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## December's Issue

### Birthdays and Sponsors



December 23rd  
Happy Birthday Joy Salmon!  
-love Amber, Allyn, and Coco

Introducing: the Birthday/Anniversary Section! If you have a birthday or anniversary to celebrate for the next issue, visit the QR Code!



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### Year End Review

Written by Jess Moore

#### A Year Worth Celebrating in Newcomerstown

Let's look back at the growth, progress, and community spirit that shaped our village this year. As we close another year in Newcomerstown, it's inspiring to reflect on all the positive changes that have taken place in our community. From new jobs and new businesses to renewed energy in our neighborhoods and a strengthening local housing market, our village has taken meaningful steps forward. Here's a look at some of the highlights that made this year one of progress and

#### Real Estate & Housing Growth

Newcomerstown's real estate market continued to grow, reflecting rising confidence in our community. Home values increased throughout the year, and properties continued to move steadily as more families chose to make Newcomerstown their home.

This year also brought encouraging signs for long-term housing development. The village is working with developers to bring new residential options to our area — including potential senior housing, apartments, condos, and more. After decades without new construction, the possibility of expanded housing brings hope for future growth and opportunities for residents of all ages.

#### New Jobs & Business Development

Economic development took center stage this year. Two major companies — Vienna Beef Ltd. and Altor Solutions — invested in Newcomerstown, bringing dozens of new jobs to our industrial park. These additions not only strengthen our local economy but also demonstrate confidence in our workforce and our community's future.

Along with larger industries, small businesses and entrepreneurs continued to play a vital role. New shops, services, and home-grown ventures added vibrancy to our village and supported the "shop local" spirit that keeps Newcomerstown unique and welcoming.

#### Community Improvements & Downtown Revitalization

One of the most uplifting parts of the year has been the renewed effort to beautify and enhance our downtown. Through the combined work of the village, Newcomerstown Now, local volunteers, and supportive businesses, Main Street saw fresh flowers, new banners, attractive décor, and more reasons for residents and visitors alike to feel proud of our historic downtown. Looking ahead, the village is preparing for even larger revitalization efforts. Plans include sidewalk updates, improved lighting, underground utility work, and continued building restoration. These improvements will honor our history while creating a more vibrant, accessible, and welcoming downtown for future generations.

#### Community Pride & Togetherness

Beyond buildings and businesses, what made this year special was the spirit of Newcomerstown. Volunteers showed up for events. Neighbors supported neighbors. Local organizations worked hard — often behind the scenes — to make our village a place where people feel connected and cared for.

*Whether it was festivals, beautification days, family activities, or charity drives, our community demonstrated the heart and pride that make Newcomerstown feel like home.*

As we move into a new year, there is so much to look forward to — continued development, new housing possibilities, more opportunities for residents, and ongoing improvements to the place we all love.

### 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  
Jeff Orr- Vice President  
Mike LaVigne- Vice President  
Carrie Kunkle- Secretary  
Erin Garretson- Treasurer

Other Members: Nancy Orr, Jen LaVigne, Pat Cadle, , Amber Hart, Ann Marie Maddox, Lisa Spillman, Alex Friedman, Rachel Baker, Shannon Kincaid, Delaney Moore, Joseph Fairchild, Patricia Celes, Kristy Barker

### Sponsorship

To be a sponsor for a future newsletter, please email for questions: [newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com](mailto:newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com)  
Call 740-294-3664 or mail a check to:  
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Frontline Focus: Amber Bourne

Written By Christie Wilkin

Amber Bourne is a paramedic for Tri-County Joint Ambulance Service in the village. She graduated from Tuscarawas Valley High School in 1997 and from the Mid-East Career Center Paramedic program in 2022. She is also a C.P.R. instructor and will soon be obtaining her ACLS, and Pals instructor certification.

Amber shares: "I knew at 15 years old I wanted to become a paramedic. It makes me happy to help people. While attending the paramedic program my mentors were Brian Schuler and Chris Gardner of Tri-County, and they were very always available to answer questions and give valuable advice.

For those of you thinking of becoming a paramedic, please know this is a career that is truly rewarding as being there in someone's time of need while also making a significant impact in the community is something special. We have a wonderful team and working at Tri-County is like being part of an amazing family."

