



# South Russell Village NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

[www.SouthRussell.com](http://www.SouthRussell.com)

April 2006

## “A TRIBUTE”

### *Farewell To 60 Years of Dedicated Service To South Russell Village*

#### “The Senior Leadership”

##### A Legacy Left Behind

Kathy O'Donnell was born and raised in Norwalk, Connecticut and graduated from The University of Connecticut. Kathy and her husband, Bill, have four children - Kevin, who resides in Virginia, Mary Beth of South Russell, Anne Marie who lives in Solon and Meg who lives in Auburn. All the children are graduates of Chagrin Falls High School. Kathy moved to Country Estates from the Chicago area in 1977 and lived there for 28 years.

Kathy was appointed to Council in January of 1980 to complete the term of Tom Harvey who had been elected Mayor, replacing Don Barriball who had retired. Kathy was the first woman to serve on Council. Kathy worked hard to increase communications with residents and business people. She helped produce and edit the South Russell Newsletter that was started four years ago and is still delivered to all residents of the village, three times a year. Kathy mentions, “Our website, [www.southrussell.com](http://www.southrussell.com), is also a fabulous tool for news and information.”

Kathy was a Councilwoman for 25 years and served as President Pro-Tem for many of the later years. She has served on most of the committees through the years, serving on and being the Chairperson of the Streets Committee for almost ten years, but continuing to show interest in all committees.

Kathy states, “I am proud of the legacy I leave. It is an honor and privilege to have been elected a member of council for all these years. I have worked alongside many other dedicated public servants here and the Village is fortunate to have such loyal and interested people.”



*L-R: Kathy O'Donnell, Lawrence Lechman, and Sally Butz-Voss*

She concluded that serving South Russell has truly enriched her life and thanks the residents for the trust and support they gave her. “I leave having served proudly. I now look forward to spending more time with Bill, my children, my seven grandchildren, and perhaps do some traveling.”

Sally Butz-Voss – A transplant from neighboring Bainbridge, Sally moved and made her home in South Russell twenty-three years ago. Sally and her husband, Richard, reside on Bell Road. It was Richard that encouraged Sally and told her she should “get involved” with the village, not knowing her stay would involve the last 18 years. Sally has been a real estate agent in the Chagrin Valley, Geauga and Cuyahoga Counties, and knows the area well. Sally is also involved with the Geauga County Republican Party

and many other activities throughout the area.

Sally was sworn in as Councilwoman in late 1988. She has worked under the leadership of three mayors: Tom Harvey, Bill Young (now a County Commissioner) and Matt Brett. Sally was never defeated at the polls.

Sally has been on every committee – “even finance” - and has been Chairperson for many of them. Her involvement and time spent was mostly associated with the Safety and the Properties Committees. She is most pleased with the work the village did with acquiring the Muggleton Farm and hopes future use of it will keep it natural.

She is leaving council with no regrets. “It’s been so fulfilling. The personal rewards are unbelievable.”

*(Continued on page 2)*



## The South Russell Police Department in conjunction with Project ChildSafe Continues its Commitment to Firearm Safety

The South Russell Police Department is proud to be a participating member with project ChildSafe. Project ChildSafe is the nation's largest firearm safety education program. The program reminds gun owners to properly store firearms in the home in order to prevent a loaded gun from falling into the hands of a child, thereby preventing tragic accidents. Project ChildSafe has already distributed over 30 million cable-style gun locks with accompanying educational materials nationwide.

Project ChildSafe partners with governors, lieutenant governors, U.S. Attorneys, mayors and local and state law enforcement agencies to distribute firearm safety kits free of charge to gun owners and to promote responsible firearm ownership at the community level.

The South Russell Police Department would like to continue to remind all gun owners to safely store their firearms in the home and to encourage parents to educate their children about firearm safety. We are also pleased to be able to offer these firearms safety kits free of charge to anyone who wants one. Those interested in receiving their free gun lock should stop by the South Russell Police Department located at 5205 Chillicothe Rd. South Russell, Ohio 44022.

