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VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Where has this summer gone? Summer is ending, evident by the return of our children to school, Friday night lights appearing over Marsh Field, and the sights and sounds of nature changing to their fall colors and tones. Once again, this transition requires our village employees to change gears, if you will, as they prepare for not only fall, but for winter, as well. Again, I would like to publicly recognize all of the Monroeville Village employees for their continued hard work and dedication. We are lucky to have conscientious, knowledgeable, and cooperative employees that ensure the successful running of our village. They do their job well, continue their education and training in their respective fields, and reach out to help others where they can. Not only do we have wonderful employees, but our citizens are the best around! I continue to be grateful for the dedication and selflessness of the many volunteers in the community. Whether it is groups volunteering materials and time to improve our parks, businesses planning and articulating a summer flea, scouting groups doing community service throughout our village, our churches and other organizations helping the less fortunate, or neighbors doing kind things for others "just because," we are a community who is not afraid to help if it is needed. Thank you for representing some of the best qualities of what makes Monroeville special!

Speaking of helping out when needed, I would like to take this opportunity to shine the village spotlight onto our Village Administrator, Tom Gray. Tom truly is one of the keys to making this village run. Overseeing the day-to-day operations in Monroeville, his humble demeanor and willingness to help out is evident, but behind that outward appearance, he has a vast knowledge of the inter-workings in the strategic and complicated facets of what goes on behind the scenes to make our village thrive. Most people, (me included,) would struggle with understanding all of those complexities if it were not your field of expertise, but Tom graciously can explain these things to those of us who may not have received formal training in each of these fields in a way that it makes sense. For that, I will forever be grateful! As you see Tom out and about in the village, please stop and express your gratitude for his hard work and dedication to our village. Who knows, you may even learn something new! 😊

Finally, please mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 28th at 6:00 PM at Clark Park (weather permitting). There will be a brief ceremony to officially name Monroeville as a Purple Heart Village, remembering and recognizing Purple Heart recipients. All are welcomed to attend. If you know of a Purple Heart recipient or are the family of one, please reach out to me so they can be included. My email is mayor@monroevilleohio.com.

In the meantime, continue to take care of yourself and each other. As we continue to work towards staying healthy and bringing an end to the Covid-19 pandemic, stay engaged and informed about the updates the Huron County Public Health Department recommend. The village also utilizes the monroevilleohio.com website and the Monroeville Happenings Facebook page to try and keep the community informed about events. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Village Office if you have any questions. The knowledgeable people working in the office will be happy to assist you. I continue to be excited about what our future holds as a community ... **OUR** community ... the best little village with a gigantic heart!

Yours in service,

Melissa M. Fries-Seip

Mayor



SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT



Before tax season



After tax season

Greetings Village residents!

The deadline for filing your 2020 Village of Monroeville

Income Tax Return was 5/17/2021.

If you have not filed your 2020 return yet, please do so with RITA

(Regional Income Tax Agency) at www.ritaohio.com.

IF YOU DIDN'T FILE A VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE INCOME TAX RETURN PRIOR TO 2020 OR IF YOU OWE A BALANCE PRIOR TO 2020, please contact the Village of Monroeville in regards to making arrangements to file and/or to make payment.



Due to the evolving situation with the Covid-19 Pandemic, we were unable to hold Hooked on Fishing. However, we were able to conduct Safety Town. 57 children received certificates of completion. Graduation was held on Friday, August 6th followed by a pizza party for the children and parents. Due to the large number of students, we put on two classes a day in order to include those who missed last year due to the pandemic. In addition, we also added an electricity safety block. I would like to thank Monroeville Public Schools for allowing us to use the MAC center. Dave Hamons, Alex Carper, and the people at Firelands Electric, your presentation on electricity was great and very educational. Diana Hauler & Melissa Harvey put on an excellent presentation on school bus safety. The Huron River Joint Fire Department did their usual excellent job during their day of instruction.

