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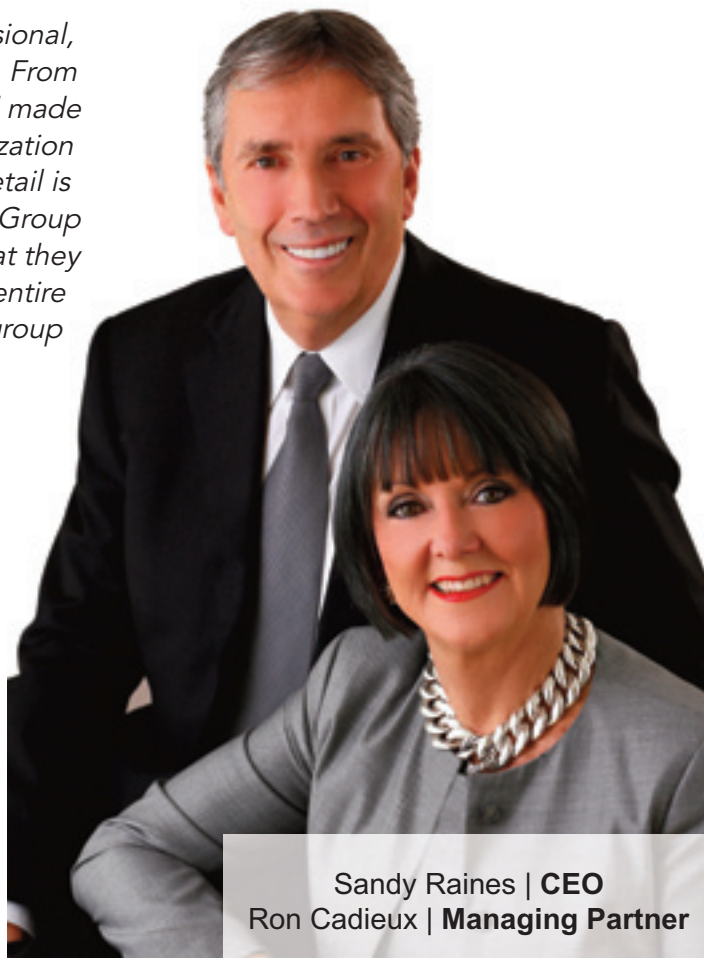
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# WELCOME TO NEW ALBANY

WHEN BUSINESS INSIDER named New Albany as America’s best suburb a little over a year ago, it was an affirmation of our beauty, master planning and aspirational nature.

Our wooded preserves, scenic vistas, timeless Georgian architecture and classic white horse fencing are physical reminders that we live in an inspiring place. Nearly every home is within walking distance of a park as a result of more than 1,800 acres devoted to parks or greenspace. More than 36 miles of trails connect our neighborhoods to our Village Center, the core of our town and home to our 200-acre school learning campus, library, Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts and Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany. This thriving area includes housing, restaurants, coffee houses, offices, retail services and our Rose Run corridor. Construction has also begun in the Village Center on high-end apartments for empty nesters looking to downsize and millennials who want to be within close walking distance to so much activity.

Another sector of New Albany that continues to blossom is the 4,000-acre New Albany International Business Park, the largest master planned office park in Ohio. From entrepreneurs in our incubator to Fortune 500 headquarters, every company in our business park enjoys access to a 96-strand dark fiber optic network and 200 carriers, triple feed electric capabilities, commuter bus service and a bus shuttle. Domestic and international companies alike have invested more than \$2 billion in our business park, where more than 15,000 employees work.

One commonly overlooked factor about New Albany—and what I believe to be the true reason for our success—is our friendly and welcoming nature. People here know their neighbors, and many are ambassadors who



Mayor Sloan Spalding, far right, and his family

give back in ways that have a far-reaching impact. You will read about a number of them throughout this special section.

If you’d like to get to know New Albany a little better, summer and autumn are wonderful times to visit. I encourage you to attend the New Albany Chamber’s Taste of New Albany in Market Square (July 30); come to the Pelotonia finish line at the Heit Center (Aug. 5-6); participate in the A&F Challenge on Abercrombie’s campus (Sept. 8); walk through beautiful New Albany neighborhoods as part of the New Albany Walking Classic, the largest walk in the United States (Sept. 17); or enjoy all the activities of The New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix & Family Day, the premier special equestrian event in North America (Sept. 24). You’ll be glad you did.

*Sloan T. Spalding*

Sloan Spalding  
Mayor

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A Columbus Monthly Suburban Section

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Getting there will be easy. After all, the business park is located along seven miles of freeway. Three highway interchanges. And access to State Route 161 and Interstate 270.

Along the way, you’ll see other aspects of New Albany that make it an ideal place to locate a business. Like a remarkable school campus that reflects the community’s commitment to education. You’ll also see some of the country’s most beautiful neighborhoods. All master-planned.



And built around a vibrant village center.

What’s not easy to see is the real beauty of the business park. Its technological infrastructure. New Albany Net. Not only is it one of the most robust and affordable fiber optic networks in the nation, it also provides access to more than 200 carriers. Tremendous bandwidth. And

the connectivity of a Tier 1 telecom provider.

And the power is always on. Thanks to dual electric feeds throughout the business park. In the business world, it’s called redundant power. Here, we call it a given.

*If you’re looking for third party endorsements, look at this list of companies that recently located in New Albany from out of state:*

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# THE 20-YEAR TRANSFORMATION

*New Albany's Master Plan helps the community flourish and look forward.*

BY JACKIE MANTEY

**I**n 1998, a potential New Albany International Business Park tenant—known then as Project X—visited for a grand tour of New Albany's bells and whistles.

But New Albany didn't have many bells and whistles back then, at least not compared to those it boasts today, which have helped it earn national recognition as the best suburb in the U.S. according to Business Insider and whose development path is studied in lecture halls across the country.

What it did have, though, was a new school campus.

A resident strolls with her dogs along one of New Albany's ubiquitous walking paths.

PHOTO: PETER AARON





Developer Jack Kessler, chairman of The New Albany Company



Discover Financial Services' regional operation center

The team of site selectors, Project X representatives, the mayor and the school district's superintendent made a stop there first.

As they overlooked the buildings that would educate the entire community—and soon become one of the best districts in the state—the superintendent delivered this line:

“A year ago, this site was a cornfield.”

This would come in handy later in the trip, when the group viewed the undeveloped site that planners had envisioned for the sprawling office park.

To make it a reality, New Albany needed to build around \$16 million worth of infrastructure for tenants that did not yet exist. City Council and local community leaders knew the risk would be worth the reward and secured the funds needed to begin the needed improvements.

But would it be enough to convince Project X?

Now it was the mayor's turn.

“Today this is a cornfield. A year from now, this will be the home of a thriving business park.”

If this pitch was successful, Project X would locate a new, 350,000-square-foot flagship regional operation center in this fledgling Central Ohio village. It'd bring with it nearly 2,000 jobs, providing a tax base to fund further development. And it would be a success story that New Albany could hang its hat on as it worked to attract similar investors.

Project X, which we now know was Discover Financial Services, committed to that cornfield. Nearly 15 years later, it also chose the New Albany International Business Park as home for its \$72 million data center.

New Albany drew Discover Financial away from the two bigger-name locations under consideration, beating out Salt Lake City's national appeal and Phoenix's summer-all-the-time climate.

But it was more than a clever pitch that attracted the company. New Albany had been working from a groundbreaking Master Plan for a decade. It was the Master Plan that outlined how to build before any International Business Park investors signed on—a decision that today's city manager, Joe Stefanov, calls “critical to making us the community we are today.”

Nearly two decades after the International Business Park became a reality, it's clear that the Master Plan roots extended even deeper than the corn, to a seed developer Jack Kessler planted in his friend Les Wexner's head.

#### IF YOU BUILD IT...

It was the mid-1980s and Wexner, who had successfully built his retail empire in Central Ohio, wanted a home in the country.

Kessler and Wexner, friends from their days at Ohio State University and residents of Bexley, took Sunday drives through potential locations. Kessler kept telling Wexner he should consider New Albany.

“It was beautiful,” recalls Kessler, who now is The New Albany Company chairman. “And nothing was more than 20 minutes away.”

Today, proximity is known as one of New Albany's strongest attributes. It has retained its country charm while still being just a short drive away from the state capital or a plane to almost anywhere else in the world.