Amber is also very active in the Tri-county Auxiliary as well as the Newcomerstown Firefighter Auxiliary. Her husband Kyle is a firefighter for Newcomerstown Station #13, and together they have five children Shelby, Cheyenne, Hunter, Kylee, and Jaylynn. They also recently welcomed a grandson Cooper to their family.



Your Voice, Your Village

Written By Amber Hart

As the year comes to a close, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on all of the things we have to be appreciative of. Sometimes, it's the little moments that make the biggest difference. This is why we decided to close out the year by asking *"What is one small act of kindness that someone has done for you this year?"*

"I'd like to thank all of those of Newcomerstown who have chosen me as a supplier for them"  
-Justin Heter

"Bob Mofett reached out to me over the summer when he noticed my grass was getting tall. My mower wasn't working and my husband was ill and had recently been hospitalized, so Bob wanted to know what he could do to help. He offered to take a look at the mower and didn't want a thing in return. He's a shining example of a good neighbor and always willing to offer a helping hand."  
-Amber Hart

"My wonderful friend brought me a cake and bouquet of flowers for my birthday- totally unexpected but greatly appreciated!"  
-Shannon Kincaid

Memories of Christmases Past

Written By William Casteel



Do you remember anticipating Christmas morning when you were growing up? Tossing & turning in your bed, couldn't sleep, thinking about what Santa had brought you? Remember debating on whether you had been on your best behavior all year long or whether Santa would remember otherwise? Maybe Santa would have a senior moment and forget a few things!

Who could forget the fantastic Christmas parades on Main Street and seeing Santa afterwards! Newcomerstown had some huge parades with lots of participation from the local businesses. People would line both sides of the streets. Businesses would all have their windows decorated for the holidays. Remember the Christmas lights strung across Main Street and the three huge merry bells that were always right in the middle near the Scott's 5 & 10 Store and the luncheonette? Our parents would later take us out in the late evening and drive all over Newcomerstown to look at Christmas lights. It seemed everyone had some type of lighted decorations.



What priceless memories of growing up in a small town!

Making a Difference-Support for the Season

Written By Rachel Baker & Amber Hart



Rather than spotlight an individual or organization for this month's Making a Difference column, we've chosen to highlight the many ways groups throughout our community are working together to meet local needs.

The holiday season for many, despite its magic and joy, can also be a time of immense struggle for families trying to make ends meet while still putting food on the table. Thankfully, several initiatives throughout the community are available to offer support.

Journey's End, located at 205 S. River Street, is a food bank that provides a variety of grocery items to community members. They are open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00–11:00 a.m. and 3:00–5:00 p.m. Bring a photo ID and a piece of mail for their records. No appointment or proof of income is required, and they serve individuals as well as families, turning no one away.

There are also several blessing boxes available in multiple locations throughout the village. These can be found outside Victory Assembly Church, Newcomerstown Middle School, Christ Methodist Church, and St. Paul Lutheran Church. Another box is located inside the library lobby, accessible Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This box will return to its outdoor location once winter has passed.

For free hot meals, Christ Kitchen at 645 Oak Street within Christ Methodist Church, serves dinner every Monday from 4:00–5:30 p.m. On Tuesdays, New Beginnings Church of God at 309 W. Church Street also plans to serve meals; for details, call

740-492-1211. In addition, the Church of the Nazarene at 363 Neighbor Street has announced several Thursday meal dates: December 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Students at Newcomerstown Schools are able to participate in the Tuff Bags Program which provides weekend meals. There are also several local initiatives to help kids have a fun and warm winter. These include Christmas baskets donated by the Elks Lodge, a hoodie drive organized by Orange and Black Get Fit, and a hat and glove drive organized by the Women for Jesus of Calvary Methodist Church. Families are encouraged to reach out to their children's school for more information.

Storybook Bench

Written By Amber Hart

A huge thank you to Oak Pointe, LLC , a local business right here in Newcomerstown that specializes in fine custom woodworking- from stair parts and columns to gorgeous millwork. They've partnered with us to create something truly magical for our community!

They have donated this massive storybook bench, which will soon be placed in the village for all to enjoy. Right now, it's a blank canvas... but not for long!

Our volunteers will be adding some colorful and creative finishing touches, and we can't wait to share the grand reveal this spring. Thank you, Oak Pointe, for helping us turn the page toward something exciting for the community.

