



Scan to sign up for the Newsletter!



Village Resident: Want a copy of this newsletter? Please email Newcomerstown NOW at newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com with your address. OR scan the barcode! Only village residents will receive a FREE copy.

February's Issue

Community Calendar

Temperance Tavern Museum Events

Feb 6 & 7 | "All my Valentines" Mystery Dinner 740 498 7735
March 15 | 2:30pm Matinee Movie & Snacks
May 9th | Family Tea
May 30th | Ice Cream Social

Olde Main Street Museum

Feb 15th | Sunday Lunch 11:30 am-1pm
Menu: Soup Beans, potato soup, corn bread, hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, desserts and drinks (cost is by donation)

West Elementary Preschool Smart Start

Mar 26 | 5-7pm
Preschool/Kindergarten Readiness Event with local agencies and preschool/kindergarten readiness activities.

!! Save the Date !!

9th Annual Hero Hustle
Saturday, June 27, 2026

PIC-COLLAGE

THE NEWCOMERSTOWN NEWS NOW

Amber Hart, Writer | William Casteel, Writer
Kristie Wilkin, Writer | Brenda Junkin, Writer
Carrie Kunkle, Editor | Jess Moore, News Chair
Lisa Spillman, News Chair | Shannon Kincaid, Designer

Feb 2026

Our Mission

The mission of Newcomerstown NOW is to revitalize the downtown area through working with the community while preserving heritage, progressing towards our future and prospering with our village.

Officers

Jess Moore-President
Pat Cadle- Vice President
Amber Hart- Vice President
Lisa Spillman- Secretary
Erin Garretson- Treasurer

Other Members: Nancy Orr, Jen LaVigne, Jeff Orr, Carrie Kunkle, Ann Marie Maddox, Alex Friedman, Rachel Baker, Shannon Kincaid, Delaney Moore, Joseph Fairchild, Patricia Celes, Sara Warner

To be a sponsor for a future newsletter, please email for questions:

newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com

Call 740-294-3664 or mail a check to:

Newcomerstown NOW
143 W Main St

Business Spotlight Oak Pointe

written by Amber Hart



This year marks the thirtieth year that Oak Pointe has been creating exceptional custom millwork from its home in Newcomerstown with craftsmanship that reaches far beyond our village. Founded in July 1996, Oak Pointe specializes in high-end, fully custom stair components, serving lumber yards, millwork shops, and premium builders across the country and around the world.

Their work has been shipped to destinations such as Florida, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Canada, and even to iconic, high-profile locations like Mar-a-Lago. Some of the individual components they produce are so intricate and refined that their value rivals the cost of an average home.

One of the most fascinating aspects of their work is historical restoration and replication. Customers often send in damaged or broken stair parts, such as antique spindles. Oak Pointe can scan and reproduce as exact replicas, preserving the original design while restoring it to its former beauty. There are limitless possibilities to what they can create which delights their most imaginative customers. As they put it, what they do here truly can't be found anywhere else.



With 35 local employees, no two days at Oak Pointe are ever the same. Because every project is fully custom, the work is complex, driven by a commitment to exceed customer expectations. Looking ahead, the company is focused on continued growth by aligning with industry trends, improving efficiency, and expanding its already extensive capabilities.



Community involvement is a cornerstone of Oak Pointe's values. The company regularly supports local schools and recently partnered with Newcomerstown Now to donate a custom reading bench to the community. Oak Pointe's customer service manager, Alison Westfall, played a key role in building this partnership, recognizing Oak Pointe's unique ability to give back locally. Her leadership and community-focused vision helped bring us together to bring the reading bench project to life, an enduring example of how Oak Pointe combines craftsmanship with care for the community it calls home.

The bench will be unveiled this spring near the Free Little Library by the village administration office, where it is sure to become a cherished space for local families.

Frontline Focus: NCT Police Partners with Schools on E-bike Safety

Written by Kristie Wilkin

Newcomerstown Police Chief Craig Kennedy has announced a partnership with the Newcomerstown school system in implementing an ongoing program that focuses on bicycle and e-bike safety.

Chief Kennedy shares: "There have been numerous concerns expressed in the village about ensuring our children are safe and aware of rules and safety practices. Police Officer Gavan Morris recently held a presentation at Newcomerstown Middle School to educate students about the topic including applicable traffic laws. This is the first step in building a program that will continue through the school year and into the summertime." Allyn Hart, a sixth grader attended Officer Morris's overview at Newcomerstown Middle School. She is the daughter of Amber Hart. Amber said: "she was excited to tell me the many things she learned about bicycle safety, and how informative the session was for her. Allyn knew a good bit about safety but was especially interested in the laws concerning bicycles and e-bikes and was even surprised about some, so this was very beneficial for the students."

