

GERMANTOWN QUARTERLY

Summer 2023

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A City of Germantown Quarterly Publication



Meet Your City Employees

DAN ALLDRED *Fire Chief*

For this quarterly edition, we'd like to introduce you to Dan Alldred, the Chief of Germantown Fire and EMS. Alldred first became the interim Chief in April of 2008 and has officially been the head of the department since February of 2009. Prior to this, Chief Dan had served in the department as a paid on-call/volunteer firefighter for 27 years. During this period he also worked as a cabinet maker.

Chief Dan grew up within the Public Safety world. His father was a volunteer firefighter and a full-time police officer. "We always had either a police car or a fire truck in the driveway growing up," said Alldred, "and I was always intrigued by the fire side." He initially became involved with the fire department in Germantown in 1983 at the urging of his brother-in-law. Chief Dan had moved about a block away from the station. "This made me a hot commodity," he joked. From the beginning, Alldred found the job to be very interesting. There was always something different and new each day, and he found that he greatly enjoyed being able to interact with the community. Most of all, he found that he really loved being able to help people.

The department has gone through many changes during the time Chief Dan has been here. When he initially

joined, the entire crew consisted of paid-on call. This remained the norm for a long time, until 2022, when the department moved to all part-time, with the exception of Chief Dan and Lt. Forrer who are full-time. It has been difficult at times as the number of staff is not quite where Chief Dan would like it to be, but as of late there have been some great additions brought in. Another change during Chief Dan's tenure was the addition of Emergency Medical Services to the fire department after Germantown Rescue Squad left in 2007. Because of this addition, everyone has to cross-train. While this is extra work, it has also led to Germantown Fire-EMS being made up of a highly-qualified team of individuals.

When asked about ways that the residents of Germantown could better practice safety and emergency prevention, Chief Dan shared that every home should have multiple smoke alarms. "There is no better defense mechanism that you can put in your house to save your life or your loved one's life," said Alldred, "there should be one inside every bedroom, or at least in the hallway outside the bedrooms." A helpful tip is to make sure you can "hear the beep where you sleep." Unfortunately, a lot of structure fires occur at night, and you need to be



able to be awakened by your smoke alarm. Research nowadays shows that you only have about 2.5 to 3 minutes from the moment

you hear your smoke alarm to safely exit your home.

When Chief Dan is off the clock, he enjoys tending the garden in his backyard that he looks forward to planting every spring. However, what brings him the most joy is his family. He is the father of 3 and "Papa" to 8. He and his wife try to spend as much time as they can with their grandchildren. "Family is everything to me," said Chief Dan, "I have been blessed all the way along to have great kids and grandkids."

Chief Dan's job is not an easy one. He often works 50-60 hour weeks and is always on call for emergencies occurring overnight. However, he has found the last 40 years of his career to be extremely rewarding; it makes him feel good to know he has positively impacted people's lives.

We are very grateful and lucky to have Dan Alldred as our Fire Chief. Thank you, Chief Dan!



Saturday Night Out

Saturday Night Out will be held on July 15th and August 19th! The event is a family-friendly car cruise-in with a variety of food vendors, artisan stalls, and live music! If you or someone you know is interested in being a vendor or event sponsor, please email Mackensie at germantowncarshow@gmail.com.

Community Garage Sale September 16-17, 2023

The Germantown Community Garage Sale is set for Saturday, Sep 16th, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, Sep 17th, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Registration is open to all households. If you wish to participate, please contact City Hall at 937-855-7255. You will be asked to provide your address as well as your top three sale items, as we will be creating a "Garage Sale Treasure List" to help direct shoppers and advertise the event.



Fourth of July Parade

Parade participants are asked to arrive at Kercher Park's south parking lot at 9:30 am to line up for the parade. The parade will start at 10:00 am and will be held rain or shine. The route begins at Kercher Park on Astoria Road, then continues east on W. Market Street, south on S. Plum Street, east on Gunckel Street, north on S. Cherry Street, west on E. Warren Street, and will end at Veterans Memorial Park.

