



South Russell Village NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

www.SouthRussell.com

December 2004



Seasons Greetings



Mayor's Message ...

South Russell to Partner with Land Conservancy

The Village of South Russell is pleased to announce a partnership with the Chagrin River Land Conservancy to acquire a majority of the last major land parcel within the village. This property, located on Bell Road has been owned by the Muggleton family for decades. While the family has decided to part with this property, they also have a desire to work with the Chagrin River Land Conservancy to preserve it. We are thrilled to be part of this effort and feel that this will have a significant positive impact on our community.

The Village has approached this partnership very thoughtfully and carefully in order to ensure consistency with what we believe to be our residents' feelings, and ultimately falls in line with our mission statement – "To serve the

residents of the Village by planning for future needs while preserving the character of the Village."

Our goal in acquiring this parcel is based on three primary components:

1. Preserve the rural character of the Village
2. Control the future use of the property
3. Plan for the property's short and long term use.

Village Council believes that keeping this property "green" will help ensure that the village rural character is preserved indefinitely. We feel that a large development with the potential of a through street from East Washington to Bell Road would have a dramatic negative impact to this rural character. We feel this rural character is essential to the village.

The Council desires to control the

future uses of this property. While the village may decide to sell a portion of the property, we will be able to control which portion and size, and the conditions under which it will be used.

Over the past several years, Village Council has evaluated a number of strategic incentives to provide long term benefits to our residents. These initiatives include:

- Passive recreation areas
- Open fields
- Cemetery
- Athletic fields
- Walking trails
- Green space

Setting aside property for the future needs of our residents is a priority of the Village. We will continue to work at this task including creating a Master Plan for this property.

Mayor Matthew Brett

Winter Safety Tips and Reminders

Service department employees have placed snow stakes throughout the village. The stakes are placed to indicate curbs, curves, and the berm of the roadway surface when the road surface becomes snow covered. Snow stakes have been placed at the fire hydrants for quick identification in emergencies. Residents are asked to maintain open and easy access to these hydrants in cases of heavy snowfall.

Residents are reminded to place trash containers **within** their driveway aprons and **not in the roadway**. Placement in

the roadway will cause less efficient clearing of snow and may even cause spilled or scattered trash containers. Open recycling bins with light material in them, should be protected from the winds and weighted down to prevent spillage. Trash containers should be placed at curbside **no earlier than the evening before** the scheduled pickup and removed by the following evening.

Homeowners should provide boxes or containers for daily and weekly delivered newspapers.

Please remember that snow

removal close to mailboxes is **required** so that mail delivery can be maintained. Mailboxes should be securely fastened to the post and the post should be stable. Damage to a mailbox or post by snow being removed is the responsibility of the homeowner. Damage caused by a service department vehicle will be addressed per incident. Residents should advise their private plowers about snow removal around their mailboxes and watch for damage that may occur by the snow plowed by the contractor.

South Russell Police Win V.E.G. Tactical Rifle Match 2004



In the Chagrin Valley, the police departments have joined together and formed what has become known as the Valley Enforcement Group. This is a merger of 15 area police departments who have combined resources with the goal being to allow the group to achieve more collectively as a group than they would be able to individually.

One of the most important challenges that faces law enforcement today is training. The importance of training and keeping training current is especially critical when it comes to firearms training. With this issue key to law enforcement, the Valley Enforcement Group has

established a firearms training program aimed at keeping all the officers from the 15 member departments up to date.

The V.E.G. firearms training program built upon this basic concept of improving firearms proficiency by offering not only qualification sessions for member departments but also offering competitive

shooting events. Annually there are competitive events, one of which is the "Tactical Rifle Match." Each of the 15 member departments is encouraged to send as many of its officers as it wants to compete for any or all of the awards. The scores from each of the top three shooters from each department are added together to determine the winning team within V.E.G.

