

Comprehensive Plan for the Village

An updated comprehensive plan for the Village was presented to Village residents for public comment at an open house on January 22, 2020. The plan was the work of a professional planning firm, McBride Dale Clarion, and a 12-person steering committee composed of residents and business representatives. The plan provides a fresh vision for the Village. This update brings together community views to shape the Village of Newtown's future, identify the possibilities for the Village, and establish action items to reach the desired vision. The draft plan was presented to the Village Planning Commission on February 27, 2020 and approved by the Commission and the Commission recommended the plan for approval by the Village Council at a future meeting. We urge residents to review the draft plan and participate in planning for Newtown's future. You can review the draft plan at: www.PlanNewtown.com

After approval of the plan, the next step will be targeted updates to the Village Zoning Regulations to implement the recommendations of the plan. The changes will be prepared over the next few months with the Planning Commission and members of the plan steering committee, and then considered for adoption in a series of public hearings in the summer.

Safety Services

Police. The Newtown Police Department welcomed Tony Lipps as a new part-time officer in January. Officer Lipps was a jail guard and a patrol officer for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department and is a recognized artist. You can read about Officer Lipps at <http://cincinnati.refined.com/arts-design/tony-lipps-artist-painting-cityscapes-sports-art-photo-realism-abstract-essex-studios-cincinnati>.

Residents should be aware of two new emergency management programs in Hamilton County: Alert Hamilton County and Smart911. Alert Hamilton County is a state-of-the-art mass notification system used to notify residents about emergencies and other important information throughout Hamilton County. Alert HC will



send alerts about severe weather and emergency information to residents via text message, email, home phone, cell phone, or work phone. Alert HC is customizable and allows residents to choose what notifications they wish to receive and how they would like to receive them. You can register for the system at: www.alerthc.org.

Smart911 allows users to provide key information to 9-1-1 call takers and first responders before an emergency happens. With Smart911 users are able to create a safety profile that includes information such as: people living in the household, pictures, animal information, medical information, as well as access codes into their residence. Any information is completely private and secure, and Smart911 is a nationwide system. Your safety profile will be available to the 9-1-1 Communications Center in other areas that subscribe to Smart911. By registering for Alert HC, you can also sign up for Smart911.

Fire. The Newtown Fire Station provides several services to Village businesses and residents. The Anderson Township Fire Department (ATFD) conducts at least one annual fire safety inspection of every business within the Village for fire safety issues. Such fire safety inspections occur year-round.

Other services include first aid/CPR/AED classes, classes on how to use fire extinguishers (using simulated fire – which allows this class to be taught indoors or outside), children's car seat installation checks, Alert Hamilton County enrollment, medic units at high school football games, annual fire hydrant servicing, and a seasonal toy drive for local families. The Newtown station also has a limited supply of smoke detectors for individuals who are unable to purchase them, and the firefighters are willing to visit an individual's residence, at their request, and make recommendations about where to place a smoke detector and answer questions about the device. The station also has drug disposal pouches for dated drugs and offers Stop the Bleed classes. The station also provides blood pressure checks for anyone who stops in. ATFD also works with individuals and businesses relative to all forms of emergency planning from Emergency Operation Plans to private individual best practices. ATFD makes rounds during Halloween night and ATFD is eager to attend any social functions within the Village, which includes participation in neighborhood block parties and parades.

Chief Richard Martin notes that the Newtown station is available for family tours and groups of scouts have recently come through for tours and small activities to help them work towards earning a first aid/safety type merit badge or accomplishment.

Maintenance

A major maintenance project this spring is the replacement of the wood timbers supporting Little Dry Run Road south of Ivy Hills Blvd. The section north of Ivy Hills Blvd. was replaced in February. Little Dry Run road will be restricted to one lane during the construction, and signals will direct the flow of traffic on the one open lane. We will notify residents via email once a construction date is determined.

Parks

The 1.4 mile asphalt walking trail at Lake Barber will be closed at the far western end of the trail for at least three months. Approximately 700 feet of the trail will be closed and under construction for the installation of an underground gas line by Duke Energy. According to Duke Energy, the company routinely makes investments in its natural gas system. The new natural gas line will be installed from SR 32 through private property just west of Mojave East, under the railroad tracks and along the Lake Barber trail to Round Bottom Road. Duke Energy has been a great partner to the Village and funds received from Duke for the easement will be used, in part, to improve the trail and the park. The path of the proposed gas pipeline is shown below.



Update on Newtown Fill

Newtown Fill -- a construction and demolition debris landfill -- is nearing completion. Spring is coming and the vegetation along SR 32 will bloom and provide a better barrier. The western side of the landfill is under construction and will be completed next. A final cap of two feet of dirt and clay will be placed over the entire landfill and then the cap will be seeded. An engineering consultant for the Village estimates that the landfill will receive the final cap in 2021, but this is only an estimate. Recycling operations will continue at the site. The landfill is regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Hamilton County Public Health ("HCPH"). Questions on the landfill are best directed to HCPH at 513.946.7879.

Municipal Income Tax

Tax day is almost upon us. As you know, the Village has a 1% income tax, but provides a 100% tax credit for up to 1% of a local income tax paid in another jurisdiction. All residents within the Village 18 years or older are required to file municipal income tax returns by April 15, 2020, regardless if any tax is owed. Tax forms and electronic filing are available at www.ritaohio.com. The Village Fiscal officer is also available to answer general questions. Keri Everett is available at 513.561.7097.

