



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Dear Neighbors,

With winter (hopefully) officially in the books, it's time for me to write to you again. Spring seems to be in the air in the Village, and I am sure that by the time you read this, we will be enjoying singing birds, new leafy buds of green, and flowers slowly growing throughout town. Spring also brings the long-awaited return of Twist'n'Shout, new decorations at LynMarie's, activities down at MHS, and Easter celebrations all over the Village.

Although winter put a squeeze on the Village's salt supplies, I think we've managed to weather the storm (pun somewhat intended). Having enough road salt on hand is always a balancing act, and thankfully, we have some backstops just in case. With a new salt shed, we don't lose as much to weather, which is good. Road maintenance is a huge part of Village operations, so Administrator Tom Gray and Street Superintendent Dustin Crabtree work hard to make sure we are prepared while keeping costs down. I'm hopeful that we will be able to continue to grow our general fund revenues to pay for future street repair and improvement. Chances are, if you live on a street in the Village, you would tell me (or have already!) that your street needs some fixes. I want you know that we're very aware (acutely, if you want to use a thesaurus) of these needs, and we often discuss how to tackle the huge backlog. Right now, it's a dollars and cents issue. We have some plans in the works, and I hope to share those soon.

Speaking of something we are all too aware of—we know that the closure of our local gas station has been a huge inconvenience to say the least. We continue to work with local and national chains, and with our local economic development partners, to get it re-opened. Although it may take some time, we are optimistic that this vital service will be restored to the Village.

Our Police Department has launched a campaign to cut down on aggressive driving behaviors in the Village, and those efforts have paid dividends. Our officers are catching significantly more individuals who are not only speeding, but also running stop signs, driving with suspended or expired drivers' licenses, expired plates, and equipment violations, amongst other driving-related offenses. OVI citations have also increased, and the Village now has new blood alcohol content measuring equipment. The goal is to make our Village streets safer. With warmer weather approaching, we expect more traffic and perhaps more aggressive behaviors. I have confidence that the PD will rise to the challenge to keep the crash rate low. If you have any concerns about problem driving behavior or possible crime in your neighborhood, please let us know: email me at mayor@monroevilleohio.com, or Chief Earl at earl@monroevillepolice.com.

On a personal note, my wife Alysha and I welcomed our first child into the world on December 30, 2024—our daughter Audrey! Audrey already loves to go for walks around town with mom and dad. We are so excited to raise her in this community. She has already gotten the chance to meet so many friends and neighbors while she is out and about: that just reminds us of what a wonderful, caring, and close-knit Village we really have.

Now that the days are getting longer and nicer, I hope that you will take some time to enjoy what the Village has to offer, whether its our beautiful parks, our Firelands Rails to Trails, or our many downtown businesses. I can tell you that those businesses especially rely on you to shop local. Help support the revitalization of Monroe by patronizing those businesses.

As always, please feel free to share your questions, comments, criticisms and concerns with me directly. Email is always the easiest and best way to do that. Please also consider attending a Council meeting—the public is always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Have a very happy spring!

Very truly yours,
Mayor Joe Galea

BEWARE OF IRS & TURNPIKE SCAMS

It's that time of year again when scams start circulating, and we want to make sure you stay informed and protected. Recently, there have been reports of individuals receiving phone calls and text messages from scammers pretending to be the IRS or the Ohio Turnpike. Here's what you need to know to avoid falling victim to these scams:

IRS Phone Scam

You may receive a call from someone claiming to represent the IRS, telling you that you need to contact a specific phone number to avoid charges or a civil suit. **This is a scam!** The IRS **never** contacts individuals by phone for matters like these. They always send certified letters if legal action is being taken or if they need you to contact them.

What to do:

Do not call the number provided in the message.

If you receive such a call, hang up immediately.

Remember: the IRS does not make such calls—this is a fraudulent attempt to steal your personal information.

Ohio Turnpike Toll Scam

Citizens have also been receiving text messages claiming they have an unpaid toll and need to pay immediately to avoid late fees. **The Ohio Turnpike will never send text messages requesting payment for unpaid tolls.**

What to do:

Do not respond or provide any payment information.

The Ohio Turnpike sends up to three invoices by mail to collect unpaid tolls, not via text.

How to verify any unpaid tolls:

Check your account online at OhioTurnpike.org.

Call the Ohio Turnpike directly at **440-971-2222** to inquire about your toll account.

Stay Safe

These scammers use high-pressure tactics to trick you into giving up personal or financial information. Stay vigilant, and always verify directly with the relevant organization before taking any action.

