

New Council Members

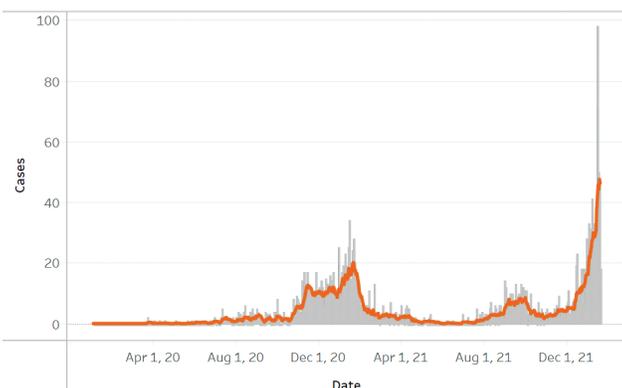
Four newly-elected council members were sworn in on January 1: Terry Fairley, a returning incumbent, and three new council members, Peg Quallen, Jerry Schwab and Jeff Drescher. Please thank these neighbors for agreeing to serve the Village for a four-year term.



COVID-19

Hamilton County Public Health reports that since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, ZIP Code 45244 has recorded: 3,080 cases; 49 hospitalizations of residents; and 25 deaths. “Although we all wish that COVID was behind us, the Omicron variant has presented additional challenges,” says Hamilton County Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman. “It is highly contagious and is infecting many more people than previous variants. The good news is that vaccinations work. As of this article’s date, approximately 95 percent of the people currently hospitalized with COVID are unvaccinated,” Kesterman adds. “The rest of the preventive measures are the same as they’ve been throughout the pandemic: get vaccinated and boosted; stay home if you are ill; wear a mask in public/group settings; maintain social distancing; practice good hygiene. You can visit our website at www.hcph.org for the latest data and information.”

Daily Cases



Air Monitoring Program



The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency, a local air quality agency for Ohio EPA, started an air monitoring program in the Village in September 2020. The program started with monitoring for odors, total Volatile Organic Compounds, and individual air toxic compounds. The air monitoring program has been extended and expanded in Newtown. Recently,

the Agency added a few new monitoring tools to expand the citizen science offerings in Southwest Ohio. The new monitors are “Purple Air” devices that provide an accurate and low-cost way to measure smoke, dust, and other particulate air pollution and then collect and report data in real-time via the internet. The purple air monitors were added at the Fire Department at 7036 Main Street. You can see more information on purple air monitors at <https://www2.purpleair.com/>. All the data will be sent to Ohio EPA for review once the monitoring project is completed.

In addition, the Village has purchased and installed two PurpleAir monitoring devices with the help of a Village resident. PurpleAir sensors have become a standard for monitoring air quality in areas dealing with wildfires. A map of PurpleAir locations and air quality is available to everyone at <https://map.purpleair.com>. The data from our monitoring stations is providing a new level of air quality information to help both residents and our industrial partners understand how to better manage air quality in the region.

If a citizen has a complaint regarding air quality, SWOQA 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>.

Public Hearing – Valley Asphalt Air Permit

A public hearing was conducted by OEPA on April 21, 2021 on Valley Asphalt's request for a new air permit. OEPA has not yet issued a decision on the 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. 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.

Comprehensive Plan

The Village adopted a Comprehensive Plan for guiding the development of the Village. The plan was the work of a 12-person steering committee and the firm McBride Dale Clarion over a period of two years. The Village is in the process of updating its zoning code. Public hearings will be held on the zoning code before it is adopted by the Planning Commission and the Village Council. A copy of the Comprehensive Plan can be obtained at the Village Municipal Center.

Economic Development

Meridian Bioscience – the Village's largest employer – has been awarded \$2.5 million in funding from the National Institute of Health for its Revogene molecular viral respiratory diagnostic testing panel. The new funding is in addition to the \$5.5 million received by the life science company under the NIH's Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics program to support the research, development and increased output of the Revogene panel. The company said the panel will simultaneously detect COVID-19, respiratory synovial virus and influenza A/B infections. The Village is fortunate to have such a major life science company headquartered here.

