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Community Calendar

Temperance Tavern Museum Events

May 9th | Family Tea
May 30th | Ice Cream Social

West Elementary Preschool Smart Start

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

Newcomerstown NOW Events

April 11 | Kickball Tournament Benefiting First Responders
Our annual Kick for a Cause Kickball Tournament will take place on April 11 at the Cy Young Youth Fields. This year's event will benefit our local first responders — Newcomerstown Police Department, Fire Department, and Tri-County Ambulance. Teams can register to play, sponsors are welcome, and donations are being accepted to support these vital organizations. Spectating is free, and concessions will be available. For more information or to get involved, please contact Amber Hart.

April 18 | Earth Day Community Clean-Up

Join us as we celebrate Earth Day with a Downtown Community Clean-Up Day! Volunteers will focus on sprucing up our downtown area — picking up litter, refreshing public spaces, and showing pride in our community. This is a wonderful opportunity for families, civic groups, churches, and businesses to work side-by-side. We encourage participants to bring gloves, rakes, and tools if available. Even small acts — planting flowers, sweeping sidewalks, or helping to freshen up storefronts — make a big impact. Let's work together to keep Newcomerstown looking its best!

Save the Date!

Apr 3 - Easter StoryHop @ Cy Young Park hosted by NCT Library, 11:30-2p Birth to 5th grade
Apr 22- Free Plant Swap @ NCT Library, 11am-2pm
May 13 - Golf Outing hosted by Newcomerstown NOW
Jun 27 - Hero Hustle 5k Color Walk/Run

Newcomerstown Library Events (740 498 8228)

Children & Teens

- Tiny Tots Story Time- Thursdays at 10:30am
- Little Learners Story Time- Fridays at 10:30am
- Family Story Time- Mondays at 3:30pm
- Teen Recipe Club- Apr 10th 4pm
- Family Movie Night- Apr 17th 5pm (all ages)
- STEAM Club- Apr 24th 4pm (K-5th grade)

Adults

- Book Club- 2nd Tues Every Month 1-2p
- Novels & Nursery Rhymes- Apr 7th 10:30am
- Cookbook Club- Apr 15th 4pm
- Make N Take- Apr 14th 10am (Registration begins Apr 15 12 pm April 1st) Apr 16 3pm

**COMMUNITY CLEAN UP MAY 1 & 2 LOCATED AT STREET DEPT
BRUSH BIN WILL BE AVAILABLE TUESDAY MAY 5TH**

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

Apr 2026

Business Spotlight Groovfold Fabricators

written by Jess Moore

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- Treasurer
Erin Garretson- Secretary

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

Located in the heart of Newcomerstown, Groovfold Fabricators is more than just a manufacturing facility. It's a family legacy built on hard work, leadership, and a deep commitment to the local community.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Andrew Cornell, a third-generation owner who continues to carry that legacy forward. Andrew shared that his connection to the business runs deep. "My grandpa started this plant back in 1963," he said. "I've always had a passion for leadership and manufacturing, so it's always been a goal of mine to take over the family business." That sense of purpose is evident in the way Groovfold operates today, blending decades of experience with a forward-looking mindset.

Like many small businesses, Groovfold Fabricators has faced its share of challenges. Staying competitive in the marketplace while continuing to improve products and grow sales is a constant focus. For Andrew, though, the bigger picture matters just as much. "We want to keep growing so we can raise wages for our employees," he explained. "Wages in this area are relatively low compared to others, and I'd like to help change that." That people-first approach extends beyond the shop floor.

Groovfold Fabricators plays an active role in supporting the local community by creating opportunities and investing in its workforce. "We're focused on the health and growth of our employees," Andrew said. "As we grow, we want to add more jobs and continue offering good pay and strong benefits." The company's craftsmanship has also led to standout products over the years. One of their most popular items, the Open Sports Locker, has an interesting origin story. "We were asked to make lockers for the New Phila wrestling team over 15 years ago," Andrew shared. "Since then, we've been making that model nonstop."

It's a clear example of how a single local project can grow into a long-term success. When asked about community support, Andrew didn't hesitate. "It's the people," he said. "Hardworking, intelligent, and caring individuals who show up every day and give it their all. Without our team, we wouldn't have made it this far." That appreciation speaks volumes about the culture behind the business.