If you receive a suspicious call or message, report it to your local authorities. **Stay informed, stay safe!**

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

The Village Street Department will begin yard waste collection starting April 8th through October 27th.

A reminder to our residents within the Village corporation limits, yard waste includes grass clippings, hedge trimmings, cut up limbs and branches, leaves and other yard material. Have your containers at curbside by 7:00am on the second and fourth Tuesday and not more than 48 hours prior to the scheduled pick-up date. If there are any questions about yard waste collection, please call the Street Department.



With warm weather approaching, we would like to remind residents to pay a little more attention while driving. There will be a lot more children out playing, and spring also brings out bicycles, folks walking, and motorcycles. Motorists tend to forget not seeing motorcycles out and about over the long winter, so a renewed “eye” while driving is necessary. Not being used to seeing cycles can cause drivers to pull out in front of them. The consequences can be disastrous. Spring is also a good time for parents to check over kids’ bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc., to make sure they are ready for safe operation. **Have a fun and safe summer!**



Mark your calendars for **Monday, May 26, 2025**, as we gear up for another exciting year of **Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs** at Clark Park! This annual event continues to grow in popularity, and we’re expecting a record turnout this year. We can’t wait to see everyone come together to enjoy a day of fishing, fun, and community spirit.

To help make this event a success, we are looking for volunteers to assist in various areas, including:

*Measuring fish *Food preparation *Checking in participants *And much more!

If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact **Lt. Kimball** for more details. Your support is crucial in making this event a memorable and impactful day for all attendees.

We look forward to another great year of Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs!

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN

A project is underway for the replacement of a section of water line on North Main Street between Broad Street and a half-way point between Hilltop Court and the North corporation limit. This new section of line will improve the reliability of the water distribution system, improve water quality, create a more uniform system pressure, and provide a more reliable means to deliver water to the Village from our emergency connection with Northern Ohio Rural Water. Grant funding is being used to complete this section of the project.

Council, recently, entered into an agreement with D3 Energy to expand our existing Green Energy footprint. Presently, approximately 33% of the Village's annual electric energy comes from green sources, which includes the Monroeville Solar Park (MSP). An additional 5 megawatts of solar generation will be added to our in-Village footprint. What makes this addition different is the fact this installation will be floating solar with the panels installed on the surface of the water at the reservoir. This type of installation has multiple benefits; it lessens the amount of water evaporation, lowers the incidence of an alga event, and uses the water to cool the solar panels which improves the performance of the floating array.

You no doubt noticed the 4-way, single-red (flashing), stop light, hanging over the intersection of Monroe Street and Ridge Street, has been removed. The light has been in service for +50 years but it is no longer compliant with today's traffic code. As a reminder, please use caution at this intersection, and come to a full stop in all directions.

A grant request has been submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the reconstruction of Hamilton Street, between River Road and Broad Street. To date, the commission review process has progressed through multiple stages. We remain optimistic that our submission will be approved.

The new muni parking lot will receive a finish coat of asphalt once the batch plants are fully operational. Once the finish coat is down, parking space striping will be completed with handicap spaces designated, and lights will be installed.

Keeping with Council's desire to continuously improve the downtown core of the Village, the first phase of a downtown sidewalk replacement project will get underway. The section of sidewalk between Manchester Street to a common point between the Mini-Main Street building and the American Legion building will be replaced. New concrete will be poured, new road side curbs will be installed, and a section of overhead street light wiring will be moved underground.

Columbia Gas will be installing a new main and new taps from the Monroe – Ridge intersection, west to the tracks, including Jackson and Fulton Streets. This work is tentatively set for this summer.

Tree trimming in and around the overhead electric lines will get underway in the next few weeks. In addition, several danger trees will be removed in conjunction with this task.

After hours, should you need to report a utility outage, streets/parks problem, or water issue, please contact the Monroeville Police Department at 419-465-2345.

Have a great spring and summer!

Tom Gray
Administrator



2025 PRIMARY / SPECIAL ELECTION / MAY 6, 2025

**Mark your
Calendars-
VOTE
May 6, 2025**

**EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING HOURS FOR APRIL & MAY
2025 PRIMARY / SPECIAL ELECTION | MAY 6, 2025...**

April 8-11: 8:00am - 5:00pm
April 21-25: 8:00am - 5:00pm
April 29: 7:30am - 8:30pm
May 3: 8:00am - 4:00pm

April 14-18: 8:00am - 5:00pm
April 28: 7:30am - 7:30pm
April 30 - May 2: 7:30am - 7:30pm
May 4: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Huron County Administration Building – 180 Milan Ave. Norwalk, Ohio.



