



"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run." ~ Babe Ruth



The apartment grounds on Old Newport Street, Sheatown on a fall morning

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following are items of Township business discussed or acted upon at meetings of the Township Commissioners in July, August, and September of 2019.

July 1, 2019. Township residents' comments included a mention that on the last Fourth of July people had set off fireworks in St. Mary's Cemetery in Wanamie that were noisy and a fire hazard to homes near the Cemetery. The Commissioners assured the resident that, if he calls the Police and they have no more pressing business at the time, they will respond to his call. Note: In order to call the Newport Township Police, the best and quickest method is to call 911.

Financial Oversight Adviser Jennifer Polito reported that, for the first 6 months of 2019, Township revenue was \$764,275 and expenditures were \$553,917, and that all departments were performing well financially, with none over budget.

The Commissioners approved a transfer of \$7,293.75 from the Refuse Fund to the General Fund and a transfer of \$13,390.00 from the Recycling Fund to the General Fund. These transfers reimburse the General Fund for refuse and recycling expenses.

The Commissioners voted to accept a low bid of \$2,200 from

Thompson's Tree Service for the removal of trees on Township property that are thought to be a danger to adjacent properties.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following items in his report:

- 1) As of July 1, the Township sold 1,668 refuse stickers. There were 41 home owners who had not paid and whose names were referred to the Magistrate's Office for collection. This is a delinquency rate of 2.2%.
- 2) The Commissioners voted to give a tax abatement for the property at 161-162 Brown Row in Wanamie. The building will be demolished.
- 3) The Township sold the property at 144-146 West Main Street in Glen Lyon for \$1,000 through public bidding. Only one bid was received.
- 4) The Commissioners voted to change Mike Pauska's status from part time to full time employee of the Township Street Department because of the good work he has done.
- 5) Township officials are taking initial steps to reassess Township staffing and job descriptions in advance of the anticipated change in Township management that will take place in January 2020.

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Vote on Election Day, November 5

August 5, 2019. Township residents' comments included that of a resident who suggested that, since more dangerous fireworks are now legal in Pennsylvania, the Township regulate the use of fireworks by requiring residents to get permits before using them. Attorney John Solt of the Slusser Law Firm, Township Solicitor, replied that the State legislature is planning to pass regulation legislation. That legislation, if passed, would then preempt local ordinances. The Commissioners said that, if anyone has a complaint about fireworks, he should call 911. The Township Police will respond.

The resident also said that many people in the 18634 zip code in Newport Township are getting letters requesting contributions from the Nanticoke Firemen's Union. These letters, he continued, are misleading because none of the contributions go to Newport Township firefighters.

Debbie Zaleski, Commissioner overseeing Building Code Enforcement, reported that the Township conducted a sweep through Glen Lyon looking for Quality of Life and Building Code violations. The Township issued 10 reports of Building Code violations and 46 tickets for Quality of Life violations.

The Commissioners approved a resolution to create a Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board. It will consist of three people, and will decide cases in which someone disputes a charge that he or she has violated the Township building code.

Because of complaints about insects along the walking trail in the Wanamie Recreation Park and reports that there has been an increase in the number of cases of Lyme disease, the Township asked Joe Holocheck and Chris Arne from Tree Frog Pest Solutions to give a presentation on chemically treating the walking trail for mosquitoes and ticks. Mr. Holocheck and Mr. Arne said that they could treat the area near the walking trail with licensed materials according to standard practices with chemicals that are not toxic to pets. They would apply the chemical to the trail during the season at times when people are not using it. For this year, they said, they would treat the walking trail once a month for the period August through October for \$160 a month. The Commissioners voted to try the service for three months and monitor the results.

The Commissioners voted to acquire the property at 125-131 East Main Street in Glen Lyon as a first step toward demolishing the severely deteriorated structure. Indications are that Luzerne County will participate in the demolition.

The Commissioners voted to approve hiring Cooper Bartels as a seasonal part time employee on an as-needed basis. Compensation will be \$10 per hour. He will do such things as yard work.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following items in his report:

- 1) The Township placed two legal advertisements in the Citizens' Voice requesting bids for trash removal for the period from 2020 to 2022, and have so far received one bid, from C.J. Mascaro.
- 2) The Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority repaired three catch basins at no cost to the Township as a benefit of its Storm Water Reduction program. Two of the basins are on East and West Main Street in Wanamie and one is on R55 West Main Street in Glen Lyon.
- 3) The Township administration will change as of January 2020. Peter Wanchisen will leave his position as Township Manager, and his suggested replacement is Joseph Hillan, present Township Administrative Assistant. Two people were interviewed for the position of Township Administrative Assistant, and it was decided that the more qualified candidate is Bernice Shipp.
- 4) I (Peter) now ask the Commissioners to appoint Joseph Hillan as Township Manager effective January 1, 2020 and Bernice Shipp as Township Administrative Assistant effective September 25, 2020. The Commissioners so voted.
- 5) The Township entered into an 18-month contractual agreement with Energy Solutions to provide electrical service to Newport Township Government at a 14% reduction from the rate paid to our current supplier, South Jersey Electricity. The new pricing will begin at the expiration of the South Jersey contract in September 2019. Estimated annual savings to electric costs is \$2,522.

September 3, 2019. Residents' comments included a suggestion that, since the year 2023 will be the 250th anniversary of the founding of Newport Township, residents should form a committee to celebrate the

occasion.

The Commissioners approved an amendment to the Quality of Life Ordinance that makes it illegal to feed feral cats, including leaving food out for them.

The Commissioners approved the hiring of James Dupras to a part time seasonal position as needed in the Street Department at a rate of \$11 per hour.

Township Financial Oversight Adviser Jennifer Polito reported that, in the first eight months of 2019, the Township had revenue of \$916,152 and expenditures of \$699,349. Revenue is coming in as expected and the Township departments are keeping expenses down.

Ms Polito also reported that Joseph Aliciene has completed the annual audit of Township finances for the year 2018 and that everything is in order. The auditor reported that for 2018 the Township had revenue of \$1,636,948 and expenditures of \$1,541,570. Interest earned on Township deposits for the period was \$4,673 and the net balance in total Township funds was \$100,051.

Township Commissioner John Zyla reported that the Earth Conservancy (EC) gave a presentation to the Commissioners on the possibilities for economic development in the Township. The EC's presentation, however, was not optimistic in that the only part of the Township that the EC sees as available for large scale economic development is an area adjacent to Middle Road just to the east of the R-Bar. (Note: A recent article in the Citizens' Voice reported that a New Jersey developer is in discussions with EC about buying this land.) The problem interfering with development of other areas in Newport Township, according to the EC, is that the reclamation was done with silt, which is not a good backfill material.

Township Manager Peter Wanchisen included the following items in his report:

- 1) The Township received two bids for the trash collection contract for the period 2020 through 2022, one bid for \$875,664 from Waste Management and another for \$1,051,668 from J. P. Mascaro. The lower bid (which the Commissioners accepted) was \$69,984 more than the bid accepted from Waste Management for the period 2017-2019. The main reason for the increase is that wages are higher in the present improved economic conditions.
- 2) The Township posted a notice of proposed voting district changes in the Municipal Building, on the Township web page, and at three of the busiest businesses in the community in compliance with Bureau of Election requirements. (Please see page 9.)
- 3) The State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Luzerne County is sponsoring a tire recycling event at the Hanover Area High School on October 12. If anyone intends to recycle tires at the event, he must preregister by calling 1-800-821-7654.
- 4) The Township has created a new complaint form in order to make it easier for residents to report violations of the Township's Quality of Life Ordinance, and in this way to partner in the effort to improve the quality of life in the community. The form is available at the Township office and on its web site.
- 5) I (Peter) thank the Newport Street Department employees, Ransom Quarry employees, and members of the Newport Township Sewer Authority for cooperating in removing trees and weeds from Vista Drive, thereby giving motorists a better field of vision while driving along this roadway.



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NTCO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Stephen E. Phillips ~ Recognizing the strong possibility that the State may close the State Correctional Institution at Retreat in the relatively near future, it is imperative that all Area residents recognize the adverse impact that this proposal may cause.

Obviously, Newport Township will lose revenue, and a substantial number of current employees at this facility may be required to relocate to another Commonwealth prison in order to retain their jobs. This latter fact is expected to have a negative effect on numerous local businesses patronized by these workers.

In addition, in order to reduce the increased costs engendered by major commutes to new employment sites, a number of the present workers may relocate to new residences beyond this immediate locale.

Another major effect may be that Newport Township will potentially lose its status as a First-Class Township, and thus be then designated as a Township of the Second Class.

To keep First-Class status, a municipality must retain a minimum population of 300 persons per square mile. The loss of the prison population, which is included in Newport Township's census figures, may reduce the number of the Municipality's inhabitants below the mandatory figure. If this occurs subsequent to the 2020 Census, Newport will then be governed by a three-member Board of Supervisors as opposed to a five-member Board of Commissioners.

The residents will have the opportunity, via election, to choose to have a five-member Board of Supervisors serve as the local governing body. [Editors' note: A second-class township usually has three supervisors, elected at large for six-year terms. A referendum may allow a second-class township's board of supervisors to expand to five members.]

It is important that readers of this publication, and other Area residents, whatever their political affiliation, join our elected officials at all levels, in a coordinated, cooperative effort with the goal of keeping this facility open.

As this article is being drafted for inclusion in the Fall Newsletter, Newport United is planning a flea market on September 14th at the Township's Recreation Park. This is another effort to unite Newport's various community-based organizations under a singular banner which ultimately will become a springboard for other successful ventures.

The Community's electronic billboard adjacent to Holy Trinity Cemetery in Sheatown was the initial major achievement of this entity. The NTCO has been an active member since Newport United's inception.

Due in no small measure to the efforts of a committed group of volunteers and continued cooperation by American Legion Post 539 in Glen Lyon, this Community Organization's sponsored Food Bank continues to operate very successfully. Approximately 100 families continue to be served at this very worthwhile Community endeavor.

Another Summer Fun program sponsored by your NTCO has recently come to a close. For several years the NTCO, under the very capable leadership of Recreation Committee Chairman, Merlyn "Murph" Fletcher, has provided summer fun activities. This year Murph's duties were assumed by his daughter Erin Fletcher and assistant Cathy Domashinski who continue to build upon the strong foundation laid by Murph. Without the leadership of this Organization, very few activities for local youth would be available during the summer.

This is a graphic illustration of why financial assistance and volunteer support is so desperately needed by all of our local community groups. Without these two elements, volunteer groups have a finite future.

We hope that all of our readers enjoy the article in this Special Edition which highlights the successes of Glen Lyon's premier baseball teams. The baseball squads triumphed in an era when local municipalities took special pride in the athletic exploits of their hometown teams.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hardworking and time-consuming effort which went into drafting this article by my classmate and close friend, John Kashatus, Jr. I can think of no one better suited to having written this article.

Junior, you have done yourself and this Organization proud through your diligent efforts in authoring this commentary.

NOTICE

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HAS SEEN AN UPTICK IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS REGARDING OPEN BURNING VIOLATING ORDINANCE # 2-2018. ATTACHED IS A COPY OF THAT ORDINANCE FOR YOUR REVIEW. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL PENALTY FOR VIOLATING THE BURNING ORDINANCE. YOU ARE ADVISED TO READ THE ORDINANCE IN ITS ENTIRETY TO ENSURE UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIANCE. YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

PETER F. WANCHISEN
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

NEWPORT TWP. ORDINANCE NO 2 OF 2018

AN ORDINANCE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO 3 OF 1986, REGULATING THE CARRYING OUT OF CERTAIN TYPES OF BUSINESS AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE HEREBY DECLARED TO BE A NUISANCE.

Be it enacted and ordained by the Township of Newport, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of same as follows:

Section 1. Definitions which designated acts, omissions, conditions or things to be a "nuisance" shall be amended as follows:

(17) The transportation of trash, refuse, and materials of any type onto residential, business, or commercial property in the Township of Newport for the purpose of burning is prohibited. The burning of materials within the Township of Newport is limited to burning on the property only by the resident or owner of the property who shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age, and who shall be present to oversee or supervise the burning at all times. Burning of any material which emits excessive smoke or particles and / or detectable malodors being omitted from the property where the burning is taking place is prohibited. Burning of any kind that result in the emission noxious fumes or burning embers is prohibited. Burning of any kind during non-daylight hours is prohibited. Any Burning within forty (40) feet of an adjacent dwelling is prohibited.