Principal of Newcomerstown Middle School, Brian Collins concurred with Allyn. Mr. Collins stated: "Newcomerstown Middle School was excited to host the Newcomerstown Police Department on Tuesday, January 13th, with Officer Morris presenting to students in grades 4-8. Officer Morris spoke with students about bicycle safety, with an emphasis on electric bikes. The presentation reviewed proper hand signals, required



safety gear, electric bike classifications, and safe riding practices.

We would like to thank Officer Morris and the Newcomerstown Police Department for their leadership in promoting bicycle safety. This presentation is part of a series of programs that will continue to encourage safe bicycle riding throughout our community."

Chief Kennedy said: "Officer Morris was chosen for this project because of his personality and his demeanor with school aged children. He has an interest in being actively involved with the schools. Our philosophy here is to give officers a project that they enjoy so that they can excel at making successful programs."

In addition to the school program, there has been a group of parents that has expressed interest in establishing a committee. Due to staffing issues, some

of these plans were put on hold. Now we intend to get the ball rolling and move towards an ongoing program for both parents and children. We plan to have several events throughout the summer as well.

Please go to American Legal Publishing section 4511.522 for more information on e-bike compliance, but keep in mind all bicycle safety and traffic laws and practices apply to e-bikes as well. For any parent of a child with an e-bike; please go over the rules and practices.

Making a Difference Trap, Neuter, Release

Written by Jess Moore & Lisa Spillman

Newcomerstown's Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program is officially in full swing, and the impact is already being felt throughout our community. This humane and proven program helps control the stray and feral cat population while improving health, safety, and quality of life for both animals and residents.

Why TNR Matters in Newcomerstown

Unmanaged stray and feral cat populations can lead to:

- Overpopulation and repeated litters (we currently have over eight colonies that we are aware of)
- Noise from mating behaviors and fighting
- Health concerns for both cats and the community

TNR helps:

- reduce nuisance behaviors
- improve cat health through vaccination
- create safer, healthier neighborhoods

Needed Items:

- Dog Pads
- Dry/wet cat food
- blankets
- paper plates
- cat carriers
- spray bottles
- bleach
- sheets
- disposable gloves
- humane traps

To learn where to drop off donations, or if you have questions, this article is continued on page 7

Your Voice, Your Village

Written by Amber Hart

February is all about love, and in a small town like ours, that love often shows up in the places that bring us together. Whether it's a favorite shop, park, restaurant, church, or hidden corner of town, we all have a spot that feels special. That is why for this month's column, I asked:

"What local place has your heart, and why?"

"Simonds Heller Park... I love walking the trails and exploring. There's so much to see and more to come. I purchased a bench in remembrance of my husband, Rod, who upon returning from Vietnam, worked for ODNR in Fish Management until his retirement. Rod loved fishing and the Tuscarawas River. The bench is perfectly placed (thanks to John Resh) close enough to the river for anyone to sit and fish, weather permitting. I go down and sit there in the late afternoon taking in the beauty of the river and surroundings. The peacefulness there is truly amazing. My favorite place to be!"

-Jan Robinson McCune

"Newcomerstown Cy Young Youth League, we continue to do all we can for the kids and I will always make sure the fields always look good, so the kids have a nice safe place to come play ball. Our board members give so much to make sure our kids have an awesome place to be kids and play ball!"

-Douglas J. Grewell

"Cy Young Park. Lots and lots of Grandma's birthday parties there. All the family, great food, and games, and of course swimming and swings. Such great times and memories."

-Susan Bennett

Main Street Blog

Written by Jen LaVigne

For 250 years, America has been built around places like Main Street—where neighbors connect, stories are shared, and community comes first. In Newcomerstown, Main Street is more than a destination; it's the heart of our town.

This February, we celebrate **Love on Main Street** by honoring the people, businesses, and traditions that make Newcomerstown special. Supporting Main Street is an act of love—for our history, our community, and our future.

Join us as we celebrate 250 years of America by sharing the love right here on Newcomerstown's Main Street.

Newsletter Blurbs

Newsletter Deadline:

Information for the newsletter **must be received by the 16th** by email to Shannon at: shannon@newcomerstownnow.com

Ad Space:

For \$25 we will feature your business in our newsletter. Please follow the QR code to submit your information and payment. If you submit a logo, please make sure it's a high resolution, or we may not be able to use it.

