

## Winterfest 2022



### **Winterfest**

was a huge success and ended with an impressive fireworks display. The Village would like to thank the members of the Winterfest Committee and all the sponsors of the event. The date for Winterfest this year is December 9, 2023. If you would like to help sponsor this great

community event or volunteer at the event, please contact Pastor Jamie Trascritti, President/Director of Operations for Newtown Winterfest, at [jamie@fbcnewtown.com](mailto:jamie@fbcnewtown.com) for more information.

## Electric Aggregation Program

The Village's electric aggregation program with Dynegy expired on the December 2022 Duke bill. Energy Alliances, the Village's aggregation consultant, negotiated with multiple suppliers and was able to lock in a rate of 6.45¢ per kWh with Energy Harbor starting with the June 2023 bill and continuing through the May 2025 bill (24 bill periods). While the 6.45¢ per kWh may sound high, based on how Duke uses an auction process to set their generation supply rates, Energy Alliances anticipates that Duke's default generation rate will be around 9.5¢ per kWh starting with the June 2023 bill. A rate of 6.45¢ per kWh for the aggregation would save participants around 30% compared to taking Duke's default supply rate. The aggregation will have no termination fees with participants able to leave at any time without paying a fee.

**You do not need to do anything to participate in the aggregation program.**

If you do not want to participate in the aggregation program, you need to opt out. Opt-out letters will be mailed in the second half of March. You must opt out by April 12, 2023 and this can be done by mail, phone or the web.

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](https://energyalliances.com/village-of-newtown)

## Air Monitoring Program

The Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency ("SWOAQA"), a local air Agency for Ohio EPA, completed two years of air monitoring in the Village in August 2022. SWOAQA released its report on its findings on March 3, 2023. SWOAQA concluded that:

"The results of the monitoring data collected shows the measured levels of air toxic compounds are well below any risk-based screening levels. . . . Therefore, additional sampling is not warranted at this time. . . . The Agency recognizes the asphalt plants generate odors; however, our investigation revealed no evidence to support a finding an odor nuisance is occurring. All asphalt plants in Ohio generate odors, and in this case, the odors do not contribute to a public nuisance violation."

The report is available on the Village website. A special meeting will be held for SWOAQA to present the report and answer questions.

The Village has installed two PurpleAir monitoring devices. 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>

## Proposed Development Project

Sunset Property Solutions, a residential developer, has proposed a multi-family/mixed use development on the east side of Church Street between Main Street and Jefferson Street. The developer has acquired approximately 11 acres of property and has retained an architect to develop conceptual plans. Such a project would generate significant tax revenue for the Village. No plans have been formally presented to the Village. Residents will be kept informed of the proposed project. A special council meeting will be called if the developer wishes to proceed with the proposed project and residents will be able to ask questions and provide comments before Council takes any required action.

## 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 is completing its new corporate headquarters in the Village. 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.



Meridian Bioscience, the Village's largest employer and taxpayer, is under new ownership. SD Biosensor and SJL Partners, South Korean entities, completed the acquisition of Meridian on January 31, 2023. Meridian will continue to operate as an independent entity, headquartered in Newtown.

## Safety Services

**Police:** The Village hired Mitchell Powers as a full-time police officer. Officer Powers recently graduated from the police academy and completed his Field Training Program. The Police Department has been training officers to become Crisis Intervention Trained. These officers receive 40 hours of training learning how to better interact with those who have mental illness or in a mental health crisis. The training should result in a better chance of safer outcomes for all. Officer Zack Smith will be certified in CIT in March.



## Parks

**Moundview Park:** The Village will be installing a new septic system at Moundview Park and making other repairs to the buildings.



**Lake Barber:** A crosswalk and signals have been installed for the walking path connecting the sidewalk at Valley and Round Bottom Road with the trail at Lake Barber. The Village is grateful to Duke Energy for its generosity in providing the license for the walking path over its property and a \$5,000 grant towards the trail construction.

## Update on Newtown Fill

Newtown Fill is an Ohio EPA permitted construction and demolition debris (C&DD) landfill. There is no definitive timeline for capping and closing the landfill as long as airspace remains. The estimate provided by the operator is three (3) years, but this is an estimate set forth in its annual license application and is non-binding. Recycling operations are planned at the site even after the landfill is capped and closed. In 2022, Ohio EPA adopted rules regulating this recycling or processing activity. A key component of the regulatory requirements for this program is financial assurance – an instrument of funds provided to the licensing authority (Hamilton County Public Health) in the form of a bond, letter of credit, etc., which can be used to remove waste and clean up a property, should an operator abandon a facility. This also should prevent the accumulation of large piles of unprocessed materials, as there is a cost per cubic yard stored. The landfill is regulated by the Ohio EPA 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.





## **Traffic Alert:**

### **SR 32 Improvements Affecting Newtown**

Eight Mile Road will be closed at SR 32 for four (4) to six (6) months starting on May 23rd for road construction for the SR 32 and Eight Mile Road "Green T" intersection. This will impact traffic on Little Dry Run and Church Street in Newtown as vehicles work their way around the road closure.

Visit: [newtownohio.gov](http://newtownohio.gov) "Latest News" for more info!

### **Forest Hills School District Levy**

The Forest Hills Board of Education unanimously moved to place a 6.9 mill levy on the May 2, 2023 ballot for voter consideration. This includes a 5.4 mill operating levy, which will fund existing costs and educational programs, and a 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy. The 6.9 mill proposed levy would cost \$20.13 per month for each \$100,000 of a home's value. For example, a home valued at \$300,000 would cost an additional \$60.39 per month or \$724.68 per year. Information on the levy can be found at: [www.foresthills.edu/levy.html](http://www.foresthills.edu/levy.html) or [www.citizensforforesthills.com](http://www.citizensforforesthills.com).

