



**On the hilltop far above us, the symbol of our fame.
You've stood the test, old Newport and brought honor to your name.**

~ from the Alma Mater



The steps leading up to where Newport Township High School once stood in Wanamie

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following are items of public business discussed or transacted at Commissioners' meetings in October, November, and December:

October 5, 2015: Several residents of the Ridgeview section of the Township stated that a large number of people are trespassing on private land near the homes on Overlook Drive and are using the area as an illegal gun firing range. The sound of the shooting is annoying and the shooting itself is dangerous because it is so near the homes in the area.

Township Solicitor Rich Shiptoski talked about the legal background of the situation, saying that Pennsylvania's Uniform Firearms Act limits what municipalities can do to regulate firearms. For example, communities cannot regulate the possession, sale, transportation, and registration of firearms. However, the Township's nuisance ordinance may be useful in handling this problem because it does deal with matters that endanger the health and safety of residents or that offend decency.

Commissioner Mike Roke suggested that, instead of enacting a firearms regulation ordinance or using the nuisance ordinance, the Town-

ship would ask a property owner if he would cooperate with the police department's enforcement of trespassing regulations.

In other matters, the Commissioners voted to approve a contract with Don E. Bower, of 208 West Main Street in Berwick, to carry out a liquid fuels-funded paving project on Railroad Avenue in Wanamie at a cost of \$79,672. They also voted to approve a contract with Popple Construction Company in Laflin, to carry out an Office of Community Development (OCD)-funded storm sewer project in Glen Lyon at a cost of \$83,095.

November 2, 2015: Commissioner John Zyla said that he had contacted Leigh Bonczewski in State Representative Gerald Mullery's office to tell him that the new pavement around the reconstructed Robert Street bridge (a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) project) had been laid down unevenly. The State fined the company that did the original work and had the paving redone later in November.

Heidi Jarecki mentioned that the three historical photos of Newport High School and of the Glen Lyon and the Alden Breakers

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Happy New Year Everybody!**

that the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) was donating to the Township for display in the Municipal Building's Community Room would be matted and framed and available to be hung during the week of November 9.

Mr. Zyla announced that Police Chief Jeremy Blank is cooperating with the Earth Conservancy (EC) in writing a grant application for an off-road police vehicle that can be used to patrol EC land.

Commissioner John Vishnefski reported that the Glen Lyon and Alden Recreation Parks need mulch, and that the Alden Park needs a new fence. He added that the Recreation Board is planning to update and repair all parks in the spring.

Solicitor Rich Shiptoski reported that the Township Fire Company has signed the lease setting the terms under which the Township has sold (for \$1.00) the old municipal building to the Company.

Township Manager Rich Zika announced that Karen Hazleton had completed an audit of the spending of the State's \$500,000 grant for construction of the new municipal building.

Mr. Zika also reported that the Township had asked the Luzerne County Council to extend, for another year, our arrangement with the County by which the County Treasurer's Office collects the Township's real estate taxes. The Council, however, had turned down the request by a vote of 5 to 4, with two Council members absent.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Shiptoski said that there was a conflict in the actions that the County took a year ago on this matter. He said that the County Council had passed a resolution last year authorizing the County Treasurer's Office to collect Newport taxes until a new tax collector is elected. The County Treasurer's office had then entered into an agreement with the Township to collect its taxes until 1) a new tax collector is elected or 2) until the County chooses to end the agreement and gives 60 days notice. He suggested that the Township request the County to reconsider its decision to turn down our request in the light of the conflict between the resolution and the agreement.

In another matter, the Township Commissioners voted to approve, by a vote of 3 to 2, Ordinance Number 4 of 2015, which increases the Commissioners' compensation from \$1500 per year to \$2500 per year. The last time the Commissioners voted to change their compensation was in 1995.

December 7, 2015: In response from a question from two Ridgeview residents on use of nearby land as an illegal firing range, Mr. Zyla said that the commissioners had arranged a meeting scheduled for December 14 with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, State Senator Yudichak, State Representative Mullery, Earth Conservancy CEO Mike Dziak, and a number of local landowners to ask their help in enforcing the trespass laws in order to stop this illegal use of firearms.

Mr. Zika reported that the Township has received a letter from Conyngham Township Tax Collector Sandra Walp saying that she was interested in acting as Tax Collector for Newport Township. As of mid-December, it is still unclear as to whether the Luzerne County Treasurer's office will continue to act as Tax Collector.

Commissioner John Vishnefski reported that the Recreation Board was writing a five year plan for repairs of recreation parks and of recreation events. He asked residents for comments and suggestions about recreation in the community. He said that he, Recreation Board member Ray Brabant, Joe Hillan, and public works department workers had brought back to the Township playground equipment that was previously installed at Moon Lake State Park and was recently donated to us.

The Commissioners voted to approve Resolution Number 5 of 2015 which authorizes Nanticoke to act as lead municipality for the Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG), in filing an application with the State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for a State gaming grant to buy road paving equipment. The equipment is to be used jointly by the LSVCOG communities.

They also voted to approve Resolution Number 8 of 2015, which authorizes the Township to file an application for a State gaming grant to be used to build a pole barn to house the LSVCOG road paving equipment and the Township's own equipment.

They made the following appointments: 1) Administrative Assistant Kellie Valantis as assistant building code enforcement official, Joseph Deluca as continuing member of the Newport Township Sewer Authority for another full 5 year term, and 3) Heidi Jarecki as continuing member of the Recreation Board for a full 5-year term.

The Commissioners and Mr. Zika noted that Commissioner John Wilkes is retiring at the end of the year and said they were sorry that he was leaving and thanked him for his outstanding service to the Township.



Pictured left: John Wilkes, Fire Department Commissioner, at his last public meeting in December. Debbie For-gach Zaleski will take over in January.

The Cost of a Firefighter

By Fire Chief Jason Kowalski ~ As I prepared to write this article, I began to think about the cost of gear and equipment. When I added it all up, I realized there is a bigger cost, the cost associated with the emotional and family aspect of fire service. A firefighter works in the most inhospitable environments. Firefighters run into burning buildings, crawl into crashed vehicles, and hike into blazing forests.

The cost of being a firefighter is also taxing on families. There is constant worry by families about whether their loved one will return home from a call or will they pay the ultimate price. If you ask any significant other about the life of a firefighter, they will tell you that there are long nights alone and many missed meals. There are times when meals are left on the table while a firefighter is out helping others. Cold meals become the norm. There are also a lot of missed family events such as birthdays, holidays, and graduations. All of these missed events can have a negative emotional impact on families and can make them feel insignificant.

The emotional aspects of a firefighter's life not only affects the family, but the firefighter as well. Firefighters deal with the tragedies that plague society. They are in the trenches where normalcy changes to abnormality and stability changes to chaos. This stress does take a toll on the firefighter. There are times when they have to deal with "your" worst day.

From long nights to constant tragedies, firefighters learn to cope. However, the job is not all bad. There are the days when you get to look back and see how you were able to assist someone, and that helps to validate the sacrifice. As firefighters, we become a family, dysfunctional at times, but a family that I know each brother and sister and mother and father will help each other when needed. I would like to thank our families and friends who deal with the chaotic life we sometimes lead. It is truly important to us because, although we can calculate the financial cost, the emotional and psychological cost is sometimes higher. Thank you for your support.

NTCO President's Message

It is my distinct honor and privilege as the President of the Newport Township Community Organization to sincerely wish all of our residents and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

In a prior issue of this Newsletter we complimented the Township's Board of Commissioners on their untiring efforts to oversee the construction of the new Municipal Building. It certainly is an asset to the Township.

The Community Organization remains committed to working with the Township's officials in a combined effort to address and resolve other outstanding issues within the area.

The Board of Commissioners are taking a proactive position in this regard by virtue of its participation in the proposed South Valley Council of Governments. Participating communities of this Council will pursue funding opportunities which, if successful, will enable the proposed Council of Governments (COG) to purchase equipment that can be utilized by individual municipalities to improve and expand their respective infrastructure such as streets, storm water lines, and sanitary systems. This is much more effective from a cost containment standpoint than the existing method where each local governing body purchases equipment generally used only in an individual municipality.

This writer would be remiss if he did not acknowledge the retirement of his long time friend and classmate, John Wilkes, Jr., from the Board of Township Commissioners and the Newport Township Authority. Mr Wilkes has committed over a decade of dedicated and loyal service to both entities and deserves thanks and appreciation from all Township residents. His service epitomizes what the Community Organization is striving to engender among the Township and adjacent area's residents: a commitment to volunteer service, and a willingness to help make our locale achieve its vast potential.

