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# January's Issue

## Community Calendar

### Temperance Tavern Museum Events

- Jan 11 | 11:30 -1pm | Soup & Sandwich Sunday Lunch
- 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

### Other Events Around Town

- Jan 5 - Council Meeting 7pm | 308 S College St
- Jan 12- Last Day for Christmas Tree Disposal Bin
- Jan 12- Planning Commission & BZA meeting starting at 6:30pm | 308 S College St

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.”

-Neil Gaiman

# 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

**JAN 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

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

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Call 740-294-3664 or mail a check to:  
Newcomerstown NOW  
143 W Main St

## Business Spotlight

written by Jess Moore

Integrity Propane, LLC chose Newcomerstown as the home for its small business with both strategy and community in mind. With convenient access to major routes including Interstates 77 and 70, U.S. 36, and U.S. 250, the location allows Integrity Propane to efficiently serve customers across multiple counties while remaining closely connected to the community it serves.

“Newcomerstown made sense for us—not just because of its central location and access to major routes, but because of the people,” said Darren T. Green, sales manager of Integrity Propane, LLC.

“This community supports one another in ways that go beyond business. From fellow business owners sharing their experience to customers who value dependable service, that support is what drives us to keep investing locally and delivering the best propane solutions we can.”

Like many specialized businesses, one of the company’s biggest challenges has been finding qualified employees. Transporting propane requires proper licensing and endorsements, along with specialized training. While this presents an ongoing challenge, Integrity Propane, LLC remains committed to seeking motivated individuals from the local community who are willing to learn the trade and grow with the company.

Giving back to the community that supports them is a core value at Integrity Propane, LLC. The company makes a conscious effort to shop local whenever possible, donate to area schools and organizations, and consistently deliver high-quality products with dependable service. Their goal is not only to operate in Newcomerstown, but to be an active and supportive partner within the community.

During the colder months, propane for winter heating—whether for large or small tanks—is one of Integrity Propane’s most in-demand services. Throughout spring, summer, and fall, the company offers cylinder fills for camping, grilling, fireplaces, and patio heaters. One of their most popular offerings is the Propane Tanks for Purchase program, which allows customers the freedom to choose their propane provider. This program has expanded into surrounding communities and has helped families and businesses save money over the years. Looking ahead, Integrity Propane, LLC is building a new office near Newcomerstown and West Lafayette, further solidifying its long-term commitment to the local economy. This expansion will allow the company to be even more accessible to customers and neighbors.

“We want to be there for the everyday moments,” Green added. “Whether it’s someone stopping by to get propane after picking up steaks from the local butcher or a family getting ready to deep-fry their famous turkey for the big game, our goal is to make sure the community has reliable service when it matters most.

*“With strong community ties and a continued commitment to service, Integrity Propane, LLC looks forward to meeting the needs of Newcomerstown and surrounding areas for years to come.”*

Darren T. Green, Sales Manager  
Integrity Propane LLC  
(740) 502-0963



## Frontliner Focus- Kyle Bourne

Kyle Bourne is a 2004 graduate of Newcomerstown High School and a life-long resident of the village. He had always wanted to become a firefighter; the formation of the new Village of Newcomerstown Volunteer Fire department in May of 2023 proved to be the perfect time to fulfil his goal. Kyle received his Firefighter 1 training from Buckeye Career Center that summer and joined the department. He is also an E.M.T. who works for Tri-County Joint Ambulance Service when needed. Kyle's full-time career is as a quality control inspector for U.S. Bridge.

Kyle shares: "Our fire department is a talented group of individuals, and they were tremendous in assisting me through my training period. We often bounce ideas off each other, and if there are questions, we are always given answers. We work as a team! It is extremely rewarding to be a firefighter."



