

Student Crossing

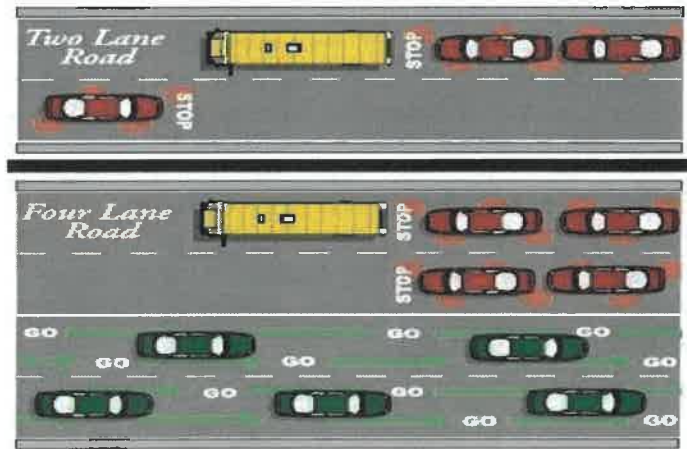
As schools resume classes, a reminder to drive safely

Motorists have had the entire summer off from children walking to and from school, riding their bikes to class and back home and getting picked up or dropped off by bus or being chauffeured to and from by mom and dad.

In the weeks since schools got out for the summer, motorists may have forgotten how important it is to keep an eye out for these kids and the increased amount of bike, school bus, auto and pedestrian traffic that comes with the return to school. This is particularly important in the morning hours with the glare of the rising sun.

Drivers should also remember that the speed limit in a school zone is only 20 mph and should always take care when driving in the vicinity of a school with students present.

Motorists should be prepared in particular to encounter school buses carrying kids back to school. Remember the rules of the road regarding school buses. Buses stop a lot. But they signal their intentions. A flashing yellow light means the bus is preparing to stop. Flashing red light means the bus is stopped and kids will be boarding in morning and unloading in the afternoon. All traffic on two-lane roads must stop when a bus stops, flashes red and activates its stop sign. Vehicles do not have to stop when approaching a school bus on a four-lane roadway, trailing vehicles must stop. More on stopping for stopped school buses can be found in Ohio Revised code 4511.75.



The Village Flea

☀️ No road is too long, or too mighty, or too impossible to travel when dreams are big and sky is the limit ❤️ .

The Village Flea Committee would like to thank everyone for stopping by the Flea on June 29th and taking part in such an amazing community event. The response was more than we ever could have hoped for, and we were able to raise a great startup of funds to begin giving back to our community.

We have already begun sprucing up the town- starting with the garden bed in front of the post office. Next up will be our first official Village Flea meeting, taking place October 21st, 6pm at LynMarie's. If you're wanting to be a part of the Village Flea or to attend our first meeting, please email us at thevillageflea.com and we will give you all the details. We will be discussing details regarding the Second Annual Village Flea and also different ways to best utilize the funds we have raised and will continue raising for our town. Please also check out our Instagram and Facebook pages for photos and updates.

Thank you for the support and we look forward to all of the fun to come!



A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye



Yet another summer has come and gone. As we come into the fall months we will be continuing yard waste until October 22nd. We will begin picking up leaves the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month starting October 8th until the first part of December. Please rake them to the curb as close to the road as you can. No plastic bagged leaves will be picked up, but we will pick up the brown paper bags. Please do your best to not have sticks mixed with the leaves.

Reminder: when we are plowing snow please be cautious. We will do the best we can to keep the roads and uptown sidewalks clear. As the winter goes on the pot holes get worse and we will fill them in as soon as we notice them. If you need anything from the Street Department call the Village cell phone at 419-541-1428.

Dustin Crabtree,
Street Supt.



Please join us in welcoming our newest business, Old Soul Woodworking! Stop in at their grand opening on Saturday, October 12th from 9am – 1pm, where you'll find beautifully hand crafted wood items that are focused on gratitude, family, faith and making a space feel like home.