Our local businesses stepped up once again to help us put on this program. Twist and Shout, Subway, Peans and Dollar General provided food and drinks at no or very little cost to us during the week. A big thank you to Fiscal Officer Bonnie Beck for her generous contribution towards helping defray those costs.

Finally, I would like to thank those who volunteered their time. We couldn't have pulled it off without them. Thank you, Mayor Fries-Seip, Heather Alicea, Mrs. Hanuscin, Mrs. Kimball, Makenna, and Mattie.



Junk Vehicles

Section 521.12 of the Village of Monroeville Ordinance states that it is illegal and a nuisance for any person to store or permit to be stored on any lot or premises any dismantled, inoperative, or unlicensed motor vehicle that is not obscured from public view by adequate and approved fencing for a period in excess of fourteen days.

An inoperative vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle which due to the lack or failure of the engine, transmission or other mechanical part results in the vehicle being not useable for safe transportation or person.

The officers of the Monroeville Police Department will begin to check neighborhoods for vehicles found not to be in compliance with this law. Their owners will receive a written notice and have 14 days to fix the problem or remove the vehicle from the premise or public view by use of adequate fencing as determined by the Monroeville Building Inspector.

Everyone, please do your part in making our community as beautiful and as safe as possible!

Photo Enforcement

Just to remind everyone, fixed speed and red-light cameras are in place at Monroe and Main Street intersection and U.S. 20 and State Route 99 intersection. A fixed speed camera is also located to monitor speeders at the east end of the Village. This is in addition to the mobile laser devices used by your officers. So please, obey the traffic laws!!

School has started so be sure to observe when the flashing lights are in operation that signify a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph.

One thing that has changed as a result of a decision by the Ohio Supreme Court, everyone who wishes to contest the red light or speeding violation via photo enforcement will be heard at the Norwalk Municipal Court, and all court costs and fees will be the responsibility of the contestor.



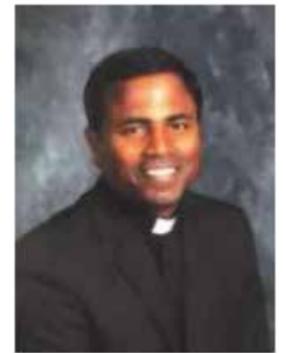
Welcome

As Mayor, I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome some new faces of leadership within our community! This summer we welcomed Dr. Kristin Kaple-Jones, Superintendent of Monroeville Local Schools; Father Chris Jesudhason, Pastor of St. Joseph and St. Alphonsus Catholic Churches; and Pastor Patty Abel, interim Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. Please take a moment to learn about our newest community members by reading their biographies and make them feel welcome in our amazing village!



Dr. Kristin Kaple-Jones is joining the Monroeville Local Schools as our new superintendent. Dr. Kaple-Jones holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame with a major in English and a double minor in Education, Schooling, & Society, and African and African-American Studies and a concentration in Secondary Education. She earned a master's degree in Educational Administration from Ashland University and a doctorate in the same from Ohio University. Kristin graduated from Shelby High School and returned home after college to spend the last 18 years working at Shelby City Schools, where she taught high school English for eight years, and then went on to serve as an intermediate and elementary school principal for the past 10 years. Dr. Kaple-Jones resides in New Washington with her husband Josh and their Brittany Spaniel puppy Rubi. Kristin enjoys spending time at the lake with her family in the summer and following Notre Dame sports. Dr. Kaple-Jones has enjoyed the short time she has spent in Monroeville so far and wishes to thank everyone for their warm welcome. She is proud to be an Eagle! Please, stop in and see her any time at the Board Office--she looks forward to getting to know our community.