Any fire set by, or pursuant to, the direction and/or supervision of a public officer; fires that are part of training for firefighting; when approved by the Township Commissioners shall not be subject to this regulation.

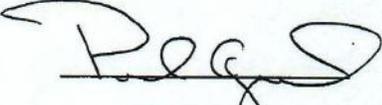
Fires for the sole purpose of cooking food on charcoal grills, gas grills, or cooking devices designed to enclose the fire source will be exempt from this regulation.

Patio and backyard fire pits fired by natural or bottled gas are exempt from this regulation.

Additionally, nothing stated herein shall prevent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Luzerne County or Newport Township, or any designated public agency to bar burning of any kind during emergency drought emergencies, drought conditions, or similar conditions.

This Amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Enacted and ordained at a meeting of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners held on this 7th day of May, 2018


Paul Czapracki, President

Attest: 
Peter F. Wanchisen, Secretary



Summer Fun 2019 included A.N.A. Critters, Rock Painting, Iron Oxide Tie Dye, a July 4th Celebration, and a Pizza Party. A "Let's Garden" event was held at the Alden Playground. The NTCO wishes to acknowledge the leadership of Erin Fletcher and her assistant, Cathy Domashinski.



Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus ~ These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. The obituaries are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, a more complete obituary can be found on our web site, www.newporttownship.com. There is also a link leading to the original newspaper obituary or that of the funeral home. Your comments are always welcome; and, if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkashatus@gmail.com or call (570) 736-6981.

RUTKOSKI, Michaeline "Mickey," 84, formerly of Sugar Notch and Sheatown, passed away May 31, 2019 at St. Luke's Villa, Wilkes-Barre. Mickey was born in Sugar Notch on June 16, 1934.

KUTZ, Joseph J., 85, of Myerstown, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away May 26, 2019. Joseph was born in Glen Lyon on August 28, 1933. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '50 and a US Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

AMBROSE, Robert C. Sr., 86, of Mountain Top, passed away on June 3, 2019. Robert was born in Nuangola on April 13, 1933. He was raised in Nuangola and graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '51. He was a veteran of the US Navy serving from '52 to '56, graduated from Wilkes College with a degree in Commerce and Finance, and received a commission in the Naval Reserve, retiring as Captain after a career of 43 years.

STOY, Stanley J., 82, of Alden, and a life resident of Newport Township, passed away June 9, 2019. Stanley was born on October 27, 1936. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '54 and well known as "Stanley Steamer" for his athleticism on the football field. Stanley was a US Navy veteran serving as a corpsman 2nd Class in Annapolis, MD and Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii. He was a graduate of Kings College with a degree in accounting.

PADDEN, Eugene M., 68, of Alden, passed away June 12, 2019. Eugene was born September 30, 1950. He was a graduate of Ashley/Sugar Notch High School. Eugene was a US Army veteran serving as a Helicopter Crew Chief for multiple tours in Vietnam where he earned the Silver Star and 13 Air Medals.

CHAPIN, Dorothy J. (nee Stair), 84, of Nescopeck, passed away on May 24, 2019. Dorothy was born in Dorrance Township on June 23, 1934. She graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '51.

SWICKLIK, Marie Dorothy (nee Oseski), age 84, of Dallas, and formerly of Glen Lyon and Nanticoke, passed away June 18, 2019. Marie was born on February 2, 1935 in Nanticoke. Marie graduated from Nanticoke High School and later worked at RCA in Mountain Top before retiring.

McWILLIAMS, Lillian M. (nee Morgis), 89, of Hunlock Creek, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away June 18, 2019. Lillian was born on January 5, 1929, in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '48 and Wilkes-Barre Business College. She retired from Western Union in Washington D.C.. She served in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

KEMP, Donald P., 49, of Hanover Township, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away July 4, 2019. Donald was born in Wilkes-Barre on November 19, 1969 and raised in Glen Lyon. He graduated from John S. Fine High School, Class of '87.

KASHNICKI, David R., 70, of Newport Township, Shickshinny, and Florida, passed away October 3, 2015. David was born on January 29, 1945 and raised in Sheatown. He attended Newport Township schools. He was a veteran of the US Army serving in the Vietnam War for two years.

KWIECIEN, John N., 68, of Meadville, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on April 30, 2019. John was born on November 5, 1950, John was a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of '68. He was a career veteran of the US Navy.

EZZYK, Mary P. (nee Sabanos), 83, of North Centre Township, Berwick, and formerly of Glen Lyon/Lee, passed away July 17, 2019. Mary was born in Mocanaqua on February 10, 1936. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '54.

KIEWLAK, Theresa A. (nee Kozik), 87, of Hanover Township, formerly of Wanamie, passed away July 15, 2019. Theresa was born in Wanamie on January 17, 1932 and was raised in Wanamie. She graduated from Nanticoke High School in 1949.

SAGER, Ralph Edward, 91, of New Carlisle, OH, and formerly of Sheatown, passed away on February 4, 2019. Ralph was born on July 12, 1927 in Sheatown. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '47. He was a World War II veteran serving in the US Navy.

LILLRYMAN, Shirley J. (nee Rinehimer), 79, of Bloomsburg, formerly of Slocum Township, passed away July 24, 2019. Shirley was born May 7, 1940 in Slocum. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '58.

ROONEY, Genevieve (nee Szychowski), 94, of West Wyoming, and formerly of Alden, passed away July 24, 2019. Genevieve was born in Alden. She was a graduate of Hanover Township High School.

SAMUELS, Joseph R., 81, of Glen Lyon, died August 4, 2019. Joseph was born in Glen Lyon on July 31, 1938. He graduated from Newport Township High School Class of '56 and was a veteran of the US Army.

FRACE, Courtney B., 75, of Mocanaqua, and formerly of Glen Lyon, died August 8, 2019. Courtney was born on July 7, 1944. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '63.

LEO, The Reverend John, 97, Episcopal priest, passed away August 6, 2019. Locally, he served five years as pastor of Saint Andrew's Church in Alden. Father John was born in Winooski, Vermont. He was a graduate of the University of Vermont, Bexley Hall Seminary, and Cal Poly University. Father John was a veteran of World War II serving with a photo-reconnaissance team in the European Theater of Operations. He retired as a Chaplain and Captain in the US Air Force.

NASSER, Dorothy K. (nee Kamon), 93, a resident of Mercy Center Nursing Unit, Dallas, and formerly of Robert Street, Sheatown, passed away August 11, 2019. Dorothy was born in Nanticoke on March 11, 1926. She graduated from Nanticoke High School.

LARSON, Edward M., 89, of Glen Lyon passed away August 16, 2019. Edward was born November 12, 1929 in Hanover Green. He was a US Air Force veteran serving during the Korean War and attained the rank of Airman First Class. He retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Plains Township. He was a member of Glen Lyon VFW Post 8353.

GRABINSKI, Richard J. Sr., 78, of Wanamie, passed away August 15, 2019. Richard was born in Nanticoke on September 7, 1940. He was a graduate of Nanticoke High School and was a veteran of the US Navy serving aboard the destroyer, USS Caperton, attaining the rank of Seaman 3rd Class.

PAULSON, Patricia K. (nee Poremba), 79, of Nanticoke, formerly of Alden, passed away August 18, 2019. Patricia was born and raised in Alden. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of '57 and Wilkes University with an Associate Degree in Medical Technology.

COOK, Robert J., 45, of Glen Lyon, passed away August 23, 2019. Robert was born in Wilkes-Barre on June 7, 1974. He was the son of the late William Cook and the late Jean Tinney.

ZENDARSKI, Sgt. Ryan S., 30, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away August 23, 2019 at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. Ryan attended Newport Township schools and graduated from Greater Nanticoke Area High School. He was an Army Reservist and a US Army veteran serving in Iraq. Later he was a member of the 109th FA Artillery, Nanticoke, attaining the rank of Sergeant.

ADAMS, Mary Lou (nee Raitter), 85, of Luzerne, formerly of Wanamie, passed away August 27, 2019. She was born in Nanticoke and was predeceased by her husband Daniel.

The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township

Milkweed

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~
While walking in the Township in late summer/early fall, you may come across milkweed plants. These plants can be decorative in the home when placed in a glass container. This one was observed growing on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie.

Milkweed Facts

1 Milkweed (*Asclepius*) is a genus of perennial plants that grow all throughout the world, and have more than 140 known species to date. Most species originate from North America. Milkweed grows

in fields, gardens, meadows and areas near roads. It often grows in colonies and easily occupies new areas. It belongs to the dogbane family.

2. *Asclepius* is the name of the Greek God of Healing, and there are no small amounts of people who contend that the sap of milkweed heals the human body from many of the things that ails it.

3. In most cases, this milky sap is completely and totally harmless, but there are some species of milkweed plant that are known to be toxic to animals (especially insects) and even to human beings!

4. It has unique follicles that ripen and split open when the plant reaches its "prime age", exposing the seeds to the wind so that they can be shuttled across a piece of property to grow a new patch of milkweed the following season.

5. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on just one type of plant, and that's milkweed. This is because Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed. If Monarch eggs are laid on plants other than milkweed, the caterpillars cannot survive and ultimately starve to death.

6. One of the most interesting and intriguing things about milkweed (specifically the toxic versions of this plant) is that it has somehow adapted itself to understand insects are attracted to it and has three primary defenses that it uses to fight off insect attack. There are "hairs" on leaves, toxins that are released through the milky sap and even latex fluids that are produced by the plant and excreted at the leaves to try and dissuade insects from landing on the plant and destroying it.

7. Thanks to its high tensile strength and insulating properties, milkweed is grown commercially to be used as a filling in pillows that is hypoallergenic, incredibly light and airy, and more easily regulates temperatures than a more traditional filling material.

8. People have also harvested milkweed using its liquid as part of a condensed sweetener marketed as an alternative to sugar. Though it hasn't really quite caught on quite the same way as some other alternative sweeteners have, it is still harvested for this purpose today.

9. Having milkweed in your garden is incredibly beneficial to the other plants that surround it. Not only is it fantastic at repelling insects that would otherwise destroy your garden (while attracting those that aren't going to do much damage at all), but it also helps to brighten up the place with Monarch butterflies.



First Place Winner Plymouth Kielbasa Festival

Tarnowski's Kielbasa, located at 579 East Main Street, Nanticoke took first place in the smoked category at the Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Festival held on August 9 and 10. Pictured are proprietors Anastasia and John Vishnefski. John is the son of Jack and Diane Vishnefski of Wanamie. In 2016, Tarnowski's took first place in the "fresh" category. Congratulations!



Newsletter Goes International Again!

The Newport Township Community News has certainly traveled throughout the United States, and we are gleeful when it spreads to other continents. Pictured is Illaria Skordy Steele, Newport Township High School Class of '64, enjoying the Spring 2019 issue while on a Viking Long Boat Cruise on the Rhine River from Budapest to Amsterdam this summer. As the cruise took her and her husband Robert through Germany, Illaria got caught up on news of her hometown. Illaria and Robert live in Coatesville, PA. We invite all of our readers to prove each time the Newsletter Goes International!

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John & Anastasia Vishnefski

Taste of the Township

Coffee



By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Coffee is the world's most popular beverage. 400 billion cups are consumed each year, and the residents of Newport Township have drunk their fair share.

The word "coffee" entered the English language in 1582 with the Dutch koffie, borrowed from the Ottoman Turkish kahve, in turn borrowed from the Arabic qahwah.

No one knows how or when coffee was discovered, though there are many legends about its origin. One account involves the Moroccan Sufi mystic Ghothul. When traveling in Ethiopia, he ate berries that the birds had been eating and experienced their vitality. Other accounts attribute the discovery of coffee to Omar who was exiled to a desert cave near Ousab. Starving, Omar chewed berries from nearby shrubbery, but found them to be bitter. He tried boiling them to soften the bean, which resulted in a fragrant brown liquid. Upon drinking the liquid Omar was revitalized and sustained for days. Another legend traces coffee's heritage back to the ancient coffee forests on the Ethiopian plateau. There a goat herder named Kaldi discovered coffee after he noticed that after eating the berries from a certain tree, his goats became so energetic that they did not want to sleep at night. Kaldi reported his findings to the abbot of the local monastery, who made a drink with the berries and found that it kept him alert through the long hours of evening prayer. Knowledge of the energizing berries began to spread east till coffee reached the Arabian Peninsula.