The Huron River Joint Fire District Firemen's Association will host its annual Halloween parade and Village trick or treating on Sunday, October 27th. Youngsters donning costumes of all sorts of characters will be going door to door from 1pm to 2:30pm in search of treats, followed by a parade at 3:00pm. The parade will begin at the high school and end at the fire station.

Join in on this long standing tradition and enjoy seeing the creative costumes and the delight on a child's face when they receive a treat from you.

Utility Automatic Payment

Don't like writing checks or going to the bank or ATM for cash to pay your bills?

Monroeville Utilities offers a monthly automatic payment option for your utility bills!

This option transfers funds from either a checking or savings account. The total amount authorized to be transferred each month will be the amount of your bill and will be withdrawn on the due date.

You will continue to receive a hard copy of your utility bill which will have "Automatic Payment" indicated on the invoice.

See us at the Administrative Offices at 2 S. Main St. to complete an authorization form to begin your automatic payment!

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
2 SOUTH MAIN STREET
P O BOX 156
MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRST ST
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NORWALK, OH
PERMIT NO. 104



MONROEVILLE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

It often feels as if *time* is of the essence. Deadlines surround us. *Time* keeps marching on. I'm sure many of us feel that we need more hours in the day, or at least more hours in the weekend! 😊 Anyway, here we are. It's that *time* of the year again. School begins again and our long, hot summer days begin to shorten and perhaps (in temperature,) become more pleasant. Allow me to reflect for a moment on how *time* has affected our village.

This *past* summer, the community and businesses came together and enjoyed the first ever Village Flea. It was a great deal of fun and promoted a love of what makes our village so special ... the people who live and work here!!! Thank you to all the organizers and supporters of this fantastic event!

This summer, I was also fortunate enough to spend some *time* with some of our amazing employees as I continue to try and learn the ins and outs of our village and the nuances of each of our departments. I would like to personally thank Don Clark, Wes Brewer, Dave Hamons, Dustin Crabtree and Darrell Boldman, who went above and beyond as they took the *time* to try and further educate me in their respective fields of expertise. To say I was impressed is an understatement!

Speaking of our employees, I cannot stress enough how blessed we are to have such a dedicated, conscientious and knowledgeable group of men and women who work hard daily to ensure the well-being of our village! It is not uncommon for me to hear accolades like, "George (Latteman) is a gifted mechanic!" "Ann (Beck) does a bang-up job putting our bi-annual newsletter together!" "Lieutenant (Troy Kimball) is our computer/technology whiz!" I could go on and on! As I said, we are blessed to have such amazing people in our workforce! Please extend your appreciation to all of them when you see them working throughout our community.

In the concept of *time*, we also look forward to the *future*. We are very excited about our new municipal building project advancing. This has been a long *time* coming, and we eagerly anticipate seeing all the work, from the first shovel in the ground through the successful completion of the three phases. You may have noticed community members and dignitaries joining us earlier this month as we marked this historic event with a ceremonial groundbreaking. Again, I would be remiss if I didn't extend a public thank you to our fiscal officer, Bonnie Beck, and our Village Administrator, Tom Gray, for all their diligent work to help bring this project to its successful fruition.

As long as we are looking to the *future*, recently, I had the privilege of meeting with the new owners of our soon-to-be latest business calling our fine village home. I am reminded of the quality, salt-of-the-earth people who own and operate ALL the businesses in Monroeville. Continue to support them and shop locally. There are many reasons we celebrate Monroeville, and our businesses and the people who represent them are a big part of that! These businesses contribute back to our village by supporting (in action and often monetarily) our community, families and schools. We thank them for that!

Finally, coming back to the notion of *time*, we all acknowledge that it marks our lives. As I think about the *time* I have spent as your Mayor, (approaching the conclusion of my fourth year), I can't help but think how that *time* has changed me and our village. As I look forward to beginning my next term, I continue to be excited about what our *future* holds as a community ... *OUR* community ... the best little village with a gigantic heart!

