

Frontline Focus: Gavan Morris

Written by Kristie Wilkin

The Village of Newcomerstown Police Department welcomes Officer Gavan Morris as a member of the team. He has been an officer for about six months and already loves our village. He grew up in a smaller town and enjoys the close-knit vibe and community spirit. Gavan is a graduate of Waynedale High School located in Apple Creek where he was very involved in football, wrestling, track, and other school activities. After high school, Gavan attended Bethany College and later Stark State where he graduated from the law enforcement academy. His family includes his girlfriend, parents, step-parent and five sisters.

Gavan’s grandfather served as a deputy sheriff in Monroe County for many years, so he knew a little about the career he chose to pursue and has had his support. Gavan shares: “I chose this profession because I wanted to make a difference. I know from my grandfather that law enforcement is an extremely rewarding career as I have the opportunity to make a significant impact in the village. My plans include becoming more involved in community outreach and in the Newcomerstown schools. I have enjoyed being at the football games this season, meeting residents and students, plus of course cheering on the Newcomerstown Trojans.”



“I will end my interview on a funny note. While present at the first responder’s event this past August at the high school, Officer James Kedigh and I were kidding around about who was faster. A race was held in front of everyone in attendance, and I must admit James beat me. It’s nice to be part of a team of officers and other frontliners who you can be out in the community with at special events and have some fun together. I will be ready for next year’s race James!”

Making a Difference-Jaxon's Bricks for Bravery

Written By Amber Hart

Jaxon was a kind-hearted, curious, and adventurous five-year-old whose love for life touched everyone he met. He loved cheering for the Pittsburgh Steelers, skiing, exploring, and building with his LEGO sets. He dreamed of becoming a pilot, an astronaut, and a dad someday and always kept his family smiling and on the go.

When Jaxon faced hospital stays, LEGO bricks became a comforting distraction, something he and his family used to fill long waits and bring a sense of calm to difficult days. After his passing, his parents created Jaxon’s Bricks for Bravery, a nonprofit dedicated to donating LEGO sets to children in hospitals, giving other families the same moments of joy Jaxon found.

What began as a small act of kindness has grown tremendously. In just six months, Bricks for Bravery became an official nonprofit organization with more than a thousand followers and over \$4,500 in donations, including more than one thousand LEGO sets. The group recently formed a board of directors to help guide future projects and events.

The Newcomerstown community has played a major role in that growth. Local schools, businesses, and organizations have rallied in support. West Elementary’s spare change challenge raised over \$1,000. Jaxon has been named the Honorary Little Slugger by the Cy Young Days Royal Court, allowing his family to travel to local communities promoting the festival while sharing Jaxon’s story. “We only moved here four years ago, and we have felt like we have lived here our whole lives with the amount of support we have received,” Jaxon’s mother, Bridget Britton shared. She says that there is a common misconception that when a child passes away the family doesn’t want to talk about them anymore, but for the Britton family, hearing people talk about Jaxon is the best gift they can receive.



The group’s next big project is its 25 Days of Christmas Toy Drive, with all proceeds going directly to Akron Children’s Hospital. Community members can help by donating unopened LEGO sets, contributing financially, or hosting fundraisers to collect sets.

To learn more or get involved, visit facebook.com/bricksforbravery.

Scan the QR code to donate!



Your Voice, Your Village

Written By Amber Hart

As the year starts winding down, we asked our readers to reflect on what 2025 has taught them so far. The responses were quite varied and remind us that while we live in a tight-knit community, we all have unique experiences and can learn a lot from one another. Here’s what some of you had to say.

- “Don’t buy a cat door, we now have a raccoon that thinks he or she lives with us...”
-Crystal Douglass
- “If there’s anything you want to do, go and do it!! Life is short. You never know when your time will come. Tell the people you love that you love them and make every day count.”
-Vicki Ryan
- “That to save your family stress you really need a will because you never know what tomorrow holds.”
-Pam Jurin Robinson

