

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
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MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

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MONROEVILLE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

Hello Friends & Neighbors!

The last time I wrote, we were preparing for our big sesquicentennial weekend. Little did we know then, Mother Nature had plans of her own. A rainy weekend, coupled with threats of flooding and high winds, forced us to postpone the majority of the weekend's events. True to form, it only strengthened the resolve of the community as we did not want to lose the chance to celebrate our strong sense of belonging and pride in our village. We regrouped, revised and eventually, we celebrated us ... the impressive little village with the gigantic heart. All who attended the events had a great time and many wonderful memories were made. It truly was an enjoyable set of events! As a special gift to our village, we are partnering with the Norwalk Reflector to produce a special publication highlighting all of our year-long Sesquicentennial events. It will be a keepsake for you and your family. Make sure you see us at our Memorial Day events in Commons Park for your FREE copy. I am very excited to share these with you!

Also generating a great deal of excitement in the village are the progressing plans of our new municipal building. In creating this much-needed municipal building, we can bring our Village offices, Council chambers and Police Department under one roof, which will not only improve safety and security, but also serve as a jewel in our central business district. An architect's preliminary rendition of this building has been visible in the village office for the past year. Be on the lookout for the announcement of a community meeting in the near future. We are excited to share more information with you at this meeting.

As I said above, (and undoubtedly, you've heard me say before,) you can't think of Monroeville without recognizing the heart of the people in the community. We are a people who put our heart and souls in everything we do. We have passion for our community and the people in our community. You don't find that everywhere. We are a proud village, and rightfully so! As I close this letter, I hope you enjoy one of the photos from our sesquicentennial (see insert). This photo emulates the HEART of our village ... all of you!

Yours in Service,

Mayor Melissa M. Fries-Seip



System wide hydrant flushing and valve exercising is tentatively scheduled for the last part of March and/or the first part of April. 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 relatively quickly.

The cold weather we experienced recently wreaked some havoc with our infrastructure. As you probably noticed the Village had three water main repairs (all on US Rt 20). Should you see anything unusual, (water flowing where it shouldn't be) let us know!!! The following tips can help us all prepare for the next Arctic blast: Allow faucets, especially ones located on your outside walls, to run at a trickle; open cabinet doors that conceal plumbing, allowing heat to more easily access these areas. 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



Let
IT
GO!

Got the declutter bug?! Now is a great time to purge and get ready for our annual community wide garage sale! This event is scheduled for the weekend of June 21st. There is no fee charged; however, residents participating in the sale are required to register at the Administrative Office, 2 South Main St. Your name and address will be included on a list that will be posted and available for distribution. Please register by June 14th. As a reminder please do not put signs on utility poles or in the right of way.





Spring not only brings flowers and green grass, but prom and graduation parties too. We would like to remind parents of Ohio's "Keg Law." (ORC 4301.69) There are serious criminal penalties for violation of this law, not to mention civil sanctions which could be taken against you for a child who consumes at your event and is subsequently injured or killed. Another popular misconception is that it's okay to allow kids to drink if you keep their keys and don't allow them to drive. Not so. Consider any other "bad" thing that could happen with an intoxicated, underage person in a group of similar persons. We've all read and heard horror stories about kids who actually consume so much alcohol that they die. Please consider all the misery that could cause for the families involved, and act responsibly for the sake of your children.

**READING IS DREAMING WITH EYES
WIDE OPEN**

Have you visited our Public Library lately? There are lots of fun programs happening there! Story hour, toddler time and summer reading programs just for starters. Throughout the year there are craft days, movies and a genealogy program. Other services offered are internet access, fax, copy and interlibrary loans, just to mention a few. Visit the library's web site at www.monroevillepl.org for hours and to find out more of the services offered, or just stop in and talk to the friendly staff who will be more than happy to help you.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Hooked On Fishing is scheduled for 11am on Monday, May 27, 2019 at Clark Park.



Watch for postings with information on this annual event.

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419-706-5239

CRAIG FRANKLIN
419-706-8890

SUE ROGERS
419-706-1557

"LOOK TWICE, SAVE A LIFE"

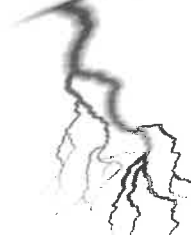
With warm weather approaching, we would like to remind residents to pay a little more attention while driving. There will be a lot more children out playing, and spring also brings out bicycles, folks walking, and motorcycles.

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!

SHOCKING!!



