



VOLUME 3 • ISSUE #3 • FALL 2026

## Honoring a Lifetime of Service: Bill Cook Named Heritage of Flight Grand Marshal

There are some people whose lives become woven into the fabric of a community.

They are the people who show up. The people who answer the call. The people who step forward when they are needed and quietly keep serving long after the recognition has faded.

For generations of New Carlisle residents, Bill Cook has been one of those people.

For Bill, New Carlisle is more than a place to live. It is home. When asked what the community means to him, his answer is simple: "My hometown."

That hometown has been at the heart of Bill Cook's life for decades. And in return, he has devoted much of his life to serving it.

This year, the Heritage of Flight Committee and the City of New Carlisle are honored to recognize that lifetime of dedication by naming Bill Cook the Grand Marshal of the Heritage of Flight Festival.

It is an honor that could not be more fitting for a man who has spent so many years helping shape, protect, lead, and care for the community he loves.

### **A Lifetime in New Carlisle**

Bill Cook was born in Springfield and raised in New Carlisle. Long before he became a firefighter, law enforcement officer, council member, or mayor, he was simply a boy growing up in his hometown.



He remembers a New Carlisle that was smaller than the community we know today—roughly bounded by Pike Street to the east, Clay Street to the west, the railroad to the south, and the Point to the north.

He remembers summer evenings when city leaders, business owners, firefighters, and residents gathered outside the fire department next to City Hall.

"It was a community where everyone helped each other," he recalls. There was a friendliness and familiarity that made people feel connected. Neighbors knew one another. Businesses were gathering places, and Main Street was alive with the familiar names and faces that made New Carlisle home.

And among his fondest memories are the simple summer evenings he spent walking down old Main Street—the familiar storefronts, neighbors stopping to say hello, and the easy rhythm of a town settling into the night. It was nothing extraordinary, perhaps, but those walks came to represent something deeply meaningful to him: a sense of home, community, and the quiet happiness of being exactly where he belonged.

It is a memory that says as much about Cook as it does about the community he remembers—a place where people gathered, helped one another, and took pride in calling New Carlisle home. *(Cont'd on next page)*

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## Answering the Call

As New Carlisle changed and grew, Bill Cook grew with it—not simply as a resident, but as someone willing to accept responsibility for the community's future.

His interest in city government began while he was working as a correspondent for the Dayton newspaper. That experience sparked a desire to become more involved in the community he had always called home.

In 1978, Cook was elected to New Carlisle City Council.

Two years later, in 1980, he became mayor.

But public service for Cook extended far beyond City Hall.

He served 23 years with the fire department and seven years with the sheriff's department. He served on Charter Review and levy committees and contributed his time to countless community efforts.

And after decades of service, he returned to City Council, being elected again in 2017, 2021, and 2025.

Nearly five decades after first being elected to public office, Bill Cook is still serving the people of New Carlisle. That kind of dedication is measured not in years, but in a lifetime.

## A Legacy of Service

After nearly five decades of public service, Bill Cook does not talk about his years of service in terms of titles, elections, or accomplishments. Instead, he talks about people.

He is grateful for the opportunity to have served his hometown and for the many people who shared that journey with him. The friendships he made along the way—through the fire department, law enforcement, City Council, the mayor's office, and countless community efforts—are among the things he cherishes most.

Those relationships, the memories they created, and the people who stood beside him through the years are part of the legacy he carries with him.

Looking back, Bill can take pride in knowing that he gave his time and talents to something larger than himself. He helped protect his neighbors, worked to strengthen his community, helped guide New Carlisle through times of

change, and stood alongside generations of residents who shared the same hope for their hometown.

Perhaps most importantly, he leaves behind an example. An example that serving your community matters. That showing up matters. That working together matters. And that a person does not have to seek recognition to make a lasting difference.

Cook has often said his motivation was simply the "desire to make this city something to be proud of."

After a lifetime of service, he can look around New Carlisle and know that he helped do exactly that.

And while this year's Grand Marshal honor is a celebration of Bill Cook, it is also a celebration of the people who have been part of his journey—the friends, neighbors, fellow firefighters, officers, city leaders, volunteers, and countless residents who worked alongside him and became part of his life.

For Bill, those friendships may be the greatest reward of all.

The Heritage of Flight Committee and the City of New Carlisle are deeply honored to recognize Bill Cook as the 2026 Heritage of Flight Grand Marshal and to offer our heartfelt thanks for a lifetime devoted to his hometown.

Bill, you may say, "I tried", but New Carlisle knows the story is much bigger than that.

You served.

You cared.

You showed up.

You made a difference.

And along the way, you built friendships, memories, and a legacy that will remain part of the story of New Carlisle for generations to come.

