

GERMANTOWN QUARTERLY

Quarter 2, 2025

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Meet Your City Employees

JOSH FORRER *Fire Lieutenant*

In this quarterly edition, we would like to introduce you to Josh Forrer, the Lieutenant for Germantown Fire-EMS. Lt. Forrer has been working as a firefighter for 16 years and has been the Lieutenant here in town for the past 2. He got his start in Germantown working part-time after he obtained his EMT status and has proven himself a valuable member of the team through the years.

Lt. Forrer grew up with more exposure than most to firefighting. "It's a family thing; I was around it every day," said Lt. Forrer. Indeed, one would be hard-pressed to find a family more connected to the field. Both Josh's grandfathers were firefighters (one for Middletown, the other for Gratis), his mom and dad both ran EMS (his mom for Gratis and GRS, his dad for Germantown Fire), and his dad also served as the Fire Chief in Gratis. Seeing his family serve their respective communities this way had a profound effect on him, and Josh dreamed from an early age of being a firefighter himself someday.

While Lt. Forrer is still very much involved in responding to the many emergency calls Germantown Fire-EMS receives daily, his role as

lieutenant also comes with other responsibilities. One of those is overseeing EMS, making sure everything is running smoothly. He also is very involved in the grant writing process. Like every other industry, prices continue to rise in the Fire-EMS world, and any extra funding the City is able to attain is quite the boon. When it comes to being a leader in the department, Josh does his best to provide guidance based on his years of experience in the field. Germantown Fire-EMS is currently a fairly young department overall, with many of its members being new to their careers. The expertise and wisdom Lt. Forrer brings to the team is of great benefit

to everyone.

Josh was drawn to work in Germantown due to his father's tenure here as well as his experience learning from Chief Dan Alldred while Josh was in the Fire Academy. Having been here a while now, Josh says that he appreciates the small town feel and being able to know a lot of the community. He also likes that the department feels like a family. "We get along very well, there's a lot of camaraderie," said Lt. Forrer.

When asked about ways the public

can practice better safety at home, Josh stressed the importance of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. "Carbon monoxide detectors aren't as well known. It's the silent killer; you can't smell it," said Lt. Forrer. Josh feels there is another topic that deserves attention from the public; the fire department accomplishes a great deal with limited resources. "One big incident takes all of our man power," shared Lt. Forrer. "We staff 3 plus Chief a day. If it's a bad call, that could take everyone for up to 2 hours. Yes, we do a lot with a little, but multiple calls at once can really put us at a bad point."

While it can be a stressful job, Lt. Forrer loves his role and finds it extremely fulfilling. What drives him to keep going is, "Making people's bad days better. No matter what the call is, doing whatever we can to make a difference in the community and people's lives," said Josh. When he is not busy serving the community, Josh's favorite thing to do is spend time with his family. He, his wife Stephanie, and their 5 children enjoy being outdoors together, especially going on vacation and camping when they get the opportunity. Josh is also a self-described "die-hard Bengals fan", so during football season he also loves cheering on Cincinnati.

Thank you, Lt. Forrer, for the excellent work you do in helping protect the people of Germantown and German Township!



Saturday Night Out

Mark your calendar! The first Saturday Night Out of the season returns to Downtown Germantown on June 21st. The event is a **family-friendly car cruise-in** with a variety of food and non-food vendors/artisans as well as live music. If you or someone you know is interested in being a vendor or event sponsor, please email Mackenzie at germantowncarshow@gmail.com. If you can't make it to the June event, never fear! There will be even more opportunities to enjoy Downtown Germantown and Saturday Night Out, as there are further events scheduled for July 19th, August 16th, and October 11th. In addition to its usual "Nightmare on Main Street" theme, the October SNO will also be the "Clay Alsip Memorial Show" and will have a rain date for October 18th .



Community Spotlight

CENTER STREET MARKET

Hi All!