## SOUTH RUSSELL INCOME TAX

Anyone over the age of 18 including retired individuals residing or working in South Russell Village is subject to a 1% tax on income from salaries, wage and business profits. Income not subject to tax includes interest, dividends and pensions. A South Russell Village resident who pays local taxes to another municipality is not exempt from paying taxes to South Russell, but will receive a credit for a portion of taxes paid.

South Russell Village income tax is administered by the Central Collection Agency (CCA). All South Russell Village residents must file a Municipal Income Tax Return with CCA, whether or not a balance is due. The filing deadline for municipal income tax returns is April 15.

CCA tax forms and instructions are available at the Village Hall. If you have any questions regarding municipal income taxes please contact CCA at 216-664-2075 or South Russell Village Tax Administrator Nancy Gallagher at 440-338-6700.

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## “A Tribute”

*(Continued from page 1)*

Larry Lechman – After 21 years of public service, Treasurer Larry Lechman is stepping down. “Once I started a four-year term it was difficult to leave. Then, one term led to another, then another.”

Larry was first appointed to council on January 28, 1985 to fill the unexpired term thru 1987 of Clint Taylor’s seat. Larry held a council position for nine years.

Larry, a certified public accountant with the accounting firm of Lechman and Lechman CPA, was elected the village treasurer in 1994 and has held that position for the past 12 years. He credits his longevity in office to his conservative nature when it comes to spending. His responsibility was to keep the village

financially sound through bill paying and frugal investments.

Larry and his wife JoAnn, who is the financial administrator for the Village of Gates Mills, live in South Russell on Bell Road.

Larry says leaving his duties in the South Russell government will allow him some extra time to “watch more Monday night football” that he has missed for more than two decades due to Monday night council meetings.

In Summary – The Village of South Russell and its residents have been blessed and honored to have had three such honorable and dedicated individuals serve them. The Village is better today because they served. In the future, the village should welcome the knowledge

and experience they take with them. We have come to appreciate their talents, knowing it is not available for the work that is before us in the future.

Kathy, Sally and Larry all agree that they will miss the interaction with the residents. “It’s the people” in the village that we have met, those we have worked with and for, that we will miss the most. The camaraderie with the wonderful people has been terrific. We will forget the bad things that happened and remember the good.

The Village of South Russell, its officials, and residents “thank” Kathy, Sally, and Larry for a “Job Well Done” and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

# *It Will Be A Clean Sweep For South Russell Village*



As the winter of 2005-06 finally comes to an end and the first days of spring are now here, the South Russell Service Department and the Village of South Russell are beginning to make plans for spring. With the hopes that only one or two more snows will fall and their presence will be short term, sweeping of all village streets will begin about **Monday, April 10th, 2006**. Sweeping will only continue if weather permits and large amounts of rainwater are not present.

All village streets, cul-de-sacs and turnarounds will be swept to remove winter debris and cinders. Any residential property with excessive plowed materials (cinders) from the roadway in their yard

may rake this material to the roads edge.

If your street has a current gravel berm, this material can be use as fill in low areas and around mailboxes. On these streets, the material should not be placed on the hard asphalt road surface. If the grass line of your yard meets the edge of the road, cinder material may be raked onto the first foot of road surface. This

will allow the sweeper to clean up while maintaining a neat grass edge line. No additional material is acceptable such as limbs or yard waste.

While property and yard clean up is taking place, this is a good time to inspect your ditchlines and driveway culvert pipes. Both are the responsibility of each homeowner to maintain and should be kept clear and free of leaves, limbs and tall grasses. Leaf piles and debris such as old newspapers in plastic bags should not be in the village right-of way ditches as they may cause blockages. No standing water should be present. The cause may be corrected with minor cleaning of a ditch or culvert pipe.

## **Boundaries**

The Building Department often receives inquiries as to where property lines are located. Disputes between neighbors are common in any community, but we also find many residents are simply concerned about being good neighbors and do not want to encroach on someone else's property. South Russell's zoning code lists certain setback requirements (regarding fences and sheds for example), which may be another reason why you would need to know your exact property boundaries.

While the Building Department does maintain records of where the property lines are, it is up to the homeowner to locate the pins marking the boundaries of their own property. This might sound simple to do, but in some cases, those iron pins (sometimes called "stakes") that are set by the original surveyor cannot be located, even with the use of a metal detector. In these cases, it would be wise to hire a professional surveyor. A surveyor is able to use other reference points, technical information, and equipment to mark your property lines.