Looking ahead, Groovfold Fabricators has plans to expand. The company is working to grow its "Closet" line, with future offerings that may include libraries, desks, kitchen cabinets, TV stands, and garage cabinets. It's a natural next step for a business that continues to evolve while staying grounded in its roots. For those interested in learning more or connecting with the team, Groovfold Fabricators can be reached at 740-498-8363.



Frontline Focus: John Lafferty

The Village of Newcomerstown Police Department welcomes full-time Officer John Lafferty to the force as of October 23, 2025. He received his training from Zane State, and he and his family reside in the area.

“My fondness for helping people is the reason I decided to pursue becoming a police officer.”

Since joining the Newcomerstown Police Department, Officer Lafferty has already taken part in additional professional development. He recently attended Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training at the Tuscarawas County Sheriff’s Department.

CIT training provides valuable knowledge for police officers and first responders when assisting individuals in crisis. Participants included not only law enforcement, but also mental health professionals and community partners.

A key component of the training focused on recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental illness, as well as improving communication and engagement skills to better interact with those experiencing a crisis. In addition, officers were introduced to a variety of resources available to assist when responding to crisis calls. “This information will benefit both the person experiencing the crisis as well as their family members,” Lafferty shared.

John grew up in a small Northeast town and says Newcomerstown feels very similar to his hometown. “The village is historical, quaint, and you can stop and talk to people along the way. My experience so far has been great. Chief Kennedy and the other officers are always available to answer questions or offer advice. They are a wealth of knowledge, and the department works very well together.” In his free time, John enjoys working on motorcycles and watching a good movie.



Written by Kristie Wilkin

Barron Design Company Offering New Clothed in Purpose Collection

Written by Kristie Wilkin

Mitch and Amy Barron of Newcomerstown and owners of Barron Design have recently introduced their “Clothed in Purpose Collection.” Available are shirts, hats, hoodies, and crewnecks including some youth sizes designed with bible verses and Christian sayings. Amy shares: “Clothed in Purpose was inspired by a desire to bring Biblical truth into everyday life by creating simple, meaningful pieces that remind people who they are in Christ and encourage them to walk confidently in their God-given purpose. It is not just about clothing. It is about: identity, encouragement, faith in action and living with purpose. We did not want this to feel just like a product line, but a message of the good news people can wear every day.”

Mitch and Amy felt like the Easter season was the perfect time to launch “Clothed in Purpose” as to them Easter is the moment that defines their faith. It is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and everything that changes because of it. It is the celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death, and the reminder that through Him, we are forgiven, made new, and given a purpose-filled life rooted in hope and grace. “Because of Easter, we are chosen, forgiven, and made for more. We are clothed in righteousness.”

We have officially been “Barron Design Company” since 2020. Mitch and I have both been working in this business full time since 2022. Barron Design Company has grown from a small crafting hobby starting in 2015, to a full service, custom apparel shop. This business has blessed us in more ways than we ever imagined. It has given us the opportunity to work together, grow in our faith, and create something meaningful that points back to Him. We are grateful for every order, every prayer, and every person supporting this journey, adds Amy and Mitch.”

All items are available on their website, which would be the best way to order -- www.barrondesignco.net/clothed-in-purpose. The Barron’s can also be contacted by phone at 330-204-6660 or email at barrondesignco@gmail.com.



Mitch, Amy and their family

Making A Difference

Usually, this column is dedicated to highlighting all the people and organizations in our community who are doing incredible things, and there is certainly no shortage of them in Newcomerstown. But this time, we’re turning the spotlight a little closer to home. We don’t mean to toot our own horn, but want to share what’s possible when we all come together for a common goal.

Since 2022, Newcomerstown NOW has been working toward a shared vision to revitalize our downtown, preserve our history, and build a future that we can all be proud of. We are lucky to have a group of volunteers who care about this community and are willing to show up with dedication and determination to bring every project to fruition.

You’ve likely noticed the impact. The flowers downtown, at park entrances, and other high-visibility spots in the village. The seasonal banners down Main, Canal, and College and the military banners on State Street. Murals and beautification projects adding character to downtown. Events like Second Saturday, the River Poker Run, Hallow-Rage, and Whoville among others all bring energy and fun while allowing folks to come together and really experience community. We raise funds that help support our projects, such as the Gathering Spot alley project downtown. Recently, the TNR project was added to the growing list of Newcomerstown NOW initiatives. And of course, we produce the very newsletter that you’re reading right now (thanks for following along with us on this journey by the way!).



