



Autumn is the season of change. ~ Taoist proverb



Fall at the Cemetery in Newport Center

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following are items of Township business discussed or acted on by the Newport Township Commissioners at their meetings in July, August, and September of 2020.

July 6, 2020: There were no citizens' comments.

The Commissioners canceled the State of Emergency that they declared in response to the Covid-19 pandemic at a special meeting on March 17.

Attorney John Solt, representing the Slusser Law Firm (Township Solicitor), reported that he had prepared 4 ordinances for approval by the Commissioners later in the meeting.

Jennifer Polito, Township Financial Oversight Consultant, reported that she was closely monitoring the financial condition of the Township

during the Covid-19 pandemic. She also reported that Earth Conservancy (EC) made a \$50,000 donation to the Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG) to help defray expenses caused by Covid-19. Newport Township's share of this donation is \$4,520.16, which covers all expenses for personal protective equipment (PPE) incurred to date.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following in his report:

- 1) As of July 1, the Township had sold 1654 refuse stickers. There are 27 property owners who have been cited for failure to pay the 2020 refuse fee. That is 14 fewer owners than cited at this time last year.
2) Glen Lyon sidewalk repair project update: The Township will submit plans to PennDot for approval (Continued on next page)

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Lokie Returned, Joe Nealon Remembered, p.20; Summer in the Township Part 2, p.21; Ads, p.22-23; NTCO , p.24.

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in the near future. The project is delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3) Census Update: As of June 30, the Township's response rate was 56.7%, less than Luzerne County's rate of 61.3%.

4) The Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) recently completed repairs on four Township storm drains, two on West Enterprise Street in Glen Lyon, one on Fair Street and one on Prince Street, both in Sheatown.

5) The Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday July 7 in the Second Floor Jury Room of the County Court House in order to hear appeals for zoning variances, one of which is from real estate developer Joseph Naporlo, who is requesting a use variance to convert the former K.M. Smith School in Alden into 29 residential units and to construct 57 townhouse units for rental purposes at the site.

6) The Township received a letter from a Township resident praising the interaction of Police Officer William Dubiak with the youth of the community.

7) Demolition Updates:

a) 129-133 East Main Street in Glen Lyon: Newport Township is now owner of the property and will advertise for bids to demolish the three remaining buildings on the property. (One building was demolished recently because it partially collapsed, thereby becoming a danger to the community.)

b) 161-162 Brown Row in Wanamie: On June 25 the Township submitted an application to Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD) for a grant to demolish the building through the County's Scattered Site Demolition Program.

c) 93-95 West Main Street in Glen Lyon: There were serious structural problems with the building on the property. The owner, after discussing the matter with Township Manager Joe Hillan and Township Building Inspector Jeff Pisanchyn, decided to have the building demolished at her own expense. Mr. Hillan said that, under the circumstances, the owner acted responsibly and he thought that more owners should do the same.

The Commissioners approved the following motions and resolution: A motion to accept the resignation of Brandon Bradshaw as a full time Township Police Officer effective as of June 18, 2020.

A motion to hire Justin Gildea as a part time fire apparatus driver effective June 22, 2020.

Resolution #4 of 2020, which authorizes Paul Czapracki, President of the Board of Commissioners, and Township Manager Joe Hillan to execute any documents related to a grant application, which will be submitted to the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funds under the State's Blight Remediation Program. The Township is applying for a \$289,000 grant to demolish 18 dilapidated Township properties.

The Commissioners approved the following ordinances:

Ordinance #3 of 2020, which prohibits anyone from creating a loud (greater than 55 decibels between 10 pm and 7 am and greater than 65 decibels otherwise) continuous noise lasting at least 3 seconds. Violators can be fined up to \$300 and/or confined to the County Correctional Facility for up to 90 days.

Ordinance #4 of 2020, which amends an already existing Township requirement that, before selling, renting, or permitting the occupation of a building, the owner must get an inspection of the property by the Township Building Code Enforcement Officer and, on passing inspection, receive an occupation permit. The amendment adds the provision that the occupancy permit is valid for 6 months.

Ordinance #5 of 2020, which amends the Quality of Life Ordinance of 2018. The amendment requires that all Township permits, building permits and others, be displayed in a way that makes them visible from the street.

Ordinance #6 of 2020, which requires that a landlord, who does not live within 20 miles of Newport Township, must appoint an agent who does live within 20 miles of the Township. The duties of the agent include receiving messages from the Township and ensuring that the property be in compliance with building codes and zoning ordinances. Violators will be subject to a fine of up to \$300 and/or confinement in the Luzerne County Correctional Facility for up to 30 days.

