

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

Dear Neighbors,

As I write this letter, snow and sleet has given way to spring rains and thunderstorms, and the Village is green and flowering once again! That means that orange barrels are soon to sprout up too. A long-awaited Hamilton Street reconstruction project begins this summer, a joint effort between the Village and the Huron County Engineer and OPWC. The condition of streets is probably the number 1 issue I hear about, personally or through social media. Many think they are breaking news to us about the need to resurface or reconstruct these streets--you aren't. Infrastructure fixes like streets and sidewalks will continue to be our most pressing issue for years to come. We are using every opportunity to partner with other agencies and leverage grants and loans to move these projects forward. It's also true that there is no free ride; we get asked a lot, especially in council meetings, about grants. Grant money is available for many purposes but is never a given: every other community has the same idea. At the end of the day, our Village infrastructure is a lot like our own homes; we have to be willing to invest and maintain through our own resources.

Our revenue needs are partly why the Village entered into the Gray Matter electric agreement many of you read about online and in the newspaper. This project is currently overseen by a court-appointed receiver who pays money into both the Electric and General Funds. Although the previous Gray Matter operators owe us a significant amount, the Electric Fund does not need to "make it up" from other customers and there are no electric rate increases planned (something utilities like Ohio Edison cannot say). There have been water and wastewater rate increases that were planned and approved prior to Gray Matter and are completely unrelated; these rate adjustments are due to increase in costs for materials and equipment (the same forces causing your grocery bill or shopping trip to get more expensive). The goal is always to operate the utilities at the lowest cost possible for our customers.

As always, there is plenty going on in the Village. The Village administration and I are working on ways to get more information onto our website so that you can get timely answers to questions (instead of asking a neighbor if they heard anything about the gas station, solar panels, etc.). You can always ask questions of the Village administration by contacting us by email: Mayor Galea (mayor@monroevilleohio.com); Fiscal Officer Eunice Collene (fiscalofficer@monroevilleohio.com); Village Administrator Tom Gray (villageadm@monroevilleohio.com); Police Chief Jon Earl (earl@monroevilleohio.com); or by calling the office and requesting a time to meet. You will not be bothering us by doing so; this is part of our job.

Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to Sam Wiley and Bob Whitacre, two members of Council who both wrapped up lengthy and successful tenures in the past few months. I already miss their valuable contributions to our Council discussions, and I know that both are keeping involved and up to date with what's going on in the Village. As a Village, we have been very fortunate to be led by a group of committed and engaged Council members.

Thanks for reading, and enjoy a fun and safe spring and summer!

Joseph Galea, Mayor



In Full Swing In and Around the Village

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be resurfacing State Route 99 from the north corporation limit to Erie County. This project will include a reconstruction of the SR 99 & OH 113 intersection and the replacement of selected culverts and bridge concrete. Detours will be posted as the road will be closed to through traffic.

Monroeville Hometown Hero Banner application season is open now and ends July 15th. Applications can be obtained at the Canteen of the American Legion. Shortly, the Village will re-install over one-hundred and eighty Hometown Hero Banners which were displayed last year. Scott Sparks is the program coordinator and can be contacted through the Legion. Along with the banners, new American flags will be placed on the downtown poles.

The 2026 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 Park.

What seems like an eternity, Hamilton Street is going to be reconstructed. Council was successful in securing a grant to fund the majority of the project and will use local funding for the balance of the cost. The project will entail a full depth pavement replacement between Milan Avenue and Broad Street. The pavement replacement will also include a section of Broad Street. Erie Blacktop was the successful bidder.

If any of you have small boats or canoes, a reminder there are launching areas at Clark Park and at Marsh Park.

Have a super spring and summer.

Tom Gray, Village Administrator

THE EBBS AND FLOWS OF LIFE

During the 2025 calendar year the Wastewater Treatment plant received 70.1863 million gallons of wastewater. The month that saw the most flow was April (10.4283 MG) and the month that saw the least flow was September (2.7909MG). Prior to the upgrades to the Wastewater treatment plant in 2013, during heavy rain events, the excess flow would by-pass the plant and travel through an overflow pipe into the river. This by-pass pipe is known in Cities/Villages as a Combined Sewer Overflow Outfall. The last flow through the CSO outfall was in 2013 and was permanently sealed off in November of 2025.