In 2004 the South Russell Police Department won its second annual team victory, an achievement we are all very proud of. The members of the police department that made up the winning team are Officer Mike Cardaman, Officer Ed Svoboda and Chief Jim Wetzel.

Welcome to New Residents

Patrick & Kimberly Mather, Green Valley Drive; David Livingston, Manor Brook Drive; Keven & Julia Doyle, Bell Road; Loreen Gill, Bell Road; Gary & Kathleen Maxwell, Sun Ridge Lane; Kenneth Causgrove, Bellflower Circle; James & Carol Duber, Maple Hill Drive; Janis Conroy, Daisy Lane; Timothy Humphries, Chillicothe Road; Michael & Elisa Herpst, Bishop Drive; Michael & Lisa Salyers, Waverly Lane; Edward & Karen Culton, Lakeview Lane; Anita Martin Press, Bell Road; Ronald & Sandra Ferguson, Maple Hill Drive; Hamilton & Mary Throckmorton, Chestnut Lane; Jammie Efford, West Belmeadow Lane; Matthew & Christine Davidson, Sun Ridge Lane; Robert Stinson, Sheerbrook Drive; John Hazle/Dianna Likens, Daisy Lane; Martin & Sabrina Williard, Southwyck Drive; Bryan & Sarah Kostura, Fernwood Road; Elizabeth Westbrook, Morningside Drive; Harold Wright, Manor Brook Drive; Betsy Coy, Sheerbrook Drive.

Building

Department Info . . .

We thought it would be helpful to residents to know what information is kept available at the South Russell Building and Zoning Department. We maintain all permit records on properties going back to 1981, which is when the department was established. Information on permits issued prior to 1981 can be found at Gauga County. The Building Department keeps various maps of South Russell, including site plans of some individual properties. Blue prints for additions and new homes are kept for three years. Historical information about some of the homeowner's associations and subdivisions can also be found in our office.

The website (www.southerussell.com) has a lot of information on the history of the Village, including old photographs, as well as information regarding the subdivisions. The link to "Access Gauga Property Search" may be very helpful to residents and even has aerial photographs of every property in the Village. The Building Department page has applications for Zoning Permits and Miscellaneous Permits which can be downloaded and printed, information and forms for contractors, and information about the requirements of the Architectural Board of Review. We also keep copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Board, Planning Commission, and Council.

If you are interested in obtaining any of the information kept in the Building Department, or have any questions, please feel free to call or stop by our office – phone 338-1608.

Thank You!

Police Levy Replacement

The Mayor and Council would like to thank the residents of South Russell for overwhelmingly supporting the 2.75 mill Police Levy. Proceeds from this levy will be used for police salaries and benefits, vehicles, and communications equipment. Providing residents with a first-rate police department is one of the primary objectives of your Village government.

Our Special Family

Since 1992, South Russell has participated in a program which traditionally has sponsored a special family for the holidays. This year, South Russell Village has chosen to sponsor our military men and women as our “special family.” Through a partnership with the USO, we will be collecting a variety of items to send in “CARE” packages to our deployed troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea and other locations.

Our military personnel have come to think of what we might consider everyday items as real genuine luxuries! A list of very desirable things that the troops would like to have follows this note to you. Where sizes of items are mentioned, please stick to what is

suggested because everything has to be carried in their backpacks and space is very limited.

A gift of money to the USO is especially desirable as it will cover the cost of mailing and shipping. In addition, the money can be used to purchase international phone cards which are used extensively by our deployed troops. If you choose this donation method, please make the check out to “The USO of Northern Ohio.”

The USO is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping our Armed Forces feel more at home wherever they might be around the world. It is also the major source for distribution of packages to military

personnel. Packages are mailed to a named individual only and the USO has access to this information. So, you can be sure that someone special will receive our donations.

Items and checks can be dropped off at South Russell Village Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We will transfer these donations to the USO representatives.