Ryan Brock here, one of your friendly neighborhood mailmen, farmhand on Chicken Bristle Farm, and organizer of the Center Street Market, formerly the Germantown Farmers Market. For decades, the Germantown Farmers Market operated weekly during the summer to provide the people of Germantown with fresh produce and homemade goods. From the street to the Library parking lot, to the City Building parking lot and then back to the street - the market has seen many changes over the years. I, and the rest of us involved in the organization of the market, as well as all the great vendors who participate each year, all hope, I'm sure, that this most recent change will be a positive and lasting one, and we're excited for you to be a part of it!

Every community deserves a space where local growers, makers, bakers, and business-owning-folk alike can come together to showcase to that community their product and their business. Having such a space promotes entrepreneurship and creativity and can help to inspire anyone who wishes to start a business to do just that. The Center Street Market provides this space to vendors at no cost. With no entry or application fees, the Center Street Market selects its vendors on a first-come first-served basis and in alignment with the needs of the market. Operating one Saturday each month from April through September from 9AM to 2PM on West Center Street in Downtown Germantown, the Center Street Market aims to provide the local community with a lovely Saturday morning/afternoon experience



EST. *The* 2024

CENTER STREET MARKET

GERMANTOWN, OHIO

enjoying the sunshine and supporting small businesses in our area.

When should you join us?

- April 26, 2025 - Wine & Chocolate [Local Wineries and Candies/ Bakers Feature]
- May 31, 2025 - Late Bloomers [Plants & Flowers Feature]
- June 28, 2025 - American Pie [Local Bakers & Americana Feature]
- July 26, 2025 - Woodworks Day [Local Woodworkers Feature]
- August 30, 2025 - Produce Party [Locally-Grown Produce Feature]
- September 20, 2025 - Autumn Celebration [Autumn-Themed Goods, Wares, & Treats, and Fresh Fall Produce & Flowers]

How can you or someone you know join the market as a vendor? Find the application form on the Germantown

City website and on the Center Street Market Facebook page or email Amanda Smith at asmith@germantown.oh.us. You may also call/text Ryan Brock, market organizer, at 937-789-8417.

The Center Street Market relies on donations/ sponsorships to cover operating expenses. Your tax-deductible donation, cash or check, may be made out to Germantown Chamber of Commerce and deposited with Heidi Grant at First National Bank of Germantown or with Amanda Smith at the City Building, 1 N. Plum. A sponsorship form may be requested by emailing Amanda Smith at asmith@germantown.oh.us or contacting Ryan Brock at 937.789.8417. You may also reach out via Facebook Messenger through the Center Street Market Facebook page.

Market Facebook page.

Thank you to everyone - community leaders, vendors, and community members alike, who make this market possible. See you all in the spring!



GERMANTOWN POLICE NEWS



Congratulations Sgt. Wright!

In December of last year, PFC. Ryan Wright was sworn in as Sergeant for the Germantown Police Department. Sgt. Wright has been with the Germantown Police Department since 2010 and has served as a road patrolman, a field training officer, and as a detective in the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit (TCSU) Task Force. His years of service and knowledge in law enforcement will no doubt help in leading our road patrol to continue our mission in law enforcement. Ryan shared that he hopes to continue to make the city better and better each day, and should residents have questions or concerns, please speak with him or any other officer as they are happy to help. Congratulations, Sgt. Wright!



Stay Safe Online – Protect Yourself and Others

While we continue to integrate more technology and social media into our daily lives, it's important to remember that while the internet can be a great resource, it also comes with risks. As your local police department, we want to remind everyone—especially children, teens, and parents—about the importance of practicing good cybersecurity habits and using technology safely.

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS:

- Never share personal details such as your full name, address, phone number, or financial information with people you don't know.
- Protect your children online by using parental control tools to monitor their internet use.
- If you encounter any suspicious activity or believe you've been targeted by a cybercriminal, don't hesitate to report it. Whether it's an online scam, harassment, or even threats, our department is here to help.



