



Meet Your City Employees

MATT BURNS Police Chief

Though he grew up and went to school in West Carrollton; Germantown has always been a place that Police Chief Matt Burns has been drawn to. He has a long line of family members and ancestors who lived and worked here, so it was

a homecoming of sorts when he was first hired on as a full-time patrol officer in 1988. Chief Burns went on to become GPD's first full-time detective in 1990 and in 1994 was promoted to sergeant. His rise up the command ranks continued when he became lieutenant in 1998. Matt then held the rank of Major/Deputy Chief for several years before receiving promotion to Chief of Police on April 22, 2024.

It seems that Matt was destined for public service, he knew from very early on that it was the path for him. "I always wanted to be a police officer growing up," said Chief Burns. Matt fulfilled that desire right after his high school graduation. He first by served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves as a military police officer from 1982-1988. While still in the Marines. Chief Burns also began civilian police work in 1986 with a short stint at Waynesville Police Department followed by about 1.5 years with the Miami Township Police Department. He also served as a volunteer firefighter for the City of West Carrollton from 1981-1986.

Matt's transition to Chief of Police has thus far gone very well for both him and the department. "The support I have received from City

Council, City Administration, and our troops has made this a great and easy transition," said Chief Burns. He noted that, though he has been with the department for 36 years, he still learns something new every day, an aspect of taking on his new



role that Chief Burns relishes. He also shared that he greatly appreciates his command staff: Deputy Chief Brown, Captain Wale, and Lieutenant Mowery, and the work they have

already put in together on new projects.

One such project involves putting an even greater focus on training and development department-wide. "We are always pushing for more," said

> Chief Burns. "We want to help our officers think about where they feel their niche is, what their different professional interests and goals are, and we want to enable them to pursue those." he elaborated. Chief Burns finds this employee empowerment to be vital because it allows his officers to take more ownership and responsibility in their work.

> Chief Burns loves to spend his time away from work with his family. He married his high school sweetheart, Kim, in 1985. Together they have 3 daughters and now 6 grandchildren. They are very outdoorsy people. "We do a lot of bike-riding, kayaking, and boating. We always try to take at least one trip all together each year, and they're always focused on the outdoors," said Chief Burns. He also shared that he could not have gotten to where he is without the support of his family and the foundation of his beliefs.

Germantown has been fortunate to have Chief Burns serving our community for 36 years. When asked what led him to put down

roots here, Chief Burns answered, "I feel at home here. You really become family working in Germantown." Thank you, Chief Burns, for all the ways you serve our community!

Saturday **Night Out**

NIGHTMARE on Main

Nightmare on Main will be held on October 12th! There will be a musical performance by the HomeGrown Band, a Spooky Jeep invasion, Trunk or Treat, as well as Child, Adult & Pet costume contests! All vehicle types welcome! If you or someone you know is interested in being a vendor or event sponsor, please email Mackensie at germantowncarshow@gmail.com. Check the Saturday Night Out Facebook page for further updates.



GERMANTOWN UNION CEMETERY



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

As we enter the winter months, the the roads clear of snow and ice, but at times they may close off sections or roadways that are unsafe. Please be mindful of this while driving or

cemetery staff will work hard to keep walking the cemetery.

The Germantown Union Cemetery will be hosting a Wreaths Across America ceremony at 12:00pm noon on Sat. December 14, 2024. With the volunteer support of the Veterans Memorial Museum Foundation, we will remember and honor our veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. We welcome all to attend this ceremony and assist with the wreath-laying activities. Wreaths can be sponsored through the Wreaths Across America website by scanning the QR code at left using the camera on your smartphone, or by visiting

tinyurl.com/GtownWreaths2024

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Board Meeting at Cemetery Office:

Tuesday October 15, 2024, 5:00pm Monday November 11, 2024, 5:00pm Monday December 9, 2024, 5:00pm