The Community Organization extends its appreciation to Reilly Finishing Technologies for its significant contribution to this body to assist it in its continuing endeavor to aid in advancing recreational activities within the Municipality.

Remember: "Be Proud of Newport, and make Newport Proud of You."

Respectfully submitted


Stephen E. Phillips, President

I never knew....did you? A Cool Piece of History

By Murph Fletcher ~ During World War II, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where everything was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on the run could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Well, someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category qualified for insertion into 'care packages' dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war. Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square. Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, about one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in another, future war. The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

Township Recreation Board Seeks New Member

By Heidi Jarecki ~ The Newport Township Recreation Board is seeking to fill a vacancy due to the expired term of Paul Pierson. Any resident of the Township who is interested in taking an active role in developing recreational opportunities and park improvements should submit a letter of intent to Jack Vishnefski, Recreation Commissioner at the Municipal Building on Kirmar Parkway, Wanamie as soon as possible. Nominations are also welcome. The Board meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the Municipal Building. Current members are: Ray Brabant, Dane Cooper, Judy Pazgan, and Heidi Jarecki. A decision on the new member is expected in February.



2 Wild & Crazy Guyz

Ryan Ptashinski (left) of Glen Lyon and Jeremy Sobeck (right) have known each other for about five years. About eight months ago, they formed a duet called "2 Wild and Crazy Guyz." Both are singers and Ryan plays the guitar. They were the featured entertainment at Post 539 Glen Lyon American Legion on New Year's Eve.

Township Budget for 2016

by John Jarecki

At a special meeting on December 16, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2016. The budget is divided into four major parts, of which revenue and expenses are listed in the following table.

	Revenue	Expenses
General Budget	\$ 798,500	\$ 797,972
Refuse Budget	318,000	317,480
Recycling Budget	57,000	56,251
Liquid Fuels Budget	125,000	125,000
Total	\$1,298,500	\$1,296,703

For the 2016 budget as a whole, the five largest sources of revenue are listed in the following table along with the corresponding amounts from the 2015 budget.

	2015	2016
Refuse and Recycling Fees	\$370,000	\$375,000
Real Estate Tax	314,500	305,000
Earned Income Tax	292,000	292,000
Liquid Fuels Payment from State	116,046	125,000
State Shared Revenue	27,725	27,865

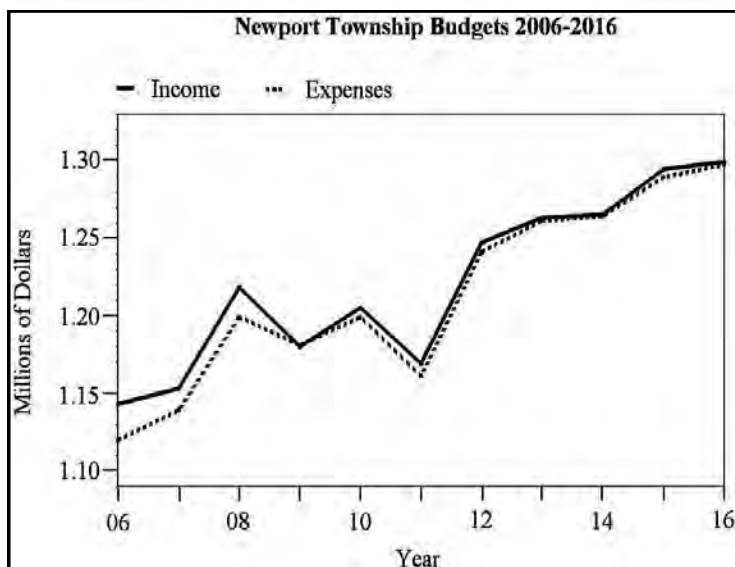
These amount to about 86% of total income. The largest source of 2016 revenue, refuse and recycling fees, consists of a refuse fee of \$190 per household and a recycling fee of \$30 per household, both fees being the same as last year. The 2016 real estate or property tax rate is 2.2 mills (a mill is \$1 in taxes per \$1000 of property value), which is the same as last year.

The six largest expenditures from the 2016 budget are listed in the following categories along with the corresponding amounts from the 2015 budget.

	2015	2016
Refuse Collection	\$270,120	\$270,120
Street Department	235,559	255,120
Police department	169,552	171,049
Fire Department	168,908	170,326
Employee Fringe Benefits	148,125	150,410
General Government	118,998	120,851

These categories amount to about 87% of total expenses. For 2016, 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 Street Department funding is the result of increased spending for such things as wages, winter maintenance, paving and patching.

Overall compared with last year, both income and expenditures have increased by about 1/2 percent. In comparison, the following chart shows the changes in total income and expenditures in the township budget from 2006 to 2016. Over this 10 year period, income and expenditures have increased by an average of about 1.5 percent a year. During this time, the average inflation rate, the rate at which average costs increase, has been about 2 percent. Budget income and expenditures have therefore approximately increased at the rate of the cost of the products and services the Township purchases.



Project SHINE Comes to GNA

By Tom Kashatus ~ Thanks to the support of State Senator John Yudichak and Representative Lou Barletta, the Greater Nanticoke Area School District started a three-year afterschool program for students in grades K-8 in December. The SHINE (Schools and Homes in Education) initiative is an evidence-based outcome driven program that began over ten years ago in Carbon and Schuylkill Counties with documented success. The purpose of this pilot program in Luzerne County is to increase student knowledge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and prepare students for careers that are in high demand. The four-day/thirty-two week afterschool and summer program will run each day from 3:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. and will target students with low achievement and give them the tools necessary to become productive citizens.

There are no income guidelines and referrals are made by the participating school districts: Wilkes-Barre Area, Greater Nanticoke Area, Hazleton Area, Hanover Area, and Wyoming Valley West.

The four goals of SHINE are to: (1) increase success in school and knowledge of STEM, (2) improve social skills, (3) facilitate family involvement in student learning and improve literacy, and (4) provide teacher training. The program will consist of home visitations for families of kindergartners. Students qualifying in grades 1-5 will stay after school at Kennedy Elementary and the Elementary Center. Students in grades 6-8 will be transported to the Wilkes-Barre CTC to utilize the vocational shops pertaining to STEM careers. Long-term goals of the program include: (1) improve student self image, (2) improve school attendance, (3) increase parental involvement in their child's education, (5) increase graduation rates, (6) increase homework completion, and (7) increase problem solving skills. The target is to serve 1,000 students by the end of the third year.

An Advisory Board was established in January 2015. Wilkes University is the educational host for SHINE and Mary Kolessar was hired as Executive Director this past September. There are established public and private financing for the program and anticipated private donations. Funding partners with \$1,076,399.00 pledged are: Luzerne County Local Share Account, The William McGowan Charitable Fund, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Greater Hazleton United Way, and Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board.

Senator Yudichak stated, "Luzerne County SHINE is a game-changing public/private partnership. It is a dynamic, innovative and data-driven afterschool program that can improve academic performance, increase school attendance, reduce juvenile crime, and break the cycle of poverty... all by empowering families through education." (Note: The NTCO and this writer will follow up on this important initiative in future newsletters.)

Demolition Recommended



The property pictured above is located on the corner of Newport and South Chestnut Streets in Glen Lyon. Next-door neighbor Duane Knapp stated, "It gets more difficult every day to live next door to this property." He is afraid of debris damaging his property and vehicles during storms as well as vermin that now inhabit the structure.

The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township



Hemlock

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Most of Newport Township is highly affected by human activity. Evi-

dence of the coal mining industry, both strip and deep mining, are everywhere. There are, however, some areas that are relatively undisturbed. One of these areas is located south of Kirmar Parkway behind Three Legged near Glen Lyon. If you follow the old railroad bed into these woods, you can find hemlock trees, some of which are quite large.

Hemlock Facts

1. The hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) was designated the official state tree of Pennsylvania in 1931.
2. They have been called the Ferraris of the evergreen world because of their graceful appearance.
3. The hemlock tree is a rather slow-growing, but long-lived tree. It may not mature for 200 years, and once mature, the eastern hemlock may live for an additional 500 to 600 years. Some western hemlocks have been known to reach an age of 1,200 years in the forests of the Pacific Northwest.
4. Although not related, the hemlock tree got its name from the poisonous hemlock plant because of the similar scent it gives off when the needles are crushed. The hemlock tree, however, is not poisonous.
5. Starting in the 1940's, the wood from hemlock trees became increasingly used for lumber. Previously it was generally regarded as being too knotty. Today, the lumber industry relies heavily on this tree for paneling, furniture, and flooring. It can be used in construction for light framing, sheathing, subflooring, and roofing. Because of its unusually powerful ability to hold spikes, it is also used for railroad ties.
6. From 1880 to 1930, eastern hemlock was extensively harvested for its bark which is a source of tannin. Tannic acid when infused into leather, makes it softer and stronger. Pine needle tea, which contains vitamin C, can be made from the hemlock tree. This tea was made by the Iroquois Indians for centuries.
7. Native Americans used the cambium (the layer of tissue between the bark and the wood) as the base for breads and soups or mixed it with dried fruit and animal fat for pemmican (pressed cakes).
8. The tree generally reaches heights of about 100 feet but exceptional trees have been recorded up to 173 feet.
9. Eastern hemlock has high cavity value for wildlife. Large hollow trees are commonly used as dens by black bears. Eastern hemlock provides cover to ruffed grouse, wild turkey, fishers, and other wildlife. It provides excellent thermal protection and snowfall interception for moose and white-tailed deer in the winter.