It's Spring! Drive Safely

As the weather warms up, more kids are out riding their bikes, and we need everyone's help to keep our streets safe. But it's not just about bike safety—motorcyclists are also sharing the roads, so let's be mindful of everyone. Here are some important safe driving habits for drivers, cyclists, and motorcyclists:

- Avoid distractions like texting while driving
- Be extra cautious at intersections and crosswalks
- Obey speed limits
- Check your blind spots before changing lanes

GERMANTOWN UNION CEMETERY

Spring cleanup is here, and the mowing has begun at the Germantown Cemetery. This is a time to refresh the grounds and ensure that it remains a beautiful and serene space for everyone. Staff will be discarding all flowers and decorations on the ground around headstones so that we can begin mowing and trimming. Flowers on headstones or on shepherd's staffs at either end of monuments will not be removed. We recommend that families label the flowers they put on monuments with their name so that if they do blow off during the season, we are able to put them back in the correct location.

The annual Memorial Day Parade is Monday May 26th and will end in the center of the cemetery at the flagpole where a ceremony will follow. Flowers and wreaths may be placed on the ground around monuments for 1 week before and 2 weeks after Memorial Day.

The cemetery grounds open at daylight and close at dark 7 days a week. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm. Feel free to stop by the office with any questions or help finding records. We look

forward to continuing to serve you! We can be reached by phone at 937-855-3011 or by email: Office@GermantownCemetery.com

Follow us on Facebook for updates and communications, www.facebook.com/GermantownCemetery

Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday April 1, 2025 - Spring Cleanup Starts
- Monday April 14, 2025 - 5:00pm Board Meeting at Cemetery Office
- Monday May 12, 2025 - 5:00pm Board Meeting at Cemetery Office
- Monday May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day Parade
- Monday June 9, 2025 - 5:00pm Board Meeting at Cemetery Office



Follow us on Facebook for updates and communications.
www.facebook.com/GermantownCemetery

THE CITY OF
GERMANTOWN
SALUTES

Thomas A. BRADFORD
UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS
1941-1945 - World War II
Purple Heart

★ Proudly Honored By ★
A Grateful Community

Germantown Hometown Heroes Banner Program

The first cycle of the Hometown Heroes banners will be put up this Memorial Day and will remain until Veterans Day. This program is a 2-year commitment, so the banners placed this year will also be put up in 2026. Our gratitude to the committee for making this program possible! Applications to purchase banners for future years can be downloaded at the City's website. Contact either Kay Fradl at snafu3644@gmail.com or 937-620-6836 (text only before 6:00 pm), Connie Shaffer at mrtshaffer@yahoo.com, Mayor Johnson at tjohnson@germantown.oh.us or 937-533-667, or the Veteran's Museum at 937-855-4763 for more information.



Pool Passes Now Available

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation, and the Germantown Aquatic Center is the perfect place to unwind and enjoy the season. Season passes are now available to be purchased at City Hall, 1 N. Plum Street, or on our website www.germantown.oh.us. We have made some updates to our schedule this year to accommodate the altered school calendar, so please check our Facebook for details. Call 937-855-7255 for more information.



Germantown Business Spotlight

Arpp, Root & Carter Funeral Home

"I told my husband, if anybody ever comes in to make arrangements, and they feel like it was just a business transaction, then I need to retire," said Kari Daniel, owner of Arpp, Root & Carter Funeral Home. After working in the funeral industry for more than 20 years, and as a licensed director for the last 7, Kari still makes it her priority to offer support, kindness, and plenty of time to make decisions for those who sit down in her office. She began working at the funeral home in 2001 when it was still owned by her step-father, Jay Root. The business itself had its start outside of its current location on Main St and was instead operated out of an ambulance by the founder, John Arpp, which was a common practice at the time.

While she never envisioned herself working in the funeral business, Kari came to find that it was actually a good fit, and when her step-father approached her about becoming a licensed director, Kari decided to take the plunge and pursue it. Doing so was no quick task. "There are two separate licenses, a funeral director's license, and an embalmer's license, though you don't necessarily have to have both," Kari shared. Both of these licenses require a four-year degree before they can be attained. Kari is a Licensed Funeral Director, meaning, after her degree, she completed a two-year apprenticeship and then had to pass the National Board Exam (NBE) Arts and Sciences sections, as well as the Ohio Laws, Rules, and Regulations (LRR) exam.

