

# MONROEVILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

It is with a heavy heart that I write my final newsletter message to you. For the last 8 years, I have had the honor and privilege of working with and representing the fine people of the Village of Monroeville as your Mayor, with six years of service as Council President Pro-Tem before that. There is no doubt that I am going to miss being your Mayor, but after a lot of prayer and discernment, I decided at the end of last year that I would not seek reelection when my term ended this December, so that I may devote more time and energy to the needs of my family.

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments that we have made and the direction the Village is heading. We have made infrastructure improvements to the wastewater facility, strengthened our electric system, and added our solar field which has allowed us to pass the savings of avoided costs to our utility customers. We have bolstered community pride and continue to celebrate all of the reasons our Village and community are so special. I will cherish so many great memories, like our year-long Sesquicentennial celebration, receiving our Purple Heart Village distinction and opening our beautiful Monroeville Municipal Building. Just as exciting and rewarding as reliving these great memories is the knowledge that we are on the cusp of so many exciting new endeavors within the Village, as well. Monroeville's future is bright, indeed!

Working alongside a valued, knowledgeable and dedicated administrative team has been so beneficial. I couldn't be more grateful to those who have worked with me, including our amazing administrators: Village Administrator, Tom Gray, Fiscal Officer, Bonnie Beck, and Chief of Police, Gary Lyons, along with our dedicated Village Council.

As always, I appreciate our employees who work together to make our Village run smoothly. I would like to welcome the employees who have joined us in the last year: Chad Cheek, Chadd Nutter, and Erik Reinhart, and welcome back to Dustin Crabtree. Please take a moment to thank ALL of our employees and welcome our newest faces! We are lucky to have such a talented work force!

Lastly, please carry on with building our reputation of Monroeville being the "Little Village with a Gigantic Heart!" I continue to be so very proud of our Village and everything that it represents! Being your Mayor has been a true labor of love, one that I will forever take great fulfillment in knowing that I poured my heart and soul into helping make Monroeville the best that it could be.



Yours in Service,  
Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip



## *Current Council for the Village of Monroeville*



Pictured are:

Front row, from left to right: Joseph Galea, Susan Rogers, Christina Rafferty  
Back row, from left to right: Craig Franklin, Sam Wiley, Bob Whitacre

The Village Administrative Office receives frequent inquiries as to who serves on Council. The dedicated Council members who serve our community are pictured here. Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6pm, in Council Chambers, at the Monroeville Municipal Complex, 21 N Main Street. During the meeting, there's an opportunity for the public to address Council, should they have any questions or concerns regarding the happenings in the Village.

Council members contact information can be found at [www.MonroevilleOhio.com](http://www.MonroevilleOhio.com), under the Government tab. Council meeting agendas and meeting minutes can also be found on the website.

There will be potential for one open Councilmember seat as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Village Administrative Office, P.O. Box 156, Monroeville, OH. 44847. Check our website for any updates.

# Hooked on Fishing



On Memorial Day, Officer Nick Meyer was honored by the American Legion with the Officer of the Year Award. We also had our annual Hooked On Fishing event. There were 72 children who registered for the event with approximately 175 adults and children attending. Carter Carrol won the biggest fish award catching a fish that was 29 inches long. Brad Hay caught the most fish and Carley Rew caught the smallest fish at 4.25 inches. A great time was had by all.

A special thanks goes out to all of the volunteers and businesses that donated their time and resources. The Twenty-First Century Foundation, Myers Rental Service, Dollar General, Firelands Credit Union, Bait Brothers, Nobil's Sports & Trophy, Armour Eckrich Meats, New Horizons Baking Company, 7-Eleven of Monroeville, Frito-Lay, Rural King, and Fair Publishing. We couldn't have done it without their support.

Pictured are Chief Lyons and Mayor Fries-Seip along with Lt. Troy Kimball and Officer Nick Meyer. Along with them are Brad Hay, Carter Carroll and Carley Rew. Congratulations to everyone!

## safety town

This year 32 children participated in our 2023 Safety Town. They observed and participated in presentations by the Monroeville Police Department; Huron River Joint Fire District; The Village of Monroeville Electric Department; Firelands Electric; North Central EMS, and Firelands Red Cross. A big thank you goes out to the Monroeville Public Schools for allowing us to use the MAC center and the cafeteria for our banquet of Pean's Pizza! Pictured are the 2023 Safety Town graduates along with Chief Lyons, Officer Jonah Mersereau, Mayor Fries Seip, and Lt. Troy Kimball.



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, Chandler Kimball, Makenna, and Mattie.