*Stay tuned... a new chapter unfolds this spring*





## December Garden Story- Air Plants!

Written by Brenda Junkin

Let's add some fun to our houseplant landscape this year by adding a few Air Plants. They come in all shapes and sizes, are easy to maintain, and can be found in big box stores as well as cute local shops. Air Plants, botanically called Tillandsia, are set in cute-sy little pots seasonally themed pots or terrariums.

These plants naturally live in trees, don't need soil and acquire moisture and most nutrients from the air and rainfall. If temperatures and sunlight are kept similar to their native habitat most will thrive and even display flowers once a year.

They're a fun whimsical gift for your garden buddy.

- They need bright, even direct light.
- Submerge room temp. water for 20 minutes once a week.
- After soaking shake it out then place upside down to dry before replacing in display container.
- Between soakings, mist occasionally.
- Keep temperature between 60 and 80 degrees.



## WhoVille December 13th



As shared on the NCT Kids Page, the magic of Whoville returns December 13th, starting bright and early at 10 AM! Every year brings an extra-cheery turnout, and this one promises to be no different.

Families can jump into a flurry of fun with holiday crafts, a Whoville scavenger hunt, and plenty of festive surprises. And of course, the stars of the season will be there—The Grinch, Mrs. Claus, and Santa—ready for merry photo moments!



Kids can pick up winter goodies while supplies last, and festive treats will be available, also while supplies last. Get ready to wrap yourself in Whoville wonder—see you there!

## Community Events

12/6- Breakfast With Santa- Masonic Lodge- 7:00-11:00 AM  
12/6-Christmas Paint Party- David Barber Civic Center- 2:00-5:00 PM  
12/6- Holiday Lounge- David Barber Civic Center- 6:00-10:00 PM  
12/12- Newcomerstown Christmas Parade 6 PM  
12/13- Christmas Brunch- Olde Main Street Museum 10:00 AM  
12/13- Whoville- Main Street 10 AM-3PM  
12/13- Baby Jesus' Birthday Party- Newcomerstown Church of the Nazarene 12 PM  
12/13- Santa Meet & Greet- Live Christmas Music- Yellow Butterfly Winery 1 PM  
12/14- Born For Us! Christmas Pageant- Christ Methodist Church 6:30 PM  
12/18- Newcomerstown Schools Board of Education Meeting 6PM  
12/20- A Creter Family Christmas-Temperance Tavern Museum 5:00-7:00 PM  
12/22- No school for Newcomerstown students (staff inservice day)  
12/23-12/31- Christmas break Newcomerstown Schools  
1/1-1/ 2-New Year's break Newcomerstown Schools

Bingo is held at the Civic Center twice weekly:

Wednesdays doors open at 4:30, pre-bingo starts at 5, and bingo starts at 6  
Sundays doors open at 1:30, pre-bingo starts at 2, and bingo starts at 4

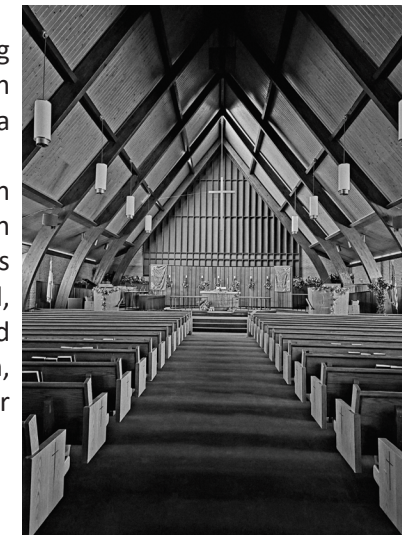
## Faith in the Community-Trinity Baptist Church

Written By Amber Hart

Located at 648 Oak Street, Christ Methodist Church is known for its welcoming spirit, vibrant ministries, and a strong focus on serving families. Led by Pastor Bracken Foster, the church is a community-based congregation that proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Christ Methodist offers two Sunday services. The 9:00 a.m. traditional service is held in the church's beautiful sanctuary and includes hymns, choir music, and prayer. The 10:30 a.m. contemporary service, held in the gymnasium, features a praise band and a lively atmosphere. During this service, children participate in their own separate worship program, making it a popular choice for families.

The church supports all ages through a range of ministries, including META, a youth group for grades 6-12 that meets Sundays from 7-9 p.m., complete with worship, food, and activities. Younger students are served through the Christ Kids after-school program, which will be returning in January after their winter break.



