

Mercy Hospital, in collaboration with Life Point, opened a 61,900-square-foot facility that serves as a behavioral health clinic, alongside the physical rehabilitation hospital that was established last year.

TownePlace Suites by Marriott, a 97-room hotel, opened on Motor Inn Drive, just off Belmont.

Altobelli announced that twenty new single-family homes will be built in Klines Farm on Potters Circle. Over 1,200 feet of new road was built to complete the circle where the homes will be constructed.

The Trumbull County Commissioners awarded the township a \$450,000 ARP grant to enhance Center Park. The funds will be used to improve the sports and recreation area, the walking path, and the pavilions and other facilities. Construction will commence January 19th and is expected to be completed by July.

A \$107,000 ODOT grant acquired through Eastgate was used to fund the construction of sidewalks from SR 304 to the Churchill Plaza on the west side of the road.

In 2026, a \$446,000 grant from WRTA will fund 100 percent of the costs for sidewalks on Belmont leading from I-80 to SR 304. Both east and west sides of Belmont will have portions of sidewalks and crosswalks installed.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is allocating one million dollars to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety on Belmont Avenue, specifically on a stretch between SR 304 and Liberty Street. These improvements will include enhancing the visibility of crosswalks and installing a pedestrian-actuated signal to ensure a safe crossing from Duncan Donuts to Churchill Park.

The Belmont Corridor Plan, a joint endeavor undertaken by the City of Youngstown in partnership with Liberty Township, is expected to be completed in October. It will propose enhancements for a 4.5-mile stretch from Giant Eagle Plaza to downtown Youngstown. MS Consultants contracted to develop the plan will be guided by input from residents, elected officials, economic development advocates, businesses, and the Build a Better Belmont Coalition.

A second Indian grocery store opened at 3100 Belmont Avenue, complementing the three Indian restaurant that have been operating on Belmont, further enhancing the international Belmont food corridor that includes locally owned Middle Eastern, kosher, Mexican, Cajun, and Italian cuisine.

On May 18, the Third Annual Bike Belmont event, organized by the Build a Better Belmont coalition, had three hundred riders participate in routes to and from the B&O Station to Churchill Plaza, and for the more seasoned riders, from the B&O Station to the Airport. The event was supported by a coalition of Youngstown and Liberty Township businesses and associations, including the Foundation of Mahoning Valley, Youngstown City Scape, Jimmys Italian Deli, Giant Eagle, Mercy Health, YSU, and Stambaugh Auditorium.

The construction of youth soccer fields commenced on SR 304, adjacent to Center Park, on land owned by the Township. The Township leased the land to the Refuge Ministries, a social service agency that currently provides services in the vicinity of the soccer fields.

Melissa Ritchie, with fourteen years of experience in zoning and property maintenance enforcement in Ravenna and Weathersfield Townships, has been appointed as the new Zoning Officer, succeeding James Rodway, who held the position for 32 years.

**Police**

Ray Buhula, a ten-year LPD Captain and a member of the force since 2001, has been promoted to Police Chief. He is replacing Toby Molero, who served as chief for the past eight years and was a 25-year veteran of the force.

A \$100,000 grant secured in 2024 from the Ohio Senate Capital Budget acquired through Senator Sandra Obrien funded the Completion of wrought iron fencing enclosing a parking area for police vehicles. The enclosure enhances the safety of police officers entering and exiting their cruisers.

Received a \$36,000 grant from the State of Ohio to enhance body cameras.

Initiated a more proactive approach to curb neighborhood speeding through deploying extra resources into the neighborhoods.

Upgraded our BAC breathalyzer using forfeited funds from OVI and drug cases.

Increased training resources available to each officer in the department.

Augmented police presence in Liberty schools that will enhance the safety of students, teachers, and staff.

A Reserve Officer Program was initiated, allowing well-trained retirees to actively participate in emergency situations and community events.

**Road Department**

Nine Township roads encompassing 3.5 miles were improved including repaving and storm drainage enhancements. The total length of roads resurfaced from 2019 to the present is 40.587 miles, representing 65.31% of the sixty-two miles of Liberty Township roads.

Townsend Avenue road repair and drainage work that commenced in 2024 was completed in 2025. It was funded by a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant acquired through the Trumbull County Planning Commission.

Added a new 2024 F450 dump truck with plow.

Crack sealed 4 miles of roadway on 10 roads.

Fixed and installed new storm drainage on numerous roads.

Received an ODOT State Grant totaling \$55,000 for signs, posts, and hardware.

Recycled over 1,200 scrap tires in our annual scrap drive

**Fire Department**

Replaced all three ambulances with two new and a reconditioned.

Acquired Two new Chest Compression Recitation devices

\$10,000 Training grant from the Gary Sinise foundation to acquire trailer used for training firefighters throughout the region