None of these things would be possible without volunteers giving their time to make it happen. And while we are proud of the work we do, we can’t help but imagine how much more we could do with more people to help make it happen and bring fresh ideas and varied expertise to our organization.

If you’ve ever thought “Someone should really do something about that,” consider this your invitation. You don’t need special experience or a huge commitment to volunteer. Come to a meeting, stop by an event and introduce yourself, or message us on Facebook or at Newcomerstownnow.com. We can also be found on Tik Tok and Instagram. You’ll be amazed at what we can accomplish together to truly make a difference.

Newcomerstown NOW meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 132 W Main Street at 4:30 P.M. All who would like to be involved are welcome to attend.

Main Street Blog Springtime on Main Street Newcomerstown, Ohio

Written by Jen LaVigne

As winter fades and the days grow longer, Main Street in Newcomerstown begins to bloom with new life. Spring isn’t just a season here—it’s a feeling. It’s the sound of doors opening, the warmth of sunshine on brick sidewalks, and the return of neighbors gathering once again.

A Fresh Start for the Season

Spring brings a sense of renewal to our small town. Storefronts brighten with colorful flowers, windows fill with new displays, and the air carries that unmistakable promise of something new.

Coffee, Conversation & Community

There’s nothing quite like starting a spring morning with a fresh cup of coffee and a friendly face. At Main Street Coffee & Café, locals and visitors alike come together to connect and unwind.

Shop Small, Support Local

Spring is a wonderful time to explore local shops and businesses. Every purchase supports the heartbeat of our town.

Moments That Matter

From kids laughing on the sidewalks to friends meeting for lunch, spring on Main Street is filled with simple, meaningful moments.

Come Experience It

Grab a coffee, take a stroll, and soak in the charm that makes Newcomerstown feel like home.

Written by Amber Hart



Garden Story- April

Written by Brenda Junkin

Would you like to add a bird house or two to your homestead? Birds act as a natural pest control for your garden. And are pollinators, especially hummingbirds.

First let's talk about cleaning your existing bird houses.

- Always wear a mask and gloves when cleaning out a bird house.
- Open the house, remove and discard old nesting material.
- Clean the inside and outside with 1 part bleach and 9 parts water.
- Rinse and dry in the sun for a few days.

When adding a birdhouse understand that birds need proper hole size for their homes. The hole should never face the mid-day sun. Also consider placement beyond the reach of predators. If there is a perch on the birdhouse remove it, many birds prefer to fly straight into a nest, plus predators use it for stability.

While you may automatically think, tree. That is not always the best placement. Predators like squirrels and snake can climb a tree. A post and a baffle box are the best. If you walk the Buckhorn Trail, you'll see them dotting along the trail. Water attracts racoons so avoid that location. Bluebirds (1 1/2 inch hole) and tree swallows like space so fields are the best. Swallows (1 3/8 inch hole) eat horsefly's so near a horse field is a win win. Owls (3 inch hole) eat mice and like to be around 30 plus feet in the air near the edge of a wooded area. Blue Martins (1.74/2.25 inch hole) like gourds or tall white "condos" 10 to 20 ft pole in open areas. If you position them where you can watch the birds from your porch or window you'll enjoy them all season long.

Faith in the Community

Written by Beth Scott

Easter

Spring is softly and gently upon us and I'm encouraged when I open my windows in the morning to warm breezes and birds singing in the trees. Although winter still stubbornly clings to our area on most days, there have been a few recent days where the temperatures have reached the 60s and 70s, promises of warmer weather to come.

Easter has always been one of my favorite holidays. As a little girl, I looked forward to hunting eggs and attending Easter Sunday services while wearing the most ridiculous dress and hat my Mom had ordered for me from JC Penny. But even as a child, I knew the most important part of Easter wasn't the stuffed bunnies and chocolate eggs. I understood that Easter had a much deeper meaning involving the perfect Man nailed to a cross for my sins and then defeating death through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Imagine the genuine surprise the women felt that morning as they witnessed an empty tomb and then seeing the Lord Himself in all of His resurrected glory. I can only imagine the joy that must have come over them as they realized that the One they had loved and worshipped had been raised to life by the breath of God.

For the past several years, this passion play has been so beautifully portrayed by area churches in Newcomerstown and surrounding areas during the Easter Experience at the Newcomerstown High School Stadium. The fact that churches of different denominations come together each year to portray the life-changing events of Holy Week has been a blessing to this community.

