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NEW ALBANY

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A letter to the community  
from Jack Kessler

FALL/WINTER 2018

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*Dear Friends and Neighbors:*

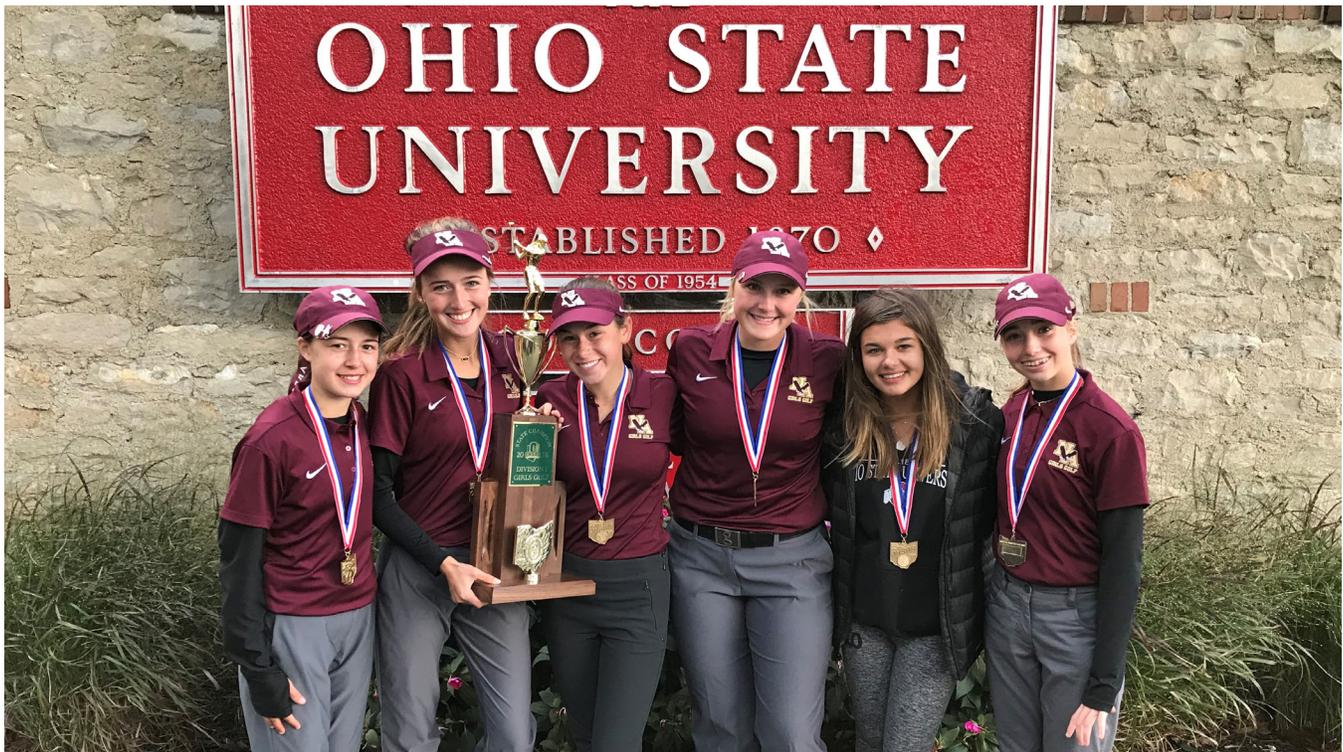
As 2018 comes to a close there's certainly a lot to celebrate. This year brought several new accolades for New Albany, including being named a Best Hometown by *Ohio Magazine* and landing at #8 on *USA Today's Best Cities to Live* list, the highest ranking of any city in Ohio. This is an affirmation not only of the quality of community all of you have built but of the sense of community that exists in New Albany.



**New Albany-Plain Local Schools**

Under the leadership of Superintendent Michael Sawyers, we learned in September that our school district received an A on the Ohio Department of Education's state report card, one of only 28 school districts in the state to do so. New Albany moved to #19 in the state, up from #64 two years ago and up from #34 last year. That places New Albany in the 97th percentile, up from 89th percentile two years ago. Congratulations to Michael, the Board of Education, students, teachers, staff and parents! I know they're aiming even higher and we wish them well as they continue their incredibly positive trajectory.