For a man who has spent so much of his life helping make his hometown something to be proud of, there is perhaps no greater honor than knowing that his hometown is proud of him, too.

Thank you, Bill, for a lifetime of service, for the friendships you have treasured, for the difference you have made, and for the legacy you leave behind.

New Carlisle is better because you were willing to serve—and we are grateful.

# A PIECE OF 2026, PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE

What will New Carlisle look like in 25 years? On July 4, 2026, as the nation celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, New Carlisle preserved a piece of the present for the residents who will one day be able to answer that question.

Two 25-year time capsules were buried beneath home plate at Haddix Field, where they will remain until 2051.

The project brought together the New Carlisle Historical Society, New Carlisle Public Library, The Heritage of Flight Committee, and the City

of New Carlisle to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. Mayor Lindsey's letter included in the capsule recognized that partnership and the significance of preserving this moment in the City's history.

The capsules contain more than official records. Residents were given many opportunities to leave something of themselves for the New Carlisle of the future. The New Carlisle Public Library invited residents to submit essays and a current photo to be included in the time capsule. The Heritage of Flight Committee also helped capture New Carlisle's





that make the community what it is today. He explained that the items inside are a snapshot of New Carlisle in 2026. Just a glimpse of who we were, what we valued, and how we lived during this historic year.

Just as meaningful as the items inside the capsule is where it is buried. For the next 25 years, children will step up to home plate at Haddix Field.

newest generation. Parents of babies born in 2026 were invited to Smith Park for a group photo to be placed in the capsule. When that photo is opened in 2051, those babies will be approximately 25 years old, perhaps still calling New Carlisle home and possibly standing there when the time capsule is opened.

The City also contributed items documenting everyday life and local government in 2026, including newsletters, City business cards, a photo of City Council, a City pin and a letter from Mayor Lindsey.

The letter from Mayor Lindsey described New Carlisle as a community built upon "service, hard work, and neighborly spirit" and spoke of the parks, businesses, civic groups, and the residents

There will be hits, strikeouts, close games, and big wins. Thousands of footsteps will cross the ground above a piece of New Carlisle history, likely without ever thinking about what rests beneath their feet.

In 2051 when another generation will open the capsule some things inside will seem outdated. Some things may look familiar, the photos will show faces 25 years younger, the newsletters will tell stories that have long since become memories, and the handwritten notes and essays will give future residents something that the history books cannot. The voices of the people that were actually here.

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ON...

# KYLE RHEA

### Wastewater Department Member

As one of the City's most dedicated and hardworking employees, **Kyle Rhea** has become an important part of the utility operations department since joining in March 2023. With more than two and a half years of experience in water utilities and over a year working in water reclamation, he brings reliability, valuable knowledge, and a wide range of skills.

As one of the City's current Wastewater Department members, you'll find Kyle servicing pumps and equipment and specializes in collection system repairs and maintenance. His dedication to professional development has led him to earn his Ohio EPA Water Treatment Class I License and Ohio EPA Water Reclamation Class I License. This achievement puts him in a small group of only five City employees who have earned both certifications.

What Kyle enjoys most about his job is working in a small family-based community and being part of a team that works together. Whether it's assisting residents with questions and concerns, repairing water main breaks, plowing snow, and everything in between, he takes pride in supporting the people who call

the community home. Kyle approaches every day of work with the simple philosophy: "If you love what you do for work, you never work a day in your life." It's a mentality that shines through in his commitment to his job, his coworkers, and the residents he proudly serves every day.

Kyle's accomplishments go far beyond the workplace. As an Eagle Scout and graduate of Stebbins High School's Construction Technologies Program, Kyle has applied his knowledge and skills to take home first place in Ohio's "Clamp Champ" competition, a simulated water main break event that highlights the expertise, quick thinking, and teamwork required

in the utility industry.

Outside of work you can find Kyle enjoying the outdoors, especially during fall, his favorite season. Whether exploring the woods, enjoying outdoor activities, or spending quality time with his wife and children, you can always know Kyle will make the most of everyday.



## ART CORNER SPOTLIGHT...

# KATE SWISHER

The City of New Carlisle is proud to feature local artist **Kate Swisher** in this quarter's Art Corner!

Originally from Kettering, Kate is now a dedicated New Carlisle resident. Kate draws inspiration from everyday objects, transforming them into vibrant works of art that invite viewers to look a little closer. For more than 20 years, Kate has been creating fun loving art, predominately working with acrylic paintings, large textured works, and papier-mâché sculptures.

The featured artwork displays Kate's talent for still life through colorful, everyday items. The series includes beloved everyday items such as a peach ring, a bottle of Tabasco sauce, a Heinz ketchup packet, a Goldfish cracker, a Swedish Fish candy, and a gummy bear. Each piece highlights Kate's attention to detail by elevating simple objects into playful and engaging creations.