Or email newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com for the link



Newsletter Sign up

To receive a newsletter please email newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com with your mailing address.

Trap, Neuter, Release, Cont'd

One of the most impactful aspects of the program is its affordability and transparency. For every \$55 raised, one cat receives full care, including surgery, vaccinations, ear tipping, and necessary medical treatment. This approach not only prevents unwanted litters but also reduces behaviors such as fighting, spraying, and excessive noise.

In addition to monetary donations, the program is currently in need of supplies to help get things fully up and running. Donations may be dropped off at the Mayor's Office or at Shades of Sommer on Main Street or contact Jess Moore at 330-447-0670

If you would like to donate funds, sponsor a cat, or have questions about the program, please contact Jennifer Baker at 330-440-3196 or email bakerjenn0209@gmail.com. If you'd like to contribute financially, call, text or email or you can Venmo to Newcomerstown Now; please put "TNR" in information line.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated and supported this effort. Your generosity is helping make Newcomerstown a healthier, more compassionate community—for both residents and cats.

Garden Story- January

If you're anything like me, you're jonesing to start your garden. And while it's too early to dig in the soil, there's no reason why you cannot winter sow! All you need is a clean gallon milk jug, knife, duct tape, water, soil, seeds, and a stick for labeling to create your own miniature greenhouse.



Clean the jug, drill a few holes in the bottom and cut around the jug just below the handle, keeping a few inches attached to the top. Add moist potting soil and plant your seeds according to the packet, then duct tape the jug closed. Make sure you label each jug with a stick inside. Remove the cap and place it outside in the sun for cold stratification and light! Transplant the seedling in the spring.

Note: Stratification means you're breaking the seeds dormancy (napping seeds) by manipulating temperature and moisture in which plants would naturally grow.

Here are some cool season plant seeds you can use: lettuce, kale, onion, spinach, parsley, lavender, beebalm, echinacea (coneflower), and blazing star. Clary Gardens has a class titled "Secrets of a Successful Garden" Feb 5th at 5pm featuring winter sowing in a milk jug. Get your jug, soil and seeds for \$10.



Written by Brenda Junkin

Faith in the Community Church of Christ

This church has a rich and long-standing history in the village with its first location being constructed in 1908 on the corner of State and McKinley, which is now the home of the Church of Christ in Christian Union. Their current building, which is located at 475 South Goodrich Street (behind the Middle School) opened its doors in 1961.

Current minister David R. Kenney shares: "Churches of Christ adhere to what is called the restoration plea. The plea is to model ourselves after the church as revealed in the New Testament. This means we sing as a congregation because



they sang as a congregation (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). We pray as a congregation because they prayed as a congregation. We give financially and observe the Lord's Supper each and every first day of the week because they gave and observed the Lord's Supper each and every first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). We have sermons and classes to learn God's word because they had preaching and teaching of God's word (2 Timothy 4:1-3). We structure our leadership as they structured their leadership with elders, deacons, and ministers. We teach the plan to be saved as including listening

and having faith in God's Word (Romans 10:17), willingness to repent (Acts 2:38), immersion into Christ (Romans 10:17), and faithful worship and service to Christ (Revelation 2:10). Modeling a congregation after the church revealed in the New Testament includes omitting things that others may have adopted. Our aim is to do what the first church did so we can be what the first church was. This is why we have no creeds, disciplines, manuals, confessions of faith, but only the Bible. We do not claim to be perfect, but we believe only by following the Bible one may be perfected, or made complete, by Jesus Christ."

Kenney stresses that the church is the people, and the building is just where they gather. He welcomes visitors and loves it when people ask questions and want to learn. Their worship services are Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bible classes are Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study takes place at 7:00 p.m.



Written by Amber Hart

Newcomerstown's Boy Scouts

Written by Amber Hart

When selecting a historical topic to share this February, I felt the history of the Boy Scouts in Newcomerstown was especially worthy of recognition. Rather than sharing my own reflections, I chose to highlight the words of Charles Lieser, founder and director of the Newcomerstown Boy Scout Band at the time of its creation. While space did not allow for the full text to be included here, it can be found in the Historical Archives at the Newcomerstown Public Library.

