



VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

Hello Neighbors!

A week of cool, crisp evenings and the beginning of another exciting season of Monroeville Eagles football reminds us that summer is turning to fall. It also marks the first eight complete months of my term as Mayor! My two most frequently asked questions: how is the Village? And how do you like being Mayor? These are both easy questions to ask, but the second one is a shorter answer. I love being Mayor! I never knew I could have so much pride in a small town where I have only lived four years. You have all truly embraced and welcomed me, and I continue to be humbled that you chose me as your Mayor. We have a great staff that makes the job easy for

me, and we are fortunate to have a neighborly and friendly community that shares in my love and pride for our Village. Please say hi whenever you see me around, let me know any of your concerns, suggestions, questions or even complaints, and always feel free to email me about **anything** on your mind (Village related, preferably) at Mayor@monroevilleohio.com. I love to hear from you, both electronically and in person.

Now, as far as how the Village is doing? Mayor Melissa left us in great hands, as I've said before, and we are all working on building on that strong foundation. The Village has beautified the corner of Main and Monroe Streets. We are working on implementing both street and sidewalk repair programs. Our utilities are in good shape, and we are leveraging grants and loans, including a grid reliability grant from the federal government obtained with Senator Sherrod Brown's help, to improve our utility service and reliability. Improvements are ongoing at Clark Park.

This summer brought a major change to our Village. Chief Gary Lyons retired after a nearly half-century career in law enforcement, and 13 years as Chief of the Monroeville PD. We will truly miss the experience, knowledge, and dedication Chief Lyons brought to the job. Our new Chief, Jonathan Earl, is well-qualified and eager to fill Chief Lyons' shoes! Chief Earl is a native of Wapakoneta, Ohio and a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. He joins us after nearly two decades serving in the City of Whitehall, Ohio's police department. Chief Earl is very excited to get back to his small-town roots and police our community. He will work very well with our experienced and dedicated group of officers. Please welcome Chief Earl to town and say hello whenever you see him!

As part of our agenda to rebuild Village infrastructure, Village Council made the difficult decision to modify our income tax slightly. In the past, the Village has given a 100% tax credit to those of you who (like me) also pay tax to the municipality where you work. That credit rate is now 75% for tax year 2024. The actual tax rate remains the same at 1% of income. That said, those of you who are like me and work in another city or village that charges an income tax may pay the Village more tax than you have in previous years. We hope to use any additional funds to work on badly-needed street repairs. This decision was not taken lightly. Please email me with any questions or concerns you have about that.

This fall also brings election season. Check your voter registration (or register to vote!) and make a plan to vote in November. Village voting occurs at Trinity Lutheran Church on Broad Street.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy fall and everything that comes with it. Football at Marsh Field, the colors of our beautiful Village trees, apple cider, Halloween trick or treating, and eventually Thanksgiving. Whatever your favorite parts of the season, please have fun and enjoy them safely.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Joe Galea





Daylight Savings time ends on November 3rd 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. 14th – Columbus Day
- Nov. 11th – Veterans Day
- Nov. 28th – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25th – Christmas
- Jan. 1, 2025 – New Years Day
- Jan. 20th – Martin Luther King Day
- Feb. 17th – Presidents Day
- May 26th – Memorial Day



HONORING CHIEF LYONS: A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION

Please join us in extending our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Chief Lyons as he concludes his final shift with the Monroeville Police Department. With a distinguished career spanning over 47 years, Chief Lyons has been a cornerstone of law enforcement across several communities, including Cedar Point, Sandusky, Swanton, and Monroeville.



Throughout his tenure, Chief Lyons has exemplified dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public safety. His remarkable career reflects not only a profound understanding of law enforcement but also a deep dedication to serving and protecting the community.

Chief Lyons' leadership has been marked by his ability to navigate complex situations with wisdom and a steady hand, always prioritizing the safety and well-being of the public. His extensive knowledge and experience have been instrumental in guiding the department through both challenges and triumphs, shaping it into the respected and effective organization it is today.

As Chief Lyons embarks on this well-deserved retirement, we want to express our immense gratitude for his years of service. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the Monroeville Police Department and the wider community.

Chief Lyons, may your retirement be filled with relaxation, joy, and new adventures. You have earned it. Thank you for your extraordinary service and for being an exemplary leader and mentor throughout your illustrious career. Enjoy every moment of this new chapter!



The Huron River Joint Fire District Firemen's Association will host its annual Halloween parade and Village trick or treating on Sunday, October 27th. Youngsters donning costumes of all sorts of characters will be going door to door from 1pm to 2:30pm in search of treats, followed by a parade at 3:00pm. The parade will begin at the high school and end at the fire station.

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

HOURS OF OPERATION
MON. – FRI.
8:00AM – 4:30PM
21 N MAIN STREET
PO BOX 156
MONROEVILLE, OH 44847

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION AND CURRENT
EVENTS, PLEASE
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.MONROEVILLEOHIO.COM



Local Income Tax

INFORMATION

Council recently came to the difficult decision that in order to increase needed revenue, the credit given to those who have taxes withheld in other municipalities will be 75% rather than the 100% that has been credited in the past. This change will be effective on 1-1-25 with the tax filing for fiscal year 2024. This is not a tax increase,

as Monroeville's tax rate will continue to be 1% as it has been since the 1983 inception of Monroeville's local income tax. In the past 41 years the Village has been faced with several downward swings through the ever changing economy, including a recession in the 80's, and most recently the COVID pandemic. No changes have ever been made to the income tax structure despite those challenging times.

