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C. Scott Runck

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Randy Dorsey
Michael Gardner
Tom Smith
John Thebout
Laura Zagar

Fiscal Officer

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!



The Village of Batavia extends its sincere gratitude to John Waite as he retires on Dec. 31st from his role as Fiscal Officer. John brought a wealth of expertise to the Village, retiring from a long career in banking and finance before serving four terms on Village Council from 1986 to 2013.

John has served as Fiscal Officer with unwavering commitment and a steady, reliable hand throughout his tenure. John's leadership helped guide the Village through periods of growth, economic change, and important community transitions. His dedication ensured that Batavia's finances remained transparent, responsible, and well-managed—qualities that have strengthened trust throughout the community.

"Beyond his core financial duties, John was deeply involved in many of the Village's committees and community initiatives. From planning to event support, he was often the behind-the-scenes force that helped make projects like FunFair successful year after year," said Mayor Scott Runck. Many residents knew John as the familiar face at council meetings, but those who worked with him more closely on various committees and community events saw even more of his heart for service.

"While John and his wife have lived in the Village since 1977, I first got to know him 30 years ago when I became his neighbor. When John retired from his Financial Administrator job, Mary Jo told him it was his turn to go back to work—so he did, for the Village as Fiscal Officer. As former Chair of the Batavia FunFair, I worked with John for five events, and he was always available, always prepared, and always made sure our finances were in order. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes at an event, and John was always a great help. If you know John, you know his time with the Village was more than a job—because he cares about the Village of Batavia, a place he calls HOME," said Village resident Judy Miller.

Joann Martino is grateful for the support he has always provided.

"I've known John for about nine years, and he has always been responsive and helpful," Martino said. "His heart is focused on the betterment of the Village of Batavia. Job well done, Fiscal Officer. Enjoy your retirement!"

John looks forward to traveling in his retirement, and the Village extends its sincere appreciation for his years of dedication and service.

VILLAGE OF
BATAVIA
65 N. Second Street
Batavia, Ohio 45203

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BATAVIA PD INVESTS IN YOUR SAFETY

Recently, the Batavia Police Department purchased nine Flock Cameras that are set up at busy traffic locations throughout the Village. What is a Flock camera, you ask? The information below describes what a Flock is and its uses.

What Is a Police Flock Camera?

A police flock camera is an advanced surveillance device that utilizes high-resolution imaging and artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor roads, streets, and public spaces. These cameras are strategically placed in various locations, such as highways, intersections, and urban areas, to collect real-time data about vehicle movements and assist law enforcement in identifying and tracking criminal activities.

Police flock cameras are equipped with cutting-edge imaging technology, allowing them to capture high-quality images and video footage in low-light and adverse weather conditions. The cameras are often fitted with infrared capabilities, enabling them to capture license plates and other critical details that the naked eye may miss.

The Benefits of Implementing Police Flock Cameras

The introduction of police flock cameras revolutionizes how enforcement agencies monitor public safety and respond to crimes. Below are several significant benefits of this innovative technology:

Understanding the Role of Police Flock Cameras in Modern Law Enforcement

In an era where technology continually reshapes the fabric of society, law enforcement agencies are at the forefront of adopting sophisticated tools to enhance public safety and streamline their operations. Among these innovations is the police flock camera – an emerging technology that provides officers with critical situational awareness and advanced investigative capabilities. This article delves into what police flock cameras are, how they function, their benefits, challenges, and their significance in contemporary policing.

Enhanced Crime Prevention and Detection

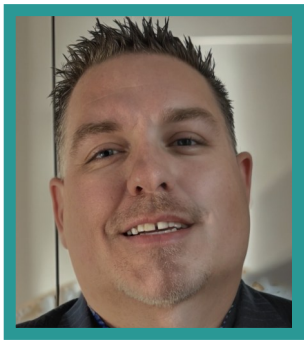
Police flock cameras serve as an excellent deterrent against criminal activity. Their presence alone can deter potential offenders from engaging in illegal acts, as they are aware they are being watched and recorded. Additionally, if a crime does occur, the high-resolution footage provides crucial evidence.

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)

One of the standout features of flock cameras is their Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems. ALPR uses optical character recognition to read license plates on vehicles. The collected data can be processed immediately, enabling law enforcement to cross-reference vehicles with databases of stolen cars, wanted individuals, or those associated with criminal activity.

Police flock cameras can integrate seamlessly with various law enforcement databases, including local, state, and national criminal databases. This connectivity enables officers to receive real-time alerts about suspicious vehicles, thereby enhancing their response times and effectiveness during emergencies.