Wreaths Across America Ceremony Saturday December 14, 2024, Noon at the flagpole



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

VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION

The Veterans Memorial Museum Foundation, located at 123 S. Main Street, Germantown, OH 45327, was established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation with the mission of education and memorialization of our American Armed Forces Veterans from all wars. The museum houses a vast collection of artifacts from the Revolutionary War to the current Global War on Terrorism. Over 5,000 US Veterans are represented including hundreds from the local community and Miami Valley with two from our town who retired as major generals. Many personal artifacts and stories of war dead, wounded in action, prisoners of war, husbands, wives, fathers, sons, twin brothers, and every day patriotic



men and women are housed and carefully maintained at the museum.

The mission of the VMMF is conducted through static and mobile displays, presentations, research and reunions in dozens of local communities and stretching throughout Europe. The VMMF is active in ensuring the deeds and sacrifices of our veterans are not forgotten.

The Museum's hours are: Saturdays 12-4 Sundays 2-6 Patriotic Holidays 10-6 Weekdays by appointment, groups welcome.

Contact us by calling 937.855.4763 or emailing ddshortt@aol.com.

The Museum is manned by a professional all-volunteer staff who hopes to see you soon!







National Night Out Was Fun for All!

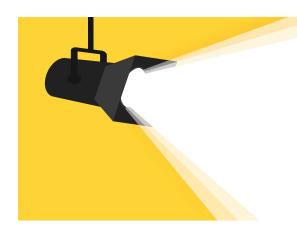
Thank you to all of the various organizations, churches, and businesses who came out to support National Night Out this year by distributing much-needed school supplies to Valley View students. It was a beautiful evening full of fun and a great chance for Germantown PD to connect with the wonderful families in our community.











Germantown Business Spotlight

Village Flower Shop

To have a passion and be able to pursue it is a gift. This is something that is true for Roger Neargarder, owner of the Village Flower Ship, who always knew that he wanted to be a florist. He began his career with the Patterson Floral Gardens when they were north of town. He worked there for 10 years until he received the opportunity to start at the flower shop in August of 1974, meaning he soon will have been in business for 50 years. For the last 20 of those, Roger has worked with Sheila Bradley in the shop as well. While originally planned as a shortterm arrangement, it has turned into a lasting and effective partnership, to the benefit of the shop.

As one would expect, things do not stay the same over the course of a long career. "Expectations have changed, but an individual basically has their own style. My work from when I first started my career looks nothing like the things I make today. I have developed a style of my own over time." When designing a given piece, Roger explained that he will consider what type of occasion it is for, and then begin to look through his inventory. "I can't carry everything, so some of it depends on what I have available.

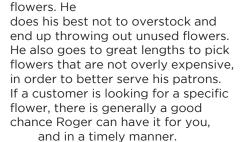
Everything is seasonal, so I make do with what I have. Doing so can actually make creating a lot more fun." As far as the actual design, Roger said that he looks at color and texture,

as well as the shape of the flowers. "Some things spikes, some things are round, and some flowers are more flat. It just depends. You can also make use

of the space they fill, with a more vertical or horizontal flower."

Though it is a very creative occupation, there are still many business considerations and

operations that Roger has to handle daily. One of those is sourcing his flowers. There are about 4 wholesale houses, 1 in Dayton and 3 in Cincinnati. which he greatly trusts. Roger then considers availability and price when selecting



Remaining in business for 50 years is quite a and is not feat

something that happens by accident. When asked what has kept

him going in the same industry all these years, Roger told us that he isn't really motivated by

the monetary side of things, "I really just enjoy selling flowers," he said, "There's a lot of truth

to that." He went on to explain that his job is not really a typical 9-5 gig, as being selective with his supply and going home and completing bookwork keeps him busy. However, the satisfaction he feels from his

> customers makes it all worth it. "It feels good to get the positive feedback from people. Customer satisfaction really makes you feel good and is a big part of why I continue to do what I do." he shared. No matter the occasion his

flowers are a part of, it also makes Roger happy to know that he can help add some joy to it through his work.

