

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
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MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

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MONROEVILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

The last time I wrote, it was a few days before the Coronavirus knocked on Ohio's door. Although we were not sure of the magnitude of this pandemic, we pulled together to make the best of the situation. "Normal" became our businesses and offices not operating the same way they were accustomed to. "Normal" was seeing our Christmas tree lit well into Spring to lift spirits and receiving a shout-out from our Governor. Thanks to our friends at Janotta and Herner, "normal" was our village being canvassed with orange ribbons as a visual reminder that we are all in this together! Our churches were not visited in person, but "normal" was how we experienced drive-by blessings and saw a new virtual presence of worship. "Normal" meant physical schools were closed as distance-learning took over, ball fields laid in wait and a social-distanced parade was how we celebrated our graduates. "Normal" was anything BUT *normal*, but we came together, worked hard and persevered!

I would like to personally thank our wonderful village employees for once again going above and beyond to help keep our wonderful village functioning. They really did not miss a beat as these unprecedented times presented many challenges. Allow me to share just some examples of their work of which I am so proud. Understanding these trying financial times and under Council's direction, the ladies in the village office worked with utility customers to set up payment options for those who were temporarily falling on economic hardships. Our Village Administrator and department heads did a phenomenal job ensuring the safety of our employees, which in turn continued the safe deployment of all of the village utilities and services. As you may not be aware, there are EPA mandates which dictate who needs to be monitoring our water/wastewater services daily according to their levels of certification and training. With our modest, yet capable staff, scheduling was critical, but they succeeded! Our electric division really shined as they worked through our spring storms. Our village only experienced a couple of small disruptions of service while neighboring cities and towns were struck with several outages, some of which were hours long. Speaking of the spring storms, I heard many compliments about the street department and their work in clearing the fallen trees and debris. Thanks, guys! Finally, the Chief and I are extremely proud of the life-saving efforts of our police department. Literally ... saving lives!!! As a community, we are all blessed to have such capable, caring and committed people working with us! Please extend your appreciation to all of them when you see them working throughout our community.

COVID could not dampen the spirits at Clark Park this summer however, as the Lance Corporal James Sprowl Highway was unveiled and dedicated. Found along State Route 99, the stretch of highway honors a Vietnam hero from Monroeville who was killed in action. The patriotism and community support and pride were awesome to see and be a part of! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make that event a success!

I am sure you probably have noticed, our beautiful municipal complex is nearing completion. This is very exciting! As a community, we all can be very proud of what will be the core of our village. Because of COVID, we will not be able to have a large open house the way we would like to, but I look forward to sharing the building with you at a future time when it is safe and responsible to do so!

As we continue to progress through what our current "normal" looks like, please reach out to our office if there is a need or a concern. We are working together with our Huron County Public Health department and other county agencies. As a village, we have also formed a committee to assist individuals and businesses navigate these difficult times. More information will be coming soon. In the meantime, I ask that you continue looking out for your neighbor, continue looking for the good in people, continue to BE the good that other's need and continue being the best little village with a gigantic heart! I pray for your continued health and safety!

Yours in service,

Melissa M. Fries-Seip



Daylight Savings Time Ends On November 1st This Year.

Remember to turn
your clocks back one
hour and change the
batteries in your smoke
alarms and carbon
monoxide detectors.



The Administrative Offices will be
closed on the following dates in
observance of holidays...

Oct 12th – Columbus Day
Nov 11th – Veterans Day
Nov 26th – Thanksgiving Day
Dec 25th – Christmas Day
Jan 1, 2021 – New Year's Day
Jan 18th – Martin Luther King Day
Feb 15th – Presidents' Day

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you're liable to step in one such reminder! Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and to other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter. When walking your dog in our community, remember it should be leashed. **Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet.** Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste and then dispose of it properly. By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Thank you for your cooperation.





HOT - HOT - HOT

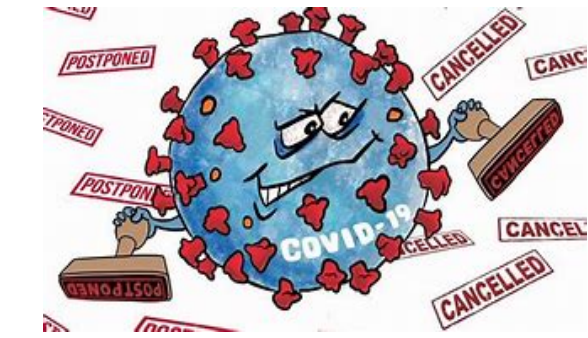
Through August 13th, we have recorded 24 days of temperatures of 90 degrees or above. There have also been an additional 13 days at 88 or 89 degrees!



HYDRANT FLUSHING

Hydrant flushing is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of October 5th and 12th beginning at approximately 8:30am and ending around 3:00pm.

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.



Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Monroeville Police Department had to make the difficult decision to cancel their annual Hooked-On-Fishing and Safety Town programs. We hope to schedule them for 2021.

Postponement was also made for the distribution of our citizen survey. We hope that some time early in 2021 situations will allow for its distribution.