But back then, people knew New Albany as a place they'd get directions to with the



**“Our lucky break was when Les Wexner and Jack Kessler got involved, and our future looks very bright as a result. We are home to so many great young families and new businesses. There is a lot of energy and vibrancy here.”**

—Dr. Glyde Marsh, City Councilmember and Ohio's oldest elected official, resident for 71 years

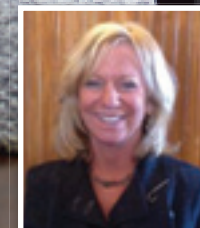
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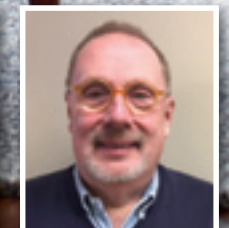
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# Studio J



purchase of their high school's away football game tickets. No one went there for much else.

"It didn't have much of a reputation," Kessler says. "It was very small. The schools were struggling with outdated facilities. ... I knew we could help create the image of New Albany."

They formed The New Albany Company and started purchasing land in 1988. They divided several lots into smaller parcels for homes. They rallied together a team of venerable experts, including architects Jaque Robertson and Gerald McCue, landscape architect Lori Olin and golf-legend-turned-New-Albany-golf-course-designer Jack Nicklaus.

The team of building partners toured Reston, Virginia; Windsor Farms in Richmond, Virginia, and legendary neighborhoods of France and England. Renowned architect Robert Stern advised them on how to design a neighborhood to stand the test of time.

From this research and mindful collaboration, the team put together a comprehensive Master Plan that outlined the architectural and physical requirements that distinguish New Albany to this day—matching mailbox details, white horse fences, wooden street signs, historic street lighting and Georgian Palladianism architecture.

#### FORMING A FOUNDATION

Perhaps the plan's most important element, though, was its addition of the Four Pillars that continue to guide the city: Lifelong Learning, Environmental and Economic Sustainability, Healthy Living, and Arts and Culture.

"These themes are a vision statement about what our community strives to be," says Mayor Sloan Spalding. "By living, working, playing and raising a family in New Albany, our family and others in our community get the chance to truly take part in each of the pillars on a regular basis."

That's because the Four Pillars aren't just guiding ideas written on a dusty document; they're woven into every aspect of the community's development.

"New Albany's high quality of life comes down to two factors: a great environment and wonderful people. We are certainly fortunate to live in a beautiful, master-planned community," says Spalding, who moved to New Albany with his family in 2002. "Detailed civic planning, a walkable community with miles of connected trails, attractive retail amenities, a state-of-the-art performing arts center and an impressive learning campus and library, all in the heart of our town, make for a vibrant community."

Each of those amenities were carefully considered for how they contribute to and exemplify the objectives of the Four Pillars.



Market Square in New Albany's Village Center

### *Designated America's Best Suburb by Business Insider*

 **\$446,730**  
2016 average home sale price

**148**  
events hosted at Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts in 2016

 **1,005,251**  
items circulated by the New Albany Library in 2016

Most homes located within  
**1/4 mile**  
of a park or green space

 **36**  
miles of leisure trails

**1,800**  
acres of greenspace

  
**70+**

Health & wellness classes held at the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany in 2016

  
**15,000+**  
employed at the New Albany International Business Park

**\$2 billion**  
private investment in the New Albany International Business Park

PHOTO: ALAN HINSON; ILLUSTRATIONS: ALYSE KORDENBROCK

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Jeanne B. McCoy  
Community Center  
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**“The best part about New Albany is the small community feeling you experience ... neighbors, colleagues, coaches and friends from school are always welcoming.”**

—Sarah Briggs, vice president of AT&T Ohio, resident for 13 years

“We’ve spent a great deal of time on creating a balanced community of residential and commercial economic development, parks and open space. There’s a very strong commitment to quality of life,” says Bill Ebbing, president of The New Albany Company. “It doesn’t matter what we’re developing and what we’re planning. We always go back to those four things.”

If an amenity doesn’t live up to the standards of the Four Pillars, it won’t get built or efforts for change will be made so it does.

“Whether [it’s] a new mixed-use project or a new commercial or residential project, it needs to be consistent with our underlying values in terms of open space,” says Stefanov.

#### THOUGHTFUL GROWTH

Between 2006 and 2012, the city’s office and commercial land use increased by 75 percent under careful, thoughtful watch. The Master Plan has retail planning guidelines designed to protect investments and residents alike from the potential harm of unrestricted growth.

The plan calls to preserve open spaces and protect natural features. Market Square, in the heart of the community, includes cafés, shopping, restaurants, a branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, a centralized learning campus with all New Albany-Plain Local

schools on one 200-acre site, the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts and the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany, a holistic community health destination. Nearly 36 miles of leisure trails tucked along natural greenways connect this community hub with surrounding neighborhoods.

“We’ve worked really hard to have a lot of parkland,” says Colleen Briscoe, former mayor of New Albany and current member of City Council. “One of our building standards says every resident should be within a quarter mile of a park. That’s a pretty high standard. It makes for a more beautiful community. It means that people have places to play and be active. It just makes for a healthier community.”

While the Master Plan does a lot of the heavy lifting to protect residents’ quality of life, the community’s leaders also prioritize listening to residents when it’s time to strategically update it.

“The Master Plan needs to be malleable, and it changes as the plan expands and the way people live changes,” Ebbing says.

The Master Plan undergoes a strategic update every 10 years, at a minimum.

“However,” Spalding says, “we have also sought updates as conditions change.”

For example, the 1998 strategic update’s Land Use Plan was simplified in 2001 by

PHOTOS: TOP, COURTESY THE MCCOY CENTER; BOTTOM, JIM SHIVELY, LARRY PHILLIPS PHOTOGRAPHY



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A couple enjoys the patio of their Georgian-style home.

combining or eliminating districts where development evolved. The 2001 update also provided a Thoroughfare Plan that outlined the future roadway strategy to service the quick growth.

The latest strategic plan, from 2014, calls for New Albany improvements and continued relationship-building with other Central Ohio community ecosystems.

#### IN IT TOGETHER

"I think our greatest success is our partnerships," Stefanov says. "Not every community is able to have the strong relationships that we enjoy with our other public entities. We have very, very strong partnerships at public and private sector levels. I compare it to a rope: Rope is made up of multiple threads. When you combine those, you have strength. Because of the partnerships we have, we're able to accomplish so much and be very responsive to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves."

Among the 2014 strategic plan recommendations are to continue developing relationships and exploring partnerships with nearby municipalities and jurisdictions, coordinate with Franklin County Metro Parks to grow the Rocky Fork Metro Park, use on-street lanes to connect the New Albany bike system to the bike system of Central Ohio and capitalize on Market Square's role as a gathering place for families by introducing new, mixed-use development that complements the New Albany community.

"The city works hard to ensure robust community participation in the creation and design of our strategic plan," Spalding says.

City staff conduct community surveys to better gauge interest on key issues, as do a number of boards and commissions made up of community volunteers.

"Each plays a key role in the implementation of our Master Plan and strategic plan," Spalding says. "At the end of the day, this is *our* community, and the people that live, work and play here should and do have a voice in defining our collective future."

The Master Plan helps the city stay in touch with its constituents, but it also has a big role in helping the economic engine of New Albany hum—and rapidly grow.

#### TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The New Albany International Business Park generated \$460 in tax revenues the year it opened, according to an article in the *Columbus Dispatch*. By 2013, that total was up to \$11.6 million. That tax base helps fund strategic school and infrastructure improvements, because New Albany generates the majority of its revenue from income taxes. Those community investments improve quality of life, which in turn helps attract more business.

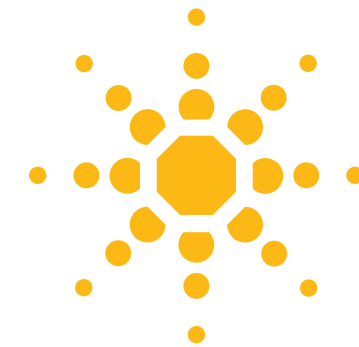
"When companies approach us, they're looking at the quality of life for their employees as much as the overall environment for the company," Ebbing says. "They look at who their neighbors are going to be and see they're going to locate in a business park that is 80 percent



**“New Albany has been great in supporting my Green Team efforts. The city service department has been gracious in providing us all the equipment we need for the litter cleanup and pickup of trash removal.”**

—Haydn Mercer, student at New Albany Intermediate School, resident for nine years

PHOTOS: TOP: PETER AARON; BOTTOM: LAUREN MERCER



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owner-occupied, rather than the majority of it being leased. That means a lot to them. Knowing that the quality of what they're developing is going to be consistent with their neighbors, they know they're making a very sound investment."

The Master Plan's retail planning guidelines are designed to build clusters of activity to encourage commerce. The city's commitment helps developers and businesses trust New Albany and know what to expect, helping decisions get made faster.