Coffee cultivation and trade began on the Arabian Peninsula. By the 15th century, coffee was being grown in the Yemeni district of Arabia and by the 16th century it was known in Persia (Iran), Egypt, Syria, and Turkey. Soon many public coffee houses began to appear in cities across the Near East. The vibrant trade between the Republic of Venice and the people of North Africa, Egypt, and the East brought coffee to Venice and coffee was introduced to the mainland of Europe.

As demand for the beverage continued to spread, there was fierce competition to cultivate coffee outside of Arabia. The Dutch finally got seedlings in the latter half of the 17th century. They were successful with their efforts in Batavia, in what is now Indonesia. The plants thrived and soon the Dutch had a productive and growing trade in coffee. They then expanded the cultivation of coffee trees to the islands of Sumatra and Celebes. By the 17th century, coffee had made its way to Europe and was becoming popular across the continent. By the mid-17th century, there were over 300 coffee houses in London.

The first coffee plantation in Brazil occurred in 1727 when Lt. Col. Francisco de Melo Palheta smuggled seeds, taken from Yemen to Batavia, to begin what is today a billion-dollar industry. Missionaries and travelers, traders and colonists continued to carry coffee seeds to new lands, and coffee trees were planted worldwide. New nations were established on coffee economies. By the end of the 18th century, coffee had become one of the world's most profitable export crops.

Though coffee houses rapidly began to appear, tea continued to be the favored drink in the New World until 1773, when the colonists revolted against a heavy tax on tea imposed by King George III. The revolt, known as the Boston Tea Party, would forever change the American drinking preference to coffee. Gabriel de Clieu brought coffee seedlings to Martinique in the Caribbean in 1720. Those sprouts flourished and 50 years later there were 18,680 coffee trees in Martinique enabling the spread of coffee cultivation to Saint-Domingue (Haiti), Mexico and other islands of the Caribbean. The French territory of Saint-Domingue saw coffee cultivated starting in 1734, and by 1788 supplied half the world's coffee. Coffee had a major influence on the development of Latin America. The French colonial plantations relied heavily on African slave laborers. Brazil became the largest producer of coffee in the world by 1852 and it has held that status ever since. It dominated world production,

exporting more coffee than the rest of the world combined, from 1850 to 1950. The period since 1950 saw the widening of the playing field due to the emergence of several other major producers, notably Colombia, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, and, most recently, Vietnam, which overtook Colombia and became the second-largest producer in 1999 and reached 15% market share by 2011.

Coffee Facts

"Coffee - the favorite drink of the civilized world." ~ Thomas Jefferson

1. Coffee is the world's most popular beverage. We consume 400 billion cups each year, nearly 400 million cups a day.
2. The United States imports 27% of all coffee beans grown in the world.
3. Coffee is second only to oil as the most traded commodity.
4. Jabez Burns, the inventor of coffee roasting machines in 1864, was granted a United States patent on the original Burns coffee roaster, the first machine which did not have to be moved away from the fire for discharging roasted coffee.
5. In 1900, Hills Brothers packages roasted coffee beans for the first time in vacuum tins. R.W. Hills developed a process that removed air from coffee packaging, resulting in fresher beans. Known as vacuum packing, this discovery is the most used method to this day.
6. The first espresso machine was patented by Luigi Bezzera in 1901. Louis Bernard Rabaut is credited with developing a brewing machine that used steam to force hot water through the coffee grounds, creating the first early version of what we now know as Espresso.
7. Ludwig Roselius, a German coffee importer and his assistant Karl Wimmer discovered a process in 1903 to remove caffeine from the beans without wrecking the flavor.
8. 1906 the first instant coffee - Red-E Coffee - was invented by George Washington. He later marketed it in 1909 as Red-E Coffee. During the height of its popularity in the 1970s, nearly a third of the roasted coffee imported into the United States was converted into an instant product, resulting in annual sales of more than 200 million pounds.
9. Joel Cheek named his new coffee blend "Maxwell House" after the ritzy hotel that serves it in Nashville, Tennessee. Seven presidents stayed at the Maxwell House Hotel, including Theodore Roosevelt, whose 1907 comment that this delightful coffee was "Good to the Last Drop" launched the advertising slogan that was used to promote the nation's first blended coffee.
10. The first automatic drip home coffee maker, with the formal name of Mr. Coffee. It was introduced by Joe Di Maggio and Mr. Coffee in 1972.

Coffee Ice Cream

From Emeril Lagasse on *The Food Network*

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 cups whole milk
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tbs. instant coffee granules
- 6 egg yolks
- Chocolate curls for garnish

1. Combine the cream, milk, sugar, and coffee in a medium, heavy saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat. Remove from the heat.
2. Beat the egg yolks in a medium bowl. Whisk 1 cup of the hot cream into the egg yolks. Gradually add the egg mixture in a slow, steady stream, to the hot cream. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, until the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon and reaches 170 degrees F. on an instant read thermometer, about five minutes. Remove from the heat and strain through a fine mesh strainer into a clean container. Cover with plastic wrap, pressing down against the surface to keep a skin from forming. Chill in the refrigerator for two hours.
3. Remove from the refrigerator and pour into the bowl of an ice cream machine. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. After the ice cream is made, transfer to an airtight container. Cover tightly and freeze until ready to serve. Garnish with chocolate curls.

Sources: "The History of Coffee" by Professor Peaberry, pseudonym, on www.gocoffee.go.com and Wikipedia



"For the Glory of Newport High"



Class of 1955 gathered for lunch on August 22 at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. The Class is planning a 65th Reunion on May 14, 2020. Contact John Antonaitis or Marie Pucci Modrow for more information.

Front row, from left to right: John Antonaitis, Marie Pucci (Modrow), Peter Valania, Barbara Skordinski (Lylo), Carol Fink (Smetana), Jean Ann Schraeder (Kuchinskas), Elaine Hutchinson.

Back row, left to right: Armand Minuti, Louis Teletski, Tyrone Gayewski, James Pierog, and Joe Greytok.



Class of 1959 held their 60th reunion at the Appletree Terrace at the Newberry Estates in Dallas on Sunday, September 1. Bottom row, l to r: Mary Ann Larish Pawlush, Joanne Kobasko Young, Jeanne Andrezze Kubasko, Dolores Legins Kazmerski, Barbara Veronick DeLuca, Antoinette Madajewski Kaylen, Jean Marie Levulis Lewis, Alice Fink Canham, Eleanor Steibing Moyer, Sally Stapinski Kashatus and John Kashatus. 2nd Row: Barry Frank, Robert Sivilich, John Wilkes, Francis Kachala, Alex Kostek, John Selecky, Paul Gregory, Raymond Stec, Sylvia Waclawski Vassia, Janice Gayewski Piestrak, Janet Betz Hawk and Patricia Caley Tredway. Third Row: Dennis Kubasko, James Schinski, Stephen Phillips, Daniel Piestrak and William Zidek. Back Row: Donald Rusnak, Frank Gonshor, Ronald Kielar, Lawrence Sklaney, Bruce Davis and Leonard Sklaney.



Class of 1967 held their 70th birthday party at the Lookout House in Drums on Saturday, September 14. Pictured left to right: Bottom row Harriet Felici Ketcham, Barbara Golanoski Makowski, Jane Kruzczek Strzelecki, Charlotte Sopka Santry, Heidi Selecky Jarecki, Paul Jarecki, Chet Mierzwa, Bonnie Cooney Lazar. Top row: Mike Floryshak, Martin Morgis, Ed Vandermark, Rose Ann Dante Vandermark, Joyce Gregory Smetana, Carl Swithers, Trudy Matikiewicz Knorr, Ray Tarnowski, Carol Roke Klinetob, Mike Mihneski, and Ronnie Jones. Barely seen behind Carol is Carl Klinetob, a classmate by marriage! Thank you, Mike!



Telephone/Light Poles Changed Throughout Glen Lyon

By Tom Kashatus ~ Asplundh, a contractor noted for trimming or removing trees and brush along highways and power lines, has been working for the past few months in Glen Lyon replacing light/telephone poles. After being inspected, many poles which are "as old as the hills" have been determined to be deteriorated and unsafe. The poles are owned by UGI Corporation which has contracted with Asplundh to change those that failed testing, especially below ground level. Shown left are Asplundh employees working on East Main Street. Notable buildings in the background are the old Skating Rink and former dress factory; No. 1 Hose House; Grochowski's Bar and later Rivers Café; the former Glen Lyon Bank; and the former Stapinski's Drug Store.

Newport Township Women's Activity Group Events

Oct. 26, 2019: Trunk or Treat, Township Municipal Garage, Wanamie. 1-2:30 pm.

Nov. 10, 2019: Fall Bingo, St. Adalbert's Church, Glen Lyon. Doors open at 12:00 pm.

Dec. 2019 (Date to be determined): Santa Arrives on the Fire Truck.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539

By Lorrie Materewicz

ALA Unit 539 Awards

The American Legion Auxiliary held its annual state convention in Harrisburg in July. One of the many items on the agenda was the annual awards presentation based on end-of-year reports submitted by the individual units. Newport Township American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539's President Janet Wenner is proud to announce that Unit 539 set a state record this year for the most awards presented to one unit (6), topping all 483 units in the state. Pennsylvania is divided into 3 sections: western, central, and eastern, with Unit 539 being in the central section with 119 other units. Awards received by Unit 539 were: Department Citation for Unit Activities, Certificate of Appreciation for Most Volunteer Hours, Certificate for 100% Membership Renewal (with pins for President Wenner and Membership Chairperson Sally Billings), Certificate of Achievement in Service to Veterans, Central Section Veterans' Activities and Recreation Award (certificate and monetary award), and Central Section Juniors' Award (certificate and monetary award). The Auxiliary continues to be active in veterans' and community affairs, and new members are always welcome. For further information, call Lorrie at 570-736-7177.

Auxiliary Seeking Moms

The Newport Township American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 is seeking the names of mothers in Newport Township who have children currently serving on active duty in the U.S. military. Anyone with this information may call Lorrie Materewicz at 570-736-7177. Thanks for your help and God Bless.

American Legion Celebrates 100 Years

The American Legion is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Being the largest patriotic organization in the world, it boasts a membership of 3 million, with 15,000 posts worldwide in 55 departments that include all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Mexico, France, and the Philippines. The Legion was begun in 1919 by a group of 20 World War I-weary veterans of the American Expeditionary Force who banded together in the hopes of getting other veterans to join with them in forming an organization that would benefit all veterans and their communities in various ways. They met for their first caucus in Paris, France on March 15-17, 1919, and continued to meet throughout that year to formulate their Constitution, Preamble, bylaws, and design their emblem. Chartered by Congress on September 16, 1919, the first Legion Convention was held November 10-12, 1919, and it was decided their headquarters would be in Indianapolis, Indiana. In the past 100 years, the accomplishments of the American Legion have been both phenomenal and historical and have benefitted millions. Some of those include: in 1921 their efforts resulted in the creation of the US Veterans' Bureau, a forerunner of what became the Veterans Administration in 1930, which led to the department having a cabinet-level position in our Federal government; in 1923 the Legion drafted the Flag Code, which went on to be adopted by Congress in 1942; the Legion changed history by writing the GI Bill, passed into law by Congress in 1944. This law has helped over 10.5 million veterans and veterans' children with educational benefits and 5.6 million with home loans. The Legion was also the largest contributor to the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, D.C. A Legion grant in the 1950's was responsible for launching the National Organization of Mental Health. Finally, the Legion sponsors a number of ongoing programs that help millions each year, including hundreds of Boy Scout troops, an annual oratory contest, youth baseball teams, emergency funding programs for veterans and their families displaced by natural disasters, programs for veterans suffering from PTSD & TBI, and Wounded Warrior programs. The Legion has multiple lobbying efforts in Congress for funding for veterans programs, health care, and benefits. Their efforts were instrumental in the passage of the Blue Water Navy Act and LEGION Act mentioned on this page. So, as you can tell by now, though the canteen is a great place to relax and enjoy yourself in the evening, the American Legion is so much more than just that. If you are a member, you can be justifiably proud. If you are not and are eligible, please consider joining. Also, if you are a family member of a veteran, consider

membership in the Auxiliary, SAL, or Riders. Thanks for your interest, and God Bless.