With the heating season closing in on us, please be safe with the use of your heating equipment. Change filters as recommended, and check the exhaust vents for debris. Never use an extension cord to plug in portable heaters. Turn them off when you leave the room or go to bed, and make sure the unit has an auto shut off in case it gets knocked over. A portable heater should never be used as the only source of heat. Do you heat with an outdoor wood burner? If so, do not burn papers, cardboard, plastics, trash or green wood.



Think before you flush! What you put down the drain matters! Our goal is to protect our environment and watershed by reducing industrial, commercial and household contaminants from being discharged into the village sewer system, and eventually back into the river. Chemicals, oil, grease, drugs and medicines cannot be treated or removed at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and should never be flushed down the drain or toilet. Disposable wipes, dental floss, hygienic products and anything that will not

disintegrate should be disposed into the garbage and not flushed down the toilet. Help prevent clogs and sewer overflow by keeping your pipes clean!



Did You Forget To File Your Local Income Tax Return?

With the extended filing date having passed us by, it's time to wrap up things that remain to be finished for 2020. One of those things would be filing your 2019 Monroeville Income Tax Return. Our Government graciously allowed a 90-day extension on the tax filing date this year due to the COVID pandemic, moving the deadline to July 15th. Letters have been mailed from our office to those of you who have not yet filed your taxes as a reminder to get them filed as soon as possible. If you filed an extension with the IRS, please be reminded that you have until October 15th to file, and your proof of filing the IRS extension form must be submitted with your return.

If you're struggling to complete your tax return, our office staff will be happy to help you. You'll just need to provide copies of your W-2 forms, any 1099 misc forms, and a copy of the 1040 form you filed with the IRS. We don't charge for this service, so come on in and we'll help you get your return completed for filing.

As always, please feel free to call our office with any questions you may have about your local income taxes.

NEWSY NOTATIONS

*Did you know that Council approved waiving the late fees and shut off/disconnect fees on all utility accounts during the COVID pandemic?

*Did you know that Monroeville has been designated a Tree City USA for 14 years?

*Did you know that you need a permit to install a fence, swimming pool, or accessory building? Permit applications are available in the Administrative Offices.

*COVID can't stop Christmas celebrations! We're changing direction this year and will be hosting a Christmas-in-the-Park canned goods and non-food items collection on Sunday, December 6th. Many of our neighbors and friends have felt the financial impact of the pandemic - this will be an awesome opportunity to reach out and spread peace, love and generosity with your donations. The air will be filled with music, Christmas goodies will be available, and the traditional tree lighting will cap the day! And guess what? Santa told us that even though he won't be able to talk to the kids individually this year, he may just hop on the fire truck and wave to everyone as he rides by!



POLLING PLACE RELOCATION

To all Registered Voters in Monroeville Village and Ridgefield Township:

Please note that your voting location for the November 3, 2020 General Election will be moved to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 121 W Broad St., Monroeville.

This will be your polling location for all future elections.

If you have questions, please call the Huron County Board of Elections at 419-668-8238.

VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
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MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

MELISSA FRIES-SEIP, MAYOR
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BONNIE BECK, FISCAL OFFICER
419-465-2922

THOMAS GRAY, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
419-465-2922

MONROEVILLE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
419-465-4443

MONROEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NON EMERGENCY
419-465-2474

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
419-465-4149

STREET DEPARTMENT
419-465-2800

WATER & WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
419-465-4182



IN THE EVENT OF A POWER
OUTAGE OUTSIDE OF
NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS
PLEASE CALL THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT AT
419- 465- 2345.

THEY WILL CONTACT
THE ON CALL PERSON.

**"Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall
All you have to do is call..."**

This summer has been like no other. It has been tough for many but we are trying to do our best here at the street department. For the most part we have had a pretty successful summer. Although it has gone by fast, we will still be collecting yard waste until October 27th. This will end the yard waste pickup for the year.

As we head into fall we will begin leaf collection October 13th. Please rake your leaves as close to the curb as you can without raking them into the street. If there are sticks or stones in the leaves they will not be vacuumed up, as they can damage the equipment.

Before you know it snow will be falling! As a reminder, please be cautious of the snow plow drivers and workers doing the up-town sidewalks. We strive to do our best to clear the streets as soon as possible.

Street Dept.



RESCHEDULED!!

The Huron River Joint Firefighters have rescheduled their annual chicken BBQ and we can't wait for that delicious chicken dinner! Mark your calendar for September 27th beginning at 11:00am.

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Monroeville Public Library. Packets included pencils, stickers, etc. We also held a raffle in which the lucky winners received a water bottle or back pack.

Finally, a big thank you to Eye Candy Cycles, Monroeville Transmission, The Monroeville Public Library, Girl Scout Troop, Monroeville Model Railroad Group, Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroeville Fortune Finders, LynMarie's Coffee Shop and the American Legion Auxiliary for planting and maintaining our uptown flower containers. They all looked

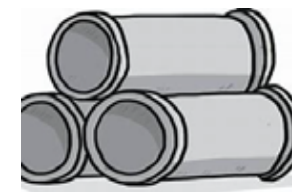
The Shade Tree Commission would like to share with our Community the importance of stopping invasive species. It is always better to plant native species as they do better in our area. A few examples of invasive trees

bushes are: Tree of Heaven, Autumn Olive, Amur Honeysuckle and Black Locust. For more information on invasive species please visit arborday.org.