The amount of education required to be a funeral director is a common misconception about the funeral

industry. Another is how much a funeral will cost. "There are a lot of ways to fluctuate the cost of a funeral," Kari explained. While



many funeral homes around the country have become corporately owned, Arpp, Root & Carter has elected to remain privately owned, enabling them to be more flexible with their clientele. "We have more leeway when working on prices and are able to provide much more personal service," said Kari. Part of this personal service includes working with the same individual throughout the planning process rather than having to coordinate and communicate with multiple employees on the different stages of the arrangements. Kari and her team also encourage clients to make the service reflect their loved one and their family. "I love doing custom funerals. We've had people bring in saddles, guitars, all kinds of things," said Kari. She believes it is important to incorporate items or practices that were meaningful to the deceased as



it often can add some joy to the day. "If there are things you can do to make those gathered smile or have a happy memory, you should do that," said Kari.

Encouraging and facilitating this personalization is one way that Kari looks to provide some comfort to the family and loved ones who make use of her services. She also makes sure that when she is meeting with a family she doesn't have any pressing appointments after them so that they

don't feel rushed. "I never want someone to come in and feel like they are just another appointment or just another funeral," Kari said. "I want them to come in and feel comfortable, at home, and that when we sit down to make these arrangements that they are having a conversation with me as a person, not

me as a business owner." Arpp, Root & Carter also offer a link to free grief counseling services available on their website, a service paid for by the funeral home.

While it can be difficult to discuss, Kari recommends everyone be open in talking about final arrangements with your families. Doing so ahead of time can make a tough situation just a little bit easier. Another way to make it a little bit easier would be to work with Kari at Arpp, Root & Carter Funeral Home. "A lot of people come in after losing a loved one and feel that they don't know how to go about the next steps, and that's okay, because I do," said Kari. "I'm just a person trying to do good work and make things easier for people. It's very fulfilling."

MIAMI MILITARY INSTITUTE PARK

In the 1880s the United States government declared Memorial Day as a day of remembrance. It was set aside by our nation to honor all those who died serving the country and to remember the sacrifices they made for our freedom. Memorial Day had previously been referred to as Remembrance Day, first observed after the American Civil War ended in 1865.



While attending MMI, these cadets called Germantown home. Echoes of their laughter can still be heard along with marching commands and competitive cries during sports events. Their presence at our churches, shops and homes is still recalled by our older folk, and the impact the cadets and staff made on our town was not insignificant. MMI and its cadets were known throughout our nation and brought

Germantown, like many communities in the United States, was not untouched by our nation's wars. Germantown Veterans Park contains a memorial to our community's war dead from the American Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism; those familiar names etched on the memorial painfully remind us of the lives lost, never to be fulfilled.

(MMI), on the north ridge overlooking Veterans Park (former MMI drill field) will also soon reflect the names of more young men who sacrificed their future for our nation and the freedom-loving people of the world.

distinct recognition to our little town through many different facets.

The former Miami Military Institute

In the near future, MMI Park will display plaques of seven former MMI cadets who enlisted in WWI and were killed in service to their nation and freedom-loving people everywhere.

When MMI Park is completed and you walk along the pathway, you will encounter the names of the fallen. Take time to reflect on their young lives and how they died to end tyranny. Remember, too, that over one hundred years ago, they once walked the quiet streets of Germantown.



Germantown Community Garage Sale Returns May 17 & 18!

The City of Germantown Community-Wide Garage Sale is set for Saturday, May 17th, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, May 18th, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Registration is open for all households interested in participating. If you wish to be included in our list of vendors, please contact City Hall at 937-855-7255 by Friday, May 9th. 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. This list will be posted on the city website at www.germantown.oh.us on May 12th. Bargain-hunters and those who enjoy finding a curbside deal are sure to enjoy this event.



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 need a permit. They 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.



“My dad was a full-time policeman and taught me, ‘If you’re going to do something, do it right.’”

“I always had the desire to be a firefighter. I also spent 32 years as a cabinet maker, my other career while I was doing this. Once I got involved with Germantown Fire, I fell in love with it. What I fell in love with was working with the people in the community.”

“If I could roll up on a scene that was maybe the worst day in their life, and if I could help them get through it just a little bit better, then that was my goal.”

CHIEF DAN ALLDRED HAS BEEN SAVING GERMANTOWN LIVES AND PROPERTY FOR 42 YEARS.