Electricity is a staple of modern life. Beyond lighting rooms and powering devices, electricity is pretty interesting! Here are some fun and interesting facts about electricity.

1. Electricity travels at the speed of light – more than 186,000 miles per second!
2. A spark of static electricity can measure up to 3,000 volts.
3. Lightning is a discharge of electricity in the atmosphere. Lightning bolts can travel at around 130,000 miles per hour and reach nearly 54,000 F in temperature.
4. Electric eels can produce strong electric shocks of around 500 volts for both self-defense and hunting.
5. Coal is the world's biggest source of energy for producing electricity. Coal is burned in furnaces that boil water. The steam from the boiling water then spins turbines that are attached to generators.
6. Did you know that electricity plays a role in the way your heart beats? Electricity causes muscle cells in the heart to contract. Electrocardiogram machines, used by medical professionals, measure the electricity going through the heart. As the heart beats in a healthy person, the ECG machine displays a line moving across the screen with regular spikes.
7. Benjamin Franklin carried out extensive electricity research in the 18th century, inventing the lightning rod amongst his many discoveries.



What is an Urban forest?

An urban forest sets the parameters of what falls under the stewardship of the Shade Tree Commission. This has taken on an importance as scientists have stressed the importance of greenery in our communities. The contributions trees make are cleaner air and water, energy savings, asphalt surface protection and many more benefits. The urban forest includes tree lawn trees and park trees which are under the jurisdiction of the Shade Tree committee. But also included in the urban forest are private trees on residents' property for which the property owner has all care and maintenance. For quick links for more information visit arborday.org/bulletins.



The Village of Monroeville Shade Tree Commission will celebrate Arbor Day in the later part of April. Be sure to watch for more information on the Village website and in the [Norwalk Reflector](#).

The Shade Tree Commission



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them". John F. Kennedy

Please join us in remembering and honoring those who gave so much for our country at our annual Memorial Day event Monday, May 27th at Commons Park.

You don't have to travel far to enjoy the outdoors and what Mother Nature has to offer. Monroeville's parks are a large part of what makes our community such a special place to live and visit. The banks of the Huron River are a perfect setting for making memories for the entire family. There's grilling and picnics, swing sets, fishing and watching the eagles fly through the tree tops, and swinging a ball bat for the first time. Or maybe just a relaxing day. Each moment is special.

2019 will be a great year. A few things we want to accomplish at Marsh Park are: easy walking access to the water, new grills next to the river, improvements to the big shelter house, and new toddler play equipment. At Clark Park we are looking into possibly hosting a flea market. Any feedback or suggestions would be appreciated. New toddler play equipment, Hooked on Fishing, ball games, and flag football are on the activity list.

Commons Park is a special place for all ages. The history and sacrifice of those local men and women who have served our country is on display in a very respectful manner. Santa stops by in December for the lighting of the Christmas tree and the festivities surrounding the event. The Christmas lights through-out the parks and the Village are viewed by not only our residents, but by families that take a trip to Monroeville just to see our lights. We are always happy to hear the wonderful comments we receive about our Christmas light displays.

Darrell Boldman
Parks and Rec Director



OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

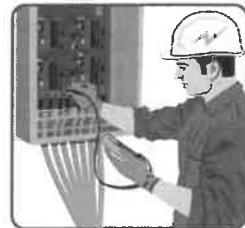
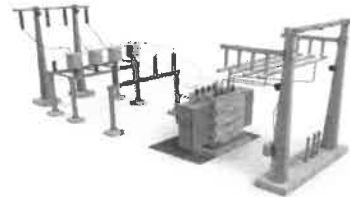
- May 27th -- Memorial Day
- July 4th -- Independence Day
- Sep 2nd -- Labor Day
- Oct 14th -- Columbus Day

PUBLIC NOTICE

Utility customers are hereby notified that it is against the law to interfere or tamper with any equipment owned by the Village of Monroeville and/or Monroeville Utilities.



This is a reminder that when you have your pet off your property on a leash and he or she makes a "deposit" to public land or private land, it is the pet owner's responsibility to clean up the mess. Cleaning up after your pet shows respect for our neighbors and our community. Abandoned pet waste can host diseases and/or parasites which can infect other pets that come into contact with it, or be transmitted to people who accidentally step in it and track it home. Particularly at risk are children who play on the ground. Some people think its okay to leave waste because it will break down naturally. However, the biodegrading process is very slow. Pet waste also contains bacteria that are harmful to our water. Leaving it in the street, on sidewalks or in yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our river untreated. Carrying a small plastic bag with you when you walk makes this necessary chore less offensive. Consistently walking with a small bag in your pocket and using it will make your neighbors happy and will make each neighborhood in Monroeville a cleaner, healthier place to live.



