

RATING THE BURBS

In our 18th annual Rating the Burbs feature, we look at our local communities to see how they stack up against one another.

Compiled by Bill Ferguson Jr.

Newtown Rated No. 2 Among Suburbs

Newtown was rated no. 2 in *Cincy* magazine's rating of suburbs just behind Terrace Park. Newtown moved up to the number 2 ranking with a low crime rate, good schools, strong home sales and various parks and recreational opportunities. According to the article, the median home sale price in 2023 of \$335,000 was up 92% from 2018. The feature can be seen in Cincy Magazine!

<https://www.cincymagazine.com/rating-the-burbs-2024>

2 Newtown

The village of 2,691 residents makes its first top 10 appearance since 2011 after just missing last year at No. 11. Newtown sprinted up the rankings with a low crime rate, a good school system (Forest Hills Local School District) and strong home sales (\$335,000 median sale price in 2023, up 92% from 2018). The village offers various parks and recreation opportunities, such as Moundview Park, with an 1,800-square-foot pavilion and 1,044-square-foot adjoining patio; Lake Barber, a 52-acre spring-fed, man-made lake and 1.5-mile walking/biking path; Short Park; Bicentennial Park; Mini Park; and the 78-mile Little Miami Scenic Trail, which runs through Newtown. The American Indian Education Center provides museum displays showing the history of the Prehistoric Native Americans who lived in the Little Miami River Valley before the settlement of Newtown in 1792 as Mercersburg. The village incorporated in 1901, when it changed its name to Newtown.



Newtown Fill



The landfill is in the process of being capped. Vegetation has been removed along SR 32 as part of the capping process and for installation of a stormwater ditch to convey water to a sediment pond. The cap installation will be certified by a licensed engineer and the certification report will undergo a thorough review by a third-party engineering firm working for Hamilton County Public Health ("HCPH"). Once the certification report is accepted by HCPH, a 5-year post closure monitoring and care period begins. A capped landfill is pictured below. Rules for closure of the landfill are spelled out in: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-3745-400-16>

Fall Events

Burger Farm's annual Fall Festival – one of the largest fall events in Cincinnati -- runs every weekend starting **September 28th through Sunday, October 27th**, with pumpkins, corn stalks, mums, gourds, apple cider, animated pumpkin land characters, games, food, music, farm animals, crafters and more. Special event “Witches’ Night Out” is Friday, October 4 from 7-10 pm – and you will need to order tickets by September 27th – call 513.561.8634.



Halloween

Trick-or-Treat in the Village will be **Thursday, Oct. 31** from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**



Marijuana Dispensaries

On November 7, 2023, Ohio became the 24th state to legalize adult-use cannabis with 57% of voters voting in favor of Issue 2, also known as An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis. In Newtown, Issue 2 passed with **62%** of the vote. On August 6, 2024, sales in Ohio began with dual-use dispensaries opening their doors to recreational consumers.

Council passed an ordinance imposing a moratorium on the issuance or processing of any permits related to the cultivation, processing, or dispensing of marijuana for adult use on January 9, 2024. The moratorium was set to expire on September 30, 2024, and Council extended the moratorium for an additional 90 days. Council will discuss the issue at its October 8 meeting. Ohio levies an additional 10% tax on all consumer sales of adult-use marijuana products. 36% of the additional tax collected by the state is diverted to a Community Host Fund, which is then distributed to communities that have adult-use marijuana dispensaries based on the percentage of adult-use tax attributable to each jurisdiction.

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. The report is available on the Village website. If a citizen has a complaint regarding air quality, including “dust,” 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>