Community News

43RD ANNUAL PRETZEL FESTIVAL

The “First Family” of the Pretzel Festival Prepare to Attend the 43rd Annual Event!



The Germantown Pretzel Festival is a wonderful tradition that people in our community and beyond look forward to every year; perhaps none more

so than Donna Bishop. For Donna and her siblings, Carol Peck Focht and Gary Peck, it is a connection to their father, Lester Peck, who also happens to be the Father of the Pretzel Festival.

Lester was a tenacious man, who cared deeply about Germantown. For 5 years he regularly attended the Chamber of Commerce meetings, continuously pitching his idea for a festival to be held in Germantown that would pay homage to the community's German heritage. “He really just wanted to create something special for the community,” recalled Donna. With the help of Dr. Jon Tschanz, Lester succeeded, and the first annual Pretzel Festival was held in 1980.

Donna has fond memories of the early days of the festival. It started

small and was originally held Downtown on Main and Center Streets. The games and competitions from those early years have stuck in Donna's mind. Donna remembers there being a stone-toss at the Municipal Building, an apple-peeling contest, and the crowning of a Festival Princess.

Music and entertainment have also been a big piece of the event since its inception, and something that Donna has always enjoyed. Many great, local bands, like the Greasers, have graced the stage at Veterans Park through the years along with a few bigger names. Donna recalled



Donna Bishop prepares pretzels

with enthusiasm the year that the committee was able to book country rock band, McGuffey Lane. “That was big,”

said Donna. “That brought in people from all over.”

Donna has a special memory of the year she met a pair of siblings at the Festival who had traveled all the way from California just to attend the event. They noticed an advertisement for the Pretzel Festival in a brochure and decided to make a vacation out of visiting Germantown



and seeing the local sites. “That was the furthest we know of people traveling to attend,” said Donna with a smile. “They came to both days of the Festival and told us they really enjoyed it.”

Donna served on the Pretzel Festival Committee for many years as the secretary. While she is no longer in this role, she remains very involved by attending all of the board meetings. She and her family also set up a booth every year; nowadays even the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are involved. “They love working in the booth and talking to the people,” said Donna. This multi-generational tradition means so much to Donna and her family, and she hopes to see it continued for years to come. “He [Lester] would be amazed with how many years it has lasted,” she shared. If you've never been before, you are encouraged to stop by this year on September 23rd or 24th. You may even create a new tradition for your own family.

Call Before You Dig!

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, necessitates a call to 800-362-2764 or 811. Also visit www.oups.org for more information. Call...it's the law.

New Crosswalks

The City of Germantown will be installing new crosswalks with flashing crossing signs at two busy intersections. The solar-powered Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) will be installed with crosswalk signs at the intersection of Farmersville Pike at Warren and Plum as well as Market St at Main St. The materials for the RRFB Crosswalks were funded by a \$20,000 grant the City received through the Ohio Department of Transportation.



UPDATES

GERMANTOWN POLICE

WELCOME OFFICER ROGER HOFF!



Germantown Police added to the department when Roger Hoff was sworn in as a part-time officer. Officer Hoff is recently retired from the City of Trotwood and brings with him a wealth of experience and

knowledge. He is also a registered nurse for Miami Valley Hospital.

GERMANTOWN FIRE-EMS



CONGRATULATE OUR NEW FIRE SAFETY INSPECTORS!

Germantown Fire-EMS recently had 5 of our personnel become certified Fire Safety Inspectors. Congratulations to Lt. Forrer, FF/P D. Bruno, FF/EMT T. Toike, FF/P A. Dey, and FF/EMT D. Roberts. We are proud of your accomplishment and dedication to the Fire Service and Germantown Fire-EMS!!



GERMANTOWN FIRE GETS NEW TOOLS!

Germantown Fire-EMS was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from Butler Rural Community Connection. This grant allowed the department to purchase some much-needed tools and supplies. We send our thanks to Butler Rural Electric Co-Op members and employees who support the Community Connection Grant. Germantown Fire-EMS is very grateful to have received this award.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



This year's National Night Out will be held at Veterans Park on August 1st from 5-7pm. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Check the Police Department's Facebook page for updates closer to the event!