Please be aware that certain things are **NOT** flushable!!!!!! According to the Village's Rules & Regulations, the customer owns the sewer lateral all the way to the main including the connection to the main. Flushing anything other than toilet paper and human waste into the sewer can cause **serious clogs, costly repairs, and environmental harm**. Sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants are designed to handle water, human waste, and toilet paper — not fibrous, synthetic, or absorbent materials. Also, as a reminder, do not dispose of any mercury containing items or fluids into the sewer. If you need help on getting rid of mercury items, 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 its ongoing efforts to maintain, clean & inspect our sanitary sewer mains.



In 2025 the Water Department produced 55,770,600 gallons of water, with the highest production day being October 7th at 256,200 gallons and the lowest being 87,900 gallons produced on January 1st.

All water systems in Ohio are required to identify all of the lead or galvanized service lines in their system by the end of 2026. As part of the identifying process the Village received a grant to have Arcadis come in and pothole approx. 125 locations on both the private and public side of the meter to determine line type. During this process the contractor used a hydro excavator to uncover the service lines which creates a "pothole". Once the line was identified they filled in the hole. Wastewater personnel have gone back through the Village to refill any that have sunk after the initial fill. If you notice any "potholes" by your meter, please contact us at 419-465-4182 and we will stop out to refill it.

Water & Wastewater Dept

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE: FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS IN OUR COMMUNITY

As we move into the spring season here in Monroeville, the Monroeville Police Department would like to provide residents with clear information about a public safety tool you may have noticed around town: Flock Safety license plate reader cameras. These cameras have been in place since November, and in just a few short months, they have already proven to be a valuable resource for our officers and the community.



What These Cameras Do:

Flock Safety cameras are designed to capture license plate numbers and basic vehicle details such as make, model, and color. This information is used to identify vehicles that may be associated with serious incidents, including stolen vehicles, missing persons, or criminal investigations.

Since their installation, the system has already assisted in:

- The recovery of stolen vehicles
- Identifying and locating wanted violent felony offenders
- Locating individuals with active warrants
- Identifying subjects involved in protection order violations
- Assisting in investigations involving hit/skip (hit-and-run) suspect vehicles
- Supporting theft-related investigations

When a vehicle connected to one of these incidents enters the area, the system can alert officers in real time, allowing for a faster and more effective response.

What These Cameras Do Not Do:

We understand there are misconceptions about this technology. These cameras:

- Do not use facial recognition
- Do not record continuous video of people
- Do not track individuals or monitor personal travel
- They are focused solely on vehicles—not on identifying drivers or passengers.

Protecting Your Privacy

The Monroeville Police Department is committed to using this technology responsibly. Data collected is stored for a limited time—typically around 30 days—and is automatically deleted unless it is needed for an active investigation.

Access to the system is restricted to authorized personnel, and every search is logged and reviewed to ensure proper use. The information is used strictly for law enforcement purposes and is not sold or shared with private companies.

A Tool To Support Public Safety

Flock Safety cameras are one part of a broader effort to enhance safety in our community. The early results since November demonstrate their effectiveness in helping officers respond quickly and investigate crimes more efficiently.

We remain committed to transparency and encourage residents to reach out with questions or attend upcoming community meetings to learn more. Working together, we can continue to keep Monroeville a safe place to live, work, and visit.



JUNK VEHICLE ORDINANCE REMINDER & ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Village would like to remind residents of Ordinance 521.12 regarding the storage of inoperative, dismantled, or unlicensed vehicles. This regulation is in place to help maintain neighborhood safety, property values, and overall community appearance, following numerous concerns raised by residents.

Under this ordinance, it is considered a nuisance and a violation to store any dismantled, inoperative, or unlicensed motor vehicle on a property for more than fourteen (14) days unless the vehicle is properly obscured from public view by approved fencing. An inoperative vehicle is defined as one that cannot be safely used for transportation due to issues such as a failed engine, transmission, or other major mechanical components.

In the coming weeks, officers from the Monroeville Police Department will begin actively checking properties throughout the Village for compliance. Property owners found to be in violation will initially receive a written warning notice, giving them the opportunity to correct the issue.

Residents who do not comply after receiving a warning may be issued a criminal summons. Please note that each day a violation continues will be treated as a separate offense. A first offense is classified as a minor misdemeanor, with subsequent violations rising to a fourth-degree misdemeanor.

