



MONROEVILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

Greetings friends and neighbors!

It feels like a great deal has happened since I wrote last. Allow me to reminisce a little before talking about what is yet to come.

Although we have had a rather mild winter, I would like to thank all of the village employees for their work this past winter. Winter storms that caused power outages in the surrounding areas had little to no effect on our village's electric consumers. The condition of our streets throughout the village were once again lauded as being some of the best around during our occasions of winter weather. Much merriment was spread during the Christmas season because of our often-complimented beautiful street and park decorations, along with the successful *Christmas in the Park* activities. Many employees donated their time, energy and talents to making the event a success! Monroeville continues to be a wonderful community to live and work in because of the hard work and dedication of its employees!

The days are now getting longer as we begin to move out of winter and head towards spring. You will definitely notice an increase in the fairer weather activities happening around the village including street and water main repairs, and maintenance and improvements in the parks. Soon, village residents will be able to participate in a community outreach survey from our police department. The Monroeville Police Department is also making plans for the annual Hooked on Fishing event later this spring. Not to mention, we are eagerly anticipating the Second Annual Village Flea that is slated to hit the streets of downtown June 27th. Please be sure to read more specifics about these and all of the happenings coming up in our village throughout the rest of this newsletter.

As you surely can see, the municipal complex is coming along nicely! It is our hope that we can be moving into our new space by late summer or early fall of this year. Shortly after, we will move into the next phases of our plan with the demolition of the old police department and the completion of the off-street parking. We will be very excited to welcome the community to an Open House as our building reaches completion.

Last, but most certainly not least, I would like to thank the American Legion post for donating a new supply of American flags that you will most assuredly see lining our downtown streets every President's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, and Veterans Day, among others.

The next time I write, summer will be winding down and the Village will unquestionably have been busy and productive. My wish is that your spring and summer is enjoyable and safe. Continue being the best little village with a gigantic heart by continuing to look out for each other!

Yours in Service,

Melissa M. Fries-Seip
Mayor



EVERYONE'S FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR IS HERE AGAIN

April 15th is fast approaching ~ Beat the rush and file early!!

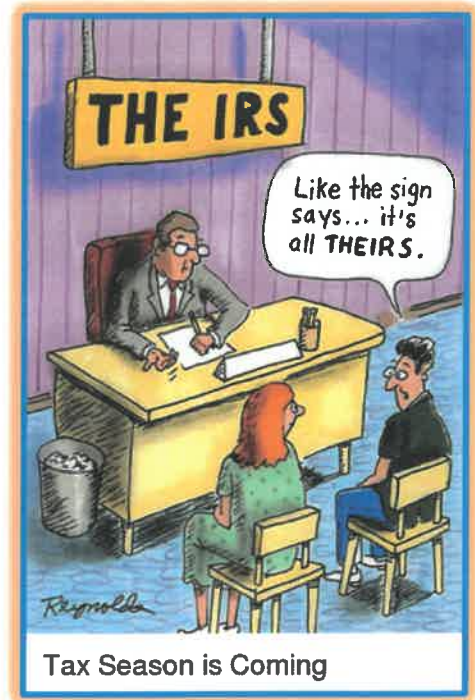
Please remember to include your completed Village tax return, all W-2's showing Box 5 Medicare wages and any local income tax withheld to the Village or other cities, your Federal 1040 form along with any schedules for income you are claiming such as rental, farm, business, or miscellaneous income. Make sure all forms are signed and dated.

If you did not have any taxable income for 2019 you will need to complete an Affidavit of Exemption. This form needs to be notarized.

All of these forms you can find on our website at www.monroevilleohio.com located under the Tax Department.

If you need more time to file your Federal return and have filed an extension request with the IRS, we will need a copy of your extension for our office as well. Remember – filing an extension gives you additional time to “file” your return, it does not give you additional time to “pay”. Any tax due is still payable by April 15th to avoid any penalties and interest.

As always, if you have any questions, or need assistance, we are happy to help. You can call the office Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or stop in and see us! After all the paperwork is done you can relax and enjoy a stress-free spring!!



“OUR TOWN”

Michael Stanley, Cleveland Rock Legend says it best...