Written by Kristie Wilkin

Kyle's wife Amber is a paramedic for Tri-County. Together, they have five children: Kylee, Jaylynn, Shelby, Cheyenne, and Hunter and recently welcomed a grandson named Cooper to their family. Kyle and Amber don't have much free time with both being involved in the Tri-County auxiliary and the Newcomerstown Firefighter auxiliary but do enjoy making time for each other for movie nights. Kyle also enjoys motorcycles and is looking forward to riding once again.

Kyle was recently promoted to Lieutenant of Newcomerstown Volunteer Fire Department #13. He noted it was a surprise, but is up to the challenge of new responsibilities. The promotion took place at the annual combined

Christmas party for the fire and police departments, as well as Tri-County on December 6th. Pierson LaVigne was also promoted to Lieutenant and Matt Beitzel was named Firefighter of the Year!

## Your Voice, Your Village

Written by Amber Hart

As we set New Years resolutions for ourselves, it's a great time to look toward the future and set goals for our community. This prompted us to ask If Newcomerstown had a New Years resolution, what would it be? We received many thoughtful answers with several concerns and ideas on how to make the town even better. These were some of your responses:

*"What can we do to make the route between the highway ramps/36 and into the village more appealing and inviting? We have so many hidden gems and much unique history to showcase to drive-by commuters"*  
-Alicia Robertson

*"Bring more stores back to Newcomerstown."*  
-Larry and Peggy Durbin

*"I would love to see a bicycle pump track at one of our parks. Pump tracks are appealing to multiple styles of riding and I don't know of any within 45 minutes of Newcomerstown so it would bring riders from surrounding areas."*  
-Jeremy Ott

*"We need more business and industry. I have real estate investor friends here in Colorado, and I work in the rapidly-expanding space industry. I keep advertising for Newcomerstown... especially for renting out my Main Street buildings. In all seriousness, we need to expand our outreach and get more jobs into Newcomerstown."*  
-Mariah Alwes

## MAIN STREET BLOG

Written by Jen LaVigne

*New Year, New Projects – Right Here on Main Street*

2026 is the year we build momentum in Newcomerstown. From Main Street storefront upgrades, new sidewalks, and street lights, to local and community – driven initiatives, Main Street is stepping into the future.

What's coming:

- More reasons to stay local
- Fresh places to gather and connect
- Events that bring our community to life
- Collaborative projects that create pride and progress.

***This is our Main Street,***

***This is our community,***

***Let's make 2026 a year of energy, creativity, and hometown excitement.***

***Join the movement. Join Newcomerstown NOW.***

***Be part of the progress. Help shape the future.***

***Membership is open – your voice matters.***



The Flower Program



The Gathering Spot During 2nd Saturday



Kickball Fundraiser for the Ritz Fire



WhoVille Cookie Decorating



***Together we are revitalizing Main Street.***

Join Newcomerstown NOW by emailing [newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com](mailto:newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com) or scan the QR code which will take you to our website to fill out our volunteer form. We would love to have you!



### Newsletter Deadline:

Information for the newsletter **must be received by the 16th** by email to Shannon at: [shannon@newcomerstownnow.com](mailto: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](mailto:newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com) for the link



### Newsletter Sign up

To receive a newsletter please email [newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com](mailto:newcomerstownnow@yahoo.com) with your mailing address.

### *"Fueled by Community – Powered by Gratitude"*

The fire auxiliary is sponsoring a plaque that will be displayed at the Newcomerstown Administration Building. The plaque will be permanently displayed and serve as a lasting symbol of the strength and support of our community.

It is limited to 84 name plates, which will be unveiled at a public ceremony along with a Mayoral Proclamation of Gratitude. A sincere thank you to those who have already participated—what a meaningful and lasting way to honor our firefighters and the community that stands behind them. Please contact Josh Leeser at 330-786-6498 with any questions.

All proceeds go toward supporting the Newcomerstown Fire Department

*Have a wonderful New Year!*



## Garden Story- January

It's a new year and time to think about our health!

