



MONROEVILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Dear Neighbors,

It is my pleasure to write my first-ever letter to my fellow Villagers as your new Mayor! I am quite humbled that you chose me for this position, and I promise to do my very best for the Village each and every day. Serving as your Mayor is one of the greatest honors I have received and I truly treasure the opportunity. Your support has been wonderful and you make this position an easy one. The recent former Mayor of a nearby village, who was since elected to another role, sent me a note after I was elected. He wrote, "I think you will find that being the Mayor of a small town is one of the most rewarding experiences you can ever have as an elected official." My elected official career isn't a long one, but I have to say I think he's right! I'm proud of Monroeville as a community and proud of our Village government, too. I know we will accomplish a lot in 2024 and the years ahead and I can't wait!

Some of you might not know that, while my term began on January 1, I was actually sworn in by Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip at our December 2023 Council meeting. Why? Because the job begins on day 1! Within the first few weeks of the year, we were selecting and appointing a new Council member (thank you and welcome to Tammy Schlachter, who replaced me on Council), getting a newly-elected Council member up to speed (thank you and welcome to Mark Miller, who replaced Craig Franklin on Council), appointing and reappointing individuals to committees and boards (including Anna Bischoff to the Shade Tree Commission and newcomer Melissa Woodruff to the Board of Zoning Appeals – welcome to you both!), and approving plans for two new commercial buildings in the Village! We are also in the middle of a much-needed update of our Village zoning regulations. In the meantime, we have been applying for grants and setting aside funds to build a new downtown parking lot, repair downtown sidewalks, and repair Village streets. We'll keep at it until all of these necessary projects get completed!

With the (early) coming of spring there are some big events in the Village right around the corner. Our Monroeville Schools will officially open their new all-weather track on March 30 at 10:15 am, with a track meet afterwards. You are all invited to attend. On April 8 is the once in a lifetime total solar eclipse, which will begin at approximately 3 pm. We hope it will be a fun day, but keep in mind that we expect many visitors from out of town, and a lot of traffic to go with it. Try and get all of your errands done before the preceding Saturday—it might be difficult to get gas or groceries by the time Monday rolls around. Get prescriptions refilled and stock up on anything else you'd immediately need. Some preplanning and patience will go a long way. Mellow Yellow Pizza will be in the Village all weekend, and you can watch the eclipse at any of our parks.

Finally, Memorial Day is not far off, and of course we will be celebrating with a mix of solemn remembrance and patriotic fun with a parade and ceremony at the Monroeville Commons hosted by our American Legion Post 547. I will be there to speak, and I'll try to keep it pretty short. The Legion is hoping the parade can be bigger and better this year, and they invite you to bring decorated floats, vehicles, tractors, golf carts, etc. Contact Molly Doss via the American Legion for more information. Join the Police Department for Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs at Clark Park afterwards. I hope to see everyone there.

I'd like to close by thanking Councilman Craig Franklin and Mayor Fries-Seip for their many years of service to the Village, which they each concluded at the end of last year. Mayor Missy in particular deserves our appreciation for the terrific job she did as Mayor. She set a great example for me and all other future Mayors to follow and her passion for the Village is unmatched. Thank her when you see her.

The easiest way to get in touch with me is by email at mayor@monroevilleohio.com, or by stopping me if you see me out and about. I hope to establish some regular office hours at the MMC soon. Our administrative office can always get in touch with me, and the number there is 419-465-2922. On behalf of all of the Village's employees and administrators, I wish you a safe, happy, and healthy spring season!

Very truly yours,
Mayor Joe Galea





The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be resurfacing North Ridge Street / State Route 99, from the North corporation limit to a point just outside of Willard. This project will include a reconstruction of the SR 99 & US 20 intersection and the replacement of the traffic signal – control loops on North Ridge – north and south sides of the intersection. The control/light trigger loops have been way overdue for replacement. This project will be underway in early April and the contract was awarded to Erie Blacktop.