One of the primary benefits of the income tax credit change is the potential for increased government revenue, which can be used to fund essential government services. Those services include the support of infrastructure, expected maintenance of our parks, streets and sidewalks, maintenance of the street and traffic lights, and supporting our police force.

Lately Council has heard the growing concerns about the condition of our streets, the need to replace our downtown sidewalks, address the condition of the community's sidewalks, and to construct a much needed downtown parking lot. They have seen the decline in state and federal financial support, and are currently noticing the rising costs of supplies, maintenance, and operating materials, sometimes at alarming rates. They have given consideration to the enhancement of the overall efficiency of all village operations, as well as financial stability over the long term, and concluded that in order to address these concerns this income tax change is necessary. They firmly believe that it will provide vital resources to improve the strength and foundation of the community.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NON-EMERGENCY:
419-465-2721

R.I.T.A., CUSTOMER SUPPORT:
1-800-860-7482

DAVE MAHL, VILLAGE ZONING INSPECTOR:
419-577-7890

MONROEVILLE POST OFFICE:
419-465-2004

MONROEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY:
419-465-2035



As we come into the fall months we will be continuing yard waste until October

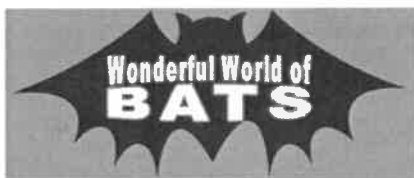
22nd. We will begin picking up leaves the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month starting October 8th until the first part of December, weather permitting. Please rake leaves to the curbside as close to the road as possible to allow the vac truck to be most effective. Please do not rake leaves into the street, 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.

**DON'T WAIT FOR
OPPORTUNITY.
CREATE IT.**

In its ongoing efforts to create growth opportunities, your administration has been working diligently on writing grant applications and seeing them successfully awarded. Most recently, Village Administrator Tom Gray has successfully obtained several grants for the Village that have been awarded for specific purposes and with specific conditions. Grants have been awarded for an EPA mandated backup generator at the Water Treatment Plant for \$108,310. Fifty thousand dollars of that was paid for with an Ohio EPA grant, and \$58,310 of it was paid through the federally funded American Rescue Plan Act. We have also secured an EPA Surface Water Division grant of \$64,100 for a salt shed. Our village has never had much of a salt shed, as most of the salt used to care for our icy streets has simply been piled on the ground between aged clapboards and covered with tarps. Because of its proximity to the river, that method of storage opened the potential for salt to seep into the river. The new salt shed will eliminate that potential. The construction should be completed by the end of October. The EPA also awarded a \$9,885 grant under their H2Ohio Fund. Our award funds were used to purchase a water leak detector with a high sensitive sensor, and a pipe and cable locator to ensure timely resolutions for leaks in our water distribution system. The Ohio Senate Energy & Water Resource Committee awarded us \$248,000 to be used for grid resiliency and to create the last portal of our automated meter reading infrastructure. Finally, we have been talking about the construction of a downtown parking lot for quite some time now, and with the financial assistance of \$74,145 from the ARPA Community Accessibility Expansion Grant through Huron County, we may soon see the start of this project develop.

Specific conditions come with each of these grants, including strategic planning, reporting requirements, fiscal responsibility, record keeping, and transparency. The Fiscal Officer and her staff pay careful attention to these specifics and make sure the conditions are met so we can continue to successfully pursue future financial assistance through various resources made available to us.

Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer



Monroeville Public Library - Saturday, Oct. 26th at 11:00am.

This program features the echolocation calls of bats and introduces audiences to local and tropical bats, the Vampire Bat, and many more of our flying mammals. Via slides and taped bat calls, audiences move beyond old stereotypes to understand the vital role of bats in our environment. They will see slide photos of many different types of bats. The program concludes with a tee-shirt craft.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Your Village will soon be expanding its “green energy” generation footprint with a planned addition to the Monroeville Solar Park. The Monroeville Solar Park is currently comprised of fixed-tilt solar panels which came on line in December of 2017. Since that time, millions of kilowatt hours of green energy have been produced and used by our residents. As reported in an earlier newsletter, the new solar panels will be floating and will be located on the water surface of the up-ground reservoir. This installation will not impact fishing and will be non-invasive to the environment.

Currently, the Village obtains 37% of the power you consume from green energy resources. Council's goal is to have an energy mix that contains a robust renewable energy portfolio to ensure the Village maintains a purchased power cost structure that provides for the delivery of reliable and affordable electric service in the years ahead.

We appreciate your patience as the SR 99 re-construction project remains active. Contrary to some reports, the section of SR 99 encompassing North and South Ridge Streets, will be resurfaced. The overall project has an October completion date.

