.
- No vehicles will be allowed in the yard after dark.
- Bring your own bags, buckets, pickup trucks or trailers.
- Questions may be directed to the Service Department – M – F 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, 440-338-3891

Chips should not be used in place of landscape mulch as it might “burn” plant roots and flowers.

Chips hold heat, while mulch holds moisture.

Check with your landscaping expert for advice prior to application.



Attention South Russell Voters: Voter Registration

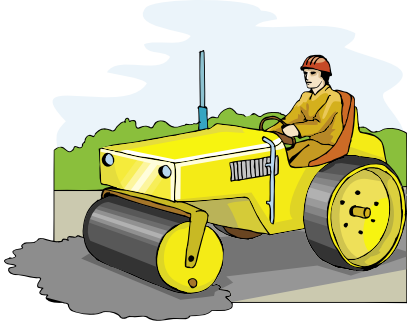
The last day to register to vote in the November 8th General Election is October 11. New residents and unregistered residents may register to vote by going to the Geauga County Board of Elections, 215 Main Street in Chardon or at any of the branches of the Geauga County library system. Do not go to the Chagrin Falls Library as it is in a different county. Voters must be residents of Ohio for at least 30 days and be 18 years of age on or before the General Election. If you have moved within the Village in the past few years you should make certain that you are correctly registered for your new address. Call the Geauga County Board of Elections at 440-564-7131 to check this information.

You may request an absentee

ballot either by mail or in person at the Board of Elections office. Ballots are available 35 days before an election. You may request an absentee ballot by writing to the board of elections and providing your name, address, address where you wish the ballot sent if you will be away for an extended period of time, reason you wish to vote by absentee ballot and your signature (no ballots will be issued without the voter’s signature). For requesting a ballot by mail the deadline is Noon on the Saturday before the election.

The November 8 election will include local offices and issues. South Russell polling places include the Village Service Building (Precinct A) and Gurney Elementary School (Precincts B, C, and D).

The 2005 Road Improvement Program Is Now Completed



The 2005 Road Improvement and Paving Project is now completed.

We actually started the program earlier than the expected July 4th Holiday start date. Fortunately, the contractor's schedule allowed the program to start on June 23rd. This allowed the first phase of the project to be completed before the July 4th Holiday. Phase one involved recycling the existing asphalt, removing any cracks or damaged areas, and using these materials to profile the road surface for proper drainage. A seven day curing period is needed following this process to allow the material to settle.

The second phase of the project was to resurface the roadway. A leveler course comes first followed by the surface or wear course. This phase started on July 12 and was completed on July 13.

Roads that were resurfaced this year included Daisy Lane, Maple Springs Drive, and a portion of Sheerbrook Drive.

Repairs to damaged road surface areas included Fox Trail, Fox Lane, Sun Ridge Lane, and West Bell Road by the cemetery.

The contractor this year was Specialized Construction and the Village Engineer, Council, Street Committee and Street Commissioner are very pleased that the work performed was completed prior to the completion date, that the weather cooperated, and there was good cooperation with residents and traffic during the project.

Other 2005 Road Improvement projects this year included crack sealing all the roads in the village, center line, and edge line road striping of all primary roads (Bell Road, East Washington Street and Snyder Road) and additional striping of turning lanes, side street turnouts, and the SCHOOL ZONE on Bell Road at Gurney School.

Communications From The SRV Website

Information about South Russell Village can be found on the village website at www.southerussell.com.

The Home Page provides you with current topics of interest and will direct you to either the Village News or Calendar sections for additional information on events or scheduled meetings.

The E-Blast, Village Insider E-Mail List, is a feature that allows the village Webmaster to notify you, directly by e-mail, with important information and updates. Your e-mail address is only used by the village for this purpose and will not be given out for any other reason.

However, you must subscribe to receive this feature and you must confirm your address is correct. On the left side of the Home Page, in the middle of the page, there is an area to register your e-mail address with the village website. After you submit your request to be added to the E-Blast, you will receive an e-mail back to you asking you to confirm your registration. You must confirm your address is correct by sending an email back before the process is completed. Once you complete this process, you should receive the next E-Blast sent by the village. The e-mail will be noted as being sent by South Russell Village and the topic might read Meeting, Road Closed, Boil Alert, etc. or other information about the village.

Many residents have already signed up for this feature and feedback from them has proven to the village administration that this is a vital tool allowing the village to communicate with its residents.

Don't wait! Sign up today to receive the next E-Blast.



Thank You

South Russell Village sends a huge thank you to the members of the Chagrin Valley Women's Club who have volunteered their efforts for several years to plant and maintain the beautiful flower bed in the southwest corner lot at Bell Rd. and Route 306. The bed is filled with perennials and annuals which provide a colorful corner, attractive to both residents and to others passing through the Village. When you see them working there, give a wave and say "thanks."

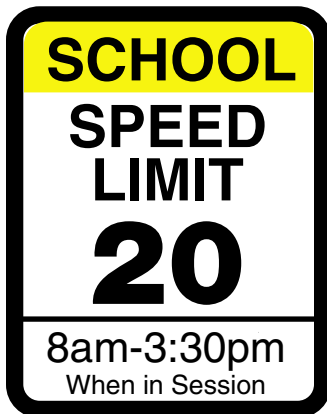


**Village of
South Russell**
5205 Chillicothe Road
South Russell, Ohio 44022

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Village

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Postal Patron



School Zone Reposted

The South Russell Police Department would like to remind motorists and pedestrians alike, of the 20 mph speed limit in the Gurney School Zone. Recently the Village in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation reposted the Gurney School Zone with larger and more informative signage. With the safety of both motorists and pedestrians being a priority of the South Russell Police Department, we would like to remind all who drive through the school zone to be extra attentive to their speed.