I'd also like to congratulate the New Albany High School Girls Golf Team on capturing the state championship this fall with a convincing win over two-time defending state champions, Olentangy Orange. Several Eagles have honed their skills from a very young age as members of New Albany Country Club, making us especially proud of the team's achievement.



*State Champion Girls Golf Team members Anna Ritter, Gwynnie Lee, Madison Spiess, Morgan Pankow, Ellie McNutt and Kary Hollenbaugh*

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Ambassador Samantha Power, General Michael Hayden, Stephen Hadley and Fareed Zakaria were the featured participants in a discussion on national security in October which later aired on the Fareed Zakaria GPS program.

### The Jefferson Series

What a proud moment it was to see The New Albany Community Foundation's sold-out Jefferson Series program on national security and foreign affairs featured on CNN's *Fareed Zakaria GPS* in October. With more than 25 million viewers worldwide it's hard to imagine better exposure for our town, as we celebrate lifelong learning. As The Jefferson Series continues to grow in national stature we expect to share more conversations emanating from New Albany on the national stage.

The two final lectures of the season feature award-winning actress and mental health advocate Glenn Close on January 15th and Noah Feldman and Jeffrey Toobin on May 1st. While both lectures are sold out, you can add your name to the waiting list at [newalbanyfoundation.org](http://newalbanyfoundation.org) and you'll be contacted as tickets become available.



The national security discussion drew a packed house.



Dr. Sanjay Gupta opened the 2018-19 Jefferson Series season in September. He also met with central Ohio students, including New Albany High School's Isabella Keren and Nisha Iyer, who introduced him to the 800 in attendance that day.

*“There are so many wonderful things in the world, so many wonderful stories to be told that tie us all together...*

*It makes me really, really inspired.”*

*– Dr. Sanjay Gupta*

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## Market & Main

Since my last letter, the first residents have moved into the Market & Main apartment homes in the center of town. Early reviews are positive, with residents enjoying the convenience of having New Albany's Market Square amenities right outside their door.

When you are a young professional who travels for work and loves to live an active and connected lifestyle, Market & Main provides the perfect solution. Jordan Peplinski, who has lived in San Diego, Chicago and many points in between, was one of the first residents to move in and he considers it a win for his lifestyle. "The quality of the development is terrific and I like the way Market & Main bridges the neighborhood to the commercial area," said Jordan. "I can pop out my door and hit Freshii or Starbucks and be at the airport in no time for a work trip. The convenience of life here really works for me."



*Jordan Peplinski*

Barbara Leveque raised her three children in New Albany and was very active in the New Albany school district. After the youngest of her children went to college she moved to another community for a time and then made her home in downtown Columbus. The lure of a walkable and rideable lifestyle brought her back to New Albany and she and her husband, Colin, are happy to have landed at Market & Main. Her return to the town that holds such fond memories for her has been enjoyable as she discovers new restaurants, shops and more. "While I have lived other places for the last 13 years, I always found myself back in New Albany to visit dear friends and to work," said Barbara. "Colin and I are so enjoying our life here. I feel like I've come home again."



*Barbara & Colin Leveque*

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### **Fox in the Snow**

Not a day goes by that I'm not asked when Fox in the Snow will open. There's so much excitement for this acclaimed local café becoming a part of our community. We're happy to report that it won't be long before you'll be able to enjoy fruit scones, pecan sticky buns and their legendary egg sandwich with your favorite coffee drink right at Market & Main. Fox in the Snow Café owners are anticipating opening their doors in January and we look forward to welcoming them to New Albany.

### **New Albany Country Club and Country Club Living**

The highly anticipated renovations to the Bath & Tennis locker rooms are well underway. As Club General Manager Tony Shill indicates, this will be a short-term inconvenience for members that will be well worth the wait. In other Club news, Chef Kent Rigsby has appointed Dave Dovell Executive Chef. As always, the Club is happy to assist you with off and on property events. Dates tend to be claimed fast so if you have something you're celebrating in 2019 the Club would be honored to help make the event that much more memorable. For more information please refer to [NACC.com](http://NACC.com).



I'm frequently asked by friends and colleagues how the residential market is doing. The facts show that the New Albany Country Club continues its positive performance from 2017 with the average sale price year-to-date coming in at \$816,360, representing a 5.4% increase over the 2017 average. New construction starts and sales have also seen positive growth with 28 lots reserved, in contract or scheduled to close. New home starts in 2018 totaled 19.