Blue Mass at Saint Andrew's

By Tom Kashatus ~ In November, a Blue Mass honoring past and present members of emergency services

in Newport Township was held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Alden. Shown in the above photo are participants from Newport Township's Police Department, Fire Department, Fire Police, and former members of the Newport Township Fireman's Ambulance. Reverend Charles "Father Charley" Warwick, Pastor, presided over the Mass. This was the fourth consecutive year for this event. Following the Mass, a breakfast given by the parishioners was served in the church hall. Pictured above: Front Row: Ron Womelsdorf, Tristan Champanos, Leona Kowalski, Fr. Charles Warrick, Thomas Womelsdorf, Bob Shemanski, Roy Tinney and Joseph Wilkes. Back row: Nicholas Kowalski, Larry Ace, Len Paczkowski, Will Kishbach (police), David Hoffman, Jason Kowalski, Dan Kowalski, Norman Bodek and Rick Tennesen.

A Welcomed Gift from Newport Lions Club

By Murph Fletcher ~ A \$1,000 allocation was awarded to Murph Fletcher by the Newport Twp. Lions Club to be used for township park and playground updates and improvements. The Lions through the years have supported recreation programs and parks maintenance. This will help restore the parks to their former glory.

Consolidated Fire Company Fundraiser

Fire truck cards similar to baseball cards are available from Dan Kowalski at (570) 735-3615 for \$1.00 each. Eventually there will be ten cards in the series. The cards are in full color with a description of the equipment. Help support your Fire Department!



NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATED FIRE COMPANY

This 1949 Ward LaFrance served the residents of Newport Township from the Sheatown #5 Station from 1949 until 1986 when it was relocated to the central station in Wanamie. It was retired in 2008 when it was replaced by a new custom Smeal, Rescue Pumper. In the early 70's a canopy was added over the cab and dunnage area. An electronic siren and flashing lights were added at this time as well. This unit boasted a 6 cylinder Waukesha gas engine, 750 gpm pump, 250 gal. tank, 2000 ft. 2 1/2, 300 1 1/2 and a 200 ft. booster line. It was instrumental in fighting many major fires including the Newport Township High School and the Glen-Lyon Breaker.

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Newport Creek South Branch Being Diverted

By Tom Kashatus ~ Brdaric Excavating of Luzerne began work on diverting the water runoff from Newport's south mountain and the old Wanamie Reservoir area. This is another project on Earth Conservancy lands that is hoped will eliminate flooding along West Kirmar Park-way from the old Equipment Center east to Alden. Cost of the project is \$988,000.00 and is being funded by a grant awarded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Above is a photo taken by Mark Sklaney of the old reservoir snuggled in the woods at the top of the mountain between Alden and Wanamie which has since been demolished.



NTCO Donates Hospital Equipment

The NTCO recently donated used hospital equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers to the New Hope Center in Nescopeck. The Center then donates the equipment to needy individuals in the Berwick and surrounding area at no charge. The Center also assists with clothing and food. The Newport Township Lions Club also has a similar program of lending equipment and Lion Ronald Womelsdorf is in charge.

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Something to contemplate...

Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing. ~ Helen Keller

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NTCO Recreation Report for 2015

As the recreation chairman for the NTCO I am submitting my report for the 2015 season.

It started in the spring when individuals came to my home and asked me to consider if I would again conduct a summer recreation program. After much discussion and agreed commitments by both myself and the NTCO, I agreed to lead the effort. Despite a short preparation window, a schedule of events was planned. Through the help of other organizations involved in youth programs and their contact information, attendance at the events was larger than I had experienced in the past. Another positive was the added help that was involved on the days the events were held.

With the success of the summer program, an effort is being put forth to have other opportunities for children to be involved in activities during the rest of the year. These efforts include working with other organizations that conduct events for children on special occasions and holidays. A Christmas Party involving the NTCO, Humble Pie, and the Glen Lyon American Legion had 101 children scheduled to attend. Along with the visit from Santa, there were Cupcake Decorating, Popsicle Stick ornament crafts for the children, along with Justin making Christmas Season balloons. In addition there were food and refreshments. It is encouraging to see that the yearlong recreation plans are starting to meet our expectations.

Plans are under way for next year's scheduled events and a plan to include adult activities as part of township recreation. As always, volunteers are needed to make this program successful. I am developing a list that identifies a person's special skill that could be used on a project. Please consider getting involved to help the program grow and be an important part of Township improvement and success.

A banner extending the NTCO's Season's Greetings to all in the township was placed on display on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie.

Murph Fletcher, Recreation Chairman



Auxiliary Piggie Dinner

By Lorrie Materewicz ~ On Sunday November 8, 2015, the Glen Lyon American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 held its first annual piggie dinner at the Post on Newport Street. The dinner featured two piggies, mashed potatoes, corn and a homemade dessert for a donation of \$8.00 with delivery available. Haluski with homemade noodles was offered at \$5.00 a quart as well as the ever-present bake sale, plus a 50/50 sponsored by the SAL. The Auxiliary wishes to thank all the folks (Auxiliary, Legion, and SAL members as well as some non-members!) who donated their time and talents to make this event a rousing success. We apologize to those who wished to purchase tickets but could not because we were sold out. We'll do better next year! Also, much appreciation is extended to VFW Post 8353, Humble Pie, Weis Market, Thomas's Market, Gerrity's, and Walmart for their generosity. Most of all, we extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the community who supported our effort and we look forward to serving you in the future. God Bless You and God Bless America.



Bliss Colliery Reclamation

By Tom Kashatus ~ The photo above shows some of the heavy equipment and workers reclaiming the lands of the former Bliss Colliery workings in Newport Township. The property is owned by Earth Conservancy and is located on the eastern boundary of Newport Township in Alden. The NTCO submitted correspondence recommending approval for grant financing of this project.

Storm Drains Repaired in Glen Lyon

The photograph on the right shows a three-man crew of Popple Construction repairing a storm drain on Orchard Street in Glen Lyon. In addition, there were three locations repaired on the West Side and one on the East Side.

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Newport Township Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus

CEASER, George M. Sr., 78, of Slocum Township passed away Tuesday, September 8, 2015, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township. George was born in Dorrance Township on July 16, 1937, and was the son of the late Herman and Helen (Knorr) Ceaser. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School and was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Foster Wheeler, and Certain Teed. George was a member of Saint Mary's Church in Dorrance and was a Knight of Columbus.

VINIARSKI, Chester J., 90, formerly of Nanticoke, passed away Thursday, September 10, 2015, at Birchwood Nursing Center, Nanticoke. Chester was born in Glen Lyon on December 26, 1924, and was the son of the late Walter and Anna (Magaleski) Viniarski.

BUSH, Anna (Lurowist), 96, of Glen Lyon passed away Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at Birchwood Nursing Center, Nanticoke. Anna was born in Berwick on November 18, 1922, and was the daughter of the late Peter and Nastimia (Riplanski) Lurowist. After marriage she and her late husband of 62 years, William Bush, made their home in Glen Lyon.

STEININGER, Irene Catherine (Gaydos), 83, of Wilkes-Barre passed away Monday, September 21, 2015, in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Irene was born June 6, 1932 and was the daughter of the late Stephen and Mary (Grochowski) Gaydos. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '49 and Luzerne County Community College. She was an employee of Eberhard Faber of Mountain Top.

KROHLE, Jean M. (Zavistoski), 74, of Carlisle, formerly of Wilkes-Barre and Noxen, passed away Monday, September 21, 2015. Jean was born October 22, 1940. She spent her youth in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '58.

LEGINS, Sally (Baran), 95, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Alden, passed away Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at her home. Sally was born in February, 1920 and was the daughter of Michael and Mary (Skopek) Baran. During her youth she attended Saint Mary of Czesochowa Parochial School and Newport Township schools. She was employed by General Cigar of Nanticoke, Luzerne County Community College, and Greater Nanticoke Area School District.