Memory Lane Looking Back Through Newcomerstown’s History

Written By Jess More

Compiled from the archives of The Newcomerstown News and The Times-Reporter

- 25 Years Ago — 2000**
- The Village Council and the Newcomerstown Community Improvement Corporation were in negotiations with Caito Inc. to locate a new refrigerated distribution center in the Newcomerstown Industrial Park.
 - The 79th annual Newcomerstown Chamber of Commerce Banquet was held at the David Barber Civic Center, with State Representative Joy Padgett serving as guest speaker. Ray Booth and Roger Bambeck shared “Member of the Year” honors.
 - Students of the Month for the Elks Lodge were Jeremy Welch of Newcomerstown and Virginia Oswald of Ridgewood.
 - Married: Elizabeth E. Grant and Rev. Jerry Broschart, April 16.
 - Deaths: Rosemary Johns Wagner, 77; John William Shalosky, 56.
- 50 Years Ago — 1975**
- The Stone Creek Fur Buyer, Elmer “Coxey”, was robbed in a notable event of the year. Meanwhile, the long-awaited Cy Young Museum officially opened to the public, honoring Newcomerstown’s beloved baseball legend.
 - The old Nugen Home on East State Street was destroyed by fire in a controlled burn conducted by local firemen. Harry Stocker marked his 100th birthday on May 22, but sadly passed away weeks later.
 - Palace Auction, owned by Joe Barbera, remained a busy local hub, while the Newcomerstown Lions Club celebrated its 45th anniversary. Thompson IGA marked 20 years in business.
 - Infrastructure improvements continued with plans for a new sewer line between Newcomerstown and Port Washington and a major expansion proposed for Kurz-Kasch.
 - William B. Rogers succeeded R. D. Fletcher as manager of the Peoples National Bank and Trust Co.
- 75 Years Ago — 1950**
- In 1950, the Ritz and Starlite Theatres were sold to Mains Amusement Co. of Toronto, Ohio, signaling new ownership for local entertainment.
 - Plans were in motion to dedicate a new park to Cy Young, while the Ohio Utility Commission recommended flashers at the C&M Railroad crossing to improve safety.
 - Several businesses changed hands: Oscar G. Moffet and Lloyd E. Bair purchased Leech Motor Co.; John C. Kissell bought Lester Brown’s Grocery on Chestnut Street; and Sam Nelson, of West Lafayette, purchased Hampton’s Store on Main Street.
 - Tragedy struck that same year when 33 National Guardsmen were killed as the Pennsy Flier train rammed a troop train near West Lafayette on September 11.
 - Later that fall, a six-day snowstorm dropped more than 20 inches, the worst blizzard since April 1901.
- 100 Years Ago — 1925**
- In 1925, W. C. Roof of West Lafayette purchased Young’s Bakery on West State Street and moved it to West Lafayette. Manuel Yingling, a well-known local musician, passed away.
 - The New Oxford Bank opened its doors, while the Home Building and Loan Co. purchased the old Oxford Bank building. Mrs. Lloyd Ley opened a tea room in the former Oxford Bank Room on Main Street, soon joined by the Vanity Fair Tea Room, which quickly became a community favorite.
 - J. K. Mohler took over the Hardson-Essex Automobile Agency, and a devastating fire on Canal Street gutted three buildings, including Downs Grocery.
 - That same year, the Dirigible Shenandoah crashed near Ava, killing 14 of her crew members — an event mourned throughout the area.
 - Clow Avenue Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, and Rose Brothers Furniture Co. purchased Ortt Furniture, opening a new store in the Eureka Building.

November Garden Story

Written by Brenda Junkin

Indoor Plants

Now that you've brought your plants inside for the winter let's talk about keeping them happy, healthy and thriving. You need to consider light, humidity and water. I don't have direct light in in my home so I'm always on the search for low light plants. Here are a few I've had luck with.

- 1) Ivy: I know it takes over in the garden outside. But inside it can crawl down a book shelf or along a cabinet grouping. It doesn't require soil, it can group in a jar of water.
- 2) Heart Leaf Philodendron: I have this one in the kids room where there's very little light and it's happy. It doesn't need a lot of water, which is good because sometimes I forget about it.
- 3) Staghorn Fern: This guy loves the bathroom. It doesn't need a lot of light and loves the humidity.
- 4) Mother in Laws Tough: I've had this for years. It gets mold if in the bathroom so it stays in the living room behind a few shorter plants like my Christmas Cactus.
- 5) Bamboo, Money Plant: This little gem can add warmth in any room.

It's important to group your plants so there is space between them for circulation and to prevent pests and disease. Room temperature matters; they need warmth say around 65, Tall ones should be in the back, short plants should be up front.

Enjoy your plants!



Ivy House plant



Heart Leaf Philodendron



Bamboo Money Plant

Bingo Has Returned to Newcomerstown

Written by Lisa Spillman

Get ready to mark your cards and shout "BINGO!" — the beloved game has made its return to Newcomerstown! The Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County are now hosting Bingo at the David Barber Civic Center, located at 1066 E. State Street. Games are held every Sunday and Wednesday, except on major holidays.