On the west end of the Village, State Route 547 will be repaved from the west end corporation limit to almost Bellevue. There will be no resurfacing taking place within the Village in conjunction with this project. Erie Blacktop was awarded the work and it, too, will begin in April.

Early in 2024, the Electric Division completed the conversion of our street lighting to LED style fixtures. This conversion project was the culmination of +5 years of work with the new “daylight” LED lights standing in stark contrast to the old “orange” looking High Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures.

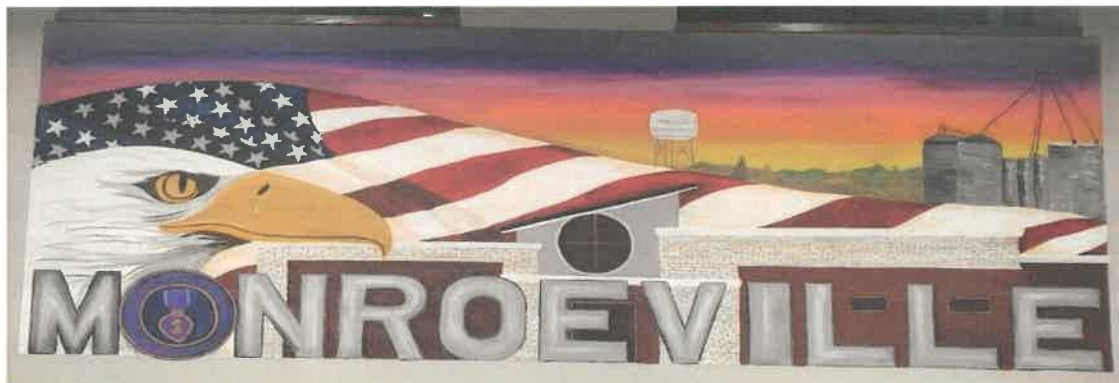
The 2024 tree trimming program will begin soon. This is an annual project that includes trimming in and around overhead electric system wiring, street overhang trimming, and, this year, the removal of danger trees in Clark and Marsh parks.

Council has several grant applications submitted to various agencies covering several projects. One of the projects involves the construction of a downtown parking lot at the location of the former Commercial House.

New signs will be installed as a part of the North Coast Inland Trail / Firelands Rails to Trails / ODOT program to better inform trail users of businesses and food establishments in the Village. This is a collaborative effort in hopes of pulling more people off the trail and into the Village.

As reported previously, for the foreseeable future, we have reached the end of our water and wastewater infrastructure projects. These projects have contributed to improved water pressure, across the Village, and have lessened the amount of storm water inflow to the sanitary sewer system.

Tom Gray, Village Administrator



Thanks to the talents of Brandi Goodwin, our council chambers has a beautiful mural wall. Brandi generously donated supplies and many hours of her time to create this incredible rendition of our community. Stop in to the Monroeville Municipal Complex to see this wonderful work of art!

SUMMER FUN FACTS:

Summer is a great time for star gazing, as many constellations are visible in the night sky.

The first electric air conditioner was invented by Willis Carrier in 1902.

The hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth was 134 degrees Fahrenheit in Furnace Creek Ranch, CA on July 10, 1913.

The first successful flight of the Wright Brothers' airplane took place in the summer of 1903.

The “dog days of summer” refers to the hottest, most humid days of the year.

In the U.S. National Ice Cream Day is the third Sunday in July.

SYSTEM WIDE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Hydrant flushing is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of April 29th and May 6th. Water Department employees will begin flushing and valve exercising at approximately 8:30am and stop around 3:00pm 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 quickly.



Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. Memorial Day originally was observed on May 30, but in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Monroeville has traditionally honored Memorial Day, and thanks to the efforts and dedication of our American Legion Post 547, we hold a solemn tribute to our fallen military service men and women. Won't you join us at Commons Park on Monday, May 27th at Commons Park to observe Memorial Day? The parade starts at the high school at 10:00am, and ends at Commons Park. Led by our Police Department, you'll see our high school band, local scout troops, decorated bikes and wagons, military personnel, community participants, and fire trucks. The community choir will provide beautiful patriotic music, there will be a bike/wagon decoration contest, Mayor Joe Galea will be the speaker, our high school band members will play the national anthem and taps, the American Legion will sound the gun salute, and ice cream treats will close the event.