Yours in service,

Melissa Fries-Seip

Mayor

FROM THE GROUND UP!



The Village Administration and its employees are delighted to see that work on our new municipal building has finally begun! We are so excited, and can't wait to see the final outcome after months of construction.

We thought it was important to remind our residents of the unique qualities that are making this project a reality. With the inception of the Monroeville Municipal Complex (MMC) plans in 2004, we have worked diligently to be fiscally responsible in all aspects of the Village's budget so we could show our residents that we care about the way this project is presented. We have diligently been investing a portion of the Village's cable franchise fees (70%), local government fees (5%), and local income tax revenue (2%) into an interest bearing Star Ohio account. Despite the fact that in the past ten years interest rates dipped to as low as .02%, we still maintained the Star Ohio account and accrued almost \$228,000, which has paid for the soil borings, the engineering costs, and about 80% of the architect fees. The building is being financed through a loan from Croghan Colonial Bank, who offered a 30-year commercial loan because they recognized the Village's financial stability and the integrity of our operations.

Some additional points of interest regarding the building includes:

- We have not increased our 1% income tax rate since its 1989 inception, and there are no plans to do so in the near future. Our rate is one of the lowest in Ohio.
- Despite the decline in revenue streams from the State of Ohio, our financial stability has remained strong.
- Funding for the loan will be paid through the General Fund, which is currently debt free. *Utility rates are NOT affiliated with the General Fund, so utility payments cannot be used for this purpose.*
- Because Croghan Colonial Bank and the Village reached an amicable agreement, the properties were exchanged so there was no cost for purchasing land.
- In addition to the lobby window, the building will have a drive up window that will provide a convenience to our citizens, especially our senior citizens, who won't have to be subjected to inclement weather to pay their utility bills or income taxes.
- The building will be handicap accessible.
- The new building will be a stepping stone to the revitalization of our downtown area as store fronts are fixed, sidewalks are repaired, and beautification projects abound....all in a methodical fashion.

Please make sure you call our office if you have ANY questions about this project. We look forward to seeing you all when we have our grand opening!





EBB & FLOW



WATER:

The Water Dept. will continue with backflow inspections and surveys on the commercial water users to verify nothing has changed with their water use practices. In lieu of conducting on-site backflow investigations at each residential premise, the Village has elected to inform all water customers of the common backflow hazards and how to report a potential cross contamination by inserting a link for the OEPA Backflow Prevention and Cross Control pamphlet on the Village website @ monroevilleohio.com under the Water Dept. drop down. If you have any questions or concerns about any backflow issue please contact the Water Dept.

WASTEWATER:

Precipitation for 2018 equaled 42.65 inches. So far, this year, (2019) we have recorded 30.82 inches with June having the heaviest rainfall at 7.15 inches

We would like to remind all sanitary sewer users not to dispose of any mercury containing items or fluids into the sewer. If you need help getting rid of it please call us at 419-465-4182 and we will help you dispose of it properly.

The employees of the Wastewater Dept., in order to comply with our permit, will be re-visiting the commercial customers to verify nothing mercury related has changed.

The Wastewater Dept. will continue to clean and inspect sanitary sewer mains throughout the fall months.



System wide Hydrant Flushing and Valve Exercising:

This is tentatively scheduled for the last part of September and/or first part of October. Water Dept. employees will begin flushing and valve exercising at approximately 8:30 am and stop around 3:00 pm daily. You may experience low flow and or cloudy/discolored water during this period. Please let your tap run and the condition should clear up relatively quickly.

Remember, should you see anything unusual, let us know!!!

If you ever have any questions concerning your water or wastewater, please call the Water Dept. (419) 465-4182. In case of an emergency, call the Monroeville Police Dept. and they will contact the on call person.

As a reminder, meter reading is around the 10th of every month. And, with the winter months approaching, please refrain from covering meter pits with the pretty white stuff!

Thank You,
The Water & Wastewater Dept.



VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
2 S. MAIN ST PO BOX 156
MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

MELISSA FREIS-SEIP, MAYOR
419-465-6101

BONNIE BECK, FISCAL OFFICER
419-465-2922

THOMAS GRAY, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
419-465-2922

WATER & WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
419-465-4182

STREET DEPARTMENT
419-465-2800

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
419-465-4149

MONROEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NON EMERGENCY
419-465-2474

OUTSIDE THE PATROL

Hooked on Fishing.

On May 27th the Village of Monroeville and the Monroeville Police Department held its' annual Hooked on Fishing event. The event was a lot of fun for all who attended. Approximately 220 adults and children took part in the festivities. Awards were given to those who could catch the biggest fish, the smallest fish and the most fish. Below are the winners. Left to right: Veanna Helmstetter with the most fish (25!); Chandler Kimball with the smallest fish(4 inches); Brad Hay biggest fish (25 1/2 inches). Congratulations. A special thanks to Mayor Fries, Council woman Sue Rogers, Lt. Kimball and all the volunteers who helped make this event a success.



Safety Town

On July 8th through July 13th the Monroeville Police Department along with members of the Huron River Joint Fire District participated in Safety Town. Approximately 21 children who will be entering Kindergarten successfully completed the course. Congratulations!



Officers Meyer and Hanuscin complete advanced narcotics training

In May officers Meyer and Hanuscin successfully completed narcotics training course sponsored by the Ohio Narcotics Officers Regional Coordinating Officers. This intensive training course was a blend of classroom instruction and scenario training, and although designed for officers new to the field of narcotics has been extremely well received by veteran narcotic officers and supervisors who have attended the course in the past. Attendees will be provided classroom instruction which included;

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| Street Drugs Identification | Undercover Operations |
| Operational Planning | Surveillance Operations |
| Managing Confidential Informants | Search Warrants |
| Narcotic Case Prosecution Pitfalls | First Aid |
| Carrying Weapons While Undercover | |
| Technical Equipment Operations | |

Classroom instruction serves as the foundation for the core of this training program which is the real life scenario training provided by a cadre of veteran narcotic officers from across the state. Our officers were tasked with conducting informant purchases and making direct undercover buys in a controlled environment while under the direct supervision of a student mentor. Each scenario was recorded on digital video and later reviewed by the student and their "Evaluator". The officers also participated in a team building exercise which involves developing simple intelligence information into a narcotic investigation through the use of surveillance, confidential informants, and undercover operations.

Chief Lyons climbs more mountains and has yet to fall off

In late August, Chief Lyons once again went to Colorado and successfully summited two more mountains. Colorado has some of the tallest peaks in the 48 states. In fact, 53 are over 14,000 feet. To date he has successfully climbed Mt. Bierstadt (14,060 ft), Mt. Elbert(14,433 ft), Mt. Democrat(14,155 ft.), and Mt. Quandary(14,265 ft). The photo below shows Chief Lyons with his Monroeville Sesquicentennial sweatshirt on top of Mt. Democrat this year.





We would like to thank Bernie and Russ Bishop for their many years of service on the Shade Tree Commission. Bernie and Russ moved out of town and will no longer be on the Commission but will still be volunteering their help with tree planting and management. We would like to welcome Karen Wagner and Doug Long to the Commission so we can continue to manage our urban forest. The other members of the Commission are Dawn Franklin, Marie Wilhelm and Sue Long. If you would have any questions regarding the Village trees please contact one of us.

Shade Tree Commission



Daylight Savings time ends on November 3rd this year. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

The Administrative Offices will be closed on the following dates in observance of holidays...

- Oct 14th - Columbus Day
- Nov 11th - Veterans Day
- Nov 28th - Thanksgiving
- Dec 25th - Christmas
- Jan 1, 2020 - New Year's
- Jan 20th - Martin Luther King Day
- Feb 17th - Presidents' Day



The Green Vitamin

The human benefits resulting from trees and green space are significant. They have even been called the green vitamin. And this powerful medicine rests in the hands of the urban foresters, park managers, tree commissions and other stewards of green spaces in our Village. With 80% of our nation living in stressful urban situations, residents need the healing power of trees.



