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Scan to sign up for the Newsletter!



Community Calendar

Historical Society Events
- October 4th- Cemetery Tour 1:30p
- November 6th- Veteran Ruck Walk
- November 20th-22nd Christmas Wonderland
- November 27th-29th Christmas Wonderland

NCT Library
- October 7th | Make-N-Take 10a
- October 21st| Make-N-Take Noon
- Oct 28th | True Crime Book Club 5p

visit nctlib.org for full calendar

Trick or Treat: Oct 31st 4-6
Trunk or Treat: Oct 31st 2-3:30

Newcomerstown NOW
- October 10th | Hallow-Rage 5p
- Nov 8th | Remove HayBale Decorations
- December 12th | Who-Ville

Tire Recycling: Oct 24th $1 per tire | 210 S College St
Call to make appointment: 330 343 5550
Hosted by TCHB





THE NEWCOMERSTOWN NEWS NOW

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

Halloween Edition OCT 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- Treasurer
Erin Garretson- Secretary

Other Members: Nancy Orr, Jen LaVigne, Jeff Orr, Ann Marie Maddox, Alex Friedman, Rachel Baker, Shannon Kincaid, Delaney Moore, Joseph Fairchild, Patricia Celes, Sara Warner, Josh Leeser, Kim Leeser, Hanna Doberstein

To be a sponsor for a future newsletter, please email for questions:
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Newcomerstown NOW
143 W Main St

Business Spotlight: Dick's Place

written by Jess Moore

For more than 25 years, one local restaurant has been serving up home-cooked meals, warm hospitality, and a place for the community to gather — while becoming a meaningful part of the Newcomerstown story.

The owners' connection to the area runs deep. Dick Miller was raised just outside of Port Washington, while his wife, Natalie Miller, grew up right here in Newcomerstown. With most of their families having roots in the area, Newcomerstown was more than just a place to open a business — it was home. It was also where they chose to raise their four daughters.

The idea of opening a restaurant actually goes back about 30 years. An article in the Newcomerstown News asked residents what they would like to see in their community. One of the responses was a desire for more restaurants.

Having always enjoyed cooking, the opportunity eventually came to purchase a restaurant. They took that leap, and what began as a business grew into something much more personal — a place where they could serve their neighbors, raise their family, and become part of the everyday fabric of the community.

Like many small-town businesses, they have faced their share of challenges. The loss of local industry and downtown businesses has impacted the community, and the COVID-19 pandemic brought perhaps the biggest challenge they had faced as a business owner. Through it all, they kept going.

Today, the restaurant remains a place where people can come together, enjoy a good meal, and experience the kind of friendly, family atmosphere that makes a small hometown special.

And there is certainly no shortage of favorites on the menu. Their home-cooked meals are a big part of what keeps customers coming back, including baby back ribs, open-face roast beef, and chopped sirloin smothered in mushrooms, onions, and gravy — just to name a few.

But after more than 25 years, the story isn't really just about the food.It's about the people. Over the years, the restaurant has given the family an opportunity to meet countless wonderful people from Newcomerstown and the surrounding area. Customers have become familiar faces, friendships have been formed, and generations of families have shared meals around their tables.

The community has supported them through good times and challenging ones, and they are grateful for every customer who has walked through their doors.

Looking ahead, their goal is simple: continue serving their customers the best home-cooked meals they can while providing a welcoming hometown atmosphere.

After more than two decades, they remain proud to call Newcomerstown home — and proud to continue serving the community they have been fortunate enough to be a part of for so many years.

Because in a small town, a local business is never just a business. It becomes part of the community, part of the memories, and part of the story.

Frontline Focus: Newcomerstown Firefighters' Auxiliary Moves To The Front Line

Written by Kristie Wilkin



"The Auxiliary to Support Newcomerstown Firefighters recently received exciting news. For the past two years, I have hoped we would become a Leadership Tuscarawas project. We applied this year and were selected as one of six projects the organization will support in 2026–2027," said Kristie Wilkin, project leader for the initiative.

The auxiliary submitted a comprehensive application for consideration. Fire Captains Roy Tedrow and Jeremy Haver helped prepare it and have agreed to oversee the project from a firefighter's perspective. They will also answer any fire-service questions from the Leadership Tuscarawas team that selects the auxiliary's project.