Boy Scouts and Boy Scout Band

As the first weeks of February arrive each year, I am reminded of our annual observance in Newcomerstown of the birthday of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. After graduation at OSU in the spring of that year I returned to my home town with the thought of organizing a troop of Boy Scouts just as soon as it could be done. I was filled with the ambition of having a band of my own for I had just completed several years service in the OSU regimental band and that experience together with being a lackey boy in the Hyperion band for years was not going to be let go by for nothing. The upshot of it was that I combined these two ideas and made a beginning by organizing a boys drum corps of about 20 youngsters of scout age (12 years or older). In addition to the boys playing drums, I added a few boys that I had taught to play cornet which latter group did the trumpeting for the corps. We practiced regularly in our club rooms upstairs at 221 West Main Street and also faithfully studied our scout handbook and made an application to be registered at B.S. headquarters in New York City. After considerable correspondence and several required recommendations from the mayor and business men and my pastor that I was qualified I was

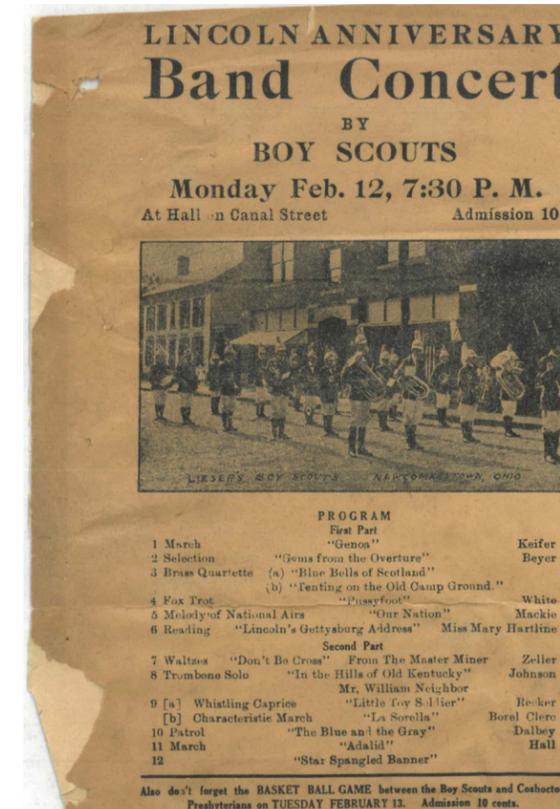


finally commissioned as scoutmaster early in 1911. The boys were duly registered as tenderfoot scouts but in the many years to follow many of them were gradually promoted to 1st class and later to Eagle and Star scouts and several had Merit Badges for advanced work in special lines. This was accomplished during the decade from 1910 to 1920.

But here I am rambling on about musical groups although they have been my life's principal hobby and interest. What I started out to do in this article was to tell something of the early history of scouting in Newcomerstown. Suffice it to say that the scouts in that day, as at present, were taught courtesy, things that make character, self-reliance, and other virtues of good citizenship. Many were the calls for service to the community and nation. Scouts were asked to do much of the local leg work during World Wars - distributing pamphlets for the government, selling Liberty Bonds and Saving Stamps.

The band from its humble beginning developed into quite an efficient musical group playing before governors and presidents at times. It is with fond remembrance that I recall all the labor and association with and the names of hundreds of boys and girls that were beginners or advanced musicians in the series of bands and orchestras that followed from 1900 until recent years...

There were no school bands in those days and when players were needed the only thing was to teach and train them. One of the first girls to be admitted to the band when the boys voted to admit them to our concert band was Rachael Ervin, a good clarinet player having been taught by her father, Bruce Erwin, a photographer, who was first clarinetist in the Hyperion Band.



The Village Messenger

Street Department

February is often our toughest month for winter weather—though January is definitely giving it some competition this year! The snow plowing routes the Street Department will focus on first are to the right. Once those main routes are clear, crews will move on to the side streets.

If you live or park along a main route, we kindly ask that you move your vehicle off the roadway so our crews can plow safely and efficiently.

Police Department

Officer Gavin Morris gave a presentation about e-bike safety to the Newcomerstown Middle School. Due to numerous concerns expressed throughout the village about ensuring that our children are safe and aware of rules and safety practices, Officer Morris recently held a presentation educating students about the topic, which included applicable traffic laws



Administration

The former Besst Dry Cleaners building was demolished in December. While it was bittersweet to see a historic structure come down, the building had sat dormant for many years, and the owners are looking to begin a new chapter for the space. During demolition, remnants of the old dry-cleaning reservoirs were found in the basement; these have since been properly filled in. Plans for the future of the site have not yet been announced.

Fire Department

The Fire Department is excited to welcome another volunteer firefighter, Jacoby Tedrow—welcome to the team, Jacoby! The department is also planning to replace the garage doors at the station, with work expected to begin soon.

