

COVID-19

Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 1,323 reported cases of COVID-19 with 18 hospitalizations and four deaths in Zip Code 45244, which includes Newtown and other communities, according to Hamilton County Public Health (“HCPH”). The chart below from HCPH shows that from October through the present, we have had an explosion of COVID activity in our zip code and throughout Hamilton County. According to Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman, “the public has been working hard to remain in compliance with public health measures that are helping to slow the spread of this pandemic. This in conjunction with vaccinations, [and] we are seeing less significant illness in nursing homes and our senior population. Until enough of the population becomes vaccinated, we must all continue to practice public health measures: social distance, wear your mask and wash your hands.”

To date, the Village has received \$225,095 in Coronavirus Relief funding, including a \$50,000 grant to revitalize Short Park. These are your federal tax dollars at work.

Air Monitoring Program

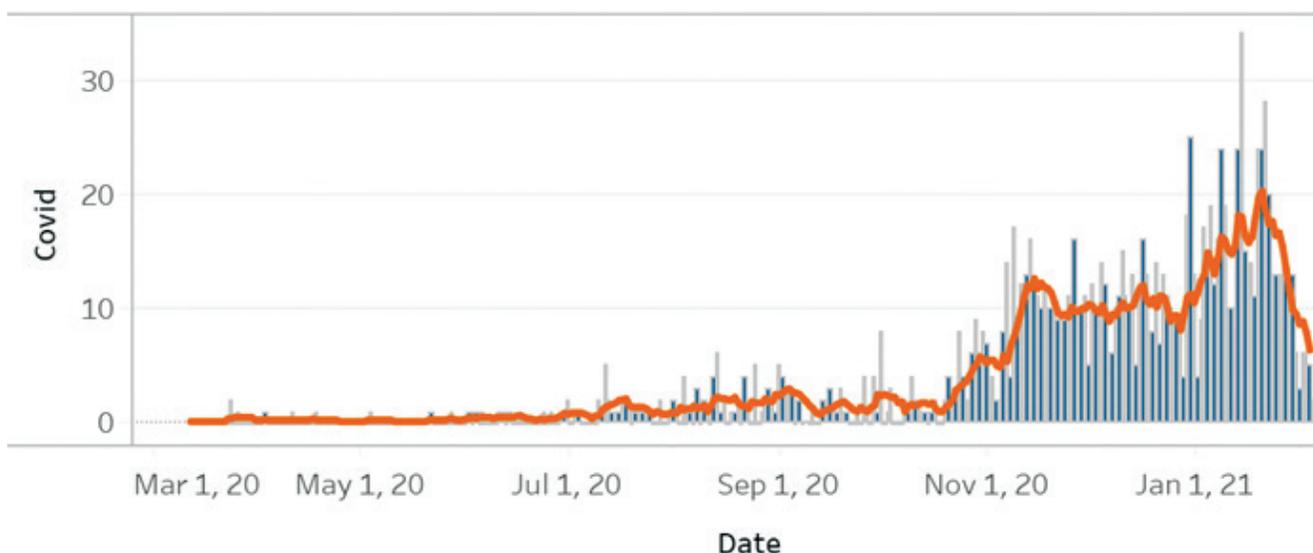
The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (“SWOAQA”), a division of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, started an air monitoring program in the Village last September. SWOAQA represents the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (“OEPA”) and is responsible for coordinating air permits, monitoring air pollutants, responding to complaints, conducting facility inspections, and initiating noncompliance enforcement actions. The air monitoring program will continue for one year and the data is posted online as it is collected on SWOAQA’s website under “Monitoring.” Once data is collected for one year, 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. Once the final report is received from OEPA, a public meeting will be held to discuss the findings and recommendations.