MAKING MEMORIES AT OUR PARKS

2019 has been an exciting year with many improvements within our parks. Our number one priority is for every person who visits any of our parks to walk away with a smile and great memories.

Noticeable changes are taking place at Marsh Park. New toddler swings have been installed. New outfield fencing has been installed on both ball fields. The south ball diamond has been totally renovated. A big "Thank You" goes out to the Monroeville Baseball Alumni Association and every individual involved for their contributions to these projects. Much needed repairs were completed to the large shelter house at Marsh. Structure supports, siding and the roof have all been replaced.

A new toddler slide was installed at Clark Park this summer.

Baseball, softball, youth football, fishing, grilling, birthday celebrations, anniversary parties, picture taking, bird watching, deer watching, picnics, dog walking or just watching kids playing and experiencing nature at its best, this can all be found in our parks.

Darrell Boldman, Parks Director

Revitalization of our downtown

As we begin the transition from summer to fall, great things are taking place in our downtown. Construction of the Monroeville Municipal Complex is now underway. This project will encompass a year's worth of work and will include construction of a combined administration and police building, demolition of the current police department building and the construction of a new parking lot. All of this has been made possible with the support of our community. This construction is a "keystone" to the revitalization of the downtown area.

Council has asked that design work move forward for the replacement and upgrade of various sections of sidewalk in the downtown business district. As you can appreciate, it is just more than forming and pouring new concrete. Ease of access, handicap compliance, and aesthetics are all a part of this project.

You probably noticed the conversion of downtown street lighting from high pressure sodium (HPS) to light-emitting diode (LED). This is part of the Village's commitment towards greater energy efficiency as well as improved light levels on the roadway and sidewalk areas. This conversion process will continue in 2020, as other areas of the Village see a change to LED lighting.

Mentioned in the spring newsletter, Milan Avenue and River Road will be resurfaced in 2020. This project is a joint effort between the Village and the Huron County Engineer.

I realize we are just now closing out summer but, the Street Division is in the process of taking delivery of road salt. We have in-Village storage and a readily available refill source, in a partnership with the Huron County Engineer.

We remain optimistic about a new tenant at the Industrial Park. Over the course of the next few weeks a closing is anticipated.

The North Street guard rail project is complete with the exception of installation of the final few feet of concrete to establish the crosswalk. This remaining work is scheduled to be completed shortly. A set of LED flashing crosswalk lights will complement the work.

In another portion of this newsletter, dates and times for the fall leaf pick up are stated. Please, do not place any foreign objects in the leaves, get them to the curb and not in the street.

We enjoy talking about the benefits the Monroeville Solar Park provides the Village. This installation continues to provide rate stabilization as well as a source of "green energy" for the Village. The solar output provides about 10% of our annual energy requirements.

Recently, the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives approved House Bill 6 (HB 6). This bill was a mechanism in the establishment of an alternate, consumer based funding source for First Energy's Perry and Davis-Besse Nuclear power plants. As enacted, Municipal Electric Consumers, such as those in Monroeville, are not subject to the provisions of the bill. We were successful in our lobbying efforts to keep our electric consumers from having to pay into this fund.

On the water and wastewater sides, operations continue to be stable with no rate changes on the immediate horizon. We continue to do all that we can to keep these operations within budget and on track.

In 2020, you will begin to see planning for a Broad Street – sanitary sewer replacement. This is a sister project to the one on Monroe Street, completed a few years back. The EPA is constantly mandating upgrades and changes in an effort to eliminate cross flow from storm water to the sanitary system. If plans fall into place, in conjunction with this project, Broad Street could be resurfaced over its entire length.

An open offer to all of our residents: If you would like to take a personal, one on one, tour of any or all of our Village installations, please reach out to the Village Office and we will make arrangements to show you the operational end of what makes the Village function.

Tom Gray, Village Administrator