Projects such as this are terrific morale boosters for our troops – it lets them know that we are thinking of them especially over the holidays and every other day as well. Please join us in supporting this project. If you have any questions, call Kathy O'Donnell at 338-3241. Thank you!



Items Needed for USO Project

FOR “CARE PACKAGES” SENT TO TROOPS SERVING OVERSEAS:

Travel-size Soaps, Shampoos & Lotions, Razors, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss & Mouthwash

Toilet Paper, Kleenex Packs, Chapstick, Dryer Sheets, Laundry Soap (Laundromat Size), Paperback Books, Movies on VCR and DVD, Music CD's, Disposable Cameras, Greeting Cards, Prepaid International Phone Cards, Word Puzzle Books, Travel Size Games, Playing Cards, Candy, Gum, Altoids, Tic-Tacs, Breath Strips, Granola or Cereal Bars, Pop-Tarts, Variety-Pack Cereals, Canned Fruit, Juice, Tuna, Applesauce & Meats (single serving pull-top cans), Drink Mixes: Cocoa, Lemonade, Kool-Aid, Cider, Gatorade, Nuts, Cracker Jack, Trail Mix, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Snack-size Packages of Cookies, Crackers, Pretzels & Chips, Dried Fruits, Raisins, Sunflower Seeds, Fruit Roll-Ups, Tea Bags & Condiment Packs (sugar, salt, pepper, jelly, sauces), Purell Hand Sanitizer, Eye Drops, Foot Powder, Feminine Products, Vitamins, Cough Drops, Band-aids, First Aid Creams, Cup-a-Soup, Ramen Noodles, Peanut Butter in Tubes

Letters, Cards, and Children's Drawings – these are very important to the troops!

***We seal all items in plastic bags before packing, so we ALWAYS need sandwich, quart and gallon zip-lock bags!!!**

Winter Safety Tips –



- Check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector
- Get your chimney inspected and cleaned
- Check wires on Christmas tree lighting for frays or cuts. Use only UL approved light sets.

2004 Trash Day Summary

South Russell had two Village Trash Days in 2004 - both well received! Following are a few statistics from those events:

- **Spring Trash Day - Saturday, May 15th**
 - Pick-ups made on Thursday from 56 senior citizens
 - 309 resident vehicle drop-offs Saturday
 - Tires collected totaled 2.87 tons (approx. 100 tires)
 - \$1,100 received in grant money for the tires (only collected in the spring)
 - \$345.20 returned to Village for scrap metal collected
 - Cost to village \$6,800
- **Fall Trash Day - Saturday, October 16th**
 - Senior Citizens pick-ups, 64 on Thursday, May 14
 - 241 resident vehicle drop-offs Saturday
 - \$743.37 returned to Village for scrap metal collected
 - Cost to village \$3,758.46
 - TOTAL COST to Village approximately \$10,600.00

Our trash days are done in cooperation with the Geauga County Department on Aging, the South Russell Service Department employees and several volunteers.

Remember to check our website www.southrussell.com for information on the 2005 Trash Day.



Our Employee of the Year 2003



At our annual gathering of employees, Village elected officials and Board Members, Mayor Matthew Brett, announced that Laura Heilmann had been chosen the South Russell Employee of the Year 2003.

Laura works in the South Russell Building Department as the secretary to the Building Department Inspector David Hocevar and Zoning Inspector

Jim Holt. Her responsibilities include the issuance of all building and zoning permits, the registration of contractors, septic inspection reports, and general accounting for the office to name a few. Her knowledge of the building and zoning codes is excellent and critical to the job.

This position requires extensive contact with the public. Fortunately, Laura enjoys working with others and has been very successful in representing South Russell in an exceptional manner.

She began her work association with South Russell in May, 2001 when she replaced long time clerk Dixie Kenyo. Laura is a South Russell resident of 24 years and lives with her husband Greg, her son Andrew, daughter Amy, and mother-in-law Eileen. Andrew and Amy attend Chagrin Falls Schools. Laura enjoys gardening, pottery making, reading and spending time with her family and her wonderful neighbors.