"The Master Plan is not an old relic," Briscoe says. "The thing that's so great about having a Master Plan is when a developer comes in, there's not a lot of haggling and red tape. That plan is very detailed. This actually allows us to move more quickly than we would otherwise."

It also reinforces standards that new builds must adhere to.

"When a business comes in, they know we expect them to build an environmentally sound and sustainable building," Briscoe says. "We expect it to be LEED standard. We're very supportive and we encourage them to be environmentally friendly."

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Master Plan's impact will continue to unfold over the next 20 years. The 45-mile radius around New Albany offers a workforce that's 1.3 million strong. Its commitment to quality of life and business planning excellence is bound to continue earning New Albany attention and accolades.

"It is really the people that make New Albany so special," Spalding says. "New Albany citizens are highly engaged in their community,



Participants in the annual New Albany Walking Classic

care about their neighbors and are generous and giving of their time and resources toward our collective improvement and sustainability. Plus, a lot of families in New Albany moved here from someplace else, which helps create a truly welcoming community."

And New Albany is always looking forward. Whether it's working to protect natural spaces in western Licking County, offering an array of townhomes close to the bustle of Market Square for millennials and empty nesters, or determining how the International

Business Park could provide parking, services or technology for self-driving cars, The New Albany Company, the city and its many partners are working toward the future.

That combination of collaboration and well-planned risk-taking is exactly what turned this place from a horizon of corn stalks to the thriving community it is today.

"I think it's the culture of the community that we're most proud of," says Kessler, who enjoys walking the trails daily. "You have to try hard not to love it here."

## MASTER PLAN GUIDES TRANSFORMATION

When Business Insider named New Albany "America's Best Suburb," there was much to celebrate. After all, this "master planned community built upon the best traditions of small-town America," as described by its website, was designed to be held to the highest standards.

In 2015, The New Albany Community Foundation's Jefferson Series convened the world-renowned planners who had been involved in the transformational development of the community. Included were retail mogul Les Wexner and real estate giant Jack Kessler, who together founded The New Albany Company in the 1980s to develop a master plan



to help guide the growth of the community; Jaque Robertson, former dean of the University of Virginia School of Architecture; architect Graham Wyatt; Gerald

McCue, a professor emeritus of design at Harvard University, and Laurie Olin, a professor of landscape architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

Emmy Award-winning journalist Charlie Rose moderated the panel discussion before a sold-out audience at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts. The panelists discussed the effective and innovative master planning of New Albany's details, ranging from minute—like the number of rails on the community's iconic white horse fencing—to substantial facets like the centrally located, inclusive school campus.

The result was best summarized by Rose, who declared, "New Albany was an experiment that worked." —Craig Mohre, president of The New Albany Community Foundation

PHOTOS: TOP, COURTESY THE NEW ALBANY WALKING CLASSIC; BOTTOM, LORN SPOLTER

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# HOME SWEET HOME

*Having a house in New Albany isn't just about living in a beautiful home, but enjoying a vibrant, family-friendly community of tree-lined streets, walking and running trails and more than 1,800 acres of greenspace.*

BY TAYLOR SWOPE

**W**hen you talk to New Albany Mayor Sloan Spalding, his strong passion for the community he represents is obvious.

"We are pretty fortunate," he says, recalling the city's transformation from an agricultural center to a popular residential and commercial destination for Central Ohioans.

Jane Lennox, a New Albany resident and New Albany Realty sales agent, finds that families relocating from other cities immediately respond to the community's aesthetic, connectivity and culture.

"The ability to walk to parks, the school campus, restaurants, shops, our arts center, library and community health center is particularly appealing to families that are new to Central Ohio. They know that walkability and community programming and amenities in a centralized location creates opportunities to get involved and get to know new friends and neighbors," Lennox says. "I think that is really a hallmark of living in New Albany. It's not just an incredibly beautiful place to call home; it's also an extraordinarily welcoming community."

Jeff Ruff, co-owner of German Village-based realty firm Vutech-Ruff, also understands the appeal of New Albany as both a real estate agent and a resident.

"If folks have children or are planning on having children, the schools are excellent," Ruff says. He adds that there is variety in location and cost for potential buyers of all ages to consider during their housing search.

An example of the community's classic architecture

PHOTO: PETER AARON



Ruff says the central location of New Albany influenced his decision to buy property there. "I moved to New Albany due to easy freeway access from my office Downtown, proximity to the airport and shopping at Easton," he explains, adding that those attractors are common motivators for city residents.

"New Albany is a place where simple pleasures like hiking and biking harmoniously exist among conveniences like restaurants and retail," says Lauren Smith, director of communities for Kaufman Development.

To respond to the city's need for residential options that appeal to empty-nesters and millennials, Kaufman Development and the Daimler Group are building apartments at Market and Main, in the heart of the Village Center. Kaufman Development will manage the apartments in partnership with The New Albany Company. The 130 units of this premier residential development will be just steps from Market Street; it is expected to open in summer 2018.

In addition to providing desirable housing stock, New Albany is one of Ohio's safest communities, according to its police department, thanks to positive interactions between officers, residents and businesses. Services include vacation house checks, neighborhood patrols and various safety education programs.



New Albany  
Safety Town

One such program, Safety Town, was launched in 2004 in partnership with the city, Plain Township and New Albany-Plain Local Schools, with support from Key Bank and the New Albany Women's Network. Program director Lisa Carson says nearly 4,000 kindergarten and first-grade students have gradu-

ated from this safety education camp since its inception. Topics include bikes and helmets, playground safety, stranger awareness, home safety and information about poison control and 9-1-1 etiquette.

"By using a hands-on approach, children absorb important information and have fun at the same time," says Carson. She mentions the camp is sold out every year and is made possible by many corporate and local business sponsorships.

For women over 18 years old, the department offers a free RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) course in self-defense. More than 1,000 women in the community have taken the course to learn tips to help fight against potential sexual assault, domestic violence or harassment situations.

And for all residents, New Albany police officers teamed up with their counterparts in nearby Gahanna to host a citizens' police academy earlier this year. The free, 10-week course showcased what it is like to be a police officer and taught lessons on laws of arrest, search and seizure, crime scene investigation and emergency dispatching.

New Albany is a desirable residential market for many reasons, but the community's dedication to four basic tenets makes it so

PHOTO: A. GRABASKAS

much more than safe, pretty homes. Spalding explains that New Albany has four pillars it identifies as goals for the community: Lifelong Learning, Healthy Living, Environmental and Economic Sustainability, and Arts and Culture. Examples of these pillars are visible throughout the community, he says. For example, Jack and Charlotte Kessler—longtime residents and members of the business community—were an integral part of founding the library on Market Street. "In any great small town in America, that is always a centerpiece," says Spalding.

#### LIFELONG LEARNING

Craig Mohre has been president of The New Albany Community Foundation since 2002, when fundraising began for the New Albany branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. He explains that the Foundation's mission to "help build an extraordinary community by generating resources for transformational investments in lifelong learning, health and wellness, arts and culture, and the environment" is supported through generous donors.



PHOTO: COURTESY BHAWANA KOHLI

**“New Albany is not just a pretty face; New Albany has heart! We were attracted by the amazing homes, resort-like living and great schools, but what we fell in love with is the engaging and enriching community of people.”**

—Bhawana Kohli, resident for nine years

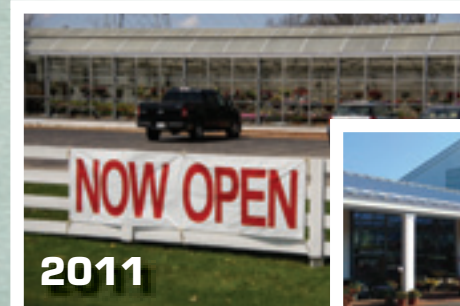
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—Ryan Hill, resident for five years

Mohre adds that the Foundation exists to serve its donors and collaborate with the city, nearby Plain Township, the school district and local residents to enhance the community, in part through events like its Jefferson Series, a speaker program featuring noteworthy thought leaders throughout the year. The 2017-18 season begins Oct. 25 with Charles Osgood, an Emmy Award-winning news anchor and author. Other planned speakers include military generals Michael Hayden, Stanley McChrystal and Peter Pace. The series closes in May 2018 with journalist Elizabeth Vargas.

Spalding says the Jefferson Series is a “great opportunity for the community to come together to talk about issues and coalesce.” Speakers also meet with local students during the school day; Mohre says more than 10,000 Central Ohio students have interacted with visiting speakers in the event’s history.