Auxiliary Membership News

Concerning the Auxiliary, for the 2019-2020 membership year, any female veteran who would like to join the Newport Township American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539, your dues for the first year will be waived by the unit. Membership in the Legion Post is not mandatory to join the Auxiliary. For further information, call Lorrie at 570-736-7177.

Auxiliary for Guys?

Yes! Here's a bit of exciting news for men in Newport Township (and anywhere else the newsletter is read). If you are the spouse of a female veteran (either actively serving or former military) who is also a member of an American Legion post, you are now eligible to become a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. This was yet another issue decided at this year's American Legion National Convention. It applies only to husbands and not any other male family members. So come on guys, sign up and break those gender barriers - the Auxiliary welcomes your membership! In the Township, call Lorrie at 570-736-7177.

Blue Water Navy Act

On June 25th, President Trump signed into law the Blue Water Navy Veterans Act, making those with the long list of Agent Orange-related medical conditions who served off the coast of Viet Nam but may never have had boots on the ground in Viet Nam eligible for benefits they may have previously been denied. It is important for those same veterans and others who may have never applied to check with their local VA's and service officers to perhaps file initial or refile previously rejected claims. The list of conditions continues to grow with expanding research, and the list of claimants also continues to grow, so the sooner a veteran applies, the better.

Legion Membership News

In July, President Trump also signed into law the LEGION (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service) Act. Since World War II, nearly 1600 service members have been killed or injured in hostile operations in periods not officially recognized as wartime by the U.S. government. As a Congressionally chartered organization, the American Legion had formerly required that its members will have served during periods of "official" wartime. The LEGION Act now states that the U.S. has been actively engaged in a state of war since December 7, 1941, which opens membership to all 6 million military members who have served on active duty since that day, including those in previously unrecognized time periods, and also opens membership to their family members in the Auxiliary and the SAL. So if you have always wondered if you qualify for membership, or if you have been turned down because your time of service occurred during one of those disqualifying cracks, now is the time to apply or reapply. The Legion/Auxiliary/SAL would be most excited and appreciative of your membership.

ATTENTION NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS Changes in Polling Places

On Friday September 6, 2019, the Luzerne County Election Board approved the following changes concerning the Newport Township Polling Places. Effective with the November 5 General Election, the Township will be divided into two Wards: **Ward 1, Glen Lyon and Lee** with the polling place being moved to the **Newport Township Municipal Building in Wanamie**. Voters will no longer go to the Italian American Sporting Club in Glen Lyon. **Ward 2, Wanamie, Alden, Sheatown, and Ridgeview** with the polling place being the **Newport Township Municipal Garage** adjacent to the Municipal Building.

ROAR
VBS 2019

Holy Spirit
Parish
Church of St. Adalbert



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish was held at St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon from July 13 to July 17. Pictured are : Top row, Susan Pauska, Robert Shemanski, Mary Ann Shemanski, Mary Kashatus, Irelyn Karnes, Dolores Grabowski, Samera Buchanan, Carol Sobotka, Jon Lantz, Jane Straub, Brandon Lantz, Debbie Ward, Jake Grabowski, Carol Wilkes, JoAnne Thomas. Row 2: Alyssa Wasenda, Lilly Makowski, Logan Burke, Alex Fox, Layla Levandowski, Isabella Sullivan, Ella Namowicz, Jenna Samuels, Isabella Buchanan. Row 3: CCD Coordinator Ann Marie Gorgas, Layla Pearce, Owen Namowicz, Lily Pearce, Garrett Makowski, Nate Vnuk, Nikolas Makowski, Curt Gronski, Mason Kata, Abigail Miller, Isabella Henichek, Riley. Row 4: Lily Samuels, Andrew Baron, Aubrey Baron, Jack Makowski, Joseph Riley, Mia Wasenda, Haley Fox. Bottom row: Scarlet Lukowski, Caleigh Pearce, Jack Gronski, Chase Kata. Absent from picture: Carter Henichek, Sophia Lukowski, Zack Tarnowski, Holly Thomas, Jenna Thomas, Stephanie Stogoski, Brenda Grabowski, Elizabeth Gernhart, Katie Ward.



The First Annual Newport Township Flea Market and Craft Show was held at the Wanamie Recreation Park on Saturday, September 14th. It was sponsored by Newport United. The vendors offered a variety of merchandise including baked goods, carpets, afghans, scented candles, and household items. Pictured above are co-chairpersons, Sue Heinz and Heidi Jarecki with Paul Kearney in the middle. A door prize was raffled off and the Newport Township Recreation Board provided complimentary coffee and doughnuts.

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Pictured above is pancake flipper, Jen Morgis of Glen Lyon, member of the Altar and Rosary Society.



Pictured right is Newport Township Assistant Fire Chief Jim Hoffman and his wife Tiffany with daughters Charlie and Everly at the R-Bar in Alden.

On Sunday, September 8, 2019, the Altar and Rosary and Holy Name Societies, St. Adalbert's Church, Holy Spirit Parish held its annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. The Newport Township Firemen and Fire Police also held its Annual Breakfast on Sunday, September 8 with assistance from the R-Bar in Alden. Funds realized from the event will aid in completing necessary repairs to the firehouse.

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Edmund "Doc" Vosheski, star pitcher for the Condors

The Legendary Glen Lyon Condors

By John Kashatus ~ My introduction into the world of baseball occurred on an August morning in 1948. My mother had dropped me off at my parents' business (Dada's Tavern) to stay with my father for the morning. As I walked in, I observed some customers having coffee (others having "eye openers") and reading the paper. All of them were crying, some were actually sobbing, about a baby who died. I asked my dad why these men were crying, and he responded that it wasn't a baby, it was Babe Ruth, the greatest baseball player of all time, who had died. As a six year old, I had witnessed the impact that baseball had on grown men.

Baseball is a team game that provides opportunities for any one player to excel in the moment. It has been said that baseball is a tranquil game until "unwrapped violence" occurs. The player or players who excel during that drama become heroes. Baseball is more than a game, it is a Romance Story between the endeared and revered players and the fans who support them. We can recall the song "Heart and Soul." The first two lines of lyrics can be applied to baseball: "Heart and soul, I fell in love with you, Heart and soul, the way a fool would do, madly!" A quote by the late Jim Bouton, author of "Ball Four," explains the human connection to the game. "You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time."

As I grew up in Glen Lyon during the 1940's and '50's, I recall hearing sports stories about the 1936 Newport High School State Basketball Championship and the Condors, the semi-pro baseball team whose home field was Weineck Park. There were two major baseball fields in Glen Lyon, a town divided by a large, productive coal breaker: Weineck Park was on the West Side and the Kanadian ballfield was on the East Side. Weineck Park was built by the Susquehanna Colliery in the late 1920's or early 1930's. It was named after William E. Weineck, Superintendent of the M.A. Hanna Coal Company. It was a pristine setting above Seven Shaft Hill, adjacent to the state highway leading into Glen Lyon from the west. The Newport High School "Nutcrackers" 1936 Baseball Champions also played its home games at Weineck Park. That high school team produced five future Condors: Alex "Fleet" Sklaney, Al Kriefski, Edmund "Doc" Vosheski, Frank "Dane" Odinetz and Adam "Borries" Warchal. The latter three also played professional baseball.¹

Semi-professional baseball has been around since America's Civil War. With the onset of the Industrial Revolution, the coal industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania attracted many Eastern European families to work in the local coal mines during the later part of the

19th century. Anthracite coal was the fuel used to maintain production in factories. America was shifting from an agrarian country to an industrial economy. In Northeastern Pennsylvania there were small towns populated with many strong, young miners during this era. Many of these towns fielded baseball teams with local talent who were predominantly coal miners. In my pre-teen years, my father told me stories of the Glen Lyon Condors and their history of winning, not only locally, but also traveling to Peckville (above Scranton) and other far away communities to challenge notorious semi-pro teams who supplemented their rosters with "ringers." Ringers were usually former professional players who still had talent, but not the level needed to perform in the Major Leagues. How many times I heard the story of the Condors knocking Joe Shaute out of the box, I quit counting. Shaute won 20 games for the Cleveland Indians in 1924, the same year that the Condors were established.² I assume that showdown took place in the late 1930's. As we acknowledge the Condors were an outstanding franchise since its inception, the era from 1938 through 1949 placed the Glen Lyon Condors in the "Annals of Time."

Since the early days of the Condors, Glen Lyon and Newport Township had a history of large attendance at ball games. The Newport High School team of 1936 had an estimated crowd of well over 1,000 fans to witness a one-hitter by "Doc" Vosheski over Harter High School at Weineck Park to claim the Southern Division title in the Wyoming Valley Conference. A Wilkes Barre sports editor commented that all Conference playoff games should be played in Glen Lyon, because attendance for the playoffs at Artillery Park in Wilkes-Barre was only between 500 and 700. The Newport Little League All-Star team of 1953 played a few games with crowds of 1,000 to 2,000. The Glen Lyon Condors packed in the fans notwithstanding the fact that there was an admission charge. The team was so popular and some of the players were so well-known throughout the Wyoming Valley that the local sports writers published box scores using the players' nicknames.³

One may notice that a few semi-pro players changed teams as well as leagues from one year to the next. That was rare for the Condors. Most of them stayed with the franchise throughout their careers, as evidenced by the rosters on the biographical page. A few outstanding players came on board to fill voids created by the veteran Condors going "pro" or becoming inactive for the season.⁴ The replacement players usually were a win/win situation, judging by the continuity of the team's success.

While other Newport Township teams, namely the Kanadians, Alden Social Club, and the Wanamic Athletic Club (A. C.) played in high quality leagues (Anthracite and Susquehanna), the Condors played in the top level or elite leagues of Northeastern Pennsylvania. During this era, these leagues may have changed names, but the powerhouse teams remained the same. For example, the Condors played in the Wyoming League (1938), in the NEP League (1939), in the Luzerne County League (1940), and in the New Enterprise League (1941). The Luzerne County League (1940) had 8 teams in the Southern Division and 8 teams in the Northern Division. This article primarily covers the pre-World War II and the post-war eras and the players who played in both.

The Pre-War Years (1938 - 1941)

1938 Manager: John "Dada" Kashatus. Pennant, Wyoming League

The Condors defeated Ashley (9-2) for their 6th straight victory behind the pitching of Joe "Bish" Hillan who gave up 4 singles. George "Dunn" Domashinski, Frank "Dane" Odinetz, Ted "Levi" Sokoloski, and Bish featured at the plate, each with 3 hits, including a home run for Levi. The winning streak continued with a first semi-pro game played on a Wednesday night (games were usually played on Sunday afternoons) at Artillery Park featuring the Condors and Swoyersville. Dane's home run in the 7th proved to be the winning run (6-5) backed up by the pitching of John "Jocko" Sokoloski and Doc Vosheski. Glen Lyon eliminated Shickshinny in the semi-finals (6-5) by scoring 2 runs in the bottom of the 9th inning. Andy Sweeney (4 hits), Dunn, Adam Warchal and Dane all reached base safely. Al "AK" Kramer singled to end the game. Glen Lyon was now set to meet last year's champions, Swoyersville. Unfortunately, historical records with the results of this series are not available due to both newspapers, the Times Leader and the Wilkes-Barre Record, being on strike.

² The Condors were established at Mike Cobosco's Hardware & Sporting Goods Store, 96 West Main Street, Glen Lyon in 1924.

³ Nicknames were very popular and are used throughout this article to establish familiarity.

⁴ Frank Odinetz and Doc Vosheski signed professional contracts during the 1939 season.

¹ Vosheski and Odinetz were selected to the first Wyoming Valley Conference All Star Team in 1937.