GRIFFITH, Janet M. (Roberts), 54, of Wanamie, passed away Sunday, September 27, 2015, in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Janet was born in Kingston on January 16, 1961, and was the daughter of the late Jack and Alberta (Hartman) Roberts.

REH, Helen V. (Jakubowski), 92, of Hanover Township passed away Saturday, September 25, 2015, at Kingston Health Care Center. Helen was born July 20, 1923, in Glen Lyon and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Jennie (Obidzinski) Jakubowski.

STAUFFER, Barbara M. (Kotsull), 76, of Williamstown, NJ, and formerly of Alden, passed away on Friday, July 11, 2015. Barbara was the daughter of the late Jacob and Adele Kotsull and a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '57. She was a teacher at Williamstown High School for 28 years.

MAZUKA, Doris (May), 73, of Wanamie, passed away Saturday, October 17, 2015, in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Doris was born on September 9, 1942, in Wilkes-Barre and was the daughter of the late Harry May Sr. and Dorothy (Coyle) May. She graduated as valedictorian from Wilkes-Barre Township High School Class of '60 and was employed by Bell Telephone for a time. Her husband was the late Joseph Mazuka.

GRABOWSKI, John J., 73, of Glen Lyon passed away Thursday, November 5, 2015, at the Celtic Health Care Unit, Geisinger South, Wilkes-Barre. John was born in Nanticoke on March 27, 1942, and was the son of the late John and Annette (Rupinski) Grabowski. He attended Harter High School and worked as a foreman for Certain Teed Corp. in Mountain Top and was a truck driver for Wicks Lumber, Wilkes-Barre. John served his country in the US Navy aboard the USS Blandy.

REAKES, James R., 71, of Wanamie passed away Monday, November 9, 2015, at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital after a brief illness. Jim was born on April 11, 1944, and was the son of the late Donald and Dorothy (Blackburn) Reakes. He was a lifelong resident of Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School, Class of '62. Jim received his certification in auto mechanics from Williamsport College of Technology and worked as a mechanic for his father. He later owned his father's business, and retired as a mechanic from Luzerne County Road and Bridge.

KAMON, Betty A., of Nanticoke passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2015, in Texas. Betty was born in Glen Lyon and was the daughter of the late Joseph Riefiski and Anna Shershen. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School and Luzerne County Community College. Betty was employed by the PA Unemployment Office in Wilkes-Barre.

RAINERI, Edward C., 87, of Nanticoke and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away Friday, November 13, 2015, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Plains Township. Edward was born on October 18, 1928, in Newport Township and was the son of the late Vito and Stasia (Swiensi) Raineri. He attended Newport Township schools and served in the US Army in combat during the Korean War with the 2nd Infantry Division, 72nd Tank Battalion. He was in the produce business in Glen Lyon and Nanticoke with his brothers for many years and retired from Tobyhanna Army Depot.

WASKIEWICZ, Stasia (Warenko), 92, of Livonia, MI, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away October 24, 2015. Stasia was the daughter of the late Stanley & Josephine (Zitterman) Warenko and a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '41.

LASHINSKI, Joseph Jr., 95, of Glen Lyon, passed away Sunday, November 15, 2015, at Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown. Joseph was born in Glen Lyon on May 6, 1920, and was the son of the late Joseph Sr. and Mary (Formulak) Lashinski. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School and a veteran of the US Air Force. Joe was employed by the St. Moritz on the Park Hotel of New York City until his retirement.

BIGUS, Linda Jean, of Glen Lyon died in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

SHEDLOCK, Denise R., 35, of Nanticoke, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, November 20, 2015 at her home. Denise was born June 9, 1980, in Berwick and was the daughter of Joseph Shedlock and Karen (Gensel) Shedlock. She attended Greater Nanticoke Area and Berwick schools and was employed as a receptionist for InterMountain Medical Group.

TESTAGUZZA, Louis, 97, of California and formerly of Nanticoke, passed away Friday, September 18, 2015, in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, California. He was born in Nanticoke on August 30, 1928, and was the son of Italian immigrants, the late Dominic and Mary Testaguzza of Sheatown. He graduated from Nanticoke High School, enlisted in the US Marine Corps, graduated flight school, joined the Air Force Reserve, and retired with the rank of Major. He also was a commercial airline pilot for American Airlines. "Lou" received a BSA from Northrop Aeronautical Institute, worked in the aerospace industry, and also received a law degree from the University of San Francisco. Among those surviving is a sister, Julia Testaguzza Golanoski, formerly of Alden.

MILLER, John D., 70, of Glen Lyon passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2015, at his home. John was born in Nanticoke on September 30, 1945, and was the son of the late John A. and Gertrude Miller. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '63 and was a veteran of the US Air force. He worked for the Department of Corrections at SCI-Dallas and SCI-Retreat.

HAINES, Joy R. (Smith), 91, of Nanticoke and formerly of Alden passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Joy was born February 23, 1925, and was the daughter of the late Abram and Fae Smith. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School and was a veteran of the US Navy prior to working for and retiring from Bell Telephone. Her name is memorialized on the Women's War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

PIERSON, Jeanine (Banucha), 76, of Wanamie passed away Thursday, December 3, 2015 at Celtic Hospice, Geisinger South, Wilkes-Barre. Jeanine was born in Brugnac, France, on February 20, 1939, and was the daughter of the late Jean and Helene (Waz) Banucha. Jeanine was educated in France, came to America, and became a naturalized citizen.

BOJANOWSKI, Anthony M., 64, of Portland, OR, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on August 10, 2015, at Oregon Health and Sciences University Hospital, Portland, OR. "Tony" was the son of the late Anthony and Leona (Olenginski) Bojanowski, attended Newport Township schools, and graduated from John S. Fine High School of Greater Nanticoke Area Class of '69. He graduated from LCCC and attended Mansfield State College. He was a veteran of the US Air Force from 1973 to 1976. He was employed by the State of Oregon's Vital Records Department in the area of foreign adoptions.

BROWN, Janet M., 79, of Slocum Township passed away Friday, December 4, 2015, at Celtic Hospice, Wilkes Barre. Janet was born in Slocum Township on October 7, 1936, and was the daughter of the late Marvin F. and Eva (Ungermach) Brown. She attended Newport Township High School and was employed by the Crestwood School District.

WAITER, Emily (Roman), 94, of Sheatown, passed away December 3, 2015, at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township. Emily was born April 14, 1921, and was the daughter of the late Stanley and Tillie (Godek) Roman. She attended Holy Trinity School and Newport Township High School.

TASTE OF THE TOWNSHIP WINE

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki and John Selecky ~

In the heyday of mining, train tracks ran from outside the Township through Nanticoke and followed Newport Creek north of Sheatown and Wanamie into Glen Lyon. The trains that ran on those tracks serviced the colliery at Stearns and the Susquehanna #6 Breaker in Glen Lyon. They transported coal between facilities and out of the area to waiting markets. On special occasions in the fall, Irene Gregory of Glen Lyon remembers that the trains also delivered a different cargo for its residents: grapes. These grapes were used to make wine. Wine making was carried out in the Township since its inception and these activities increased greatly with the influx of European immigrants who flocked into the Township to work in the coal mines. They brought their wine making skills with them. Italians in particular made mostly red wine, and the wine was referred to as "Dago Red." This wine was bottled in gallon jugs and was the center of much socializing. Those in the know would pick up the jug by the handle, lay it on their shoulder and pour the wine into a glass from that position. Or, they simply took a sip. The question was always, "Whose was best?" This created many a heated but fun debate, while the winemakers shared their little tricks. A gift of this home made wine was always appreciated. It was also a wonderful way to thank someone for doing you a favor. However, the sooner you drank it the better. What these winemakers didn't totally appreciate is that yeast creates the fermentation (see below) but must eventually be stopped! Fermenting too long will take almost all of the sugar out of the wine and the result is a vinegar type beverage. These winemakers didn't know how to stop the fermentation. So, if you drank it in the fall, it was delicious. Drink it six months later and it was very vinegary. One had to be careful giving it away in the spring because one's reputation could be adversely affected.