Building Department records are available for residents to see at our office between the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. We also have a metal detector available that we often loan to residents. If we can be of assistance to you, please call us or stop by our office.

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## **Legislation makes it easier to vote absentee**

Ohio House Bill 234, which became effective Jan. 27, allows voters to cast an absentee ballot without formally stating a reason why they won't be in their registered county on Election Day. Although this new legislation will make it easier for voters to vote absentee, the application requires more information than it did in the past. The Board of Elections is recommending that voters use an actual absentee ballot application so all the new requirements are met. You can get an application by going to <http://www.electionohio.com/geauga/absentee.htm>; you can pick one up at any of the Geauga County libraries; or you can call the Geauga County Board

of Elections at 440-285-2222 extension 2030 and they will mail you one. The Board of Elections will accept absentee ballot applications by mail until noon the Saturday before the election, April 29 for this year's May 2 Primary Election. Absentee ballots must reach the Board of Elections by 7:30pm on Election Day.

Absentee ballots may also be requested by sending a letter to Board of Elections stating that you are a qualified elector and must include the following: voter's name and address where registered in the county; voter's full date of birth; one of the following: voter's driver's license number, or the last 4 digits of the

voter's Social Security number, or a copy of the voter's current and valid photo identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; date of election for which voter wishes an absentee ballot (you must request for each election even if you vote by absentee ballot on a regular basis); the address where voter wishes the ballot sent if different from the registered address listed; the voter's original m

# From Your South Russell Emergency Planning Committee

**Get A Kit:** When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air, and warmth.

## Water

- One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Children, nursing mothers, and sick people may need more water.
- If you live in a warm weather climate more water may be necessary.
- Store water tightly in clean plastic containers such as soft drink bottles.
- Keep *at least* a three-day supply of water per person

## Food

- Store *at least* a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils.
- Choose foods your family will eat.
  - o Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
  - o Protein or fruit bars
  - o Dry cereal or granola
  - o Peanut butter
  - o Dried fruit
  - o Nuts
  - o Crackers
  - o Canned juices
  - o Non-perishable pasteurized milk
  - o High energy foods
  - o Vitamins
  - o Food for infants
  - o Comfort/stress foods



## Recommended Supplies to Include in a Portable Kit:

- Water, amounts for portable kits will vary. Individuals should determine what amount they are able to both store comfortably outside the home and be able to transport to other locations
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help

filter the air

- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula or diapers, and important family documents
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

## Things you should have:

- Two pairs of Latex, or other sterile gloves (if you are allergic to Latex).
- Sterile dressings to stop bleeding.
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect.
- Antibiotic ointment to prevent infection.
- Burn ointment to prevent infection.
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes.
- Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant.
- Thermometer
- Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates.
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.



Many potential terrorist attacks could send tiny microscopic "junk" into the air. For example, an explosion may release very fine debris that can cause lung damage. A biological attack may release germs that can make you sick if



inhaled or absorbed through open cuts. Many of these agents can only hurt you if they get into your body, so think about creating a barrier between yourself and any contamination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[WWW.READY.GOV](http://WWW.READY.GOV)

Don't be afraid ... Be ready!

## May 2

## Primary Election

Primary Election Day is May 2 and the polls will be open from 6:30am to 7:30pm. The deadline to register to vote in the May 2 Primary Election is April 3. Voters on May 2 may choose from among several candidates in each party for federal, state and local offices and county issues. If you have recently moved to Geauga County from another address in Geauga County but haven't changed your address with the Board of Elections, you can vote at your new polling place using a provisional ballot. If you have moved from another county into Geauga County, you can come to the Board of Elections and fill out a new registration form and vote a provisional ballot. The Geauga County Board of Elections has moved to 470 Center St. Building 6-A in Chardon, OH 44024. The phone number is toll free (440) 285-2222, 564-7131, 834-1856, Extension 2030 or direct line (440) 279-2030. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, go to the Geauga County Board of Elections web site at <http://www.electionohio.com/geauga/>

## Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market Opens Soon With Plant Sale

The Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market opens its fifth season on Saturday, June 3, 2006 in the South Russell Village parking lot at Rt. 306 and Bell St. This year the Market will start with a pre-season Plant Sale on Saturday, May 20 and 27 featuring vegetable and flowering plants, hanging baskets, cut flowers, honey, baked goods, and other seasonal products. The goal of the Farmers' 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 buy the freshest seasonal produce, meet friends, and hear local musicians. The Market will be open from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday rain or shine, through September and features seasonal fruits and vegetables, meat and cheese, cut flowers, honey and jams, maple syrup, baked goods, herbs, crafts, soaps and lotions, and a variety of other local hand-made products. The Village is looking for volunteers to help with parking and other activities. Those interested should call the Village, 440-338-6700 or Joyce and Greg Studen, 440-338-1325.

## Spring Trash Days Are Scheduled

### SENIOR CITIZEN SPRING RESIDENTIAL TRASH PICKUP DAY

**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2006 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Seniors living in South Russell Village wishing to have a pickup scheduled on Senior Trash Collection Day should call the **Geauga County Department on Aging at 564-7131 extension 5520**.

Information needed when placing your request for a pick-up is: Your Name, Your Address, Your Phone Number, Items needing to be picked up.

Small items should be in containers such as a box. These items should be items not able to be picked up during normal weekly collection such as: newspapers, garbage and household waste.

All items should be placed in the driveway or at the curbside. South Russell Village employees and volunteers are not permitted to enter the home.

The special pick up will be sometime during the day on May 11, 2006 depending on the route schedule. Collection starts on the west end of the village in the morning and is completed in the afternoon on the east end.

### SOUTH RUSSELL SPRING TRASH DAY DROPOFF

**SATURDAY MAY 13, 2006 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

South Russell Village has authorized and the Service Department will provide village residents a Spring Cleanup Trash Day noting the date and times above.

#### ITEMS THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED ARE:

General trash and debris; Items containing freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners); Scrap metal; White metal such as appliances

#### TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THIS CLEANUP

Residency I.D. is required and may be asked for.

\* NO YARD WASTE\*

\* NO HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS ACCEPTED \*

\* NO CONTAINERS WITH LIQUEFIED PRODUCTS ACCEPTED \*

### GEAUGA COUNTY COLLECTION EVENT

Items listed above (hazardous household chemicals, liquefied products and paint products) that will not be accepted during the Village Drop-off are all being collected this year at a Geauga County drop-off collection.

#### Appliance Collection Saturday

April 22, 2006 9:00 am – 12 Noon

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 29, 2006 9:00 am – 12 Noon

#### Scrap Tire Collection

Saturday, September 30, 2006 9:00 am – 12 Noon

Collection site is at the

Geauga County Engineer's Yard

12665 Merritt Road • Chardon, Ohio.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS items such as oil, paints, anti-freeze, batteries and propane tanks will be collected. This is a free of charge collection to all Geauga County residents. Please use these drop-offs to dispose of the specific items.

# WASTE-NOT WANT-NOT

## DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTION DROPOFF SEASONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS RECYCLING FACILITY (HHWRF)

The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District is pleased to announce the opening of our seasonal Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility (HHWRF). The facility is located at: 5138 Enterprise Boulevard, Warren, Ohio (Off of State Route 422).

All District residents are encouraged to use this facility for recycling or safe disposal of: household waste, tires, appliances, and electronic equipment. The facility is only open to residents of Geauga and Trumbull counties. No commercial loads will be accepted and identification is required for all participating in any type of collection event.

The seasonal HHWRF will be open every Tuesday, Thursday and the first Saturday of each month.