The expansion of downtown parking is still a work in progress. A portion of the funds are available and it is hoped to have a rough grade in place by late fall. Council fully recognizes the need to create additional room for parking in support of the downtown revitalization.

The Hometown Hero banner project is a wonderful addition to the Village. Over the next couple of weeks, an additional forty will be installed. Thanks goes out to Scott Sparks and to all of you who have made this project possible.

You have probably noticed the work taking place on the boy's field at Clark Park. With the support of Adam Gerber and the Monroeville Baseball Alumni Association, a sprinkler system has been installed for the infield and outfield. This effort was made possible with additional assistance from Stone Earth Construction and RA Bores Construction. The project would not have gotten off the ground without the collaborative engagement of these valued Village partners.

Speaking of parks, if you notice any out of the ordinary activities after hours, please give the Police Department a call @ 419-465-2345. Vandalism continues in the restrooms, shelters, and other areas inside the parks.

As yard waste pickup winds down, leaf pickup will get underway. Please do not put any “clinkers” in the leaf piles. If you have other than leaves in the piles, you will be by-passed.

Tom Gray, Village Administrator

CELEBRATING OUR SAFETY TOWN GRADUATES: A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

We are thrilled to announce and extend our warmest congratulations to this year's Safety Town graduates! Each year, Safety Town provides a unique and invaluable learning experience for young minds, and this year was no exception. Our graduates have gained essential knowledge and skills that will serve them well as they grow into responsible, safety-conscious individuals.

This successful program would not be possible without the incredible support from our dedicated volunteers and generous sponsors. We want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the organizations and individuals who make Safety Town such a cherished community tradition.

A Special Thank You To:

Monroeville Eagles, Bus Driver Diana Hauler, Huron River Joint Fire District Croghan Colonial Bank, Fisher-Titus, American Red Cross of Northern Ohio, Monroeville Public Power, Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Pean's Pizza.

We deeply appreciate the commitment and generosity of each of these organizations and individuals. Your support not only makes Safety Town possible but also enriches the experience for everyone involved.

To all the graduates, congratulations on your hard-earned achievement! We hope you carry forward the knowledge and skills you've gained into your daily lives, and we look forward to seeing you apply these lessons as you continue to grow.

Thank you once again to everyone who made this year's Safety Town a success. Here's to many more years of community spirit and educational excellence!



WELCOMING NEW POLICE CHIEF JON EARL: A NEW CHAPTER FOR MONROEVILLE



As we bid farewell to Chief Lyons, we are excited to welcome our new Police Chief, Jon Earl, to the Monroeville Police Department. With Chief Lyons' retirement, we enter a new era of leadership and innovation, and we are confident that Chief Earl is well-equipped to guide our department into this next chapter.

Chief Jon Earl brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to our community. With a robust background in law enforcement and a reputation for integrity and dedication, Chief Earl is poised to continue the legacy of excellence established by his predecessor. His commitment to community safety and proactive policing aligns perfectly with the values of the Monroeville Police Department.

Throughout his career, Chief Earl has demonstrated a strong ability to lead, inspire, and engage with the community. His approach to law enforcement emphasizes collaboration, transparency, and responsiveness, which will undoubtedly enhance the department's effectiveness and foster a stronger relationship with our residents. We look forward to the new initiatives and strategies that Chief Earl will bring to the department.

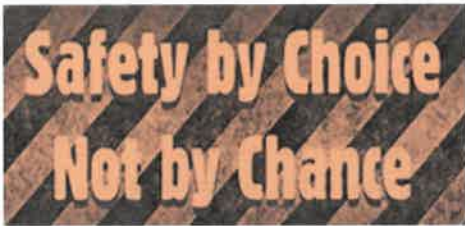
Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Chief Jon Earl. We are excited to work with him as we move forward together, and we are confident that his leadership will continue to drive the Monroeville Police Department toward greater success.



Tentatively scheduled for the weeks of September 23rd and 30th.

Water dept. 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.

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



*Think Safety As You Enjoy The Cooler Temperatures
And Vibrant Colors.*

Safely warm up by the fire.

Inspect your fireplace before lighting the first one. A buildup of soot and creosote can cause a chimney fire and a backup of dangerous carbon monoxide gas into your home.

Never leave burning candles unattended.

While glowing candles make any environment feel cozier, remember to keep burning candles away from anything that could burn, such as curtains, bedding or books. Also, always extinguish a candle before going to bed or leaving the house.

Watch for new roadway hazards.

Going back to school brings traffic changes. School buses, students on bicycles and teen drivers are out on the roads. Slow down and take extra care to look for children in school zones, near playgrounds and residential areas. Also, never pass a bus with flashing red lights on, or another vehicle stopped for a pedestrian.

Prepare your home.

Check smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and HVAC systems. Clean your gutters and insulate pipes.

Don't forget your vehicle.

Get your wiper blades checked and replaced if necessary and have your antifreeze and other fluids checked.

DON'T CROWD THE PLOW!!

Prepare for "snow clouds" when following a plow. Remember that snow plow drivers sometimes deal with limited visibility. Be sure to keep a safe distance from the plow, and make sure you can see and be seen!