## **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](mailto:cmorgan@newtownohio.gov) or call him at 513.271.2009.

## **GoFundMe for New Playground in Newtown**

The Cincinnati Soccer Club ("Cincy SC") has set up a gofundme site to raise money for a new playground at the First Baptist Church in Newtown so there is a new safe play area for children. Cincy SC is a registered nonprofit and donations are typically tax deductible. The site is <https://gofund.me/580b8774>



## **Civic League Events**

The Fish Fry at Newtown's Fire House Station 22 runs every Friday through lent from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Newtown Civic League appreciates the assistance from the Anderson Township Firefighters, who help make it a success each year. An Easter Party is planned for Saturday, April 1st at 10 a.m. at the Newtown Fire Station. The Memorial Day Parade is May 29th and starts at 10 a.m. 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](mailto:cshort@newtownohio.gov).

## **Newtown Business Spotlight – Jones Fish**



Jones Fish has a history of excellence in fish production and lake management. Robert Lee Jones began managing the Gatliff Fish Hatchery (Williamsburg, KY) more than seventy years ago. In 1949, R.L. Jones set a world record for producing the most fingerling largemouth bass in a one-acre pond. His son, Albert Russell Jones, continued the tradition by serving as a fishery biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. A.R. Jones was instrumental in introducing striped bass into Lake Cumberland, rainbow trout into Laurel Lake and walleye above Cumberland Falls. Today, the third generation continues to improve the industry.

In 1989, founder Robert P. Jones began Jones Fish Hatcheries & Distributors. The initial focus was selling the highly sought after sterile (triploid) grass carp. These fish were stocked in ponds and lakes to biologically manage aquatic weeds and algae. Jones Fish quickly built a large clientele based on referrals. New and existing clients began contacting Jones Fish looking for not just sterile grass carp, but other Midwestern fish to stock their pond. To keep up with demand and continue to grow the business, Jones began seeking a larger facility that would enable him to raise and sell more fish.

As luck would have it, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was hoping to finally sell their old fish hatchery in Newtown, Ohio. This site had seen its fair share of history before Jones purchased the site in the early '90s. The freshwater spring at the fish hatchery first attracted settlers in the late 18th century and remained a vital part of the Newtown settlement for over 100 years. In fact, the cool, clear spring water was a major consideration when selecting a site to become a state fish hatchery.

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Construction began on the Newtown State Hatchery in 1916. Originally, this facility consisted of nine large ponds and raised smallmouth bass. In the 1930s, the nine ponds were subdivided into twenty-two smaller ponds with separate drainage, in-pond catch basins and water control structures for each pond. Smaller ponds and new feeding techniques helped reduce cannibalism and improve yields. For decades the fish raised in Newtown were stocked in streams throughout Ohio. Smallmouth bass and muskellunge were the two primary species raised at the Newtown Fish Hatchery. The last state stocking of muskellunge took place in 1976. Since the facility had been abandoned for over a decade before Jones began using the old state fish hatchery, the first few years were spent clearing overgrown brush and renovating the dilapidated facility to support a new business.

According to Jones Fish, “over the years, our business has seen tremendous growth. In Newtown, we sought to become a “one-stop-shop” for pond and lake needs, selling fish, fountains, floating docks, and countless other fisheries and lake management supplies. Our catalog and our amazing team educated our clients on all aspects of fisheries and lake management. We locally raise several fish species at our Newtown farm and have over 70 indoor holding tanks. Our ponds are also used to grow out several fish species so we can provide larger fish to our clients and reduce the risk of predation from their existing fishery. As a result, we increased the volume of fish stocking and our fish delivery footprint.”

“During this time, we also began offering professional pond and lake management services. Fish population surveys, lake mapping, and fountain and aerator installation and service helped our clients get the most out of their pond or lake. Ultimately, it was our monthly pond/lake management service that truly intrigued clients and enabled us to grow. Overwhelmed by the aspects of fisheries/lake management and seeking professional guidance, pond and lake owners trusted Jones Fish to tackle the monthly needs of their pond/lake.

As the number of clients using our professional management service in the greater Cincinnati area grew, so did our team. Our team’s focus on working with the pond ecosystem to achieve balance sets us apart by offering exceptional results and client satisfaction. Today, our historic fish hatchery is the home of our corporate headquarters. Through it all the freshwater spring is a constant, playing a key role in the commerce of Newtown.”



### **Village of Newtown Municipal Income Tax**

All residents in the Village of Newtown, 18 years or older, are required to file municipal income tax returns regardless if any tax is owed by **Monday, April 18, 2023.**

Regional Income Tax Agency  
www.ritaohio.com • 1.800.860.7482

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](mailto: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](mailto:bfairley@newtownohio.gov)

**Maintenance issues contact:**

Chuck Morgan, Street Commissioner / Maintenance Supervisor  
[cmorgan@newtownohio.gov](mailto:cmorgan@newtownohio.gov)

**Local Income Tax Info - Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.) contact:**

Keri Everett, Fiscal Officer  
[keverett@newtownohio.gov](mailto:keverett@newtownohio.gov)

**Newtown Civic League information contact:**

Chuck Short, Council Member  
[cshort@newtownohio.gov](mailto:cshort@newtownohio.gov)