## Welcome New Staff Members

The Monroeville Police Department has added to its staff. Erik Reinhart, who was previously hired on as a part time officer, has been hired as a full-time officer. Erik is a Monroeville High School grad and comes to us from the Erie County Sheriff's Office where he served as a Corrections Officer. Also, Matthew Wilson and Logan Gale were hired on as part time officers. Matthew has a degree in Criminal Justice and Logan is a graduate of the Police Academy. Both also come to us from the Erie County Sheriff's Office.



**If you want a tasty sweet,  
Be sure to holler  
"Trick or Treat!"**

Our annual Trick-or-Treating will be Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 2:30pm, followed by a parade at 3:00pm beginning in front of the School on West Street. The Huron River Joint Fire District Firemen's Association will be hosting this fun for all event.

Join in this long standing tradition and enjoy seeing the creative costumes and the joy on a child's face when they receive a treat from you.



**\*\*KUDOS TO YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE STAFF\*\***

As noted elsewhere in this edition, our office has changed to an updated version of our utility system, which resulted in a change of format for your utility invoices. The transition to this new utility program came with a great deal of navigating through an abundance of technical modifications. Our Administrative Assistant, Ann Beck, has diligently stayed on top of the modifications. She is still working with Civica CMI, who provides our computer system services, to make sure all of the necessary utility applications and information have been transferred from our former utility system accurately and are consistent with the required data.

Our Administrative Specialist, Heather Alicea, has also been busy with taking the required training to earn her CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) status. She has successfully completed three years of training at the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association, as well as three years at the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers. Not unlike other positions in our work force, a municipal clerk/treasurer is certified through the State of Ohio. Several years ago, the State of Ohio created a Fiscal Integrity Act, and certain approved annual training is mandatory for that position. Once Heather completes one more year of training, she will be eligible to attain her CMC status.

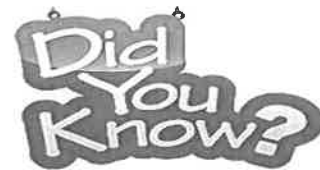
These tasks are just the tip of the iceberg for all of the duties required for the Administrative Offices, and I am very proud of the attention and diligence Ann and Heather put into their positions. They are dedicated employees and truly deserve accolades for that!

Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer



**SNOWPLOW SAFETY TIPS....**

Our Street Department crew works hard to keep our streets as safe for you as possible. The equipment used is very large, and the drivers must be aware of hazards such as poor visibility, slippery roads, and other drivers on the road, while being mindful of the established safety protocols. You can help keep yourself and the snowplow drivers safe by giving them plenty of room avoid passing them, slow down, never drive into a snow cloud, and stay alert. Stay safe and warm this winter!



- OCT 4<sup>th</sup> IS TACO DAY + NATIONAL WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY
- OCT 5<sup>th</sup> IS DO SOMETHING NICE DAY
- OCT 6<sup>th</sup> IS NATIONAL PUMPKIN SPICE DAY
- NOV 7<sup>th</sup> IS ELECTION DAY
- NOV 13<sup>th</sup> IS WORLD KINDNESS DAY
- NOV 24<sup>th</sup> IS BLACK FRIDAY
- NOV 27<sup>th</sup> IS CYBER MONDAY
- DEC 1<sup>st</sup> IS NATIONAL PIE DAY
- DEC 3<sup>rd</sup> IS MAKE A GIFT DAY
- DEC 21<sup>st</sup> IS THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER



# HYDRANT FLUSHING

This will be tentatively scheduled for the weeks of October 9th & 16th. Water dept. employees will begin flushing and valve exercising at approximately 8:30 am and stop around 3:00 pm daily.

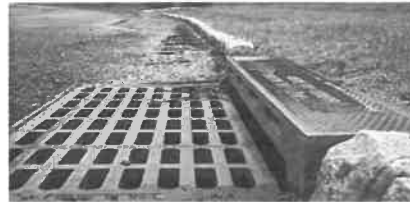
You may experience low flow and or cloudy/discolored water during this period. Please let your tap run and the condition should clear up relatively quickly.

The following is a link to view the OEPA required Backflow informational brochure **PWS-02-003 brochure.pdf(ohio.gov)**. This link is also available on the Village of Monroeville's website under the Departments heading by clicking on Water.

As fall approaches, the Street Department will shift from yard waste to leaf pick up. Yard waste will end on October 24<sup>th</sup>. We ask that as leaf pick up begins, you only put out leaves, as sticks and debris will damage our equipment. Please rake your leaves to the curbside.

We will continue with pavement repairs and curb repairs throughout the fall, as well as work with the Water Department to jet and clean catch basins and drain tiles. The South Main Street, Brooklyn Heights project has wrapped up and went as planned. Thank you to all the residents who were patient during this project.

The Street Department can be reached at 419-465-2800, or emailed at [streets@monroevilleohio.com](mailto:streets@monroevilleohio.com).