ALL WATER SYSTEM CUSTOMERS WILL BE RECEIVING A SERVICE LINE SURVEY. SURVEYS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY MAY 10TH EITHER VIA EMAIL TO WATER@MONROEVILLEOHIO.COM OR MAILED TO MONROEVILLE WATER DEPARTMENT 136 MONROE ST. MONROEVILLE, OHIO 44847.

THE EPA IS MANDATING PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS TO COMPLETE A LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY BY OCTOBER OF 2024.

TO MEET THIS MANDATE THE VILLAGE NEEDS TO VERIFY THE SERVICE LINE MATERIAL ON BOTH THE VILLAGE AND PRIVATELY OWNED SIDE (NORMALLY FROM METER OR CURB STOP TO THE CONNECTION IN THE BASEMENT).

THE GOAL IS TO ELIMINATE ALL LEAD FROM THE DRINKING WATER SERVICE LINES. THE SERVICE LINE SURVEY WILL ENABLE US TO DETERMINE WHERE LEAD LINES MIGHT BE LOCATED TO HELP MEET THIS GOAL.

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 to get rid of such items, please call us at 419-465-4182 and we will help you dispose of it properly. There is a "Mercury in the Household" brochure on the Village's website under the Wastewater tab, which contains a lot of information and ideas on where in your house you could find mercury. 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.

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

Water & Wastewater Department

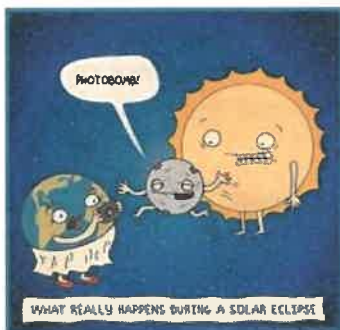
GOT-LEAKS?

Studies show that dripping faucets and leaking toilets account for as much as 14% of all indoor water use, equivalent to 10 gallons per person of water lost per day. The most common source of leaks is the toilet. Check toilets for leaks by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 20 to 30 minutes the dye shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.

This chart shows the amount of water that can be lost for various size leaks.

Unrepaired Leaks can be Costly

Water Loss in Gallons		
Leak this Size	Loss per Day	Loss per Month
•	120	3,600
•	360	10,800
•	693	20,790
•	1,200	36,000
•	1,920	57,600
•	3,096	92,880
•	4,296	128,880
•	6,640	199,200
•	6,984	209,520
•	8,424	252,720
•	9,888	296,640
•	11,324	339,720
•	12,720	381,600
•	14,952	448,560



IT'S ELECTRIC

As we start the year 2024, we have completed upgrading our street lighting and rental lighting to LED. We will also be doing various upgrades/improvements on our electrical system and substations to make them more efficient and stable.

Part of making our system more stable is by doing tree trimming around our primary lines. We are also installing animal guards/protectors throughout the system to minimize animal contacts/outages.

We would like to welcome some new residential and commercial customers to our community. As always, please report any outages/problems to the Electric Dept. as soon as possible (after hours please call the Police Dept so they can contact the on-call employee). As a reminder, NEVER touch any electric lines that are on the ground or within your reach.

Electric Department



Hooked on Fishing is scheduled for Monday, May 27th. Immediately after the Memorial Day parade and ceremonies, the Monroeville Police Department will be hosting our annual Hooked on Fishing event. All are invited. Hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks, and soft drinks will be provided. Children ages twelve and under are invited to participate in the fishing contest.

Safety Town will be conducted this summer; however, no definite date has been set.