For many residents, you know Kate from 571

Grill, where regulars often ask about her latest projects and enjoy following artwork she's created. She also shares her work through her popular Print Club, a monthly subscription that delivers surprise prints directly to subscribers' homes. For Kate, one of the greatest rewards is hearing how excited people are to find a new piece of art waiting for them each month.

Whether through her still-life creations, sculptures, or the monthly surprises delivered through her Print Club, Kate Swisher continues to bring creativity, color, and joy to the New Carlisle community. Her work reminds us that inspiration can be found anywhere, and her passion for sharing art has made her not only a talented artist but also a familiar and valued part of New Carlisle.



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# 2026 FALL LEAF PICK-UP

## City of New Carlisle

The City will provide **FREE** curbside leaf pick-up this October, November and December!

### WHAT TO DO



Rake leaves into the street, 2 feet from the curb to allow for drainage.



No sticks, rocks, or yard waste—leaves only!



Keep cars off the street during pick-up weeks.



Put leaves out no more than 1 week before your scheduled pick-up.



### OTHER DISPOSAL OPTIONS



Rumpke will also pick up leaves in your Rumpke trash tote on your regular trash day.

Leaves in bags or other containers placed outside the tote are **not** accepted.

### Need more info?



Visit [www.newcarlisleohio.gov](http://www.newcarlisleohio.gov) for more information.



Follow the City of New Carlisle on Facebook for updates!



### COLLECTION SCHEDULE

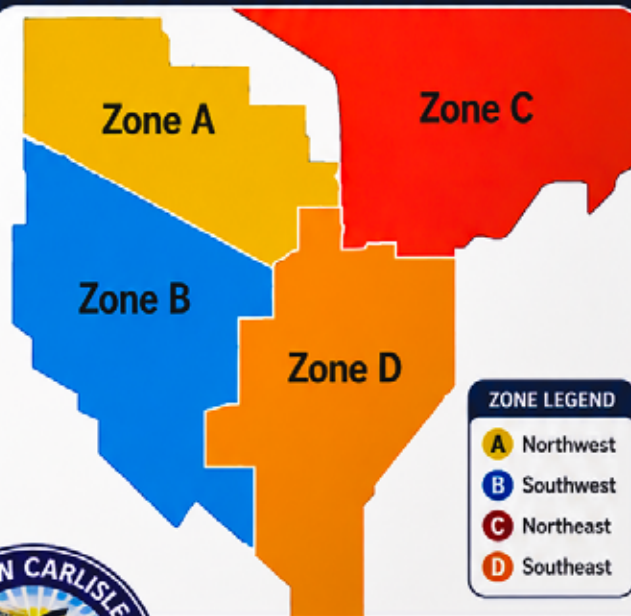
| AREA / ZONE        | 1 <sup>ST</sup> COLLECTION | 2 <sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Northwest | Week of Oct. 19            | Week of Nov. 16            |
| <b>B</b> Southwest | Week of Oct. 26            | Week of Nov. 23            |
| <b>C</b> Northeast | Week of Nov. 2             | Week of Nov. 30            |
| <b>D</b> Southeast | Week of Nov. 9             | Week of Dec. 7             |

Routes may be delayed by weather or equipment issues.



### AREA OF TOWN MAP

Find your zone to know when your street will be picked up!



#### ZONE LEGEND

- A** Northwest
- B** Southwest
- C** Northeast
- D** Southeast





# NEW CARLISLE'S IMPORTANT DATES

## **City Offices Closed**

**October 2 at Noon for Heritage of Flight**

**October 12 Columbus Day**

**November 11 Veterans Day**

**November 26 & 27 Thanksgiving**

**December 18 at 11 a.m. Staff Christmas Celebration**

**December 24 & 25 Christmas**

## **Upcoming Events**

**October 2-4:** New Carlisle Heritage of Flight Festival-Join us on Main Street for fun

**October 4-10:** National Fire Prevention Week – The theme is "Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging is a Superpower" Join us at the fire station on October 10th from noon to 3 p.m for our open house, complete with food, games, and fire safety talks.

**October 31:** Trick or Treat from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**November 3:** Election Day - Vote at Tecumseh High School

**November 28:** Holiday Tree Lighting – Kick off the holiday season with us on Main Street at 6 pm. Enjoy hot cocoa, caroling, and a visit from Santa!

**December 5:** Christmas Parade 10 a.m. on Main Street.

**December 12:** Jingle Jam Parade

## **City Council Information**

New Carlisle City Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. now at 212 W. Jefferson Street! 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.

## **Dates**

**October 5**

**November 2**

**December 7**

**October 19**

**November 16**

**December 21**

## **Stay Connected**

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 community!