

# Historic grange hall lives on with new use

The Buckhorn Grange Hall in Wolf, between Newcomerstown and Stone Creek, is being prepared for a busy year. The Buckhorn Grange was once the center of social life for this agricultural community. Over the years, it has hosted hundreds of square dances, plays, reunions, and other community events. Across the country, grange membership has been declining and all too often, with fewer members to care for them, the grange halls are left to fall into disrepair.

The members of the Buckhorn Grange recently came to an agreement to ensure that their building would once again be filled with dancing and children, as it was in its heyday. A local dance and music school is actively readying the facility for their fall classes, which will start in early September. The Melody & Motion School of Performing Arts will open for business on Sept. 5 with its first dance classes in the new facility. The school was started as the Newcomerstown Dance Center more than

seven years ago and has been actively looking for a facility to expand into. The additional room will allow for a number of new programs, including private music lessons, cheer classes, and Kindermusik. These additions will give the community high quality music and dance education for infants through adults.

School director Jessica Callender stated, "We are very pleased to be working with the grange members to make sure that their history of quality community programs can live on. This expansion allows us to offer families in Tuscarawas County high quality programs for their families without leaving the county."

The facility was designed for a variety of events including square dances, meetings, and plays, but was also used for many receptions, parties, and reunions. The facility features a large dance floor and stage upstairs as well as a full kitchen and seating for more than 100 downstairs for dining. The downstairs room has been repainted and will soon be equipped

with round tables to make it easier for groups that want to rent the hall to set up. The two restrooms are being remodeled as well. With new carpet and paint, the entryway is getting ready for its new use. "We've already been getting phone calls about renting the space for receptions, family gatherings, and graduation parties. Just call the school's phone number 740-498-8090 for more information," said Callender.

"This building was built in the 1930s as a hub of community life. It has stood the test of time, including a fire in the early 1990s. We are looking forward to many more years of quality programs for the community based out of this historic building. We will be working with the Buckhorn Grange members to make sure that the facility is available to grange functions that they wish to continue in the coming years."

The school is now registering for music and dance classes. For more information, visit [MelodyAndMotion.org](http://MelodyAndMotion.org) or call 740-498-8090.