You received a new watch to track your steps, joined the gym on Main Street; now it's time to think about what you eat. Consider increasing fresh herbs for everyday health. Herbs offer diverse health benefits that contribute to your overall wellbeing. They contain a lot of vitamin A and C as well as antioxidants and anti-inflammatory capabilities. You can add them to your favorite dish or tea! Here are a few that grow well in our zone.

- Garlic – boosts immunity
- Thyme – immune health
- Fennel - helps with digestion
- Basil – stress management
- Mint – digestion
- Lavender – sleep aid
- Yarrow – reduces inflammation
- Echinacea (Coneflower) – supports immune health

Happy, Healthy New Year!

Written by Brenda Junkin



*Mint grows well in containers!*

## Faith in the Community Church of the Nazarene

Written by Amber Hart



A group of children who participated in their first Bible Quiz is filled with artwork made by children in the church.

When asked to describe the Newcomerstown Church of the Nazarene, Pastor John Kohr summed it up simply: they love all people. That love is paired with a strong sense of joy, fun, and togetherness that was evident throughout our conversation.

Pastor Kohr shared a recent highlight - a Christmas caroling outing where church members made seventeen stops over the course of two and a half hours. The group included a young helper named Mackenzie Berkshire who handed out goodies, adding an extra dose of cheer and connection along the way. Moments like these reflect the heart of the church.

The church is also home to Good Neighbor Place, a preschool founded more than twenty years ago, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to children and families. A former youth pastor, Pastor Kohr has a soft spot for kids and shared that preschoolers often peek into his office just to wave hello. His office bulletin board

Several times a year, the Church of the Nazarene hosts larger community activities, including its involvement in Newcomerstown's Easter Experience, which has grown so large it now takes place at Lee Stadium. They also host a self-led Good Friday walk-through, block parties, movie nights, and are always looking for new ways to connect. Their goal, Pastor Kohr said, is to be a good neighbor.

Recently, the church refined its mission to be a place that overflows with joy, hope, and love. One way this is lived out is through "serve teams," where members volunteer throughout the community by completing acts of service. We at Newcomerstown Now have witnessed this firsthand as the church has sent volunteers to help us plant flowers in the community.

For those seeking a church home, Pastor Kohr encourages people to visit multiple churches and find a place where they feel loved and able to contribute in meaningful ways. Above all, he hopes the community knows that even in difficult times, joy and peace are everywhere- you need only to look for it.



## Making a Difference

Written by Amber

When you walk into the Newcomerstown Senior Center, the first thing you notice is manager Kim Little's beaming smile. That's saying something considering she was also dressed head-to-toe in festive holiday clothes on the day I visited. When people talk about passion for their job, Kim is the epitome of it. Although her official day starts at 7 a.m., she arrives several hours early to make sure everything is just right. She truly loves what she does, and it shows in every interaction.

On a typical day, the Senior Center serves 25-40 seniors, with even more attending popular events. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., when members gather for coffee, snacks, and conversation. Lunch is served at 11:15 a.m. which is a nutritious, home-cooked meal for just \$5. You don't have to be a member in order to carry out lunch, but calling ahead ensures enough food is prepared. Members can stay and enjoy a communal meal together, and as Kim puts it, the real fun begins after lunch.



Members enjoyed musical entertainment by the 5th grade choir.

Activities range from exercise, card games, bingo, field trips, health checks, and even games like The Price Is Right. Weekly health checks, provided free to members by the health department or Tri-County Ambulance are an invaluable resource. Bingo and field trips are especially popular, with Kim frequently loading up a van herself when needed to take seniors to zoos, aquariums, museums, and more. In January, the center will also begin Tai Chi.

Kim emphasizes the importance of the Senior Center for those who may otherwise be isolated. "The socialization is top-notch here" she shares.

Membership is open to anyone 50 and up, or as they say, "50 north." A full-year membership is just \$10, with lunches and optional field trips as the only additional costs. To reserve a lunch, call 740-498-4523 anytime.