Germantown FIRE-EMS is NOW HIRING!

Germantown Fire-EMS currently has openings and is seeking qualified individuals to fill these roles. If you or someone you know has an interest in joining the department, please reach out to Roni Saul at rsaul@germantown.oh.us. If you're ready to make a difference and help others, we'd love to have you on the team!

History of the GERMANTOWN COVERED BRIDGE



Germantown's hidden gem, the covered bridge, is, to the best of our knowledge, the only one of its kind still standing in the world. It is an inverted, bowstring, suspension, covered bridge, and that it is still standing is quite an accomplishment in itself. Over the years, our treasured bridge has suffered many accidents and much damage. The following is a brief history of those damages and the efforts which brought her back to life time and time again.

- 1870 - The bridge is built to span Little Twin Creek on Dayton Pike. (Old Rt. 4)
- Early 1900's - "Iron Horse" steam engine falls through the wooden floor. The bridge is then closed to traffic.
- 1911 - (Nov 10th) the bridge is moved to its current location on E. Center Street.
- 1958 - (Sep 17th) the bridge is damaged again by a dump truck. Five tons of cable and steel materials went into the creek at the east end of the bridge. The bridge is closed for the second time.
- 1959 - (Jan 21st) Heavy rains and melting snow create the worst flooding of Little Twin Creek since the 1913 flood. A large tree lodges itself against the bridge, causing it to buckle. This causes the bridge to be closed for the third time.
- 1961 - Plans are made to restore the bridge.
- 1962 - Fundraising begins to raise the \$13,000.00 needed to repair the bridge. Restoration officially begins in March of 1963.
- 1964 - The bridge is officially rededicated on October 17th; Representative Paul F. Schenk of the US Congress is in attendance.
- 1972 - An overweight vehicle fell through the floor. The bridge is closed for the fourth time.



PHOTO #1

- 1981 - (Feb 19th) an automobile strikes the northeast support of the bridge, causing it to collapse completely into Little Twin Creek. (See photo # 1). This causes the bridge to be closed for the fifth time. Fundraising efforts begin immediately to reconstruct the bridge. No local, county, state or federal money is available to help cover the \$50,000.00 required to reconstruct the bridge. An article is submitted to Dayton Daily News by the fundraising committee asking readers to "send your neighbor a dollar." The public responded, and contributions come from local individuals, companies, clubs, and organizations. Auctions, bake sales, and even a fashion show are held to raise funds for the project. Thankfully, Kenneth Smith, an engineer and member of the Historical Society, had constructed a



PHOTO #2

1/4-inch scale model of the bridge. This is used as the template in the rebuilding process. (See photo # 2). Frank Dupps, Sr., of the Dupps Company, donates manpower and the heavy equipment used to move the larger pieces of the bridge, along with all

of the accumulated debris. Every salvageable piece is meticulously marked and numbered so as to be rebuilt as authentically as possible.

- Present - The bridge still stands at E Center St. The only traffic allowed since the 1981 rebuild is pedestrian and bicycle.



CITY EMPLOYEES ATTEND 2ND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS TRAINING

On May 16th, the City of Germantown held its second round of emergency operations training. Officer Dave Williams led City employees through a simulated blizzard scenario in order to test the employees' knowledge on procedure as well as their ability to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances. The employees did an excellent job and look forward to further training at a future date.

Germantown Business Spotlight

By-Jo Theatre

When Brian and Cora Ann Tarbox purchased the By-Jo Theatre in 2019, they knew there would be some challenges, though a coming global pandemic was not one they expected. Luckily, Brian and Cora Ann are passionate and tenacious people, and while many similar theaters around the country closed their doors for good, the By-Jo survived and remains an active monument to Germantown's rich history.

Brian remembers the night they first found out the theater was for sale. He and Cora Ann had come to see Toy Story 4 that evening, and on the way out they saw a sign which read "Building and business for sale." Brian, who grew up coming to the By-Jo, jumped at the opportunity. "I've always loved old buildings and old theaters," shared Brian. The building also provided a space for Cora Ann to store the items for her event rental business. Cora's family has a history of running their own businesses, and this entrepreneurial spirit has been passed to her as well. All the

pieces fell into place, and the Tarbox family made the bold decision to take over the By-Jo.