Street Dept Staff

We are continually upgrading our electric system such as switching the old street lighting to new LED lighting and new electronic controls throughout the system. We will also be doing various equipment 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 we continually work on. We are still installing animal guards/protectors throughout the system to minimize animal contacts/outages.

Colton Ott, the department's apprentice recently completed the Basic 1 level of the AMP Apprentice Line Worker Training Program, with classroom and hands-on experiences. Colton is enrolled in the 4-year apprenticeship program, and will continue to work toward attaining his line worker certification with future classes in the training program, as well as on-the-job training.

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



Electric Dept

The EPA is mandating public water systems to complete a lead service line inventory by October of 2024.

To meet this mandate the Village needs to verify the service line material on both the Village and privately owned side (normally from meter or curb stop to the connection in the basement).

In order to accomplish this, we will need to gain access to most basements. You can call the Water Dept. at 419-465-4182 to set up a day and time to have this done. The goal is to eliminate all lead from the drinking water service lines.



Water Dept

## Traffic Enforcement



Just to remind everyone, fixed speed and red-light cameras are in place at Monroe and Main Street intersection; U.S. 20 and State Route 99 intersection; and U.S. 20 westbound at Brooklyn Heights. In addition, new cameras are set up on State Rt. 547 near the intersection of Lebeau and North Street near Marsh Field. This is in addition to the mobile laser devices used by your officers. So please, obey the traffic laws!!

## Cameras



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.

### Photo Enforcement most FAQs

1. Are there any points for camera tickets and will the violations appear on my driving record?  
There are no points associated with these tickets and the violations will not appear on your driving record.
2. Do I need to show proof of insurance for my camera ticket?  
You do not need to provide proof of insurance for these tickets.
3. What happens if the ticket is not paid by the due date?  
If the ticket is not paid by the due date listed on your ticket a \$25.00 late fee will be added to the balance. After 60 days of not being paid, an \$80.00 late fee will be added.
4. What if someone else was driving my vehicle at the time of the violation?  
You must complete the option at the bottom of the back page (Affidavit of Defense) of your citation designating another person as the driver. You have 30 days from receipt of the citation to complete, notarize, and return the affidavit to the Monroeville Police Dept.
5. How do I contest the citation?  
You have 30 days from receipt of the citation to contest and request a hearing. To contest the citation, you must complete option "1" on the back of the citation. Mail the citation to the Monroeville Police Department P.O. Box 85, Monroeville, Ohio 44847. You will be notified by mail of your hearing date. You may also drop off the hearing request at the Monroeville Police Department or Village Offices.
6. Can camera tickets be paid online like traffic and parking tickets?  
Yes, these citations can also be paid online at [www.viewcitation.com](http://www.viewcitation.com). You will be asked to provide your citation number along with a pin number. That information is listed on your citation.
7. Can I view the violation?  
Yes. There are three still photos along with a streaming video. Go to [www.viewcitation.com](http://www.viewcitation.com) and list your citation number and pin number of the violation to view the photos and video.
8. Does an officer need to be present at the camera location.  
No. Even though that section of the law is still posted on the State of Ohio's web site, it was ruled unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court (Dayton v. State of Ohio 2017).



### TREES ARE POEMS THAT THE EARTH WRITES UPON THE SKY

We have a new member on the Commission! Eric Bischoff has agreed to join the Shade Tree Commission, we would like to welcome him! Also, Dawn Franklin has resigned her position on the Commission. Thank you, Dawn, for your years of service. Presently we have a 5-member Commission which consists of Marie Bischoff, Doug Long, Sue Long, Karen Wagner and Eric Bischoff. We are still looking for places to plant trees in the tree lawn so if you are interested in having a tree planted in your tree lawn, please contact the Village Office.

## **MONROEVILLE UTILITIES**

21 N MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 156  
MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

Address Service Requested

### ***YOUR NEW UTILITY BILL FORMAT IS NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED***

UTILITY BILLS ARE NO LONGER ON POST CARD FORMS. PLEASE LOOK FOR YOUR INVOICE, WHICH IS NOW ON AN 8 1/2 x 11 FORM, TO ARRIVE IN A LETTER-SIZE ENVELOPE.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE ARE ELIMINATING THE SEPARATE MAILING OF SHUT OFF NOTICES, AS THIS INFORMATION IS INCLUDED ON YOUR UTILITY INVOICE.

BE SURE TO VIEW THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION BOX FOR NEWS AND UPDATES ON VARIOUS TOPICS.



## **RELIABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY**

OMNI Fiber will soon be rolling out high speed internet across the Village and in the adjacent areas of the township.