The auxiliary requested assistance with strengthening its leadership skills, recruiting new members, developing grant-writing expertise to secure needed equipment and training for volunteer firefighters, and generating new fundraising ideas.

"The village established the Newcomerstown Volunteer Fire Department in 2023. Because this arrangement is still relatively new, the auxiliary wants to operate as effectively as possible and develop the skills needed to support our firefighters and community. We believe working with Leadership Tuscarawas over the next nine months will help us advance that goal," said Josh Leeser, president of the auxiliary.

The auxiliary is an enthusiastic group with an active Facebook page and also rallies around other village endeavors. "Our pancake breakfasts and raffles have been especially popular. Community support for these events has enabled us to purchase several smaller items the department needs. With a generous donation from the Tri-County Joint Auxiliary and additional auxiliary funds, we also purchased much-needed fire hose, which is now on order. With storm season approaching, we voted at our last meeting to buy two new chainsaws for the fire trucks. Our volunteer firefighters put their lives on the line whenever they respond to a call, and we want to ensure they have the tools, gear, and equipment needed to remain safe and prepared," said Amber Bourne, treasurer of the auxiliary. "The next step is for auxiliary members, officers, and firefighters to present the project to Leadership Tuscarawas in mid-October. Six leadership teams will review the six projects selected for 2026–2027 and choose one to support over the next nine months based on their interests and the presentations. We will invite the team selecting us to tour the fire station, attend an auxiliary meeting, and we will meet with them throughout the partnership. We will also attend the team's graduation in May 2027," Wilkin said.

Visit the "Auxiliary to Support Nct. Firefighters" Facebook page for information about events and meetings. The auxiliary meetings are at 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the council chambers at the municipal building, 308 S. College Street. New members are welcome and may participate as much or as little as they choose. To donate, deliver a check payable to the auxiliary to the mayor's office, or visit the Newcomerstown branch of DoverPhila Federal Credit Union and request that your contribution be made to the Newcomerstown Firefighters Fund.

The auxiliary's officers are Josh Leeser, president; Carla Mayfield, vice president; Amber Bourne, treasurer; and Matt Beitzel, secretary, and firefighter.

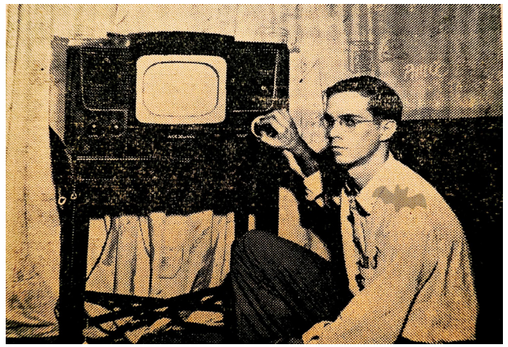
First Television Installation

Written by William Casteel

It's the fall of 1948 and the village of Newcomerstown has no television! Yes, that's correct, Newcomerstown households didn't have a television in their homes until after the Ortt family installed a television at their business, the C.E. Ortt Company, on Main Street. The Ortts owned the Ritz Theater at the time and that and other area theaters were the only source of movie entertainment for area residents.

According to the September 23, 1948, edition of the Newcomerstown News the Ortts installed their television just in time for the Cleveland baseball game that was being televised that Monday night. A small group of Newcomerstown residents watched the ballgame in which the Cleveland Indians beat the Philadelphia Athletics 6-3.

The Ortts reported that stations from Canton and Akron are scheduled to go on the air soon. An antenna was installed at the Ortt building which will facilitate much clearer reception. Ortts also report that the American Legion has purchased a television and is also getting ready to set up their antenna within the week.



Robert Ortt, Newcomerstown resident is shown with the very first television that was installed in the Fall of 1948.

Fall in a Small Town

Written by Jen LaVigne

Community, tradition, and the simple joy of calling a place a home

There is something special about fall in a small town. It begins quietly. The mornings become a little cooler, the sunlight turns softer, and before long, the trees lining familiar streets begin trading their summer green for brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold. Pumpkins appear on front porches, mums brighten storefronts, and the smell of leaves and wood smoke reminds us that another season has arrived. In a small town, fall is more than something we see - it is something we experience together. It is Friday night football under the lights, where generations of families fill the stands to cheer for the hometown team. It is children picking out pumpkins, neighbors decorating their homes, and local businesses filling their windows with the colors of the season. It is festivals, hayrides, bonfires, warm apple cider, and conversations that seem to last a little longer when the air turns crisp. Fall also brings us back to Main Street. There is something comforting about walking through downtown on a cool autumn day. You might stop for a hot cup of coffee, visit a local shop, wave to someone you know, or simply take a moment to appreciate buildings and streets that have been part of the community for generations.

