

# The Village View

## VILLAGE OF BATAVIA

May 2024

Mayor  
C. Scott Runck

### Council

Jason Gipson

Diana Cole

Kathleen Turner

David Pryor

Jason Garrison

Kyle Meyer

Fiscal Officer  
John D. Waite



## From the desk of Mayor Runck ...

C. Scott Runck was sworn in as mayor of the Village of Batavia on Jan. 1, 2024. Here Mayor Runck shares Part 1 of his vision for the Village of Batavia.

### Mayor's Vision for a Thriving Batavia: Focused on Growth, Relationships, Transparency and Fiscal Accountability

It is with great enthusiasm and commitment that I share with you the unchanged vision I have held since my early days in council – a vision for a Batavia that thrives and stands as a welcoming haven for families.

**Growth:** The first section of the vision is around the thoughtful and sustainable growth of our beloved Village. I aim to create a thriving community that maintains its charm while fostering fiscal responsibility. To achieve this, I am dedicated to:

**Marketing and Business Support:** We will actively market Batavia to attract more foot traffic and businesses. Moreover, we are committed to helping businesses thrive by making them

aware of available grants, providing support for their ideas, and promoting their offerings to the public.

**Recreational Growth:** Enhancing our riverscape, connecting to the future hike/bike trails, and making the most of our greenspace are key components of our recreational growth strategy. A healthy and active community is a vibrant one.

**West Main Street Development:** We aim to bring attention to and actively promote growth on the west side of Main Street, ensuring progress while preserving the historical charm that defines Batavia.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** By efficiently utilizing public resources and encouraging the redevelopment of existing buildings, we will maintain the fiscal health of our Village.

**Land Annexation:** Where appropriate, we will consider annexing land to ensure fiscal stability and meet the growing and existing infrastructural needs of our community.

*Look for Part 2 in next month's Village View*

## SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

Smoke detectors are your first line of defense against the deadly threat of fires, offering precious time to evacuate and potentially save lives. In the wake of recent events and as part of our ongoing commitment to community safety, we're bringing a crucial issue to your attention: the significance of having fully functional smoke detectors in every home.

Smoke detectors are designed to sense smoke, usually as an indicator of fire. When detected, they emit a loud, piercing sound to alert occupants, providing critical seconds to evacuate the premises safely. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke detectors.

To ensure your smoke detectors are in optimal working condition, follow these simple maintenance tips:

1. Test Monthly - Use the test button to check the alarm once a month. If it doesn't sound, replace the battery immediately or consult a professional if it's a hardwired unit.
2. Change Batteries Regularly - For detectors that aren't hardwired, replace the batteries at least once a year but we recommend twice annually. A good reminder is when you change your clocks for daylight savings time in the spring and fall.
3. Replace Every 10 Years - Smoke detectors have a limited life span. If yours is over 10 years old, it's time to replace it with a new unit.

Technology in smoke detection has advanced significantly. The latest models can differentiate between types of smoke, such as those from cooking or electrical fires, reducing false alarms. Some are even interconnected, so when one alarm sounds, they all do, ensuring you hear the alarm no matter where you are in your home. Additionally, smart smoke detectors can send alerts to your phone, keeping you informed even when you're away.

We urge all district residents to take these messages to heart. Check your smoke detectors today. If you're unsure of how to test, maintain, or install smoke detectors, or if you need assistance, please contact Central Joint Fire – EMS District at 513-732-3876

## **BRUSH PICKUP SEASON BEGINS**

The Public Works Department started monthly brush pickup on April 1 and will continue until October 7.

The Public Works Department will pick up large amounts of brush this season so we ask that you follow a few guidelines to help the crews accomplish this task safely and more efficiently.

- Bush must be set out on the Sunday before pickup.
- Please set out all brush behind the sidewalks and not in the streets.
- Tree limbs and branches cannot be over 10 inches in diameter.
- Please place cut ends of limbs facing the street.

The following items are not accepted: fence posts, railroad ties and wood pallets, wood fencing, plastic, metal, lumber, etc.

Please place materials such as leaves, grass, flowers, mulch and ornamental grass in your garbage can for Rumpke on trash day.

Brush from private contracting work must be disposed of by the contractor. This includes all tree removal, tree trimming and any bushes trimmings.

## **SPOTLIGHT on Vice-Mayor Jason Gipson**

Jason Gipson is not a native Clermont Countian. Not even a native Ohioan. But when he and his wife, Karie, moved to Batavia in 2006 to be near family, their intention was to raise their six children in a close-knit, thriving community.

“Soon after, the housing market declined,” Gipson said, and the relocation of Batavia schools “... gutted the Village.”

Without the anchor of the schools, the Village went into its own decline, or as Gipson put it, “... there were no mouths to feed or foot traffic” on Main Street.

Back then, there was talk of a revitalization along the main corridor of the Village, and so Gipson decided to run for Village Council, a position he won and still holds today, after 10 years in office.

The reasons why?

“I have always focused on developing and maintaining a thriving core,” he said. “I want to advocate for the big decisions, developing the infrastructure that will help facilitate a prosperous economy and flourishing community.”

Asked if he thinks he has been successful, Gipson categorically said yes.

“I look at council as a gem. We are all facets of the gem, each facet with a different function. But all are needed to make the gem whole.”

Gipson unabashedly admits he sometimes pushes the hard decision buttons.

When there was talk about conducting a national search for a new administrator, Gipson pushed for Ken Geis, former administrator for neighboring Union Township.

“Why should we go national when we have the best right in front of us?” he argued.

According to Gipson, the decision to hire Geis resulted in the signed deal for an upscale, \$100 million, 500-plus apartment complex in the Village that will bring those mouths and foot traffic back to Main Street, and lure new businesses to the Village.

Gipson has had a diversified career path, from working as an enterprise network engineer, to owning his own business, to his current position as an estimator and arborist.

So although his life experience plays a part in his viability as a member of council, he has always been motivated by his desire to raise his family in a community that is economically successful and community-oriented.

“I originally ran for council to try to do my part in making all of that happen for my family, and I have never wavered from that,” Gipson said.

“And it can happen. We have all the tools we need and I have no doubt that by using those tools, those gem facets and the administrator we have, the Village of Batavia will continue on the upward path that has begun,” he said.

SAVE THE DATE

### **VILLAGE YARD SALE**

Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & June 2

### **FUN FAIR**

Saturday, Sept. 14

### **VETERANS PARADE**

Sunday, Nov. 10

### **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

Friday, Dec. 6 (*TENTATIVE*)

### *Meeting Schedule*

#### **Village Council**

2nd & 4th Monday of the month 7 p.m.

#### **Planning & Zoning Commission.**

3rd Tuesday of the month 7 p.m.

#### **Batavia Union Cemetery Board**

1st Monday of the month 7 p.m.

### *Contacts*

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