Congratulations Laura from all of us and Thank You for doing a great job!!



Village Phone Numbers 2004-05

Emergency.....	911
Village Hall	338-7843
Mayor-Matt Brett.....	338-5094
Clerk-Nancy Gallagher.....	338-8190
Treasurer-Larry Lechman.....	338-5315
Council- Jack Binder.....	338-4760
Sally Butz-Voss.....	247-8403
John Dishong.....	338-8895
Adam Lechman.....	338-4588
Brian Morrison.....	543-4794
Kathy O'Donnell.....	338-3241
Bldg. Dept.-David Hocevar.....	338-1608
Streets-Darrell Johnson.....	338-3891
Police-Chief Jim Wetzl.....	338-7611
Geauga County Offices.....	564-7131
Auto License Bureau.....	729-3648

Supervisory Training Session

A supervisory training session for Village supervisors began on November 15, 2004 and will continue through December. The program is offered through the Center for Public Administration and Public Policy, and is facilitated by Drs. James Tinnin and Melinda Holmes of Kent State University. The instruction for the four three-hour classes is based on the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) textbook Effective Supervisory Practices. The six participants learn management skills through reading, discussion and practice. The program is designed to help supervisors develop their supervisory skills and understanding required for successful supervision.

The Winter Season Village Policies

The Village of South Russell would like to remind its residents of two winter policies and ordinances pertaining to when it snows and private snow removal.



Snow Parking Ban: A snow Parking Ban will be declared whenever there is two or more inches of snow on any village streets or the National Weather Service forecasts a severe snowstorm warning. **No parking** is allowed on any streets in the community to make sure the streets are clear for snowplowing. This Parking Ban is in effect from November 15 through April 15.

Private Snow Removal:

This is a reminder that snow plowed from your driveway must remain on your property or pushed to the sides at the end of your driveway apron. Snow **cannot** be pushed onto or across the road surface for several conditions may result from this action:

- 1) Snow from the private plowing contractor left on the road surface can refreeze, becoming slippery or rutty and cause a safety issue.
- 2) Materials such as salt and cinders placed on the road surface by the service department for snow and ice control are removed.
- 3) Large snow piles are not pushed off the road surface reducing lane traffic size.
- 4) Materials from gravel driveways are present on the roadways after melting.
- 5) Plow damage to properties opposite your driveway may occur and become a neighbor's responsibility in the spring.

The village does not require private snow plowers to obtain permits for plowing driveways yet. Homeowners are requested to notify their private driveway plowers that snow plowed should remain at the end and off to the sides of each driveway. **Plowing across the street is prohibited.** Snow removal around mailboxes is required, so that delivery by the post office can be maintained. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to correct or notify their contractor of the problem. The village will not practice tracking down individual contractors working within the village. If a recurrence is noted and a citation needs to be issued, the citation will be delivered to the homeowner unless the contractor is caught in the act of the violation. The homeowner will then be responsible to address the problem of the citation with their contractor.



American Red Cross

FREE DRAWING

for this Blood Mobile only!

Attend the American Red Cross Blood Mobile

For your chance to win

A Brand New

Olympus Digital Camera

Gurney School • December 28, 2004 1-7 p.m.

Come to Donate - Give the Gift of Life

Camera donated by South Russell Village Council

Winter Vehicle Safety Tips

In your car

- Make sure you always have at least 1/4 tank of gas during the winter months.
- Keep the fluid levels high including antifreeze and windshield washer fluid.
- When driving, be on the lookout for black ice (ice that isn't visible) and drive slowly and carefully on bridges and overpasses.
- Crack windows 1/2"-1" to avoid carbon monoxide buildup inside your vehicle.
- Run your car at 10-minute intervals to conserve gasoline.
- Double the normal distance between your vehicle and the next, leaving at least 20 car lengths for emergency stopping.
- Slow down but drive defensively.
- Assemble a winter weather kit, including flashlight, a bag of sand for extra weight when driving in snow and ice, a blanket or extra jacket for warmth, canned food and a can opener, bottled water, boots, mittens and a hat, matches.



