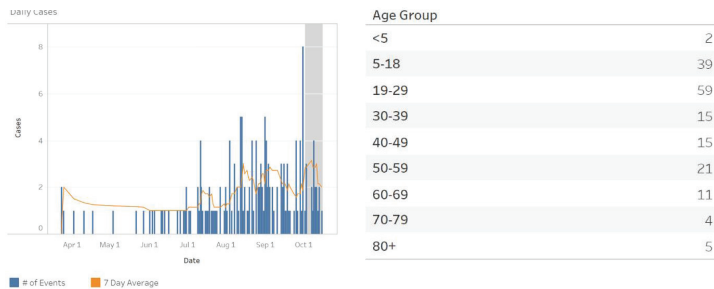


COVID-19

There have been 171 reported cases of COVID-19 with six hospitalizations and three deaths in Zip Code 45244, which includes Newtown and other communities, according to Hamilton County Public Health ("HCPH"). This data is from the onset of the pandemic through October 15. The chart and table below from HCPH provide additional information on these numbers. Included within the 171 cases, there have been 13 reported cases of COVID-19 within the Village.



Halloween

Trick-or-Treat will be Saturday, Oct. 31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Village is recognizing the holiday just as our neighboring communities are doing. It is up to our residents and the parents of the children whether they wish to participate in traditional trick-or-treat. The CDC has labelled as "higher risk" participation in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door. The CDC has listed several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween, which can be found on the CDC website. Before going out, please visit the website below for suggested best practices for Halloween events and safety.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/celebrating-halloween.pdf>

The Village is following state guidelines in asking participants to follow COVID-19 protocols including wearing masks and social distancing. This year we urge trick or treaters to only visit homes with lights on.

Air Monitoring Program

The Village has received numerous complaints about odors and air quality. As a result, the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency ("SWOAQA"), a division of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, has agreed to monitor air quality in the Village. SWOAQA represents the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency ("OEPA") and is responsible for coordinating air permits, monitoring air pollutants, responding to complaints, conducting facility inspections, and initiating noncompliance enforcement actions. SWOAQA has conducted air monitoring programs

for the communities of Winton Terrace, Spring Grove, Elmwood Place and St. Bernard.

Monitoring of air quality in the Village will commence this fall and continue for a year. Once the data has been collected, staff at OEPA will review and analyze the data. OEPA will present its findings in a report which will be made available to the Village. During this monitoring period, if a citizen has a complaint, SWOAQA has a complaint form at its website or you can call 513-946-777 to register a complaint. The Complaint form can be found at:

<http://www.southwestohioair.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6462995&pageId=6595458>

Ms. Kerri Castlen of SWOAQA has offered to take calls from the Village's citizens to discuss the plan and/or complaints as they arise. In addition, SWOAQA has made available a limited number of sampling air canisters which the Village's citizens may use to test air quality near their homes. The canisters are available at the Newtown Fire Station (Station No. 22) and arrangements can be made with Assistant Chief Bob Herrlinger of Fire Station No. 22 (513-688-8093) to pick up a canister. Once a sample is obtained, the canister is to be returned to the Fire Station where SWOAQA will pick it up for analysis. Instructions on how to use the canister and obtain a sample are available along with the canister at the Fire Station.

As additional information becomes available, it will be posted at the Village's website and/or discussed in a future newsletter. Once the final report is received from OEPA next year, a public meeting will be held to discuss the findings and recommendations.

Below is the contact information for SWOAQA:

Kerri Castlen – Inspections and Compliance Manager

(kerri.castlen@hamilton-co.org)

Phone: 513-946-7738

Brad Miller – Assistant Director

(brad.miller@hamilton-co.org)

Phone: 513-946-7731

Air Quality Complaints:

<http://www.southwestohioair.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6462995&pageId=6595458>

Website:

<http://www.southwestohioair.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6462995>

Air Quality Index:

<http://www.southwestohioair.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6462995&pageId=6593781>

Current Air Quality Map:

<http://www.southwestohioair.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=6462995&pageId=6593788>

Safety Services

Police: Officer Zachary Lindsey was promoted from part-time to a full-time police officer, filling a vacancy created when Officer Jeff Braun resigned to take a position with Indian Hill. Having the ability to promote seamlessly from within meant the Village did not have to fill in any gaps and could start from day one with someone the department trained and had confidence in.