Safety Services

Fire: The Village renewed its contract for the provision of fire and EMS service with Anderson Township for another three-year term for the period 2021-2023. Under the agreement, four firefighters/paramedics will be stationed in the Newtown Station 24/7. This arrangement has worked very well for the Village. Anderson Township firefighters provide excellent service and the Village has not had to increase its fire levy during the term of the agreement.

With the exception of wearing protective facemasks for the benefit of the patient/public and fire department personnel, emergency responses continue uninterrupted

by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Car seat installation or checks are by appointment only and can be scheduled by emailing Ben Meyer (bmeyer@andersontownshipoh.gov) or calling Station 10 (513-688-8092). The fire department is also restarting CPR classes in early February 2022. In addition to the traditional CPR class offerings, this year the fire department will now also offer the "HeartCode BLS" option that combines online instruction with a hands-on session. Upon completion and passing of the on-line course and hands-on session, students will receive a two-year American Heart Association CPR Card. Group classes for Business and Civic Organizations (for an additional fee) may also be scheduled. Class schedules and related costs can be found on the Anderson Township website under "Fire and Rescue" or by calling Lisa Farrar at 513-688-8400.

Police: The Police Department recently filled two vacant full-time positions with the hiring of Zach Smith and John Quinlan. Both will be completing training soon and on the road. Our department, like many others, has experienced difficulty in retaining and recruiting officers. Fewer individuals are becoming police officers, and the pay for existing officers has risen dramatically, with wealthy communities and cities heavily recruiting existing officers. The Village is working to stay competitive.



Parks

Short Park: A grass soccer field was installed at Short Park on the lower level. This field was made possible by a \$50,000 grant of COVID-19 stimulus money. The Village is grateful to Motz Turf for installing the field at or near its cost, as the next lowest bid was more than double the amount paid Motz Turf. The field would not have been possible without Motz Turf working with the Village and its available funding. The walking trail at Short Park was resurfaced in September. The basketball courts will be resurfaced and the lower parking lot will be paved this spring because of other grants received by the Village.



Lake Barber: Duke Energy granted the Village a license for a walking path over Duke's property, which will connect the sidewalk at Valley and Round Bottom Road with the trail at Lake Barber. This will provide an additional access point to the Lake Barber trail at the Round Bottom and Valley intersection and is expected to be installed this year.

Update on Newtown Fill

Newtown Fill – an Ohio EPA permitted construction and demolition debris landfill – estimates it will be three years (2025) before the landfill is capped and closed. This is just an estimate set forth in its annual license application and is non-binding. Due to the pandemic, waste volume was 62% less than expected in 2020 and the volume in 2021 was lower as well. A Notice of Deficiency Letter was given to the landfill in December with regards to an aerial survey of the landfill which showed some areas being overbuilt. Newtown Fill has stated that the overbuilt areas will be returned to their correct elevations before the end of 2022 when it must resubmit for its license renewal. A completed landfill is pictured below. 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.



SR 32 Improvements in Newtown

ODOT completed a feasibility study for SR 32 improvements that have been proposed to make travel along SR 32 through the Village easier and safer. The study and its recommendations are posted on the Eastern Corridor website for public review.

Maintenance

The Village welcomed Kris Ralston to the Maintenance Department in November. The Village is looking for a part-time maintenance worker for the spring and summer months and interested candidates can reach out to Ms. Becky Fairley at the Village Municipal Center. 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.

Civic League Events



Council Member Chuck Short on behalf of the Newtown Civic League presented a scholarship to Hailee Miller at the December council meeting. Hailee has been accepted into the Christ Hospital nursing program.

The fish fries will begin on March 11 and continue through April 15 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can dine in at the Fire Station or carry out.

The Memorial Day parade will be May 30th.

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.