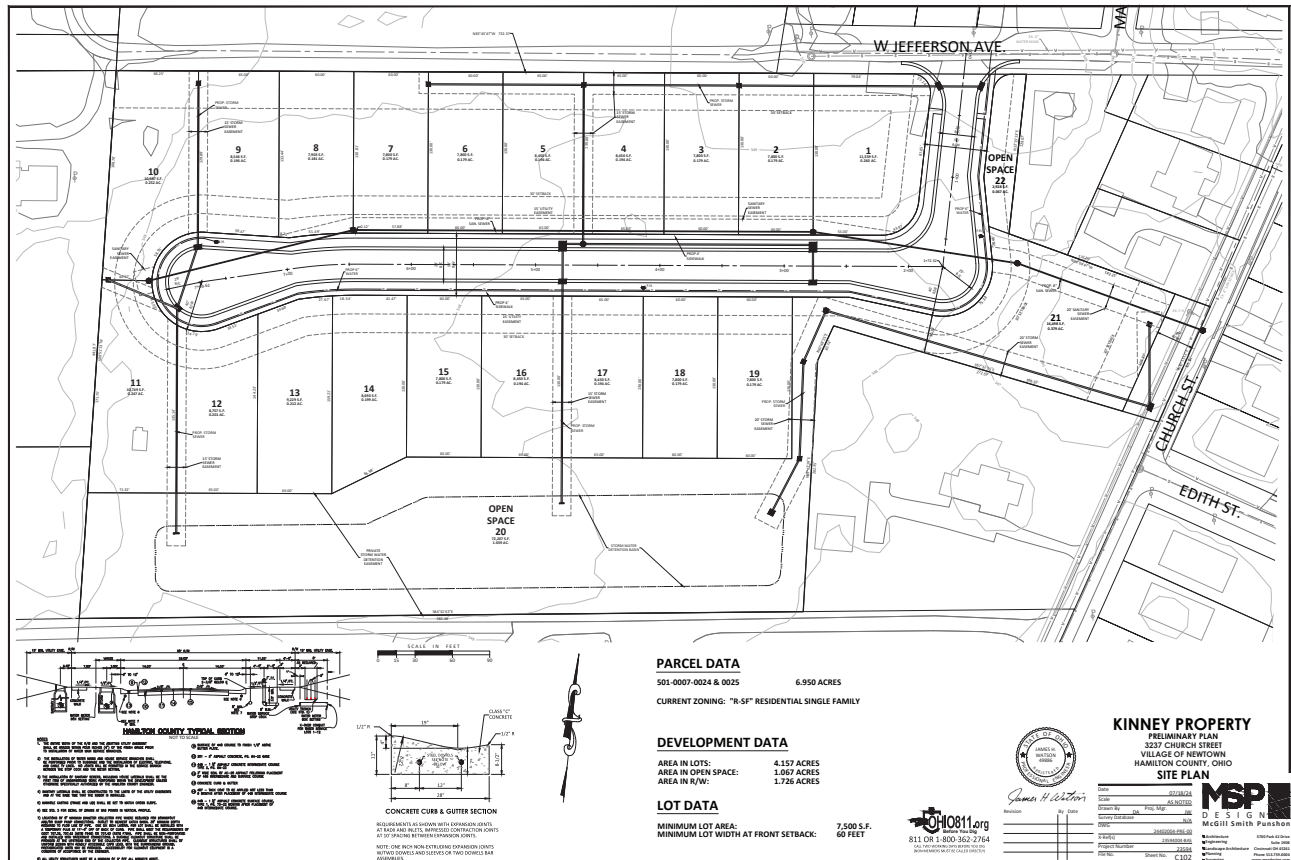
Winterfest

Winterfest is **December 14th from 2 pm to 8 pm**. New this year is a 5K race. The Winterfest parade (arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus) will begin at 4 pm. Photos with Santa will be from 4:30 to 7 pm. Fireworks will start at 7:30 pm. There will be food trucks, craft vendors, kids’ activities and more! Sponsors and volunteers are needed for the event. Check it out on Facebook at Newtown Winterfest and Instagram @newtown_winterfest. You can also send an email to newtownwinterfest@gmail.com.



Economic Development

A preliminary site plan for a 20-home subdivision on 6.95 acres near St. John Fisher at 3237 Church Street was approved by the Planning Commission in August. The subdivision will be accessed from West Jefferson. The preliminary site plan is pictured below. The Planning Commission has to approve a final site plan before the project commences.



New townhomes are coming to the 6700 block of Main Street. The proposed townhomes are pictured below. Site preparation is underway – The townhomes are expected to be completed September 2025.



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A proposed multi-family development on the east side of Church Street between Main Street and Jefferson Street has not moved forward and no plans have been formally presented to the Village.

Dog Incidents

There have been several dog incidents in the Village. A woman was bitten while walking her dog in Ivy Hills when uncontrolled dogs attacked her dog. A mother and her small children were chased by unleashed dogs on Ragland Road and Church Street. A woman in Ivy Hills Reserve was severely mauled by a pit bull she was fostering. Ohio has many dog laws, including:

- Dog owners must keep their dogs under reasonable control or confined to their property at all times.
- Owners are responsible for any damages their dog causes to another person or their property.
- Owners must notify the local dog warden if their dog bites a person or attacks another animal.

Failing to comply with Ohio's dog leash laws can result in penalties, fines and legal consequences in the event of an injury.

Summerfest

Summerfest was a huge success and exceeded expectations. Approximately 2,000 persons attended the event and Newtown businesses all reported great sales from the event. All activities were free except for sales from the food trucks and craft vendors. Summerfest was made possible by a \$14,000 grant from the Hamilton County Commissioners. Council member Tracy Boone prepared the grant application and she and Council member Sarah Donohue and others made the event a



reality.

Safety Services

Police: All officers completed an internal training day on building searches, use-of-force scenarios and policy and department updates. By the end of the year, all officers will be certified in either Crisis Intervention or Trauma Response. Officers Campbell and Mohammed and Hamilton County Deputy Irwin received Letters of Commendation for their actions saving a resident from a severe dog attack.

Fire: The Village will renew its contract with Anderson Township for fire and EMS services for a new, three-year term through 2027. In addition to emergency responses, the fire department offers a variety of services to residents, which include blood pressure checks, CPR, AED, First Aid, Stop the Bleed, fire extinguisher, fire safety and emergency preparedness classes. In addition to classes, complimentary home smoke alarm and safety checks are available. If residents wish to take advantage of any of these services, please contact Assistant Chief Robert Herrlinger at rherrlinger@andersontownshipoh.gov or 513-688-8070.

Parks

Moundview Park: The Village is installing a new septic system at Moundview Park which should be completed by the end of September.

Maintenance

Leaf pickup starts in mid-October and runs through mid-December. Please DO NOT put sticks, rocks or foreign objects in leaf piles – these items clog and cause damage to the leaf machine. Please remember to keep leaves away from storm drains. 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

The Civic League will be handing out bags of candy in Riverhills this year, as there will not be a Trunk or Treat as in years past. The Newtown Civic League puts on several other events each year and people interested in volunteering to assist the Newtown Civic League can contact Chuck Short at chuck@buckkeyefinancial.com.

With best regards,

Your Mayor Mark Kobasuk

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



Village of Newtown
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