**August 3, 2020:** There were no residents' comments.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

1) There are 29 property owners who did not pay the 2020 refuse fee and are scheduled for hearings at the magistrate.

2) Glen Lyon sidewalk project update: The Township has submitted plans for the project to PennDot for approval.

3) Census Update: As of July 31 the Township's response rate was 57.2%, less than Luzerne County's rate of 62.1%.

4) On July 21 Newport Township submitted a grant application to the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funds under the State's Blight Remediation Program. The Township is applying for a \$289,000 grant to demolish 18 dilapidated Township properties.

5) The Township received a letter from Atlantic Broadband, sent to all of their customers in the Township, that informed them of a rate increase that will take effect on September 1, 2020.

6) Demolition Updates:

a) 129-133 East Main Street in Glen Lyon: Newport Township is now owner of the property. The Township opened bids for demolition of the remaining 3 buildings on the property this afternoon at 2 pm. Brdaric Excavating of Luzerne was the low bidder with a bid of \$42,000. This will be acted on later in the meeting.

b) 161-162 Brown Row in Wanamie: The Township is waiting for Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD) to act on its application for a grant to demolish the building under the County's Scattered Site Demolition Program.

The Commissioners approved the following motions and resolution: Motion to hire Nicholas Kowalski as a part time fire apparatus driver effective July 13, 2020.

Motion to hire David Wojciechowicz as a part time fire apparatus driver effective July 27, 2020.

Motion to approve a capital improvement cooperation agreement between Newport Township and Luzerne County for the amount of \$150,000 of which \$125,000 will be used for street improvements and \$25,000 will be used for demolitions. This is Federal Government money that is distributed through Luzerne County's Office of Community Development. Newport Township receives these funds every 2 or 3 years.

Motion to approve a contract with low bidder Brdaric Excavating of Luzerne for the demolition of the remaining buildings on the property located at 129-133 East Main Street in Glen Lyon for the amount of \$42,000. Demolition will take place after September 1 according to the agreement between Newport Township and the previous owner.

Resolution #5 of 2020, which authorizes the submission of a grant application for funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for the Whitney Pointe Improvements Project, Phase I. This grant application requests \$7.5 million for construction of railroad access into the Whitney Point Industrial Park.

**September 8, 2020:** Residents commented on the food distribution conducted jointly by the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) and the Glen Lyon American Legion and asked whether a business involving fracking was planning to move into the Ridgeview area. The Commissioners said they knew of no such business plans.

Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that she is closely monitoring the financial condition of the Township, especially its earned income tax receipts, during the Covid-19 pandemic. She also reported that the 2021 budget process had begun and that the 2019 audit will be complete by the end of October.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

1) Demolition Updates:

a) 129-133 East Main Street in Glen Lyon: We expect the demolition of the remaining 3 buildings on the property to be completed by the end of October.

b) 161-162 Brown Row in Wanamie: PennEastern engineering is preparing specifications for the project which will be used in requesting bids. The Township expects (Continued on next page)

to award a contract for the work at the October Commissioners' meeting.

2) Glen Lyon sidewalk project update: The Township has submitted plans to PennDot for its approval. The project has been delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3) Census Update: As of August 30, Newport Township's response rate was 58.8%, less than the Luzerne County rate of 63.7%.

4) The Township has calculated the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) for its pension plans. These amounts are State-mandated minimum amounts that a local government must contribute to its pension plans. There are 3 pension plans with the following MMO's: police, \$35,228.70, non-uniformed, \$14,889.00, and firemen \$0.00.

5) The Township received a letter from Luzerne County Recycling Coordinator Beth DeNardi with information that the County will not be holding its tire collections in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

6) Luzerne County allocated \$84,533.00 to Newport Township to defray anticipated Covid-19 expenses for such things as personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfecting, and providing for social distancing.

7) The Township received a request from GBT Realty Corporation to develop a 2 acre parcel of land on Kirmar Parkway just west of the Municipal Building. The company intends to build a 10,000 square foot Dollar General store on the site. GBT Realty plans to begin construction of the store in the spring of 2021. The Township has scheduled a public meeting with GBT Realty tomorrow September 9 at 6:00 pm to discuss the project. (GBT Realty Corporation is a national company with headquarters near Nashville Tennessee. In the past 30 years, it has developed 37 million square feet of retail and mixed used projects valued at \$7 billion.)