PROCLAMATION HONORING LYNN ALLEN BURGER

WHEREAS, Lynn Allen Burger was born on June 21, 1942 and raised in Newtown, Ohio, where his family has lived and worked since 1904; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Burger proudly served in the United States Air Force for 20 years, including two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was the recipient of two bronze stars in recognition of his exemplary military service and dedication to country; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Lynn Burger selflessly offered his time and talent to honor military veterans. As the President of the Newtown Veterans Association, Lynn Burger was instrumental in the placement of two bronze monuments at the Newtown Veterans Memorial in Moundview Park: a "Fallen Soldier" monument to honor present-day veterans and a "Taps" monument to honor all servicemen and servicewomen who have served over the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Burger was an active member of the Newtown business community. He was a treasured fixture at Burger Farm and Garden Center, where he was known simply as "Mr. Burger." Generations of families who flocked to Burger Farm every October for the Pumpkin Festival were gleefully greeted and entertained by Mr. Burger; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Burger always remained passionate about the Village of Newtown, and contributed his time, hard work, and talent to advancing the Newtown business community by, among other things, serving as the president and founding member of the Village of Newtown Business Association; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2021 Lynn Burger passed away at the age of 79. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Judy. He is survived by his two sons, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his siblings; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Burger is an exceptional example of commitment for all citizens, service men and women, veterans, and business leaders through his service to country, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Burger will be dearly missed by the Newtown community;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mark Kobasuk, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Village of Newtown, do hereby recognize Lynn Allen Burger for his many contributions and urge all citizens of the Village of Newtown to remember Lynn Allen Burger and his family on this 14th Day of December, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the Village of Newtown, Ohio this 14th Day of December, 2021.

Mayor Mark Kobasuk

Newtown Business Spotlight – Newtown Feed

Newtown Feed and Supply is located in Newtown's historic Flag Spring Lodge which was built in the late 1850's to early 1860's. The building has a rough sawn timber frame, wide plank Douglas fir sub boards, original stained-glass windows, and square cut nails which help to confirm the date it was built. However, any historical documentation on the building was lost in the 1937 flood where the water made it to the traffic light out front on Main Street.

The building has had an extensive history beginning as the home to the Masons and the Independent Odd Fellows' lodges. After that it became a general store and butcher shop, Whitley's Grocery, Ferris Hardware, and there is some evidence that at some point it was also a bank, post office and voting polling place.

In the 1960's the building finally became a feed store and the Champlins have continued this legacy to this day. In 2007, when the Champlins learned the former owners were going to close the feed store, they decided to take on the project as a family. While Jeanie and Rob both had full-time jobs, their son, Chase, had just graduated from college and agreed to run the day-to-day operations if the family took on the massive restoration project. By this point, the old building, despite its great bones, was suffering from severe neglect. There was no heat, no insulation, the pipes were frozen, it had shoddy electrical service and paint was peeling everywhere. Rob took some time off from his restoration business (Chase Creek Restorations) to start repairing the most essential needs of the store. The Champlin family put in nights and weekends working on the construction, doing product research, locating vendors, stocking and refining product and determining the needs of the customers. While the historic building will continue to need updates, the Champlins have made vast improvements to the space.

Fifteen years after they took on the project, the Feed Store is a bustling business where they focus on the community and providing their customers with a great experience. There is a large selection of bird seeds, feeders and houses, but there is so much more! You can find food and treats for dogs and cats, chicken and wildlife feeds, grass seed, and lawn products. You can also help them support local businesses with products such as local honey, maple syrup, goat milk soaps, candles (which smell amazing), and artwork. Seasonally, they also support local farms selling tomato plants and the best tasting tomatoes by the pound! Named the "Best of the City" twice, it is a great place for finding that perfect gift and supporting the wildlife in our community.

The Champlins will be celebrating their 15th anniversary as the store's owners on May 1, 2022. Please come visit the store, located at 6876 Main Street, Newtown, Ohio. (513.271.3446). The store hours are Monday thru Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am to 4:00pm. You can visit our website at: newtownfeed.com, Facebook page, Instagram (@newtownfeed) or order from Door Dash!



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