



VOLUME 2 • ISSUE #4 • WINTER 2026

NEW CARLISLE: POWERED BY PEOPLE

A YEAR OF COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, AND CELEBRATION — BECAUSE NEIGHBORS STEP UP.

— Don Hall and the City of New Carlisle

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. In New Carlisle, the moments that make us feel most connected don't happen by accident. They happen because our neighbors—step up.

Outside of the City's core responsibilities—public safety, infrastructure, safe drinking water, and the everyday essential services that keep our community running—many of the experiences that make New Carlisle feel like home are made possible by volunteers and community partners. Events like the Heritage of Flight Festival, the New Year's Eve Ball Drop, the Farmers Market, the Community Garden, parades, holiday traditions, and so many other gatherings happen because residents, families, and friends of New Carlisle choose to give their time, energy, and creativity. While these events showcase our community spirit, the cornerstone of our community is our people and their friendliness and compassion – the door held open at the gas station for the mother carrying the child, the firm handshake with eye contact and a thank you for a job well done, and a warm hug for someone who just simply looks like they need it.



That's the truth we want to celebrate.

The culture we inherited—and the community spirit we're protecting

There's something special about New Carlisle's culture, it's real: neighbors helping neighbors, families keeping traditions alive, and generations passing down pride in

where they came from. Many of the folks who help lead or support our special events have deep roots here. Some don't currently live in the city—but they grew up here, and they come back because New Carlisle will always be *home*.

This is the kind of community legacy you can't purchase or manufacture. You inherit it—and you honor it by preserving it.

Give credit where credit is due

We want to recognize some of the people and families who have consistently helped make these community activities possible:

- John and Pat Krabacher
- Ed and Kim Holbrook
- The Gorby Family
- The Spencer Family
- Roy Kegley

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- Austin Winfield
- Bruce and Katie Weneck
- Jacob Morgan
- Chuck Sharp
- Ron and Kathy Wright
- Bobbie Moore and Family
- Tammy Roach
- Bill Morrow
- Lowell McGlothlin
- Dan Rodewald
- The Lowrey Family
- Jeff Christmas
- The Bobo Family
- The Trusty Family
- Marlene Reid
- David McWhorter
- The Fuentes Family

And there are many more. We know we may unintentionally miss names—and we truly apologize for any we leave out. This recognition isn't an "all-inclusive" list. It's a sincere attempt to shine a light on the kind of service and

community-mindedness that deserves to be seen and appreciated.

A community invitation: Come be part of it

If you've ever thought, "I'd like to help, but I don't know where to start," let this be your gentle nudge. New Carlisle's best moments are built by people who simply decide to step up and engage. You don't have to do everything—just do something. One event. One hour. One idea. One extra set of hands. If that is too much, being kind and genuine when engaging your neighbors makes such a difference. We do this because it was done for us, it's who we are.

While our City must stay focused on the necessities—safe water, police and fire services, streets and infrastructure—so much of what makes New Carlisle vibrant is created by the selfless servants of our community.

That's what makes this place special.

That's what makes people want to come back.

That's what we want to protect—and grow.

This is our culture, this is what makes us unique, and what separates us from other communities.

We appreciate everyone who serves, organizes, sponsors, plans, hauls, decorates, sets up, cleans up, and encourages others. You are the heartbeat and spirit behind these traditions—and your community sees you – *thank you for being our neighbors and stepping up.*





PLANNING & Zoning



PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

City Council approved an Ordinance 2025-41 updating permit fees for the Planning & Zoning Department. The new fees became effective on November 7, 2025. You may request a copy of the permit fee schedule or access it on the city website.

NOW HIRING

Planning & Zoning Department is now accepting resumes for a Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer. Experience is not required but is preferred. Ideal candidate must be compassionate, service minded, able to build relationships, and have computer skills. For more information and to apply please visit the city website at www.newcarlisleohio.gov

DID YOU KNOW....

Did you know that placing signs in the easement or on property that you don't own is prohibited in the city of New Carlisle? According to City Ordinance Chapter 1290 Sign Regulations, signs cannot be placed in an easement, attached to telephone poles, or any city owned property.

While the city encourages residents to have garage sales, placement of garage sale signs in an easement or on vacant property advertising a garage sale on another lot is prohibited.

In 2025, Code Enforcement removed 73 prohibited garage sale signs, business advertisement signs that advertised businesses on another lot or businesses not located in New Carlisle, political signs, and event signage that were not permitted.

As Spring approaches please do not place signage of any kind that is prohibited. Failure to do so will result in a violation and a fine of \$25.00 per sign.

WHAT'S TRENDING?