Since his first year of operation, Roger has always offered a Christmas Open House the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with this year marking his 51st. This is an event that takes a lot of preparation, beginning all the way back in August. With the holidays soon upon us, residents are encouraged to mark your calendars for this annual event. You don't have to be a flower expert to order a beautiful bouquet from Roger. If you stop in the store and share what sort of colors or even a feeling or aesthetic you're looking for, the Village Flower Shop is certain to provide you with a gorgeous, handcrafted arrangement that is sure to



What You Need to Know Abou



There will be a 4 mill levy for Germantown Fire-EMS which will be voted on N for your consideration, such as what sort of vehicles/equipment the Fire Dep department, the cost of this levy for residents, and how the levy will compare

The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) provides recommendations for how long Fire and EMS vehicles should be used. If a vehicle is more than 15 years old, but has been properly maintained and is still in serviceable condition, it is recommended it be placed in "reserve" status. This means the vehicle can still be used, but only if a newer vehicle has already been called out to another emergency. Vehicles that are over 25 years old are recommended to be replaced and no longer utilized.

Age of Department Vehicles

Tanker 63: 1997 Engine 64: 2004 Ladder 63: 2000

Engine 63: 2022

Ambulance 1: 2009 Ambulance 2: 2009 Ambulance 3: 2013 Rescue 63: 2013

FIGURE 1

Figure 1 shows the vehicles currently used by Germantown Fire-EMS,

as well as the year they were manufactured. Those highlighted in yellow fall under the NFPA's "reserve" status and those in red the "replacement."

As one can see, many of the Germantown Fire-EMS vehicles are older than would be desired. While they have been well-maintained, there is still a worry that their effectiveness will not last. New vehicles will need to be purchased. Figure 2 shows the prices for some different

Fire and EMS vehicles, both current as well as from 2009 and 2010, the time of the previous levy.

This Is a 123% Increase for ambulances and a 100% increase for firetrucks.

Fuel prices for these vehicles have also risen by 41%, going from \$2.98/gallon for diesel in 2010 to \$4.21/gallon in 2024.

Having highfunctioning equipment and vehicles is crucial for a fire department, but you must also have an effective workforce to operate them. In 2021, GFE became a staffed station due to lack of



volunteers. This lack of volunteers was causing an inability to staff emergency apparatus at all times of the day for responses, a problem

almost all volunteer departments are facing. Though it resulted in an expenditure increase to the budget, this move to a staffed station enabled our department to provide protection for the community 24/7.

The challenge that small departments like Germantown Fire-EMS faces is two-fold. Firstly, we do not have the funds

to offer many full-time positions, so promising prospects sometimes go to bigger departments. Secondly, we must also do our best to remain competitive with the part-time positions we can offer; otherwise we can also lose candidates to other smaller departments.

Standards set by the NFPA state that each fire engine and ladder company should be staffed with a minimum of four firefighters. GFE

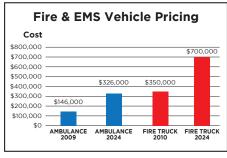


FIGURE 2

t the Upcoming Fire/EMS Levy

lovember 5th. The last levy was passed in 2010, 14 years ago. Below are listed some items artment will need to purchase in the coming years, the need for additional staff within the e to similar communities within the region.

currently operates at this minimum. We staff a crew of three cross-trained Fire-EMS personnel assisted by the Fire Chief. Additionally, if the ambulance is on a call while a fire response is needed, this leaves only one member plus the Chief to handle the other emergency. Since 2010, call volumes have risen by 12.5%, with less staff to now work them (961 in 2010 and

Wage Comparisons with Other Local Communities

Position	Germantown Wage per hour	Madison Township Wage per hour	Trenton Wage per hour
FF/EMT	\$16.81	18.00	19.50
FF/AEMT	\$17.86	\$20.00	\$21.00
FF/P	\$18.91	\$22.00	\$23.50