1939 Manager: John Kashatus. Pennant, NEP League

In 1939, the Glen Lyon Condors franchise joined the NEP League which had teams mostly from the Scranton area. The Condors won the pennant by defeating Peckville 12-0, the game witnessed by more than 2,000 fans. Jocko was the winning pitcher and helped his own cause with 4 RBI's. In the playoffs, Dunn singled, Dane sacrificed and AK singled to beat Eynon 8-7 in the 10th inning of the first round game. The Condors advanced to the finals with an 8-4 victory, behind the pitching of Al Kriefski who went the distance. Pittston (Volpe Coal Company) swept the final series with 3-0 and 6-4 wins over the locals to end the season.

1940 Manager: Steve Vishnefski. Pennant, Luzerne County League

The Condors won the Southern Division of the County League in a three-game series with Warrior Run (0-1 in 13 innings, 16-0, 3-2). After throwing successive 2 hitters in the first 2 games, Doc Vosheski allowed 3 hits in the final game. Levi Sokoloski, with 2 hits and 3 stolen bases along with RBI's by Dane and the Russ brothers, aided the victory. The final game attracted an estimated crowd of 4,300 fans. On a cold October Sunday at Weineck Park, the Condors played Plymouth, the Northern Division Champs for the League Championship. Five hundred fans wrapped in overcoats and blankets witnessed a game of 10 errors, 7 by the home team. Glen Lyon had a 2-run lead on the hitting of Dane, Kramer and F. Russ, but Plymouth tied the game on successive balks by Joe Hillan. The fans protested the umpire's calls, causing a 10 minute delay, and Township Police were called in to quell a "possible riot." Plymouth scored the eventual winning run in the eighth inning which ended the season for the Condors.

1941 Manager: Joe Hillan. Pennant, New Enterprise League

The Glen Lyon M.A. Hanna team (formerly the Condors) was in first place in July after a 23-1 pasting of Sans Souci led by Joe Hillan, pitcher, who gave up 5 hits, while having 4 hits himself. Al Cihocki, Mike Cwiklik, Doc and AK had 3 hits each, with Levi scoring 4 runs. After claiming the league title, Glen Lyon was slated to play Kingston. The local nine dropped the first round game, but bounced back to even the series with a 3-2 win, highlighted by Al Kramer's 2 run single in the ninth inning. Kingston copped the series with a win in the series' final.

The War Years (1942-1945)

During World War II, there were many Newport Township residents who served their country. High school students withdrew from school to enlist in the Armed Forces. Although coal miners were deferred from military draft, some chose to join the war effort, Condors players included. From 1942 to 1944, there was no active Condors franchise. The players who did not enter military service opted to play on other teams. In fact, a few joined the Wanamie A.C. which moved their home games to Weineck Park which was vacant. In 1945, after an absence of three years, the Glen Lyon franchise secured a berth in the Lower Valley League, retaining the Condors name. The roster included former players, namely Joe Hillan, George Dunn, Jocko Sokoloski, John Adams and Roman Piestrak, along with a few new players: Tom Sugalski, Bill Jenkins, Paul Tereshinski, Joe Malchik, Pete Ravin, Clem Gavrish, Russell and J. "Lefty" Sager, Len and Clem Kishel and John Gembosia. Steve Vishnefski served as the manager. The team was competitive, but did not make the playoffs. The stage was now set for the Post War Era.

The Post War Era (1946-1949)

1946 Manager: Simon Mack. Championship, Wyoming League

Many of the pre-war Condors, including those who were in the Armed Services, returned to play under Manager Simon Mack, who was an outstanding player on the original Condors of 1924. The franchise was in the Wyoming League, now the top semi-pro circuit in the Wyoming Valley. The other teams in the league were: Mocanaqua, San Souci, Honey Pot, Breslau, Hanover, Plymouth and Round Up (Nanticoke). Eight guys from the 1941 Champs returned to action: AK, Doc, Levi, Jocko, Sweeney, Dunn, Kriefski, and Dane, plus Marty Warmus, Zig Najaka, Kazmir Gregorowicz and Tom Sugalski. The Condors started the season with a 10-1 win over Mocanaqua, led by the hitting of Levi (4 hits), Zig Najaka (3 hits) and the 5-hit pitching of Doc. Going through ups and downs through the season, the Condors got "hot" in September. They eliminated Sans Souci, the pennant winners, in the semi-finals and sealed the championship with consecutive wins over Honey Pot in the finals. Glen Lyon won 3-0 in

the first game with Doc striking out 15. He continued his mastery with an 8-3 win in the second game. Warmus, Najaka, Sugalski, Dane, AK, Jocko, Levi, and Doc provided the hitting for a "Sweet September."

1947 Manager: Al Kramer. Pennant & Championship, Wyoming League

The defending '46 Champs were back in top form as the Condors shut out the San Souci Smilers 8-0 behind the pitching of Doc Vosheski. The offense was led by Dunn's 3 hits and 2 hits each by AK and Ed Kmietowicz. Glen Lyon gained sole possession of first place to begin the second half, defeating Mocanaqua 11-7. Kramer and Dunn with 4 hits each led an 18 hit attack. The Condors clinched the pennant and completed the regular season with 15-10 win over Hanover. Levi (3 hits) led a 14 hit attack which had each batter in the lineup hitting safely and scoring at least 1 run. The Condors breezed to a 10-3 win over the Mayflower Barons in the first game of the semi-finals. Doc's pitching and timely hitting by Riz Rasavage, Sweeney, Sugalski and Dunn were the keys to victory. Mayflower forfeited the second game. In the first game of the finals with Nanticoke, the Condors edged out a 2-1 victory behind Doc's pitching and the hitting of Adam Warchal, Rasavage and Levi. The game featured the "battle of southpaws," Doc Vosheski versus Chet Molly. On a beautiful autumn day in October, the Condors secured their second consecutive post-war championship by sweeping Nanticoke (3-1) at Edgewater Park in the best of three series. The offense was highlighted by AK (2 hits, 2 runs, SB, RBI) and Riz Rasavage (2 hits, RBI). Doc Vosheski was outstanding again, allowing 4 hits and 0 walks, while striking out 4. Chet Molly stuck out 11, but gave up 5 walks and 7 hits in a losing effort.

1948 Manager: Al Kramer. Championship, Wyoming League

In mid-July the Condors were near the bottom of the league, but back in the hunt for first place in August after a 7-2 victory over the Sans Souci Smilers. Stan Pawloski (3 hits) and Al Kramer (2 hits) provided the offensive punch while Doc Vosheski kept the Smilers in check.⁵ With four teams tied for second place, Glen Lyon climbed into the playoffs by beating Plymouth 13-2. The Condors defeated Pat Denoy's Mocanaqua I.C. 2 games to 1 in the semi-finals. They then clinched their third consecutive Championship after WW II with a 2 game sweep in the finals over Breslau, the pennant winner. Playing in front of 3,000 fans on Halloween at Weineck Park, Doc Vosheski was invincible after giving up 2 runs in the 2nd inning. He struck out 10 and scattered 7 hits.⁶ The Condors exploded for 4 runs in the 7th to claim a 4-2 victory behind the hitting of AK, Dunn, Doc, Levi, Stan Pawloski and Borries, who led the team with 2 hits. The Condors and the Kanadians (Anthracite League Champs) were honored with an overflow crowd at a combined banquet in late November at the American Legion in Glen Lyon.⁷ The program included remarks by Congressman Dan Flood and Major Leaguer, Dan Lithwiler.

1949 Manager: Barney Shiffka.

While Plymouth captured the Wyoming League pennant, the Condors were fighting for a playoff berth and had big wins over Breslau (7-0) and San Souci (7-3) with outstanding offense by Pete Zlonkiewicz, Rasavage and Doc (3 hits each) in the former, and AK and Borries combining for 5 hits in the latter. The strong pitching by Joe Wojcik was a key factor in both victories. The Condors finished in a three-way tie for third place, but dropped a heartbreaker, 2-1 to Breslau, which eliminated them from the Wyoming League playoffs.

The era of semi-pro baseball, as it was known, was coming to an end. The Condors started the season in 1950 with a 5-0 record, although some of the veterans jumped ship to play with other teams. They finished the regular season in 3rd place, but were eliminated in the semi-finals by the Brookside Cubs. There were two baseball franchises who called Weineck Park home from 1953-1957. The Glen Lyon A.C. ('53-'54) and the I.A.S.C. (Italian American Sporting Club) competed in the Central League from 1953 through 1957. After a lapse of five years, Glen Lyon re-entered a franchise in the Wyoming League (1963-64) and the Central League (1965-67). During those five seasons, this franchise produced one championship in 1966. Weineck Park and its storied past with baseball came to an end in 1967

⁵ Levi, Doc and AK, Wyoming League All Stars, were selected to play against the WB Barons in a charity game to benefit St. Michael's School in Hoban Heights.

⁶ Doc Vosheski pitched every game in the series' finals in '46, '47, & '48, going 6-0 - all sweeps!

⁷ The Wanamie A.C. defeated Wapwallopen A.C. to win the Susquehanna League Championship.

when the Newport High School baseball team completed its final season and the semi-pro team disbanded. Slo-pitch softball continued there for many more years.

The Glen Lyon Condors had a reputation for being one tough baseball team. Not only were they talented, but they developed a great chemistry and love for the game. In fact, this writer found a Tri-County League box score with Orangeville versus Shickshinny, and nine Condors were listed in the two batting orders. This reveals that they honed their skills by playing during mid-week. Although the Glen Lyon Condors won either a pennant or championship or both during the pre-war years, probably the most impressive success of this franchise is that they won three straight Wyoming League Championships after the war. When one considers that these "Warriors of Weineck" swept all three final series, it becomes incredible. All this occurred as their bodies had begun to wear down from mining, the war and the aging process (most players were in their middle-to-late 30's). While it is true that these men came from "The Greatest Generation", it is easy to understand why these hometown heroes were adored by their fans and respected by so many people throughout the Wyoming Valley and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Epilogue

When these men returned after World War II, they traded their combat gear for wool-flannel uniforms, cleated leather shoes and mitts to prepare for action in their own personal battlefield on the hill, Weineck Park. They were aware of tradition as they took their hand mowers on Saturdays to tidy up the field after a practice session. The Condors' talent, determination and work ethic were on display to crowds of a few thousand fans during Sunday afternoons in the summer and early fall. The success of this baseball franchise, especially in the post-war years, created a Legacy for the Ages. The Condors were truly the heart and soul of this coal mining community, Glen Lyon. It seems highly coincidental that the Legendary Condors won their last championship in the same year that Babe Ruth left baseball and the world forever.

Reflections & Tributes

Joe Betkoski, 1954 Newport grad and member of the '54 Wyoming Valley Baseball Champs and the 1953 Central League Glen Lyon A.C. Champs, remembers attending Condor practices in the late '40s and helping Walter (Foxy) Magaleski cut the grass. Foxy (a Condor from an earlier era) would hit him ground balls and fly balls after the practice session. He stated the Condors were no-nonsense players; they played hard and for "blood!"

Stan Makowski, a 1953 Newport grad and member of the Wyoming Valley Southern Division Champs, and the 1953 Central League Glen Lyon A.C. Champs, commented that all the Condors were good baseball players, but Doc and AK were talented performers under pressure.

Tom Tarnowski, a 1953 Newport grad, served as bat boy for the post-war Condors and as franchise organizer for the Glen Lyon A.C. in 1953. His recall of the players' performances was most helpful in telling this story; his uncle Teofil played on the early Condor teams.

Don Komoroski, a star pitcher ('55 & '56) for Nanticoke High School and Manager of the Glen Lyon Central League Champs of 1966, went to a Condors game with his father when he was 8 or 9 years old. He said the pitcher (Doc) was so dominant and the team was so good that "they could beat the Phillies of the present time."

Stan Pawloski, a 1949 Newport grad and a former Major Leaguer, expressed his enjoyment playing alongside his high school coach, Zig Najaka and his boyhood heroes AK and Doc, who took him under their wings. He added that the Glen Lyon fans were the best in the Wyoming League.