The goal from the beginning was always to maintain the classic, Main St. USA

aesthetic of the theater, a reflection of Brian's admiration of Walt Disney and the early years of Disney animation and movies. Similar establishments around the country had been sold and repurposed, but Brian and Cora Ann were determined to see the By-Jo remain unchanged. This sentiment is one shared with the Allen family, the previous owners who had bought the theater in 1984. They were very supportive of the Tarbox family and helped show them the ropes when ownership first changed hands.



Visiting the By-Jo is truly a unique experience. From the old-school tunes that are piped in before the show, the vintage seats and wall panels, and even the personal hospitality that Brian and Cora Ann show to their guests, it makes you



feel as if you are transported to another age. "You walk in these doors, you step back in time. You can enjoy a film for a couple hours and forget what's going on out there," shared Brian, "This is the way movies were meant to be watched," added Cora Ann. One thing's for sure, the Tarbox family will never compromise on keeping the small-town feel of the theater that they feel is a staple of the community.

There are many special moments for Brian and Cora Ann, but arguably their favorites are at the end of the night, when they wish their guests good night and see the smiles on their faces. They love to see families coming together to the theater. They've heard countless stories of elderly guests who saw their first movies here as a child, and how meaningful it is to bring their grandchildren and great-grandchildren now. The connecting of the generations is especially poignant for Brian and Cora, as their young daughter, Julia, is often in attendance with them and has her own, personally-claimed seat, in the back.

Running the theater can at times be difficult for Brian and Cora Ann. Hollywood and the movie industry are not really set up to benefit small theaters such as theirs anymore. However, it is important for the Tarbox family to stand by their values and morals. They choose to keep their admission price \$5.00 so that families can have an affordable yet fun and memorable experience in a world dealing with inflation. They are also discerning with which current releases they choose to screen, as they do their best to maintain a family-friendly atmosphere.

The By-Jo Theatre is an establishment that is authentically Germantown, and Brian and Cora Ann feel honored to be its current stewards and caretakers. The couple is also thankful for the support they have felt from the community. Though their doors remain open, the By-Jo is still recovering post-COVID. Residents are encouraged to attend a showing or even schedule their own private party at the theater. They will be sure to have a unique and memorable experience. After all, you're not just seeing a movie, you're seeing a movie at the By-Jo.

For Your Information...

Closures at City Hall

Germantown City Hall will be closed in observance of the following federal holidays:

Tuesday, July 4th
Independence Day

Monday, September 4th
Labor Day

Be advised that the Rumpke trash pickup schedule will be delayed one day on these dates.

Permit Requirements

It's outdoor building and remodeling season! If you are planning a project such as a deck, shed, fence, new roof, swimming pool, or home improvement, you will most likely need a permit. Applications are available on the City website at www.germantown.oh.us and at City Hall. There is also a deposit required for all projects before you get underway. If you have questions, please call 937-855-7255.

Senior Center News

NELDA JUDY-LANE

A Legacy of Love and Support for the Germantown Senior Center



Nelda Judy, later known as Nelda Lane, was an avid supporter of the Germantown Senior Center from the very beginning. She and other like-minded individuals wanted to see a place created

where seniors in the area could come together. An opportunity finally presented itself, and Nelda and her husband Bob Judy donated \$75,000 so that the City of Germantown could purchase the land where the Germantown Senior Center sits today.

Chenoa Erisman, Director of the Germantown Senior Center, met Nelda 8 years ago when Chenoa began working for the Center. A friendship quickly flourished, and Nelda made Chenoa feel immediately welcomed. "She was a lady who deeply cared about people, and she would show you that she cared about you. She was always kind, polite and encouraging," recounted Chenoa, "she was also very down to earth and real, not flashy." On the rare occasion that Nelda missed an event that was being held by the Senior Center, she would always make sure to call Chenoa and catch up. She shared so many wonderful stories, stories that Chenoa will always carry with her.