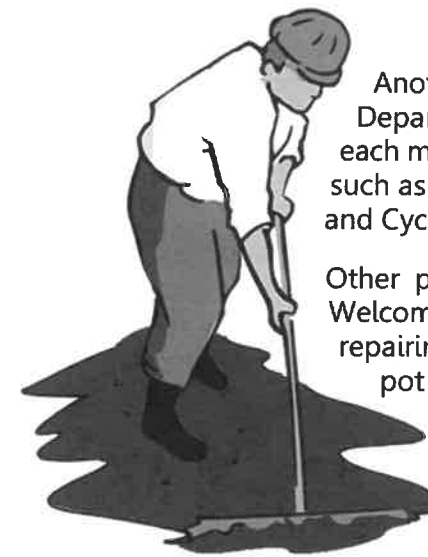
As we leave 2018 the electric department has completed various jobs, including the installation of two new house services, implementing a new mass electric meter reading system, various system upgrades, LED street lighting conversion in the downtown, and re-lighting Monroe and Ridge Streets.

As we start 2019 we have already added to our electric distribution system by extending it 800' on River Rd along with the installation of a new house service. We are always happy to see new customers come into our system. As we move forward through this year we have several miscellaneous system upgrades, tree trimming and removal of dead trees, as well as more LED street lighting conversions.

A few big items for this year are the installation of equipment control backup generators at both substations, peaker emergency system generators at the Herbert substation and the decommission and removal of the old 4KV structure at the Gerber/Lee substation.

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 Monroeville Police Department so they can inform the on call person of the situation.

Dave Hamons
Electric Department Supt.



Another long, harsh winter is finally coming to an end. As we approach summer the Street Department will start collecting yard waste. Pickups are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning April 9th and continuing through October 22nd. Please do not mix trash such as garbage, pet waste, ash, plastic, etc. in with your yard waste. Use of Republic Service and Cyclone dumpsters, bags and/or boxes is not acceptable.

Other projects include resuming installation of new break away street signs and all new Welcome to Monroeville signs, which were purchased over the winter. Work continues with repairing and installing new catch basins around town as well as our unrelenting efforts to fill pot holes, and crack sealing to maintain our roadways.

If you have any comments or concerns please contact the Street Department at 419-465-2800.

Dustin Crabtree
Street Department Supt.

Tax season is upon us once again! Please remember to file early and avoid the rush. The IRS has changed it's Federal form this year, so when you submit your information to the Village, please double check and make sure you remit both pages of your Federal 1040 form. Also check your W2 form to be sure you are filing the correct copy. This should include figures in Box #19 and Box #20. A code of #3902 is for your school tax return and is not necessary for your Monroeville local tax return. Include any other necessary Schedules that may pertain to your return. Please sign your return and include a phone number where you can be reached if necessary.

If you are filing an extension with the IRS for your Federal return, we would appreciate a copy of your extension at that time as well, so you do not receive a delinquent notice from our office after the April 15th filing deadline.

Forms and instructions can be found on our website @ www.monroevilleohio.com. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office and we will do our best to help you!



RESTORATION, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE

Many exciting activities and projects will be taking place in the Village in 2019.

The most important of which will be undertaking the construction of the new Monroeville Municipal Complex. This building will be located at 21 North Main Street, encompassing the parking lot area adjacent to the Croghan Bank. The Administrative Offices and Police Department will be housed under one roof. Best of all, the excellent financial stability of the Village will allow the construction to take place without creating an additional burden on Village residents.

The operation of the Monroeville Solar Park (MSP) continues to pay dividends for the Village. 2018 was the first full year of operation for the Park. In 2019 the Village will realize a reduction in capacity and transmission costs of just over \$194,000. This reduction in costs will allow the Village to maintain its present rate structure for the foreseeable future.

The old adage "where were you when the lights went out" takes on a whole new meaning for the Village and its residents. Council, in cooperation with our power supplier - AMP Partners, will be installing a diesel generating station that will have enough power to supply the entire village with electricity during a time of emergency or crisis. This is a tremendous step ensuring our well-being during an unforeseen event. Not only will this generator be available for emergency use, it will also be used for peak shaving during times of high demand for electricity. Like the MSP and its generation capability, this diesel generating station will further reduce our capacity and transmission costs beginning in 2020.