So this Easter Sunday, I encourage you to attend a local church, even if it's been a while since your last visit. Put on your favorite dress or an old pair of jeans and come into the waiting arms of the Lord. He has no judgement for you, just forgiveness and love. Happy Easter!



Newcomerstown's Flood of 1935

Written by William Casteel

Most of Newcomerstown's residents have at least heard of the Great Flood of 1913 that caused a significant amount of damage to Newcomerstown and surrounding areas, but most are not aware of the flood of 1935.

According to news accounts, the flood of 1935 was a result of excessive rain that summer as well as a large naturally made break to the embankment near the C&M railroad on the north side of town. The most significant rain storm, there were several large rain storms earlier in the month, started on Monday evening around 8:00pm on August 6, 1935 and ended the next morning and that storm alone produced 9 inches of rain which is believed to be a historic record for Ohio in an 8 hour period of time. Water from the Tuscarawas River and the Buckhorn Creek spilled over into the north and west ends of town mainly with water at nearly 5 feet and more in some areas. With the north and west ends of town submerged under water traffic that was enroute for out of town eventually came to a halt as County Road 9 then known as State Route 16 and State Route 21 north were the two main highways at that time. The town was suddenly isolated and nobody could access Newcomerstown either! Local authorities feared the highways could possibly be in a collapsed state underneath the 5 plus feet of raging, muddy waters.

The Newcomerstown Fire Department as well as local citizens assisted throughout that entire Tuesday night of August 7, 1935 to rescue stranded residents. In some areas the volunteers waded in water that was neck deep to reach people. While there were no fatalities in Newcomerstown, there was a fatality in Coshocton County, near Keene, Ohio. Nicholas Begovic, age 45, was swept away in the flood waters when his automobile became entrapped in the flood waters on the Millersburg Road (now known as State Route 83 north). Coshocton County was hit hard and it was estimated that there had been \$100,000 damage in that county alone. In Newcomerstown nearly a mile of the C&M railroad (which carried train traffic north to south) was washed away. The break in the railroad embankment on the north side of town allowed flood waters from the swollen Buckhorn Creek to roll into the already flooded west end of town. Newcomerstown later reported in the Thursday, August 8, 1935 edition of the Coshocton Tribune that the village of Newcomerstown was also estimating their damages at nearly \$100,000 as well. It was reported in that same news account that the water was slowly receding by Wednesday evening and it was believed that Buckhorn Creek would be at its normal stage by Thursday evening.

The water's raging fury was once again unleashed again on Newcomerstown in 1937 and again in 1969, but neither, nor the flood of 1935 compare with what our grandparents and great grandparents referred to as the Great Flood of 1913 that devastated Newcomerstown and multiple states, thousands of dollars and many lives were lost. Newcomerstown had one fatality, Lyle Crawford, when the River Street bridge collapsed. Coshocton (Clowville, south side of the city of Coshocton) had nearly a dozen residents that drowned in the Flood of 1913.

Floods for Newcomerstown and surrounding areas are less common these days since the construction and many improvements of the Dover Dam in Tuscarawas County and the Mohawk Dam in Coshocton County.

INTRODUCING: ASK BIGFOOT!

Written by Nct's Most
Legendary Resident

Q: Dear Bigfoot, What made you decide to write an advice column?

A: Back in the day, before I took up a more permanent residence in Newcomerstown, I spent a lot of time at Salt Fork State Park. A lot of people would go camping in that area, not far from where I liked to sleep. Some of them would leave their trash. Litter.

I don't like messes, so I had to clean up.

I saw a newspaper, and took it home with me. Inside, I saw a Dear Abby article. People mailed her questions and she answered them back in the article. I thought that was so cool! After that, I kept watching out for those newspapers and noticed that lots of camping visitors left those papers. I think they used them to start their fires. Amateurs.

I always looked forward to those papers and reading her article. Some questions were silly. Some were funny. Some were serious. She always answered them appropriately and very wisely. Abby became my role model. I often dreamed of giving random people advice. This is my opportunity to do that! Who better to ask advice from than someone who keeps to themselves, hides from cameras, yet sees everything, and can start a fire with a clump of their own fur?



Recreation and Street Department

The Street Department received the street sweeper and started to patch holes. They've been keeping up with the various weather patterns, plowing one day and clearing trees off the roads the next. We thank residents for being patient during the various problems that the weather brings.

