

The Allentown Village Initiative

The Newell Award

2025/2026

William Augustus Newell (September 5, 1817 – August 8, 1901) was a physician, 3-term member of the [United States House of Representatives](#), and 18th governor of [New Jersey](#). He is probably best known for the [Newell Act](#), which created the [United States Life-Saving Service](#), which eventually became the [United States Coast Guard](#). To honor Governor Newell's service to our state and to Allentown (he resided at 81 S. Main St.). The Allentown Village Initiative (TAVI) will sponsor **The Newell Award**, an annual prize (\$500) awarded to a high-school senior who exemplifies outstanding service to the local community. It is anticipated that the award will be presented to the selected individual at the district's Senior Awards Ceremony.

To qualify for **The Newell Award** an eligible applicant must write a 100 word personal statement choosing one of the topics provided below. In addition, applicants must participate in **15 hours of community service** and **20 hours of a TAVI related project or a local history related project and/or event**. Therefore, **a total of 35 service hours** is required by eligible applicants. Award winners will be chosen based on their **significant and tangible contributions** to the community which like TAVI focus on historic preservation and education; support of the local business community, natural resources and beautification; and/or advancement of the arts and culture. Examples of such contributions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Work with TAVI to help restore a historic structure or install interpretive signage at key locations in town.
- Work with TAVI to design and / or maintain the TAVI website.
- Work with TAVI to explore ways to promote local business and to bring new businesses into the downtown.
- Work with TAVI or one of the local community organizations (e.g. Future Farmers of America, Allentown Garden Club) to address protection of the local environment through a variety of conservation efforts (e.g., planting native trees, flowers and shrubs, creating a pollinator or rain garden).
- Work with TAVI or other organizations to bring artists of various genres or history into downtown to display or perform their works for the benefit of the general public.
- Work with our local historian to organize, categorize, or catalog local history information for easier access.
- A deep dive into 2 or 3 historic buildings or homes in Allentown and/or Upper Freehold and the lives of the people who lived there and how their life affected the community.
- A mutually created plan...something meaningful to you...

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Nomination Form*

1. Name of Applicant (graduating senior):

To qualify for the Newell Award an eligible applicant must participate in 15 hours of community service and 20 hours of a TAVI related project or a local history related project and/or event. **Therefore, a total of 35 service hours is required by eligible applicants.** Please document the completed service hours below

2. Please compose and attach a 100 word each personal statement selecting one/or more of the topics listed below:

Name of Organization	Type of Community Service/Project	Number of hours Completed	Signature of Supervisor

3a. How has studying history throughout your academic years, benefited and/or enriched your life?

3b. Which event and/or person in the history of Allentown has impacted you in a meaningful way? Please explain how and why.

3c. Why is being informed about our local and national history important in your present and future life as an American? Provide an example.

3. Other potential considerations...