Newtown Business Spotlight

Newtown businesses and people working in Newtown provide more than 70% of the Village's annual operating revenue through the Village's 1% earnings tax. Because the Village provides a 100% tax credit for local income taxes paid in most other jurisdictions, the Village relies heavily on Newtown businesses and people working in Newtown for its operating revenue. We urge you to support your local businesses and we will spotlight a Newtown business in each issue of the newsletter.

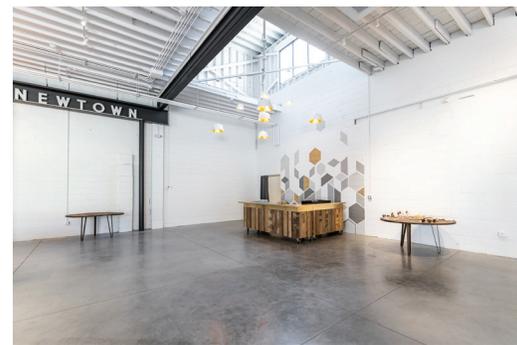
MOJAVE EAST

Mojave East is one of the Village's newest businesses which opened last October and provides a location for a wedding reception and other special events. When owners Ben and Christina Elsass decided to open Mojave East in the Village, it seemed a "natural transition" given Ben's prior experience in the wedding industry and Christina's experience in marketing and branding. They



decided that a wedding event space represented an opportunity, and after considerable due diligence around Cincinnati, decided on a property in Newtown. While the couple resides in Mariemont, they were familiar with Newtown businesses and restaurants and were attracted by the convenience to downtown Cincinnati and the thousands of cars passing the venue daily on SR 32. Christina remembers "we had driven by the little prop shop so many times" without noticing, but when we toured the property, "the minute we walked in, we could tell the structure and design were exactly what we needed!"

Mojave East is an 11,000 square foot building with ample



space for a wedding or other large events. The owners' design of this modern space was inspired by a combination of the tranquil Californian

desert, the west coast atmosphere, and the glamour of Palm Springs. The venue features a bright and airy room adorned with large windows, which enable natural light to pour in during the day, a bar, and a stage to allow a designated area for a DJ or live band to perform for guests. In addition to its indoor facilities, Mojave East boasts an outdoor patio adorned with bench seating for up to 200 people.

The transformation of this property adds to a growing enthusiasm recently around the Village as Mojave East joins a number of other recent businesses choosing to call Newtown

home. Ben and Christina noted, “the Village of Newtown was wonderful from the get-go. The council members, the mayor, and residents all welcomed us with open arms.” They were repeatedly impressed by the cooperation and support they received from the Village and the other business owners in the area and look forward to doing the same for others looking to grow a business in the Village. Christina summarized well, “We are excited to be here and hope that we offer something new and exciting for Newtown, as it seems to be developing as a great destination area.”

Newtown Resident Spotlight

Residents are the heart and soul of any village, and we will periodically spotlight a resident in the newsletter.

RANDALL E. SMITH

Newtown recently honored one of its own, **Mr. Randall E. Smith (Randy)**, when it proclaimed December 31, 2019



“Randall E. Smith Day” in the Village of Newtown. Mr. Smith was recognized for sixteen years of service to the Forest Hills Board of Education, having served on the Forest Hills Board of Education from 2003-2019, including five terms as Board President. During Mr. Smith’s time on the Board, the district maintained an “excellent” rating for all of those years. As a Board member, he also played an integral

role in the renovation of eight schools in the District and the building of a new school to replace the old Wilson Elementary. Additionally, he developed a number of working committees of the Board of Education and oversaw the hiring of the Superintendent and Treasurer in addition to founding the Forest Hills Foundation for Education. He was influential at the state level as well, including serving as State President of the Ohio School Board Association in 2018, which brought state attention to our local District.

Mr. Smith has lived in the Forest Hills School District most of his life and is a 1972 graduate of Anderson High School. He moved here with his wife Susan to raise his children and has been a proud Newtown resident since 1991. Like most of us, he has seen the great progress the Village has made over the past few years and noted, “It’s exciting to see Newtown make changes to make it more attractive for our residents yet not lose the feel of a small community.” Congratulations Mr. Smith on your honor and thank you for your selfless devotion to the betterment of the Forest Hills School District, which serves the Village of Newtown.

The Resident and Business spotlight articles were written by resident Connor Flora, a junior at Turpin High School, with an interest in public affairs, political science and history.

Civic League Events

The Fish Fry at Newtown’s Fire House Station 22 has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

An Easter Party is currently planned for Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Newtown Fire Station. The Easter Party replaces the Easter Egg Hunt previously held at Short Park. Check the Village Calendar of Events at NewtownOhio.gov for updated information. The Memorial Day Parade is May 25 and starts at 10 a.m. The Newtown Civic League puts on several events each year and people interested in volunteering to assist the Newtown Civic League can contact Council Member Chuck Short at cshort@newtownohio.gov.

With best regards,
Your Mayor and Village Council

Please provide your email address to Ms. Becky Fairley at bfairley@newtownohio.gov in order to receive future electronic newsletters and for important Village information and updates.

General information contact:

Becky Fairley, *Assistant to the Mayor*
bfairley@newtownohio.gov

Maintenance issues contact:

Chuck Morgan, *Maintenance Supervisor*
cmorgan@newtownohio.gov
513.271.2009

Local Income Tax Info - Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.) contact:

Keri Everett, *Fiscal Officer*
keverett@newtownohio.gov

Newtown Civic League information contact:

Chuck Short, *Council Member*
cshort@newtownohio.gov



Village of Newtown

3537 Church Street • Newtown, OH 45244