As we start the year 2025, we will continue various upgrades/improvements on our electrical system and sub stations 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. This year we are starting our service line reconditioning. This will require short temporary outages at each location.

As always please report any outages/problems to the electric department as soon as possible (after hours please call Police Department so they can call the on-call employee) and NEVER touch any electric lines that are on the ground or within reach.

**The Huron River
Fireman's Association
will host their annual
chicken BBQ on Sunday,
April 27th at the fire station located at
155 Monroe St. This will be a drive thru
carry out event beginning at 11:00am. You
won't want to miss out on this delicious
meal!**



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

JOSEPH GALEA, MAYOR
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THOMAS GRAY, VILLAGE ADMNISTRATOR
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BONNIE BECK, FISCAL OFFICER
fiscalofficer@monroevilleohio.com

CHIEF JOHN EARL
earl@monroevillepolice.com

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
419-465-4149

WATER/WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
419-465-4182

STREET DEPARTMENT
419-465-2800



*MAY 26TH MEMORIAL DAY
JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY
SEPT 1ST LABOR DAY
OCT 13TH COLUMBUS DAY*

The Shade Tree Commission has tentatively scheduled the Arbor Day ceremony for April 22, 2025 at Clark Park, beginning at 6:00pm.

This celebration also includes Earth Day. A tree will be planted in the green space as you drive in to the park. Please join us as we celebrate nature's holidays!

You will notice a new look to the uptown area as we are purchasing new plant containers. The old containers have been uptown for at least 10 years and are beginning to show their age. We will begin by purchasing five containers to see how they do. We hope they will be planted by Memorial Day.

We are also planting some additional trees in the boulevards in town. If you would be interested in having a tree in your boulevard, or have concerns about any trees in the tree lawn, please contact the Village Administrative Office.

**A CELEBRATION OF
ARBOR DAY
&
EARTH DAY**

Shade Tree Commission

SYSTEM WIDE HYDRANT FLUSHING & VALVE EXERCISING

Hydrant flushing is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of April 21st and April 28th. Water department employees will begin flushing a valve exercising at approximately 8:30am and end 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 relatively quickly. If you have any questions concerning your water, please call the water department at 419-465-4182.



MEMORIAL DAY
★ REMEMBER AND HONOR ★

Each year Monroeville's American Legion has faithfully planned for the Village's Memorial Day service to remember and honor our military personnel who have died. Held in Commons Park, this year the event will be held on Monday, May 26th. Led by our police cruisers, the event starts with a parade from the high school to Commons Park that includes several local groups, decorated bikes and wagons, our own Monroeville High School marching band, and trucks and engines from the Huron River Joint Fire Dept. This event has always drawn a crowd that enjoys music by a wonderful choir and our awesome marching band, a speaker who is selected each year to deliver a meaningful speech, recognition of the fireman and police officer of the year, the laying of the wreath, and the raising of the American flag. Finishing with a sweet ice cream treat. Please join us on May 26th for this traditional Memorial Day event. Hope to see you there!

We're looking forward to a year full of activities for our Village parks! It won't be long before you will be able to go to the parks to enjoy the playground and swing sets and to watch baseball and softball. Our parks are a great resource for fun activities, as well as being a place to relax and enjoy the scenery. Try your hand at fishing from the river banks or playing horseshoes, or maybe find a quiet spot to read or take in nature's bounty. Parks can provide a learning platform for those who have an interest in plants, bird watching, or creepy crawly things! So, get your crew off the couch and out into the sun for some warm weather fun!





Village of Monroeville
21 N Main St.
P O Box 156
Monroeville, OH 44847

Place
Stamp
Here

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Focus on School Zone Safety

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep the community safe in 2025, the police department is prioritizing the reduction of aggressive driving behaviors, particularly in and around school zones. To ensure the safety of our children, you will notice an increased presence of officers during school zone hours. We are committed to enforcing traffic laws and protecting our students, staff, and families.

Here are the official school zone hours for the following schools:

St. Joseph Elementary

Morning- approximately 7:15am to 8:30am
Noon-approximately 11:00am to 12:10am
Afternoon-approximately 2:25pm to 3:15pm.

Monroeville Public Schools

Morning-approximately 7:15am to 8:30am
Afternoon-approximately 2:25pm to 3:15pm

These flashing lights will be activated during the times mentioned above. We urge all drivers to remain vigilant, obey posted speed limits, and exercise caution in these high-traffic areas to help ensure the safety of our young community members.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to making our community safer for everyone.

Let's work together to make 2025 a year of safe driving and strong community relationships.