Throughout the week, adults can join small groups, Bible studies, prayer gatherings, and a variety of fellowship events.

A major outreach ministry is Christ Kitchen, held every Monday from 4:00-5:30 p.m. This free community meal is open to everyone. There are no requirements or questions, just fellowship. This offers a warm place to connect and another way that the church extends care to the community. Carry out is also available.

This month brings two beloved traditions to the church: the annual Christmas program on December 14th at 6:30 p.m. and the traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m.

Pastor Foster shared that seeing newcomers find their spiritual family in the church as they meet their neighbors and build new friendships is a blessing. He urges us to remember that while we are seeking to answer the question "What Would Jesus Do?", that we find that answer both in scripture and in one another as we walk together in faith.

## Main Street Blog

Written By Jen Lavigne

There is something special happening in Newcomerstown — a renewed energy, a sense of pride returning to our town, and a vision for a Main Street that reflects the heart of who we are. And you are invited to be part of it. Revitalizing Main Street is not just a project. It's a community movement. It's neighbors coming together to restore our historic charm, bring new life to our storefronts, support local businesses, and create a place where families gather, visitors explore, and opportunity grows. Whether you own a business, volunteer your time, lend your creativity, or simply show up to support local events, your involvement matters. Every act of participation — big or small — helps build momentum. Together, we can turn Main Street into a thriving destination filled with activity, pride, and possibility.

Join us in shaping the future of Newcomerstown.

**Let's build something beautiful together.**

**Let's revitalize Main Street.**

**Let's be the community that shows up**



Our Volunteers after landscaping on Main Street



## Street Department

We welcome Billy Mardis to the Street Department team! He was hired at the early November Council Meeting as a Street Tech III. It's snow plow season! The street department will be pre-treating the roads with the brine solution they started making this year.

## Police Department

John Lafferty joined the team as a part time officer in November, but was recently hired as a Full time officer! This brings the police department to six full time officers.

## Updates from the Administration

RITA has sent out non-filing letters. If you have received one and have questions please give us a call at 740-498-6313 or RITA at 800-860-7482.

We have received an update from the Railroad about the crossing at Chestnut. We will be getting crossing gates at this intersection next year.

The position for the public utilities administrative assistant has had many applicants. Thank you! We have been interviewing during the last part of November and are hoping to fill the position at the last Council Meeting of the year so the position will start in the new year.

## Fire Department

On November 19th, members of the Newcomerstown Fire Department spent the afternoon training on Ladder 1309, focusing on aerial operations and elevated master streams.

The truck recently returned from Sutphen after much-needed repairs and is now officially back in service- something the department is thrilled about. The village originally obtained the ladder truck in 2024, shortly after creating the new fire department in 2023. Additional updates at the station include planned roof repairs for 2026 and the installation of new garage doors on two bays, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year.



## Disposal of Christmas Trees

Last year, the Village offered a special dumpster for live Christmas tree disposal—and it was a hit! Thanks to all that cheerful participation, we're bringing the bin back again this year.

You'll find the tree drop-off at the Street Department, right where the brush bin is normally located. A friendly reminder: live trees only, please—no artificial trees in this bin also, this is for Newcomerstown residents only.

Let's recycle those evergreens and keep the post-holiday spirit bright! The bin will be dropped off December 29th and stay for two weeks.



## Make the Grinch Grin



The Grinch's heart grew three sizes because someone showed him kindness. And kindness is something you can share, too! How would you make the Grinch grin this holiday season? Fill the box with your best ideas for spreading cheer.



**13TH DEC** PET PHOTOS WITH MRS. CLAUSE 10:00 A.M. TO NOON FOR \$5  
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- PHOTOS WITH SANTA
- FREE FOOD
- SCAVENGER HUNT WITH DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES
- CRAFTS
- FREE WINTER ITEMS FOR CHILDREN WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
- MEET THE GRINCH



The Cy Young Days Festival Royal Court is spreading kindness throughout the village this holiday season. Their December service project is Operation Christmas Child, where court members packed shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in need around the world. Queen Maddie will also be selling popcorn by donation at the Whoville event this year, raising money for local animal shelters.

What causes are important to you?



Pictured are: Little Miss- Olivia Berkshire, Mini Queen Attendant- Morgan Miller, Mini Queen- Laycee Hill, and Junior Queen Attendant- Allyn Hart