



Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers.

~ Byron Caldwell Smith, Letter to Kate Stephens



Cherry Blossoms at the former Variety Stop on East Main Street, Glen Lyon

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following are items of Newport Township public business occurring or transacted at the Township Commissioners' September 2014 work session and at Commissioners' meetings from October 2014 to March 2015:

September 17, 2104: Township Business Manager Rich Zika said the Township had twice asked for bids for a 600-foot water line for the new municipal building, and that all bids seemed to be too high. The Commissioners then asked the state for permission for the Township to do the work itself, and permission was granted.

October 6, 2014: The Commissioners voted to hire Michael James Derwin of Nanticoke as a part-time police officer starting at \$11.00 per hour, which will be increased to the regular rate after six months.

The Commissioners voted to appoint Dawson Jenkins to a full 5-year term on the Newport Township Sewer Authority.

Mr. Zika announced that work was underway on construction of the new municipal building.

November 11, 2014: Commissioner Paul Czapracki said that Township workers put in 185 hours to install the water line to the new municipal building, that Commissioners John Wilkes, John Zyla, and John Vishnefski spent a good deal of time on the project, and that John Vishnefski made a big contribution to the work by operating his own excavating equipment. John Wilkes said that the lowest bid the Commissioners received for installing the water line was \$44,000, and the Township did the work for \$10,000.

The Commissioners voted to appoint Judy Pazgan to the Township Recreation Board on receipt of the resignation of Scott Shatley.

Peter Wanchisen, Treasurer of the Newport Township Authority, announced that because the mission of the Authority was to improve the quality of life in the Township, the Authority was contributing \$25,000 to the construction of the new municipal building. He presented a check for that amount to the Commissioners.

John Zyla thanked all the Township organizations whose members came to the groundbreaking ceremony for the new municipal building held on Thursday, October 23. Those attending included State Senator John Yudichak, who made a short speech about the persistence of the

(Continued on next page)

INSIDE: Township Business (p.1-2), Recreation Board (p. 2), NTCO President's Message, Fire Chief's Message (p. 3), Township Budget, Tax Collector Resigns (p. 4), Obituaries (p. 5), Newport High Class News (p.6),

Township Events (p.7), Legion Auxiliary News (p. 8), Flora & Fauna (p. 9), Taste of the Township (p. 10), Fire Chief Kowalski & Police Officer Naldone (p. 11), New Business in

Newport (p. 12), Baseball & Softball Champs (p. 13), Mullery & Yudichak Sworn In (p. 14), New Municipal Building (p. 15), Hoagie Sale (p. 16), Signs of Spring (p. 17), Biddy Basketball (p. 18-19), Bill Swift (p.20), Newport

Township Teachers (p. 21), Ads (p. 22-23), NTCO (p. 24).

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VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 19!

Commissioners in getting funding for the new building and of its importance to the community.

December 1, 2014: The Commissioners accepted the resignation of Ken Angradi as Newport Township Tax Collector, effective December 31, and voted to request that the Luzerne County Treasurer's Office act as Tax Collector. (Please see related article on page 5.)

December 17, 2014: The Commissioners, in a special meeting, approved the Township budget for 2015.

January 5, 2015: The Commissioners voted to approve the following wage increases for Township employees for 2015: 1) a 3% increase for the Police Department, in accord with a bargaining agreement reached previously; 2) a 3% increase for the Fire Department, in accord with its bargaining agreement; and 3) a 2.5% increase for the Department of Public Works and the Township Administrative Assistant.

February 2, 2015: The Commissioners voted to appoint Thomas Naldone of Nanticoke as a full-time police officer for the year 2015 at a salary of \$29,120 with benefits, subject to the approval of the Newport Township Civil Service Commission. Prior to his appointment, Officer Naldone worked in the Township as a part-time police officer for two years.

Mr. Zika announced that on Tuesday January 27, the Luzerne County Council voted to approve the Township's request that the County Treasurer's Office act as tax collector for Newport Township. He also said residents will be able to pay their taxes 1) by mail, 2) by placing their taxes in a lock box in the municipal building, which will be available for residents from 7 am to 11 pm, and 3) online.

The Commissioners voted to appoint Ronald Womelsdorf and Carl Smith to full 6-year terms on the Newport Township Civil Service Commission.

Also, they voted to approve a 1.7% cost of living adjustment (COLA) retroactively to January 1, 2015 for eligible participants in the police and fire employees pension funds. They voted to approve a contract with Richard Zika to continue to serve as Township Business Manager from February 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016 at an increase in salary of 3%. They voted to increase the Township Solicitor's hourly rate to \$150. This rate has not changed since the retainer paid to the Solicitor was eliminated about 10 years ago.

March 2, 2015: Commissioner John Zyla administered the oath of office to newly appointed Special Fire Police Officer Michael Makavensky.

Mr. Zika announced that the Luzerne County Treasurer's Office had made its first payment to the Township of real estate taxes that it collected from Township residents.

Township Recreation Board Plans Spring Cleanup

By Heidi Jarecki ~ The Newport Township Recreation Board is organizing a cleanup of the playgrounds in Alden and Glen Lyon and the Recreation Park in Wanamie on Saturday, April 25. Support from the community such as supplies, trash bags, gloves, and rakes, and food to feed the volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Anyone willing to help out should meet at the Wanamie Park at 9:00. Depending on the number of volunteers, the cleanup will then move to the Alden and Glen Lyon Playgrounds. After the initial cleanup, all parks will be assessed and maintenance such as painting and repair work will be determined. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** Please indicate your intentions to the Recreation Board at the Municipal Building.

Members of the Recreation Board are: Dane Cooper, Judy Pazgan, Paul Pierson, and Heidi Jarecki. One vacancy needs to be filled and any resident of the Township interested in joining the Board may apply in writing or in person. The Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 at the Municipal Building. Jack Vishnefski is Recreation Commissioner. Public input is encouraged.



On February 2, part-time Police Officer Thomas Naldone was appointed as full-time Officer. Above, left to right are: Police Chief Jeremy Blank, Thomas Naldone, and Commissioner John Zyla.



On January 1, new Fire Chief Jason Kowalski (left) was sworn in by Township Commissioner John Wilkes.



Also on January 1, new Assistant Fire Chief John Elmy (left) was sworn in by Commissioner Wilkes.

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NTCO President's Message

This writer has again been honored by the Newport Township Community Organization by being elected to serve as its President for 2015. I shall make a concerted effort to be worthy of the Organization's trust and confidence.

As many of our readers are aware, the NTCO had its genesis in 2004. In the ensuing ten-plus years, much has been accomplished, and much remains to be achieved.

During her Farewell Address, Immediate Past President Palmira Miller enumerated many of this Body's accomplishments attained during its initial decade of existence. Those successes are delineated below:

- Organized numerous fall festivals
- Sponsored chili cook offs
- Sponsored Summer Fun events
- Published a quarterly newsletter
- Sponsored teen dances
- Provided volunteer and financial support to local athletic teams, individuals, schools and libraries, churches and sister organizations
- Partnered with local, county, and state organizations, officials, and businesses to assist in improving our area's overall quality of life
- Participated in numerous local and regional events and planted trees and gardens
- Eradicated illegal dumpsites and regularly collected litter along the Township's major thoroughfare
- Fed the homeless and provided victims of natural disasters with food, building materials, and furnishings
- Won Recycling, Environmental and Partnership awards
- Helped restore pride in our Community

The difficulty we all face is maintaining momentum and continuing to be a positive force in our beloved Newport Township. Obviously those individuals who contributed to this Organization's progress are ten years older. Ultimately the torch has to be passed to a younger committed group of volunteers. Are you willing to be one of those individuals?

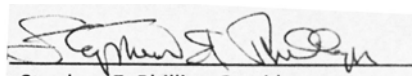
Newport Township's Board of Commissioners, like many other governing bodies across the Commonwealth, are faced with the challenge of providing increased services which cost more, while tax revenue and other municipal sources of revenue do not keep pace. Logic dictates that volunteers will be needed to assist in closing the financial gap between the demand for services and the available funds to meet citizens' requests.

Much like the posters of the World War II era that read "Uncle Sam Wants YOU!" the Newport Township Community Organization is making the same plea. (See page 24.) Your willingness to support just one of this volunteer organization's many activities with your presence or presents will be greatly appreciated.

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:45 p.m. at the Guardian Center in Sheatown. We all would welcome your attendance.

In closing, I would ask that you all remember the words of the late Judge Paul R. Selecky as so eloquently expressed in my senior Newport High School Yearbook, "Be proud of Newport and make Newport proud of you."

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen E. Phillips, President

A Dilemma, Concern, and Hope

By Tom Kashatus ~ Hemal Shah, proprietor of Friendly Food Mart on Robert Street, Sheatown, had a dilemma when it became known that the bridge on Robert Street over the North Branch of Newport Creek will be closed for approximately four months this summer for repair work. He is highly concerned about the survival of his business and the job security of his employees. However, Mr. Shah has hope that the closing of the bridge will not deter him and his store from continuing to serve the local community and the transit customers who have been so faithful over the years. Ideally, it would have been best if one lane could have been kept open during construction, but that was not the plan developed by PennDot. Mr. Shah realizes that any attempt to delay the much needed construction will increase the cost to the taxpayers and has resolved to accept any consequences and make the best of the situation.

Newport Township Fire Chief's Message

With the increase in fuel prices in recent years, the use of alternative heat sources has skyrocketed. The U.S. Fire Administration reports that heating fires are the second leading cause of fires, second only to cooking fires. Although their use is not necessarily a bad thing, they need to be used correctly and safely.

When talking about alternative heating sources, we mean electric space heaters, kerosene heaters, and ceramic space heaters. All of these heating sources are an addition to a primary heating system, such as oil, coal, wood furnaces or gas and electric heaters. Using these other heating sources can be good, if used appropriately and in a safe manner.

The first thing in using electric type heaters is to make sure your electric system and electric circuits are adequate enough to handle the heater. In older homes, systems may not support such a draw on the circuit, thus causing overload. (Editors' note: Older homes typically have 60 amps of power. The current standard is 100 to 200.) This is a common cause of heating-related fires. With technology going wireless, we plug in more and more devices to charge them. Overload can occur without warning. Watch what you plug in, and stagger the devices so they are not charging all at once.

Secondly, placement is important. Areas around heating devices should be kept clear and free of obstructions and flammable materials. The U.S. Fire Administration reports that 30% of heating fires occurred because heating sources were too close to things that can burn. Keeping flammable materials away from heaters is the biggest fire prevention step you can take.

The final keys to not only heating safety, but also fire safety in general are smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Every building should have adequate, working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors are the front line for life safety. They are a small investment to save lives and property. Carbon monoxide detectors are also essential for any building that uses "burned" fuels. These detectors are also a small price to pay for safety. Finally, having fire extinguishers handy is a must to help extinguish any fire. Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher properly is simple. Just remember T-PASS, that is, Twist the pin, Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze the trigger and Sweep side to side.

If you have any questions regarding anything of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Fire Station at 570-735-2000.

Chief Jason Kowalski

Newport Township Fire Department

Volunteer!