Council has not only been proactive with the new Municipal Complex and with the installation of the diesel generating station, but has also taken an extremely robust approach toward maintaining our water supply. In the event of a failure in the Village Water Treatment Plant, a water tie line connecting the Village to NORWA can be turned on to supply the Village with water. The construction of this line was completed late in 2018 and is ready to go. The health, safety and well-being of our Village residents is our utmost concern.

We will be working with the Monroeville Alumni Baseball Association, LLC to rejuvenate the ball fields at Marsh Park. This venture will result in restoration of the fields for use by multiple age groups with the future goal of hosting tournaments and other park related events. If you have not noticed a new roof was installed on the Marsh Park shelter house, with additional improvement work taking place in 2019.

We have not forgotten about streets. We are working with Lee Tansey, Huron County Engineer, to plan for the resurfacing of Milan Avenue and River Road from US 20 to Washington Street. This will be a 2019 - 2020 project.

A goal in 2019 is to replace all of our residential and commercial water meters. A recent meter count indicates the majority of our meters are greater than 35 years old. New meters will be more accurate, provide leak detection notification at your location, and give our utility office improved tracking of your usage.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

The staffing level at the Monroeville Police Department has finally stabilized. Your police department currently consists of the following:

Full Time:

Chief Gary Lyons; Lieutenant Troy Kimball; Officer Jordan Eggleston; Officer Nick Meyer; Officer Jordan Hanuscin. Since their hire, Officer Eggleston has completed Field Training Officers course and Officer Meyer has successfully completed an intensive two week fire arms instructor course. Both courses were conducted by the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy. Lieutenant Kimball has completed a first line supervision course which was also held at the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy.

Part Time: Officer Josh Querin; Officer Cory Sosbe; Officer Kyle Sheehan; Officer Curtis Silvers.

Josh worked previously at the Huron County Sheriff's office. He is currently employed full time by Firelands Regional Medical Center as a Lieutenant in their security force.

Cory is a veteran officer who has worked part time at Bellevue and Walbridge police departments. He is employed full time by Davis-Besse Nuclear Power facility as a security officer.

Kyle has worked for the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's office and currently is employed as a police officer for University Hospital in Cleveland.

Curtis is our most recent hire. He is from the Norwalk area and is currently employed full time by the Lorain County Metro Parks as a park ranger.

Tom Gray
Village Administrator



PHOTO ENFORCEMENT



Effective September, 2018, the Village of Monroeville entered into an agreement with Sensy Gatso to assist the police department in their photo enforcement efforts. Sensy Gatso replaced OPTO Traffic. At first this support covered the Dragon Cams that have been used by the police department since January 2016. However, as of December 28, 2018 those enforcement tools were enhanced to also include 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.

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.

As of February 20, 2019, the average speed violation was approximately 14 mph over the speed limit with the fastest recorded at 24mph over the speed limit. The average red light violation was 1.4 seconds with the longest red time recorded at 14.13 seconds. This means the traffic light was red for 14.13 seconds when the vehicle crossed the stop bar.

Photo enforcement is only one tool we at the Monroeville Police Department utilize. Your officers continue to be active in all areas from the traditional traffic stops to doing business building security checks to assisting citizens who may have complaints or concerns. Those services can include unlocking vehicles or residences and checking on the wellbeing of people.

This activity is detailed in the police department's year-end report due to be released later this month.

Chief Gary Lyons



Bits and Pieces.....

*The Village employees participate in a Drug Free Work Program. We have a no-tolerance policy for drug use. Employees meet once a year for drug safety training to be in compliance with the Ohio BWC standards.

*Last year Council passed a tobacco free policy in which employees are prohibited from using any tobacco product in all municipal buildings, Village owned equipment and vehicles, and on all Village owned property.

*Our Village-wide tornado siren testing is done the first Wednesday of every month at noon.

*The annual county-wide tornado testing will take place on Wednesday, March 20th at 9:50AM.

*Save the date! The Monroeville Firefighters will be holding their annual chicken barbeque on Sunday, April 28th. Look for further details as bulletins are posted.

*Allowing your grass clippings to blow into the streets creates obstructions in the Village's storm sewer system. This can dramatically affect the run-off capacity of the storm drains and contribute to flooding. It is illegal to put grass, leaves or any other material into the Village's storm water drainage system. Please act responsibly and keep your grass clippings from blowing into the street.

*As we move into "home improvement" season please take note that an application for zoning compliance must be approved before any structure can be built, altered, or added to. This includes fences, sheds, gazebos, pools, patios and decks. Applications can be obtained at the Administrative Offices.