“Oh, and this town is my town—alright? Love or hate it—it don’t matter ‘Cause I’m gonna stand and fight. This town—is my town. She’s got her ups and downs, but love or hate it, it don’t matter, **CAUSE THIS IS MY TOWN.**”

You will, no doubt, feel the enthusiasm being expressed in the Spring Newsletter. Throughout the Newsletter you will see the community engagement, see the connection between neighbors, and most importantly, realize the connection of the Village to its residents.

Our Town – Our Village continues to grow, prosper, and work towards a rejuvenated and revitalized future.

This enthusiasm is stretched across all of the Village Divisions, with our workers, and with our residents.

Each and every step Council and the Administration takes has the best interest of the Village and its residents, up front.

Nothing happens without this forward looking approach.

Over the last few years, great strides have taken place with infrastructure improvements, life safety enhancements, schools, and with the parks and recreation facilities.

“This town—is our town. She’s got her ups and downs but, love it or hate it, it don’t matter, **CAUSE THIS IS OUR TOWN....MONROEVILLE OHIO,**” **“THE BEST LITTLE TOWN by a DAM SITE”***



* **Mike Adelman – Mayor and the Villages’ biggest promoter, in a comment to the Reflector – Center Line.**

TOM GRAY
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR



BECOME IMMORTALIZED!

Through the Village of Monroeville Buy-A-Brick Program, you can be an enduring piece of the new Monroeville Municipal Complex! You can choose a message to be laser engraved on one of the 4x8” bricks paving the walkway to the building. We are offering the one size brick for our project which you can purchase for \$50.00 each.

Why not recognize a special person in your life, your family, a business or organization? The possibilities are endless. You can engrave up to 3 lines of text with 20 characters per line (this includes spaces and punctuation).

A sample brick is located at the Village Administrative office for you to view, along with order forms for you to enter your text exactly how you want it to appear on the brick.

You can pay for your brick with cash or checks made out to The Village of Monroeville. If you have any questions, please contact Council Member Sue Rogers at 419-706-1557.

Monroeville Village Council



🍷🎵🍷 The Village Flea 2020! 🍷🎵🍷 Who else is ready for another scorching hot day filled with summer's best food, music, and treasure hunting right in the heart of small town America? ❤️ .

Mark your calendars! ❤️ Saturday, June 27th for the Second Annual Village Flea located in Monroeville, Ohio. We truly cannot wait for another magical day filled with good ol' fashioned fun.

More details coming soon! Xo! ❤️ 🍷 🎵 🍷



A “BR GHT” FUTURE


As we leave 2019 the electric department has completed various jobs like installing a new house service, various system upgrades and LED street lighting conversion in various locations throughout the Village.

As we start into 2020 we will be installing another new house service. As always we are happy to see new costumers come into our system. As we move forward into this year we have several miscellaneous system upgrades, tree trimming and removal of dead trees, more LED lighting conversions on our streets and buildings and re-lighting of other streets.

A few big items for this year are the final installation work of a peaker/emergency system generator at the Herbert substation, and possible additional solar field and motor operators for our system feed switches.

As always, if there is a problem please feel free to contact us for assistance and if there is an after-hours emergency contact the POLICE Dept. so they can inform the on call person of the situation.

David Hamons
Electric Superintendent



After reading Mayor Fries-Seip's article in the Norwalk Reflector on Tuesday March 3rd, I too want to give a note of praise to the Village of Monroeville. After years of waiting, the Monroeville Municipal Complex (MMC) is in process. It's great to see such great progress at the new MMC facility through these wintery months. The residents can look forward to September when this facility will be ready for meetings, easy access to the Administrative Offices, a convenient drive-up window, and it will be handicap accessible. Our Police Department will also be in the same facility, and Council will conduct meetings in their new Council Chambers instead of the Ridgefield Township building.

Monroeville has made great strides for improvements throughout the Village. A couple of items: The North Street sidewalk and guard rail extension will be finished this coming spring and the annual tree maintenance will soon begin. These items may seem to be insignificant, but they add to our wellbeing and safety.

The progress of the Village doesn't just happen. Much planning takes place. Like a glove, it has many fingers: Village Council and Mayor, the Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer, Administrative Assistants, Utility and Street employees and the Police.