A graduate of Valley View High School, Dan Alldred married his high school sweetheart, Robin Shell of Farmersville. They settled into family life, raising three children, Nicole, Daniel and Nicholas, all who graduated from Valley View and still live in the area. They have given Dan and Robin eight wonderful grandchildren to enjoy.

Being married to the fire chief in a small Midwestern town has its challenges. Robin learned to live minute-to-minute, knowing a call to an emergency comes any time, day or night.

“You learn to drop everything. You learn to do a lot on your own,” says Robin, wife of forty-seven years. Countless times Dan would bolt from a family dinner or birthday party and sprint to the firehouse. He even

had to leave one child’s high school graduation.

Neighbors who see him run out of the house to the Safety Building know Dan is heading to an ambulance or fire truck to get to an emergency scene as quickly as possible where he will need to address another crisis.

Dan works with his response team to cut every second. Most en route times are less than two and a half minutes, something they strive to continuously improve. Before the new Fire-EMS building existed, some

emergency vehicles blocked in the others. Now they can be parked for quick access to assist in faster response times, again with the goal of saving more lives.



It was a Sunbury structure fire in the 1980s when Dan’s career and life was changed forever. At that time the fire department was not permitted to apply first aid. Dan pulled a man from the burning structure. The victim was laying

either dead or dying on the lawn, waiting for Germantown Rescue to arrive.

Dan vowed that would never happen again on his watch. Never again would Germantown Fire have to watch a member of the community die in their own yard because the firemen weren't permitted to perform first aid. So Dan and a co-worker took first aid courses on their own, without permission of the then-fire chief, who was angry when he found out, and Dan proudly said, "Today, life safety comes first!"



This incident is emblematic of Dan's life goal for continuous improvement of Fire/EMS services to the people of Germantown. Throughout the decades of his tenure, Dan saw volunteerism fade and the Germantown Rescue Squad close. This led to the Germantown Fire-EMS Department assuming all emergency medical services and Dan learning how to provide the very best services on a shoestring budget when the voters did not approve Fire/EMS levies, as happened this past November.

The possibility that Germantown Fire-EMS might be forced to reduce services ("brown outs") or have Germantown's emergency services provided by a remote municipality haunts Chief Dan. Grimly he says, with head down, "That's just something I would never want to see happen."

Chief Dan doesn't sit behind a desk like many fire chiefs. He's out in the garage repairing fire engines, with his own tools if the City doesn't have them, to save taxpayer money. "He's very frugal," says wife Robin.

Dan is often first on the scene, providing CPR to a victim of cardiac arrest, and he is often last to leave,

offering words of comfort and support to the family of a victim or deceased. "I always stay until the coroner or funeral director arrives."

Robin hears Dan saying to himself, when he can't sleep due to worrying, "How can I make things

better? What could I have done differently to have saved a life?" The "what ifs" haunt him after his worst days, like the four-fatality fiery crash on Route 4 a few years ago.

A life of dedication to the people of Germantown describes Chief Alldred for the neighbors, friends, coworkers and family who know him best.

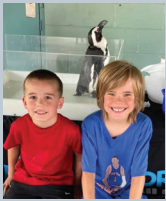
As one City employee said it, "The community IS his family."



News from the PUBLIC LIBRARY



Library Summer Schedule



PENGUIN AT THE PARK

(WAVE Foundation)
June 2nd, 5:30 pm



ENGINEER IT

(Cincinnati Museum Center)
June 30th, 6:00 pm



WILDHEARTS AFRICAN FARM*

(sign-up required)
June 16th, 6:00 pm



LEGO BUILD CONTEST

July 11th, 1:00 pm

SNUG AS A BUG

(Cincinnati Museum Center)
June 23rd, 6:00 pm

MIKE HEMMELGARN

July 23rd, 6:00 pm

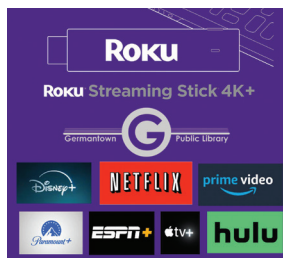


Summer Reading 2025: Color Our World

June 2nd-July 31st

Join the Germantown Public Library for Summer Reading 2025! Kids and teens can sign up June 2nd and start logging their hours of reading to win prizes! Weekly programs for all ages include story times, LEGO Club, First Chapter Fridays, and more! Summer Reading 2025 will run through July 31st. We hope to see you at the library!