The build out has taken longer than was originally anticipated, but we believe it will be worth the wait to now have a dedicated, symmetrical, fiber optic network which will also support phone service and television packages.

Look for a mailer and upcoming advertising from OMNI in the next couple of weeks.

The Hilltop and South Main Street water line projects have been completed. This was the culmination of many years of similar projects to improve the reliability of the water system.

As a companion to the South Main Street project, Brooklyn Heights and a portion of South Main Street were resurfaced. Council plans to continue street resurfacing in 2024.

Soil test borings have recently been completed on the former Commercial House property in the downtown area. This is another step Council has taken in hopes of converting the vacant lot into downtown, off-street, parking.

First Energy has been rebuilding the transmission network between Halfway Road and Bellevue. The first segment from Halfway Rd to Monroe Street has been completed. This reconstruction will have a positive impact on the reliability of service to the Village.

The Street Division continues to utilize a single-unit packer for yard waste and debris pick up. This piece of equipment was procured with funding from a Safety Intervention Grant through the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. Please make certain to not place oversized tree limbs and branches at the curb.

Over the next few weeks, you should see two new commercial operations at the Fort Monroe Industrial Park. Optimistically, this will be the start of a new, mixed use, type of business in the Village.

The Ohio Department of Transportation is planning a 2024 resurfacing project for the entire length of SR 99, including North and South Ridge Streets in the Village. A mid-2024 start date is forecasted.

Tom Gray, Village Administrator



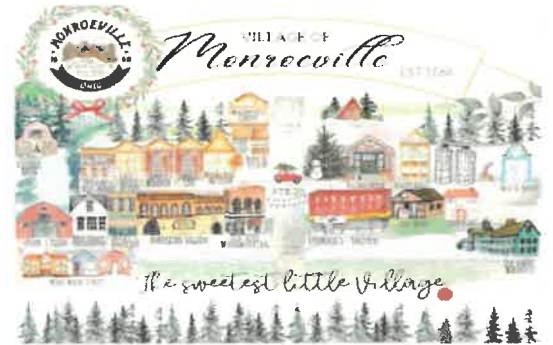
**Christmas in the Park** in Hallmarkesque Commons Park, Monroeville, **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 4PM – 6PM.**

Come for: **Visits with Santa \* Cocoa and Cookies \* Giveaways \* Caroling with community students \* The Mayor's Second Annual Golf Cart Christmas Parade \* Lighting the Christmas Tree and More.**

Be sure to stop and enjoy the live nativity story at Trinity Lutheran Church from 4:00pm to 7:00pm!

### Christmas in the Village

Looking for that special, unique gift for someone? Shop our local businesses on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Each business will be decked out for this fun filled event. There will be specials and a drawing that you can enter into by visiting each of the participating businesses. Look for more information coming soon.



### The Mayor's Christmas Golf Cart Parade

Interested parties should register to reserve their place in the parade by filling out the accompanying form. You can use this link [Monroevillepolice.com/golfcart](http://Monroevillepolice.com/golfcart).

Decorate your golf cart in a festive manner and have your golf cart to the staging area (parking lot for the busses) by 4:30 on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Parade lineup will begin at 4:45. Parade will begin at 5:00. Parade route will be the immediate block around Commons Park. Begin on Chapel, left on Hollister, left on Brown, left on Broad and return to staging area.

The public can add votes for their favorite entry, trying to sway the "Mystery Judge." The Mystery Judge's final decision will be announced before the tree lighting at 6:00. Winner will receive a prize and bragging rights until next year's parade/contest.

Questions??? Email: [mayor@monroevilleohio.com](mailto:mayor@monroevilleohio.com)

Come join in the fun!



welcome  
TO THE TEAM

The Street Department welcomes new employee, Chad Cheek as the department's Superintendent. Chad is a veteran of the United States Marine Corp and served two tours in the Gulf War. He comes to us with many years of experience in the construction field. We welcome his knowledge and drive.



The Water & Wastewater Department welcomes new employee, Chadd Nutter. Chadd is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a major in Business. He is new to the Water & Wastewater industry but is excited for this new challenge. Chadd recently obtained his Water Lab Certification and will continue to further his education in Water and Wastewater operations.

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

PRST ST  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NORWALK, OH  
PERMIT NO 104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

44847 > 9



## The Final Call

THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL BULK MAILING OF THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER. FUTURE NEWSLETTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT [www.MonroevilleOhio.com](http://www.MonroevilleOhio.com) UNDER THE "Government" TAB. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING A HARD COPY OF FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT 419-465-2922 AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR MAILING LIST.



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

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day  
Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thanksgiving  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas  
Jan 1, 2024 – New Year's Day  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – Presidents Day  
May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day



Daylight Savings time ends on November 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.