1081 in 2023). With this increase, it is recommended that a crew of four crosstrained personnel be staffed in the very

Adding a fourth crew member will allow this department to better handle your emergency by having more staff on hand for those crucial calls that

require more manpower, such as cardiac arrest, motor vehicle crashes, and structure fires.

near future. FIGURE 3

ballot is for 4 mills. This increase would still be lower than other communities in the region, with Farmersville at 7.5 mills, New Lebanon at 10 mills, Camden at 7.5 mills. and Miami Township at 11 mills.



But how much would this increase cost the average resident? The proposed levy will cost a taxpayer with a \$200,000.00 valuation in Germantown and German Township approximately \$280.00 additionally per year. That comes out to \$23.33 per month or \$5.38 per week. At \$5.38 per week, this ensures that a any emergency.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANTOWN

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Our annual Holiday Home Tour will return on Sunday, December 8th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Come see Germantown's historic homes festively decorated for the Christmas season. Tickets will be available at our museum prior to the event. You may take the tour at your leisure.

MUSEUM TOURS

To schedule a personal tour of the museum, purchase one of our Carnegie Gift Shop items, or donate artifacts/items to the Society, please call us at 937-855-7951. You may also purchase our shop items at the Germantown Pharmacy or Milk and Hunny at 28 or 18 N Main St, respectively.

HORSE-DRAWN WAGON HOLIDAY LIGHT TOURS

We will have 2 different dates for our horse-drawn wagon Holiday Light Tours this year. These will both begin at 6:00 pm on Sunday, December 15th and Saturday, December 21st. We'll have free hot chocolate and cookies in the museum for before and after your tour. Bring your loved ones (and blankets) and experience a beautiful evening in an old-fashioned mode of transportation. Tickets are \$10 per person. Our museum will be open for purchasing your tickets. Patrons are encouraged to check out our new displays and artifacts while waiting for the tour to begin.



Don't forget to set your clocks BACK ONE HOUR on Sunday, November 3rd!

NEW MURAL & OUTDOOR SEATING AT NEW VIEW NUTRITION



New View Nutrition, on the corner of Plum and Market Streets, has recently added a beautiful new mural to their side wall. This is a wonderful addition to our downtown that their customers and all who pass by will appreciate. Those interested in having a mural of their own created may visit Germantown.oh.us and check out the "Murals/Public Art" page under the "Downtown" section. Business owners interested in applying for reimbursement for outdoor dining supplies may also download an application under the miscellaneous section of the "Forms" page.



There are two major anniversaries in Downtown Germantown this year.

Jackie Ritter of Laffs is celebrating **25 years** of business.

Roger Neargarder of the Village Flower Shop is celebrating 50 years.

Congratulations on these major milestones! Our community is fortunate and better for having these establishments as a part of it!

Important Dates

October 31 Beggar's Night 6-8 pm

November 11
City offices closed
in observance of Veterans Dav

November 28 & 29 City offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

December 1 Dog licenses available for purchase at City Hall

December 24 & 25 City offices closed in observance of Christmas

December 31 & January 1
City offices closed
in observance of the New Year



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 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: October 30

Breakfast

9:30 am, October 25 **Special-Senior Scams Presentation** with Attorney General's Office & Germantown P.D.-RSVP!

Chair Exercise & Yoga

Chair Exercise at 10 am, Yoga at 10:30 am: October 1, December 3

Lunch & Learn, then Craft with the Library

Friday at 11 am: October 18, November 15, December 20

Lunch & Shopping Bus Trip

Friday at 11 am-October 4, October 11, November 1, December 6

Penny Auction

1st Wednesday at 11 am: October 2, November 6, December 4

2nd Wednesday Craft Days

Starts at 11 am: October 9, November 13, December 11

Card Bingo

3rd Wednesday at 11 am: October 16, November 20, December 18

Special Announcements

October 4-11 am Bus trip, Lunch @ Culvers & Shopping @ Monroe Outlets

October 10- 4:30 pm, Senior Oversight Meeting

October 11- 11 am Bus trip, Lunch & Shopping in Waynesville

October 23-10 am, Medicare questions and help with Dave Engle

November 1- 10 am Bus trip, Champagne Aviation Museum in Urbana & Lunch

November 8- 9:30 am Veteran's Breakfast, each Veteran will receive a gift and will be honored. Feel free to bring a guest.