We had fun sponsoring a giveaway for the children at



Turns out they're an



**Out With The
Old**

In an effort to keep Inflow & Infiltration (liquid that doesn't need to be treated) from our sanitary sewer system, and as an Ohio EPA mandate, the Village will be replacing the Broad St sewer main from Ridge St to Rt 20.

At the time of printing, and after going through the engineering project preparation/OEPA approval & the bidding process, our hometown utility contractor, Underground Utilities Inc., will be performing this work.

The Wastewater Dept. will continue to clean and inspect sanitary sewer mains this fall.



**In With The
New**

The Village is in the process of securing financial assistance for a water meter replacement program, most of our meters have surpassed or are nearing the end of their mechanical cycle.

We are hoping to kick off this project in the near future. Once the project is approved we will need access to all Village water meters to swap the old for the new.

As a reminder meter reading generally occurs on the week of the 10th of every month. If your meter is within a fenced yard or basement restricting our

ability to read them, please contact us so we can make arrangements for a reading schedule that works for you.



Water/Wastewater Dept.

DOCUMENT SHRED DROP OFF DAY

Do you have old papers or documents that you are not sure what to do with because they have personal information?

Firelands Local will be in Monroeville to collect your documents to be destroyed. This event will take place Monday, September 21, 2020 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Sunrise Cooperative parking lot. There is a fee of \$0.25 per pound. Seniors, your first 50lbs are free!

Firelands Local is a NAID AAA certified company and will make sure your personal information stays that way.

For more information please contact James Johnson at 419-921-6400 or email him at James@firelandslocal.com.

ark and be on the lookout for additional ways to save.

ITY, IMPROVEMENT, EXCITEMENT

are reaching a crescendo as the completion of the nicipal Complex is upon us.

MC project got underway. However, it has been over project. A great deal has happened over the course of ne, your wonderful and beautiful new complex is ready

The Administration and Police Divisions should be in the MMC by the time this newsletter reaches you or soon after.

As you can well appreciate, this project has been a major undertaking that was only made possible because of the excellent financial **stewardship** by your Fiscal Officer, Bonnie Beck. Village Council played a pivotal role in supporting the project by maintaining a balanced and sustainable budget which continues to provide financial **stability**.

By now you have noticed that Milan Avenue and River Road have been resurfaced. This project was a joint effort by the Huron County Engineer and the Village of Monroeville. The installation of new signs and line painting will be completed shortly.

You will begin to see activity on Broad Street. The sanitary sewer line, between US 20 and North Ridge Street, will be replaced. This was mandated by the Ohio EPA and is similar to the 2017 Monroe Street project.

The Rail Division of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is funding the installation of new crossing gates on the SR 99 / South Ridge Street crossing. The Village applied for funding two years ago and our project was finally approved for construction. In addition to the gates, a pedestrian sidewalk will be installed to connect both sides of the track. Council worked long and hard to make this project a reality. It is anticipated the sidewalk connector will improve access to the Rails to Trails and, along with the gates, provide a needed safety **improvement** at the crossing.

There has been a spate of vandalism at Village parks and facilities. Damage has occurred at Clark Park, Marsh Park, and most recently at the Street Division garage on Williams Street. If you see something that might be out of the norm, please contact the Police Department...419-465-2345.

Tom Gray, Village Administrator



During these ever changing times of uncertainty and adjusting to our new normal, our village employees are dedicated to continuing to provide quality services while being mindful of budgets and cost savings. Each department has its own unique knowledge and skillset to contribute to these savings.

Electric department employees are able to weld, fabricate and repair broken equipment, do the wiring for vehicle safety lights, trailer lights and radios. They will change out batteries and lights on the vehicles. They have also fabricated a few Christmas decorations and will repair broken or damaged ones and change out lighting at the Administrative Offices. Street department employees are able to do their own mower and equipment oil changes as well as minor repairs on vehicles and equipment. Recently a gentleman ordered two benches for Clark Park and our employees put them together for him. Employees at our water and wastewater departments are equipped to do repairs on pumps, calibration instruments and flow meters as well as minor vehicle repairs. The police department personnel are able to utilize in-house work. With Office Meyer being certified as a firearms instructor, he is able to qualify our officers on a yearly basis, saving us from hiring an outside agency. Lt. Kimball addresses any computer issues along with any network problems, having a background in this area prior to coming to the police department. They also are able to take advantage of the LESO program that allows them to obtain excess Department of Defense items, such as computer monitors, filing cabinets, shredders, ID card printer and a refrigerator, just to name a few. The Administrative Office personnel pays careful attention to purchasing products at the lowest prices possible. They personally deliver bulk mail (utility bills and newsletters) to the Norwalk Post Office, and attend court hearings at no additional cost.