Parents Winter Bus Stop Safety Tip

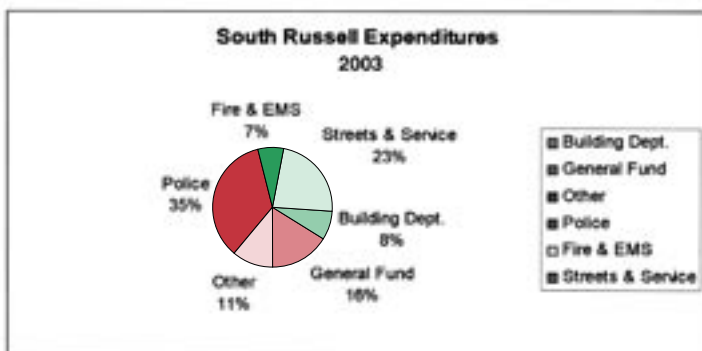
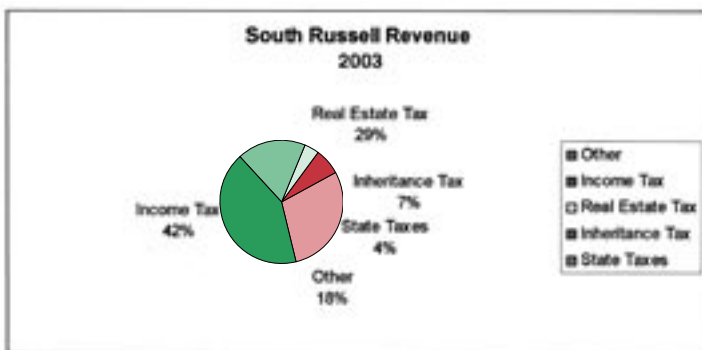
Many school bus stop locations have been changed again this year resulting in the busses stopping at the end of streets intersecting Bell Road and other busy streets. Residents dropping off or picking up children at these locations are cautioned to leave plenty of room for snow plows and other large vehicles which need to have access to these intersections, especially when the roads become slippery or snow covered.

Let's prevent an accident from happening.

South Russell Village Revenues and Expenditures

South Russell Village receives revenue from numerous sources, including: income taxes, real estate taxes, inheritance taxes, state taxes, ambulance billing, fines and permits, and interest. In 2003, the Village collected \$2,493,788 from these sources. Over the same period, the

Village spent \$2,541,349 on police, fire & EMS services, road maintenance, the Service Department, the Building Department, property acquisition/improvements, and various other expenditures. South Russell's budget is \$2,520,247 for 2004 and \$2,569,324 for 2005.



See How We Have Grown

Did you know:

- That in the 20 year period from 1980 to 2000, the Village of South Russell's population has grown by almost 50% to 4,022 residents! (*)
- 35% of the population is of school age (1,391 residents under the age of 19).
- Our senior population has increased dramatically (235%) to 621 residents.
- At the same time, our young adult population (ages 20-35) has decreased by 26%, down to 324 residents.

* Source: U.S. Census Bureau

There is One More Gift to Give This Holiday Season . . . the Gift of Life!

Please Donate Your Gift of Life at the Following American Red Cross Bloodmobile Location . . .

GURNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1155 Bell Road - South Russell

Tuesday, December 28

1:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

If you donated on or before 11/01/04
you are eligible to donate on 12/28/04

Free Drawing for an Olympus Digital Camera for those attending

You must be at least 17 years old & weigh at least 105 pounds to donate.

Please bring current form of identification.

Please bring names of all medication.

For more information:

Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (448-3543) - OR -

Visit: www.redcross.org/northernohio



Blood Services