Hours of operation are:

May 2, 2006 thru September 28, 2006

Tuesday evening's 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursdays 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

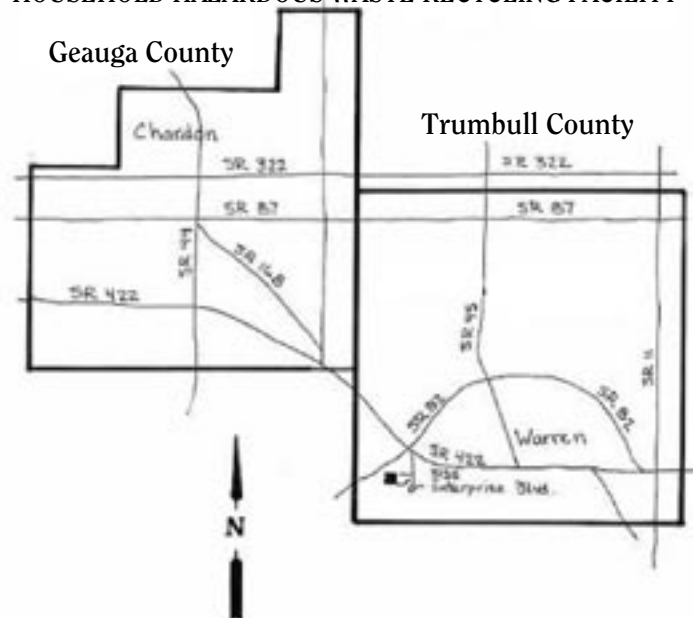
Special Saturday Openings:

May 6, June 3, July 1 and August 5, 2006

9:00 am – 12 Noon

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS items such as oil, paints, anti-freeze, batteries and propane tanks will be accepted. This is a free of charge collection to all Geauga County residents. Please use this drop-off to dispose of the specific items this summer prior to or after specific collection dates.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY





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

SOUTH  
RUSSELL  
Village

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

## Postal Patron

# *Guardian Calling Program*

The Village of South Russell in cooperation with the Village of Chagrin Falls is pleased to offer the Guardian Calling Program to its homebound residents. Guardian Calling is a computer based program designed for older adults, disabled persons, shut-ins who live alone, or anyone in our community who needs to be checked on daily. This system, now in use throughout the United States, has saved a number of lives and reduced worry and anguish for countless citizens and their families and friends.

The Chagrin Falls Police Department will actually operate the computerized telephone calling system free of charge. The system calls each enrolled subscriber every day of the week at the same time. When the subscriber picks up the phone, he or she will hear a voice message from the Police Department. The subscriber will then enter a preset code by pressing a few of the telephone keys so that the system knows they are "O.K." If the subscriber fails to answer the phone, if the wrong code is pressed, or if there is a busy signal, the computer immediately notifies the police dispatcher and two emergency contacts. They can then follow-up to check on the person's well being.

During holidays, vacations, or any other

time the subscriber plans to be away from home for an extended period of time, a simple call to the Police Department will stop the calls for as long as needed. For those periodic occasions when a subscriber knows that they will not be home on a certain day – because of shopping or doctor's appointments, as an example – and consequently cannot respond to the Guardian Call, they should call the Police Department beforehand to let the dispatcher know that the check-up call will go unanswered.

The service is not intended to take the place of Lifeline, Lifephone, or any other type of medical alert service that a person may now be using. In fact, we urge people to use these other services if they desire to do so. This service is just an additional service that the village is making available to the residents of Chagrin Falls and South Russell Village.

The calls from the system will be made in the daytime between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Each subscriber will be asked to choose a time that he or she prefers to be called. The calls will always be made at the same time so people will quickly learn exactly when to expect them.

Everyone who signs up for this service will be asked to fill out a short form

with information that the Police or Fire Departments may need in an emergency. This information is totally confidential; it will be secured at the Chagrin Falls Police Department and only be used by the safety forces if needed.

If you wish to sign up for this service, please pick up an application from the South Russell Police Department or if you are unable to get to the South Russell Police station please call the station and an officer will deliver the form to you at your home. It is necessary that you fill out two forms, a Field Interview Form, and an Application, Consent, Waiver and Release Form.

Upon completing the forms, you can either mail or return the forms in person to the Chagrin Falls or South Russell Village Police Departments.

We hope that you find this service beneficial to your needs. If you have any questions about the Guardian Calling Program or if you need assistance in completing the forms, please contact the Chagrin Falls Police Department between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at (440) 247-7321 or contact South Russell Village Hall or Police Department at (440) 338-6700.