Joe Boiwka, a Huntington Mills grad and catcher, followed the Pre-War Condors. He recalled the outstanding pitching of Roxy Bush and Doc, the spectacular defense of George Dunn and Levi, the superb catching of Roman Piestrak, the all-around play of Jocko and Sweeney and the hitting of AK and Odinetz. He said the Condors played like a well-oiled machine and outclassed their opponents.

Not to be forgotten The Bat Boys: Leonard Paczkowski, Joe Hillan Jr., Gilbert Burns, Jack Paczkowski, Edward Paczkowski, Sylvester Mackerewicz, Joe Bendock, Tom Tarnowski, Karl Najaka, Tom Dekutoski and Rich Vishnefski. For the young folks, the bat boys

took care of the bats and chased foul balls. The batters didn't wear helmets, body armor, batting gloves or shin guards. These kids were eye witnesses to the game of baseball the way it should be played.

Biographical Profile of the Condors

Seasoned Veterans (Played in both Pre-War and Post-War Eras):

Alfance Kazmierski, (Al Kramer) "AK", D.O.B. 3-21-1913. Bats R, Throws R, Catcher, manager, field general, RBI guy, clutch hitter, tough out, highly respected throughout the Wyoming Valley, called the "Iron Man" by a local sports writer. Coal Miner. Military Service: Army.

Edmund Vosheski, "Doc", D.O.B. 11-16-1918. Bats L, Throws L, Pitcher, OF, classic big game pitcher, also a very good hitter, played professional baseball: Hazleton, Lancaster-Interstate League; Knoxville, Tennessee -Southern Association; St. Thomas College (University of Scranton) 2 yrs., Coal Miner. Military Service: Navy.

Andrew Sweeney, "Twinkletoes", D.O.B. 9-10-1913. Bats R, Throws R, Left Field, lead off batter, good speed, outstanding baserunner, contact hitter. Brother Joe played with earlier Condors. Coal Miner. Military Service: Navy.

George Domashinski, (George Dunn) "Doddy", D.O.B. 10-7-1915. Bats R, Throws R, Infield, 2B, 3B, 1B, batted in the middle of the order, line drive hitter, versatile, great team player. Coal Miner.

John Sokoloski, "Jocko", D.O.B. 3-2-1913. Bats L, Throws L, Right Field, Pitcher, reliable, consistent in all phases of the game. Brother Ted played center field. Coal Miner.

Theodore (Ted) Sokoloski, "Levi", D.O.B. 1-25-1915. Bats R, Throws R, Center Field, great defensive player, good speed, base stealer, batted high in the order, made things happen. Joined the Air Corps, played baseball on the base baseball team in Texas, wounded in France [1-16-1945]. Coal Miner/Breaker.

Frank Odinetz, "Dane", D.O.B. 3-20-1918. Bats L, Throws L, First Base, strong guy, power hitter, played professional baseball in Williamston, N.C. - Coastal Plain League. Coal Miner. Military Service: Army Air Force.

Martin Warmus, "Merchy", D.O.B. 11-11-1918. Bats R, Throws R, Third Base, SS, 2B, versatile defensive player, pesky hitter. Brother-in-law George Kubasik played on the first Condor team. Graduate of Wilkes College as a chemist. Military Service: Army Air Force.

Adam Warchal, "Borries", D.O.B. 12-16-1921. Bats R, Throws R, Infield, 3B, SS, power hitter, hit 3rd or 4th in the batting order, played professional baseball in the Yankees organization at Wellsville in the PONY League. Worked in the strip mines, operated heavy equipment. WWII Veteran, Battle of the Bulge.

Impact Players

Joe Hillan "Bish", D.O.B. 10-12-1910. Outstanding left handed pitcher during Pre-War years, also managed the M.A. Hanna (Condors) franchise and continued to play in 1945 to set the stage for the return of the veteran players.

Zigmund Najaka, "Zig", D.O.B. 2-12-1908. Infielder, played professionally pre-war Sunbury Senators of the Interstate League. Teacher/Coach at Newport High School, East Stroudsburg University Sports Hall of Fame. Played on Post-War teams, '46, '48, and '49.

Albert Kriefski, D.O.B. 5-12-1920. Pitched on Pre-War and Post-War teams, Lt. US Army, Pacific Theater, had a career with the PA Game Commission, son of Constantine "Lefty" Kriefski, star pitcher and prospect who played with earlier Condors.

Al Cihocki, "Doc" D.O.B. 5-7-1924. Played short-stop in 1941 after his junior year in high school, signed a professional contract with the Cleveland Indians in 1942, brother Joe played on '39 Condors.

Stan Pawloski "Stan Pav" D.O.B. 9-6-31. Played short-stop in 1948 after his junior year in high school, signed a professional contract with the Cleveland Indians in 1949.

Shorter Term Players: (Post-War Era)

Tom Sugalski, SS, '45, '46, '47, '49, Alex "Fleet" Sklaney, 2B, '48, Ed "Potatoes" Kmietowicz, 3B, 1947, Edward "Riz" Rasavage, OF, '47, '49, Peter Ravin Jr., 1B, '45, '48, Kazmir Gregorowicz, OF, '48, and Joe Wojcik, RHP, who returned from a stint in professional baseball to pitch the Condors into playoff contention during the pennant race in 1949.

Sources and Acknowledgements: Wilkes Barre Times Leader and Morning Record, Sunday Independent, Joe Hillan III, Colette Wengryn, John Sokoloski, George Kubasik, Mark Sadowski, Jinny Ravin, Mickey Kmietowicz, Rich Vosheski, Eugene, Paul & Pete Warchal, Linda Conner, Tiger Denoy, Amy Pawloski Dykie, Heidi & Paul Jarecki, Jerry Magaleski, Betty Jane Wojcik.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1938 Roster | 1939 Roster | 1940 Roster | 1941 Roster |
| Alfance Kramer | Alfance Kramer | Alfance Kramer. | Alfance Kramer |
| Adam Warchal | Johnny Adams | F. Russ | Al Cihocki |
| Doc Vosheski. | Doc Vosheski. | Doc Vosheski | Doc Vosheski |
| Andrew Sweeney | Andrew Sweeney | Andrew Sweeney | Andrew Sweeney |
| Joe Grabowski. | Mike Duffey | B. Russ | Mike Cwiklik |
| Frank Odinetz | Frank Odinetz | Frank Odinetz. | Frank Odinetz |
| Joe Hillan. | Joe Hillan. | Joe Hillan | Joe Hillan, Mgr. |
| Levi Sokoloski | Levi Sokoloski | Levi Sokoloski | Levi Sokoloski |
| George Domashinski | George Domashinski | George Domashinski | George Domashinski |
| Jocko Sokoloski | Jocko Sokoloski | Jocko Sokoloski | Jocko Sokoloski |
| Al Kriefski | Joe Cihocki | | Al Kriefski |
| Marty Warmus | ^??? Smith. | | |
| Roman Piestrak | Roman Piestrak | | |
| William Emkey. | Steve "Roxy" Bush | | |
| Tom Antolik | | | |
| Johnny Adams | | | |
| Bernie Hillan | | | |
| Joe Mullins | | | |
| Ed Phillips | | | |



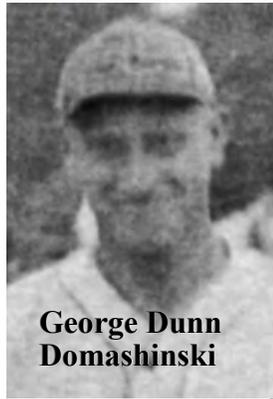
Joe Hillan



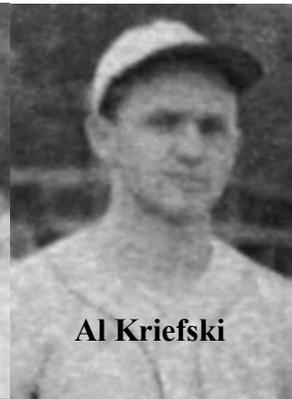
Frank Odinetz



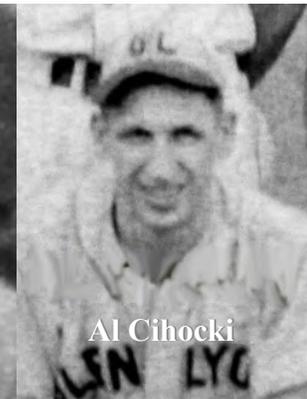
Andy Sweeney



George Dunn Domashinski



Al Kriefski

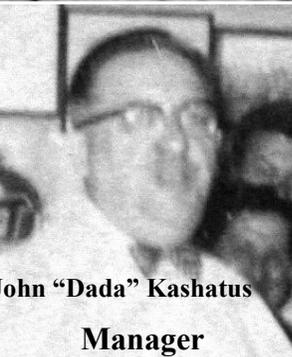


Al Cihocki

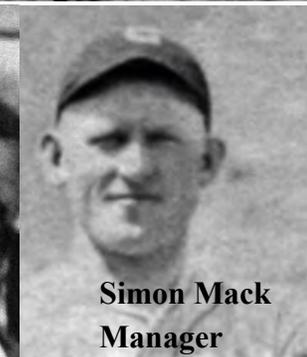
- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| George Domashinski | George Domashinski. | George Domashinski | George Domashinski |
| Zig Najaka | Ed Kmietowicz. | Zig Najaka | Zig Najaka |
| Doc Vosheski | Doc Vosheski | Doc Vosheski. | Doc Vosheski |
| Frank Odinetz | Frank Odinetz | Stan Pawloski | Al Noss |
| Andrew Sweeney | Andrew Sweeney. | Andrew Sweeney | Joe Wojcik |
| Alfance Kramer | Alfance Kramer, Mgr. | Alfance Kramer, Mgr | Alfance Kramer |
| Marty Warmus | Marty Warmus | Marty Warmus | Tom Sugalski |
| Jocko Sokoloski. | Jocko Sokoloski. | Jocko Sokoloski | Jocko Sokoloski |
| Levi Sokoloski | Levi Sokoloski. | Levi Sokoloski. | Levi Sokoloski |
| Tom Sugalski | Adam Warchal | Adam Warchal | Adam Warchal |
| Al Kriefski | Riz Rasavage | Al Kriefski | Pete Zlonkewicz |
| Kazmir Gregorowicz. | Tom Sugalski | Alex Sklaney | Riz Rasavage |
| | | Pete Ravin Jr | |



**Steve Vishnefski
Manager**



**John "Dada" Kashatus
Manager**



**Simon Mack
Manager**

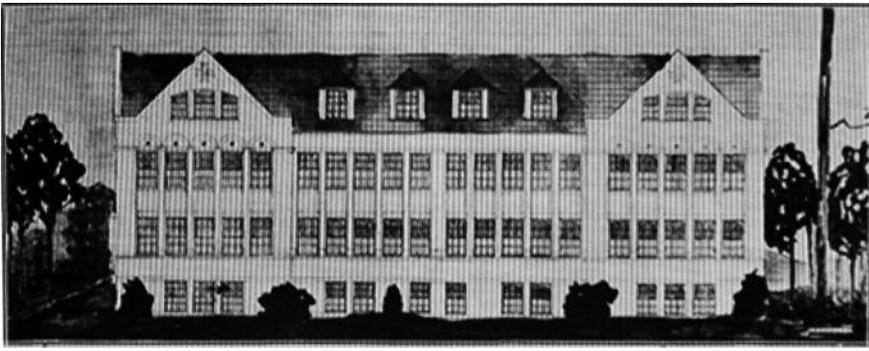


The 1948 Glen Lyon Condors

Top row: L-R, Edward Dekutoski, John Gavrish, William Emkey, Adam Warchal, Jocko Sokoloski, Stan Pawloski, Al Kazmierski, Joe Sudol, Edwin Czapracki, Frank Dekutoski and Steve Vishnefski. Kneeling: Foxy Magaleski, Doc Vosheski, Andrew Sweeney, Marty Warmus, Levi Sokoloski, Zig Najaka and George Domashinski. Bottom row: Tom Dekutoski, Edward Paczkowski, John Paczkowski, Tom Tarnowski, Karl Najaka and Rich Vishnefski.



**Wyoming League
Championship
Trophy won by the
Glen Lyon Condors
in 1948**



A drawing of the proposed Orphanage, circa 1915.