Cy Young Park Reservations for Shelters are open now! Please call into the office at 740 498 6313 to schedule your shelter. Pool parties won't be scheduled until closer to the pool opening. We're hoping the end of May will be the pool opening day, but stay tuned while we get in everything in order! Shelter 5 will have repairs done to the concrete, so that Shelter might be unavailable for a certain amount of time while the repairs are being done.

Community clean up will be May 1-3. Help will be available the 1st and 2nd. Please don't bring fridges, tires, paint, aerosal cans, brush & yard waste or household trash. The brush bin will be available Tuesday, May 5th.

Family Event- Free!

There will be an event at Simonds-Heller Park and Boat Ramp on April 25th called Fairies and Forest Friends! It's an adventurer's hike and family fishing day geared toward children and families. It starts at 10 am and is free to attend. If you bring a pole, the clog hole would be the perfect spot to fish, as well as along the river.

Join us for a day filled with nature education, hands-on activities and family friendly fun!

Meet fun characters on our trails!

FAIRIES & FOREST FRIENDS'
ADVENTURER'S HIKE
AND FAMILY FISHING DAY

Free public event!

SATURDAY 25 APRIL
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Bring a pole & fish the Tuscarawas River & the Clog Hole Pond!

SIMONDS HELLER PARK
757 S RIVER STREET NEWCOMERSTOWN, OHIO

Brought to you by: The Village of Newcomerstown, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, & the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program

NCT TNR Update

Written by Lisa Spillman & Jennifer Baker

The Newcomerstown TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) Program continues to make a meaningful impact in our community through compassion, teamwork, and dedication. TNR is a humane approach to managing stray and feral cat populations—cats are safely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and then returned to their original location. This process not only prevents future litters but also improves the overall health and quality of life for the cats while reducing nuisance behaviors.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of local residents, businesses, and village government, over \$8,000 has been raised to support this effort. With these funds and the hard work of our volunteers, we have successfully fixed and vetted 26 community cats so far. Every two weeks, a team transports up to six cats to Altercare in Canton for care. Once trapped, cats are housed safely in large crates and cared for daily by volunteers until their appointment—ensuring they are comfortable and well looked after.

This program is entirely donation- and volunteer-based, and we are so grateful for the continued support. Monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday at the administrative building at 6:30 PM to discuss new colonies, plan fundraisers, and coordinate transport. If you'd like to get involved, donate, or learn more, please contact Jennifer Baker at 330-440-3196 (call or text anytime).

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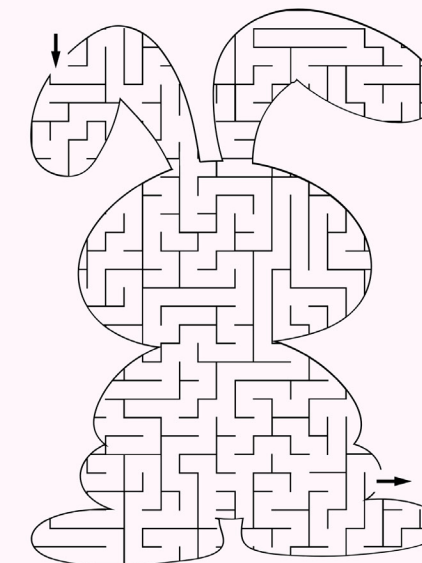
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I SPY Easter

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Easter is April 5, 2026



What Kind of beans never grow in a garden?

Jelly beans!

What do Easter eggs do for fun?

Kar-ee-yolk-e!

You've probably heard the saying "April showers bring May flowers." Another thing that the rain brings is mud puddles! Put on your rain boots and go outside to splash and stomp. Puddles are the perfect place to float a paper boat and watch it sail. Just remember to play somewhere safe like your yard or a sidewalk, and never in the street.



"Believe me, my young friend, there is NOTHING — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Wind in the Willows

How to make a paper boat

- Start with an A4 sheet of paper. Fold in half, top to bottom.
- To find centre, fold in the other direction and unfold.
- Fold corners down using centre fold as a guide.
- Fold flaps up on both sides.
- Put thumbs in middle and open out...
- ...until it makes a square. Tuck corners of one flap under the other.
- Fold up at both sides.
- Put thumbs in middle and open out again...
- ...until it makes a square. Pull corners out...
- ... and press flat.
- Open out to make boat shape.
- Final illustration of the paper boat.