As someone whose own grandmother is a member, I'm deeply grateful that she has a place to go, friends to laugh with, and a community to belong to. The Newcomerstown Senior Center isn't just a building, it's a lifeline for our neighbors who have given so much to this community- and it truly is making a difference.



Senior Center is located at 222 S Bridge Street

## Newcomerstown's Snow Oddity of 1901

Written by William Casteel



Spring is a way off for all of us here in the Tuscarawas Valley, but since winter is just in the beginning stages, I thought this story would be a good one to share.

Newcomerstown had an extremely odd spring in 1901; in fact, it was a beautiful, balmy mid-April day when twenty four inches of snow fell out of the sky! Light skiffs or spring snows were not unknown to Newcomerstown residents but one of such magnitude was unheard of until April 19, 1901. It was a Friday evening and everyone was going about their business, preparing for the upcoming Easter celebrations in town the following week. People were getting spring outfits ready and planning for their gardens when all the sudden it started snowing! It wasn't just a light skiff of snowflakes, this was big, wet, heavy snowflakes! The snow ended up coming down that Friday evening and night, all day Saturday, as well as part of Sunday. The end result was twenty four inches of snow with some of the smaller drifts being at seventeen inches. Life in Newcomerstown came to a screeching halt!

Farmers in the rural areas were snowbound for more than a week. Some residents' roofs collapsed due to the weight of the snow! The flat roofs on the buildings in town had to be immediately cleared of snow due to the excess weight; yet some were later found to have sustained damage from the heavy snow. Most residents were also caught with low coal reserves since it was the start of warmer weather. Many huddled in their cold houses for over a week as coal delivery was made impossible due to roads being buried under the excess snow. The spring of 1901 was more of a winter that year and residents recalled the event for many years after.

On November 24, 1950, another memorable snowstorm left Newcomerstown buried in twenty inches of snow and ice. This time thanks to the progression of time, vehicles and snow plows were in use and the recovery was much easier. Newcomerstown was back to business within a day or so.

The Village of Newcomerstown recently completed the election and appointment process for village council. This year, four council seats were available. David Shepherd, the only candidate to run, was reelected and will continue serving the village.

The remaining three open seats were filled through an application process. Council accepted letters of interest and received applications from eight residents who expressed a desire to serve. After careful review and consideration, the council appointed Josh Lessor, Yulanda Tarrance, and Steve Carney to fill the open positions. We appreciate everyone who took the time to apply and show interest in serving our community.

In addition to these members, Jay Lambes and Allen Collins continue to serve on the council, with terms that run through December 31, 2027, providing valuable experience and continuity. Below are brief introductions to our council members.

**David Shepherd**

David was reelected to village council and continues his service to Newcomerstown. As the only candidate to run, David’s reelection reflects the trust and confidence residents place in his leadership and dedication to the village.



**Josh Leeser**

Josh brings a strong background in public service, community leadership, and business management to the council. He and his family have made Newcomerstown their home and are actively involved in the community. Josh served twelve years in the Ohio Army National Guard, has experience as an auxiliary police officer, and currently serves as President of the Newcomerstown Auxiliary to support firefighters.

With more than twenty five years of leadership experience in financial services, Josh offers skills in budgeting, strategic planning, and fiscal responsibility. He is passionate about supporting local businesses, strengthening community connections, and helping guide Newcomerstown toward a strong future.



**Lonnie Tarrance**

Yulanda (Lonnie) has called Newcomerstown home for many years and is a proud mother of two sons. She is actively involved in the community, particularly through Newcomerstown youth athletics, where she regularly supports local sporting events.

With over twenty years of experience in the medical field, Yulanda currently works as an Office Coordinator Manager for Fosterbridge Home Health. She is passionate about being involved in the community, bringing new perspectives to local government, and helping build pride and opportunity for all who call Newcomerstown home.