Autopay



As a reminder, the Village of Monroeville offers automatic bank deduction of your monthly utility bill from a checking or a savings account. This payment option provides the convenience of paying your bill on time, every time. In order to participate, you will need to complete our Utility Payment Automatic Transfer Authorization Form. Once you complete and turn in the form, the amount of your Monroeville utilities invoice will be deducted from your chosen account each month on the due date. Utility payments are due by the 10th of every month.

You will continue to receive a utility bill each month indicating the amounts of the water, sewer, electric and other charges that are due. Once you have been activated for the automatic payment plan, a message will be stamped on your bill indicating "AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN." Continue to pay your utility bill each month until you see this message on your bill. Once the message is on your bill, your payment will be automatically deducted from your chosen bank account.

It usually takes 1-2 billing cycles for enrollment to take effect. Sign up today and start enjoying the convenience of automatic deduction! If you have any questions, please contact the Administrative Office.

~Important information to remember~

- Utility payments are due on the 10th of each month. If the 10th falls on a Saturday, the withdrawal date will be on Friday, the 9th. If the 10th falls on Sunday, the withdrawal date will be on Monday, the 11th. If the 10th is on a Monday that is a holiday, the withdrawal will be on Tuesday, the 11th.
- Please continue to make payments until your utility bill has the AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN indicated on your invoice right above your name & address.
- We aren't able to debit Money Market or Investment Accounts.
- We will try to debit your bank account once. If there are insufficient funds, a non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee will be charged and you will be responsible for making payment to the Administrative Office. Automatic payment will resume when your account is current. If a utility account is NSF more than twice, it will be removed from the auto payment plan.
- This authorization will continue in effect until the utility customer notifies the Administrative Office in writing, at least 10 days prior to the next billing.
- PLEASE ALLOW FOR ONE TO TWO BILLING CYCLES FOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS TO BE ACTIVATED

SOLAR ECLIPSE

From a blazing blue sky, the darkness is sudden. A hush and a stillness descend across the land, like a blanket. Animals, shaken by the unexpected nightfall, shrink back into their holes. Birds cease their merry song and fall silent. The blackness lingers for a matter of minutes. Long enough to make us wonder if we'll ever see the Sun again. Then, at last, she peeks once more. No longer wishing to hide. The beads of light glimmer through, and we let out a breath. The shadow crawls away across the land, loosening its grip on the Earth, beckoning the brightness back. And all is as it was.

Christina Baker

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
21 N MAIN ST PO BOX 156
MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

JOSEPH GALEA, MAYOR
mayor@monroevilleohio.com

BONNIE BECK, FISCAL OFFICER
fiscalofficer@monroevilleohio.com

THOMAS GRAY, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
villageadm@monroevilleohio.com

MONROEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NON-EMERGENCY
419-465-2474

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
419-465-4149

STREET DEPARTMENT
419-465-2800

WATER/WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
419-465-4182



SEVERE WEATHER ALERT

Tornado season is upon us. Just a reminder that our tornado sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 noon.

Severe weather conditions are issued as WATCHES or WARNINGS. A thunderstorm or tornado WATCH is issued when conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop. A thunderstorm or tornado WARNING is issued for areas where severe weather is imminent. If a WARNING is issued or if threatening weather approaches:

- A. In home or building, move to a pre-designed shelter, such as a basement.
- B. If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- C. Stay away from windows.
- D. Get out of automobiles
- E. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead leave it immediately.
- F. If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression.
- G. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornados and should be abandoned.



The Village Street Department will begin yard waste collection starting April 9th through October 22nd. Please do not have any trash inside of the container. If you have branches please tie them together.



The Street Department will continue to stay on top of any pot holes that pop up around town. We are going to focus more on keeping the curbs swept, and will be working more with the Water Department with vacuuming and jetting out catch basins.

The Village administration is working on a grant for a new salt shed that would sit behind the Street Department building. The salt shed will help reduce or eliminate water runoff and provide a dryer storage area for our road salt.

The Street Department can be reached at 419-465-2800, or emailed at streets@monroevilleohio.com Thank you.

Street Department

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MONROEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Monroeville Police Department continues to recruit for part time and full-time police officers. For the first time in many years, the Police Department is back to normal staffing levels!