We are all users of our utility systems...water, electric and sewer. The Village has benefited from the solar field to offset not only our electric grid but to assist our water rates. The Village is more than 150 years in existence and our infrastructure is aging, but Council is well informed and is here to make decisions for the betterment of YOUR village.

I invite all Monroeville residents to attend a Council meeting. It is the basis of our community.



Christina Raftery
Council President pro-tem

Severe Weather Awareness Week

March 22 – 28 is Severe Weather Awareness Week. On March 25th at 9:50am the tornado sirens will be set off statewide. Don't be alarmed when you hear the sirens - - this is only a test.



As summer approaches the Street Department will begin collecting yard waste every second and fourth Tuesday of the month starting April 14th and ending October 27th. Please make sure there is no trash included in your container. We will not be accepting plastic bags. However, the biodegradable brown bags will be collected. We will also not be accepting 55 gallon drums unless they have handles to grab. Please make sure there are holes in the bottom of your containers to allow water to drain out.

The Street Department is going to continue to straighten and add new street signs with breakaway posts. As you drive through town, you will notice we have added flashing rail road signs on Monroe Street along with new flashing cross walk signs on North Street. We plan to add new "Welcome to Monroeville" signs by the corporation limits. The Village will have River Road and Milan Ave repaved this year. We will continue to cold patch and crack seal roadways, clean and jet basin tiles, and repair basins as needed. If you have any comments or concerns please contact the Street Department at 419-465-2800 or Email at streets@monroevilleohio.com.



Dustin Crabtree
Street Superintendent

Photo Enforcement

Effective July 2019, the Village paused its photo enforcement program with the passage of a state law that severely restricted how municipalities could conduct their photo enforcement programs. The Village of Monroeville along with most other municipalities challenged the constitutionality of the new law. In late December the Huron County Common Pleas court granted the Village a temporary restraining order against the enforcement of the law and on January 23, 2020 we resumed the photo enforcement program.



As in the past, photo enforcement is being conducted by stationary cameras and mobile devices. The mobile Dragon Cams that have been used by the police department since January 2016 will continue its operation in school zones and other designated areas throughout the Village. And, fixed cameras to monitor red light and speed violations on U.S. 20 at the Monroe Street intersection and speed violations for westbound traffic on U.S. 20 near the E. Brooklyn Heights intersection have begun operation again.

In order to be considered a red light violation, the vehicle must have crossed the stop bar after the traffic light has turned red. The stop bar is the very wide white line that is located next to the cross walk lines, furthest from the intersection. It is not considered a red light violation if the vehicle is in the intersection when the light turns red. For example, a vehicle stopped in traffic, inside the intersection, to make a left turn would not be considered a red light violation. Unless there is signage prohibiting, vehicles are permitted to make a right turn on red provided they come to a complete stop first before proceeding safely with the turn.

Speed violations are recorded when a vehicle reaches a speed of 12 mph or higher in a non-school zone area. In school zones a vehicle must be going 10mph or higher to receive a notice of liability.

Citizen Survey

The Monroeville Police Department will soon be distributing surveys to its citizens. This is part of an ongoing effort of the Village and the Police Department to see to the needs of the citizens they serve and determine what issues are of importance to them. The survey is in its final draft and once it is approved by Council for distribution, we will make an announcement on the Police Department's Facebook page.

Gary Lyons, Chief of Police

Our Buildings May Be Closed, But We Are Still Here To Serve Our Community

In light of the unprecedented emergency declarations at both the National and State levels to curb the trend of Covid-19, our municipal facilities will be following suit. Rest assured that our Village utility and public works services are strong. Our goal is to maintain our levels of excellency as we take the necessary precautions to effectively practice social distancing. In order to keep our employees and facilities performing at optimum ability, the following directive has been initiated.

All municipal buildings and public works facilities will have locked public access. Having said that, each department will continue to provide services as normal and business hours will remain the same. What this means for the public (temporarily) is that all business should be done via phone, email, fax or in the case of the village office, the outside drop box may be used.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this global challenge. The health and safety of all of our communities and families are paramount. Together, in time, we will come through this pandemic. Continue to look out for each other, especially the most vulnerable in our village. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Melissa M. Fries-Seip, Mayor

PRECIPITATION FOR 2019
EQUALED 39.47 INCHES
FOR OUR AREA.