It's my joy and pleasure to introduce myself! My name is Fr. John Christopher Jesudhason (Fr. Chris). I became the Pastor of St. Joseph, Monroeville and St. Alphonsus, Peru on July 1st this year. God surprised me and it is His plan that I have been asked by Bishop Thomas to serve here. I am honored and blessed. I came to the American soil on the 17th of May 2017. My first assignment was in the parish of St. John the Baptist, Point Place. Next, I was appointed for a year as an associate pastor at St. Charles, in Lima. From there I moved to my third assignment at St. Joseph Parish, in Maumee. And for the last two years, I have been in Sandusky. I have enjoyed each of them and learned quite a bit. And now I am honored and blessed to be here amongst all of you! This is the first time I have been in farm country and a small town; it is so nice here! I was ordained a religious priest, belonging to the Religious Order called Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines). I have come a long way from the land of India, where it takes more than 24 hours to journey by flight to America. I grew up in a small village in the extreme southern part of India called Thanivilai. My parents' names are Jesudhason and Rosamma. I am the oldest of three children. After completing my graduate studies, I joined the Pallottine Seminary and became a priest on May 6th, 2001. I served a few years in India, then I went to South Africa in the Archdiocese of Cape Town, and from there, at the request of my superior, I arrived in Toledo. At this juncture I am grateful to God for all the blessings that he has given me. I look forward to getting to know people from my parishes here and from the surrounding communities including the village of Monroeville!



Pastor Patty was ordained and joined the NALC in 2012. She has Masters' degrees in Christian Education, an MDiv., as well as a Masters in professional clinical counseling. Patti also has a Doctorate in Spiritual Formation. She has served numerous churches as an interim. Pastor Patty lives in New London and is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashland. She is a proud mother of two daughters, Trudi and Traci, and grandma of five (Gabriella 17, Lillian 12, Theaden, 14, Evelyn 12, and Anna, 3). Patty said of her upcoming time at TLC, "I am so excited, and so is Reid, to embark on this new adventure with you all. It is for you a sad time in which we will pray for Pastor Amy and her family on their new adventure, and pray for each other as the church begins a new adventure! May God bless us all and hold us close in his hands." Pastor Patty will be with Trinity for about a year, before they enter the call process to look for a new pastor. During her time here, she will be part time, working Sundays and Thursdays.



Put Fall Leaves to Work

There are some good uses for fall leaves. (1) Create a compost pile. Carbon-rich leaves balance high-nitrogen compost ingredients such as fresh grass clippings. (2) Improve the soil in your garden by adding shredded leaves. (3) Use as mulch as the shredded leaves will help suppress weeds and protect the soil. (4) Mow into your lawn as mulched leaves help improve the soil and reduce the need to fertilize. (5) Protect and store root vegetables by layering the leaves on top to protect the plants. (6) If possible, leave some leaves for the wildlife to use as protection. (7) And last, use as a playground, remember as children jumping in a pile of leaves!

We are still looking for places to plant trees in the boulevards. If you would like a tree, contact the Village Administrative office and they will relay the message to us. Also, if you see a tree that needs to be trimmed, etc., please contact the Office and they will notify us to check on the condition of the tree.

Shade Tree Commission



System Wide Hydrant Flushing
And Valve Exercising:

Hydrant flushing has been tentatively scheduled for the weeks of October 4th and 11th. Water department employees will begin flushing and valve exercising at approximately 8:30am and stop around 3:30pm 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.

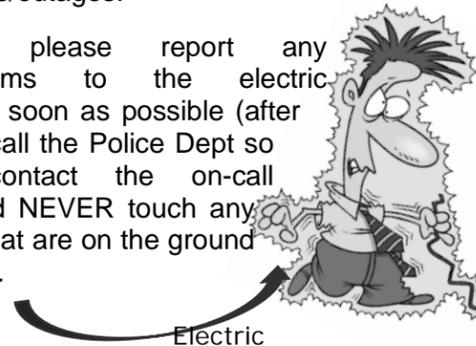
Hydrant flushing is a part of annual water system maintenance.

STABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

As we continue upgrading our street lighting to LED, we will also be doing various upgrades on our electrical system to make it more efficient and stable. Part of making our system more stable is by doing tree trimming around our primary lines, which is an ongoing program. We continue to install animal guards/protectors throughout the system to minimize animal contacts/outages.

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

Department



Electric

Meet some NEW faces!