The City of New Carlisle's Social Services Commission is committed to helping individuals and families find resources for food, mental health, property maintenance, and housing. If you or someone you know that is in need of resources please contact the **Social Services Commission at 937-475-7515**



HONORING NEW CARLISLE'S 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

This year, the City of New Carlisle recognized individuals whose dedication, service, and positive impact help move our community forward. On December 17, 2024, we proudly celebrated three remarkable honorees: Employee of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Junior Citizen of the Year. Each recipient embodies the values of leadership, service, and community spirit that define New Carlisle.

2024 Employee of the Year:

Angela Gump

Angela Gump, from our Finance Department, was nominated by multiple coworkers who highlighted her unwavering positivity, strong work ethic, and commitment to excellence. According to the nomination forms, Angela is "always friendly and outgoing toward staff and residents," and demonstrates exceptional cooperation, efficiency, and professionalism. Her willingness to help others and her dedication to the success of the city were repeatedly emphasized in the nominations. Her colleagues wrote that she "works well in cooperative

systems that promote maximum efficiency" and consistently sets the bar high for teamwork and service.

Angela's kindness, reliability, and calm leadership have earned her deep respect across all departments. We are proud to recognize her outstanding contributions with this well-deserved honor.

2024 Firefighter of the Year:

Kevin Stephens

The New Carlisle Fire Department selected Firefighter/EMT Kevin Stephens as the 2024 Firefighter of the Year, based on numerous nominations from his fellow firefighters. Across the submitted forms, Kevin is repeatedly described as hardworking, dependable, knowledgeable, and compassionate. His peers note that he consistently goes above and beyond — whether helping during emergencies, taking on additional training responsibilities, or stepping in whenever the department needs him.

Nominators highlighted his "100%

dedication," his willingness to assist on and off duty, and his ability to respond professionally in high-pressure situations. Several noted that Kevin is a strong role model and mentor within the department, demonstrating 23 years of valuable experience. One nomination even shared a heartfelt example: Kevin once saved a puppy from a fire — a testament not only to his skills, but to his compassion.

Kevin's commitment to safety, teamwork, and service makes him an invaluable member of the New Carlisle



Angela Gump is shown accepting her award.



Jessica Stephens is shown accepting Kevin's award on his behalf.



Dylan Dupois is shown accepting his award.

Fire Department and a deserving recipient of this year's award.

and a genuine commitment to community involvement at such a young age.

2024 Junior Citizen of the Year:

Dylan Dupois

This year's Junior Citizen of the Year, Dylan Dupois, was nominated by Janel Zimmerman for his exceptional civic engagement and involvement in the community. Dylan is a regular attendee at City Council meetings, where he listens carefully, asks thoughtful questions, and stays informed on issues that impact the city.

His nomination describes him as knowledgeable, passionate, and deeply invested in New Carlisle's future. Dylan is especially known for his enthusiasm for the Heritage of Flight Festival and for sharing his insights and historical knowledge with others. His initiative, curiosity, and respect for civic process set a positive example for youth across the city.

We are proud to honor Dylan for demonstrating leadership, responsibility,

Congratulations to All Our Honorees

The City of New Carlisle expresses heartfelt appreciation to Angela Gump, Kevin Stephens, and Dylan Dupois for their dedication, service, and extraordinary contributions to our community. Their commitment strengthens our city and inspires us all.



NEW CARLISLE POOL: KEPT OPEN BY COMMUNITY

In October, the City of New Carlisle shared difficult news: the pool would pause operations for one year so the City could take a step back, focus on a long-term plan, and make thoughtful decisions about its future.

What happened next reminded everyone why New Carlisle is special.

That announcement brought a strong turnout to a City Council meeting—neighbors, families, and lifelong supporters who spoke clearly and passionately about what the pool means to this community. They didn't just show up to object. They showed up because they care. Because for many of us, the pool isn't just a facility—it's summer memories, first swim lessons, laughter with friends, and a place where New Carlisle comes together.

One of the defining strengths of New Carlisle's local government is the way its elected officials engage directly with residents. City Council members are known for listening closely, asking questions, and engaging in open dialogue during meetings—often working through concerns and exploring solutions in real time. This willingness to listen and collaborate is a unique and important part of New Carlisle's

culture, and it helps ensure that decisions are guided by the voices and best interests of the community.

City Council heard the message clearly, and they challenged the community to take the next step: organize, form a Parks and Recreation Board, and return with ideas, solutions, and community support that could help strengthen the pool's future. This approach reflects Council's commitment to partnership—recognizing that the best outcomes are achieved when residents and elected officials work together.

The community accepted that challenge.