See the schedule above for our larger summer programs.



Roku Sticks

The library now has several Roku sticks in circulation loaded with Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Paramount, Apple Plus, Disney Plus and ESPN Plus! Access these streaming platforms, free with your library card.

Genealogy Help

Do you need help with family genealogy or are curious on how to start? The library is offering monthly Genealogy classes that have a new topic each month. These classes will be the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Upcoming topics include:

- April 21st: Finding the Easter eggs in census records that help build a family story.
- May 19th: Family Recipes Oral History - Come learn about the importance of oral history when it comes to cooking. Create your own small 4x6 card ring to save your own family recipes.
- June 16th: How to read marriage records and learn how to preserve wedding heirlooms and protect them for future generations.



Community Cat Initiative

As valued partners in our ongoing commitment to creating a healthier and happier community, the Humane Society of Greater Dayton wishes to share about our community cat spay & neuter program.

The partnership between the Humane Society and Germantown has been instrumental in providing community members with an option to address community cat issues in a humane and effective way. These initiatives have proven to be incredibly successful in not only reducing the population of community cats (feral) but also enhancing the overall well-being of those cats living in outdoor environments. Last year, through the Community Cat Initiative, 14 cats from the community were spayed and neutered. 6 of these cats were returned to Germantown and 8 were taken into the Humane Society's Adoption Program.

By participating in this program, Germantown helps contribute to the Humane Society's no-kill vision for the Miami Valley, where large colonies of community cats are minimized, and the majority of our feline companions find themselves in loving, safe homes.



If a resident finds a stray cat, they can bring it to the Humane Society. Be advised, if we are currently at capacity, we will not be able to take in the animal. The Humane Society does not euthanize animals in order to free up space. It is best to call ahead to check if there is room. Bring proof of residence with you when you bring the stray cat, and you will not have to pay the fee. Instead, it will be sent to the City of Germantown.



HUMANE SOCIETY
OF GREATER DAYTON

Interested residents can learn more about the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program, as well as the many other initiatives offered, by visiting the Humane Society of Greater Dayton's website.

GERMANTOWN QUARTERLY

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, please email newsletter@germantown.oh.us



10 Minute Parking in Downtown Germantown

New, 10-minute parking signs have recently been installed in Downtown Germantown. These are meant to be of benefit to the restaurants and eateries and help enable takeout orders. If you park in one of these spots, we ask that you please be courteous and go about your business quickly!



Move Trash Bins in a Timely Manner

Please make sure that after your trash and recycling has been picked up, your containers are moved from the pickup area in a timely manner. At the latest, containers should be moved by noon the day after pick up. Also, please make sure trash containers are not stored in the front of your home/property, unless a screen blocks them from being seen from the street. You can call City Hall or reference Ord. 10-41 for more information.

SPRING CLEANING?

Bulk items are collected with your normal trash pick-up. Mattresses/box springs and upholstered furniture must be wrapped in plastic and completely sealed. Be advised that Rumpke will not take items that are waterlogged. Containment bags may be purchased at City Hall for \$7 each. If you are cleaning out an entire house or garage, please call the City office at 937-855-7260 to schedule a separate pick-up.



! Germantown!
Gaentine's
Day ♥

Gaentine's Day was held on Thursday, February 13th in Downtown Germantown. Thank you to all the vendors and businesses who participated and for all the lovely individuals who came out to enjoy the evening!



HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATES

Spring is coming (or, so we hope!) and with spring, a very welcome change in our weather arrives. At the Historical Society, we are looking forward to the changing of the seasons, along with changes to our board and officers. We are very pleased to announce that we have a new director, Ms. Nina Allen. Nina is a long-time resident of Germantown, and many of you know her from seeing her smiling face in the ticket/concession booth at our beloved By-Jo Theatre. Nina just recently retired from her various duties at Sinclair Community College and brings with her experience, knowledge and expertise, especially in the IT field. Give Nina a call at the Society at 937-855-7951 to arrange a tour or just to introduce yourself.

