

Winterfest

Winterfest is back! This popular holiday event is December 10 and will feature a Reindog Parade, food, drinks, craft vendors, breakfast with Santa, children's activities, caroling, ice sculptures, fireworks and more. Event sponsors include:

- Doscher's Candy
- First Baptist Church of Newtown
- Newtown Village Tavern
- Newtown United Methodist Church
- Newtown Civic League
- Village of Newtown

If you would like to help sponsor this great community event, please contact Steven Laib, President/Director of Operations for Newtown Winterfest, at 513.431.5007 or laib@newtownwinterfest.org. See www.newtownwinterfest.org for more information.



Natural Gas Pricing

The Village has provided a natural gas aggregation program to eligible residents and small businesses as a competitive fixed price alternative to Duke Energy. The current aggregation expires in June 2022.

Newtown worked closely with its energy consultant, Energy Alliances, to evaluate options for renewing the program beyond June 2022. Due to significant price increases, Energy Alliances has recommended not to lock into any prices at this time and to have all accounts on the program go back to Duke starting with the July 2022 bill.

Why did Energy Alliances make this recommendation?

- A combination of a cold winter and geopolitical tensions in Europe have driven natural gas prices to their highest levels in several years.
- Locking in a price now to keep the program going through the summer of 2022 would force participants to lock into historically high prices for 2022 and beyond.

- Sending accounts back to Duke's default rates for the summer gives Energy Alliances and Newtown Village Council time to evaluate the market to see if prices come down before next winter.

- The average resident consumes only 7% of their annual natural gas usage during the months of July – October. Finding a favorable rate for the Winter of 2023 is very important.

What do accounts on the program need to do and what should they expect?

- Nothing must be done. The change will occur automatically.

- Constellation NewEnergy, the supplier of the aggregation program, will start sending accounts back to Duke in May, effective for June. This process will continue until all accounts are returned to Duke by mid-June.

- Accounts will receive a letter from Duke notifying them of the change after Duke receives the drop notification from Constellation NewEnergy.

Will the aggregation program return in the future?

- Energy Alliances will continue to monitor the market and work closely with Newtown to lock in a price before Winter 2023.

- A tentative timeline is for opt-out letters to be mailed to eligible accounts in August 2022.

If you have any questions regarding the aggregation program, you can reach out to Energy Alliances at 513-794-5555. For more information see energyalliances.com/village-of-newtown.

Air Monitoring Program

The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency, a local air Agency for Ohio EPA, started an air monitoring program in the Village in September 2020. The program is ongoing. In addition, the Village has 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, 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>

Valley Asphalt Air Permit

Ohio EPA issued Valley Asphalt an air pollution permit in late February as requested by Valley Asphalt 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. The Village requested a public hearing on the permit and many residents voiced their concerns about air quality at the hearing last year. The OEPA issued the permit nonetheless and did not reduce the plant's emission potential or address concern about blue smoke and odors. 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.

Zoning Code Update

The Village adopted a Comprehensive Plan for guiding the development of the Village, and the Village is now 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



The Motz Group broke ground on its new corporate headquarters in the Village this spring. The construction is visible behind the Newtown Fire Station. The Village is grateful to the Motz Group for remaining in Newtown and bringing additional jobs to the Village.



Safety Services



Police: The Police Department received a grant for body cameras which will be deployed in the near future. With the assistance of ODOT, some traffic lights have been equipped with radar sensors to better detect gaps in traffic and activate light changes to improve the flow of traffic. The radar is not for issuing tickets.

Parks

Short Park. The gravel parking lot on the lower level of Short Park off Debolt will be paved in July due to a grant from the State of Ohio. The basketball courts were resurfaced this spring with a block grant from Hamilton County. A grass soccer field was installed last fall with a COVID grant. The walking trail was also resurfaced last year. Short Park has been significantly revitalized.



Lake Barber. Duke Energy granted the Village a license and a \$5,000 grant 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. The connecting trail is expected to be installed in July. The Village is grateful to Duke Energy for its generosity in providing the license for the path and monetary grant. Lake Barber is a great place to exercise and bird watch with a 1.4 mile asphalt walking trail surrounding the lake.



Turpin High School 2022 Senior Parade

The 2022 Turpin Senior Parade was held on Sunday, May 22.

A special thanks to Newtown resident and Turpin parent MarLisa Isgro for organizing the event this year.



Memorial Day Parade

The Newtown Memorial Day parade occurred this year after a two-year absence due to COVID-19. On behalf of the Newtown Veterans Association, Vice Mayor Chuck Short organized the parade which is a Newtown tradition and hugely popular event.



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

In August ODOT will pave SR 32 from the Beechmont Levy through Newtown to Riverhills Drive. Expect lane closures in August between 8:30 am and 4 pm and overnight between 7 pm and 6 am. ODOT also completed a feasibility study for major 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. No funds have been secured for the project and there is no certainty as to its completion.

Maintenance

The Village welcomed Jon Wells to the Maintenance Department in May as a part-time maintenance worker for the summer months. 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

“**Touch a Truck**” is June 18th at Short Park at 11:00 a.m. to noon. 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.



Newtown Business Spotlight – Gardner Business Media, Inc.



If you've ever driven past the big pink building with the fountain out front and wondered what's going on behind those doors, you might be surprised to learn that Valley Avenue is home to an international media company.

Gardner Business Media, Inc. is, at its heart, an industrial manufacturing publishing company. Since founding Modern Machine Shop magazine in 1928, right here in Cincinnati, it has grown into a full-scale media operation – think websites, events, videos and more – now with a dozen brands and a global presence, and still family-owned and operated by the descendants of its founder, Don G. Gardner.

Gardner could not be prouder of its home in Newtown, Ohio, where the company headquarters took up residence in 1997. The company recently reaffirmed its commitment to its Valley Avenue

address with a total renovation in 2020. In addition to fresh, modern workspaces, the property is beautifully landscaped and boasts two ponds, a cascading fountain, a covered picnic pavilion and a working solar field. It's a recruiter's dream to tell potential candidates all about the park across the street with miles of walking and biking trails, and just around the corner, a craft brewery, sand volleyball and kayaking on the Little Miami.

Gardner's teams create magazines and websites that accommodate deep-dive features and industry news, plus research and events covering leading-edge manufacturing technologies, including 3D printing, electric vehicles, and the human-robotic interface. Gardner employs more than 90 professionals on site in Newtown – including journalists, marketers, coders, researchers, designers and videographers – and more across the globe and at its sister company, Map Your Show, an event and conference management software company located just next door.

There are currently members of the third, fourth and fifth generations of Don Gardner's family actively working for Gardner. The company's larger corporate family also sees many married couples, and other friends and family working for the organization. It's joked that Gardner isn't a great place to gossip, because you never know who is related to whom. But the truth is when you find a place that can be both a career and a home, you want to share it with those closest to you. Every day, smart people come together to bring the best products to market – challenging each other, making each other better and having a lot of fun doing it.

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