PHOTO: COURTESY RYAN HILL

## HEALTHY LIVING

A happy community is a healthy one, and a centerpiece of New Albany’s Healthy Living pillar is the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany. The namesake of the center is the founder of Healthy New Albany, the New Albany Walking Club and the New Albany Walking Classic. Heit also is a professor emeritus of physical activity and educational services at Ohio State University.

Several years ago, Heit met with Mohre to discuss how The New Albany Community Foundation could help create a recreational and fitness center for the growing community. “We wanted to make health a focus in the community and to create a culture of wellness,” says Heit.

The center, in partnership with Nationwide Children’s Hospital and OSU’s Wexner Medical Center, takes a holistic approach to wellness. Health services include primary care, sports medicine, physical therapy, orthopedics, integrative medicine and additional services for adults, teens and children. The center addresses the diet side of wellness through a community garden with more than 50 plots and a farmers market with more than 65 vendors. Its fitness center offers a comprehensive wellness assessment with tailored plans and coaching and fitness classes, an aquatics area, free weights and health and wellness events.

PHOTO: COURTESY JAMES DE CAMP



Gen. David Petraeus speaks to students during his appearance at the Jefferson Series, presented by The New Albany Community Foundation.



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The New Albany Symphony Orchestra

"I am here 10 hours a day on average, but I have fun and am upbeat because of the impact we are having," Heit says, citing the lives changed by the center as the best part of his job.

Spalding credits two events for contributing to the city's healthy living focus. New Albany has hosted multiple stops along the Pelotonia course since its inception in 2008. The annual weekend cycling event is a major fundraiser for OSU's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

"We brag a little about the number of [riders from the] 43054 [ZIP code] in Pelotonia every year," says Spalding, adding that New Albany hosts the 50-, 100- and 180-mile stops along the one- and two-day courses. Many New Albany residents volunteer their time to the cause as well, supporting riders at rest stations and helping with other areas of the event.

Spalding's second key event, the Abercrombie & Fitch-sponsored A&F Challenge, is held annually at their corporate office in New Albany. It was founded in 2001 and features live music, a 5K race, local food and drinks and activities for adults and children. The event benefits SeriousFun Children's Network, a global community of camps for kids with serious illnesses and their families, and it usually draws more than 3,000 guests, says John Gabrielli, senior vice president of human resources for Abercrombie & Fitch.

Spalding also recognizes the Thanks For Giving 4 Miler race, which began last year on Thanksgiving Day. The race raised \$150,000 for The New Albany Community Foundation, LifeCare Alliance and the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

Despite the city's growth and development, greenspace remains very important to residents and community leaders alike.

Rocky Fork Metro Park—which opened in 2015 as a partnership among the cities of

Columbus and New Albany, Plain Township and Metro Parks—has almost 1,100 acres of woods and fields, says Metro Parks executive director Tim Moloney. "These entities came together to create a space to not only conserve our natural resources, but also a space where people can get away from the hustle and bustle of life," he adds. The park offers miles of hiking trails, horseback riding, a dog park, a wetland complex and an off-leash dog trail.

"Without the Metro Parks, we could have a world where our future generations have no idea what it is like to walk through a forest or wade through a creek," says Moloney.

For those who are more urban-minded, New Albany Parks and Recreation offers youth and adult sporting leagues, chess, engineering for children, a "medical school" for children, a running club and a free, family-friendly summer movie series. "We want the community to be engaged, stay active and enjoy the outdoors," says director Dave Wharton.

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

Mayor Spalding says the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts plays a vital role in New Albany's arts and culture scene: The entire community came together to build this space in 2008 with help from The New Albany Community Foundation.

The New Albany Symphony Orchestra performs three concerts a year at the center, and CAPA has partnered with the McCoy Center to bring national programming to New Albany. Thanks to a donation from the Merstad Family Foundation, the center has a state-of-the-art movie theater with digital projection and a robust sound system. Film programming, known as the Merstad Digital Experience, includes movie nights throughout the year.

The center's 2017-18 season begins Oct. 25 and runs through May 9, 2018. In addition to its own programming, the venue serves as a performance space for local theater groups and school events throughout the year.

PHOTO: JACK GARNER



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Residents stroll along Market Street in the community's Village Center.

PHOTOS: LEFT, PETER AARON; RIGHT, SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

# THE HEART OF NEW ALBANY

*Growing the community core remains a main focus of New Albany; it's a place for all to gather for business, education and recreation.*

BY PETER TONGUETTE

In the eyes of many residents and onlookers, New Albany is synonymous with pastoral pleasures. In 1993, six years after reimagining the northeast suburb as a country club community, Les Wexner recalled his modest-sounding aims to *Bloomberg*: "I wanted to build a house in the country."

Much of the area's rural atmosphere remains to this day: In neighborhoods like Fenway and Planter's Grove, stately homes are situated on sweeping lawns. Golf courses stretch as far as the eye can see. Bike paths meander through parks.

Yet in recent years, New Albany has evolved into a place with plenty to do. In a concentrated community core, arts aficionados take in concerts at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, foodies can choose from a number of quality restaurants—including Hudson 29, Rusty Bucket and FireFly American Bistro, to name a few—and those committed to healthy living can avail themselves of the services available at the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany.

Many important civic institutions—including the New Albany-Plain Local Schools learning campus, Village Hall, the post office and fire station—are also located in the hub of New Albany, known as the Village Center.

"Physical places are important to any community," says Cherie Nelson, executive director of the New Albany Chamber of Commerce. "Geographical locations where people come together, whether it's a coffee shop or a beautiful place like Market Square or a common, [are] nice."

According to Jennifer Chrysler, the city's director of community development, New Albany's Village Center is larger than many might assume.



**“New Albany’s Farmers Market and Community Garden are successful because of the passion and hard work of the individuals who organize and manage these endeavors. Our community members like to roll up their sleeves and make things happen.”**

—Jackie Krebs, helped manage the Farmers Market for three years and has been involved with the Community Garden since its inception in 2011, currently serving as president, resident for 19 years



"We have the historic Village Center, which is the High and Main [streets] area," Chrysler says. "The northernmost boundary of the Village Center actually encompasses the school campus to the west, but then it goes east, and it includes the Windsor subdivision and the fire station. ... And then the southernmost portion of the Village Center is the Market Street area."

The layout departs from many communities in Central Ohio.

"If you look at suburbs these days, a lot of them kind of lost their heart and soul," says Craig Mohre, president of The New Albany Community Foundation. "As the emergence of automobiles happened and these suburbs grew later, the automobiles drove the planning. You could put schools and libraries and city halls ... wherever land was available, because people could drive to them."

By contrast, the planners of New Albany sought to preserve what had always been the center of the city: where State Route 161 and U.S. Route 62 meet.

"They decided, 'We would like to keep that vibrant and keep it as the center of town,'" Mohre says. "If we can locate all those institutional buildings, they serve as anchors so that the small shops and restaurants can ... thrive."



Runners in the Independence Day 5K benefiting the New Albany Symphony Orchestra

The Village Center is a stone's throw from such neighborhoods as North of Woods and Straits Farm and a short stroll from Hampsted Village and Hampsted Heath. Such walkability is coveted by citizens today, Mayor Sloan Spalding says.

"They want to have services and arts and education opportunities within proximity to where they live," he adds. "We were able to put all of that in one area and really create a lot of synergy."

New Albany resident Philip Heit, an emeritus professor at Ohio State University and Heit Center namesake, says that walkability encourages good habits, too.

"It's so important to walk to where you want to get versus hopping in a car, because we're all about promoting well-being. It's well-being economically, it's well-being mentally, it's well-being physically," Heit says. "By having everything together, you do promote a healthier environment."

If the Village Center as a whole represents the heart of New Albany, the Columbus Metropolitan Library branch in Market Square provides its pulse. Located at the center of the square, the library was conceived as a main feature of New Albany.

"The community has always had a commitment to young minds of the community, and it's also a planned community in many ways," says branch manager Joe Yersavich. "It's very thoughtful in its construction."

By any measure, the branch has flourished since opening its stacks to the public

PHOTO: MARK SIGRIST

in 2003: Last year, it boasted more than 270,000 visits and circulated more than 1 million items, according to Yersavich.

Such success would not have happened, however, in the absence of community leadership.

The Columbus Metropolitan Library aimed for a branch in New Albany, Mohre recalls, but limited funding was a roadblock. That's when The New Albany Community Foundation stepped in.

"We approached them and said, 'If we raise money for book collections and the computers and everything that goes inside the library, would you build it?'" Mohre says. "And the answer was yes."