Small-town life has a way of making ordinary moments feel important. The person behind the counter knows your name. A quick trip downtown can turn into a twenty-minute conversation. News travels quickly, neighbors help neighbors, and community events become opportunities to reconnect with people we may not see every day.

Autumn reminds us why those connections matter. As the days grow shorter, there is a natural feeling of slowing down and gathering together. We begin thinking about family dinners, Thanksgiving, holiday traditions, and the people and places that make our community feel like home. Fall is also a wonderful time to support the businesses and organizations that keep a small town moving forward. Buying a cup of coffee, having lunch at a locally owned restaurant, visiting a small shop, attending a community event, or volunteering for a local project may seem like simple things. Together, however, those choices make a difference. Every thriving small town is built on people who choose to participate. So this fall, take the scenic way home. Walk down Main Street. Attend the football game. Visit the farmers market or fall festival. Sit around a fire with friends. Introduce yourself to a new neighbor. Shop local when you can. And don't be in such a hurry that you miss the beauty happening right outside your door. The leaves will eventually fall, the pumpkins will disappear from the porches, and another Ohio winter will arrive.

But for a few beautiful weeks, our small towns become a reminder of something worth holding onto: community, tradition, and the simple joy of calling a place home.

Halloween Memories

Written by Beth Scott



Nothing beat Halloween in the 1990s. This was the era before Amazon and perfectly-curated costumes on Pinterest. Most costumes were either homemade or were old clothes that came out of the back of a closet somewhere. I can remember the year my sister made me a homemade skeleton costume, or the year I glued my Halloween mask to my face and Mom had to run scalding hot water over my face to finally peel it off. I think my face was bright red for a week. I remember going down to my grandma's house and she would always have those absolutely disgusting hard taffy candies that were wrapped in orange and black wax paper. Does anyone else remember those?

I remember the year Mom made a giant spider web out of old bed sheets and fastened it to the front of our deck, complete with a huge spider made out of trash bags that would give anyone nightmares. Of course we had those thin plastic pumpkin bags in our front yard that everyone stuffed with crisp autumn leaves.

My favorite year was when Mom made a family out of four different-sized pumpkins and she rewrote a classic Christmas story to make it about Halloween. We filmed it and everything, on VHS of course. I wish I could find it to show my kids.

So this year for Halloween, my goal is to infuse the same spirit of the season into our traditions for my kids. I think I'll make some pumpkin bread, watch a creepy movie with my girls, and maybe throw together a 90's-inspired costume from some old clothes and accessories. Happy Halloween.

October Garden Story

Written by Brenda Junkin

October, Halloween and ghoulish faces Pumpkins…Right!



The story of the Jack-O-Lantern goes back to an old Irish myth about a man nicknamed Stingy Jack roaming the Earth using a carved-out turnip with a burning coal to light his way. When arriving on this continent, the soft pumpkin became the go to for carving. And boy has it taken off. Roy Patterson of Darr Farms in Newcomerstown wholesales around 10 million pounds of pumpkins a year. While he says all pumpkins are edible, his standard carving pumpkin is too stringy. Patterson said he's seen a lot of warty pumpkins the last few years. And while he does not grow them, he said you can order seeds to grow in your own garden. If you're looking to carve a pumpkin Wendy Schumaker of Schumaker Farms both wholesales and retails from their shop in West Lafayette.

"We've been selling pumpkins for a long time", says Schumaker. They sell many varieties from pumpkin pie to Blaze pumpkins and will even create a stackable for you. "Stackables have been around for some time now. We can create one for you layering pumpkins and gourds." Deb Gaumer of The Garden Patch Greenhouse in Coshocton has a large variety of pumpkins and gourds as well. She does not grow them but works with Crooked Run Farm for her stash. "There was a time when you could distinguish pumpkins and gourds by their stem. Gourds were harder than pumpkins and squash. But they seem to have evolved and that's no longer so distinctive," Gaumer mentioned the "bloom" on the bottom of cucurbits. The collective named for all three fruits. It's on the bottom where the flower originally was. I never noticed these before and they are quite beautiful. She feels the sweet Blue Hubbard squash makes a tasty pie. It can also be used in soups and stews.