November 19- 10 am Bus trip to Fountain City, IN., Lunch @ Wick's Pies & Shopping at an Amish Market

November 22-12 pm, Thanksgiving Luncheon

December 3-11:30 am, Christmas decorating & Lunch

December 6-11 am Bus trip, Lunch & Christmas shopping @ Austin Landing

December 13, 9:30 am Christmas Breakfast & White Elephant Game

December 16-5 pm Bus trip to Eaton, Dinner @ The Eaton Place, then drive-thru Whispering Christmas

December 19- 10:30 am Bus trip to see Holiday Inn at La Comedia. RSVP by 11/15

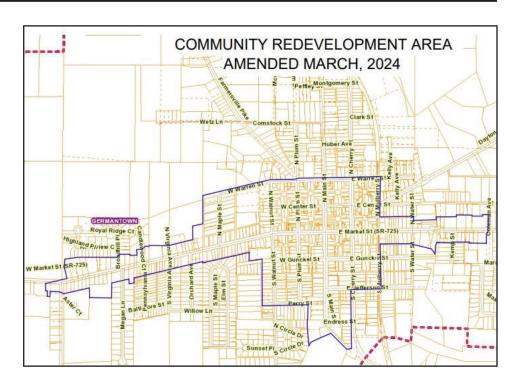




MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
12-2 pm Senior Meals 1 pm Chair Volleyball	•	10 am Quilters 10 am Social Hour with Coffee & Donuts	1 pm Mah Jongg 2 pm Euchre	1 pm Chair Volleyball

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA

The Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) in Downtown Germantown has been expanded. 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. This agreement must be struck before construction begins. Examples of qualifying projects include: building a new porch, adding a garage, remodeling an attic into living space, installing a sun room, new additions to the structure, new construction, structural improvements, or complete rehabs. Essentially, this means any project that would add to the assessed value of your property by the county auditor. Those interested in applying for this program should contact Will Parsons at the City, 937-855-7255.





LEAF COLLECTION BEGINS

Leaf collection is provided to all the Germantown residents who live adjacent to a public roadway. The City will collect leaves mid-October thru mid-December, weather permitting. Please rake your leaves to the edge of your property in an open area where they are accessible to the crews, not behind parked cars, mail boxes, trees, shrubs, etc. The Street Department will be collecting leaves daily. Leaves will not be picked up on holidays. The City will continue to allow residents to bring leaves. to the Service Department located at 148 S. Water Street between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Please place leaves in the designated area. Bagged leaves must be emptied and the bags taken with you. Brush is not accepted.



Christmas Events

Letters to Santa

Would your child like to get a letter from Santa? If so, place their written letters to Santa (including a self-addressed stamped envelope) in the mailbox located in the lobby at City Hall by December 13.

Christmas in the Park

The annual Christmas celebration in Veterans Memorial Park will be held on December 14th. You are invited to visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves in the Depot. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. This event is free to the public and organized by the Germantown/German Township Parks & Recreation Board. Check the City of Germantown Facebook page for more information.

Christmas Lights at Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park will be once again lit up with Christmas lights that are synced with music, creating an exciting and beautiful show all ages should enjoy. Once the holiday season has begun, come visit the park and take a walk through this winter wonderland!