Wine is beverage made of the fermented juice of many fruits or plants. The list of wine sources is long but the most important is the fermented juice of grapes creating 10 to 20 percent alcohol from the natural sugar. There are over 10,000 varieties of wine grapes today and there are hundreds of wine types each with its own flavors and styles. Climate determines which of these grapes grow best in an area. The color of the wine is derived from the skins of the grapes during fermentation. If you leave the skins in during the whole fermentation of purple grapes, the wine will be red. Take the skins out immediately and the wine will be white. Leave the skins in for a little while and the wine will be rose in color. As a result, purple grapes can produce very good white wines. All grape wines can be organized into five fundamental groups: (1) red wine, a still wine (any non-sparkling table wine) made with purple grapes, (2) white wine, a still wine produced from green and sometimes purple grapes, (3) rosé wine, a still wine from purple grapes produced by removing the skins before they deeply color the wine, (4) sparkling wine, a style of winemaking involving a secondary fermentation causing bubbles, (5) fortified wine, a style of winemaking involving fortifying wine with spirits.

The origins of wine predate written records and is steeped in mystery and folklore. What these early people did not know is that fermentation is caused by the addition of yeast. Wild yeast exists naturally in the air. All these early people knew was that if you squeeze the juice out of grapes, in a short while it became alcoholic and more enjoyable to drink. Fossil vines, 60-million-years-old, are the earliest scientific evidence of grapes. The fermenting of wild grapes is thought to have occurred during the later Neolithic about 11,000 BC. Archaeologists found grape pips (seeds), usually considered evidence of winemaking, dating from 8000 B.C. in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Domesticated grapes were abundant



in the Near East from the beginning of the early Bronze Age, starting in 3200 BC. The earliest archaeological evidence of wine production yet found has been at sites in Georgia (c. 6000 BC) and Iran (c. 5000 BC). By 4000 BC, winemaking was already well developed.

Wine played an important role in ancient Egypt and a thriving royal winemaking industry was established in the Nile Delta by 3000 BC. The industry was most likely the result of trade between Egypt and Canaan during the early Bronze Age. The Phoenicians were instrumental in distributing wine, wine grapes and winemaking technology throughout the Mediterranean region through their extensive trade network and they were important in the development of the wine industries of Rome and Greece. Much of modern wine culture derives from the practices of the ancient Greeks. Greek wine was widely known and exported throughout the Mediterranean. Many of the grapes grown in modern Greece are grown there exclusively and are similar or identical to the varieties grown in ancient times.

Beginning in about 200 BC, Roman armies planted vines in the wake of their conquests, all over the land mass now known as Europe. Wine was an integral part of the Roman diet and winemaking became a precise business. Virtually all of the major wine-producing regions of Western Europe today were established during the Roman Imperial era.

In the Middle Ages, wine was the common drink of all social classes in the south, where grapes were cultivated. In the north and east, where few if any grapes were grown, beer and ale were the usual beverages of both commoners and nobility. Possibly because wine was necessary for the celebration of the Catholic Mass, Benedictine monks became one of the largest producers of wine in France and Germany, followed closely by the Cistercians. Other orders, such as the Carmelites, also were notable wine producers. The Benedictines owned vineyards in Champagne (Dom Perignon was a Benedictine monk), Burgundy, and Bordeaux in France, and in the Rheingau and Franconia in Germany.

European grape varieties were first brought to Mexico by the first Spanish conquistadors to provide the necessities of the Catholic Holy Eucharist. Succeeding waves of immigrants imported French, Italian and German grapes, although wine from those native to the Americas was also produced. Mexico became the most important wine producer starting in the 16th century, to the extent that its output began to affect Spanish commercial production. By 1900, America had a fully developed commercial wine producing business. Leading brands from California, New York, Ohio, Missouri and New Jersey were appearing on many of the best restaurant wine lists alongside French, German and Italian listings. Barrels of California wine were being regularly exported to Australia, Canada, Central America, England, Germany, Mexico and the Orient.

In December, 1917, Congress passed the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, criminalizing the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors. On January 16, 1920 Congress enacted the National Prohibition Act. By the time of national repeal, effective December 5, 1933, the industry was in ruins. It took more than half a century, until 1986, before many wineries were operating again.

Wine Facts

1. The five top wine-producers according to areas dedicated to grapes are: Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, and the United States.
2. "Toasting" started in ancient Rome when the Romans started dropping a piece of toasted bread into each wine glass to temper undesirable tastes or excessive acidity.
3. California is the fourth-largest wine producer in the world, after France, Italy, and Spain.
4. The Romans discovered that mixing lead with wine not only helped to preserve it, but also gave it a sweet taste and succulent texture. Chronic lead poisoning has often been cited as one of the causes of the decline of the Roman Empire.



GNA Board of Education

By Tom Kashatus ~ For those who question Newport Township's representation on the Greater Nanticoke Area School Board, the composition of the current Board indicates a fair representation of our municipality.

Pictured above in the front row left to right are: Secretary Tony Prushinski, Treasurer Gary Smith (former resident of Alden), President Ryan Verazin, Vice-President Ken James, Member Wendy Wiaterowski, and Member Bob Raineri (resident of Wanamie). Back row from left to right are: Superintendent Dr. Ronald Grevera (whose father graduated from Newport High School), Member Chet Beggs (former Alden resident), Member Megan Tennesen (Sheatown resident), Member Frank Shepanski (Ridgeview resident), and Solicitor Attorney Vito Deluca (former Sheatown resident). Since the photo was taken, Bob Raineri has resigned from the Board and Matt Landmesser of Nanticoke has been appointed as a replacement. Also, Len Olzinski of Nanticoke was elected in November replacing Chet Beggs.



Ronald Grevera PhD Hired as GNA Superintendent

By Michael Skamarakus ~ Doctor Ronald Grevera, whose father was a former resident of Sheatown and graduated from Newport Township High School in 1966, was hired in May 2014 as the new superintendent of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. He replaced Acting Superintendent, Dr. Mariellen Scott of Sheatown, who had recently retired. Dr. Grevera attended the former Bishop O'Reilly

High School in Kingston, and graduated from Wilkes University in 1995 with a degree in Social Studies and Secondary Education. He received his Master's Degree from Wilkes University and became an Assistant Principal at North Schuylkill Jr. /Sr. High School. In 2002, he was appointed Middle School Principal in the Panther Valley School District. He served as Elementary Principal in the Crestwood Area School District for eight years until 2011, when he was appointed Superintendent of the Northwest Area School District.

Dr. Grevera feels that he has a lot to offer the Greater Nanticoke Area School District and is responsible for many new and upcoming changes there. A career college advisor was added to the staff as of the current school year. In addition, a new high school principal will soon be hired. There are now more requirements needed to graduate, including more credits. A math committee will be put forth this year as well.

The John F. Kennedy School will undergo a series of renovations. The school, which currently houses 2nd grade students, will be remodeled with additions for pre-k, k-1, and k-2 to be included

with the other schools, instead of at the current K.M. Smith School, which is in Alden. Turf, instead of grass, and a rubberized track are planned to be put on the school football field. All carpets have been replaced for this year in the high school and new lockers should be installed in 2016.

People are concerned about the budget. Pennsylvania schools have faced financial impacts due to the state budget impasse. GNA is currently using local taxes to keep the district functioning and will not have to use their fund balance unless there is still an absence of a budget in January, 2016.

Outside of work, Dr. Grevera is a resident of Mountain Top and is married to Amy Grevera. They have three sons: Ronnie, Evan, and Brady. Having played baseball himself throughout high school, he enjoys coaching his son's Little League team. In addition to coaching his other son's soccer team, Dr. Grevera enjoys hunting, fishing, and reading. After interviewing Dr. Grevera, I feel that he will be a great benefit to his current school. He is driven, and has many great ideas for GNA.

Cross Installed at Alden Cemetery



Pictured above left to right: Mark George, Roy Tinney Jr., Bruce Dennis, Laura Dennis, Lillian Tinney, Roy Tinney Sr., Edward Hummell, Kevin Derr, Laura Fritz, and Frederick Wilson. Cindy Wilson is at far left rear. Resident Richard Stewart has also contributed immensely to the project in Alden.

By Tom Kashatus ~ When repairs were being made to the former school of Saint Francis Church in Nanticoke, the wooden cross that was above the school entrance ended up on the curb to be transported with other trash to the landfill. Thanks to the volunteers who are maintaining the Alden Cemetery behind the former Alden Hose House, the cross was retrieved and now stands at the center of the Alden Cemetery. Ed Hummell of Glen Lyon and his volunteer family also noticed a cemetery off of Field Street in Nanticoke that hasn't been maintained for a number of years and promptly took care of business by cutting the grass and trimming the brush. This cemetery has not yet been identified, but noticeable are a number of Lithuanian names on the gravestones. The volunteers ask for nothing in return as they gain satisfaction from contributing to community and respecting those who have passed on. Work continues at the Alden Cemetery with grass cutting and the removal of dangerously leaning trees and tall brush. With the installation of the cross, the cemetery is now noticeable from the highway.

It's a New Year!