On October 8, 2020, a police awards ceremony was held and Detective Bischoff and Officer Jake Johnson were each awarded the Exceptional Service Medal for their actions placing themselves in harm's way after a large dog attacked a woman causing severe injuries to her face and head. The victim needed over 100 stitches and staples to close the wounds. Both officers placed themselves between the dog and the victim and other first responders, drawing the attention of the dog towards them. This selfless action undoubtedly prevented any further injuries. The Police Department also recognized the outstanding 16-year career of Officer Braun with the department and community of Newtown. He served as a field training officer and was also instrumental in our mission statement, policies and training. Officer Braun was awarded the Newtown Police Chief's Medal for his service to the Newtown Police Department and the community of Newtown. The Police Department also recognized Sgt. Jim Vontz with the Newtown Police Chief's medal for his outstanding service and contributions to the department's training programs. The department's professionalism and quality of service is directly linked to the hard work of Sgt. Vontz, who has had a great influence on the Newtown Police Department and the community of Newtown.



Police Chief Tom Synan & Detective Spencer Bischoff



Police Chief Tom Synan & Officer Jake Johnson



Police Chief Tom Synan & Officer Jeff Braun



Police Chief Tom Synan & Sgt. Jim Vontz

Fire: Fire inspections and services like CPR classes, car seat checks, fire extinguisher classes, B/P checks, etc. have all been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such services and classes will be re-started at some time in the future when such interactions are deemed safe for all involved. This also includes tours of the firehouse. However, emergency operations and our responses to any 911 calls or other emergencies have not changed or otherwise been impacted in any way, except for the use of additional personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, eye protection, etc.) Additionally, each year many businesses are required, due to operations that potentially pose an additional safety risk, to secure an “Operational Permit” from the fire department which includes an annual fee for the permit (usually \$35). The fire department is issuing those permits this year, and still doing the related fire inspections, but will not be charging a fee this year (the permits run July 1 – June 30 each year). A letter will accompany each permit mailed recognizing the numerous challenges that each business has faced so far this year and our desire to offer a small token of support by waiving the related fee. The impacted businesses, those requiring Operational Permits, will be receiving their annual Operating Permits in the mail within the next two weeks. Availability of smoke alarms continues, installation by our staff or visits to residences must be determined on a case by case basis. The Anderson Fire Department is eager to get back to normal interactions with the community and reopen the firehouse to visits. Such decisions will be made in the future relying on Ohio and CDC guidelines related to such matters.

New Business

The old drive through beverage building at the corner of SR 32 and Little Dry Run Road has been purchased and renovated into an attractive red barn. The owner and operator, Mr. Nader Elias, a serial entrepreneur, states:

It was always a dream of mine to find a place that is abandoned or an eye sore and turn it 360 degrees and make a great business idea out of it. For sure, The Barn was exactly that.

I personally will be at The Barn waiting for all my fellow neighbors in Newtown so I can meet and greet and do my best to meet all your expectations. I hope to be able to provide a top notch customer service experience and make tons of regular customers and friends.

See You All
at The Barn!

Nader Elias



Eastern Corridor – SR 32 Road Improvements

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is in the process of designing road improvements in the Village. The current plan envisions (i) a dual southbound left turn lane at the Round Bottom and Main (SR 32) intersection and two east bound lanes to Little Dry Run Road, (ii) a right turn lane onto Little Dry Run Road and intersection improvements, and (iii) a widening of SR 32 from Little Dry Run Road to the eastern edge of the Village for a center turn lane. The project will also evaluate bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area. Village Council approved of ODOT's plan in concept. Meetings with an advisory committee and the public are planned for this fall. There are no funds secured for the actual road construction at this time.

Comprehensive Plan for the Village

An updated comprehensive plan for the Village was presented to Village residents for public comment at an open house in January. 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 in February and approved by the Commission and the Commission recommended the plan for approval by the Village Council. Because of the pandemic, McBride Dale Clarion has not yet made a presentation to Council for approval of the plan. 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.

Parks

Duke Energy completed the gas pipeline project in the Village and the 1.4 mile asphalt walking trail at Lake Barber has been open since late August. Duke Energy has been a great partner to the Village and has provided financial consideration for the permanent easement at Lake Barber and damages for closing the trail and restoring the landscaping. Funds received from Duke for the easement will be used in part to improve the 1.4 mile walking trail and provide a viewing area of the 50-acre lake. In addition, the Village is in discussions with Duke Energy for an easement over property Duke Energy purchased for the pipeline which would extend the walking path at Lake Barber to the Round Bottom Road at the Valley intersection. This would provide another access point to the Lake Barber and the walking trail.

The program “Trees in Gratitude” expects to plant 50 trees at Lake Barber in November. The proposed trees include oak, maple, walnut, hickory and basswood. The trees will be planted by students from Miami Valley Christian Academy (“MVCA”) and McNicholas High School and other volunteers. Anderson resident Bruce Berno funds and runs the “Trees in Gratitude” program and has planted over 250 trees in the last eight years in the area, including 70 trees at Johnson Hills Park on Bridle Road in the Anderson Park District and 55 trees in the Bauer Greenspace property on Nagel Road near Clough Pike. The Village wishes to thank Bruce Berno for bringing the tree planting program to Newtown.