8) At the Commissioners' August work session, a representative of the Kilmer Group Insurance Agency gave a presentation on liability and auto insurance for the Township. The agency, which represents EMC Insurance, our present insurance company, offers a dividend sharing program that our current insurance agent does not offer. (The Kilmer Group offers insurance throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania and upstate New York.)

The Commissioners approved the following motions:

Motion to recognize Caleb W. Shelton of the Kilmer Group Insurance Agency as our exclusive agent of record for obtaining insurance quotations.

Motion to authorize Township Manager Joseph Hillan to submit the amount of \$32,969.18 to Luzerne County for reimbursement of approved expenses under the Covid-19 County Relief Block Grant Program.

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## Letter to the Editors

When I was born in 1940 there were 9 polling places (precincts) in Newport Township. Leading into the 1950's, only Retreat was lost (also their commissioner, Jack Reardon). Those voters were combined with the First Ward, Second District - the Glen Lyon VFW. It took 80 years, a lifetime in terms of human life, but only the blink of an eye in terms of humanity for the "big shots" to eliminate one of the few identifying bastions that remain in Newport Township.

On Election Day (June 2) returning to Glen Lyon after taking a load of scrap to Scranton, I stopped by the Municipal Building and Garage at 5:00 p.m. to take a picture of the voters as I usually do. No one was there. I'm bad, as I didn't get the message, "Everything was moved to Nanticoke." Due to Covid-19, I voted by absentee ballot for the first time since I left Germany in 1967. The big question is, "What are we going to lose next?"

For Newport Township, the General Election shapes up thusly: President, Donald Trump (R) vs Joe Biden (D); PA Attorney General, Josh Shapiro (D) vs Heather Heidelbaugh (R); PA Auditor General, Michael Lamb (D) vs Timothy Defoor (R); Treasurer, Joe Torsella (D) vs Stacey Garrity (R); 9th Congressional District, Dan Meuser (R) vs Laura Quick (D); 119th Legislative District Gerald Mullery (D) of Newport Township vs John Chura (R)

Eddie Day Pashinski (D) a native of Newport Township, is running for reelection as Representative of the 121st Legislative District (Wilkes-Barre).

## NTCO President's Report

*By Stephen E. Phillips* ~ The recent passage of State House Bill 732, which establishes the Local Resource Manufacturing Tax Credit Program, may prove beneficial to Newport Township as the municipality continues to strive to develop vacant acreage within the community, assist in creating new employment opportunities locally, and substantially aid in expanding the local tax base. The legislation establishes a local resource manufacturing tax credit to attract private investors to construct and operate Pennsylvania manufacturing facilities that utilize dry natural gas to produce fertilizer and other petrochemical products. A company seeking assistance under the legislation's parameters would be required to invest \$400 million in the construction of a new manufacturing facility, create 800 new permanent jobs, pay prevailing wages and benefits, and use carbon-capture and sequestration technology when economically feasible.

Critics of the legislation have voiced concerns regarding how development fostered by the bill and giving tax credits to petrochemical producers will affect the environment.

Some residents of the Township have expressed initial concerns that if a facility of this type is constructed within the community, will it present adverse effects to their health and property values.

The Board of Township Commissioners has expressed its unanimous commitment to holding a public hearing prior to supporting the construction of this type of facility within the Municipality.

As has been previously noted in this publication, not only maintaining but also increasing the Township's tax base is the only way current and potential other public services can be maintained and increased.

The Township Commissioners have indicated their willingness to discuss residents' concerns at the Board's monthly meetings.

As this article is being drafted, the Township's Commissioners have advertised a public meeting to discuss the potential construction of a commercial enterprise located to the west of the Municipal Building and Public Works Garage along the Kirmar Parkway. The proposed project's developers have requested the meeting to determine the local residents' interest in a venture of this type. If ultimately implemented, this endeavor would also add to the Township's tax base.

The Newport Township Community Organization is continuing to hold its monthly food distributions at the Recreation Park in Wanamie. Approximately 100 local families are served. This effort continues to be led by the very capable Community Organization member Palmira Miller and her core group of dedicated volunteers. The Recreation Park will be the distribution point as long as weather conditions permit. Recipients must be registered in order to receive their food allotments.

The current Pandemic has had a severe effect on the efforts to provide services and ability to raise funds among all non-profit groups throughout the entire area. The Newport Township Community Organization respectfully solicits your aid in its fund raising attempts. Boscov's Department Store is hoping to donate \$1 million to non-profit organizations via its 24th Friends Helping Friends event. The event will be held two days: Wednesday October 14, and Thursday October 15 from 9 am to 9 pm. Shoppers will receive a 20% discount on the store's lowest prices both in-store and online. At checkout, shoppers will designate a non-profit from the list of participating organizations to receive a donation of 5% of the purchase price. We are strongly encouraging our friends and supporters to shop these two special days and then select the Newport Township Community Organization at check-out to receive the 5% donation.