1943 Postcard

St. Stanislaus Institute

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ The influx of Polish immigrants to the Pennsylvania coal fields began in 1888. Economic hardship and mortality caused by dangerous working conditions in the mines were difficult challenges for many families. In 1914, at a meeting of the Polish Catholic clergy in Scranton, Rev. T. Klonowski suggested the need for an orphanage for children of Polish extraction. A charter was applied for in July and at a meeting at St. Stanislaus Church in Scranton, the idea of erecting an orphan's home for children of Polish nationality was conceived. In 1915 representatives of the Polish parishes of Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties met in Scranton and the St. Stanislaus Society was incorporated. The St. Stanislaus Society purchased 10 acres of the Kenney Farm in Sheatown from the Susquehanna Coal Company. It was close to the People's Railway (a streetcar system) and the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and the road was brick paved. In 1916, the final deed for the land was transferred from the Susquehanna Coal Company to the St. Stanislaus Society. St. Stanislaus Church and later St. Stanislaus Institute were named after the Polish novice of the Society of Jesus, Saint Stanislaus Kostka.

In 1918, the cornerstone for a building to accommodate 100 children was laid at the purchased site. The Rev. Andrew Zychowski of Scranton conducted a solemn mass and the stone was blessed by Father Klanowski of Wilkes Barre. Rev. Zychowski was elected the first president of the board of directors. At completion, the cost to build was \$70,000, of which \$50,000 was raised largely through collections taken up in the Polish churches. The Polish Union of America headquartered in Wilkes-Barre donated \$1,000 toward construction. Although intended originally for children of Polish extraction, the constitution of the orphanage opened it to all nationalities and creeds. Additionally, the need for the orphanage became apparent when the death toll of victims of the influenza epidemic in 1918 (see *Newport Township Community News, Number 52, Spring 2018*) made many children orphans and homeless.

The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in America was founded by Sister Veronica Grzedowska who arrived in this country from Poland in 1894. The Bernardines, as they were called, were asked to teach children of Polish immigrants. They were a natural choice to care for the children in St. Stanislaus, many of whom spoke foreign languages. Nine Bernardines were in residence when the orphanage was dedicated on July 4, 1918. At its opening, the orphanage accepted about 100 children, two-thirds of whom had been transferred from Scranton and other communities. Upkeep of the institution depended upon donations from churches, societies, and individuals. The financial responsibility was vested in the care of a board of trustees elected by the Polish parishes of the Scranton Diocese.

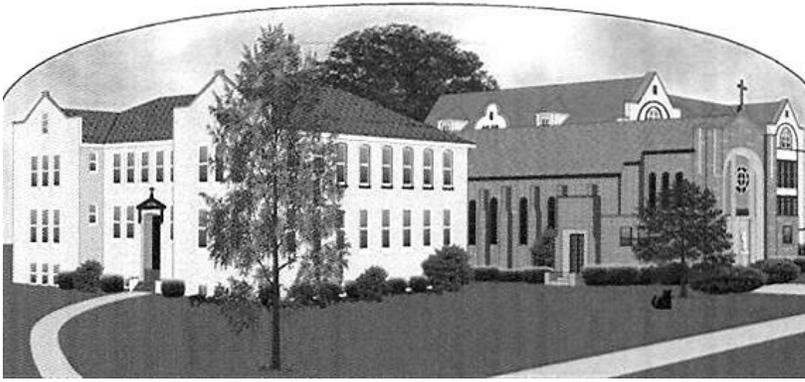
In September of 1919, the orphanage opened its first school term. Sister Superior Mary Phillipina was in charge of an enrollment of 112 children. Two Sisters at the orphanage were in charge of receiving donations of candies, toys, clothing, money, or any other articles.

In 1920, Rev. Valentine Biczysko, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, Nanticoke was elected President of the Board of Directors. Charity balls were instituted as fund-raisers. By 1922, the facility was housing 170 children from infancy to 14 years. The building was entirely too small to accommodate any more. Many applications to house children were being turned down because of the lack of space. Plans were proposed to enlarge the building by adding another wing at a cost of between \$50-60,000. A contract was given to Haig & Co. of Scranton for the sum of \$43,000. to start work. At that time, the original building was assessed at \$80,000. Debt on the building was \$20,000. The institution leased 180 acres of ground from the Susquehanna Coal Company in order to plant gardens. The gardens soon became a working farm. The produce raised was enough to supply the children with their vegetable needs. Then after the State cut its appropriation for the institution, it was decided to organize a Ladies Auxiliary in each congregation in the diocese to raise funds for the orphanage. The young men of the various churches were urged to organize a league and conduct yearly functions for the benefit of the institution.

In order to cover expenses, a great number of fund raising events took place including: the Annual Orphans Ball, concerts, dances, dinners, bake sales, and other drives. Also a great effort was undertaken to entertain the orphans. There were numerous free picnics at San Souci Park, Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts, picture shows at the Family Theater in Glen Lyon, State Theater in Nanticoke, Rex Theater and Capitol Theater in Wilkes Barre and even boxing matches. Benefactors included many churches, glee clubs, bands, entertainers, Ladies Group of Z.N.P. (the Polish National Alliance) "Oswiasta," the United Mine Workers, Polish Roman Catholic Union, many area societies, clubs, schools, businesses and residents. Mademoiselle Leonia Ogradzka and L. Cortelli, famous opera stars, gave a concert on June 30, 1924 for the benefit of St. Stanislaus Orphanage in the Nanticoke High School audi-



St Valentine's Day Dinner at the Orphanage, taken in the late 1940s or early 1950s.



Miniature of the Orphanage available through the NTCO, 2010



1968 aerial architectural view of St. Stanislaus Medical Center

torium. The US Marine Band gave two concerts at the Capitol Theatre in Wilkes Barre on November 12, 1924, to help ease the Orphanage's debt. These acts of generosity occurred throughout the existence of St. Stanislaus Orphanage.

In March, 1924, ground was broken for the new girls' addition, a 3-story stucco and tile structure, at an estimated cost of \$150,000. At the ceremony, officials guaranteed that the 1924 budget of the Wyoming Valley Welfare Association would include an additional sum of \$3,000 for the institution. Attended by three bishops, two monsignori, hundreds of clergymen from all parts of the Scranton Diocese and more than 15,000 persons, the new home for girls was dedicated on October 26. The building was erected at a cost of \$165,000 and accommodated 200 girls. The new additions included the Girl's Building, the Nursery, the Machine Shop and the Rectory. The 3-story building was built by the Construction Service Company of Wilkes Barre. Alexander L. Prawdzn served as architect.

In 1939, a chapel of Gothic design was built, costing approximately \$50,000. It was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop John Hafey. Also built were the Laundry and the Power House. A Recreation Hall was started and later finished. In 1940, Saint Stanislaus Institute assumed a new role in child care. It provided treatment for dependent, neglected, and slightly emotionally disturbed children between the ages of five and sixteen. By 1941, St. Stanislaus housed 136 boys and girls.

In 1942 the Robert Street Public School in Sheatown, consisting of eight grades, was acquired to provide a Catholic education for the orphans. It was staffed by the Bernardine Sisters. During that same year, St. Stanislaus Chapel became Holy Child Church with Rev. John J. Federowicz as its first Pastor. Rev. John A. Suchos served as Chaplain of the Institute. In 1952, Monsignor Roman Gizara succeeded Monsignor Federowicz as Pastor of Holy Child Parish and was appointed Director of St. Stanislaus Institute. In 1961 Monsignor Gizara announced that there were 114 pupils enrolled in the Parochial School and that the Institute, which was entering its 43rd year of service, had provided a temporary home for more than 5,000 boys and girls since its founding. Tragically on October 12, 1964, an automobile accident claimed the life of the 49-year-old Monsignor.

In addition to fund raising and entertainment events, other activities occurred. Under the coaching of Ed Gayewski, the children won basketball and softball championships in the Parochial School and Knights of Columbus Church Leagues. The orphanage had its own Boy and Girl Scout Troops, choirs, and orchestras. There were a variety of school events, such as spelling bees.

From 1919 to 1967, 7,694 children were accepted to St. Stanislaus Institute. In the 1960's, due to the changing attitude regarding child care and decreasing numbers of displaced children, the enrollment in 1968 dropped to 50 children even though children were now accepted from all parts of the state. In 1970, it was decided that St. Stanislaus Institute would be phased out. St. Stanislaus closed on December 21, 1973 when the last 35 orphans were discharged from the Institute.

In 1968, a change in focus occurred. A long-term nursing facility was being planned. Construction began in 1970 and the facility opened in July of 1971 at a cost of three million dollars. It included a chapel and convent to house the Bernardine Sisters. The Institute buildings adjoining Holy Child Church continued to be utilized

by the parish and community for various functions. The new facility, Saint Stanislaus Medical Center, provided extended nursing care to patients transferred from hospitals.

In 1987, the Board of Directors of Saint Stanislaus Medical Center and Polish American Parishes sold the Center and Convent to the Mercy Sisters. This transaction took place on November 24, 1987 for the sum of \$100,000. Rev. Bernard A. Toloczko, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Nanticoke, succeeded Rev. Louis S. Garbacik as Administrator of Holy Child Parish and was appointed Chaplain of Mercy Health Care Center. On January 31, 2003, the Medical Center was sold to Guardian Elder Care which operates the facility to this day. Holy Child Church was closed in 2010 by Bishop Joseph Marino.

In 2008, Catholic Social Services began planning the renovation of the former orphanage into apartments. By the winter of 2011, using funds from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the project was completed. The apartments were to be managed by NDC Real Estate Management Inc. (see *Newport Township Community News, Number 24, Winter 2011*)

The late Joseph Karpinski was 2 years old when he was brought to the orphanage in 1930 and lived there until he was 17. He joined the US Army and fought in the Korean War. He then worked in Buffalo in the printing trade. When he retired in 1991, he moved back to Sheatown. Joe organized annual reunions for alumni of the orphanage. In an interview with the *Citizens Voice* in May, 2009, Joe stated: "The nuns were a little strict but they had to be." Another alumnus, Stanley Stevens was 2 years old when he entered the orphanage. He left in the 7th grade. He graduated from Nanticoke High School, Villanova University and Columbia University. He joined the US Navy and also fought in the Korean War. His career in administration took him to Philadelphia, Derby, Connecticut and New York City. He stated: "I had 100 brothers and 100 sisters and we took care of each other. If it wasn't for [the Bernardines] and that orphanage, I don't know where I would be today. They were our mothers, cooks, nurses ... everything to us."

Sources and Acknowledgments: Nanticoke Historical Society, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, The Citizens Voice, NTCO, Wilkes-Barre Record, Reading Eagle.



The 1953 St. Stanislaus Knights of Columbus Church League Champs. From l to r: Robert Columbia, William Frankiewicz, Raymond Skitski, Robert Zielimsky, William Graham, Marino Testaguzza, Con Wysocky, President of the K of C League, Ed Gayewski, Coach, Raymond Galli, James Shean, Joseph Dankowski, Joseph Pish, Anthony Oroczewski.



At left is Susquehanna Breaker # 6, which once divided Glen Lyon into East and West. Pictured right is the fire which could be seen for miles.

Glen Lyon Breaker Fire Forty Five Years Ago

By Thomas Izbicki ~ On the night of October 31, 1974, residents of Glen Lyon heard explosions in the breaker at about 11:15 pm. A spectacular fire followed. Because coal dust and oil permeated the building, it was a known fire hazard by the time the blaze erupted. When it did, Fire Chief Chester Smocharski called for help. Regional fire departments doused the blaze and then the breaker's ruins, but what little remained of the structure was charred ruin. Fortunately, no nearby houses were burned, although embers blew at least as far as Sheatown. Since the breaker had ceased operation in the fall of 1971, there were no injuries to workers. (There had been talk in 1974 of resuming operations.) Some residents of the town, including my father, Anthony Izbicki, took photographs of the fire and the burned remains. Electrical and telephone service to much of Glen Lyon were disrupted for a time, and schools were suspended temporarily in Newport Township because the remains of the bridge to Sixth Shaft could have fallen onto Main Street. The Pulaski School remained closed for a week. The Newport Township fire department kept watch over the charred remains for a time in case of another outbreak of fire.

