

COVID-19

The Village Municipal Center is open and in-person council meetings resumed on June 8, 2021. The Village Council is meeting once a month this year, on the second Tuesday of each month, because of the pandemic. Village facilities, such as the house at Moundview Park and the pavilion, are again available for rent. It is recommended by the Ohio Department of Health that unvaccinated persons wear a mask.

To date, the Village has received \$225,095 in Coronavirus Relief funding, including a \$50,000 grant to revitalize Short Park. The Village expects to receive additional funds this year from the American Rescue Plan Act. 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, and the representative of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (“OEPA”), started an air monitoring program in the Village last September, which will last one year. 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.

If a citizen has a complaint regarding air quality, 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>

In addition, SWOAQA has made available a sampling air canister which the Fire Department will place in response to a resident complaint regarding air quality. The canister is 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 have a canister placed in the Village.

Public Hearing – Valley Asphalt Air Permit

A public hearing was conducted by OEPA on April 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. on Valley Asphalt’s request for a new air permit. Valley Asphalt is seeking to install a new burner element at its facility and add three additional storage silos. Annual production capacity is to remain the same and emissions are not expected to increase. More than 50 persons

participated in the hearing and many concerns were raised about emissions from the plant and air quality in the Village. Newtown has two major asphalt plants and an asphalt sealing plant within a one mile area. The nearest permanent OEPA air monitoring station is located in Batavia, which is unlikely to detect air issues in Newtown. OEPA has not yet issued a decision on the permit.

Economic Development

Several new businesses have come to the Village. Shoot Point Blank will soon open the shooting range on Round Bottom road which was formerly the Ready Line Shooting Complex. Shoot Point Blank expects to hire seven full-time and forty part-time employees as the business develops. Salon 3410 opened on Church Street. Philo Cincinnati, an indoor tropical nursery, opened on Valley. Meridian Bioscience is completing its renovation of the old Hensel building on Church Street. The expansion was made possible by a \$5.5 million award from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and an additional grant from JobsOhio. Meridian will increase its production capacity of its SARS-CoV-2 molecular diagnostic test. The Motz Group is renovating the rear of the Hensel building for its corporate headquarters.



Safety Services

Police: The Village recognized National Police Week on May 11, 2021 with a proclamation thanking and honoring our police officers and providing lunch. We hope that residents will thank our officers for their service when they see them, as they worked daily through the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is difficult to be a police officer during this period in our country.

As COVID-19 restrictions have lifted, the Police Department has seen an increase in vehicle traffic, along with a significant increase in aggressive driving. The Police ask that as the “normalcy” of busy traffic returns, drivers be patient and think about others around them.

The Police Department participated in the Turpin Senior Parade again this year. Pictures of the parade are on the next page.

Turpin High School 2021 Senior Parade



Police (cont.): Chief Synan will speak at a virtual and international event “Drug Policies and Cities Governments”, which is organized by the Global Commission and the cities of Zurich and Geneva, Switzerland, on June 22. Chief Synan will discuss the work of the Heroin Coalition and how a community can come together to work on the issue of addiction.

Fire: The Newtown Fire Station has resumed all its normal modes of operations regarding visits and tours of the stations with the public. The EMS Division and Life Safety Division are both working on getting all of their outside programs back up and running as well.

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. ODOT’s project team is working on posting responses to comments that were received during the public involvement phase for the project. ODOT and the Village will work together to finalize a plan to move forward with pursuing funding to implement the improvements.

Parks

Short Park: The walking trail at Short Park will be resurfaced in August and other improvements are being finalized for the park.

Lake Barber: The Village is in discussions with Duke Energy for a walking path over Duke’s property, which would connect the sidewalk at Valley and Round Bottom Road with at the trail around Lake Barber. This would provide an additional access point to the Lake Barber trail at the Round Bottom and Valley intersection.

Moundview Park: Several maintenance repairs are planned for the Moundview House.

Update on Newtown Fill

Newtown Fill -- a construction and demolition debris landfill – plans to begin final grading and cap placement along the north end 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. 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.

MVCA Service Day

One of the missions of Miami Valley Christian Academy (MVCA) is to develop leaders that will go beyond its walls to impact the world for the better and to serve. On April 23, over 200 of MVCA’s 6th-12th grade students dispersed into the Newtown community to “Serve Big and Serve Local.” The students spread 28 yards of mulch at the Village fountain, Municipal Center and Short Park; painted 35 fire hydrants; cleaned up the landscaping at Moundview Park; and performed service work at several local churches and Inter Parish Ministries. The Village is truly fortunate to have MVCA in its community.

MVCA Service Day



Newtown Business Spotlight – Burger Farm



Burger Farm & Garden Center began as a working farm more than a century ago. In 1904, Edwin Burger bought three adjoining farms along SR. 32 and Little Dry Run Rd for his three sons. One son, Joseph Burger, started what became the largest Brown Swiss dairy farm in Southwest Ohio. In addition to the dairy business, the farm also raised hundreds of hogs and sold country fresh eggs on the 55 acre site. The large white barn that makes up most of the retail center today is one of the oldest in Hamilton County and has timbers in it dating back to before 1880.

In the early 1950's milk handling procedures were modified and required all milk to be piped through stainless steel pipes from the barn to the milk house where the local dairyman would come and pick up the milk. The cost to upgrade was so expensive, Joseph quit the dairy business and planned to move the family to Wilmington and raise field crops. It was during this time that he sold the mineral

rights of the property to Ohio Gravel. The move to Wilmington never occurred, however, as the farmhouse and barn Joseph planned to purchase were riddled with termites and the sale fell through. Joseph and the family stayed in Newtown, and from the 1950's to the mid 1960's raised field corn, soy beans and wheat throughout the Newtown, Anderson and the Eastgate area. In the mid 1960's, Joseph's son, Delbert, switched crops and started raising sugar corn and fresh vegetables. A small wooden shed was placed by the roadside when the crops were ripe, which told people fresh produce was ready. During this time, the Burger family would hand pick and sell about a thousand dozen ears of corn per day throughout the growing season.

In the early 1980s, however, Ohio Gravel unexpectedly exercised its mineral right to mine the sand and gravel on the property, which rights it had acquired some 30 years prior. The days of corn and fresh produce ended and the family business transitioned once again; this time into the garden center business it operates today. In 1987, after Ohio Gravel finished mining, the Burger family bought back the property which then was a 65 foot deep, 35 acre hole in the ground. Since then, the Burger family has filled in the hole with solid construction and demolition debris.

The Burger Farm Fall Festival is one of the largest in southwest Ohio and annually draws in over 20,000 people over five weekends from all over the Tri-state. Not long after the last pumpkin has been sold, the farm is made ready for the holiday season, and approximately 2,000 fresh-cut Christmas trees are sold. The Burger Family is proud to be a part of many local holiday traditions.

The Burger family plans to develop the property in the near future for family oriented activities and expand its current fall festival by adding more agri-tourism educational activities. The Burger family is pleased to reclaim and repurpose the land that its family heritage was built on. So thanks to a little termite and four generations of hard work and determination, the Burger family business is still going strong today and looks forward to the future.

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