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. ~ Henry Ford

A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition.
~ William Arthur Ward

Township Budget for 2015

by John Jarecki ~ At a special meeting on December 17, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2015. The budget is divided into four major parts, of which revenue and expenses are listed in the following table:

	Revenue	Expenses
General Budget	\$ 808,250	\$ 807,788
Refuse Budget	318,000	313,971
Recycling Budget	52,000	51,001
Liquid Fuels Budget	116,046	116,000
Total	\$1,294,296	\$1,288,760

For the 2015 budget as a whole, the five largest sources of revenue are listed in the following table along with the corresponding amounts from the 2014 budget:

	2014	2015
Refuse and Recycling Fees	\$362,000	\$370,000
Real Estate Tax	304,500	314,500
Earned Income Tax	292,100	292,000
Liquid Fuels Payment from State	97,101	116,046
State Shared Revenue	46,075	27,725

These amount to about 86% of total income. The largest source of 2015 revenue, refuse and recycling fees, consists of a refuse fee of \$190 per household and a recycling fee of \$30 per household, both fees being the same as last year. The 2015 real estate or property tax rate is 2.2 mills (a mill is \$1 in taxes per \$1000 of property value), which is the same as last year.

The six largest expenditures from the 2015 budget are listed in the following categories along with the corresponding amounts from the 2014 budget:

	2014	2015
Refuse Collection	\$270,120	\$270,120
Street Department	241,338	235,559
Police department	149,625	169,552
Fire Department	178,475	168,908
Employee Fringe Benefits	153,316	148,125
General Government	115,170	118,998

Tax Collector Ken Angradi Resigns

By John Jarecki and Tom Kashatus ~ Newport Township Tax Collector Ken Angradi tendered his resignation as of December 31, 2014. The Township Commissioners reluctantly accepted it at their December meeting. Mr. Angradi stated that he resigned due to changes in compensation and changes statewide in the requirements imposed on tax collectors to maintain their positions.

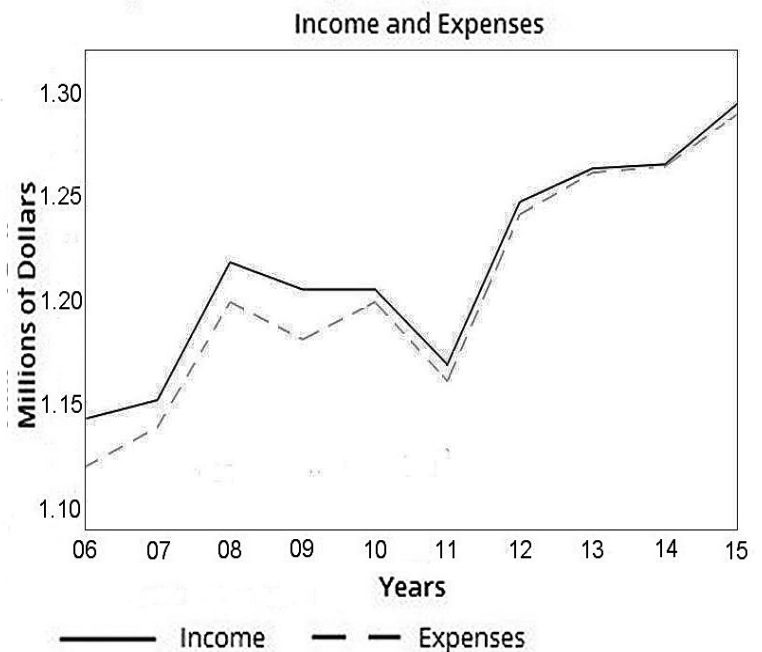
In 2014, the Greater Nanticoke Area School Board voted to have Berkheimer Associates of Bangor, Pennsylvania collect the annual school district property and per capita tax from Newport Township and other municipalities under their jurisdiction, thereby cutting out a major portion of the tax collector's compensation. Until recently, other sources of compensation were a \$3,500.00 salary from Newport Township and a \$3.50 per processed bill fee from Luzerne County for their respective property taxes. Now the County fee has been reduced to \$2.00 per paid bill, a 43% cut. Also, unpaid tax bills must be verified and final reports of accountability must be sent to the Luzerne County Treasurer's Office, the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, and Newport Township. The fee for processing these unpaid bills was reduced from \$3.50 per bill to zero dollars per bill.

(Continued in next column)

These categories amount to about 86% of total expenses. For 2015, the largest expenditure, which is the amount that J. P. Mascaro & Sons charges the Township for refuse collection, is the same as last year. The increase in Police Department expenditures occurred mainly because the 2015 budget has an expense item for a full time officer salary of \$29,120. The reason is that the Commissioners planned to hire a second full-time officer (which they did in February 2015), whereas last year they left the position unfilled.

Overall compared with last year, both income and expenditures have increased by about 2 percent. In comparison, the following chart shows the changes in total income and expenditures in the Township budget from 2006 to 2015. Over these last 10 years, income and expenditures have increased by an average of about 1.5% a year. During this time, the average inflation rate, the rate at which average costs increase, has been about 2%. Budget income and expenditures have therefore approximately increased at the rate of the cost of the products and services the Township purchases.

Newport Township Budgets from 2006 to 2015



(Angradi)

On October 22, 2014, Former Governor Tom Corbett signed into law Pennsylvania Act 164 (House Bill 1590), which changes the requirements for the municipal tax collector. Under these changes, the law now requires the tax collector to appoint a Deputy Tax Collector to perform collection duties in his absence; also, the deputy tax collector cannot be a family member. The law further requires that the Tax Collector and the Deputy Tax Collector be certified and qualified under provisions required by the State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This certification process involves taking a DCED course for tax collectors and passing an initial exam, and each year afterwards, taking a DCED continuing education course for re-certification. The cost for the continuing education will be set by DCED and borne by the tax collector for both him and his deputy.

The Township requested the Luzerne County Treasurer's Office act as Newport Township Tax Collector and Deputy. Initially the Luzerne County Council refused the request but then reversed its decision on January 27 by voting to take over both positions after a strong appeal by Township Business Manager Richard Zika.

Mr. Angradi stated that if any resident needs assistance with his property taxes, please feel free to call him at (570) 736-6319; if he can, he will assist you and/or advise you where to go to get help.

Newport Township Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus

ZALESKI, John, 89, of Garland, TX, passed away on September 9, 2014. John was born and raised in Glen Lyon and was the son of the late John and Beatrice (Philipski) Zaleski. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, class of 1943 and was a career veteran of the US Navy for 20 years serving during WW II and the Korean War.

WASHINSKI, Evelyn (Chesney), 72, of Alden passed away Saturday, September 20, Evelyn was born in Nanticoke and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Stephina (Niemiec) Chesney. She grew up in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

WARGO, Lynn M., 59, of Glen Lyon, died Monday, September 22, 2014. She was born in Nanticoke, the daughter of the late John and Theodosia (Miller) Wargo and was a graduate of the Greater Nanticoke Area High School, class of 1972.

JOHNSON, Howard A., 57, of Glen Lyon, died Sunday, September 21, 2014. Howard was born in Wilkes Barre, the son of the late David and Dolores (Kepp) Johnson. He was a graduate of Coughlin High School, class of '74.

ECKHART, Dorothy J. (Wojtowicz), 73, of Fairmont Township/Sweet Valley, died Wednesday, September 17, 2014. Dorothy was born in Nanticoke on January 27, 1941, and was the daughter of the late Bernard and Thelma (Burke) Wojtowicz. She spent her early youth in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township High School.

MYLET, Marie M. (Rinehimer), 90, of Wapwallopen, entered into eternal rest Sunday, October 12, 2014. Marie was born in Sheatown in 1924, and was the daughter of the late Russell and Laura (Eckrote) Rinehimer.

GRONTKOWSKI, Dorothy A. (Pish), 92, formerly of Nanticoke, passed away Friday, October 17, 2014. Dorothy was born January 6, 1922 in Glen Lyon and was the daughter of the late Mike and Alice (Grufrovich) Pish. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

FRANKEVICH, Loretta (Strongowski), 87, of Alden, passed away Sunday evening, October 26, 2014. Loretta was born May 8, 1927 in Nanticoke and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Martha Strongowski.

BRAY, Jean L. (Elmy), 74, of Mountain Top and formerly of Sheatown, passed away June 3, 2014. Jean was the daughter of the late Francis Elmy and Mildred (Walk) Elmy Ruth and was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '57.

HANSON, Scott, 56, formerly of Maple Street, Glen Lyon, died November 3, at his home in Clayton, North Carolina.

THOMAS, Nancy Carol (Roche), 82, of Glen Lyon passed away November 9. Nancy was born in Nanticoke and was the daughter of the late Francis and Lucy (Harris) Roche.

ANSKIS, Genevieve "Jean" (Barron), 70, of Glen Lyon passed away November 15. She was born on October 27, 1944 in Larksville and was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Cammer) Barron.

GRUBER, Mark S., (52) of Sheatown passed away November 15. Mark was born in Kingston and was the son of Theresa Stawasz and the late Glenn Gruber. He was a graduate of John S. Fine High School and Breeden School of Welding.

PELCZAR, Eugene W., MD, 84, passed away on November 20, 2014. Dr. Pelczar was born in Nanticoke on March 16, 1930 and was the son of the late Walter and Theresa (Dekutoski) Pelczar of Wanamie. Dr. Pelczar graduated from Newport High School, Class of 1947 and then Temple University in 1952. He entered the US Air force from 1953 to 1957 and was honorable discharged as a Squadron Commander. He then attended Jefferson Medical College and graduated in 1962.

HIGGINS, Lisa A. (ROKE), 45, of Glen Lyon passed away on November 23, 2014. Lisa was born in Nanticoke on January 28, 1969, and was the daughter of Mario L. Roke and the late Elaine (Laychus) Roke. She was a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School, Class of '87.

HAUZE, Willard P. Sr., 75, of Wapwallopen died December 1, 2014. Willard was born August 20, 1939 in his homestead, and was the son of the late Emery and Cora (Swank) Hauze. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, class of 1958.

TRATHEN, Edward J., 48, of Sharpe Street, Alden, died December 1, 2014. He was born in Wilkes-Barre and was the son of Geraldine (Durso) Scoble and the late Carl Trathen.

ELLY, Jeanne (Stapinski), 94, of Lake Nuangola passed away on December 5, 2014. Jeanne was born in Glen Lyon and was the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Ruptic) Stapinski.

SIMCHICK, John J. "Jack," 82, of Birth Road, Fairmont Springs, died December 7, 2014. He was born August 28, 1932 in Muhlenburg and was the son of the late John J. and Helen (Sadowski) Simchick Sr. He was raised in Wanamie and was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1950. He served as a staff sergeant in the US Air force during the Korean War.

PERGOLIZZI, Irene A. (Stralka), 87, of West Orange, NJ, passed away December 6, 2014. Irene was born and raised in Glen Lyon, graduated from Newport Township High School, and was the daughter of John and Katherine Stralka.

ROBACHINSKI, Raymond R., 90, of Springfield, VA, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 16, 2014. Raymond was born in Glen Lyon on August 18, 1924.

YAKSIMA, Keith E., "Noxie", 50, of Salem Township, formerly of Glen Lyon and Nanticoke, passed away December 19, 2014. Keith was born May 25, 1964 and was the son of the late John and Irene (Bernowski) Yaksima.