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

Daily Covid-19 Cases for Zip Code 45244



Source: Hamilton County Public Health

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. 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>

Economic Development

Several major development projects are underway in the Village. The Motz Group purchased the Hensel Business Forms building at 3608 Church Street (pictured) last year and will use approximately half of the space for the its new headquarters, retaining 32 existing jobs in the Village and relocating 10 new jobs into the Village from Cincinnati. The other half of the building will be leased to Meridian Bioscience for a state-of-the-art, two-line production facility for production of the company's SARS-CoV-2 molecular diagnostic test kit. Meridian will invest more than \$7 million in the project and create 45 new jobs in the Village. More information on Meridian's expansion can be found in its press release, which is posted on the Village website.



The GrowlerStop and WagsPark is being transformed into a new 4-acre, family-friendly location for Taglio Bar and Pizzeria, who specialize in Detroit-Style and traditional pizzas, using the finest ingredients. This full-service restaurant will feature some of Cincinnati's finest pizza, beer, wine, and cocktail selection, available for dine-in, takeout, or delivery via their Taglio App and online ordering.

The new Taglio campus will serve as the Gateway to Newtown from Rt. 50/Wooster Pike and include indoor-outdoor seating, family-friendly programming, their gelato and coffee "La Grassa" offerings, and the best in sports and entertainment events via the giant outdoor video board. Located across the street from the Little Miami Scenic Trail, Taglio will serve as a destination and for people using "The Crown," Cincinnati's first ever urban-loop trail, and the planned expansion of connective bike-hike trails throughout Newtown and Greater Cincinnati. Taglio expects this restaurant to create some 40 new full-time jobs and 10 part-time jobs. Stay tuned for details and updates.



In December, the Village approved the zoning for a "garage condominium" complex at 3798 Round Bottom Road (pictured). The proposed complex will have 31 car condo units and one common area "clubhouse" unit for car enthusiasts. Each unit is projected to cost between \$150,000 and \$300,000 and will have its own bathroom, mezzanine office and dedicated utilities. Collectors and hobbyists can use this attractive, unique space to display their collections, work on their vehicles and gather together within a community setting. The project will generate significant property tax revenue for the Village and attract affluent individuals to the Village, who will likely patronize local businesses.



Safety Services

Police: The Police Department recently hired three part time officers: Amy Hawkins, Andrew Niederschmidt and Brant Fluehr. The Police Department has a reputation among other police departments as being professional and well trained. Officer Hawkins was quickly hired for a full-time position by the Clermont County Sheriff's Office. The Department wishes her the best in her new position.

All officers that wanted a vaccine for COVID received the second dose recently. About 70% of our officers have received the vaccine. The Village wishes to thank the Anderson Fire Department, Angels Care and the Hamilton County Board of Health for including our police officers and Municipal Center staff in the early vaccination program.

Fire: Fire inspections and services like CPR classes, fire extinguisher classes, blood pressure 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.) Utilizing new pandemic safety guidelines, the fire department will resume car seat checks in the month of March. Car seat checks must be scheduled by emailing Ben Meyer (bmeyer@andersontownship.org) or calling Fire Station 10 (513-688-8092). Inspections will be conducted at fire Station 10 located at 6211 Salem Road. The use of a mask will



be required. The driver will be permitted to be present for the inspection. No one other than the driver will be permitted in the building. Children and other family members are asked not to accompany the driver.

Eastern Corridor – SR 32 Road Improvements

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) unveiled preliminary plans for road improvements in the Village. The preliminary plans are posted on the Village website and envision (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, and (iv) a shared use path for pedestrians and bicycles connecting Little Dry Run to the Village center and the Lake Barber trail. Construction would not commence until 2024 or 2025, and no funds have been secured for the actual road construction at this time. Preliminary plans can be viewed and commented upon at a virtual open house using the link publicinput.com/K5746. This open house will be open for comments between February 14 and March 22, 2021. Additionally, a separate virtual open house is available for planned intersection improvements at SR 32 & Eight Mile Road and can be found at publicinput.com/N4648 (The Eight Mile Road intersection open house will be open for comments between February 7 and March 15, 2021). ODOT would appreciate comments and feedback on both projects.