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

~ Walt Disney

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Kval Customer Appreciation Day on October 10

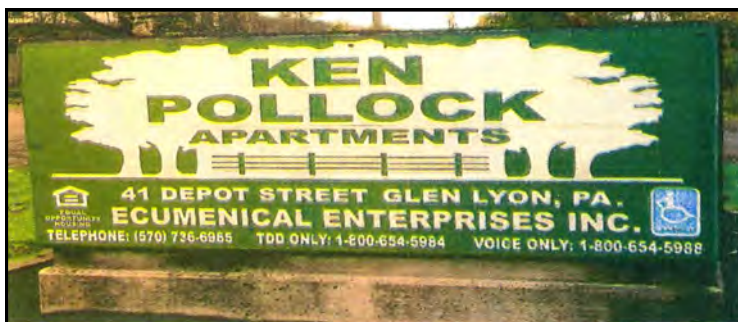


By Tom Kashatus ~ Mehul Patel was looking for a change - a change from working and living in a big city (Princeton, NJ) to living with his family in a smaller community where he could establish a business and a personal relationship with the people of that community. Beverly Banks, previous owner of the Variety Stop in Glen Lyon, retired and was interested in selling her property and business to the right person. Pragnesh and Manish (sister of Mehul) Patel, owners of EZ Express on the Sans Souci Highway in Hanover Township and a Citgo station on Highway 118 in Lehman Township, knew of the opportunity. They informed Mehul and the rest is history. Ms. Banks feels that Mehul and his family are good for Newport Township and for Glen Lyon. The Patels are very appreciative of Ms. Banks for the time and effort that she has put into the transition of the business from the Variety Stop to Kval (a name of religious origin), and especially the effort that she put into a successful "Customer Appreciation Day" this past summer. Mehul is also very appreciative of Pragnesh and Manish for every ounce of support they have given him in making this transition.

Mehul stated that he and his family hope to live in Glen Lyon and maybe build above the store so that they can be closer to their customers and provide the best service, especially during emergency situations. He tries to keep food available all day long (from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) with his prices and food quality that is comparable to other area businesses. Mehul has always been very thankful for the patronage of his customers as "Customer Appreciation Day" is a practice he followed in New Jersey by offering complimentary food, entertainment, and prizes. Most times when a patron stops at K-val, Mehul, Neil, or Mohini is behind the counter to render assistance. It is truly a "Mom & Pop" family business.



From left to right: State Representative Gerry Mullery, Newport Twp. Commissioners Paul Czapracki and John Zyla, Neil Patel, Mehul Patel, Sevita Patel (Mehul's mother) Pragnesh Patel (brother-in-law), Niti Patel, Mohini Patel, Manish Patel (sister), and State Senator John Yudichak



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Fireman's Fish Dinner

The Newport Township Firemen held a fish dinner on Sunday, October 11 at the R Bar in Alden. From left to right, top row: Jared Whitaker and Norman Bodek. Bottom row: Joe Wilkes and Leonard Paczkowski. Another fish dinner will be held Friday, February 26 at the R Bar.



Newport's Claims to Fame

Robert Levulis is an accomplished musician who has served as organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He has had several positions as music director at various churches in New York state. He is an experienced composer, educator, speaker, theater producer, event planner, and fundraiser. He was formerly vice-principal at Villa Maria Academy in Buffalo, NY and is currently Director of Music/Administrator at the Diocese of Rockville Center, Schola Musica. His father and grandfather were born in Glen Lyon. He is a cousin of Leona Sharpe who resides in Wanamie.



Pictured above and left is the Fall Festival at St. Andrew's Church, Alden held October 9 and 10. At right is Reverend John Leo reciting Grace at the Blue Mass (see p. 5).

Halloween Trunk or Treat



The first annual Trunk or Treat event sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group was held on October 31 at the Wanamie Recreation Park. The concept involves residents parking their cars in a given location and distributing Halloween treats to the children from the trunks of their cars. Some participants such as Carol and Joe Wilkes (shown above left) decorated their trucks and cars with scarecrows, pumpkins and ghosts. The turnout was better than expected and a fun time was had by all!

Resolution Time!

Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right!
~ Oprah Winfrey

The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.
~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce



What is Halloween for?

Eat, drink and be scary. ~ Author Unknown

The Newport Township All Class Reunion



The Newport Township All-Class Reunion was held on Sunday, October 11 at Holy Transfiguration Hall in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Of special note, Elwood Rinehimer and Irene Fanucci Rinehimer, Class of 1940, have attended every All-Class Reunion, and are pictured top right. Also, Michael Bugel, Class of 1941, who traveled from San Francisco, is pictured directly right with his family.



Newport Township Old Guys 45 Plus Club Makes Donation

By Tom Kashatus ~ Pictured at right is Nanticoke fire-fighter Mark Boncal (left), receiving an \$1,800.00 donation from Old Guys 45-Plus Club President John Evans (right) of Wanamie.

The funds were raised specifically for Mark and Susan Boncal's son, Brian, who was born over 15 years ago with hypoplastic (underdeveloped) left heart syndrome which overworked the pumping of blood throughout his body from the right side. Through the years maladies accrued to the point that Brian needed a heart transplant. The procedure recently took place in Pittsburgh. The funds will be used to assist with added expenses incurred during Brian's recovery. According



to his Mom, Brian's recovery has been slow and tough, but positive. Brian likes to cook and hopes to be a chef someday.

Pictured above are club officers left to right: Mark Wilde, Betsy Hanko, Woody Larson, Bob Siewell, Mike Pauska, John Evans and Rich Myers. The club sponsored a pig roast this fall at its picnic grounds in the Township to raise funds for Brian. Over one hundred locals attended the affair and feasted on the "guest of honor" shown in the background.

Breaking through...

Sometimes it is the person closest to us who must travel the furthest distance to be our friend.
~ Robert Brault



Above left, Holy Spirit Parish held a spaghetti dinner on October 18 in St. Adalbert's Church Hall in Glen Lyon. Above right, shown making "Heavenly Hoagies" on Election Day, November 3



are: Debbie Prokop, JoAnne Thomas, Bernie Betkoski, Jennifer Morgis, Steph Stogoski, Carol Wilkes, Ginny Maddy and Heidi Jarecki. Both events were sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society.



NTCO Partners with Cultural Center to Feed Homeless

The NTCO partnered with members of Saint Faustina Cultural Center to host men being assisted by Catholic Social Services at the gymnasium of the former Pope John Paul School in Nanticoke. Pictured preparing food from left are Lorraine Beck, Susan Hrobak, Deborah George of Wanamie, Sharon Ignasiak, Charles and Maryann Marcella of Sheatown, and an unidentified person.



Volunteer at Work

Liam Lowe of Alden, aged 8, came to visit his Aunt Irene Bedziewski in Glen Lyon and was tired of seeing the trash on Main Street across from Pollock's Apartments. Under the supervision of his aunt, Liam did an excellent job cleaning up from Market Street to Rock Street and deserves a big hand. Thanks, Liam!

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From left: Police Chief Jeremy Blank, Mark Grochowski, manager of State Senator John Yudichak's Nanticoke Office, Commissioners John Zyla and Paul Czapracki, Leigh Bonczewski, manager of State Representative Gerald Mullery's District Office, Mike Shea, resident of Wanamie and member of Congressman Lou Barletta's Office, and Commissioner John Vishnefski.

Public Meeting on Township-Wide Crime Watch

By John Jarecki ~ On Thursday November 12, the Newport Township Commissioners held a public meeting in the Community Room of the municipal building to see if there was interest among Township residents in forming a Township-wide Crime Watch organization.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Paul Czapracki, John Zyla, John Wilkes, and John Vishnefski, and Police Chief Jeremy Blank. Also present were Mark Grochowski, manager of State Senator John Yudichak's Nanticoke Office; Leigh Bonczewski, manager of State Representative Gerald Mullery's District Office; and Mike Shea, resident of Wanamie and a member of Congressman Lou Barletta's Office.

Mr. Zyla began the meeting by giving a short history of Crime Watch organizations in the Township. He said that a Crime Watch was organized in Sheatown in 1980. Its president was Shirley Catniss, it had about 25 members, and was in existence for about 5 years. A Glen Lyon Crime Watch was organized by Marie Morucci about 20 years ago. It is still in existence today and has donated money to the Police Department for equipment. Mr. Zyla stated that the Commissioners would now like to form a Township-wide Crime Watch and that Mr. Grochowski, Mr. Bonczewski, and Mr. Shea were willing to support the community in this effort.

Police Chief Jeremy Blank then said that the Township has only one police officer on duty on each shift and that Crime Watch members could perform a useful service for the community in reporting crime and suspicious activity. He said that he now attends meetings of the Glen Lyon Crime Watch, where members look over the crime report and he answers any questions that they have.