Accordingly, we certainly wish to express our deepest gratitude to Interim Director, Vickie Benson, who stepped up and stepped in for almost 2 years while also being a trustee. It became obvious that Miriam Degroat Johnson, our beloved Director for almost 12 faithful years, was no longer able to perform her duties due to various health issues. Miriam was a fighter and a trooper. Unfortunately, we lost Miriam on January 12th, 2025. We continue to mourn her loss as we keep her family and friends close in our thoughts and prayers. Miriam's love for the Historical Society, our city, township, and our residents, will remain for years to come.

We are also very excited to announce that as part of the America 250-Ohio Grant and in honor of America's 250th celebration in 2026, the Historical Society will be publishing a booklet on the history of Germantown, particularly covering our historic downtown district and buildings. We have applied for a grant to help with the costs associated with this endeavor. Our

booklet will be titled "THE WAY WE WERE - A WRITTEN TAPESTRY OF GERMANTOWN." For the past 18 years, the Society has been the sponsor of "THE WAY WE WERE" Valley View 7th Grade Art Contest whereby all 7th grade students under the teaching of Jessica Evans depict 25 of our downtown buildings. We are asking for YOUR HELP in sharing your memories of Germantown to be included in our booklet.



Unfortunately, we have lost so many of our Germantown historians, such as Carl Michael, Richard Shaffer, Homer Kern, and Delores Grunwald. We'd like to be able to include and expand the facts and stories that these historians have shared over the years. We also plan to include and expand our knowledge of our

unique community and township. We are asking for YOUR HELP in sharing your information and memories to be included in our booklet. The purpose of the booklet is to record our rich heritage for future generations to enjoy for all the years to come. We also plan to include the memories of different age groups and have our local artists share their concepts of our buildings. Please call either of our Grant Directors, Julie Smith at 937-855-6610 or Lisa Kasperski at 937-432-8044 to have your memories and stories included.

New members are always welcome to join us at the Historical Society, and we'd like to extend a welcome to YOU. Our membership fees are very affordable at just \$10.00/year for individuals, and \$20.00/year for families. Full-time student memberships are free.

Our first community event of the year is our Open House, which will take place Sunday, May 4th. All are invited to join us for touring the museum, free food, entertainment, artisans, and horse-drawn wagon tours.



GERMANTOWN CITY BEAUTIFUL FIX UP AWARD

Have you noticed any of your neighbors working on their yards? Cleaning up their property? We want to appreciate their hard work. We would like to hear your nominations for the Fix-Up Awards. Please send a message to the CBC for your nomination.



GERMANTOWN SENIOR CENTER

EST. 2000

33 N. Cherry Street
(937) 853-8900

Reminders

Please remember to sign up for activities and inform us of cancellations.

Check the monthly calendar for additions or changes. You can pick up a calendar at the Center or print from the city's website.

Rentals

The Senior Center is a beautiful facility equipped with a full kitchen and tables and chairs that is available for rental for parties, meetings and more! Call the Center for rental inquiries.

Annual Membership Fee

\$10 per year for German Township or Germantown Residents, \$25 per year for Non-Residents.

Mail or drop off completed application along with check made payable to: Germantown Senior Center, 33 N. Cherry St., Germantown, Ohio 45327. We can only accept checks, no cash please. Call (937) 853-8900 to speak with us.

Our Mission

We advocate for the well-being and dignity of all seniors by providing health, educational and recreational programs to assist them to lead independent and useful lives.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Bingo With Halftime Lunch

Wednesday at 11 am: April 30, May 28, June 25

Breakfast

9:30 am April 25, May 23, June 27 Bible Study following at 10:30 am

Lunch & Learn

Friday at 11 am: April 18, May 16, June 20 with ice cream sundaes after

Lunch & Shopping Bus Trip

Friday at 11 am: April 4, May 2, June 6

Penny Auction

1st Wednesday at 11 am: April 2, May 7, June 4

2nd Wednesday Craft Days

Starts at 11 am: April 9, May 14, June 11

Card Bingo

3rd Wednesday at 11 am: April 16, May 21, June 18

Special Announcements

April 5: 9-3 pm, Craft Fair

April 10: 4:30 pm, Senior Oversight Committee Meeting

April 11: 5-8 pm 25th Anniversary Open House

April 18: 12 pm, Senior Easter Egg Hunt

April 25: 3 pm, Quilt Show & Dinner Outing

May 1: 3 pm, Start Walking Group on Thursdays at Daniel's Peace, weather permitting

