



SOUTH
RUSSELL
Village

South Russell Village **NEWSLETTER**

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Fall, 2006

Village Applies for 'Clean Ohio' Funding

South Russell Village has decided to proceed with an application for funding for the Muggleton Farm land acquisition and preservation from the Clean Ohio Fund that is funded at the State level. The Village is applying for \$400,000.00 from Clean Ohio to help in the funding and preservation of this key property within the village. As a partner with South Russell Village, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) will take the lead on putting together the application for the village. The WRLC has started the application process, which will be submitted and presented by the village in October of this year.

A primary condition of this application is the requirement for a more restrictive conservation easement on a large portion of the Muggleton property. The village has agreed that if the application is granted, a restrictive easement allowing only passive recreation would be placed upon seventy-seven of the eighty-seven acres owned by the village. Potential uses within the passive recreation area would include Metro Park type activities, such as walking trails, open fields, and pavilions. Other identified uses include reforestation, as well as leaving portions of the property in its natural setting. These uses are consistent with the original intentions of the land acquisition, and with the results

of the master use study and the public input sessions conducted in 2005.

While the federal appropriation grant from Congressman LaTourette's office appears to have a high potential of success, the village still has a large financial obligation regarding this land acquisition and preservation project and we continue to look for other sources of grant funding to offset the purchase costs of this critical Chagrin Valley landmark property.

We expect to know the results of this application by the end of the year, with funds potentially available by March 2007.

Mayor Matthew E. Brett

Important Information About Voting in the November General Election

New laws that took affect this year allow voters to cast an absentee ballot in the November 7 General Election without formally stating a reason why they won't be in their registered county on Election Day. Although the new law makes it easier for voters to vote absentee, the application requires more information than it did in the past. The Geauga County Board of Elections is recommending that voters use an actual absentee ballot application so all the new requirements are met. You can get an absentee ballot application by going to the Board of Elections web site at www.co.geauga.oh.us/departments/elections/ and downloading the application; 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 from 8:00-4:30PM Monday through Friday and they will mail you one.

The Board of Elections will accept absentee ballot applications by mail until noon the Saturday before the election, November 4 for this year's election. Absentee ballots must reach the Board of Elections by 7:30pm on Election Day.

This November every voter will be required to provide proof of identity before voting. Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification that shows the voter's name and current address, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a reminder or a voter registration notification, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still

be able to vote by providing the last four digits of the voter's social security number and by casting a provisional ballot. Voters who do not have any of the above forms of identification, including a social security number, will still be able to vote by signing an affirmation swearing to the voter's identity under penalty of election falsification and by casting a provisional ballot. (Effective June 1, 2006)

The polls will be open from 6:30AM until 7:30PM. Voters from Precincts A, B and C vote at Gurney Road Primary School on Bell St.; voters from Precinct D vote at the South Russell Village Maintenance Building.

The deadline to register to vote in the November 7, 2006 general election is 30 days prior to the election or October 10, 2006.

Back to School Safety Tips

Riding the Bus



School bus transportation is safe. In fact, buses are safer than cars! Even so, last year, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus. Remember these safety tips:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's okay to approach.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do. Protect yourself and watch out!

Walking and Biking to School

Even if you don't ride in a motor vehicle, you still have to protect yourself. Because of minimal supervision, young pedestrians face a wide variety of decisions making situations and dangers while walking to and from school. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

- Mind all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard -- never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk with a buddy.
- Wear reflective material...it makes you more visible to street traffic.



Riding in a Car

- You might have heard before that most traffic crashes occur close to home ... they do.
- Safety belts are the best form of protection passengers have in the event of a crash. They can lower your risk of injury by 45%.
- You are four times more likely to be seriously injured or killed if ejected from the vehicle in a crash.
- Everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats.



Paying Too Much in Taxes?

Did you know that the residents of the Village of South Russell ...

- Pay the lowest property taxes in the Chagrin Falls School District, and are among the lowest in the entire area?
- Contribute almost \$.70 from every property tax dollar directly to our schools (only about \$.12 of every property tax dollar comes back to the Village)?
- Have the lowest Income Tax rate of any Village or City in the area (1.0%)?
- Have one of the highest Income Tax Credits for income earned in other communities (0.75%)?
- Who earn their income outside of the Village have the lowest net effective Tax Rate (0.25%) of any Village or City in the area?

So you ask, how can I be paying too much in taxes?

- If you do not list the Village of South Russell as your place of residence, you are filing in the wrong community and you are paying too much in taxes.
- The Central Collection Agency (CCA) is the only agency authorized to collect local income taxes in South Russell. If you are not filing your local tax forms with CCA you are paying too much in taxes.
- If you are filing with R.I.T.A. (Regional Income Tax) you are paying too much in taxes.