Dubbed "A Remarkable Evening," the 2002 library fundraiser featured Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough speaking



**"I spent two years working with TEDxNewAlbany, and in that time I saw it grow from a school-based club to a community organization. The growth was only possible because of the strong support from New Albany leaders, who offered an endless supply of guidance, support and resources."**

—Miles Waytes, co-director of speakers for TEDxNewAlbany, resident for four years

PHOTO: STUDIO 187



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The New Albany  
Country Club

at the home of Les and Abigail Wexner. The event brought in \$200,000 more than its \$1 million goal. “We gave \$1 million of that to the library,” Mohre says. “We put the rest into an endowment fund to support ongoing programming at the library.”

A Remarkable Evening—which morphed into a yearly fundraiser benefiting the Foundation—gave rise to the Jefferson Series, in which lectures by top-flight speakers are presented to the general public at the McCoy Center. Recent guests include Patrick Kennedy, Peggy Noonan and Gen. David Petraeus.

“We bring in these very influential thought leaders, and hopefully ... their message is timely to launch a community discussion,” Mohre explains.

Another center of activity near the heart of the city is the New Albany Country Club. Built 25 years ago as a focal point for the community, it features a recently remodeled clubhouse and enjoys the talent of Central Ohio restaurateur Kent Rigsby, who provides culinary direction for all member-hosted and special events.

Market Square remains a magnet of activity in New Albany. Parades on Founders Day and Independence Day pass through the area, while epicureans are enticed by farmers markets and the Chamber’s annual Taste of New Albany. The latter event offers attendees the chance to sample dishes (and beverages) in an outdoor gathering.

“[It] grows in popularity every year,” Nelson says. “It has sold out well in advance of the



Participants in Honor Ride Ohio

event the past two years. It features all the best things in life: outdoors, live music, adult beverages and food from area restaurants.”

To ensure that residents are sufficiently hale and hearty to indulge in such pleasures, the Heit Center was established in 2014. Situated on Main Street, the center serves as the home to a range of wellness-related services available from the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Its origins can be traced to more modest efforts to promote well-being in New Albany.

“In partnership with The New Albany Community Foundation, a group of interested people in the community was convened, and

we said, ‘Let’s get this community healthy,’” Heit says. “One group started a farmers market. Another wanted community gardens.”

In time, Heit says, a more ambitious, all-inclusive idea was proposed: “Why don’t we have an actual physical facility that focuses on preventive health?”

Heit, who has led a popular walking club in New Albany since 2003, found city leaders to be receptive. “People often ask me, if I’m giving a talk somewhere, ‘Well, what barriers did you come across?’” he says. “I say, ‘Really, none—just little things like what color should we put in the lobby. ... The city, [which] built the building and owns the building, was pretty excited and very supportive.”

PHOTOS: TOP: PETER AARON; BOTTOM: COURTESY HONOR RIDE OHIO



**“The Thanks For Giving 4 Miler was successful immediately because it is an event that directly aligns with what the city of New Albany is all about. The sense of community, commitment to wellness and giving back are what I love about New Albany. The support we received from the city and members of the community was truly inspiring.”**

—Kasey Kist, co-founder of the Thanks For Giving 4 Miler, owner of Keystone Building Contractors, resident for 13 years

The Heit Center, in turn, attracts a number of wellness and philanthropic events, like the annual Honor Ride Ohio. New Albany’s Peter and Susie Horvath organize the second-largest Honor Ride in the country to benefit veterans through Project Hero.

The center’s presence has made the area more desirable for commercial tenants, too.

“Once we announced that the city was going to make that commitment to build that facility, The New Albany Company went right to work in developing the rest of Market Street,” Spalding says. “Hudson 29, the Mellow Mushroom, the bank, the dentist’s office, the law firms—they

PHOTO: ROBB SHIREY



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Philip Heit Center for  
Healthy New Albany

all quickly followed, because the city made the commitment to grow in that area."

The German Village-based Butcher Shop Fitness—offering the patented Lagree Fitness method—chose Market Square for its second location, which opened in 2015.

"We just viewed New Albany as being a community that was very fitness-oriented ... and would appreciate a new, innovative fitness concept," says co-proprietor Jon Benowitz, who also found the Heit Center's proximity to be an asset. "We really thought what we're offering augments and is in addition to what they've got."

For those who want to live a hop, skip or jump from Market Square, the area is experiencing residential growth. Scheduled to open soon are senior-living facility First & Main and apartments at Market and Main, a deluxe complex. The goal is to increase population without burdening the school system.

"High-end luxury apartments ... are being designed in such a way that they're discouraging having children living in that facility," Spalding says. "And then it's really the empty nesters. We have this phenomenon in New Albany where folks ... have the sign in the yard saying, 'Congratulations, Johnny, on graduation and being enrolled at Miami University.' And then, the next day, there's a for-sale sign. We don't want them to leave."

Meanwhile, tucked on a choice perch on the school's learning campus is the McCoy Center. Since its unveiling in 2008, the CAPA-managed venue—featuring a main theatre with 783 seats and a smaller black box space—pro-



Ultimate U Total Health personal trainer Chris Irwin spots for a client at the New Albany gym.

vides a venue for both school events and out-of-town artists, including recent appearances by Rosanne Cash and Peter Frampton.

"I feel like it's always been the pulse of the community because it links the town center, it links our school district, it links our business park," says Jill Beckett-Hill, board chair of the McCoy Center. "There are so many great artists that come through our theater. And not only that—the quality of our drama department, our choirs and our bands and orchestra and jazz."

Among its best-known homegrown ensembles is the New Albany Symphony Orchestra, the brainchild of New Albany

resident (and Columbus Symphony Orchestra violist) Heather Garner.

"When I heard they were building the center, I was of course so excited that a hall like that would be in my backyard," she says. "With the arts center being built, I knew that a symphony orchestra would just be a beautiful fit."

The orchestra's roster has grown to more than 80 musicians, including professionals, students and youngsters.

"We wanted to be very open-arms about this orchestra and try to include as many people as we could," says Garner, who has

PHOTO: TOP, PETER AARON; BOTTOM, COURTESY ULTIMATE U TOTAL HEALTH



**“The New Albany Community Foundation serves as a convener in the focus areas of health, lifelong learning, the arts and the environment. The Foundation has helped bring donors together to support some very important additions to our community, such as ... the Jefferson Series, one the most highly regarded lecture series in America. [My wife] and I continue to make an impact in the community through the Foundation. They make it easy, and we can see the positive outcomes.”**

—Dr. Keith R. Berend, president of White Fence Surgical Suites New Albany, senior partner at Joint Implant Surgeons New Albany, community member for 15 years

PHOTO: LORN SPOLTER

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also made “sensory-friendly” concerts—intended for concertgoers with autism or Alzheimer’s disease, for example—a staple of the symphony’s programming.

“Going back to the ‘90s, McDonald’s tried to go on that site—so did CVS Pharmacy—and community leaders didn’t want it used for that purpose,” Mohre says of the McCoy Center’s locale. “If you look at that spot, it’s the center of town. It’s a little bit raised on a hill, and it’s contiguous to the entire school campus.”

Soon, however, the artists and acts gracing the stages of the center will spill outside: An amphitheater is planned for a nearby spot.

“If you walked out the front door of the McCoy, there’s an open field there—it’ll be right there,” Mohre explains. “Not only is that more efficient because there’s shared parking—and if it rains you have the backup of going into the McCoy—but from a programmatic standpoint, it offers new opportunities.”

For example, Mohre says, a Shakespeare or music festival could make use of three connected venues: the two theaters housed within the McCoy, plus the amphitheater.

“At the end of the day, I think it’s sort of a ‘Field of Dreams,’ ” Spalding says. “If we build it, can we get a Shakespeare festival? Yeah, I think we can.”

Another dream soon to be realized in the city: increased connectivity between the learning campus (including the McCoy Center) and Market Square. Enhancements are scheduled to be made to the Rose Run corridor, a creek that runs alongside Dublin-Granville Road and separates the learning campus from Market Square.

“If you’ve spent time at the learning campus or over at the library, you appreciate that currently the Rose Run corridor [is] really a barrier between the two,” Spalding says. “We really challenged our design team to look at that. ... We want the learning campus and city center to be connected.”

Plans call for a brick patio to be overlaid on the road and a bridge over the creek to link the middle school and the library. “It’ll almost make the back of the library another front door,” Mohre says.

It is a safe bet that the improvements will further boost New Albany’s burgeoning Village Center.

“We’re trying to enhance the things that we’re known for—our master planning, our great architecture, our design commitments—but also wanting New Albany to be the place where people work, live and play, and raise a family,” Spalding says. “We’re America’s No. 1 suburb, but we didn’t ask for that designation. Someone bestowed it on us, but we really want to defend our title.”