Today, New Carlisle has a newly appointed Parks and Recreation Board, and alongside it, a dedicated group—Friends of the Pool—working to increase community involvement, support, and engagement. That kind of response is exactly what makes New Carlisle's culture so powerful: when something matters, people step forward.

A Plan for 2026: Open Season + Professional Operations

Because of the momentum created by residents, volunteers, and community leaders, City Council has decided to keep the pool open for the 2026 season.

To help ensure a safe, consistent, and professionally managed operation, the City has entered into a one-year contract with SwimSafe, a professional pool management company, to operate the pool for the 2026 season. This short-term contract allows the City to maintain a high-quality experience for families while continuing to evaluate long-term options.





The New Carlisle Pool was built in 1968, and like all aging facilities, it has a limited lifespan. Keeping it open today must be balanced with responsible planning for the future. The City, alongside the Parks and Recreation Board and community partners, is committed to developing a thoughtful, strategic plan that addresses long-

term sustainability, safety, and investment—so future generations can continue to enjoy this important community asset.

This is a community win—built on participation, commitment, and the belief that New Carlisle’s best things are worth fighting for.

As we head toward summer 2026, we hope you’ll be part of it:

- Come swim.
- Bring a friend.
- Encourage your kids to join in.
- Watch for ways to support through the Parks and

Recreation Board and Friends of the Pool.

Because the future of the pool—like so many of the things we love about New Carlisle—doesn’t rest on one group alone. It’s strongest when the whole community is involved.

NEW CARLISLE’S IMPORTANT DATES

City Offices Closed

- **January 1 New Years Day**
- **January 19 Martin Luther King Day**
- **February 16 Presidents Day**

Dates

January 5
February 2
March 2

January 20
February 17
March 16

City Council Information

New Carlisle City Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:00 pm at Heritage Hall. If Monday is a holiday the meeting will be held on Tuesday. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. Attendees will be given the opportunity to voice questions and comments to the Mayor and Council. Please limit comments to 5 minutes or less.



Stay informed about what’s happening in New Carlisle by following us on social media and checking

our website regularly. We look forward to a wonderful end of the year with our vibrant community!

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS — AND GETS TO WORK

The City of New Carlisle is proud to welcome our newly appointed Parks & Recreation Board members. These residents have chosen to serve because they believe in the places and programs that bring us together—our parks, our recreation opportunities, and the quality of life that makes New Carlisle feel like home.

Please join us in welcoming the full Parks & Recreation Board:

- Amy Hopkins
- Emily Seymour
- Katie Weneck
- Richard Carnes
- Karrie Shiner

The Board held its first meeting on December 3, 2025, and we're grateful to see the work officially underway. With thoughtful leadership and strong

community support, this group is positioned to make a real impact as we look ahead.

At the first meeting, the Board selected the following officers:

- President: Amy Hopkins
- Vice President: Katie Weneck
- Secretary: Karrie Shiner

Roles and Responsibilities of the Parks & Recreation Commission

The Parks & Recreation Board serves in an advisory and planning role, working collaboratively with City Council, City staff, and the community to strengthen and support New Carlisle's parks and recreation opportunities. Key responsibilities include:

- **Planning and Development:** Evaluating existing parks and recreation facilities,



identifying community needs, and helping plan for the future by recommending priorities for improvement and development.

- **Policy and Budget Oversight:** Making formal recommendations to City Council regarding parks and recreation properties, programs, and initiatives—while working within the limits of the City’s adopted budget and in coordination with Public Service and Planning departments.
- **Community Engagement:** Working closely with residents, volunteers, and community partners to promote recreational opportunities and encourage public involvement.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Advising City Council on parks and recreation projects and initiatives, with City Council retaining final decision-making authority.

- **Public Education:** Helping educate the community about parks and recreation programs and initiatives, and engaging with park users through events, outreach, and appropriate public communication.

New Carlisle’s parks and recreation spaces are part of what makes our community special. They’re where families gather, kids play, neighbors connect, and traditions grow. This Commission helps strengthen that foundation by empowering residents to be part of the process—providing a structured way for community members to share ideas, collaborate with City leaders, and help guide projects that benefit everyone.

Parks & Recreation Commission meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. at Heritage Hall on the third Wednesday of each month. Residents are encouraged to attend and stay engaged.



ART CORNER

The City of New Carlisle is excited to announce that we’re adding an **Art Corner** to our quarterly newsletter! For our first artist spotlight, we would like to recognize **Linda Brandenburg**.

Linda Brandenburg grew up in Medway and moved to New Carlisle in 1984. She attended Miami University where she received her BFA. She is currently the President of the Fairborn Art Association and will be teaching a class in the Spring in Englewood. She likes to paint with bright splashes of color and personality with intriguing subject matter such as blue-footed boobies, octopuses, manatees and other birds and marine life that strike her fancy. For more information about Linda or

her artwork visit her at percyproductions.com or on Facebook on at Percy Productions.