As always, the agents of New Albany Realty are available to assist you in buying or selling in the country club community and beyond. You can find more information at [newalbanyrealty.com](http://newalbanyrealty.com) or call the office at 614.939.8900.

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### New Albany's Burgeoning International Business Park

New Albany Company president Bill Ebbing spends much of his time working with City leaders and regional economic development professionals on attracting clean, high-quality companies to the park. This diversifies New Albany's tax base and shifts some of the tax burden away from residents. Bill has helped grow the park to more than 15,000 employees over the past 20 years, creating a sustainable tax base to support schools, parks and public services in New Albany. In fact, over 80% of the city's income tax is now generated from the business park.

Recently, Bill received a C-Suite Award from Columbus Business First as a Most Admired Executive in Central Ohio and we congratulate him on this acknowledgment of his successful efforts.

I thought you'd find it helpful to hear a little more from Bill about the importance of our business park, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, as well as other aspects of development in our town. *(See following page)*



Bill Ebbing



*Celebrating New Albany's selection as a location for one of the world's most advanced data centers: New Albany Economic Development Director Jennifer Chrysler, City Councilmember Colleen Briscoe, City Councilmember Matt Shull, Mayor Sloan Spalding, City Councilmember Marlene Brisk, City Councilmember Chip Fellows, and City Manager Joe Stefanov*

**Q:** *There seems to be a lot of growth in New Albany's Business Park, particularly with mission-critical facilities like data centers. What's coming, when is it coming and how do those jobs benefit the community?*

**A:** Because of strong collaboration with the City of New Albany, JobsOhio, Columbus 2020 and AEP, we've been able to pitch to many businesses why New Albany is a great place to locate and grow a business. One such example of our collective success is Facebook, which is well on its way to opening a new 1 million s.f. data center in the park. While data centers typically have fewer employees, they generate less traffic and fewer demands on services while offering high paying positions. Highly recognizable brands such as Amazon and Facebook also help New Albany attract other Fortune 500 companies.

I'd also like to welcome Thirty-One Gifts to the business park. It was announced in early November that in January 2019 the business will move approximately 300 corporate jobs to New Albany after purchasing the Bob Evans headquarters. We look forward to having them join the roster of respected brands located in the business park. Beyond the jobs they provide, many of the facilities located in our business park generate revenue to support our schools.

**Q:** *Market & Main continues to unfold. Will there be more development there in the future?*

**A:** Working with the City, we continue to be focused on attracting high-quality eateries, retail and service providers. There's a lot of excitement around the upcoming opening of Fox in the Snow, for example, and we'll continue to focus on those types of unique users that our residents and business park employees love.

The Market & Main apartment homes have been important in the development of the restaurant and retail offerings at Market & Main. The apartments in the center of town have also answered an articulated need by employers in the business park, whose employees are looking for upscale apartment living within walking distance to New Albany amenities like the library, arts center, Heit Center and more.

We expect the City's Rose Run Park to become an important center-of-town amenity as well. The City began construction in October and expects to have this dynamic civic asset completed in late 2019. Rose Run will include a library garden, a promenade, birch walk, bike and walking trails as well as a bridge. In the interest of safety, improvements will also include a narrowing of the portion of E. Dublin Granville Road between the school campus and the Market Square area.



*Rose Run Park Launch, September 2018*

**Q:** *Why is there a preference for roundabouts versus traffic lights?*

**A:** Roundabouts are safer and keep traffic flowing. They are more aesthetically pleasing and require less pavement, maintaining a more rural environment in New Albany.

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Finally, I would like to congratulate all of those involved in helping weave a vibrant fabric of connectivity in New Albany. The variety of programming in New Albany, much of it developed by volunteers and funded by individuals and companies, is simply exceptional. I firmly believe that New Albany residents set the example of living connected lives, where we look out for one another in our own community and far beyond. There's rarely a gathering or fundraiser in central Ohio where you won't find a New Albany friend or neighbor working hard to make it a success. That spirit of community stewardship is something special and I hope we never lose sight of supporting the quality of life and opportunity for everyone.

My best to you and yours in the new year. I hope it brings good health and happiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kessler". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jack Kessler

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