KORMAN, Lawrence J., 36, of West Main Street, Glen Lyon and formerly of Jenkins Township, died December 21, 2014.

FORMULAK, Gertrude G. (Koshinski), 92, of Glen Lyon, passed away January 1, 2015. Gertrude was born January 5, 1922 and was the daughter of the late Edward and Agnes (Rich) Koshinski.

YURKOWSKI, Michael A., 87, of Phillips Street, Hanover Section of Nanticoke, formerly of Sheatown and graduate of Newport Township High School, passed away after a brief illness. Michael was born November 10, 1927, the son of the late Michael and Anna (Subarton) Yurkowski. He was a Navy veteran of WW II, serving in the Philippines.

BERJEWSKI, Alex Jr., 82, of Nanticoke passed away January 19. Alex was born November 13, 1932 in Alden Station, Newport Township, and was the son of the late Alex and Caroline (Rokosz) Berjewski.

KOBUS, Irene T. (Butchko), 89, of Rhodes Mere, Lewisburg, passed away January 23, 2015. Irene was born May 17, 1935 in Glen Lyon and was the daughter of the late Paul and Tessie (Waxner) Butchko. She graduated from Newport Township High School.

HAINES, FRANCES J., (Militski), 92, of E. Main Street, Glen Lyon, passed away on January 23, 2015. She was born May 8, 1922 and was the daughter of the late Louis and Frances (Dombroski) Militski. She graduated from Ashley High School.

NAMOWICZ, Albert, 66, of E. Main Street, Glen Lyon passed away January 12, 2015. He was the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Haydock) Namowicz. Albert graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '67. He was a veteran of the US Navy.

SHERMAN, Kevin S., 44, of Sheatown passed away February 4, 2014. Kevin was born in Wilkes-Barre, on February 1, 1970. He was a graduate of John S. Fine High School, Class of '88.

DAVIS, James E., 80, of Nanticoke passed away February 5, 2014. Jim was born in Nanticoke on November 15, 1934. He graduated from Nanticoke High School and King's College. He then began a 40-year teaching career at Newport Township High School, Berwick High School, and Nanticoke High School while coaching basketball and football. He ended his career as Athletic Director of Greater Nanticoke Area and had various assignments with the PIAA.

KUPINEWICZ, Theresa A., (Gizelbach), 81, of Glen Lyon passed away February 7, 2015, in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. She was born in Wilkes-Barre on February 5, 1934.

CHONKO, Glen L., of Glen Lyon passed away February 8, 2015. Glen was born in Wilkes-Barre and was the son of the late Adam and Faith (Mosely) Chonko. He was educated in Wilkes-Barre schools.

MAJEWSKI, Adele Ann, (Szychowski), passed away February 9, 2015. Adele was born in Alden and was the daughter of the late Frank and Stephanie (Olshefski) Szychowski. She attended Newport Township High School.

ROCKEL, Agnes V. (Thomas), 93, of Pond Hill died February 12, 2015. Agnes was born in Nuangola on October 12, 1921 and was the daughter of the late Albert and Margaret (Sacks) Thomas.

ANSKIS, Joseph W., 72, of Glen Lyon passed away February 19, 2015. Joe was born in Nanticoke on April 6, 1942, and was the son of the late Joseph and Elsie (Tenneson) Anskis. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '60.

RING, Brian, 37, of Glen Lyon passed away unexpectedly February 20, 2015. Brian was born in Wilkes-Barre and was the son of Cindy J. Heller and L. Wayne Ring of Nanticoke. He graduated from Crestwood High School in 1996.

NEWPORT CLASS NEWS — REUNION TIME!



CLASS OF '55



The 60th class reunion for the Newport High School Class of 1955 will be held on September 24, 2015 at Genetti's Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Invitations will be sent out to classmates sometime in May. Anyone interested in helping to organize this affair or needing more information can call John Antonaitis at 607-748-8783 or email him at jantonaitis@stny.rr.com. You can also call Marie Pucci Modrow at 570-283-1911. This will be the last reunion that will be held for the Class of '55.

CLASS OF '60



Newport Class of 1960 is planning its 55th Class Reunion to be held on August 22, 2015 at the Italian Club in Glen Lyon. Please contact Mary Lou Butkoski Zaleski at 570-736-6336 or Bernadine Swicklik Betkoski at 570-735-8144 for information. Would love to see everybody there!



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CLASS OF '65



Newport Class of 1965 will hold its 50th Class Reunion the weekend after Labor Day, September 11 and 12 at the R Bar (the former Alden Manor) on East Kirmar Avenue, Alden. Mark your calendars! We are still looking for classmates and email addresses. Please send any information to Leona (Bojanowski) Gildersleeve at lagildersleeve@comcast.net. Hope to see you all there!

All-Newport Reunion

The All-Newport Reunion for 2014 was held on Sunday, October 12 at Holy Transfiguration Hall in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. This event is open to anyone who attended Newport schools.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the 2015 event, please notify Heidi and Paul Jarecki at hselecky@pa.metrocast.net or call 570-736-6782. Committee members also include Phoebe Hillan, Virginia Maddy, Joe Molski and Carol Smetana. The All-Newport Reunion is always held on Columbus Day weekend.



Pictured top row are: Mike Kush, Pete Forgach, John Kashatus, and Tom Tarnowski. Bottom picture are: Irene Baran Dugan, an unidentified guest, Kitty Urban and Leona Urban.



Pictured from the left are Treasurer Deb Zaleski, Vice President Mary Gray, Commissioner Paul Czapracki, President Patti Smith. Absent is Secretary Karen Samuels.

Women's Activity Group Celebrates Anniversary

By Deb Zaleski ~ The Newport Township Women's Activity Group was recognized by the Newport Township Board of Commissioners for celebrating its 40th anniversary. The Group began in 1974 and holds numerous events throughout the year that are free to the children of Newport Township. Each year the Group has hosted an Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween Parade, and at Christmas, Santa Claus on the Fire Truck. The Group provides back-to-school items every summer at the summer fun swim event which is hosted by the Newport Township Community Organization. There are also donations made to other community-minded organizations that hold events for local children throughout the year. Many of the Group's current members attended these same events as children, and they enjoy giving back to the community which they still call home. They can now share these same memories with their own children.

The Newport Township Women's Activity Group is honored to have been able to provide 40 years of service to the residents of Newport Township. It continues to serve by its motto, "We Make Children Happy."

New Pizzeria Coming to Glen Lyon: Humble Pie!

By Lorrie Materewicz ~ The wait is almost over! Pizza and other delights are finally returning to Glen Lyon! Doreen Guszak and Darin Sager, proprietors of "The Corner Pocket" in Mocanaqua, will be opening a new establishment inside the American Legion at 62 Newport Street, Glen Lyon. The downstairs kitchen has been gutted, overhauled, and remodeled according to Doreen and Darin's vision. The business, to be named "Humble Pie," will have a grand opening on Wednesday, April 8th and will feature a menu similar to that of The Corner Pocket. Both take-out and eat-in will be available.

The American Legion is proud to host Glen Lyon's newest business enterprise. Welcome and Best of Luck to Darin and Doreen!

Well, it's true!

One of the very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating. ~ Luciano Pavarotti and William Wright

SPRING CLEANING? BUY A LIONS CLUB BROOM!

The Newport Township Lions Club is well stocked with new brooms to help you sweep away the winter doldrums! Please contact Ron Womelsdorf at 570-735-8639 and he will deliver the brooms right to your door. Cost is \$10.00 each. Own the best broom in town!

The Lions continue to collect eyeglasses as part of their long-standing sight conservation project. If you have old eyeglasses you no longer need, contact President Andy Gotcha at 570-735-7946. Thanks!



Newport Township Upcoming Events

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki

April 3 (Friday) Potato Pancake, Halushki, and Clam Chowder Sale, sponsored by the Newport Township Fire Department. Early afternoon in the Del Balso Ford parking lot, Church Street, Nanticoke.

April 4 (Saturday) Easter Egg Hunt for all children in the Township. Wanamie Recreation Park at 1:00. Sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group.

April 5 (Sunday) Easter.

April ? Spring Bingo, date and time to be announced. Sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group to be held at St. Adalbert's Church Hall.

April 11 (Saturday) Night at the Races at the Nanticoke Armory at 6:00 p.m. sponsored by Greater Nanticoke Area Little League.

April 13 (Monday) Play Ball! Games begin for the Greater Nanticoke Area Little League.

April 18 (Saturday) Booze and Blues, a two-man band appearing at the Glen Lyon American Legion from 9 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Members and guests welcome.

April 19 (Sunday) Soup, Chili, Stew, and Bake Sale, Glen Lyon American Legion, noon to 5 p.m.

April 25 (Saturday) Clean up at Recreation Park and Playgrounds, sponsored by the Township Recreation Board, 9:00 a.m. All volunteers welcome!

May 9 (Saturday) Little League Parade and Opening Day festivities. Contact President Wade Rowles for details.

May 16 (Saturday) Auxiliary Yard Sale in Glen Lyon American Legion, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact Lorrie at 570-736-7177.

May 19 (Tuesday) Primary Election Day. VOTE for the candidate of your choice.

May 19 Hoagie Sale sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society, St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon, Holy Spirit Parish. Pick-up from 12 noon to 1:30.

May 25 (Monday) Memorial Day ceremonies at Township cemeteries, Starting at 9:30 a.m. Participation by Township Legionnaires and VFW members. Residents are encouraged to attend.

June 14 (Sunday) Flag Day ceremonies, American Legion in Glen Lyon for proper disposal of worn American flags. Residents can take worn flags to the Glen Lyon Post Office or give them to any Legion member.

June 21 (Sunday) First day of Summer!

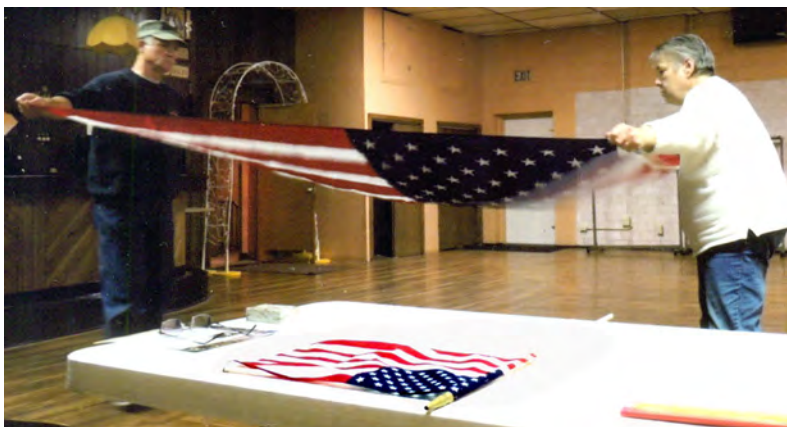
The Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539



Pictured above are seated left to right: Fran Haines, Vice President Faye Maloney, Barb Paganucci, Irene Namowicz, Donna Burd and Frances Brunozi. Standing: Treasurer Stephanie Stogoski, Secretary Andrea Rambus, Sally Billings, Leanne Wenner, Kathy Sobocinski, Kathy Heddings, President Lorrie Materewicz, Marianne Medeiros and Faith Kropienicki

By Lorrie Materewicz ~ The Glen Lyon American Legion Auxiliary, Post 539 held their annual Christmas party at the post home on December 4th. After their monthly meeting, a catered meal was served followed by a gift exchange, raffles, and games. Meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm. Anyone wishing to join is encouraged to call Lorrie at 570-736-7177.