CLOSED



MAY 25TH
JULY 4TH
SEPTEMBER 7TH
OCTOBER 12TH

MEMORIAL DAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
LABOR DAY
COLUMBUS DAY



Main Street crossed the Huron River via a covered bridge built in 1836-1837. The landmark bridge was far too frail to support interurban cars and was replaced in 1910.



The Railroad House hotel was built circa 1834 on the site of a previous 1818 hotel. It was named the Commercial House by the time this photo was captured in 1896.

Learn more about our historical railway system and other Monroeville landmarks by visiting <http://www.lakeshorerailmaps.com/monroeville.html>.



Do your trees pose a risk? There are several key factors in risk assessment. These include the tree's past history, branches that cross or rub, signs of dying or decay, how vigorous the tree is, wounds, cracks and severed or decayed roots. To reduce tree risk regular care is imperative. The Shade Tree Commission members try to assess the trees in the Village's boulevards for such hazards.

Save the date!! Our celebration of Arbor Day will be held on April 19, 2020 at 1:00pm by the Fire Department parking lot on Monroe Street. A tree will be planted in the boulevard. The public is welcome to join us in our annual tree planting event!



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

MELISSA FRIES-SEIP, MAYOR
419-465-6101

BONNIE BECK, FISCAL OFFICER
419-465-2922

THOMAS GRAY, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
419-465-2922

MONROEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NON EMERGENCY
419-465-2474

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
419-465-4443

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
419-465-4149

STREET DEPARTMENT
419-465-2800

WATER & WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
419-465-4182



WATER & WASTEWATER

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

You will be seeing quite a bit of field activity on the Water and Wastewater side.

Several years ago, the Electric Division changed all of the electric meters to radio read. In 2020, the Water Division will be undertaking a similar project in which, all manually read water meters will be replaced with radio read meters. The benefits, of the radio read system, will be improved billing accuracy, better water loss tracking, and a reduction in the amount of time required to open each meter pit, grab the reading, and then write it in the log.

As a part of our commitment to reduce the amount of storm water flowing into the sanitary sewer system, the Ohio EPA has mandated the Broad Street sanitary sewer line be re-constructed. This project will get underway in mid-2020 and be similar to the Monroe Street line replacement in 2017. Work will be performed in such a way to not impact the St. Joe's festival or the schools.

Unfortunately, the Village had 6 water main breaks and replaced 2 valves just on St. Rt. 20/S. Main St. We are looking into replacing this 100+ year old section in the near future.

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.

Water & Wastewater Dept.

Chase those winter blues away!

As we look out the window, summer seems so far away. The desire to get back outside and enjoy going for a bike ride, watching a ball game, or even taking an evening stroll to one of our beautiful parks is actually only a few short weeks away. The good news is that winter will not last forever.

As one day seems to run into the next, take the time to enjoy. A day at one of our parks with definitely chase those winter blues away! 2020 looks to be an exciting year. I look forward to seeing you there!

Darrell Boldman, Parks & Rec Director



The Huron River Joint Fireman's Association will host their annual chicken BBQ on Sunday April 26, 2020 at the fire station located at 155 Monroe Street. Dine in and carry out is available. Why not take a break from the kitchen and enjoy this scrumptious meal!

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



“Be Stronger Than your Excuses”

We are excited to welcome Eagle Strong Nutrition to our community. Tenesha Hartley, Herbalife independent distributor, is available to help guide you with your selections and can help you with your personalized nutrition. If you have not tried one of the many shake and tea options available, you are missing out!

Hours of operation are: M – Th 6:30am – 6:30pm
 Fr 6:30am – 5:00pm
 Sa – Su 6:30am – 2:00pm

Tenesha also offers various fitness classes. Check out Eagle Strong Nutrition on Facebook for more details.

WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming Heather Alicea to our work force. Heather has joined our Administrative Office on a part-time basis. She brings with her a variety of administrative experience from her previous work at the Huron County Department of Job and Family Services. Heather resides in Norwalk with her husband and three children.



SAVE THE DATE!
HOOKED ON FISHING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020
AT CLARK PARK BEGINNING AT 11:00AM