If you have concerns, questions, or would like to discuss this ordinance, residents are encouraged to attend upcoming Village Council meetings and share their input. We appreciate your cooperation in helping keep Monroeville a safe and well-maintained community.

Jonathan Earl, Chief of Police
Monroeville Police Department

STRENGTH, GENEROSITY, SPIRIT

Spring has a way of reminding us of what truly matters — warmth returning, new life emerging, and the simple joy of sunshine after a long winter. As our Village begins to bloom again, we're reminded of the strength and spirit that make this community so special.

It's hard to believe that not long ago, we gathered for the Village Vintage Christmas, welcoming more than 250 visitors who came to share in the magic of the season and browse our local shops. That sense of togetherness continues to inspire us as we begin planning an even more memorable event for next year.

Our 2024 audit is now complete with no issues. While the process took a bit longer than expected due to statewide staffing shortages, we are already taking steps to prepare for the 2025 audit to ensure an even smoother experience with renewed focus on efficiency and organization.

After careful evaluation, we have selected a new software company to support our operations. You'll begin to see changes as we move through the transition. Please keep an eye on the website and watch for updates on your bills. Our goal is to "go live" toward the end of this year, bringing improved service and communication.

We have renewed our general liability insurance with only a slight increase. Health insurance for our employees renews on July 1st. At a recent conference, many municipalities reported increases between 15% and 25%. Our renewal this year is just 0.01%. This achievement is thanks in large part to our strong financial performance and stewardship.

I want to thank my staff of Ann, Heather, and Ashley for all they do, especially behind the scenes. We have met many of our goals and continue to set new ones as we strive to be the best we can. We welcome your ideas, your voices, and your partnership. This Village is truly blessed with good people who care deeply and look out for one another every day. We have so much to be grateful for and we are lucky to live in a community like this.

May this season of renewal remind us of the strength, generosity, and spirit that define our Village. Together, we will continue to grow, support one another, and build a future we can all be proud of. Here's to a bright and beautiful season.

REMINDER: Village Council meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the MMC Council Chambers. These meetings are open to the public.

Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer



CERTIFICATION FOR OUR ELECTRIC FUTURE

The Village Street Department has begun yard waste collection which will run through October 27th. Please do not have any trash inside of the container. If you have branches, please tie them together.

We continue to work on street repairs and are happy to report that Hamilton Street will be getting repaved. Watch for more information on our web page.

The crew will continue maintaining the curb cleaning and clearing out catch basins along with mowing inside the village.

We will be installing new welcome to Monroeville signs at the corporation limits as well as hanging new American flags on the downtown poles. A big thank you to our American Legion for donating them.

The street department can be reached at 419-465-2800, or emailed at streets@monroevilleohio.com

Street Dept

As we start the year 2026, We will be doing various upgrades/improvements on our electrical system and substations to make them more efficient and stable.

This year we are starting our service line reconditioning. This will require short, temporary outages at each location as needed.

We would like to commend Colton Ott on his time/future here with the Village as he works on his last year of his lineman apprenticeship. Upon completion of his summer session, Colton will receive his Journeyman Linemen Certification and will be a continued asset to the Village that is needed for future growth. Please wish him well on his endeavor this year.

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 reach the on-call employee.

Electric Dept.

Community Garage Sale



This years community garage sale will be The weekend of June 27th. We are working on making this a more community involved event with residents and local businesses participating. Start cleaning out your attics, basements, storage rooms and sheds!

UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW DATE = NEW TIME

The Village is currently working on scheduling this year's Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 30th. Youngsters will go door-to-door from 3:00pm – 4:30pm with the parade at 5:00. We hope this new date and time will be a welcomed change. Watch for confirmation and details on our web page.

Village of Monroeville
21 N Main St
PO Box 156
Monroeville, OH 44847

Place
Stamp
Here

SYSTEM WIDE HYDRANT FLUSHING & VALVE EXERCISING

Hydrant flushing is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of May 4st and May 11th. Water department employees will begin flushing and 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.

TREE CITY USA[®]

The Village has received the designation of "Tree City USA" for nineteen years running from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA is a program by the Arbor Day Foundation which provides direction, assistance, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities that more than 120 million Americans call home. The Village of Monroeville is one of these municipalities across the country that chooses to take a strong stance on ecology, and commit to arbor education and planning. The village takes part in Arbor Day ceremonies every year, has planted several new trees over the past years and is in the process of planting more this year.