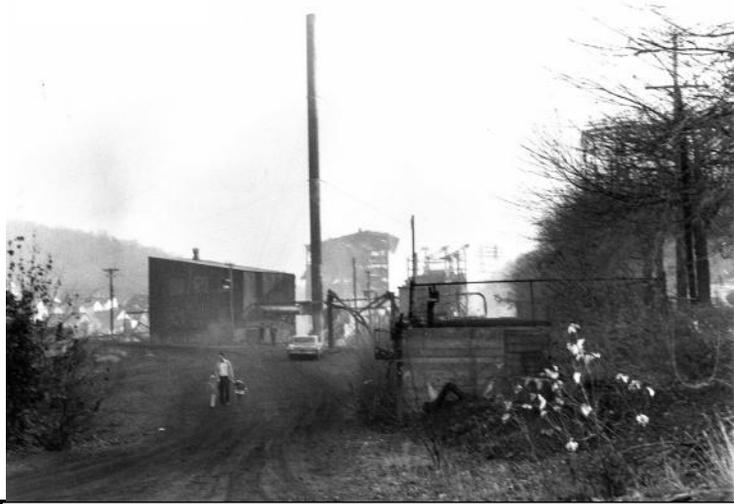
Coal processing in Glen Lyon began in 1885. The original breaker, according to some sources, was built in 1892 by the M. A. Hanna interests; and it was operated by the Susquehanna Coal Company, one of the region's three leading miners of anthracite coal. It was largely made of wood; but it towered over Main Street, once known as Nanticoke Street. The Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1897 shows it as 175 feet tall at its highest point. On the one side a bridge over Main Street linked it with the mining operation known as Sixth Shaft. (Coal later was brought in by a narrow-gauge railroad from nearby Seventh Shaft and a "scraper line" via a tunnel

from Stearns.) There was in early years a trestle linking the breaker to the waste dump on a hill north of the colliery. This was the beginning of the Glen Lyon culm bank, part of which eventually caught fire, becoming known as the Sulphur Bank. (On rainy days the rotten egg smell of the burning waste often rolled down into town.)

The mines and the breaker provided a livelihood for hundreds of men over the years. Many were immigrants from Eastern Europe. The work was dangerous, but large houses were built to accommodate growing families. Churches and businesses provided support for the community, all owing their creation to the miners' pay packets. Only as deep mining failed did the town begin to decline in population.

Anyone raised in Glen Lyon before 1974 lived in the shadow of the breaker. Its bridge loomed over Main Street; and its black bulk made it impressive, even scary at night. Even after the breaker closed, we thought of ourselves living on this side of the breaker or the other side. A visit to the interior showed great grinders to break up coal and grates to sort for sizes. It also had cone machines for washing dust off the coal. (The machinery had replaced the breaker boys who picked slate out of the coal.) At the bottom level, railroad cars could go through to pick up loads of coal for export via the Pennsylvania Railroad to places like New York City. Coal cars awaiting loading were parked on tracks along Railroad Street until all were hauled away when mining ceased.

Although the 1974 state report on the mines of Northeast Pennsylvania listed the Susquehanna Coal Company as owner of the site, there is room to doubt which interest was leasing the site. Even the fire insurance companies involved were unsure of the ownership of the site. In May of 1975 residents were still asking that remains of the breaker and of the closed Roosevelt School be removed. The remains of the breaker were being hauled away in the fall of 1975, the work being completed in early 1976 by employees of Kenneth Pollock, owner of Blue Coal. The condition of the colliery grounds remained an issue in 1977. A low-income housing project, the Ken Pollock Apartments, was built nearby at the foot of Depot Street beginning in 1990. The structures were dedicated in 1991. There remains the question of the cause of the blaze, which was reported as including an explosion. My father, for one, believed it was caused by arson.



The aftermath of the fire looking towards East Enterprise Street

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Mill Memorial Library to Hold Fundraiser

By Tom Kashatus ~ On Saturday November 16, the Mill Memorial Library in Nanticoke will be holding its annual fundraiser, "Love Literacy for Life" from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. There will be appetizers, beer samples from Susquehanna Brewing Company, wine samples from Honey Hole Winery, a Sweet Treat Table, gift baskets, Pick-a-Heart gift table, and music by DJ Linda. Patrons must be 21 years of age to attend. There will be a charge of \$25.00 in advance, or \$30.00 at the door. More information is available on the Library's web site, www.millmemorallibrary.org and its Facebook page. Please call Vicki Frace at 570-736-7035 with any questions about the fundraiser.

The Mill Memorial Library is located off Kosciuszko Street in Nanticoke, nuzzled between East Main and Green streets and opposite of CVS Pharmacy. The library services children, students, and adults from Nanticoke and Newport Township as well as the Greater Nanticoke and Hanover Area School Districts, and beyond. Besides a wide array of books, also available are DVD's, Audio Books, and computers with internet access and printers. The library also offers copier and fax services for a nominal charge.

Story time, craft events, and book bingo are a sampling of children's programs, monthly craft programs for adults, special events for the community, movie nights, and seasonal book sales are some of what the library has to offer. The Mill Memorial Library has a year round book store offering books for \$.50-\$2.00. It is open daily Tuesday through Saturday.

The library is governed by a Board of Directors: President Susan Maza, Treasurer Barbara Lach, Secretary Vicki Frace, Dale Reams, Dr. Don Reese, Anthony Baranowski, and Daniel Bierdziewski. The Board meets monthly. It participates in the planning of and volunteers at library events.

The library is serviced by a team of dedicated, hard working staff which provides assistance, answers questions, and "goes the extra



The Nanticoke Library staff shown in the photo from the left: Jean Spishock, Clementine Kondracki, Jim Welch, Library Director, and Dena Bobbin, Children's Program Director. Absent from the photo were: Phyllis Stamille; Joan Powell; Bob Katra, maintenance; and Volunteers Alice Pawloski and Chris Warchal.

mile" for patrons. The Library greatly appreciates the support of the Friends of the Mill Memorial Library group. The Friends welcomes new members.

The Library is a member of the Luzerne County Library System, which is comprised of ten autonomous libraries. The Mill Memorial Library can be reached at 570-735-3030.



Above l to r: John Zyla, Joe Deluca, Peter Blasi, Casey Masakowski, Ed Vandermark, Kip McCabe

Newport Township Lions Golf Tournament

By Tom Kashatus ~ The Newport Township Lions Club announces the winners of its 41st annual golf tournament which was held on August 16th at Rolling Pines Golf Course, Berwick: Championship Flight, Damien Blake and Tom Lazicki; 1st Flight, Wayne Yankosky and Steve Boetter; 2nd Flight, Dave Peters and Gary Ostrowski; 3rd Flight, John Yudichak and Steve Grzymiski; 4th Flight, Ray Distasio and Pete Morren. It was a beautiful day for golf on the course and happy moments were celebrated at the Glen Lyon Italian Sporting Club following.



Valley With A Heart Benefits

Valley with a Heart held its annual Benefit Ride and Family Picnic on Sunday September 1 at St. Faustina Grove in Sheatown. 13 live bands were featured. Funds raised help families who have children with serious illnesses. Pictured above are bikers as they rode through Main Street in Glen Lyon.

What is "Valley With A Heart?"

We are comprised of a group of people that are very passionate about helping children in our community experience a better quality of life during their battles with critical illness. Our actions are driven by our mission to inspire and encourage community involvement and awareness for the sake of providing monetary and spiritual support to our recipient families. Caring for a child who is critically ill can become a very expensive process for families. We don't believe they should have to do it alone. It's a lot easier to fight a battle when you have a community of people supporting you, and that's what we are here for. *From: www.valleywithaheart.com*

National Night Out 2019



Pictured left: Newport Township Crime Watch President Amy Saraka presented Police Chief Jeremy Blank with two bullet-proof vests, one for each police cruiser, purchased with funds raised by events such as National Night Out.

By Sue Heinz ~ Summer is over and autumn is here and the 4th Annual National Night Out Community Picnic has come and gone. A good time was had by all. This year's event was bigger and better than ever with new organizations taking part and our old friends returning. The additions to our menu, soft ice cream cones and root beer floats, were very popular. Our Basket Auction had the most baskets we've ever had, the Bake Sale was overflowing with homemade goodies and there were some fantastic prizes at the Big Item Auction. To everyone who contributed a basket, prize, or gift certificate on behalf of the Newport Township Crime Watch and the Newport Town-

ship Police Department, we thank you very much for your support of our event. It is greatly appreciated. Hope everyone saw the presentation of the two PopShields (bullet-proof vests) to our Police Officers. Our evening was capped off by the beautiful fireworks display. We had good weather except for a short rain, the food was great as usual thanks to the fantastic kitchen staff, the entertainment was spectacular, the crowd was large and happy, and everyone enjoyed themselves. What more could we ask for? Only that you all come back next year on August 4, same time, same place, for the 5th Annual National Night Out Community Picnic. Hope to see you then.

Crime Watch News: Newport Township Crime Watch will meet on October 10, November 14 and December 12 at 7 pm in the Community Room of the Municipal Building on Kirmar Avenue in Wanamie. Halloween plans will be on the agenda as well as our incorporation and bylaws. We are now much closer to obtaining our 501c3 status thanks to the outstanding work of member Patrick McMullen. As usual, the police chief will present the monthly crime report. All Township residents are welcome to attend. Hope to see you at a future meeting.



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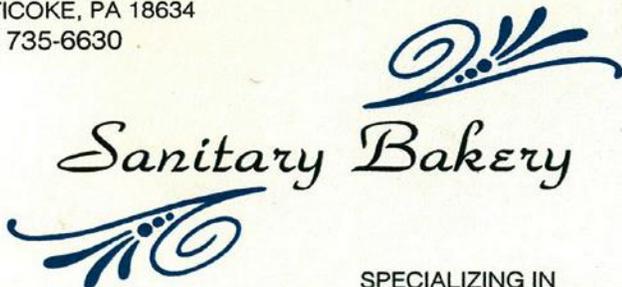
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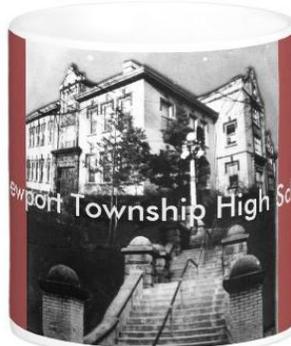
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Monthly Food Distribution

The Newport Township Community Organization, the Weinberg Regional Food Bank and the Newport Township American Legion are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need. This event is open only to Newport Township residents and takes place on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the American Legion, 62 Newport Street, Glen Lyon from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Families that have never registered to receive food need to pre-register by contacting Palmira at 570-592-7876 or email palmiram@newporttownship.com. Please give your address along with names and ages of everyone in your household including yourself. On the day of the distribution, please bring a form of identification which includes an address for EVERYONE in your household. Forms of identification can include a birth certificate, Social Security card or medical card. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck and for table set up between 4:30 pm and 6 pm. Cleanup takes place from 7 to 7:30. Thanks to all who help!



Two Ways to Remember Newport High School

Pictured above left is the miniature of Newport High School designed by the Cat's Meow. Send a donation of \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and it will be yours!

For a donation of \$10.00, you can enjoy your morning coffee or tea while reflecting on your care-free youth! The mug, pictured below left, features a composite black and white photograph of Newport Township High School and its famous steps, with wide red stripes bordering each side. "Newport Township High School" is printed across the center in light gray lettering. If mailed, include postage: \$7.15 for one, and \$9.00 for two. Contact Heidi and Paul Jarecki, 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617. Email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. Phone 570-733-2540. Check out NTCO's website.

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We would be honored and proud to have you as a member of the Newport Township Community Organization. Your membership will show approval of and help support our many projects to benefit your hometown! Membership is \$5.00 per year per person based on the calendar year January through December or a lifetime membership is available for \$50.00. Send application with fee to NTCO, 113 Railroad Ave., Wanamie, Nanticoke, PA 18634.

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If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at tomkash@verizon.net to be entered into our data base. You will then be notified of new publications on NTCO's website at <http://www.newporttownship.com>. Photographs on internet publications are viewable in color. Hard copies are printed in black and white.

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