**Steve Carney**

Steve has deep roots in the Newcomerstown community and brings decades of experience in emergency services and public safety. He currently serves as a paramedic lieutenant with the Tri County Joint Ambulance District and previously served as a firefighter with the Village of Newcomerstown Fire Department and Killbuck Township Fire and EMS.

Steve brings a service-driven mindset, leadership, and firsthand experience helping others in times of need. He is committed to continuing his service to the community through his role on the village council.



Our village administration would like to warmly welcome our new and returning council members and thank them for stepping up to serve our community. We’re also grateful to everyone who expressed interest in being involved. It’s encouraging to see so many residents who care about Newcomerstown and its future, and we look forward to working together to keep our village a great place to call home.

Why did the snowman move to Newcomerstown?

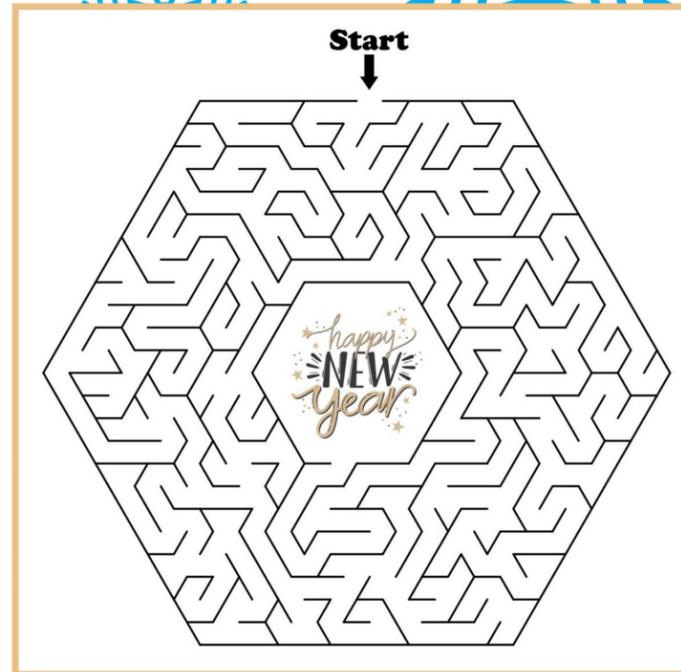
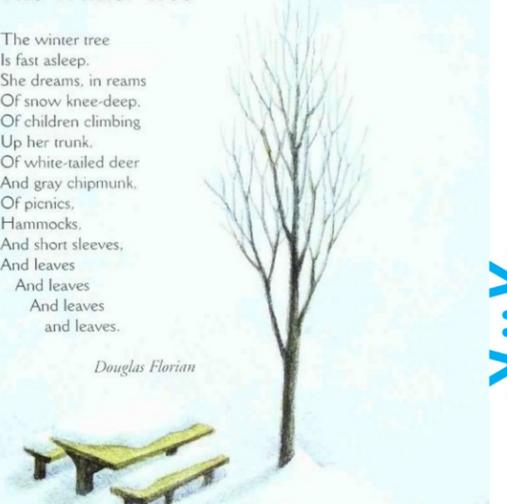


because he heard it was COOL all year long!

The Winter Tree

The winter tree is fast asleep. She dreams, in realms of snow knee-deep, of children climbing up her trunk. Of white-tailed deer and gray chipmunk. Of picnics, hammocks, and short sleeves. And leaves and leaves and leaves and leaves.

Douglas Florian



January isn't just for snowmen! Grab some squirt guns, add water and a few drops of food coloring, and turn the snow into your own colorful winter masterpiece!

Snow Day Challenge: Blanket Forts



Whether you have the day off of school due to weather or are looking for a way to spend a chilly weekend indoors, blanket forts are a great activity. The whole family can get involved using their creativity to design the perfect cozy space to read books, have snacks, watch movies, or relax!

Use blankets, couch cushions, stuffed animals, and more to create the perfect retreat for a cold winter’s day.