MVCA: New Turf Athletic Field

On September 18, 2020, Miami Valley Christian Academy (“MVCA”) dedicated its new, top-quality, all-weather turf field. The project included the field, stands, lights, a scoreboard, and fencing on MVCA’s property in time for the 2020/21 school year. The Motz Group, based in Newtown, installed the beautiful, state-of-the-art field. “The field is being used continuously as a place for teachers to hold classes, children to play during recess and physical education time, MVCA band and athletic teams to practice and play games, and other community organizations, such as Cincinnati United, to host practices and games,” said Dr. Greg Beasley, Head of School. MVCA has always made serving the community a priority and is already planning camps on the new field. These camps will provide opportunities for children residing in under-resourced communities through programs like the Summer Sports Splash camp. Children will learn the fundamentals and skills for various sports such as football, volleyball, soccer and baseball.



Update on Newtown Fill

Newtown Fill -- a construction and demolition debris landfill – has been placing debris at the top and western edge of the landfill. There is a monthly cover requirement

for fire prevention purposes, but not for aesthetics. The brick, block and concrete visible from SR 32 at the top of the landfill are allowed, as they are considered fire cover materials. When final grades are met, the operator will place a final cap of two feet of dirt and clay over the entire landfill and then the cap will be seeded. A completed landfill is pictured below. The rate of fill at the landfill is currently down 50%-75%. An engineering consultant for the Village estimates that the landfill will receive the final cap in 2021 or 2022, but this is only an estimate and the operator has given no final date for closure. Recycling operations will continue at the site even after the landfill is capped and closed. The landfill is regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Hamilton County Public Health (“HCPH”). Questions or complaints on the landfill should be directed to HCPH at 513.946.7879. Recent complaints have concerned odors emanating from the landfill. HCPH notes that gypsum board or dry wall found in the waste can lead to the production of hydrogen sulfide gas under certain conditions. Hydrogen sulfide gas has a strong odor of rotten eggs and is detectable to the human nose at very low levels. Since this gas is heavier than air, it can accumulate in low lying areas such as the valley that is SR 32. HCPH will investigate instances of odors and residents are urged to contact HCPH at the number above to report an odor or other complaint.



Maintenance

Leaf pickup is underway and continues through mid-December. Please remember to keep leaves away from storm drains. The Village Maintenance Department patrols the Village daily for litter and other maintenance issues. If you see issues which need attention, you can email the Village Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Morgan at cmorgan@newtownohio.gov. or call him at 513.271.2009.

Newtown Business Owner Spotlight – Barbara Broerman



Lifelong Newtown resident Barbara Broerman owns and operates both the Dairy Corner and the Village Tavern and has many memories regarding the Village. The Dairy Corner opened on Mother's Day in 1955, and Barbara worked there during her high school years for Mr. Grate, the founder. Barbara's parents subsequently purchased the business from Mr. Grate, and Barbara worked for them managing the Dairy Corner while attending college. Barbara has been the proud owner of the Dairy Corner for over thirty years and works there every day with her eldest son during the ice cream season. Her parents are now in their 90's and remain involved with the Dairy Corner two days a week.

In November 2009, Barbara purchased the Newtown Village Tavern/Pizza, where she and her youngest son work five days a week. Food service has always been an interest of Barbara, which plays into her managing and working the Newtown annual Lenten Fish Fry, held at the Newtown Fire Station No. 22 for the Newtown Civic League for the past twelve years. Barbara is also the treasurer of the Newtown Civic League and helps to organize many Village events, such as the

Halloween Party for children, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Touch a Truck event.

Barbara and her family have an extensive history with the Village of Newtown. Her grandfather Walter Hayes was mayor and built a number of homes and buildings for businesses in the Village. Her uncle "Junior," Cornelius Moermond, served the Village of Newtown as a volunteer firefighter and worked in the police and maintenance departments. Junior's wife Tina was a member of the woman's auxiliary group for the fire department. Junior and Tina Moermond donated items for the display cases in the present firehouse, Newtown Fire Station No. 22. Now in her 70's, Barbara has a lot of "I remember when..." memories and is amazed at the differences and changes within the Village. She fondly remembers Memorial Day Parades, kindergarten in the basement of the Newtown Methodist Church, corn growing in the what is now Motz sod fields, the carnivals each summer, and Newtown Days at Old Coney Island.

Civic League Events

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 Mark Kobasuk



Village of Newtown

3537 Church Street • Newtown, OH 45244

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