Flag Seminar



Pictured: Joe Figlerski and Lorrie Materewicz folding the American flag at the flag seminar.

The Glen Lyon American Legion Auxiliary, Post 539 held a fun and informational flag seminar on November 12th at the post home on Newport Street. This 45-minute session was taught by Auxiliary President Lorrie Materewicz and involved flag-flying etiquette, folding, and regulations concerning use, care and display of the American flag. A flag-folding demonstration of the type seen at military funerals was given by Joe Figlerski and Lorrie Materewicz. American flags and copies of the U.S. Flag Code were given to those present at the end of the seminar. Refreshments were also served. The seminar was part of the Auxiliary's Americanism program. The public is reminded that worn and tattered flags may be taken to the Township Post Office and given to Judy or to the American Legion and they will be properly disposed of on Flag Day, June 14th. The Veterans thank you for your cooperation.

One piece of log creates a small fire, adequate to warm you up. Add just a few more pieces to blast an immense bonfire, large enough to warm up your entire circle of friends; needless to say that individuality counts but team work dynamites. ~ Jin Kwon

Bralczyk Benefit

By Lorrie Materewicz ~ Shortly after the start of the New Year, Bolish Bralczyk, a veteran, was volunteering at the American Legion in Glen Lyon when he got a phone call that every one of us does not want: his home was on fire! He arrived at his house on Enterprise Street in Glen Lyon just in time to witness his wife, dog and cat being rescued from the burning structure. The home was deemed a total loss and his family spent many weeks living in a hotel before relocating to a rental on Coal Street. Meanwhile, his "other" family at the Legion mobilized to hold a benefit spaghetti dinner/basket raffle for the couple on January 25th. Letters were sent to all regional Legions, Auxiliaries and VFW's. The event was highly successful. Post 539 and all those involved wish to thank all who supported Bo and Barbara in any way. Proceeds totaled more than \$5,200.00.



The proceeds of the benefit were presented to the Bralczyks at their new home in February. Pictured above are Joe Figlerski, Legion Commander Shawn Swicklik, Auxiliary President and Event Chairman Lorrie Materewicz, Bolish Bralczyk, Barbara Bralczyk and Jason Bush, SAL Representative.

The Bralczyks, pictured right, would like to thank everyone who contributed to the event.



R

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Pierogies & Catering

741 S. Prospect Street
Nanticoke, PA

570-735-3278

We must all hang together or most assuredly we shall hang separately. ~ Benjamin Franklin

The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township



On left, these deer were looking for breakfast on Engle Street in Glen Lyon. Pictured right is a trio of bucks seen in Newport Center.



White Tailed Deer

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ White tailed deer are seen throughout the Township, no matter what the season. The large tracts of forest land with some open fields from land reclamation are attractive habitat.

1. The white tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, are native to every continent except Australia and Antarctica. They are also known as "whitetail."
2. Deer are members of the order Artiodactyle, as they have hoofs with an even number of toes.
3. The white tailed deer have existed for 20 million years. They are the smallest members of the North American deer family.
4. The white tailed deer is distinguished from the mule or black tailed deer by the smaller size of its ears, the color of its tail, and its antler shape. Only the males, called bucks or stags, grow antlers. In white-tails, the main beam of the antlers grows forward rather than upward and each tine develops as its own separate branch rather than being split into a forked pair. Antlers are grown annually and fall off in winter.
5. During mating season, bucks fight over territory by using their antlers in sparring matches.
6. Females, called does, give birth to one to three young at a time, usually in May or June after a gestation period of seven months. Young deer, called fawns, wear a reddish-brown coat with white spots that helps them blend in with the forest. Adults also have reddish-brown coats in summer which fade to a duller grayish-brown in winter.

7. The adult white tailed deer's weight averages from about 100 to 350 pounds. In 1926, a Minnesota buck was killed with an estimated live weight of 511 pounds. A deer was killed in Clarion County, Pennsylvania which weighed 412 pounds.

8. Deer are the only animals on the planet with antlers. (Moose belong to the deer family.) One surprising fact about antlers is that they are the fastest growing living tissue on the face of the earth.

9. White tailed deer can run up to 40 miles per hour, jump ten-foot fences, leap as far as 30 feet in a single bound, and swim 13 miles per hour.

10. At the turn of the century the deer population in America was less than a million. Since then the deer population has increased to 25 million. This increase in population was caused by man cutting down areas of woods for development. This provided deer with a much larger food supply, unlike the thick woods.

11. There was a period of time (1904 to 1923) when deer were absent in Pennsylvania. Today deer occupy all 67 counties.

12. White tailed deer are herbivores. They can digest leaves, twigs, fruits, nuts, grass, corn, alfalfa and even lichens and other fungi. They are primarily nocturnal or crepuscular, browsing mainly at dawn or dusk.

13. Pennsylvania designated the white-tailed deer as the official state animal in 1959.

14. The term "buck" comes from the American frontier where the skin of a male deer was worth one dollar or a "buck."

Olga and the Bears

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Recently, we visited Olga Yudisky at her home on Polander Hill in Alden. She told us that she sent the fall Newsletter to her brothers and sisters, and they all found the Flora and Fauna article about bears very interesting. As children, they spent a lot of time in the woods, picking berries, walking to the Wanamie Reservoir, and the like, and don't remember any bear encounters. It's a different story now!

Olga has had several meetings with bears over the past couple of years. And not in the woods, mind you, but on the street! One day this past fall, she went out to remove a piece of paper that had blown onto her property. Her neighbors across the street yelled to her, "Olga, get into the house! There's a bear at the top of your steps!" Olga looked up to see a huge black bear. She remained calm while the bear sniffed around then slowly moved along down the road and disappeared into the woods on Pine Street. Olga then ran into her house. On another occasion a bear removed a bird feeder down the street and settled under an apple tree on Pine Street. After he was through with the feeder, he began munching apples. A crowd gathered to observe. Olga said that the night before garbage is collected is a good time to observe bears, especially around midnight. Late one night, Olga sighted a mother bear and her cubs. On still another occasion, a bear was ambling through the back yards on Spruce Street, taking his merry old time, as a neighbor videotaped the incident.

For more information on black bears, refer to the Fall Newsletter, page 3. Keep in mind that bears are wild animals and should be treated with great respect and caution. A mother with cubs is especially protective and may turn on anything she perceives as a danger to her cubs.



There have been many bear sightings in the Township. This one was spotted behind Engle Street in Glen Lyon.



Taste of the Township Halušky Kapustu

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Lent (the word comes from the Old English "lencten," meaning "springtime") is a solemn religious observance of Christian denominations (Anglican, Calvinist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and others) that begins on Ash Wednesday and covers a period of approximately six weeks until the evening of Holy Thursday before Easter Sunday. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of believers for Easter through prayer, penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement and self-denial. Lent is held in commemoration of the forty days which, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent fasting in the desert before beginning his public ministry. There He endured temptation by the Devil. The forty days of Lent are marked by fasting, both in terms of food and activities, and by other acts of penance. The carnival celebrations which in many cultures traditionally precede Lent are seen as a last opportunity for excess before Lent begins. Some of the most famous are the Cologne Carnival, the New Orleans Mardi Gras, the Rio Carnival, the Carnival of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, and the Carnival of Venice.

Many Christian denominations (including all those who are present in Newport Township - Catholic, Methodist, Episcopalian and Orthodox) practice fasting and abstinence from eating meat during Lent. As a result, many churches and organizations hold traditional events centered on Lenten foods during this time. For example, St. Adalbert's Altar and Rosary Society sponsors a fish dinner, and St. Nicholas Church offers halušky and vegetable soup. One of the many favorite Lenten foods consumed by residents of the Township is a traditional dish, halušky (pronounced ha-LUSH-key and means "potato dumplings) kapustu (pronounced ka-POOS-too and means "cabbage"). It is common to many cuisines of Central and Eastern Europe, including Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Romania and Hungary. In the United States, most adapted halušky recipes call for egg noodles.

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.
~ Virginia Woolf

Here is Heidi's Mom's (Helen Jurchak Selecky) recipe for a Slovak version, made with potato dumplings:

1 head of cabbage, cut fine
1/4 cup butter

Melt butter in large frying pan, add cabbage and over low heat, cook slowly until the cabbage is wilted and tender.

3 grated potatoes
1 beaten egg
2 1/2 cups flour (approximate, depending on the water content of the potatoes, so add in increments)

Add egg to potatoes and add flour, mixing thoroughly. Dough should be elastic and somewhat sticky. (Too much flour and the dumplings will turn out like hockey pucks!) Boil a large pot of water. Put a small amount of dough on the edge of a small plate or wooden paddle. With a fork, push small amounts of dough into the boiling water. (If you find you don't have the knack for this, an alternative would be to make dumplings using a spaetzle maker.) As the dumplings come to the top of the water, taste for doneness and remove. Drain and add to the cooked cabbage. Salt and pepper to taste.

Heidi's great-aunt, Kitty Buck, said, "Years ago, people didn't use recipes. It was a pinch of this and a pinch of that and so it went. Fridays it was always noodles and cabbage. Four cups of (cooked) fine noodles. Head of cabbage cut up fine on a chopping board. Half a small onion fried in butter and mixed with the cabbage. (Cook the cabbage until soft and fold in the noodles.) That's all."

From the Selecky-Jurchak Family Cookbook, 1979

Here is another recipe you could try. This makes 12 servings.

Ingredients

1 (16 ounce) package medium-wide egg noodles
1 cup butter, divided
2 large onions, chopped
2 small heads cabbage, cored and cut into 1-inch pieces
salt and ground black pepper to taste
1 tablespoon water, or as needed (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
2. Fill a large pot with lightly salted water and bring to a rolling boil. Stir in egg noodles and return to a boil. Cook noodles uncovered, stirring occasionally, until tender but still slightly firm, about 10 minutes. Drain well.
3. Melt 1/2 cup butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat; cook and stir onions until translucent, 5 to 10 minutes.
4. Cook and stir remaining butter and cabbage into onions until cabbage is softened but not browned, 5 to 8 more minutes. Season with salt and black pepper.
5. Place cooked noodles and cabbage mixture in a large roasting pan and stir gently to combine. Sprinkle with more salt and black pepper if desired.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown on top, 30 to 40 minutes.

Add 3 strips of cooked crumbled bacon to mixture before baking for extra flavor.

Cooking is chemistry, really. ~ Joel Robuchon

JASON KOWALSKI APPOINTED FIRE CHIEF

By Tom Kashatus ~ It makes an old timer like me feel pretty good about watching a youngster grow up and do a lot of the right things that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for others. Jason Kowalski, 29, Newport Township's newly appointed Fire Chief, is one of those promising young adults. Jason sets the example for other youth in the community to follow. Inspiration for Kowalski to become involved in emergency services came from interaction and association with many of the old timers who were involved with ambulance service and fire-fighting. Encouragement also came from his father and former Fire Chief, Dan Kowalski, who has been a firefighter and an EMT for more than half of his life. Jason has served the public enthusiastically and honorably for the past ten years, when at the age of nineteen, he began to take courses for EMT qualification and essentials for fire-fighting. Today, he serves as one of Newport Township's youngest fire chiefs, having taken over the reins from former chief John Floryshak.