HOMETOWN HEROES BANNER PROGRAM

The Germantown
Veterans Banner
Committee, in
cooperation with the
City of Germantown,
is excited to announce
our Hometown Heroes
Program! This program
will honor the men and
women of Germantown
and German Township
who have proudly served
or are currently serving in
the United States Armed
Forces.

We are looking for individuals, groups, businesses, or organizations who would like to purchase a banner to sponsor a

Hometown Hero. The banners will be displayed annually on approved AES poles in Germantown from Memorial Day through Veterans Day for two consecutive years beginning in 2025. Banners will be stored at the Veterans Memorial Museum and returned to the purchaser once retired.



The cost of a banner is \$150.00. Make checks payable to: *Germantown Veteran Banners*. This is a nonprofit program.

Applications, photos, and checks can be mailed to or dropped off at the Germantown Veterans Memorial Museum Foundation, 123 S. Main St. Germantown OH 45327. Applications are available on the City's website, on the Forms page under "Miscellaneous Forms", or simply visit www.tinyurl. com/GtownVetBanner

CONTENT OF BANNER:

The banners are double-sided, printed on premium vinyl and measure 24" x 48". They will include a photo, name, branch of service, years of service (if known) and/or the war/conflict served in. One medal can be listed.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A HOMETOWN HERO:

The honoree can be anyone who served in any branch of the armed forces. This includes; Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, Honorably Discharged, Retired, or Missing or Killed in Action. The honoree (or their family) must be a resident, past or present, or associated with a business or organization located in Germantown or German Township.

CONTACTS:

- Kay Fradl snafu3644@gmail.com call 937-602-6836 after 6 p.m. or text anytime
- Connie Shaffer mrtshaffer@yahoo.com call 937-272-1026
- Veterans Memorial Museum 937-855-4763
- Mayor Terry Johnson tjohnson@germantown.oh.us, 937-533-6674

STREET DEDICATIONS HONOR LANDIS' AND KOOGLE'S SERVICE

On Saturday, August 3rd, the City of Germantown officially dedicated 2 roads in honor of former City Council members Mayor Ted Landis and Council President Lynn Koogle. The roads dedicated, Water St and W Market St respectively, were selected because it is where the honorees lived. These 2 distinguished gentlemen gave so much of their time and energy to serve the people of Germantown, and their efforts have left a lasting effect which will be felt for years to come. Present for the dedication ceremonies were family members and loved ones of the Council Members. Mayor Terry Johnson gave a speech at both locations, sharing stories and memories of Mayor Landis and Councilman Koogle that highlighted their unique gifts and impact.









POSTAL CUSTOMER

Water Pollution DID YOU KNOW?

Preventing Polluted Runoff is Everybody's Business!

HOMEOWNERS

Pet Waste, Fertilizers, **Chemicals and Auto Fluids**

Homeowners can prevent polluted runoff by using fertilizers and chemicals sparingly, maintaining septic systems and picking up pet waste.

DEVELOPERS

Oil, Heat, Road Salts, **Sediment and Chemicals**

Developers and planners can prevent polluted runoff by using lowimpact development and providing structural and non-structural controls.

FARMERS

Nutrients. Pesticides and Sediment

Farmers can prevent polluted runoff by managing soil and animal feeding operations and buttering streams with native trees and plants.

Information provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. For more information scan the QR code below.



"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

1 North Plum Street

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor		
Torry A	Johnson	077 055 77

Members

Jeff Jones	937.409.3108
Bonnie Koogle	937.416.4533
Michael Kuhn	937.313.0539
Rick Reed	937.367.3954
Rob Rettich	937.361.8711
Brian Wafzig	937 530 0766

City Manager

937.855.7255

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Fire Non-Emergency	. 937.225.4357
Police Non-Emergency	. 937.855.6567
Fire & Police Emergency	911
Pacraation Facility Pontal	077 855 7255

WWW.GERMANTOWN.OH.US



CITY OF GERMANTOWN FACEBOOK PAGES

The City of Germantown Police Department Germantown Aquatic Center

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