He continued saying that he will try to get information to help Crime Watch partner with the Police Department in applying for grants that Crime Watch can use for such activities as recruiting new members, educating the public, posting signs, and participating in the National Night Out Against Crime. He also said that he had been talking to Glen Lyon Crime Watch about changing the name of the Glen Lyon organization while continuing its existence Township-wide as the organization that Marie Morucci founded.

Mr. Bonczewski said that he and Mr. Grochowski would try to find people, either locally or in Harrisburg, with experience in Crime Watch who can give talks about how to go about organizing the new group.

Since a good number of residents expressed interest in a Township-wide Crime Watch, Mr. Zyla said that the Commissioners would schedule another meeting, and it was decided to hold it on Thursday January 14 at 7:00 pm at the municipal building. All residents are invited to attend.

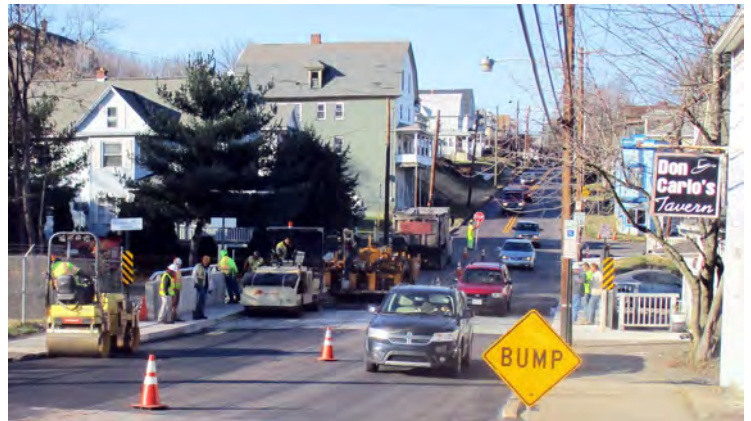


Township Receives New Recycling Truck

State Representative Gerald Mullery of Alden and Senator John Yudichak met with township officials and public works employees to see the newest addition to the Township's recycling program. From left: Senator Yudichak, Commissioners John Vishneski, John Wilkes, Michael Roke, Paul Czapracki, and John Zyla, Representative Mullery, Public Works Foreman Joseph Hillan, and Rich Guziak.

Robert Street Bridge

The photo below shows a paving crew from Mitchell Construction working on the Robert Street Bridge in Sheatown to correct poor workmanship of the original sub-contractor who completed the job unsatisfactorily. The street had been closed to traffic for over four months during the summer for new bridge construction. Commissioner President Paul Czapracki stated at the November meeting that the original contractor was fined for the unsatisfactory work. Repair work to eliminate dangerous road conditions was completed in less than three days. Kudos to Mitchell Construction for a good job!



Railroad Avenue in Wanamie Gets Paved

The much needed paving of Railroad Ave. in Wanamie was recently completed by Don E. Bower Construction. The residents who live there and those who travel there are overjoyed with the paving and also the necessary repairs to the storm drains.

General Election 2015: Newcomer High in Vote Totals

By Tom Kashatus ~ During this past General Election on November 3, Newport Township voters didn't go to the polls in record numbers; but locally, there was a significant trend expressed by the voters in the races for commissioner and constable. Incumbent commissioners Paul Czapracki (D) of Wanamie and Michael Roke (D) of Alden will continue to serve Newport Township for another four years in that position with their success at the polls with totals of 626 and 594 respectively. Surprisingly, newcomer Deborah Forgach Zaleski (D) of Glen Lyon garnered 665 votes to lead the Democratic ticket in their sweep, with three candidates to be elected. Zaleski became a candidate for a four year term in a tight primary race. In her afterthoughts of the election, she reflected on her childhood when she stated, "I sit here tonight knowing that my family is proud of the Election Day outcome, and I know that my Dad (the late Al Forgach, a Newport Township policeman) would be so proud also. He taught me and my sisters as young girls that we have a right, a duty, and a responsibility to make our own choices and have our voices heard. I am so grateful for that lesson and I am humbled that it became the reality that it did today. I only wish that I would be sharing this moment with him also."

John Grabowski (D) of Glen Lyon gave it his all as a candidate running on the Republican ticket with a formidable showing of 473 votes. Grabowski earned the Republican nomination in the Primary as a write-in candidate when no Republican entered the contest.

Ron Ebert (D) of Glen Lyon earned one of the two constable positions with a vote total of 376. Incumbent Norman Bodek (D) of Wanamie showed his popularity with 740 votes as he was a candidate on both the Democrat and Republican tickets.

Re-elected to the Greater Nanticoke Area Board of Education were Tony Prushinski, Ryan Verazin, and Kenny James. Len Olzinski was elected to his initial term.

In Pennsylvania state contests, Newport Township followed Luzerne County and statewide trends for three Supreme Court, one Superior Court, and one Commonwealth Court seats. Political Action Committee (PAC) monies reflected a number of negative political advertisements directed at both parties' candidates. The most attention-getting contest was that for the three seats on the PA Supreme Court. The Democratic Party put a great deal of emphasis on this contest due to the possible influence the Court may have with the re-drawing of Congressional, PA State Senate, and PA State Legislative districts which will occur after the 2020 US census. After the smoke disappeared, standing at the winners' table for Supreme Court were David Wecht (D), Kevin Dougherty (D), and Christine Donohue (D). Unsuccessful candidates were Judy Olson (R), Michael George (R), Anne Covey (R), and Paul Panepinto (I).

This voting trend held true for Superior Court and Commonwealth Court judgeships as Alice Dubow (D) defeated Emil Giordano (R) and Michael Wojcik (D) defeated Paul Lalley (R) respectively. Pennsylvania is a "blue" state with a Democratic registration majority of over 1,000,000 voters. However, their majorities for statewide candidates during the November 3rd election didn't exceed 175,000 votes.



Election Day

On the left, Robert Novak of Sheatown campaigns for his favorite candidate at the entrance to the polling precinct at Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown.



Seated left to right: Brenda Grabowski, Sue Novak, Mandy Jenkins, Janice Deluca, and Rose Zielinski. Standing are: Donald and Nancy Blosco.



From the left are: Joe Deluca, John Zyla, Brittany Lukasavage, Kyle Servino, Emil Augustine, Tim Wren, and Mark Pekol

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Pictured are WW2 veterans who were members of the Wanamie Hose Co.: Top row: unidentified, Joseph Zablocki, Frank Suffren, William Stoker, unidentified, Donald Briggs. 2nd row: Clyde Womelsdorf, Walter Gorgas, Edward Brutski, Stanley Mazur, Clyde McAlee, Edward Phillips. 3rd row: John Kurowski, Shea Pawlush, Constantine Zablocki, unidentified, Wadic Reno, Bolek Reno, Felix Pelczar, Joseph Ziemba. 4th row: Alex Yaniga, unidentified, unidentified, William Yukenavage, Joseph Trynoski (POW).

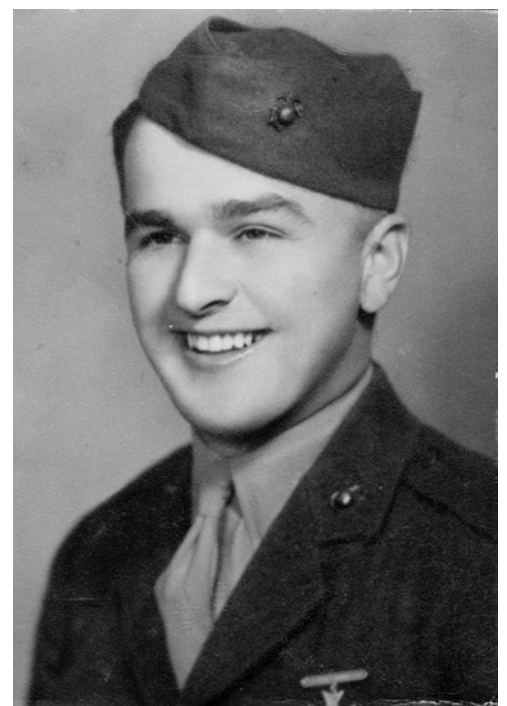
Remembering Newport Township Veterans



Ray Polnaissek, Glen Lyon



Ray Kizelowicz



Ralph Galicki, Glen Lyon



Santa Claus visited Newport Township on the fire truck on December 12. The event was sponsored by the Township Women's Activity Group.