As Chief of Newport Township's two fire companies, Glen Lyon/Alden Fire Department and Consolidated Fire Department (Wanamie and Sheatown), Jason feels that with changes in fire-fighting technology and individual survival techniques, training is essential and is on top of his goals. With about thirty five active fire-fighters in Newport Township, there is a need for more volunteers and recruitment is underway.

Chief Kowalski is employed as a licensed clinical social worker by Northeast Counseling of Nanticoke and works four of five days per week at the Job Corps Center (former Kislyn) in Butler Township. He graduated with a BA from Wilkes University and received a Master's Degree from Marywood University in social work. He did post graduate studies at Mount Saint Mary's in Maryland. Chief Kowalski is a member of Consolidated Fire Department and will work closely with his Deputy Chief, John Elmy, and fire chiefs Dan Kowalski of Consolidated Fire Department and Joe Hoover of Glen Lyon/Alden Fire Department. He is a huge advocate of transparency, cooperation, unity, and collaboration of the departments and their individual members.

Chief Kowalski is very impressed with and proud of the newly-formed Fire Police Unit in Newport Township under the organizational leadership of Captain Leonard Paczkowski and the enthusiasm of its members. This volunteer unit has greatly impacted our emergency service departments and has already paid dividends to the public with their responsive service. Currently there are negotiations with Nanticoke City and Hanover Township to initiate mutual aid agreements for the benefit of the three communities.

With the expected completion of the new municipal building in the near future, Chief Kowalski is hopeful that the Wanamie Municipal Building will be turned over to the Fire Department. It appears that the Department's Committee of five and the Township commissioners are working on details for a satisfactory agreement. The Department's equipment appears to be in pretty good shape, as vehicle maintenance is highly important. However, upgrading of the vehicles will be necessary as the community looks to the future.

Chief Kowalski feels that fire drills are necessary for citizens' safety and is looking forward to holding them at Pollock's Apartments in Glen Lyon and at St. Stanislaus's Apartments and Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown in the near future.

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.

~ Theodore Roosevelt



THOMAS NALDONE APPOINTED FULL TIME OFFICER

By Carol and John Jarecki ~

At their February meeting, the Newport Township Commissioners voted to appoint Thomas Naldone, formerly a part-time Police Officer, to the position of full-time Officer. The position has been vacant since the resignation of James Evans in November of 2013.

Officer Naldone is originally from Cartaret, New Jersey in the northeastern part of the state. When he

was a boy, his family moved to Noxen, in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Lake Lehman High School and received his police training at the Hazleton Campus of Lackawanna Junior College.

In 1997, he became a police officer with the Lehman Township Police Force. He worked there for about two years until the Township force was disbanded because of budget constraints.

Trained as a paramedic at Luzerne County Community College, he then worked in this new capacity in many locations in northeastern Pennsylvania, including Wyoming and Wayne Counties, the Poconos, Northumberland County, and Wyoming Borough in Luzerne County.

Eight years ago he moved to Nanticoke. Since 2008, he has again been working as a police officer in Harvey's Lake Borough, Ashley, and finally, for a little more than two years, in Newport Township.

Officer Naldone says that his life is, to a large extent, centered on his work. He has always held multiple jobs. Even now, at this writing in early March, he is an interim Sergeant with the Ashley Police, the officer in charge of the force while Ashley Borough goes through the process of hiring a permanent head officer.

Officer Naldone has a 14-year-old son who is a wrestler and lives in Noxen. He is a personable man, interested in and knowledgeable about a great many aspects of police work. He credits the Township Commissioners with being very supportive of law enforcement in the community.

We congratulate Tom Naldone on his appointment as full-time officer and wish him all the best in his new position.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK



Sometimes tragedy strikes members of our community, and the way people respond tells a lot about the heart and soul of the folks who live here. Recently the Bralzyck Family on East Enterprise Street in Glen Lyon lost everything they had when fire swept through their home. A benefit was quickly organized by the American Legion. Pictured are Todd Noss and Doreen Guszak dishing out plates of spaghetti and meatballs. Thanks to all the volunteers who participated!



R Bar Owners Rick Temerantz and his daughter Lauren Maga

The R Bar and Grill Comes to Newport Township

By Carol and John Jarecki ~ Late last year the R Bar and Grill, a popular restaurant originally located on Union Street in Nanticoke, opened for business in Newport Township in the building formerly occupied by the Alden Manor restaurant. The R Bar has a large clientele and has won numerous awards, including the 2014 Times Leader Weekender Readers Choice Awards for Best Bar and Best Chicken Wings.

The co-owners of the R Bar are Lauren Maga, her sister Lindsey Temerantz, and their father Rick Temerantz. Lauren and Lindsay are the managers. Rick is also the owner of the One Stop Service Center for auto repair in Nanticoke.

Lauren is originally from Plymouth. The family moved to Nanticoke where she grew up and graduated from Nanticoke Area High School. She has had seventeen years of experience working in restaurants, including fifteen years as a bartender. She has worked at the House of Wings and Franchella's Restaurant and Pub in Plymouth, and at the River Grille in Wilkes-Barre. Her sister is new to the restaurant business. In February 2011, they opened the R Bar in Nanticoke at 144 East Union Street. In time they acquired numerous customers, so many in fact that their nine tables and limited parking space forced them to turn people away. With a need to expand the business, in the summer of 2014, they purchased Alden Manor which has thirty-five tables and a great deal of parking available.

The R Bar's food specialties include burgers, cheese steaks, salads, Sicilian pizza, and, very importantly, chicken wings for which the restaurant is well known. The R Bar has received, in addition to the Weekenders Readers Choice Award for Best Wings, the number one ranking for best wings in Northeastern Pennsylvania from the Scranton-based NEPA Wing Men (www.nepawingmen.com). The R Bar serves wings in more than 75 different flavors, with many of the recipes developed by Lauren and her cook.

The R Bar has also received 2014 Weekender Readers Choice Awards for Best Drink Specialties, Best Cocktail Selection, and Lauren has received the Weekender's Award for Best Bartender.

The restaurant has numerous flat screen televisions that show the NFL Sunday Ticket during football season and a variety of other sports. In addition, the restaurant runs a catering service on the floor above the bar area, in a space that can accommodate more than a hundred people comfortably (and about eighty-five when

the dance floor is in use). The service can host such social functions as graduation parties, reunions, and birthday parties.

Future plans include expanding the catering service to including most any social events except weddings, and also to use the upstairs catering space, at times, as an extension of the present bar area, where bands would give musical performances.

Lauren said that the biggest adjustment involved in moving the bar to the new location was getting accustomed to the larger size of the operation, now with many more tables and thirty employees, instead of the previous five.

She says that everyone in the new location has been great, especially their new neighbors, and she wants everyone patronizing the R Bar to have a good experience. She likes to be involved in the community. For the last fourteen years, her family has participated in organizing a fundraising event for the non-profit organization, Valley with a Heart. In fact, during this time, her father serves as President. Valley with a Heart donates money to families with seriously ill children. Each year on Labor Day, the organization sponsors a Benefit Motorcycle Ride and Picnic, which has activities for all family members and is centered at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown.

We welcome Lauren, Lindsey, Rick, and crew to Newport Township and wish them all the best operating the R Bar in its new location.

Township Law Enforcement Receives Donation

By Tom Kashatus ~ The Newport Township Police Department has been the recipient of a generous \$500.00 donation from the newly established R Bar of Alden for necessary equipment to the elation of Police Chief Jeremy Blank. The Temerantz/Maga Family purchased the former Alden Manor this past summer and appears to have established a successful restaurant business in Newport Township. The R-Bar was formerly located on Union Street in Nanticoke. Managers Lauren Maga and Lindsey Temerantz (wearers of many hats) with the help of their father, Rick Temerantz have brought a quality business to Newport. When at the restaurant, Rick spends most of his time as a maintenance man and "chief cook and bottle washer." Rick is also owner/operator of One Stop Service Center on Alden Road in Nanticoke. He has been president of Valley with a Heart for the past fifteen years. The family also sponsors Operation Santa for the children of Nanticoke.



In January, the R Bar, a new business establishment in Alden, presented a donation of \$500.00 to the Township Police Department for the purchase of new equipment. Pictured left to right: Commissioners Michael Roke and John Wilkes, Police Officer Stan Drevenak, Police Chief Jeremy Blank, owners Lindsey Temerantz and Rick Temerantz, Commissioners Paul Czapracki, Jack Vishnefski and John Zyla.

Never a dull moment!

A good time to laugh is any time you can. ~ Linda Ellerbee



9-10 Year-Old Girls District Champions
 Pictured left. First Row: Haylee Shotwell and Kayla Pegarella.
 Second Row: Amanda Cheslaw and Josette Park.
 Third Row: Trinity Belles, Cameron Turack, Rachel Goss, Alexis Atkins, Xandra Thomas, Sophia Lukowski, Elizabeth Mendrizcki, Tiffany Brogan, and Rebecca Ottensman
 Fourth Row: Coach Darren Mendrizcki, Manager Rich Brogan and Coach Robert Ottensman



Little League Baseball 11-12 Year-Old Boys District 16 Champs

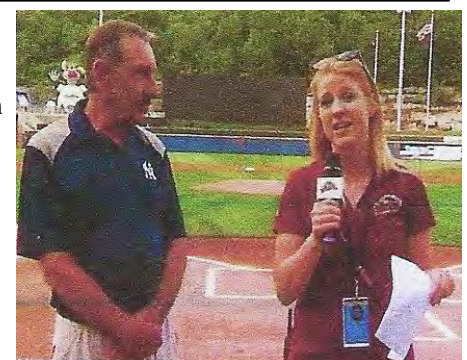
Pictured above: 1st row left to right: Jayden Heald, Luke Myers, Chris Ormes, and Adam Eckhart.
 2nd row left to right: Jake Krupinski, Jeremy Grodzicki, Devland Heffron, Jared Piontkowski, and Colin Brown.
 3rd row left to right: Coach Alan Brown, Colby Butczynski, Jared Balliet, Manager Pat Heffron, and Dylan Szychowski, Austin Norton, and Coach Todd Norton.
 Manager Heffron stated, "The kids were respectful and a fun loving group, always had a team atmosphere, and the tendency and ability to pick each other up when the chips were down. Practice was always a blast and everyone looked forward to it. I attribute a lot of my coaching technique to John Kashatus from my GNA high school days. I really love baseball and working with the young players."

10-11 Year-Old District 16 Champions

Pictured above, First Row left to right: Riley Baird, Olivia Nice, Alison Keener, Nina Zendarski, Mackenzie Casey, Abigail Cullen, Myla Vnuk, and Abecka Jones.
 Back Row left to right: Manager Colleen Baird, Emily Cullen, Kasidy Slusser, Jenna Baron, Kyrstin Montgomery, Skylark Esser, Paul Cullen, and Coach Bob Baird.



Pictured on the left is Ken Angradi of Glen Lyon throwing out the first pitch during a RailRiders/ Pawtucket baseball game at PNC Field in June, 2014. At right, Ken is being interviewed by Rachel Mark, RailRiders Community Manager.