- **Wednesdays:** Doors open at 4:30pm, Bingo and instant sales begin at 5:00 pm, and the Bingo program starts at 6:00 pm.
- **Sundays:** Doors open at 1:45 PM, Bingo and instant sales begin at 2:00 pm, and the Bingo program kicks off at 4:00 pm.

This exciting program, organized in partnership with Civic Center Manager Kyle Stevenson, brings the community together while supporting meaningful local causes. Proceeds benefit Friends of the Homeless and other participating nonprofit organizations.

Local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are invited to volunteer and help during Bingo sessions as a fundraising opportunity. In exchange, a portion of the proceeds from the sessions they assist with will go directly to their organization. Interested nonprofits should contact Becky at 330-602-6100 for questions. All nonprofits must be in good standing with the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the IRS to participate.

Grab your lucky dauber, bring your friends, and join in the fun every Sunday and Wednesday! Follow the David Barber Civic Center on Facebook for updates, special announcements, and more chances to win big — all while giving back to our community

Faith in the Community-Trinity Baptist Church

Written By Amber Hart

Every other Sunday morning, the sound of the old church bell will ring out once again from Trinity Baptist Church on Martin Luther King Drive, a sound that for years had fallen silent.

The church was founded in 1908 by the Clow company, built for the southern workers that the company brought to Newcomerstown. At that time, the street was known as Clow Avenue. Trinity Baptist remains the only historical African American church in the village.

While a fire destroyed the original building in 1967, the current building was erected in 1969. When the Clow company left Newcomerstown, they deeded it to the community. The church closed again in 2017, this time due to the then pastor's illness. Last year, the congregation contacted their association for Easter and Pastor Rodney Sutton of Akron visited. He saw the repairs that were needed, and, thanks largely to the efforts of Brent Dansby and family, Trinity's doors reopened in time for Easter Sunday.

Since then, beloved traditions have returned. This summer's Homecoming Celebration drew visitors from as far as San Diego and Dallas. The Fall Revival

was an old fashioned tent revival held at Southside Park and brought food, fellowship, worship, music, and laughter with a bounce house that was used by all ages.

Trinity Baptist is now looking to renovate their fellowship hall which will allow them to bring back additional traditions such as children's programs and weekly Bible studies. Recent fundraising efforts and donations, along with two separate grants, replaced the church's roof. Pastor Sutton was instrumental in orchestrating the reopening of Bingo nights at the Civic Center to be hosted by the Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County. Several non profits in the village including the church, will be sending volunteers to assist. Supporting these events is one way that the community can help Trinity Baptist to reach their goals..

Worship services take place every other Sunday with Pastor Sutton still ringing the bell that calls the faithful to gather. He urges those in the community who may be looking for a church home to come and pay them a visit. While it is named Trinity Baptist, he takes a non-denominational approach and stresses that all are welcome. As he reflects on Trinity's renewal, Pastor Sutton shares Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."



Main Street Blog

Written By Jen Lavigne

"If you build it, they will come." — Field of Dreams, 1989

It is a simple, yet powerful, quote that is often used to capture the idea of creating something that will attract people to an area. Main Street isn't just a place, it's the heart of a community. Every storefront, every light in a window, every cup of locally brewed coffee tells a story of pride, passion and possibility.

You may be thinking that it's a lost cause, no one wants to come to Newcomerstown, and the biggest thought is it will never be what it used to be. You are right about the last thought, it will never be what it used to be. The days of The Baltimore, the Wagon Wheel restaurant, and the XXX Bakery are golden memories never to be forgotten, but why not move forward and create new ones for future generations? By breathing new life into the area, Newcomerstown can attract visitors, stimulate small business growth, and inspire civic pride. A vibrant Main Street draws residents and travelers alike, encouraging them to shop local, dine local, and invest in the town's future.

Economic revitalization also creates a ripple effect throughout the community. When storefronts are occupied and sidewalks are busy, property values rise, employment opportunities expand, and local tax revenue goes back into our community for schools, parks and more.

Please make it a point to visit Main Street and see the progress that is being made in creating a future of our downtown. The vibrancy of the community is slowly returning all thanks to grants and donations from the community and businesses.

Street Department

The leaf pick up schedule is set to start October 20th. It will be as follows:

- 1. Mondays: Section 1- From River Street West to the corporation limit, south of the railroad tracks
- 2. Tuesdays: Section 2- From River Street East to the corporation limit, south of the railroad tracks
- 3. Wednesdays: Section 3- From Bridge Street east to Pilling Street, north of the railroad tracks. Includes Scott Addition
- 4. Thursdays: Section 4-From Bridge Street west to the corporation limit, north of railroad tracks

If you are unsure what day you will be, you can give us a call at 740-498-6313 or take a look at our interactive map! Just scan the QR Code to the right.