Friendly reminder that Council meetings are held the first and third Monday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome to attend! If you have something you'd like on the agenda, please contact us at skincaid@newcomerstownoh.com the week before the next scheduled meeting.

Events for the Newsletter

If you have an event you'd like to be included in the Community Calendar page, please let us know! You can either email shannon@newcomerstownnow.com or message Newcomerstown Now's Facebook page with your event information. If you're a writer and are interested in guest spots, please message the Now Facebook page with your writing.

As always, if you have an idea for an article/section please let us know! We're always looking for fresh takes and love to hear your feedback. Stay warm and safe. Spring is on the way (hopefully Punxsutawney Phil doesn't see his shadow!)

Written by Shannon Kincaid

Snow Routes:

- State Street
- Canal Street
- College Street
- River Street
- Cross Street
- Main Street
- Morris Crossing/Industrial Park

NCT Kids

Written by Amber Hart



ANDYN SPRING, AUBREY RINE, & JENSEN HAYES

The Annual Rachel B. Stoffer Spelling Bee was held at Newcomerstown Middle School, carrying on a long-held tradition in the community. Great job to all of the participants and a big congratulations to the winners- 1st place, Aubrey Rine, 2nd place, Andyn Spring and 3rd place, Jensen Hayes!

February

The sun rides higher
Every trip.
The sidewalk shows.
Icicles drip.

A snowstorm comes,
And cars are stuck,
Though road salt flies
From the old town truck.

The chickadees
Grow plump on seed
That Mother pours
Where they can feed,

And snipping, snipping
Scissors run
To cut out hearts
For everyone.



NCT CHEERLEADERS MAKE HISTORY

For the fifth year in a row, Newcomerstown's varsity cheer squad are walking away as the IVC North champions with Malvern finishing as the runner up. In the Game Day Routine competition, Newcomerstown earned second place, with Tusky Valley taking first.

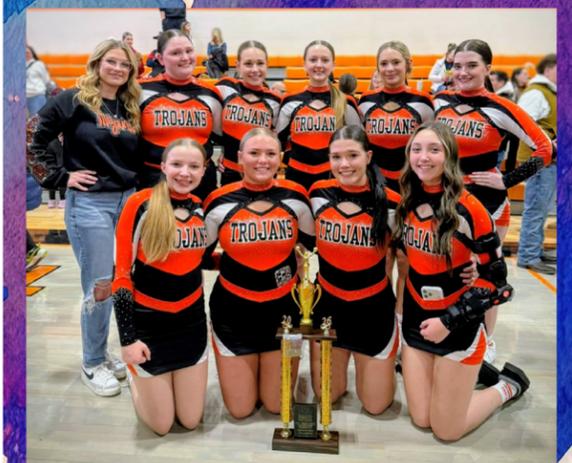
Under the direction of coach Lexy Johnson, the squad delivered a standout performance that reflected months of dedication, discipline, and teamwork. According to Johnson, the athletes pushed themselves daily to refine every detail of their routine, resulting in what she described as the best performance she has seen at the IVC competition.

"This fifth IVC title reflects their dedication, focus, and pride in representing Newcomerstown," Johnson said. "I couldn't be more proud of this team."

With another championship title added to their legacy, the Newcomerstown cheerleaders continue to set the standard while representing their school and community with pride.

VALENTINE'S DAY JOKES

- | | |
|---|--|
| Q: What kind of flowers do you never give on Valentine's Day?
A: Cauliflowers! | Q: What do you call two birds in love?
A: Tweethearts! |
| Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?
A: I find you very attractive! | Q: What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?
A: I'm stuck on you! |
| Q: What do you call a very small Valentine?
A: A Valen-tiny! | Q: What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?
A: I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand! |
| Q: What did the Valentine's Day card say to the stamp?
A: Stick with me! | Q: What did the peanut say to the other peanut on Valentine's Day?
A: I love ewe! |
| Q: What did one sheep say to the other on Valentine's Day?
A: I love ewe! | Q: Why did the two balloons go on a date?
A: They wanted to tie the knot! |
| Q: What do you call a donkey on Valentine's Day?
A: A Valentine-key! | Q: What did the chocolate syrup write to the ice cream?
A: I'm sweet on you! |
| Q: What did the toaster say to the bread on Valentine's Day?
A: You're my butter half! | |



Front Row- Lauren Ahle, Heaven Amore, Gracelea Moore, Abby Fauver
Back Row- (coach Lexy Johnson) Madison Moore, Sophia Richter, Hailey England, Marlee Garland and Brynlee Alverson