By Tom Kashatus ~ On June 23, 2014, Ken Angradi of Glen Lyon was selected to throw out the first pitch at the Scranton/WilkesBarre RailRiders vs Pawtucket game in Moosic for Military Appreciation Day. A good choice, as Ken has been a life resident of Glen Lyon except for the 9-1/2 years that he served in the US Army Intelligence & Security/ Foreign Service. While Ken and his wife Jean were raising their

four sons, Ken served three years in England, eighteen months in Turkey, and one year in Viet Nam during the Tet Offensive of 1967 and 1968. Upon discharge, he attained the rank of Sergeant First Class (E-7) and was a recipient of the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal, Republic of Viet Nam Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal with two clusters. Ken is a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '57. He and Jean are the parents of Kenneth, Barry, Douglas, and Damian.

Most games are lost, not won. ~ Casey Stengel



Pictured above is PA State Representative Gerald Mullery as he was being sworn in to a third term in the House of Representatives on January 6, 2015 during a ceremony at the State Capitol. Rep. Mullery (D) represents the 119th Legislative District and is a resident of Alden, Newport Township.

Gerald Mullery Sworn in for Third Term

By Tom Kashatus ~ Property tax elimination, economic development, legislative reform, good schools, environmental protection, safe communities, and Second Amendment rights will continue to be Representative Mullery's priorities as he took the oath of office for his third term. Mullery stated, "My constituents have consistently told me they want relief from property taxes. I will continue to support efforts to eliminate property tax for homeowners." He is hopeful that momentum will continue to build for legislation that would shift funding for public education from property taxes to increases in sales and income taxes. He has co-sponsored legislation to this effect in the past.

Since taking office, Mullery has set an example for legislative reform by returning to the state treasury cost-of-living raises that state lawmakers automatically receive under a 1995 law; and voluntarily paid 10 percent of his salary toward health benefits. He introduced a bill in the last past two legislative sessions to eliminate automatic cost of living allowances (COLAs).

Mullery has also offered measures that would eliminate per diems and require House members to submit receipts for expenses, thus ending the entitlement for state-level elected officials to use a state-owned vehicle and greatly restricting lobbyists from providing gifts to public officials.

Rep. Mullery graduated from Greater Nanticoke Area, King's College and Duquesne University School of Law. He has been appointed to serve on five House committees for the 2015-2016 legislative session: Game and Fisheries, Health, Education (new), Judiciary (new), and Local Government (new). He stated, "These appointments give me a seat at the table as we consider a wide variety of legislation that would impact the day-to-day lives of people from Luzerne County and across the Commonwealth. It's a privilege to serve on these committees."

He has a constituent office located in Nanticoke and recently established a satellite office in Freeland due to changes in new territory acquired within the 119th Legislative District.



State Senator John Yudichak (D-Luzerne/Carbon Counties) was sworn in for his second term as Pennsylvania State Senator on January 6. He was accompanied at the ceremony by his brother-in-law, Newport Township Commissioner John Zyla (left) and his father, Plymouth Township Supervisor Joe Yudichak (right).

John Yudichak Sworn In for Second Term

By Tom Kashatus ~ On January 6, 2015, State Senator John Yudichak released the following statement after being sworn in to his second term as a Pennsylvania State Senator. "I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity to serve the people of the 14th Senatorial District. With the support and love of my family, I look forward to working to put our region and the Commonwealth on a clear path to prosperity. As I have demonstrated throughout my career in the state legislature, I am ready and willing to reach across the aisle and work in a bipartisan manner to ensure that politics does not get in the way of progress. I am encouraged that the incoming Wolf administration will bring fresh ideas to Harrisburg so that we invest in a quality education for our children; expand energy jobs; continue our commitment to rebuilding our transportation infrastructure; and fund initiatives that keep our communities and families safe. It is an honor to represent the hard-working people of the 14th Senatorial District in Luzerne and Carbon Counties. I am grateful for the support and trust of my constituents and together, we will bring jobs and community development to our Northeastern Pennsylvania."

Yudichak, who was recently appointed to the Senate Democratic leadership team, was one of 25 state Senators sworn in at a ceremony in the Senate Chamber. Senator Yudichak is a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area and Penn State University. He ran unopposed in the 2014 general election. He will be quite busy as he serves on the following committees: Senate Democrat Leadership Committee as Caucus Administrator; Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Chairman; Local Government Committee; Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee; Labor and Industry Committee; Policy Committee; Recycling Fund Advisory Committee; Low Level Waste Advisory Committee; Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee; Environmental Quality Board of Environmental Resources; Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education; and a number of highly important caucuses.



Front row from left: Karen Smith of FNCB Bank, Township Commissioners Jack Vishnefski and John Wilkes, Township Manager Rich Zika, State Senator John Yudichak, Commissioner Paul Czpracki; Richard Arnold Project Manager; State Representative Gerald Mullery; Bernice Shipp of FNCB Bank, Commissioner John Zyla.

In back are: Amil Jorolin, Norman Manovsky, and Joe Hillan

Ground-Breaking Ceremony at New Municipal Building

By John Jarecki ~ On October 23 of last year, Newport Township held a ground-breaking ceremony for the new municipal building on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie. Those attending included State Senator John Yudichak, State Representative Gerald Mullery, and the Newport Township Commissioners.

The new 3,655 square-foot municipal building, funded with a \$500,000 State Local Share Account (LSA) grant awarded in 2013, will house municipal offices, the police station and a community room. Its construction will also open up ten to fifteen acres of land for commercial development. It will replace the current municipal building which was constructed in 1911 and which is not energy efficient or compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Those speaking at the ceremony were Paul Czpracki, President of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners, Richard Arnold, Project Manager for the principal contractor L&K Construction Inc., Geoffrey Shaw of the Earth Conservancy, and State Senator John Yudichak.

Paul Czpracki said the Commissioners worked closely with Senator Yudichak's office and State Representative Gerald Mullery's office in getting the funding for the new building. He added that the Commissioners appreciate the work that everyone did to make the project a reality.

Senator Yudichak said that the project will modernize the delivery of municipal services while maximizing limited government resources and, in addition, will lay the foundation for a new commercial commons that will attract new businesses and jobs to Newport Township.

Construction of the new municipal building is expected to be completed in Spring 2015.



Pictured left is the Newport Authority presenting a check for \$25,000.00 to the Township Commissioners to help defray expenses for the new municipal building. From left: Commissioners John Zyla and Michael Roke, Authority Member Steve Phillips, Commissioner Paul Czpracki, Authority Treasurer Peter Wanchisen, Commissioner and Newport Authority President John Wilkes and Commissioner Jack Vishnefski.

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~ Margaret Meade



Hoagie Sale

St. Adalbert's Altar and Rosary Society of Holy Spirit Parish conducted a hoagie sale on Sunday, February 2, Super Bowl Sunday. Shown left to right is the "assembly line," standing: Stef Stogoski, Carol Sobotka, and Jennifer Morgis. Seated are Heidi Jarecki, Carol Wilkes and Debbie Prokop. Thanks to all who participated!

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If you wish to own memorabilia items contact Heidi Jarecki at 570-736-6782 or email hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. For detailed information go to: www.newporttownship.com and click on "Memorabilia".



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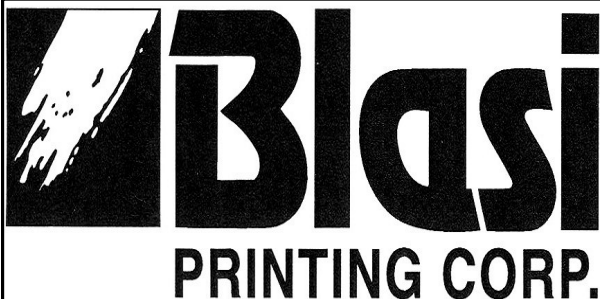
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Signs of Spring in Newport Township



A road crew was busy patching potholes on East Main Street, Glen Lyon early Wednesday March 11. They have a loooong way to go!



St. Nicholas Church in Glen Lyon held a halushki, vegetable soup, and bake sale on Friday, March 13. Pictured are Debbie Fudjak, Harry Truchon, and Theresa Truchon taking home their dinner.

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Potatoes are piled high in the St. Adalbert's Church kitchen in preparation for the Lenten fish dinner sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society of Holy Spirit Parish. The event took place on March 20, the first day of Spring, despite a significant snow storm. Melissa and Albie Zaborney are the potato chefs.

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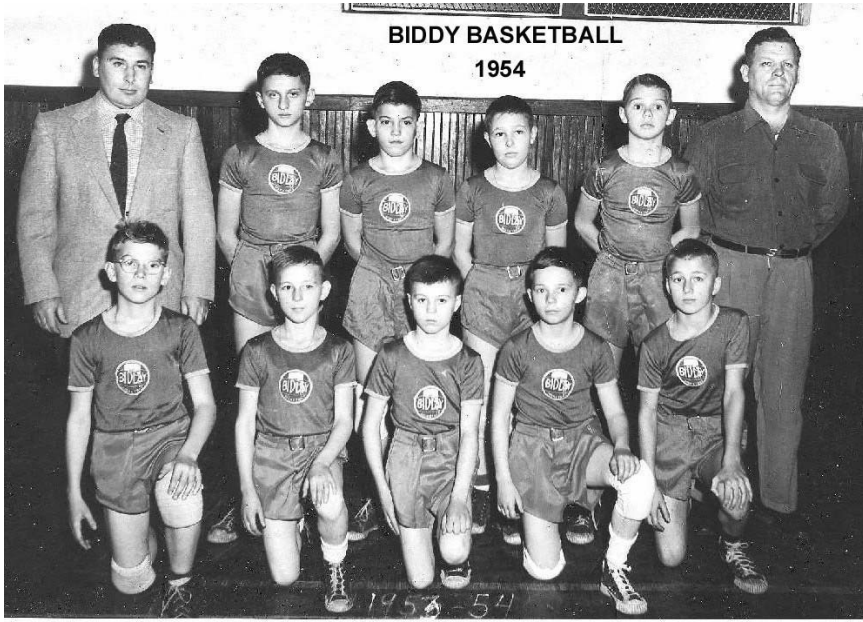
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BIDDY BASKETBALL**1954**

TOP LEFT TO RIGHT - GABBY GAVRISH (ASS'T COACH), FRANK "BUTCHIE" STEGURA, JOHN PETRUSHAK, JOHN KASHATUS, JOHN SELECKY, MR. "CHUBBY" DOBROWALSKI (COACH)

BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT - PAUL DOBROWALSKI, CHET LEVULIS, RICH SHERRICK, WILLARD EDWARDS, SYL MADURSKI

Biddy League Basketball – Part II

By John Kashatus and John Selecky ~ Although the NBA was getting a foothold in professional sports in the early 50's with a new television contract, there weren't many televisions in the households of Newport Township. I (John Kashatus) was a lucky guy because my parents had a tavern, Dada's, which had a 28-inch B&W Hallicrafter television set up in the corner of the large dining room. The television was used primarily for the Friday Night Fights sponsored by the Gillette Cavalcade of Sports. Sometimes it was difficult to find a seat at 8 o'clock. The Hallicrafter memory came to me as I recalled Biggy (Frank Bigos of Bigos' Hardware) coming to fix it on a weekly basis. My dad really put the pressure on when the Friday fights were scheduled to have the Rocky's (Marciano, Castellani, and Graziano), Sugar Ray Robinson, Kid Gavilan, or Carmen Basilio.