Miracle at Bethlehem

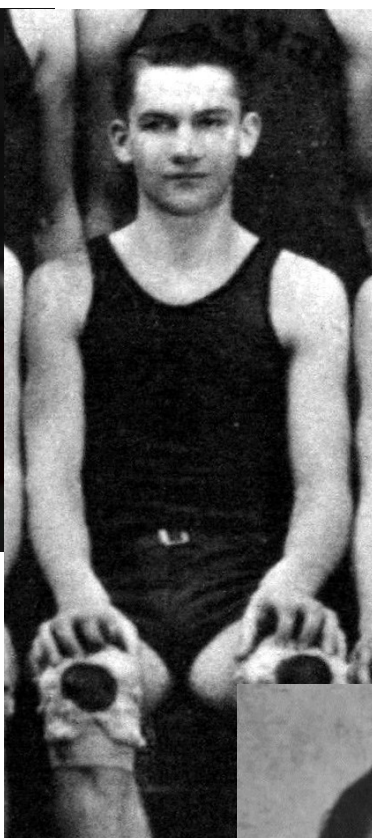
Participants from Nanticoke and Newport Township performed in the Saint Faustina Parish Cultural Center's Christmas special, "Miracle at Bethlehem," to packed houses and standing ovations. The event was held at the former Saint Stanislaus Church for three days - December 4th, 5th, and 6th. This was the first year the play took place indoors. An estimated crowd of over 400 spectators showed up each night and watched the enactment in awe. Pictured right are members of the cast. In previous years, the play was performed outdoors at the Grove in Sheatown.



Halloween Party at Post 539

Doreen Guzak of Humble Pie and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) threw a Halloween Party for Township residents. Assisting Doreen were Stephen Rinehimer and Ethan Rinehimer (pictured right). In a packed house, the kids were treated to pizza and other specialties of the Humble Pie kitchen. Pictured left are Jessica Giles and her grandchildren.





Walter Serowicz

By Paul Jarecki ~ Walter Serowicz was born in Glen Lyon on May 28, 1918. He attended Newport Township High School and graduated in 1936. On the short list of the greatest athletes produced by Newport Township, Walter Serowicz has a very prominent place. In high school, he excelled in both basketball and football, but he is best remembered for his participation on the 1936 state basketball championship team, the only state championship that Newport ever won. In the championship game against New Castle, he was the high scorer and made the shot that won the game 36-34 with just two seconds to go. He was also captain of the team and had a major role in virtually every critical play in many of their stunning victories that year. In 1936, he was considered by many to be the best high school basketball player in the state. For a full account of that season, see the article *A Team of Destiny* in the NTCO Newsletter Number 24, Winter 2011, page 4.

After a brief interlude, Walter pursued his athletic career when he enrolled at St. Thomas College, later the University of Scranton, in 1938. In his freshman year, he became a starting guard on an inexperienced Tom Cat team that went 9 – 10. The highlights of the season were victories over St. Francis of Loretto, Westminster, Wyoming University, St. Bonaventure, LaSalle and a spirited losing battle against Long Island University in New York City. In his sophomore year, he led the team in scoring and set a new record for most points scored in a season (200) for an impressive Scranton team that had a record of 16 – 8. Scranton had wins over Manhattan in an overtime battle in New York City, Lehigh, University of Florida, Akron, Georgetown, the Millersville Teachers, three-time champions of Pennsylvania's Teachers Colleges; and a pair of triumphs over both arch rivals, Canisius and St. Bonaventure. The only quintets able to top the Tom Cats were the unbeaten Seton Hall Pirates twice, Ohio U's Bobcats, Wittenberg, CCONY, LaSalle and the A.C. pros. In his remaining college career, he was a starting guard but he never regained his scoring totals that he achieved as a sophomore. Scranton's record also slipped to 11-9 in his junior year, 9-14 in his senior year and in 1940, teammate Mike "Red" Wallace surpassed his scoring record with 327 points.



Top left, playing football for Newport High School in 1935.

Top middle, as captain of the 1936 state championship high school basketball team.

Top right, as starting guard for the University of Scranton basketball team.

Immediate left, as a Newport Township High School teacher and coach, 1949.

After college, Walter became a teacher in the Newport Township school system and taught English and driver's education. He coached the basketball team from 1945 to 1960 and the football team from 1944 until 1966. He was the head football coach when Newport had what many consider their finest teams in 1945 and 1948. For a full account, see the article *Newport Township High School Football History, Part 2* in the NTCO Newsletter Number 31, Fall 2012, page 20.

Walter married Catherine Billings and they had two daughters, Carol and Deborah. He retired from teaching in 1967 and passed away on March 20, 1997. What Walter Serowicz and his basketball teammates accomplished in 1936 should never be forgotten in the history of Newport Township. It was an amazing accomplishment of historic proportions with Walter Serowicz in a leading role.

Remembering the 1936 Newport Township High School Basketball Championship Season

We all die. The goal isn't to live forever; the goal is to create something that will. ~ Chuck Palahnink

We don't, do we?

We never know, believe me, when we have succeeded best.
~ Miguel de Unamuno, *Essays and Soliloquies*, 1925



Newport Township Teachers:

John E. Selecky
JOHN E. SELECKY

By Heidi Selecky Jarecki ~ John E. Selecky was born on October 11, 1891, the oldest of nine children. His parents were Andrew and Juliana Fabry Selecky, both of whom came to this country from Slovakia. They settled on Market Street in Glen Lyon. Andrew started out as a laborer and worked his way up to miner, receiving his certificate in 1891. By 1905, Andrew became assistant mine foreman and then foreman of Susquehanna No. 6 shaft in 1909.

His oldest son John was an eager student and the pride of his younger brothers and sisters. After graduating from Newport Township High School, he entered the seminary at St. Bonaventure to study for the priesthood, working in the mines during the summers. His real love, however, was as a teacher, for he later transferred to Syracuse University where he graduated. This started a long and distinguished career in the Newport Township school system. He also attended the University of Pennsylvania and Holy Cross College.

He began his teaching career at the high school. In 1918, he resigned to serve in World War I. Upon his return, he taught at the Enterprise Street School in Glen Lyon. He was supervising principal of the grade schools in the Township, and then returned to the high school, where he taught English and Latin and sometimes math. He helped direct senior class plays. In 1941, for example, he directed the play, "Professor, How Could You?" along with fellow teacher Frank Shepela. In addition, he was appointed mine instructor for the high school, having worked as a laborer. In 1938, John was considered for Superintendent of Schools, but the position went to Andrew Rushin.

A veteran, John was a charter member of the Glen Lyon American Legion, and was very active. He served as adjutant, historian, and in 1943 was Commander. He was chairman of the Bond Drive in 1944. He attended conventions in Williamsport and was a delegate to the State Convention.

He was also a Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 373 in Glen Lyon and took the scouts on camping trips.

He was a member of the National Slovak Society and St. Adalbert's Church and its affiliated societies.

In 1921, John married Alice Voshefski of Glen Lyon, and they lived on Enterprise Street. They had three children, Medard who became a physician, John who became a lawyer, and Carolyn, who graduated from Wilkes College.

On December 17, 1944, John died suddenly of a heart attack while attending a district meeting of the American Legion in Plymouth. He was given a military funeral and honorary bearers were members of the Newport Township High School Faculty and the School Board. He was interred in St. John's Slovak Cemetery in Glen

Lyon. He was 53 years old.

The teaching vacancy was filled by Eugene Macur. (See *Spring 2015 Newsletter*, no. 40, page 21)

If you can read this, thank a teacher. ~ Anonymous



By Tom Kashatus ~ In partnership with the Luzerne County Solid Waste Management free tire recycling program under the supervision of Beth DeNardi, the NTCO hauled three trailer loads (130 tires) to the drop-off center at Hanover High School. Many of these tires were left at the curb throughout the year by residents who thought waste hauler Mascaro would pick them up for disposal. Some were found discarded along the roadside. Others were picked up from residents who did not have the means to transport them on recycling day. In the photo above is the Luzerne County Community College Automotive Class under the supervision of Instructor Bob Conner who partnered with the NTCO and helped prepare some tires for transport.



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Hustle is doing more for a customer than the other person is doing.

Hustle is believing in yourself and the business you're in.

Hustle is providing top quality service.

Hustle is the sheer joy of winning.

Hustle is being the hardest loser in town.

Hustle is hating to take a vacation because you might miss a piece of the action.

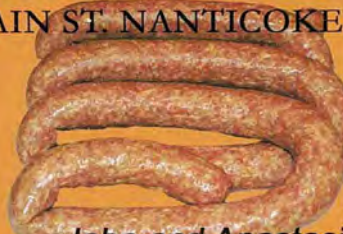
Hustle is hopping out of bed late at night to write down a great idea.

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~ Rogers Hornsby

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