So, if you're looking to carve a ghoulish grin or cook up a yummy pie or stew, look no further than our local folks. Happy Halloween!

Thank you to our Sponsors

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Your generosity allows us to bring our vibrant community news and updates. Thank you!

Find the bats!

How many bats can you find hidden in the newsletter? The answer is on page 5!



Join the Polar Express

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Elves- must be 4th grade or older
- Storytellers
- Santa
- Car Hosts
- Hero Boy
- Museum office help
- Gift Shop
- First Class Waiting Room
- Golf Cart Drivers
- Hot Chocolate Delivery Patrol
- North Pole Elves

Call 740-922-6776 for more information or email polarexpress@dennisondepot.org

Polar Express: Dec 3-6 & 10-13
Training starts: Oct 7th 6pm at 301 Grant Street in Dennison

A Safety Training Class is required for all volunteers working on the train or railroad. Safety Training is Oct 7th at 7pm

Hallow-Rage

October 10th
David Barber Civic Center

Bands:

- Dying Appalachia
- The Neon Tiger
- The Indigents

Doors open @ 5pm
Bands: 6-11
Cover: $5
Beer/Wine with ID
Food Trucks: Don Polo Mexican Food , TCBBQ



Senior Pride

Written by Brenda Junkin

Decorating jeans for your senior year has become a popular event that continues to grow bigger every year at Newcomerstown High School. It's a way to express their school spirit and pride as part of the next generation of graduating seniors.

"It's all about the jeans," says Ezra Norman. We keep the tops simple so you really notice the jeans. Norman worked on his for two solid days, finishing at 3 AM the night before Senior Sunrise. Senior Sunrise is a yearly event for the graduating class to gather on the first day of their senior year. It's time for bonding and encouragement. The kids found creative inspiration on Pinterest and other social media sites. Madi Moore looked to Pinterest, then worked with acrylics and other paint techniques to create her jeans.

"I just flowed with the ideas and made them my own," said Moore. As a cheerleader she paired her jeans with her Trojans jersey. While a lot of the kids start with the words "senior" and the graduation year "2027", they customize their jeans with their own inspiration. Jensen Friel said she didn't want to use school colors. Her self-expression comes more with pastels, patterns, butterflies and dragonflies, so she created a design using those images. Norman added patches, pins, vinyl transfer and used a cricut machine to create his unique jeans. The kids all agreed you want to make a statement your senior year. They said they will wear these throughout the year, But Senior Sunset, held at the end of the year, will be a must do. This is bonding that will last them their lifetime.

According to Google, the tradition of decorating your jeans started in 1904 at Purdue University. Over the decades the tradition evolved and shifted into high school culture. Customizing denim jeans for Spirit Weeks, Homecoming and senior portraits.



Jensen Friel, Madi Moore and Ezra Norman

NCT High School Fruit Fundraiser

Dear Newcomerstown School District Families and Community,
The Newcomerstown High School Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Classes are excited to announce our Fresh Fruit Fundraiser! If you enjoy fresh, delicious fruit, please consider supporting our students by purchasing from our fundraiser. Your purchase directly benefits our students and their classes!
Freshman Class: Funds will help build their class account for future activities and expenses.
Sophomore Class: Funds will help build their class account for future activities and expenses.
Junior Class: Funds will help cover the cost of Prom this year.

When checking out, please select the Advisor associated with the class you would like your purchases to support:
Steven Prichard → Freshman Class
Hannah Stogsdill → Sophomore Class
Remi West → Junior Class
You may also purchase fruit directly from any Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior student at Newcomerstown High School! **Fruit pickup will be at Newcomerstown High School, tentatively on December 11, 2026. Additional pickup details will be shared as we get closer to the date. Last day to order is November 15th.** Thank you so much for your endless support of our students and Newcomerstown High School! Every purchase helps our students reach their goals, and we truly appreciate our wonderful school community. If you enjoy fresh fruit, want to start canning or want to buy some oranges in bulk for some extra Vitamin C, please consider buying from us!
Thank you for supporting our students!
Go Trojans!