Join us in welcoming Kadon Martin and Meritt Key to our village work force. Both are recent graduates of Monroeville High School.

Kadon is with our Street Department. He brings a variety of labor experience with him from his previous employment and is looking forward to the challenges of his new position.

Meritt is with our Water and Wastewater Department. While this is Meritt's first work experience, we know he is ready to learn the ins and outs of our Water/Wastewater systems.

When you see Kadon or Meritt around the Village please say hello.

BUSY as a BEE

The Monroeville Municipal Complex is reaching its one-year anniversary as the hub of Village administrative activities. Thanks to you, the residents, and to Council for the foresight and attention to detail in bringing the MMC to fruition. The Village has a wonderful downtown center piece which will serve as a keystone for future growth and revitalization.

The Broad Street Sanitary Sewer Project came to a successful conclusion earlier this year. The intent of the project was to reduce the storm water cross flow into the sanitary sewer system. Monroeville, similar to other villages and cities, is under strict EPA guidance to implement programs which will lessen the cross flow of storm water into the sanitary sewer system. This project resulted in a very positive impact on the reduction of cross flow into the sanitary sewer system. Any reduction of water entering the sanitary sewer system has an immediate effect of lessening the amount of water being treated and discharged at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

We can all breathe a sigh of relief with the wrap up of the US 20 construction. ODOT performed a full depth pavement replacement in several areas on US 20 in hope of creating an improved road bed which should provide for a longer pavement life. Along with the resurfacing, ADA compliant cross walks and approaches were installed. Improvements were made to basins, water valve boxes, and drainage systems.

With the completion of the US 20 project, the Village will be undertaking the installation of a new water line running from Broad Street to SR 99. The new line will be constructed parallel to US 20 and follow the sidewalk from one end to the other. Companion projects will result in the repaving of Brown Street and a section of Hollister Street. Presently, the existing line runs under US 20 and has been subject to many breaks and leaks. By relocating the line, the existing line can be taken out of service and abandoned in place. R.A. Bores was the successful bidder for this project. Work will be commencing shortly.

The residential and commercial water meter replacement program is well underway. Rick Whiteside is heading up this project. The pit style meters have been the first to be replaced and will be followed by the change out of the "in house" meters. Commercial meter change outs will be last to be accomplished.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with the reduced restroom hours at Clark and Marsh Parks. The restrooms at both parks were fitted with touchless toilets, faucets, soap dispensers, and hand dryers to mitigate contact transmissions. This has been a positive addition to those facilities. However, continued vandalism has forced us to close the restrooms at the end of each day. It is unfortunate that these steps had to be taken but the ongoing damages, due to vandalism, could not be sustained. If you have a scheduled event or you are just doing an after-hours group activity, we will make every effort to have the facilities open and available for your use.



LEAF PICK-UP



We will begin picking up leaves the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month starting October 12th until the first part of December, weather permitting.

Please rake your leaves to the curbside as close to the road as possible in order to allow the vac truck to be most effective. Please do not rake leaves into the street, and do not rake any garbage, cans, sticks/limbs, or animal feces with the leaves. Anything other than leaves will be left for your disposal. No plastic bagged leaves will be picked up; however, we will pick up the brown paper leaf bags.

save the date

**DECEMBER 12, 2021
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK**

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO ONCE AGAIN HOST CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK THIS YEAR!

PLEASE JOIN US AT COMMONS PARK FOR A VISIT WITH SANTA, COOKIES AND HOT COCOA.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE AND THE MONROEVILLE HAPPENINGS FACEBOOK PAGE.

MERCURY, METERS & MAINS, OH MY!!

The Broad Street sanitary sewer project has been completed. This project also included a major upgrade to the Industrial Park lift station that had the original equipment from the time the area was initially developed. The Village crews will still be addressing any other areas throughout our collection system when a heavy rainfall occurs to keep Inflow & Infiltration (liquid that doesn't need to be treated) from our sanitary sewer system as mandated by the Ohio EPA.