Again, we encourage all of our readers to become a member of the NTCO and join us at our monthly meetings as we all work diligently to improve Newport Township.

In conclusion, we extend our deep appreciation to State Representative Gerald Mullery for his untiring efforts to secure a \$60,000 grant for Newport Township to aid in demolishing a severely blighted property located near the intersection of Coal and East Main Streets in Glen Lyon.



# Remembrance of Summer Past



Above: Fourth of July Fireworks on the west side of Glen Lyon



Above Goldfinches getting their fill of nyjer seed. At right, lovely summer flowers abound in the Township.





## News and Notices from the Township

### Ordinance Updates

The Newport Township Board of Commissioners at a recent meeting adopted and/or amended the following Ordinances: a new Noise Ordinance, Ordinance No. 3 of 2020; amended Ordinance No. 3 of 2018 regarding displaying a Township Building permit: effective immediately, failure to obtain a Township Building Permit will result in a \$100.00 fine; amended Ordinance No. 7 of 2006 to require the appointment of an agent or property manager for a multi-unit dwelling if the owner lives more than 20 miles away from the property. These ordinances are available on the newly re-designed Newport Township website: [Newporttownship.org](http://Newporttownship.org).

Joseph Hillan  
Township Manager



### Demolition of Properties

The acquisition and demolition of dilapidated properties that are located throughout the Township continues to be a major priority of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners and the Newport Township Authority. Over the past thirteen years thirty homes have been demolished. Recently the Township secured funding from Luzerne County for the demolition of 1246 Center Street in Wanamie. The property at 129-133 East Main Street Glen Lyon was acquired by the Township, one structure has been demolished and the three remaining structures should be demolished by the end of October. Also the following properties were demolished at the owner's expense: 149-151 East Main Street, 23-25 Newport Street, 93-95 West Main Street, all in Glen Lyon, and 258 West Kirmar Avenue in Alden. Currently specifications are being prepared for the bidding and demolition of 161-162 Brown Row in Wanamie. The Newport Authority has placed a bid on the property at 116 West Main Street in Glen Lyon at the Luzerne County Repository sale.

The Board of Commissioners and Authority are actively seeking funding sources for dealing with blight in the Township. On July 21 Newport Township submitted an application to the Blight Remediation Program (DCED) in the amount of \$298,870.00 for the acquisition and demolition of 18 properties located throughout the Township. Updates on the status of the Township's Demolition Program will be available in future Newsletters and on the Township website [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org).

Joseph Hillan  
Township Manager



By Tom Kashatus ~ During the past year Asplundh has changed a large number of utility poles throughout Glen Lyon. They have also done much work on Kirmar Avenue. The photo shown was taken looking east on Orchard Street in Glen Lyon. The pole being installed is between the Galicki/Nutaitis and Yarashefski homes.

### ATTENTION NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Newport Township officials have received information from the Luzerne County Election Bureau that VOTING on November 3rd will take place at the Municipal Building for the 1st Ward and the Municipal Garage for the 2nd Ward. This will be in effect as long as both buildings located at 351 West Kirmar Avenue in Wanamie remain open to the public during the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

### CATS

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS A MIXTURE OF RESIDENTS WHO HAVE VARYING VIEWS ON CATS. SOME LOVE THEM, OTHERS DO NOT. OUR COMMISSIONERS ATTEMPT TO WALK THE FINE LINE THAT RESPECTS BOTH POINTS OF VIEW. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT CATS CAUSING DAMAGE AND CREATING UNSANITARY CONDITIONS. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS CAT ISSUES AND MINIMIZE BAD EXPERIENCES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

1. ORDINANCE 1976-4 CLEARLY PUTS FORTH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAT OWNERS; SPECIFICALLY THE FACT THAT RESIDENTS WHO OWN AND SHELTER CATS ARE LIMITED TO THREE CATS, AND MUST ENSURE THAT THEY ARE EITHER IN THE RESIDENCE OR SECURED BY A LEASH SO THAT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STRAY FROM THE PREMISES.
2. Newport Township Ordinance 2019-3 Quality of Life No.20 Feral Cats.
  - A. It shall be unlawful for any person to feed stray or otherwise feral cats or leave out food for stray or otherwise feral cats in Newport Township.
  - B. Residents have the right to remove feral cats from their property in a humane manner.
  - C. Any person in violation of this subsection, shall pay a fine in the amount of Fifty Dollars(\$50.00) Continuation of violating the Ordinance will lead to further legal action.