One of my chores was to sweep, scrub, and buff the dining room floor on Saturday mornings with some help from my mother. My goal was to get done by noon or shortly thereafter because the NBA Game of the week would come on the big Hallicrafter. I felt like a kid with a dollar in a penny candy store. Once in a while some of my friends from the neighborhood would visit and join me to watch Cousy, Sharman, Schayes, Bob Davies, George Yardley, Paul Arizin, George Mikan, Sweetwater Clifton and other stars of the League.

The glory of the Newport High School 1936 State Basketball Champions and the 1937 PIAA Runners-up was still part of the conversation in the early fifties. Along with the new focus toward the status of professional basketball, the Glen Lyon VFW Post 8353 developed the idea of Biddy Basketball into a reality. But the key to the success of the Biddy program was the recruitment and selection of the coaches. It could be stated that they were "basketball guys", very similar to the "baseball guys" who coached Little League in that era.

Woe begone! Memories, like fine wine, seem to get better with age. We tend to use "literary license" when recalling special moments of our past. There are some memories that we embellish, while there are others that we repress. As co-editors, John and I randomly contacted 18 participants from the early days to solicit their views of the Biddy program. These are the former players who responded:

Rich Vosheski: "It is amazing that Biddy Basketball and Little League both started when I was 8 years old. Both sports gave me an opportunity to compete in an organized fashion and helped prepare me for my high school and college endeavors, as well as other sports including sandlot baseball and softball. I played Biddy for 4 seasons—the first year with the Warriors (my father, "Doc," was the coach, assisted by Joe Struminski), and the last year with the Knicks, coached by Mike Stashik. I played center in my final season and I may have led the league in scoring. My Uncle Joe Niemiec was the janitor at Pulaski gym and I would do whatever I could to help him out since he was crippled with rheumatoid arthritis. I swept the floor, changed light bulbs and shoveled snow. When I was older I would help put up the baskets made by Joe Kutz, the shop teacher at the junior high school." Authors' Note: Rich was a 2-year All Star & earned two scoring titles.

Ray Domzalski: "Playing Biddy Basketball was a character-building experience in playing and interacting with others. The organized league helped me develop a better relationship and understanding of this throughout my life's experiences. I was very happy knowing that a well-organized league was forming and very excited to know I was selected to play on a team. It was an honor to have played Biddy League Basketball. My first year in Biddy, I was drafted by the Bullets, coached by Mr. Rollie Kerutis. The following year I was chosen by the Celtics, coached by Mr. Leo Gavel. I felt great having been selected to the All-Star team; the Celtics won the Championship, also in my second year. The end of the season banquet and awards ceremony was fun and enjoyed by all. I wish to thank the Glen Lyon VFW and all who helped make Biddy Basketball a success."

Tom Klukososki: "It made me happy to hear that the Glen Lyon VFW was going to sponsor Biddy Basketball for boys in Newport Township. Although I would only play one season, it was a memorable one. I played on the Warriors and Doc Vosheski (one of the star players on Newport's '36 State Champions) was my coach. Play-ground basketball gave kids a chance to develop some skills, but Biddy provided an organized approach with practices and a 20 game schedule. There were also playoffs and All-Star competition which led to a national tournament. We learned teamwork and discipline. The boys in Biddy supported the program by helping do chores at the gym -hanging the portable baskets and sweeping the floor between games." Authors' note: Tom was 1st MVP and All-Star.

Jim Schinski: "I was very excited that the VFW was going to sponsor the league. I knew they were considering it. My uncle Tony was the Commander, so he gave me a "heads up". I enjoyed the competition in playing organized basketball. Anxiety wise, losing more games than we won was difficult. I was chosen by the Globetrotters and my coach was Arnie Morucci. I do remember helping to hang the baskets prior to the games. One positive experience was developing good friendships with team members as well as players from opposing teams. Another positive experience was learning to accept losing." Authors' note: Jim was a 2 year All-Star.

John Selecky: "What did I like about Biddy Basketball? "Everything! Having an organized system in which to play with coaches instructing you on how to improve was just the greatest experience. And it was fun to play because we had so many good players. Also, getting to know many new kids from the Township created friends for life. I played for the Lakers and my coach was Bernie Rasavage, who was also the assistant coach for the All-Stars. And being chosen to the All-Star Team coached by Doc Vosheski...It was better than Christmas! I learned teamwork, how to deal with losing, sportsmanship (not running up the score on weaker opponents), how to win without showing up friends on the opposing team. I enjoyed one-on-one drills to im-

improve and help others improve. I “broomed” the playing court and helped clean the locker room. I learned that individual contributions helped to keep the league running and repay the men who coached us by giving back. Many of us went on to coach other youths in our adult lives, granted my efforts were in soccer.” Authors’ note: John was a 2 year All-Star.

John Greytok: “Growing up in Glen Lyon in the early 50’s was a unique experience. Our family was “blue collar” (more likely, really “dark collar”- my dad was a coal miner). The family budget was directed to the basic necessities: food, clothing and housing. Most of my friends came from similar backgrounds. Our parents could not afford any money for athletic equipment: we were lucky to get hand-me-downs. When Bidy started, it was like a miracle! I couldn’t believe it! Growing up on the East Side we played basketball in two places, Coal Street playground and the Roosevelt School yard. We rarely played full court and the baskets were at different heights. The poles were an obstruction, no nets, and you had to make allowances for “windage”. Here comes Bidy! Wow! A uniform (slept in it for a week), a heated gym, a shower with hot water, referees, basketballs that bounce high, and a court with two baskets of equal height and nets. The great thing about Bidy was that every kid had to play one quarter. Winning was important, but not the only thing. Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Kerutis were my first year coaches (I played 4 years) and I still greatly admire and respect all my coaches to this day. Playing Bidy and All-Star competition was one of the greatest experiences of my life. It taught me how to be a man and how to always play hard to win. We didn’t need motivation on the playgrounds, at the tank, or at Bidy - you always gave 110%.”

Don Rusnak: “In our day and time it was pleasant to hear that the VFW was going to sponsor Bidy Basketball. There weren’t many TVs in those days, so any new activity was welcomed, especially for kids. I was elated to have been picked to play for the Celtics (green uniforms) and my coach was Mr. Leo Gavel. I lived in Alden and it was hard to get rides back and forth to the gym in Glen Lyon. I liked competing and belonging to a team with kids of different backgrounds from other towns. I learned to compete, the importance of teamwork and how to get along with other people. I made sure my children had opportunities in sports as I had. I coached Little League, Teener’s League and Babe Ruth as well as serving in the administration of these leagues.”

WS (Anonymous): “I was excited to play “real” basketball. It was a big step up from the K.M. Smith outdoor court. I played for two seasons, my first with the Bullets. As I was one of the few Alden kids, I did like interacting with the “Glen Lyon” boys. The competition, at times, was intimidating and I realized that basketball was not my game. I did form some friendships which continued through high school and college. There must have been some good men involved to organize, support and mentor the boys in the Bidy program.”

Ron Ternosky: “Bidy Basketball was a wonderful, all inclusive program that formalized a game we had been playing in the streets for years. My favorite venues were a basket on Enterprise Street near Market and on Railroad Street where Dr. Ottoviani, the chiropractor, played with the kids. Bidy was a well- designed program with instruction, lowered baskets and a height restriction, but belonging to a team with official uniforms was “priceless”. It was my first exposure to organized play and being a formal member of a team. It was just the best youth athletic program ever! I played for the Warriors (gold uniforms) and our head coach was Doc Vosheski. Being chosen and allowed to play a quarter per game was memorable. I recall my dad, Ranger Joe, marching to the center of the Pulaski gym with the Flag for the playing of the Nation-

al Anthem on the inaugural day. My finest moment was once being the high scorer and getting my name in the Times Leader.”

Al Yarasavage: “When the Glen Lyon VFW announced that Bidy Basketball was coming to Newport Township, it felt great! We now had something to do in the winter and a chance to make new friends. I was glad to be selected and I played for the Celtics. I enjoyed the interaction with teammates. I was always afraid to make a mistake because I knew that my Mom would notice. Occasionally, I would help hang and remove the baskets. I learned team play and the importance of that in my professional life. I could always tell if my adversaries played team sports by their actions and lack of delegation. Later, I coached youth basketball in Connecticut for 12 years. My two daughters played for the state title two years in a row. One of them was named All-State for two consecutive years.”

Dave Kule: “We heard rumors about Bidy Basketball, which we assumed was a take- off on Little League. The kids were anxious for it to begin. I played for the Champion Bullets and my coach was Ed “Potatoes” Kmietowicz, assisted by Gene Domzalski. It was the competition that excited the players since most of the opposing teams had a buddy playing against you. The excitement of those games would begin in school that very day where I could have cared less about what was being taught since the game was more important—especially because certain young girls would be in attendance and watching us trying to perform. My experience was all positive. The lower baskets were helpful to pre-teen kids. Also, the coaching personnel did all they could to make Bidy an enjoyable experience for the kids, their parents and the community. The only darn negative was that my grades took a dive and unless I improved, there would be no more Bidy League. I improved!” *Authors’ note: Dave wasn’t a charter member, but was an All-Star and MVP in the third season.

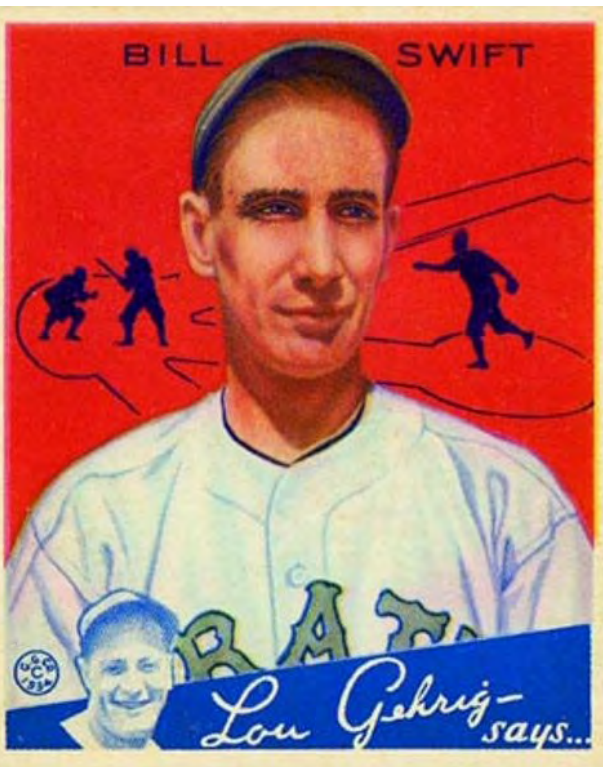
John Kashatus: “I was excited to hear that Bidy Basketball was coming to Newport Township. I liked all sports and I heard so many stories about Newport’s quest for the state title in back-to-back years. We didn’t have a good court in our area; to get a good game we had to go into “enemy territory”, the East Side. Bidy would be headquartered at Pulaski School which was located near my home. Having a January birthday allowed me an opportunity to play 3 years. My coaches were Mr. Gavel, Mr. Steve Dobrowski and Bob Duliba. Each provided me with special lifetime skills of utilizing basic fundamentals, the importance of teamwork, and an undying effort to give your best and finish a job that you started. Pressure-packed games created some anxiety, but it was a part of growing up. I helped with the routine chores on game days. I liked Bidy so much that I served as a coach the following two years.”