## FAMILY FUN

*The New Albany Classic celebrates 20 years of supporting healthy families.* **BY LISA HINSON**

### HOW TO GO

**WHEN:** Sunday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Wexner residence, 4584 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road, New Albany

**TICKETS:** Adults \$30, children 4-12 years old \$7, children 3 and younger free; purchase at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), the Equus Now showroom in Lewis Center, the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany or Easton Town Center’s guest services desk. Ticket cost includes access to all activities, exhibitions and entertainment, including the Concert at The Classic with Nick Jonas and the Grand Prix competition. Parking is complimentary.



Nick Jonas

**IT IS NO SURPRISE** that America’s No. 1 suburb, as recognized by Business Insider, hosts unique events that bring people together throughout the year. One of the community’s largest events, The New Albany Classic Invitational Grand Prix & Family Day, has been nationally recognized as setting the standard for other events of its kind.

The North American Riders Group named The Classic the No. 1 specialty equestrian event in North America for four consecutive years, praising it as a “well-planned, well-managed and beautifully executed day in the country” and lauding the way the event develops new fans of show jumping while raising significant funds to support family violence initiatives.

The daylong annual event takes place on the grounds of Les and Abigail Wexner’s home and includes a family fair with carnival rides, live entertainment, sports experiences, car displays, farm tours, petting zoos, a pop concert and an internationally sanctioned Grand Prix show jumping competition featuring 30 of the world’s best riders and their mounts.

In addition to providing an entertaining combination of show jumping and family fun, The Classic celebrates healthy families and generates support for the work of The Center for Family Safety and Healing, an organization that aims to break the cycle of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, teen dating abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. To date, The Classic has raised more than \$30 million, thanks to support from sponsors and tickets sales from the more than 15,000 people who attend each year.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of The Classic, to the delight of event founder and New Albany resident Abigail Wexner, who wondered if anyone would turn out to the inaugural Classic in 1998.

“The generosity of the corporate community and foundations, plus the loyal support of so many individual donors and volunteers, has made The Classic extraordinarily successful,” says Wexner. “Raising \$30 million far exceeds the expectations I had when we began and indicates that our community believes in the important

work of The Center and the impact it is having on people’s lives.”

She promises some interesting twists in this milestone anniversary year, most notably a concert by multi-platinum artist Nick Jonas. The Concert at The Classic was originally the idea of New Albany-based tween retailer Justice, which helped launch the music series 10 years ago. The first performers were The Jonas Brothers, setting the concert on a path of presenting some of the hottest rising pop stars in the country, including Jordin Sparks, Demi Lovato, Fifth Harmony, Ariana Grande, Timeflies and AJR, among others.

Spectators are not shy about cheering on the Olympic, FEI Show Jumping World Cup and Pan American Games competitors during the Grand Prix, which takes place on the John G. McCoy Show Field at noon on event day. The skill and athleticism of the horse and rider combinations make for a thrilling class, with thousands of spectators lining the field to root for their favorites.

*Lisa Hinson is publicist for The Classic.*

PHOTOS: TOP LEFT AND MIDDLE, MEG ATT; TOP RIGHT, ERIN GILMORE; BOTTOM, COURTESY NICK JONAS

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# EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

New Albany students gather on the high school's lawn during Peace Week, an annual tradition.

PHOTO: PATRICK GALLAWAY

*Everyday moments truly make New Albany-Plain Local Schools a special district. From the innovation and creativity of students and staff to the investment made by the community in support of students, New Albany-Plain Local is a district focused on the future.*

BY PATRICK GALLAWAY

**T**he school board and administration have developed a guiding purpose for the learning community: "To create a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student." It is through a collaborative partnership with staff, students and community that the district strives to be one of the leading districts in the state. This is why New Albany-Plain Local Schools established the phrase "Students First" as an aspirational mantra.

The district is committed to putting all students at the core of every decision. Its 4,820 students congregate on a one-campus concept every day, making New Albany-Plain Local unique among most school districts in Ohio. Being situated on one campus lends itself to natural collaboration among the grades, school buildings and staff.

This resource-sharing allows high school seniors to serve as guest readers in kindergarten and first-grade classrooms or as tutors for elementary and middle school students. For the younger set, this partnership manifests as students in the upper grades of the elementary school develop leadership skills by mentoring students in the younger grades. And a coming together of kids across all grade levels is evident during performances at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts in celebrations of diversity through song, dance and more.

## THE LEARNING CAMPUS: TRULY UNIQUE

The district is at the heart of the New Albany community, just off the village's Market Square. The Jeffersonian-style brick buildings that make up the central campus, surrounded by 80 acres of woodlands, wetlands and nature preserves, are the heart of this vibrant community.

This is an exciting time in New Albany-Plain Local Schools, as the district continues the journey to become one of the nation's





Middle school production of "Grease"

highest-performing school districts through a comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan. At its core is a commitment to the continued focus on academic rigor, and the district is making great progress toward this ambitious goal.

Some highlights of the 2016–17 school year that showcased the work of students, staff and the contributions by our valued community partners include:

- **97 percent** of graduates pursued higher education.
- **More than 300** middle and high school orchestra students had the opportunity to work and perform with Mark Wood, founder of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.
- Students performed on a professional stage in Broadway productions: **"The Addams Family,"** a school version of **"Grease"** and **"Mr. Burns,"** a post-electric play and a Central Ohio premiere.
- The grant-funded **Author-in-Residence** program gave all students an opportunity to work with and learn directly from published authors and illustrators, including Neal Shusterman, Sarah Weeks and Lauren Castillo.
- **The Jefferson Series**, funded by The New Albany Community Foundation, brought opportunity to learn from world-renowned speakers. Patrick J. Kennedy focused on community well-being, and Gen. David Petraeus presented on leadership.

Of course, this is only a small sample of the incredible partnerships with and work accomplished by New Albany students



**"Whether students are succeeding in the classroom, on stage or on the field, New Albany celebrates them, and we also celebrate the adults who provide them guidance and encouragement [to support] ... ongoing achievement."**

—Mark Wilson, resident for 13 years

#### PRIVATE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### COLUMBUS JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Columbus Jewish Day School is Central Ohio's only kindergarten through sixth-grade community Jewish day school, combining Jewish and general studies under one roof on a 7-acre campus. CJDS students come from more than 15 Central Ohio ZIP codes—and include Jewish families from a wide range of backgrounds—for a robust, religiously progressive, whole-child, integrated education.

Students are nurtured and challenged to achieve a three-part school mission: intellectual sophistication, social responsibility and personal authenticity, traits that students need (according to the school's mission statement) "to be creative participants in and active contributors to complex contemporary American life." In addition to rigorous academics, CJDS places an emphasis on personal responsibility and character development, encouraging students to practice the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, or "fixing the world."

CJDS students have access to several dynamic, hands-on experiences. For instance, it is the only local K-6 school to be certified as a Project WILD school through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' supplementary education program that emphasizes awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural resources and wildlife.

CJDS has called New Albany home for more than 17 years, proudly cultivating lasting community relationships. "CJDS is a community-minded institution, participating in local events such as the New Albany Walking Classic and connecting to local businesses through the New Albany Chamber of Commerce," says Rabbi Tali Zerkowicz, head of the school.

Zerkowicz adds that the school itself has grown into its own welcoming and thriving community.

"CJDS families join more than a school; they become part of a community [that shares] life cycles, holidays and the raising of children," she explains. "Stepping into CJDS enters you into a world of children and adults engaged in the joy of learning [and] creating deep and lasting relationships, empowered leaders and caring *mensches* who each day practice making the world a better place. Every one of the staff and faculty of CJDS is committed to helping children reach their full potential as critical thinkers, joyful learners and community-minded citizens." —Brooke Preston

PHOTOS: TOP: TODD SLOAN; BOTTOM: SCOTT CUNNINGHAM



**Yes, New Albany sells itself.  
But it's still nice to talk  
to the experts.**



Kathy Daniels



Alan Hinson



Traci Kaniaris



Jane Kessler Lennox



Jean Lesnick



Mark Neff



Kate Thomas



Tony Thomas



Sharon Cardinal



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through the generosity of our community, the talent and efforts of faculty and the support of district parents. Collaborations like these enforce the district's guiding purpose and ensures that New Albany students leave the campus with the skills, knowledge and experience needed to compete and succeed beyond graduation.

Two recent grant-funded additions to the campus are the MIT Fabrication Lab, opened in the 2014-15 school year and featuring college-level coursework through the College Credit Plus initiative, and the Easton-OSU Engineering, Environmental and Energy Land Lab, which will be available in the fall of 2017. The focus on service learning is woven into the fabric of the district, with initiatives in each building. The practice is capped off by a senior experience with 25 hours of community service and an 80-hour Senior Seminar Project requirement for graduation.