REGARDLESS OF YOUR VIEW OF CATS, WILD OR DOMESTIC, CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS IS THE KEY TO HARMONY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP AT 570-735-4735 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING WILD OR DOMESTIC CATS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.

YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IS REQUESTED.

APPRECIATIVELY,

JOSEPH HILLAN

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP MANAGER

### Newport Township Fire Department Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by  
Glen Lyon-Alden Hose Company  
and Newport Township Consolidated Fire Company  
**Sunday October 25, 2020**  
Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Soft Drink  
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## Taste of the Township Pumpkin



*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~*  
Pumpkins are a warm-weather crop that ripens in the early fall just in time for Halloween and Thanksgiving. We use them to make jack o'lanterns, as fall decorations on our porches and in pie for Thanksgiving dinner. The connection between fall and pumpkins is forever memorialized in the poem by James Whitcomb Riley "When the Frost is on the Punkin." There's not enough space here to print the entire poem; however, the

second verse rings true:

They's somethin kindo' harty-like about the atmusfere  
When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here -  
Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossums on the trees  
And the mumble of the hummin'-birds and buzzin' of the bees;  
But the air's so appetizin'; and the landscape through the haze  
Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days  
Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock -  
When the frost is on the punkin and fodder's in the shock.

Pumpkins are a member of the Cucurbita family which includes cucumbers, honeydew melons, cantaloupe, watermelons and zucchini. Pumpkins originated in northeastern Mexico and southern United States. The oldest evidence were pumpkin fragments dated between 7,000 and 5,500 BC found in Mexico. The word pumpkin originates from the word pepon (πέπων), which is Greek for "large melon," something round and large. The French adapted this word to pompon, which the British changed to pumpion and to the American colonists became known as pumpkin. Pumpkins are grown all around the world for a variety of reasons ranging from agricultural purposes (such as animal feed) to commercial and ornamental sales. Of the seven continents, only Antarctica is unable to produce pumpkins. Pumpkins are a warm-weather crop that is usually planted in early July.

### Pumpkin Facts

1. Pumpkins are hardy, and even if many leaves and portions of the vine are removed or damaged, the plant can very quickly re-grow secondary vines to replace what was removed.
2. In 2017, world production of pumpkins (including squash and gourds) was 27 million tons, with China and India accounting for 47% of the total. Russia, Ukraine, and the United States each had production of about one million tons. As one of the most popular crops in the United States, over 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkins were produced. The top pumpkin-producing states include Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California.
3. Pumpkin pie is a traditional part of Thanksgiving meals in Canada and the United States.
4. Traditional pumpkins generally weigh between 6 and 18 pounds though the largest cultivars regularly reach weights of over 75 pounds. "Giant pumpkins" are a large squash (within the group of

- common squash *Cucurbita maxima*) that can exceed 1 ton in weight. (Those huge pumpkins at the Bloomsburg Fair come to mind.) The variety arose from the large squash of South America. The heaviest pumpkin weighed 1,810 pounds 8 ounces and was presented by Chris Stevens at the Stillwater Harvest Fest in Stillwater, Minnesota in October 2010.
5. The color of pumpkins derives from orange carotenoid pigments, including beta-cryptoxanthin, alpha and beta carotene, all of which are provitamin A compounds. They convert to vitamin A in the human body.
6. Pumpkins produce both a male and female flower; they must be fertilized which is usually done by bees.
7. In a 100-gram amount, raw pumpkin is an excellent source of Vitamin A. Vitamin C is present in moderate amounts. Pumpkin is 92% water.
8. Native American Indians used pumpkin as a staple in their diets centuries before the pilgrims landed. They also dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. Indians would also roast long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and eat them. When white settlers arrived, they saw the pumpkins grown by the Indians and pumpkin soon became a staple in their diets. As today, early settlers used them in a wide variety of recipes from desserts to stews and soups.
9. In Ireland and Scotland, people made early versions of jack o'lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets were used. Immigrants from these countries brought the jack o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins make perfect jack o'lanterns.
10. The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.