You may submit a drawing, painting, poem, or other original artwork for consideration. Please note that while we would love to feature as many submissions as possible, **publication is not guaranteed**. All content will be reviewed and is **subject to approval by the City Manager’s Office**.

Submit your artwork to: alowrey@newcarlisleohio.gov

HONEY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: ONE OF NEW CARLISLE'S OLDEST LIVING LANDMARKS

Long before New Carlisle grew into the vibrant community we recognize today, a small group of early settlers established a place of worship that would anchor the town's spiritual and civic life for more than two centuries. Founded in 1804 as the First Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, the congregation later became known as the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, and formally changed its name to the First Presbyterian Church of New Carlisle on February 1, 1963. It is widely considered one of the oldest congregations in the region—and certainly one of the earliest organized churches tied to what would become New Carlisle, Ohio. Its history is woven into the origins of the community itself, standing as a testament to perseverance, faith, and the enduring bonds of early frontier families.

The congregation's beginnings trace back to a modest log meetinghouse located south on present day 235. This early gathering place served as both a worship site and a community hub for the scattered families settling along the Honey Creek area. By the 1820s, as the town of New Carlisle grew, so did the desire for a more permanent church home. In 1829, the congregation built the enduring structure that still serves members today on West Jefferson Street. Simple, sturdy, and unmistakably early-American in character, the church quickly became one of the town's most recognizable landmarks and a focal point for civic and religious activity.

Stories like *Little House on the Prairie* help illustrate life in early frontier communities, where the church often served as the social services nucleus of a community. Churches were the heart of the society they served and were the foundation of public medicine, public education, public meetings, and shared community life. Additionally, the parishioners provided voluntary support to the sick, the poor, and the afflicted. Honey Creek Presbyterian Church was established during this same period, reflecting



a time when churches played a central role in establishing community and culture.

Historical records, including the church's own documents and a state historical marker, confirm the dates that make Honey Creek Presbyterian so significant: a congregation founded in the early 19th century, followed by the construction of its enduring sanctuary only a few decades later. These dates place the church among the very earliest institutions in New Carlisle's history—older than the city's incorporation and older than most other local congregations and civic structures. The nearby cemetery, with markers dating back to the first decade of the 1800s, further illustrates the deep roots of the families who helped shape this community.

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, Honey Creek Presbyterian Church played an important role in the life of the town. It has hosted worship services, weddings, funerals,



community gatherings, children's programs, and generations of civic involvement—from wartime support efforts to food drives, charitable outreach, and spiritual guidance. Many of New Carlisle's earliest civic leaders, teachers, farmers, and business owners counted themselves among its members. The church's records, session notes, and archives—some dating back nearly two hundred years—capture the unfolding story of New Carlisle's development through the eyes of the people who lived it.

Even on the cusp of closing Honey Creek Presbyterian Church continues to welcome the community with the same warmth and steadfastness that have defined it for more than two centuries. Its historic building at 212 W. Jefferson Street stands as both a functioning place of worship and a symbol of the generations who built, sustained, and cherished the town we know now. The church's long legacy of service, stability, and faith makes it not only one of the oldest churches in New Carlisle, but one of the most enduring institutions in the region.

A New Chapter Ahead

Honey Creek Presbyterian congregation announced plans for its final service, marking the close of more than two centuries of ministry. While the congregation's chapter is coming to an end, the historic building remains an enduring symbol of New Carlisle's heritage. Its future is still to be determined, but its place in the community—architecturally, historically, and culturally—ensures that it will continue to stand as a meaningful landmark for generations to come.

Sources:

- Honey Creek Presbyterian Church official website – About Us page (build date 1829)
- Historical Marker Database (HMdb.org) entry for Honey Creek Presbyterian Church – marker notes founding in 1804
- City of New Carlisle – Honey Creek Presbyterian Church listing
- Clark County OHGenWeb – cemetery records and historical notes referencing early church structures



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING NOW AVAILABLE IN 2026

The City of New Carlisle has begun offering advertising opportunities in the quarterly community newsletter for 2026. Both print and digital options will be available, giving local businesses and organizations a chance to reach thousands of residents directly each quarter.

Advertising space will be limited, and all ads must be family-friendly and approved by the City Manager's Office. More details, including ad sizes, pricing, and design options, will be shared on our website and social media.

To learn more or to request advertising space, please contact:

April Lowrey – City Manager's Office

general@newcarlisleohio.gov | (937) 845-9492