Nelda was a woman who was always very active. In her professional life, she worked for Landis Insurance Agency for 50 years. She was also a pilot, a historian, and civically involved as a member of the Rotary Club. "Even though she had a lot going on, she always made time to come to the

Senior Center and to Germantown," said Chenoa. Maybe her favorite activities at the Center were the breakfasts, and Nelda was a faithful attendee. When these events had to be temporarily shut down due to COVID, Nelda then became a regular attendee of the drive-thru lunch program. "She'd usually pick up a friend, grab the drive-thru lunch, and drive up to the dam," recalled Chenoa.

Nelda was always an encourager and supporter of everyone at the Senior Center, and a generous contributor to the Center's success. She supported it with both her money and her time. "She was a beautiful soul. She was so friendly and helpful," said Chenoa with a smile. The Germantown Senior Center clearly meant a lot to Nelda, and it was a place that she was always very proud of.

Nelda did not inform anyone that she had planned on bequeathing a monetary gift to the Senior Center



GERMANTOWN
SENIOR CENTER

EST. 2000

when she passed away. "I was amazed," said Chenoa, "it was so like her, so humble." In total, Nelda gifted \$379,313 to be used solely for the benefit of the Germantown Senior Center. Nothing has been set in stone yet, but discussion has already begun on how the money could be put to best use. "It has been overwhelming to think that someone would think of you and your organization and leave that much money, so you want to be wise with it," shared Chenoa, "We are just so appreciative of it." The funds will be kept for larger projects or emergencies that could not normally be funded through the operating budget. "It feels good to know that the Senior Center has coverage in case there were to be an emergency," said Chenoa.

Nelda Lane was a friend to many and will be sorely missed. Everyone

at the Senior Center is so thankful for the multitude of ways she has encouraged and supported the people and organization over the years. While they have not yet decided how, the staff and Senior Oversight Committee have plans to honor her for the ways she blessed the Center. "She was an amazing woman with an amazing legacy," said Chenoa. Nelda truly left a lasting, positive impact that will be felt for years to come.

Want to make improvements to your downtown property?

We have a tool to assist!

New Community Reinvestment Area in Downtown Germantown

A Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) has been created in Germantown's Historic Downtown. Property owners in this district may apply for real property tax exemptions on renovations to or construction of new buildings. These abatements can last up to 15 years and stay with the property, even if ownership changes. Those interested in applying for this program should contact Will Parsons at the City, 937-855-7255.

*****ECRWSEDDM****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Water Pollution DID YOU KNOW?

- Motor oil gets dirty while powering your engine, but these elements can be removed infinitely when oil is re-refined.
- It requires less energy to make a gallon of re-refined oil than crude oil, and a gallon of used oil offers 2.5 quarts of lubrication oil, equal to 42 gallons of crude oil.
- Oil filters are comprised mostly of steel which is the most commonly recycled material in the world



used oil from one DIY oil change can contaminate 1 million gallons of water if dumped into a storm drain. Fortunately, disposing of these fluids is easier than you think. Most disposal locations can be found right in your own neighborhood. Auto parts stores, recycling centers and landfills are possible recycling resources.

Earth911 provides an easy to use database for locating recycle centers in your area. Go to <https://earth911.com> and click on "Where to Recycle." Thank you for doing your part in keeping Germantown's waterways safe and healthy for all to enjoy!

Proper disposal of automotive fluids is critical to the safety of our waterways. According to the EPA, the

Suggestions and Recommendations

Thank you for reading Germantown's new and improved newsletter! If you have suggestions or recommendations for items or stories you'd like to see in future publications, or if someone you know did not receive a quarterly newsletter, please email Will Parsons at wparsons@germantown.oh.us

"Great things have come in the past and greater things are still to come and will be done in OUR City"

- Mayor Terry Johnson

CITY OF GERMANTOWN

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CITY OF GERMANTOWN FACEBOOK PAGES

City of Germantown, Ohio - Municipal Government
The City of Germantown Fire - EMS Station 63
The City of Germantown Police Department
Germantown Aquatic Center

GERMANTOWN QUARTERLY

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