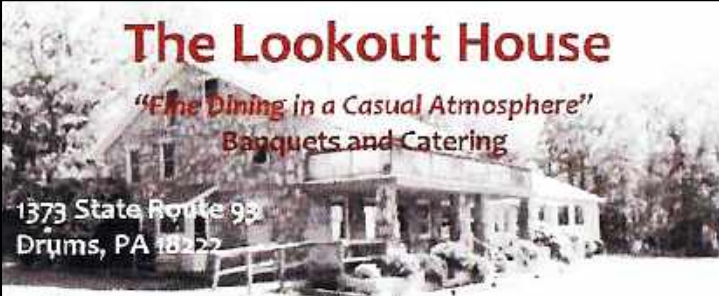


### Newsletter Spotted in Big Sur!

The Newport Township Community News continues to travel throughout the United States and abroad. It shows up in the most unusual places! Pictured are Chris and John Selecky reading the Summer issue in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park in central California, home of the famous redwoods and spectacular views of the coastline. John grew up in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport High with the Class of 1959. Chris grew up in Arden, DE.


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## TOWNSHIP EVENTS IN COVID 19 TIMES



The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of many Township events. Pictured at the top is the Food Distribution, which is usually held monthly at the American Legion, but was moved to the Wanamie Recreation Park. Pictured above are two fundraisers sponsored by the Newport Township Fire Department, at left a breakfast held at the R Bar in Alden, and at right, a Food Sale held in conjunction with St. Faustina Parish at the Grove in Sheatown. Nanticoke Area Little League saw its season delayed and shortened, but still managed a few games at the Hillan Baseball Field in Wanamie, pictured left.



# The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township

## The Mouse

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Mice have a way of invading our homes. During certain times of the year, usually in winter, this occurs quite often. Mice are persistent, can multiply rapidly, and are difficult to eradicate.

Mouse (genus *Mus*) is the common name generally but imprecisely applied to rodents found throughout the world with bodies less than about 5 inches long. In a scientific context, mouse refers to any of the 38

species in the genus *Mus*, which is the Latin word for mouse. Within the genus there are four distinctive groups: spiny mice (subgenus *Pyromys*), shrew-mice (subgenus *Coelomys*), rice field mice and the house mouse (subgenus *Mus*).

All species of *Mus* are native to Eurasia and Africa, where they range from lowlands to mountaintops. 10,000 years ago, the progenitors to the house mouse had already undergone divergence into four separate populations that must have occupied non-overlapping ranges in and around the Indian subcontinent. Present speculation is that the domesticus group was focused along the steppes of present-day Pakistan to the west of India. The *musculus* group may have been in Northern India. The *castaneus* group was in the area of Bangladesh, and the founder population, *bactrianus*, remained in India proper.

The house mouse could only begin its commensal association with humans after agricultural communities had formed. Once this leap in civilization had occurred, mice from the domesticus group in Pakistan spread into the villages and farms of the fertile crescent. Mice from the *musculus* group may have spread to a second center of civilization in China and finally, animals went from the fields to nearby communities established in India and Southeast Asia. Much later, the domesticus and *musculus* forms of the house mouse made their way to Europe. The domesticus animals moved with migrating agriculturalists from the Middle East across Southwestern Europe. The development of sea transport hastened the sweep of both mice and people through the Mediterranean basin and North Africa. The invasion of Europe by *musculus* animals occurred by a separate route from the East. Chinese voyagers brought these mice along in their carts and wagons, and they migrated along with their hosts across Russia and further west to present-day Germany where their spread was stopped by the boundary of the domesticus range. Finally, it is only within the last millennium that mice have spread to all inhabited parts of the world including sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas, Australia, and the many islands in between.

### Mouse Facts

1. Outdoors, the house mouse consumes seeds and insects; indoors it eats nearly anything digestible. Most species eat a combination of plant parts (especially seeds), insects, and other invertebrates.
2. Each winter, mice and other rodents invade an estimated 21 million homes in the United States. Mice typically enter our homes between October and February, looking for food, water, and shelter from the cold.
3. Despite their tiny bodies, mice eat between 15 and 20 times a day.
4. Mice are good jumpers, climbers and swimmers. They can jump a foot into the air, allowing them to easily climb up onto kitchen counters or into pantries to access food. Mice can squeeze through openings as small as the size of a dime. This means that a small crack or opening on the exterior of your home (such as where utility pipes enter) is like an open door for mice.