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 getting rid of such 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.

Finally, we will continue to clean and inspect sanitary sewer mains this fall.

The Water Department is in the middle of a meter replacement program, as most of our meters have outlived or are nearing their useful lifespan. We have changed out about 95% of the residential pit meters. Once these are complete, we will move forward with changing out the meters that are located in the interior of homes. The Water Department will contact those individual homeowners to set up a time to change those meters out. Once these meters are changed out, there won't be a need to get inside of the home again unless there is a meter failure. As a reminder, meter reading generally occurs on the week of the 10th of every month.



Water & Wastewater Department

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

MELISSA FREIS-SEIP, MAYOR
419-465-6101

BONNIE BECK, FISCAL OFFICER
419-465-2922

THOMAS GRAY, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
419-465-2922

MONROEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NON-EMERGENCY 419-465-2474

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
419-465-4149

STREET DEPARTMENT
419-465-2800

WATER & WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
419-465-4182



Daylight-Savings time ends on November 7th this year. Don't forget 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 11th – Columbus Day
Nov 11th – Veterans Day
Nov 25th - Thanksgiving
Dec 24th – Christmas Observance
Dec 31st – New Year's Observance
Jan 17th, 2022 – Martin Luther King Day
Feb 21st, 2022 – Presidents' Day



"ICE" YOUR CELL PHONE (In Case of Emergency)

It could save your life and notify loved ones! Your cell phone can help emergency responders and healthcare workers to identify you and notify your loved ones.

Just program your cell phone's contact list with the coded word "ICE" (In Case of Emergency):

1. Open your cell phone contact list to create a new entry.
2. Enter the word ICE with the name and number of the person you would like contacted in an emergency
3. To list multiple contacts, name the entries ICE 1, ICE 2, ICE 3.

Examples: ICE 1 – Husband – Tom
ICE 2 – Mother – Mary
ICE 3 – Son – Joe

Emergency workers look for the codeword ICE when they turn on your phone. Help them help you! Program your phone today!

The purpose of this program is to assist emergency workers and first responders. All others should call 9-1-1 when encountering an emergency situation.

HAVE YOU HEARD???

Council successfully sold their former Administrative Office building to the owners of Old Soul Woodworking, who are diligently working toward the grand opening of their extended business area. Another enhancement for our downtown area!

The construction on Rt 20 is finally done! It was a long process, but the roadway looks fantastic, the infrastructure has been reinforced, drainage has improved, a guard rail has been installed just past the bridge by Clark Park, and crosswalks have been installed in front of Pean's Pizza and at the Clark Park area. Kudos to ODOT for a super job!

Miracle Muffler, who has been in business for 28 years, has closed their doors as the owner is settling into retirement. They provided a great addition to our business group, and will be missed. If you see Greg Grice, the owner, wish him the best!

What a super upgrade our Dollar General store has accomplished! Make sure you stop in to take a look – and fill your grocery cart, too!

The Village Administration has determined that, for safety reasons, 4-way stop signs will be placed at the corners of Brown Street and Hollister Street, Chapel Street and Hollister Street, Baker Street and Hollister Street, and Broad Street and Chapel Street. These signs will be posted within the next few months, so be on the lookout for them and drive with caution.

And while you're driving with caution, please be aware that Williams Street will become a one-way Street in October. This decision was made to increase the safety of vehicle operators and pedestrians. TRAFFIC WILL FLOW FROM MONROE STREET TO RT 20 ONLY.

The Village has applied for a grant from PUCO to install safety enhancements at the railroad crossings on S. Ridge Street, S. Main Street, and Monroe Street. These enhancements will be similar to those at the Broad Street and Jackson Street railroad crossings.

While many were saddened or disappointed to see the wrought iron fencing removed from the Riverside cemetery, the newly painted entrance sign looks fantastic. Thanks Ridgefield Township Trustees!

With winter months upon us it's time to service your furnaces. Don't forget to change your furnace filters regularly, and keep your thermostat at a setting that's comfortable to you and your family.