A number of ongoing programs and traditions set New Albany-Plain Local apart from other districts:

- **A thriving arts program** featuring studio art, several choirs, band, orchestra and theater
- **The House System**, which groups high school students into one of eight houses



NAHS earned its division's Ralph Young All-Sports Award six times since 2010 thanks to its success in many sports, including girls' lacrosse.

PHOTO: MARK WILSON

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**“Our initial decision to move to New Albany centered around the outstanding reputation of the school district and the beautiful architecture of the homes. Fast-forward 13 years:**

**I can attest to wonderful schools, beautiful homes and neighbors who truly care about our community. ... My wife and I recently looked at each other and had a very quick discussion about what we would do once [our daughter] completed school. The conversation took all of two minutes, and we quickly reached a conclusion: We aren't leaving.”**

—Shawn Holt, president/CEO of Maryhaven Inc., resident for 13 years

PHOTO: SHELLEE FISHER

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## PRIVATE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## MARBURN ACADEMY

Since its founding in 1981, independent day school Marburn Academy has become Central Ohio's standard-bearer for educating bright students with learning differences such as dyslexia, ADHD or executive function difficulties. At Marburn, students in grades 2 through 12 are given the adaptive teaching methods and individual attention too often lacking in traditional classroom settings. Just as important is that students are treated with dignity and respect and are held to high academic standards that lead to equally high academic outcomes: 100 percent of graduating seniors are accepted to college, according to the school's website.

Earlier this year, Marburn moved from the Northland area of Columbus to a brand-new campus—complete with science and engineering labs and a black-box theater—on Johnstown Road in New Albany. The 64,000-square-foot building held 240 students this spring (up from the previous facility's 200-student capacity), though a majority of the 17-acre campus remains open for potential future growth. They're on pace to eventually warrant future expansions: inquiries and applications have only increased since the relocation.

Marburn has been warmly welcomed by its New Albany neighbors, starting with a \$1 million cash gift from L Brands that jump-started the expansion campaign. Marburn, in turn, is already creating strong community partnerships, growing its Free Reading Screening program and hosting a two-day workshop on multisensory reading instruction for St. Vincent Family Center.

"The [new] building has proven to be such an incredible learning space for our students," says head of school Jamie Williamson. "The separation between divisions has allowed our students to have a space that's designed for their needs, and the common areas in each division have become an extension of the classrooms, allowing for many more options for both large and small group instruction."

"The move to our new home in New Albany has been a dream come true for our program," he adds. "We couldn't be happier!" —Brooke Preston

PHOTOS: TOP, COURTESY MARBURN ACADEMY; BOTTOM, PATRICK GALLAWAY

to help build community, culture and a sense of belonging

- **The Senior Staff Select** practice, when seniors ask a teacher or staff member from any grade level to hand them their diploma at graduation
- **Peace Week**, started in response to the Columbine tragedy, now thrives with a variety of activities that are mostly student-generated and culminates with lunch on the lawn and a street festival atmosphere for New Albany High School students and staff.
- **A commitment to service and philanthropy**, exemplified by students giving money, coats, canned food and more as they raise awareness and support worthy causes throughout the year

### AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Students at New Albany-Plain Local Schools embody an entrepreneurial spirit that is inspired at an early age. Such is the case with fourth graders' Entrepreneur Day, a multi-discipline, curriculum-based project where each student in the fourth grade class researches and develops a product, then markets and sells it to other elementary students on a two-day shopping adventure in their gymnasium. The 2017 event raised more than \$15,000 for charities researched and selected by the fourth grade.

Entrepreneur Day is only the beginning of where New Albany students take their creative energy. Interest in the future and career exploration continues in Junior Achievement's BizTown Program for all fifth-grade students.



Second-grade students participate in a field day activity.

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New Albany High School football players read to elementary school students.

At New Albany High School, students are going beyond the classroom every day. Their projects include:

- 3-D printing to develop prosthetic devices for other kids;
- Establishing their own technology companies;
- Founding 501(c)(3) nonprofits to support a variety of efforts;
- Initiating TEDxNew Albany, now in its fourth year, which has transformed from a school event to a communitywide opportunity for exploration, networking and more;
- Investment clubs;
- Fashion design, and
- Robotics and engineering.

To be sure, the future is bright with these young and creative minds entering our world and the workforce.

### CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

At the end of the day, community is what matters at New Albany-Plain Local Schools. The campus is a hub of activity featuring sports, environmental research, exploration and learning, the arts and extracurricular clubs focused on academics, recreation and fun.

The district is incredibly fortunate to have the support of a highly engaged parent community and the partnership of many organizations and businesses. Students and teachers are supported by a strong Parent Teacher Organization in each school. Booster organizations for sports, band and theater help drive and promote the athletic and artistic talents of students.

New Albany students benefit from the generosity of organizations that help extend

learning beyond the classroom and provide a variety of supports to enhance learning and the development of our students. Through our partnership with Healthy New Albany, students, staff and parents are engaged in an array of opportunities for wellness that enhance learning outside the classroom.

The district partnership with The New Albany Community Foundation is a perfect example of a win-win for students and the community. Each year, programs that enhance the quality of education are carefully planned. From the guest lecture series that has brought world-renowned speakers like Mariel Hemingway, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Patrick Kennedy and Condoleezza Rice to campus, to the continued support of the 80-acre nature preserve and environmental education program, these initiatives benefit all students on the New Albany campus and beyond.

Through its relationship with the city of New Albany and more than 15 local entities, the district hosted the first in a series of Community Well-Being Forums in 2017, focused on the growing epidemic of substance abuse in Ohio, and opted to be proactive in providing resources for students and families before the problem reaches our community. The series will expand next school year to include stress and anxiety and alcohol use and abuse.

The “Students First” focus at the district puts its students at the center of everything that it does. The strong partnerships formed on campus lead to real-world opportunities for students at every level.

*Patrick Gallaway is the director of communications for the New Albany-Plain Local Schools.*



**“When our children were preschoolers, we moved to New Albany for the schools and to be closer to family. Community leaders and elected officials are accessible and open. They provide opportunities to work alongside them, to share vision and to collaborate on projects. I see the fingerprints of my friends and neighbors on community programs, events, traditions and buildings because community leaders encourage us to dream big and contribute to the development of the community. It’s one of the reasons New Albany keeps getting better and better.”**

—Debra Lowery, resident for 16 years

PHOTO: LEFT, PATRICK GALLAWAY; RIGHT, CINDY WEIR

# New Albany SHOWCASE

**If everyone is moving forward together then success takes care of itself.**

~Henry Ford



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# READY TO GROW

*New Albany has the right elements to foster innovation with the help of a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurs, angel investors and visionaries.*

BY BROOKE PRESTON

**T**he suburban enclave of New Albany is only 15 miles northeast of Columbus, but it feels worlds away. Its Georgian architecture and white horse fencing lend it the air of one of those idyllic small towns from the movies that feel too Main Street USA to possibly exist.

Still, New Albany's most impressive accomplishment isn't aesthetic charm. The visionaries who have overseen much of New Albany's modern-era development instead prioritized a bolder, more ambitious plan: to foster genuine community. Just as they envisioned, their efforts have yielded a steady stream of families and businesses, all eager to support and link the city's strong bones like cultural connective tissue. This attitude has made New Albany one of Central Ohio's most



**“New Albany is a neighborhood of interesting, caring, friendly people. Being able to call our customers ‘friends’ is our reward and the reason we enjoy having our store here. We are honored to help support causes important to this generous community.”**

—Katharine Elliott, co-owner of Elliott Cooper, resident for 10 years

PHOTOS: OPPOSITE PAGE, COURTESY DAIMLER GROUP; THIS PAGE, ALAN HINSON

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### MASTERFULLY PLANNED

The story is well-known in Central Ohio: Les Wexner (chairman and CEO of L Brands, then Limited Brands) and his friend, business partner and local developer Jack Kessler, transformed the then-underdeveloped New Albany into a self-sustaining community, planned more thoughtfully and holistically than typical suburban sprawl.

But what may be less familiar is just how that metamorphosis took place. According to Bill Ebbing, president of The New Albany Company—the Wexner-Kessler brainchild and catalyst of the community's growth—the developer looked (and dreamt) far before leaping, deciding on symbolic community pillars before erecting any physical structures.