5. Mice have a set of incisor teeth that never stop growing. Their teeth grow at a rate of 0.3 mm a day! Because of this, mice have to constantly gnaw on items which range anywhere from cardboard boxes to wires and furniture in order to grind their teeth down to a reasonable length.
6. A mouse's hearing is superb compared to ours. Research shows that mice can hear ultrasound up to to 90 kHz (kilohertz)!
7. Mice are typically distinguished from rats by their size. Common terms rat and mouse are not taxonomically specific.
8. Mice are common experimental animals in laboratory research in biology and psychology fields primarily because they are mammals, and also because they share a high degree of homology (corresponding in basic type of structure) with humans. They are the most commonly used mammalian model organism, more common than rats. The mouse genome has been sequenced, and virtually all mouse genes have human homologs. They can also be manipulated in ways that are illegal with humans, although animal rights activists often object.
9. Cats, wild dogs, foxes, birds of prey, snakes and even certain kinds of arthropods (scorpions and the like) have been known to prey heavily upon mice. Nevertheless, because of its remarkable adaptability to almost any environment, the mouse is one of the most successful mammalian genera living on Earth today.

Sources: [www.britanica.com](http://www.britanica.com), [www.informatics.jax.org](http://www.informatics.jax.org), Wikipedia, [www.pestworld.org](http://www.pestworld.org)




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## 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 website, [www.newporttownship.com](http://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](mailto:tomkashatus@gmail.com) or call (570) 736-6981.

**ROMISKI**, Patricia D., 76, of Polander Hill, Alden, passed away May 13, 2020. Patricia was born on October 28, 1943.

**HANDO**, Donna Marie (nee Artmont), 68, of Hones Path, SC, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away June 4, 2020. Besides her father, she was predeceased by her husband, USAF Staff Sergeant Donald D. Hando. She is survived by her mother Pauline (Olshefski) McCosky of Glen Lyon.

**MYERS**, Shirley M. (nee Burman), 86, of Laporte, passed away June 8, 2020. Shirley was born in Hunlock Creek on January 26, 1934. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1952.

**COLWELL**, Paul, 61, of Glen Lyon, passed away June 2, 2020.

**CHMURA**, Joseph M., 69, of Nanticoke, passed away June 14, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Loretta (Kleyps) Chmura, formerly of Alden and a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1965. He was a US Navy veteran of the Vietnam War and former commander of Nanticoke American Legion Post 350.

**ZARZYCKI**, Richard J., 80, of Rhone, Nanticoke, passed away June 24, 2020. Richard was born in Glen Lyon on March 8, 1940. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Julianna (Sopko) Zarzycki, a Newport Township High School graduate with the Class of 1958.

**MACK**, Chester Jr., 84, a lifetime resident of Glen Lyon, passed away July 4, 2020. Chet was born in Glen Lyon on September 20, 1935. He attended Newport Township High School and was a member of Holy Spirit Parish. Chet was a US Air Force veteran. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sheila (Alstroe) Mack and children.

**LEWIS**, Jean Marie (nee Levulis), 78, of Nanticoke, passed away July 5, 2020. Jean Marie was born on December 25, 1941, and raised in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1959.

**MYERS**, Raymond, 82, of Dorrance Township, passed away July 6, 2020. Raymond was born and raised in Dorrance Township. He attended Pulaski Junior High School and Newport High School.

**BATOGOWSKI**, Shirley (nee Moyer & Suda), 90, of Newport Center passed away July 9, 2020. Shirley was born on November 8, 1929 and raised in Sheatown. Shirley is survived by her son, Charles Suda of Newport Center and daughter, Lori Pauska of Glen Lyon.

**STARKEY**, Catherine, 91, of Robert Street, Sheatown passed away July 6, 2020.

**PRYMOWICZ**, Geraldine Mary (nee Orbon), 85, of Celina, TX, formerly of Wanamie, passed away July 14, 2020. Geri was born in Wanamie on June 1, 1935. She was raised in Wanamie and was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1953.

**YEAGER**, Eleanor J. (nee Troyan), 79, of Mountain Top, formerly of Newport Township, passed away July 24, 2020. Eleanor was born on April 8, 1941, in Nanticoke. She was raised in the Polander Hill section of Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School Class of 1960. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Ernest Yeager, Newport Township High School Class of 1958.

**ROKE**, Philip James, 65, of Fredericksburg, VA, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away July 28, 2020. Philip was raised in Glen Lyon and he was the son of the late Mario and Elaine Roke. He attended Newport Township schools and graduated from John S. Fine High School Class of 1973. In Newport Township he was an active volunteer with the fire and ambulance departments, and a police officer for three years. He

was predeceased by his sister, Lisa (Roke) Higgins. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Theresa (Mierzwa) Roke.