Parks

Several improvements are planned for Village parks this year. The Village has received a \$50,000 Cares Act grant and a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, along with community development block grants from Hamilton County, for revitalizing Short Park. Council is finalizing plans for significant improvements for the parks, and the work is scheduled to be completed this year. New basketball courts and other improvements are planned for Short Park.

The 1.4 mile paved walking trail at Lake Barber is slated for improvement and resurfacing. Foliage was removed this year at two areas along the trail for viewing the lake. The Village is in discussions with

Duke Energy for an easement over the property Duke purchased for the pipeline, which would extend the walking path at Lake Barber to Round Bottom Road at the Valley intersection. This would provide an additional access point to the Lake Barber and the walking trail. Maintenance repairs are also planned for the Moundview House.

Update on Newtown Fill

Newtown Fill -- a construction and demolition debris landfill -- continues to place debris at the top and edges of the landfill. 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. There is no update on when the landfill will be completed. The rate of debris coming to the landfill during the pandemic has been 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. HCPH will investigate instances of odors and residents are urged to contact HCPH at the number above to report a complaint.



Maintenance

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 Spotlight

Meridian Bioscience

Long time Cincinnati area resident Bill Motto founded Meridian Bioscience in his basement in 1977, later establishing the corporate headquarters in the Village of Newtown. Meridian's first product was distributing a rapid fungal test developed by the University of Kentucky. While calling on his hospital and research customers, Bill noticed there was no easy, clean way to transport patient samples. With an initial \$500 investment, he developed his first product -- a clean, easy patient stool transport vial system known as Para-Pak. Over the years, Meridian has been an innovator, including bringing several "firsts" to the healthcare market, such as their breakthrough in 1982, with a 10-minute rapid test for strep throat; and on to other first-of-their-kind tests for C. difficile, E. coli, H. pylori, and congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) among others.

Today, Meridian is still headquartered in Newtown and is led by CEO Jack Kenny. Meridian is a fully integrated global life science company that employs over 750 people at fifteen locations worldwide. Meridian's goal is to simplify healthcare and improve the lives of patients and healthcare professionals.

Under Mr. Kenny's leadership, Meridian is organized into two divisions -- a Diagnostics division and a Life Science division. The Diagnostics division is headed up by Tony Serafini-Lamanna with facilities in Newtown, Billerica (near Boston), Québec City, and Modi'in, Israel, where the Company develops, manufactures, markets, and distributes a broad range of innovative diagnostic tests for diagnosing gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses as well as blood lead levels in pediatrics.

The Life Science division, led by Dr. Lourdes Weltzien, is based in Memphis, Tennessee, with additional facilities in Boca Raton, London, and Lukenwalde, Germany (near Berlin), where the Company develops and produces critical life science materials such as antibodies, antigens, and molecular reagents, that are included in diagnostics tests made by the world's largest diagnostic companies.

Meridian's two divisions have recently taken a two-pronged approach to help in fighting the global Coronavirus pandemic. The Life Science division

rapidly responded by highlighting the use of its molecular master mixes in January 2020 to develop extremely accurate COVID-19 molecular tests quickly. Since then, several new products have been brought to market to address the expanding testing needs. Meridian's products are now included in over 100 COVID-19 tests around the globe, including places like Turkey, India, and China, in addition to the United States and other countries across Europe and Asia.

The Diagnostics division has developed a molecular COVID-19 diagnostic test on their Revogene® testing platform and has partnered with another company to distribute its rapid antigen test (both tests pending FDA Emergency Use Authorization).

Meridian's path started with a simple vision – to help people. The deep-rooted culture of innovation and putting patients first has allowed the Company to respond to the pandemic quickly.

Meridian's shares are traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol VIVO. Meridian has a wide variety of positions available in their Newtown facility. To learn more about Meridian or view the open positions, please visit their website: www.meridianbioscience.com.



Civic League Events

The Fish Fry is back and will run on Fridays from March 5 until April 2, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The menu is reduced and it is carryout only. We urge you to support this important Civic League event.

The Newtown Civic League puts on several other 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