How to Order: input the link in your search bar or scan the QR code

https://freshfruitorder.org/NewcomerstownHighSchool/Organizations/landingpage.aspx

The Village Messenger

Written by Shannon Kincaid

Fire Department

The roof of the fire department was recently repaired. It is completely done now. Members of the department attended training at Port Washington on their fire wells. There have been 180 calls to date .

Street Department

Let's welcome Gina Gray as a Tech I and Reed Anderson as a Tech II to the street department! The two were recently hired at the Council Meeting on September 8th. The street department is working on leaf pickup schedule, the map will be available on our webiste (www.newcomerstownoh.com) if you are unsure of your pick up day.

Water Department

There was a water leak the second week of September, which triggered multiple smaller breaks to other lines in town due to the pressure changes. Jared, the Utilities Superintendent, thanks his employees for their long hours to fix the breaks. They worked well into the night, early morning and afternoon. He also thanks everyone who helped them out, the Police Department, Street Department and the residents.

Scrap Tire Disposal Day

October 24th will be the scrap tire disposal day, by appointment only. It will be held at the Street Department. The Tuscarawas County Health Department will accept the appointments by calling 330 343 5550 or emailing eh@tchdnow.org. The cost is $1 per tire, up to 10 tires per vehicle. Please don't bring semi, tractor tires or rims. If you have questions, please call the number listed above.

Autumn in Newcomerstown

Written by Amber Hart



By October, fall has fully settled into the Village. The crisp autumn nights, wearing big comfy sweaters to combat the chill in the air, and the beautiful fall foliage make me especially grateful to live in this part of the world. I love watching our little village transform to welcome the season. Like squirrels tucking away nuts for winter, residents and businesses all seem to have their own ways of preparing for the changing seasons. Along Main Street, one of the first signs of fall is the arrival of straw bales being decorated by local businesses and organizations, adding a little extra autumn charm downtown. Main Street Coffee offers fun fall-themed flavors, and you can't help but stop and admire the gorgeous seasonal window displays at businesses like Shades of Sommer and L&N Real Estate. While many of us have slowed down after a busy summer, for some local businesses, fall is their busiest time of year.

Kevin Hanenkrat, owner of Now & Then Guns & Stuff, told me this is their biggest season. Local hunters keep the shop busy as they stop in for hunting essentials before heading into the woods. It's one of the many benefits of living in a rural community, where hunting remains an important tradition for many families and helps fill freezers for the months ahead. The Village Street Department is preparing for the season, too. John Resh and his crew are ready for leaf collection while also preparing equipment for winter so our village streets can remain safe and clear when colder weather arrives. Even a quick trip to the grocery store reminds us that fall is here, with colorful mums and festive decorations greeting shoppers before they even make it through the doors at Reisbeck's.

As for me, I'm finding myself reaching for cozy fall scents in my wax melts and dusting off the autumn decorations to help get myself into the spirit of the season. But really, all you have to do is take a look around Newcomerstown to see it. We all contribute something to the rhythm of our community, often without even realizing it. Seeing your neighbor's fall decorations may inspire you to put up your own. Maybe it was the pumpkin-flavored latte they had at Main Street Coffee that morning that inspired them to do the same. As our porches transform, so do our streets, our neighborhoods, and ultimately our Village. Together, we create that unmistakable feeling of fall in Newcomerstown, and I believe that is why it will always be my favorite season of all.

NCT Kids

Written by Amber Hart

Hope your OCTOBER is CRAWLING with fun!



What do mummies like to listen to?
Wrap music

What does a skeleton say before dinner?
Bone appetit!



Why are vampires so easy to fool?
Because they're suckers

What is a witch's favorite school subject?
Spelling!



Which image is different?



Have you seen all the fall decorations downtown?

Many businesses and organizations have been busy turning bales of straw into colorful and creative displays to make Main Street feel extra festive this fall.
The next time you're downtown, take a look at all of the different designs and see which is your favorite!

Now it's you turn!
If you could decorate a straw bale to show off your personality or something that is important to you what would you create**?**
Let your imagination run wild and draw your own display here!



Bats: 7