"The planners worked hard to create a *balanced* community. It's not just about,

"Where are roads and homes going to go?" They asked, "How does it all tie together economically for the financial well-being of community?" Ebbing explains. "The first five or six years, it was all about careful planning, not building. There wasn't a shovel put in the ground."

### OUTSIDE-THE-BOX THINKING

This level of fine-line planning is evidenced in the innovative ways the city's key offices are organized to optimize efficiency and growth. For instance, the office of Jennifer Chrysler, New Albany's community development director, is intentionally organized as a kind of one-stop shop for community development, including economic development, planning, building, zoning and engineering.

"It's very unusual for a city to have that all under one roof," Chrysler says. "The idea is that companies shouldn't have to worry about the process. We want to be able to manage and optimize that environment for them; our

mantra is, 'We work at the speed of business, not at the speed of government.'"

City manager Joseph Stefanov was involved with the original organization of that office.

"We spent a lot of time discussing in great length whether economic development should be part of the community development department," he says. "Many communities place it in the mayor or city manager's office instead. We decided to give it a try, even though it wasn't a common approach. It's productive and efficient."

Cherie Nelson, executive director of the New Albany Chamber of Commerce, adds that the city's unusual setup means even organizations like hers operate outside the box.

"We're not a traditional chamber, because New Albany is not a traditional community," she says. "While we do partner with our public and private community leaders to encourage businesses to consider moving or expanding to New Albany, our main focus is business retention, workforce development and tourism."

The business park's  
Signature Office Building



PHOTO: LISA HINSON

### COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

New Albany also generates a wealth of public/private partnerships, leading to close connectivity between businesses, schools and citizens.

"We've earned a strong reputation as being a good place to do business, and much of that credit belongs to city leaders," says Ebbing. "When you think about this public/



**"The business community in New Albany is open-minded, curious, intelligent and creative. Collaboration is not a just buzzword; it's how we get things done. Every day I see people from varying backgrounds, disciplines and industries working together on an initiative, project or common goal that benefits New Albany overall. It's pretty remarkable."**

—Cherie Nelson, executive director of New Albany Chamber of Commerce, resident for 21 years

PHOTO: JEFFREY HORVATH

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Abercrombie & Fitch headquarters in New Albany's business park

## INNOVATE NEW ALBANY

Innovate New Albany, the city's business incubator, is a one-stop shop for early stage start-ups. Here, government, area businesses, venture capitalists and private agencies work together to provide expertise, services and guidance.

Innovate New Albany features 34 companies in 8,000 square feet of space within the New Albany International Business Park's Signature Office Building at 8000 Walton Parkway. In partnership with The New Albany Company, the city subsidizes rental rates and provides a wide range of services, including a robust fiber optic network, office space and equipment, conference rooms, workshops and seminars for tenants. Innovate New Albany also houses the New Albany office of Rev1 Ventures, one of the top five technology incubators in the country, which provides fundraising support, investment capital assistance, coaching and mentoring services and collaboration with research institutions. —*Scott McAfee, chief communications and marketing officer, city of New Albany*

### WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

"My initial contact with Innovate New Albany was with Neil Collins, who manages the facility. My incubator experience has been great. The accommodations and networking have been extraordinary. I've been able to form synergies here that wouldn't have happened otherwise."

—*Brett Douglas, mCORE CEO/president mCORE has developed a system that conveniently screens athletes at their school with an EKG and echocardiogram. mCORE has screened more than 25,000 athletes at 200 different schools.*



"I was operating my company from my home office but grew to the point where I needed meeting space. This incubator is more than a facility; it is a community, and the level of leadership is a reflection of the entrepreneurial spirit of New Albany. We grew 160 percent last year and now have five full-time employees, which could not have happened out of my old home office."

—*Kerri Mollard, Mollard Consulting founder/CEO Mollard Consulting serves more than 60 nonprofits, helping them build financial health, create effective fundraising strategies and facilitate planning and capacity-building.*



private partnership and the city leaders, the City Council, the mayor—they've been so forward-thinking in every aspect, to ensure we're always one step ahead of the curve."

This fresh "it takes a village" approach to business reportedly surprises and delights prospects. Discover Financial Services, which opened its data center in 2012, was particularly sold by this concept, says Chrysler.

"It was one of the most unique site selection visits I've seen; the mayor, developer and even the school superintendent came out. We wanted to show them that the whole community really shows up for one another," she says.

These partnerships and collaborations are what Stefanov calls New Albany's "secret sauce."

"The partnerships really differentiate New Albany from many other communities," he says. "When you have everyone working together toward the same set of goals, you're just able to achieve more and have less wasted effort."

### HIGH-QUALITY WORK AND LIFE, SIDE BY SIDE

At 4,000 acres, the New Albany International Business Park is the largest master planned office park in Ohio and among the largest in the Midwest.

"A vibrant business park translates to the financial health, viability and sustainability of the community, contributing to quality schools, parks and public services," Ebbing explains. "That's really a big part of [New Albany's] master plan."

PHOTOS: TOP, COURTESY/ABERCROMBIE & FITCH; BOTTOM LEFT, COURTESY INNOVATE NEW ALBANY; BOTTOM RIGHT, RICK BUCHANAN



**"As an entrepreneur in New Albany, I was fortunate to launch my company in the Innovate New Albany space, supported by colleagues from the city of New Albany. The New Albany Company and the Lachey Co. have been instrumental in connecting me to others in the community who have helped to grow my business. The talented people of New Albany make it a great place for large and small businesses alike."**

—*Mauricha Marcussen, CEO of Auditgraph, resident for eight years*

PHOTO: RYAN MONTGOMERY/RLMEMORIES PHOTOGRAPHY

The strategically designed park centers around five key business categories aligned with New Albany's larger goals of economic sustainability and diversity, called "innovation clusters": health care, corporate office and research and development, high-tech manufacturing and logistics, personal care and beauty, and information and technology.

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New Albany City Councilmembers Chip Fellows, Colleen Briscoe, Dr. Glyde Marsh, Matt Shull, Mayor Sloan Spalding and Councilmembers Marlene Brisk and Mike Durik, whose combined efforts to grow the business park have produced more than \$100 million for New Albany schools and city services.

To attract companies, New Albany created shovel-ready sites with easy interchange access, redundant electric power through two underground feed lines and (thanks to one of the city's signature partnerships with AEP) an in-ground, self-healing, 96-strand fiber optic network. But attention to detail didn't stop with the businesses themselves.

"It's more practical to create amenities where people who come to work here can have quality of life. They can easily get to the post office or doctor's office during their lunch hour or after work," says Chrysler. "It's a difference-maker. We've given the same attention to connectivity, design and programming to the business park as the rest of the community, the same careful consideration to making people feel at home."

This approach is paying off: After nationwide searches, Fortune 500 companies such as Nationwide Insurance and Discover, as well as smaller business start-ups and local practices, have moved in. Several tenants have grown beyond their initial builds, including Bocchi Laboratories, set to add a 72,000-square-foot expansion this fall and 75 jobs over the next two years. Still, the International Business Park is roughly only 60 percent developed—current occupants account for just over 10 million square feet and 15,000 total employees—and is poised for further growth.

One of those 15,000 is Dr. Keith Berend, senior partner at Joint Implant Surgeons and president/CEO of White Fence Surgical Suites.

He and his partners chose New Albany primarily for its access and the opportunity to fill what he calls a health campus gap in the area between Downtown Columbus and Newark.

"Yes, there were abatements, but you can find those anywhere. There's a lot of opportunity for growth here," he explains. "Plus, it's a beautiful area to be and take care of people; patients and families enjoy that."

Since it opened in 2013, White Fence Surgical Suites has performed 5,400 joint replacement surgeries—that's more than any other freestanding ambulatory center in the world.

"We used the growth of the entire business area of New Albany to burgeon our growth as well," Berend says. "With the great schools, community, medicine [and] innovation, we all are marching in the same direction."

#### LOOKING EVER FORWARD

New Albany's growth is poised to continue to deepen and broaden, with continued International Business Park and Village Center development and diversification of the housing stock and tax base. City leaders also are discussing possible expansions to cultural and wellness centers, such as an outdoor amphitheater.

Stefanov says he isn't one to rest on past success. "There are a lot of great communities out there; we can't afford to sit back and assume people will just choose us. We have a lot of good competition throughout Central Ohio, a lot of great communities. We're not taking anything for granted."



**"New Albany is unique in that it encourages both community involvement and a balanced lifestyle. The city leaders have created an environment conducive to the success of large corporations as well as smaller firms."**

—Hope Wolman, vice president of personal lines at Insurance Office of Central Ohio, resident for three years

PHOTOS: TOP, ROBB SHIREY; BOTTOM, SCOTT CUNNINGHAM



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