Don't overpay your taxes. Always list the Village of South Russell as your place of residence. Always file with CCA.

Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market



Fall is a great time to visit the Farmers' Market. You can purchase apples and cider, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, grapes, kale, leeks, lettuce and other greens, onions, parsnips, peaches, pumpkins and other winter squashes, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon any time from late August through October. The Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market is open Saturdays, rain or shine, from 9:00-1:00pm in the South Russell Village parking lot at Rt. 306

and Bell St. through mid-October. 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. In addition to fresh local produce, the market features fresh flowers, herbs, honey, eggs, maple syrup, beef and lamb, baked goods, crackers, pickles, salsas and sauces, jams, herbs, cheese, crafts, soaps, and a variety of other locally hand-made products. The Village is looking for volunteers to help with parking and special events. Those interested should call the Village at 440-338-7843 or Market Manager Kris DuBois at 440-220-0871. Come and take advantage of the freshest produce in town!!

FAREWELL TO A GREAT EMPLOYEE!!



On June 15, 2006 Jim Holt retired from South Russell Building Department after serving the department since it opened in 1981. Prior to working in the Building Department, Jim worked in the Service and Police Departments, and was eventually the Lieutenant until his retirement from the South Russell Police Department. He continued to work in the Building Department as a Certified Building Inspector, Electrical Safety Inspector, and

Zoning Inspector, and handled various other duties for the Village during his employment here for the past 34 years.

Residents, village officials, and fellow employees remember Jim for his dedication and his extensive knowledge about the people and history of South Russell. He has been recognized for having received more hugs and thanks from residents than any other employee of the Village.

When Jim began, Kensington Green was still an airport. He saw the development of Emerald Lakes I & II, Fox Run, and Manor Brook. He served under former Mayors Donald Barriball, Thomas Harvey, William Young, and current Mayor Matthew Brett.

Jim Holt has been a great employee and a great friend to many people in South Russell, and although we will miss him we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement years.

FALL TRASH DAYS ARE SCHEDULED

SENIOR CITIZEN FALL RESIDENTIAL TRASH PICKUP DAY

Because of budget constraints due to the levy failure, the Geauga County Department on Aging will not be involved with this collection. Please note changes in collection dates and contact information!

WEST END OF THE VILLAGE –

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2006 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

EAST END OF THE VILLAGE –

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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 **South Russell Service Department – Street Commissioner at 440-338-6700 - Extension 236**. You may be connected to voicemail.

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 are not permitted to enter the home.

The special pick up will be sometime during the scheduled day (west end on Wednesday, east end on Thursday) depending on the route schedule and demand.

SOUTH RUSSELL FALL TRASH DAY DROPOFF

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2006

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

South Russell Village has authorized and the Service Department will provide village residents a Fall 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

Residency I.D. is required and may be requested.

* NO YARD WASTE*

*** NO HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS ACCEPTED ***

*** NO CONTAINERS WITH LIQUEFIED PRODUCTS ACCEPTED ***

**TIRES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THIS CLEANUP
BUT WILL BE AT THE GEAUGA COUNTY COLLECTION.**

SEE INFORMATION BELOW

GEAUGA COUNTY COLLECTION EVENT

A scrap tire collection is scheduled by Geauga County. There is a limit one trip/eight tire limit per vehicle. Tires can be on or off the rim. This is a free drop-off to residents of Geauga & Trumbull Counties only. No Commercial Businesses.

The Geauga County drop-off point is on September 30, 2006

from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at the

Geauga County Engineer's Yard

12665 Merritt Road in Chardon, Ohio.

Merritt Road is located on St. Rt. 44 next to the

Geauga County Sheriff's Office.

Please use this drop-off to dispose of your unwanted tires.



**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

What Every Homeowner Should Know About Ponds and Lakes

The South Russell Village has 21 lakes and ponds within its borders. These landscape features provide recreational opportunities, beauty, and in some cases storm water management for the Village. At the same time, they are costly to maintain. To help address on-going resident concerns about pond and lake maintenance, the Village is hosting What Every Homeowner Should Know about Ponds and Lakes on October 18th, 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall. We are holding this informal workshop in partnership with the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (Gauga SWCD) and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (CRWP). This seminar will cover pond management and



maintenance issues, such as dredging and animal control, as well as dam maintenance and applicable regulations. We will look at best pond maintenance practices and discuss potential funding mechanisms. Please join us for this exciting seminar. In preparation for the seminar, CRWP and Geauga SWCD would appreciate any background information residents have on the ponds and lakes in the Village. If you have information, or questions that you would like addressed at the workshop, please e-mail Amy Holtshouse of CRWP at alh@crwp.org or call (440) 975-3870. We will compile this information for a better seminar.