Introducing Justin Russell, Fiscal Officer



The Village is pleased to welcome **Justin Russell** as its new Fiscal Officer. Justin brings more than a decade of experience in accounting and financial management across healthcare, nonprofit, and corporate sectors. His background includes GAAP-compliant reporting, audit coordination, internal controls, and major ERP transition work with both Workday and Oracle.

"Justin's strong financial background and experience improving systems made him the clear choice," said Mayor Scott Runck. "His commitment to transparency and accountability will serve Batavia well."

Justin has held roles with Bon Secours Mercy Health, Audit-Tel, Robert Half International, and Humana Pharmacy. He holds an M.S. in Accounting and an MBA in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University, along with a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Cincinnati

Justin and his wife, Gretchen, have three daughters, a son, and one grandson. They are active at Seven Hills Church and serve at Mosaic Church through Celebrate Recovery.



Homeowners should be deeply concerned about winter fire safety. Winter can pose extra threats to fire safety, including heating sources, electrical overload, holiday decorations, candles, fireplaces and chimneys, and winter storms.

During the winter, people rely on various heating sources to keep their homes warm. Space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, and furnaces are commonly used. If not properly maintained or used with caution, these sources can pose a significant fire risk. Space heaters, in particular, are responsible for a substantial number of winter-related fires due to improper placement or overheating.

To ensure a safe and warm winter season, homeowners must prioritize fire safety by using heating sources responsibly, maintaining electrical systems, following safe cooking practices, and taking precautions with holiday decorations. Regular maintenance and awareness of potential fire hazards are essential to keep your home and family safe during the colder months.

Fire Safety Tips for Home

Protecting your home during the cold months is vital, and depending on your location, may start sooner than others. While this list of fire safety tips for home is non-exhaustive, we're happy to lend a few tips that may help keep your home safe including:

- Having a certified and qualified professional inspect and test your fire alarms, carbon monoxide monitors and emergency alert services to make sure they are functioning properly.
- Do not leave fires of *any* kind unattended – this can include common household items like candles, stoves, fireplaces & more.
- Having a clear exit plan incase of emergency, including local emergency agency contact numbers.
- Consider having a qualified professional clean out vents in your home such as dryer vents, HVAC ducts, chimneys and outside vents to empty them of debris such as lint, pet fur, ash or dust.
- When evaluating your home's heating system, it may be necessary to have it inspected and serviced multiple times a year by a certified/qualitied professional. Refer to your system's manual to develop an adequate service plan.



Celebrate America250 at the Batavia Branch Library!

The Batavia Branch Library is kicking off 2026 with a fun lineup of America250-themed programs for all ages!

Little House Cooking Class (Kids)
January 27 • 6:00 PM
Step back in time and whip up pioneer-style treats!

Young Innovators (Kids)
February 2 • 6:00 PM
Explore creativity and hands-on innovation inspired by America's trailblazing thinkers.

Tri-State Warbird Museum: WWII Operation Footlocker (Adults)
February 12 • 2:00 PM
Get an up-close look at military artifacts and stories from American military history.

Visit **clermontlibrary.org** to register for these and other fantastic programs.
Don't have a library card yet?
Sign up for *free* and enjoy access to books, movies, magazines, digital resources, and so much more!

Christmas in the Village Brings Holiday Magic to Batavia

Christmas in the Village was an awesome success, made possible by the incredible support of local businesses and many others.

The addition of vendors truly made the evening more magical, offering visitors a variety of treats, gifts, and holiday surprises. Strolling through the Village, families were delighted to see favorite characters like the Grinch, Gingerbread people, Scrooge, and Marley mingling with the crowd and spreading cheer. Santa and his elf added to the excitement by taking photos with community members at the Armory, creating lasting memories for families. Many residents also took advantage of the popular carriage rides, adding a special touch to the evening.

Many thanks go to dedicated committee members and the hard work of Lana Fritsch, Joann Martino, Judy Miller, Bruce Bender, Kelly Taulbee, and Kate Montgomery. Their efforts helped create a festive and welcoming atmosphere for the entire community. The Christmas Committee would also like to thank Kate Montgomery and another anonymous donor for their donations to the Christmas fund. And a special thank you to Alicia Dorsey and her class for coming and decorating the Armory for the Christmas in the Village event.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to the Public Works and Police departments for their time and dedication in making the event safe and enjoyable for everyone. Gratitude is extended to the Central Joint Fire-EMS District for attending, the Fellowship of Churches for leading the lighting of the creche, and the Batavia High School band and choir for providing beautiful, festive music that truly captured the spirit of the season.

A special thank you to the Village Administration, the Council and Mayor, C. Scott Runck, for their help and attendance.