Last year, Officer Jonah Mersereau was hired to a full-time slot as was Erik Reinhart, who was promoted from part-time police officer to full-time status. Officers Matt Wilson, Logan Gale, and Curtis Silvers were added to the part-time staff.

Chief Lyons has announced he will be retiring later this year. His last working day will be Friday, August 2, 2024. Chief Lyons has served as Monroeville Police Chief for over 13 years and has been a police officer since 1975. During his career, he has worked at the Cedar Point Police Department, Sandusky Police Department, Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, and Swanton Police Department, in addition to the Monroeville Police Department.

Officers Reinhart and Mersereau recently completed Critical Incident Team Training at Terra State Community College. Critical Incident Team Training (C.I.T) is designed to give police officers additional tools and resources to de-escalate high tension encounters with the public and provide the necessary resources to those who may be experiencing a mental health issue. All full-time Monroeville police officers now are certified in this training.

The photo enforcement program continues with no additional cameras. However, three speed calming radar signs were purchased that will warn motorists that they are speeding and to slow down. As a reminder, the cameras are located at the following locations:

Eastbound at the 300 block of Monroe Street.

North and Southbound on North Street (speed calming signs installed)

Westbound on U.S. 20 at the Brooklyn Heights intersection

Eastbound and Westbound on U.S. 20 at the State Route 99 intersection (westbound speed calming sign installed)

Eastbound and Westbound on U.S. 20 at the Monroe Street intersection (speed calming signs in place)

Additionally, mobile speed measuring devices are carried by the officers on patrol.

Gary Lyons, Chief of Police

On Monday, April 8, 2024, at approximately 1:57pm, the area will experience the first total solar eclipse in decades. The eclipse will peak between 3:12 and 3:16pm. The event will end at approximately 4:20pm.



This is a historic occasion, and the Village of Monroeville will be at the center of the eclipse. Depending on cloud cover and visibility, there will be potential for tens of thousands of visitors to the area. Perhaps hundreds of thousands of visitors. The Monroeville Police Department has plans developed to address almost any issues that may arise. You will see an increased police presence throughout the Village starting on Friday, April 5th through the event on April 8th.

The Monroeville Police Department makes the following recommendations for our residents:

- 1. Make sure you fuel up your vehicles and do your grocery shopping prior to April 5th**
- 2. There is the remote possibility of cell phone and internet interruptions due to the increased number of users in the area. Plan ahead for that possibility.**
- 3. Lock up your residence and vehicles.**
- 4. Wear certified eye protection if you are going to view the eclipse. If you are driving to a specific location, make sure you are legally parked.**
- 5. Have a backup plan with your family on where you will meet should members of your family or group get separated from one another.**
- 6. There will be the potential for extremely heavy traffic congestion. Take that into consideration if you are traveling.**
- 7. HAVE FUN!! This is a once in a lifetime event, so enjoy it.**

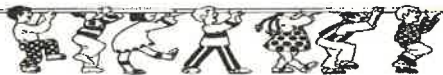
Monroeville Police Department

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
21 NORTH MAIN STREET
PO BOX 156
MONROEVILLE, OH 44847



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CLOSED



MAY 27TH
July 4th
SEPTEMBER 2ND
OCTOBER 14TH

MEMORIAL DAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
LABOR DAY
COLUMBUS DAY



The next best thing following the solar eclipse is the Huron River Fireman's Association annual chicken BBQ on Sunday, April 28th at the fire station located at 155 Monroe St. This will be a drive thru carry out event beginning at 11:00am.



The Shade Tree Commission will be celebrating Arbor Day/Earth Day on April 22, 2024 at 6 PM at Clark Park located on Rt 20. A tree will be planted to commemorate the day. This year's tree was generously donated by Berry Global. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the ceremony.

Once again, if you are interested in having a tree planted in the tree lawn near your house, please contact the Administrative Office at 419-465-2922 and they will forward you request to the Shade Tree Commission.

Shade Tree Commission