May 8: 5 pm, Dinner at Alleyway & Shopping Downtown

May 29: 10:30 am, Lunch & Carillon Park Bus Trip

June 13: 11 am, Bus Trip to the Air Force Museum

Please Check our Monthly Calendar for Extra Activities and Bus Trips.



An Evening with Elvis



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
12-2 pm Senior Meals 1 pm Chair Volleyball	10 am Open Computer	10 am Quilters 10 am Social Hour with Coffee & Donuts	1 pm Mah Jongg 2 pm Euchre	1 pm Chair Volleyball

STUDENT NEWS

Valley View Athletes Honored at March City Council Meeting



It's Time to Celebrate The Germantown Senior Center Renovations!

2025 is a special year for the Senior Center! We are celebrating a fresh building renovation and 25 years of service to our community. We would like to cordially invite you to our Open House on April 11 from 5-8 pm to celebrate our remodel and reflect on the many memories made and the friendships built over the last 25 years. There will be refreshments, appetizers and charcuterie boards, as well as desserts provided. We hope to see you there!



Left- Mayor Johnson with the Valley View Golf Team

Right- Mayor Johnson with the Valley View Football Team



Two athletic teams representing Valley View High School were recognized for their achievements during the 2024 season at the March City Council Meeting. First to receive recognition were members of the Men's Varsity Golf Team who were 2024 SWBL Division Champions. This was the first championship for the Spartans since 2006. Next, members of the Varsity Football Team were also honored for a great season wherein the Spartans were 2024 SWBL regular season Division Champions and earned the #3 seed in the Regional Tournament. Both teams were presented with certificates and a hearty congratulations from Mayor Johnson. Excellent job to both teams on representing yourselves, your school, and your community well!



Seeking Award Nominations for Two City Beautiful Contests

The City Beautiful Commission has 2 ongoing initiatives for which residents can nominate their neighbors and fellow community members. The first is the Fix Up Award, given to residents who have put in work to spruce up, reinvest, or clean up their yards/homes. The second is the Flower Contest, held to see which resident has the most beautiful flowers in town. City Beautiful needs to hear from you! You can either send your nominations to their Facebook page, or let us know at City Hall.



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Water Pollution DID YOU KNOW?

Guidelines for Residential Storm Water Maintenance

With warmer temperatures right around the corner, it is time to think about our HVAC systems and air conditioning units since many of us rely on these systems to keep our homes and businesses comfortable. However, these cooling systems do not just provide relief from the heat – they also produce condensate (water) as they cool the air. Proper drainage of this condensate is crucial for both your property and the environment.

One of the most significant environmental concerns surrounding condensate drainage is the possibility of the water ending up in stormwater systems. Stormwater runoff is not treated before being released into nearby water bodies, meaning any pollutants such as dirt, chemicals, or oils from HVAC units can be carried into our lakes, rivers and local streams. In many communities, including ours, stormwater runoff is carefully regulated under MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) programs. Allowing HVAC condensate to drain into stormwater systems is prohibited and can contribute to

environmental degradation.

Proper condensate drainage is good for your property and essential for maintaining the health of our local water systems. You can ensure proper drainage by doing the following:

1. Inspect HVAC system regularly, checking for visible signs of blockages, leaks or pooling water.
2. Clear clogged drainage lines. Debris and build up can easily be flushed by using a mixture of water and vinegar.
3. Ensure proper routing by directing condensate lines away from your home's foundation and areas where water can pool or run off into stormwater systems.
4. When gravity drainage is not possible, install a condensate pump to help move condensed water to suitable drainage areas.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping Germantown's waterways safe and healthy for all to enjoy.

"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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The City of Germantown Police Department
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