As co-authors of this article, John and I had the opportunity to go back in the time of our youth and bring back some great memories. During those early years we were usually in competition with each other, but the second year of Bidy we were teammates on the Knicks and played together in many exciting games. The reward of winning was going to Mrs. Selecky’s home with the whole team for some “Sloppy Joes” and refreshments. It was pure post-game fun.

We thank the former players who responded in their own words how Bidy was an integral part of their youth, and a special thank you to Clem Gavrish, whose recollections were invaluable to this article. Although most of the founders of the Bidy Program have gone “to the Ages,” they left a legacy for some youngsters of yesteryear. We applaud and thank them.

Editors’ note: Part I of this article appears in the Fall, 2014 Newsletter. All Newsletters are on our website at: www.newporttownship.com





Bill Swift

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Bill Swift was born in 1908 in Elmira, NY, grew up in Glen Lyon, and eventually resided in Scranton. He was a pitcher in the major leagues from 1932 to 1943. He played for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Brooklyn Dodgers, Boston Bees, and the Chicago White Sox. As a baseball player, he followed in the footsteps of his father "Dobrie Jim" Swift who was a pitching star with the Wilkes-Barre Barons in the old York State League. While with the Barons, Jim invented a new pitch he called the "Dobrie Ball" which was identical to the fork ball. As a result, many baseball historians, including the highly-respected Bill James, have given Jim credit for inventing the forkball. The forkball is considered by many to be the same as today's split fingered fastball which is an important pitch in the arsenal of many present-day major league baseball pitchers. Jim played eight seasons of minor league ball and was invited to the St. Louis Browns for a trial but it was his misfortune that the Browns were equipped with one of their best pitching staffs and he couldn't break in.

When Bill was a boy he did everything left handed but his dad who was also left handed thought one left hander in the family was enough and made Bill do everything right handed. Unlike his father, Bill got the opportunity to play baseball in the Major Leagues. Bill was a big strong guy, 6' 2" and 192 pounds and with his side-arming fastball became a very good major league pitcher. He had a 95 – 82 win and loss record and an ERA of 3.58. He was also a decent hitter throughout his career. His best major league season was in 1936 when he hit .295 with 15 RBI's. Overall, in 336 major league at-bats, he had a respectable .227 batting average with 3 home runs, 27 doubles and 3 triples.

Prior to 1928, Swift had pitched semi-pro ball in the Industrial Leagues. His pro career began in 1928. After getting a tryout with the St Louis Browns in 1928, the team sent him to the Western Association to begin his pro career. As a twenty-year-old, he pitched 182 innings in the Western Association, at the Class-C minor league level and went 10-7 with a 3.16 ERA. Swift spent the 1929 season with the Augusta Tygers of the South Atlantic League. He went 13-13 with a 2.95 ERA, pitching a total of 226 innings. In 1930, Bill began to establish himself as one of the better minor

league prospects. For Springfield, he went 17-7 with a 3.78 in 205 innings. The 1931 season saw him go 16-7 with a 4.54 ERA for Kansas City. He was the team's best pitcher in a high offense league dominated by players who averaged nearly five years of age older than Swift.

On January 29, 1932, the Pittsburgh Pirates acquired Swift from Kansas City and he was promoted to the major leagues. In his rookie season for the Pirates, he posted a 14-10 record and an ERA of 3.61 in 23 starts and 16 relief appearances. He pitched 214.1 innings with just 26 walks allowed, the lowest walk rate in the National League. Bill finished second on the team in both wins and innings pitched. In 1933, Swift pitched Opening Day, winning a 4-1 complete game over the Reds in Cincinnati.

His 14 victories that year was third on the team. Swift had a rough 1934, going 11-13 for a Pirates team that had a disappointing season with a 74-76 record. Bill topped 210 innings for a third straight season and matched his 13 complete games from the previous year. The 1935 season turned out to be the best one of his career. He had a 15-8 record and a 2.70 ERA in 203.2 innings, finishing second on the team in wins. In 1936, Swift became the workhorse of the staff. He led the team with 262.1 innings, 45 appearances, 17 complete games and 16 wins. He also lost 16 times and posted his highest (4.01) full-season ERA. In 1937, Swift got his record to 9-10 and his ERA under 4.00, but it was clear his role on the team would be diminished. In 1938, Bill was having much better success in relief that year. As a starter, he had a 4.60 ERA, in relief it dropped down to 2.37 in 91 innings. The next season, he made only eight starts and 28 relief appearances for 129.2 innings. Swift finished with a 5-7 record and on December 8, 1939, he was traded to the Boston Bees. He spent most of the next three seasons pitching for St Paul, back in the American Association. He pitched 9.1 innings for the Bees in 1940, then 22 IP for the Dodgers in 1941. As a late season pickup, he chipped in three victories and a save to help Brooklyn beat St. Louis for the NL pennant. In 1943 he finished his professional baseball career by pitching 18 games with the White Sox. For Pittsburgh, Swift finished with 91 wins, which ranks 21st in team history. His 1555 innings ranks him 17th in team history. No pitcher on the Pirates since his outstanding 1932 season has posted a lower walk rate over a full season than Swift, who walked 1.09 batters per nine innings that year.

Bill Swift passed away on February 23, 1969.

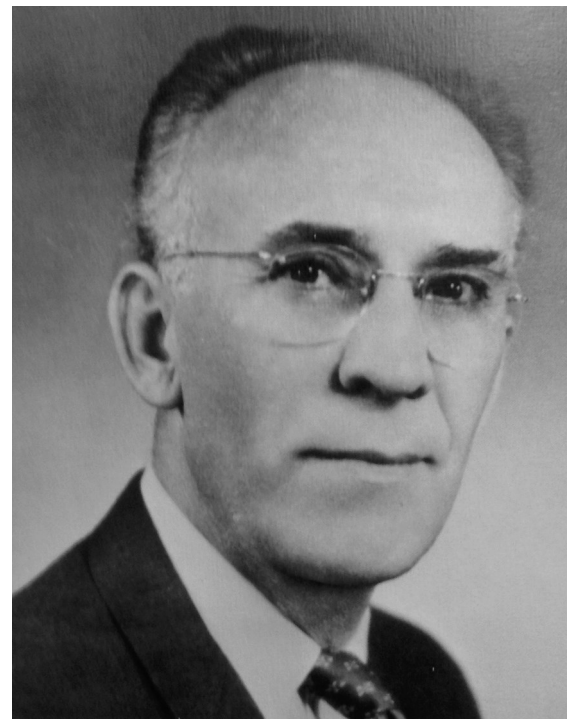
Shortly after Bill Swift's joining the Pirates, this article appeared in the Wilkes-Barre Record/Times Leader in 1932:

Glen Lyon Booming

There is nothing slow about Glen Lyon. Since first the news of Swift's sale to Pittsburg (sic) was rumored, the town was out in full sway on Saturday and Sunday and at every corner the great big fellow was the subject of discussion. Matters were so warm that not a bit of the terrific storm touched that town. The base ball team was so much taken up over the sale that it could not play its usual fast game and was defeated. The friends of Swift gave him a general ovation on Saturday evening.



Left: Eugene Macur when he graduated from Bloomsburg State Teachers College in 1930. Above, as a member of the tennis team. Right: Mr. Macur in his later years, taken from the 1967 Newportrait



Newport Township Teachers: Mr. Eugene J. Macur

By Marianne Macur Kopcho, Gene Macur, and John Macur ~

Joseph Macur and Adela Busczek Macur were Eastern European immigrants who, like thousands before and after them, left their home country for a better life in the United States. They settled in Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania where Joseph took a job in the local mining industry and they began to raise their family. The family homestead was on the corner of Line and Vine Streets, a large three-story house in which the basement had an ice cream parlor. The family had a large farm across the street from them on land that was rented from the Susquehanna Coal Company. They were self-sufficient in the production of vegetables, and had fruit trees, chickens, and a cow named "Annie." The family enjoyed simple but good, nutritious meals at the Macur home.

Fourteen children were born to Joseph and Adela. Unfortunately, only ten survived, largely due to the outbreak of diphtheria which swept Newport Township during the early 1900's.

Eugene John Macur was born on Christmas Day in 1909. He was the fourth oldest child and the second son. He was stricken with polio as a child and walked with a limp for the remainder of his life, as one leg was shorter than the other. It was this infirmity which prevented his entrance into military service as four of his brothers had done. However, it was the very reason why he was the only one of the ten surviving children to attend college. This was quite a feat in those days of poverty, illness and a brewing World War.

Eugene enrolled in Bloomsburg State Teachers College. He was active in the Drama Club, Chorus and managed the football and wrestling teams. Despite the remnants of childhood polio, he was an active member of the tennis team. Classmates from Newport Township in the Class of 1930 were Joseph Krafchick and Anna Morgis.

After graduating from Bloomsburg State Teachers College with a Bachelor's degree in Education, Mr. Macur returned to Glen Lyon. It was here that the connection with his childhood sweetheart, Celia Krystofik, was reaffirmed and this relationship grew. Eugene took a teaching position at Newport Township High School in Wanamie. He and Celia were married in 1943 and had three children: Eugene, NTHS Class of 1962; John, NTHS Class of 1965; and Marianne GNA Class of 1972.

Mr. Macur was an integral part of both the Newport Township High School and the Glen Lyon community. He taught grammar and English literature and showered his love for William Shakespeare on his students, thereby lending him the nickname "Bill" to his family and closest friends. He very often quoted another favorite poet, Edgar Allen Poe, and many of his students still remember one of Mr. Macur's favorites, "The Raven." He directed the Drama Club at Newport, producing many plays and programs and instilling poise and self-confidence in his students. Mr. Macur served as advisor to many classes and directed numerous fund-raising drives and sales. He loved to sing and was Director of the

Newport Township High School Chorus for many years, (see picture right) as well as one of the bass voices of St. Cecilia's Choir at his beloved St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon. He



was self-taught in piano and organ and enjoyed listening to spiritual music. Among his many activities, Mr. Macur ran the concession stands at football and basketball games. He enjoyed the weekly poker games with several of his teaching colleagues and during the summer break, they would earn extra money by painting houses. Celia and Eugene spent summers building what was planned to be their retirement home at Lily Lake, catching catfish at night and bass during the day. Mr. Macur had a well-rounded and fulfilling life.

Our Dad died in December 1966, a few weeks short of his 57th birthday. The following quote appears in the 1967 Newportrait In Memoriam: "He whom the gods love dies young, whilst he is full of health, perception, and judgement." This is a very fitting tribute to a man who loved the town, the school, the Church, his family, and who was taken too soon.

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Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, French actress and poet (1786)

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as a month.

~ Henry Van Dyke

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NTCO's meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Guardian in Sheatown at 6:45 p.m. We invite you to attend, share your ideas and help develop new programs to benefit Newport Township. There are many ways to showcase your talents and your community will reap the rewards!

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

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Treasurer: Francis Zaleski 570-736-6336

Secretary: Linda Conner 570-736-6580

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