Updates from the Administration

North College Street's speed limit has changed from 35 to 25mph. Cybersecurity has been at an increased risk for the last few years. The state has started requiring audits and resolutions for cybersecurity protocols for entities. Be on the lookout for phishing attempts via email and phone calls. Phishing is the most successful way for identity thieves to access your information. Businesses, governments and residents need to stay vigilant, which is why the state implemented strict rules for governments.

The ladder truck is now once again, housed in the Village Fire Department after facing many problems ordering parts. It's up and running great! Two garage doors are being replaced at the station also.

We welcome part-time officer John Lafferty to the Village of Newcomerstown Police Department! He was hired at October 20th's meeting and was sworn in the same week. We look forward to having him as a part of the team.

Burn Ban: Remember the Burn Ban extends through the month of November! The burn ban is from 6am to 6pm.

Shop Small- Support Big Dreams

Written by Lisa Spillman

Small Business Saturday is November 29th!

As the holiday season approaches, there's no better time to show your support for the heart of our community — our local small businesses! Small Business Saturday, coming up on November 29th, is the perfect opportunity to shop local, discover unique experiences, and make a big difference right here in Newcomerstown.

Our small businesses are more than just shops — they're run by our neighbors, friends, and families who pour their passion and creativity into everything they do. Whether you're looking for a fun evening of bowling, need a tire rotation or oil change, want to refresh your look with a haircut, manicure, or spa service, or simply enjoy lunch and a warm cup of coffee at a family-owned business with a cozy atmosphere, every purchase you make supports someone's dream and strengthens our community.

When you shop locally, you're not just buying a product or service — you're investing in Newcomerstown's future. Your dollars help support local jobs, fund community events, and keep our village thriving.

This holiday season, let's make a conscious effort to spend our dollars close to home. Take a stroll through town, stop into a few local businesses, and experience the friendly service that makes Newcomerstown special.

Mark your calendars for Small Business Saturday, November 29th, and join us in celebrating the businesses that make our community shine. Shop small, shop local, and shop with heart this holiday season!

The Turkey Shot Out of the Oven

- Jack Prelutsky

The turkey shot out of the oven and rocketed into the air, it knocked every plate off the table and partly demolished a chair.

It ricocheted into a corner and burst with deafening boom, then splattered all over the kitchen, completely obscuring the room.

It stuck to the walls and the windows, it totally coated the floor, there was turkey attached to the ceiling, where there'd never been turkey before.

It blanketed every appliance, it smeared every saucer and bowl, there wasn't a way I could stop it, that turkey was out of control.

I scraped and I scrubbed with displeasure, and thought with chagrin as I mopped, that I'd never again stuff a turkey with popcorn that hadn't been popped.

Thanksgiving Would You Rather?

What would you choose?

Eat raw pumpkin	or	Eat raw cranberries
Give thanks	or	Get thanks
Cook Thanksgiving dinner	or	Clean up after Thanksgiving dinner
Sit at the adults table	or	Sit by yourself
Smell like a turkey	or	Walk like a turkey
Have Thanksgiving dinner	or	Have Christmas dinner
Peel 1000 potatoes	or	Bake 100 pies
Live inside a pumpkin	or	Live inside a cornucopia
Eat only mashed potatoes for a year	or	Eat only dinner rolls for a year

November Fact

Famed playwright William Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets in the English language but none of them mentioned the month of November!

What's Your Turkey Name?

First letter of your first name:

A Plump	G Salty	M Majestic
B Golden	H Fluffy	N Gobbling
C Juicy	I Hefty	O Basted
D Sassy	J Wild	P Scruptious
E Stuffed	K Silly	Q Spicy
F Kooky	L Fried	R Baked

S Wacky
T Hardy
U Tender
V Sweet
W Savory
X Moist
Y Glazed
Z Burnt

Your birth month:

January Drumsticks	July McFluff
February McGobbleface	August Wobble
March Wobblebottom	September Gobblestone
April Flaps-a-lot	October Tailfeather
May McTurkey	November McStuffin
June Featherbottom	December Featherstein

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

is a Cherished American tradition. It takes place in New York City and is the largest parade in the world. Over 3 million people line the streets to see the parade in person and around 50 million people watch on TV.

Pretend that you are designing a parade float to represent Newcomerstown. Include things that make our village special that you would share with the world!