**TARNOWSKI**, Gertrude (nee Tarasewicz), 94, of Ridgefield, CT, passed away on July 20, 2020. Gertrude was born in Wanamie on November 15, 1925 and raised in Wanamie. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1943.

**DYMOND**, Alice P. (nee Hillman), 78, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Wanamie, passed away August 10, 2020. Alice was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1960.

**TABBIT**, Barbara A. (nee Youlls), 70, of the Lower Askam section of Hanover Township, and a resident of Guardian Healthcare Center in Sheatown for the past three years, passed away August 10, 2020.

**LAGANOSKI**, Helen, 81, of Philadelphia, formerly of Saint Stanislaus Orphanage in Sheatown, passed away in Virtua Hospital of Marlton, NJ. Helen was raised in Sheatown and was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1956. She is survived by her classmates and longtime friends Barbara (Rinehamer) Fletcher and Mary (Czech) Hunt.

**CZYZYCKI**, Thomas E., 74, of Vienna, OH, formerly of Florida for 15 years, and Glen Lyon before that, passed on July 20, 2020. Thomas was born on October 13, 1945. He was a veteran of the US Air Force serving during the Vietnam War and a member of the American Legion. Thomas is survived by his sons, Thomas E. Jr. (wife, Mary Beth) Czyzycki and James Czyzycki, both of Glen Lyon.

**MESHINSKI**, John J., 77, lifetime resident of Glen Lyon, passed away August 21, 2020. John was born on July 3, 1943. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1961. John was a US Army veteran, a member of Holy Spirit Parish, Glen Lyon, and a member of American Legion Post 539 and the Italian-American Sporting Club. John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Doris (Fabrizio) Meshinski.




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The Glen Lyon Colts of 1906: Standing: Teofil Tarnowski, Bolish Kazmierski, Bill Stevens, Freas Keen, Joe Seletski, and Anthony Kovaleski. Sitting: George Baron, Kostek "Lefty" Kriefski, Pete Zaleski, Rufus Screen, John Snopkowski, and Joe Matusavage. Bat Boy is John (Jack) Tarnowski. Fans can be seen in the upper right hand corner of the picture.

## The Glen Lyon Colts

*By Heidi Jarecki* ~ Among the many amateur and semi-professional baseball teams that were organized in Newport Township throughout the first half of the 20th century, the Glen Lyon Colts are generally regarded as the first. The picture above is dated 1906; however the team was playing for several years before that. It was organized by David Truscott. The 1906 team was a team of 17 and 18 year olds and went undefeated. As early as 1907, another team, the Glen Lyon Eagles, followed their lead. The two teams often played against each other and generated a lot of excitement.

As often as baseball clubs were formed and disbanded, and players switched teams, so too did the leagues in which they played. Whether a club belonged to a league or not, teams placed advertisements in local newspapers for games. The first league the Colts joined was the Luzerne Amateur League in 1910. On that 1910 team were: Kostek Trajewski, Paul Ternowski, George Barron, Rufus Screen, Peter Seletski, Peter Reagan, Anthony Coveleskie, John Macho, Joseph Macho, Harry Perkins, William Stevens and Joseph Seletski. (Probable misspelling of names is acknowledged.) They won the pennants for the seasons 1910 and 1911. In 1911, the League consisted of 6 teams, including the Eagles and the Colts. By September, two teams had dropped out. On September 4, the Colts had a comfortable lead with a win/lose average of .777. There were two games left to be played on Labor Day against the Nanticoke White Sox.

Freas Keene, Peter Turek, John Cherrie, John Snopkowski, Bruno "Barney" Shiffka, and Stephen Humphrey managed the team in its heyday between 1910 and 1925. They were also players at one time or another. The travel team usually consisted of 10 players, with the pitcher expected to go the distance. They traveled by streetcar and/or train.

The 1913 team joined the Keystone Amateur League. In the League were the following: Breslau, the Nanticoke Crescents, the Nanticoke Victors, Honey Pot, Hanover, Alden, and the Glen Lyon Eagles. Members of the 1913 team were: Sarpolis, Barron, Voshefski, Dmyterko, Freas Keene, Rube Waddell, Louis Benarski, J. Bernarski, Charles Billings, J. Ternowski, A. Kovaleski, Peter Raven, J. Seletski, A. Nork, Louis Audzwitz, John Snopkowski, J. Savage, J. McKorko, John Kubasek, and John McInness. John "Snappy" Snopkowski was a star pitcher, having struck out 46 men in 23 innings. The Colts had a reputation of being a hard-hitting fast team and scores were often lopsided. In a game against Roaring Brook, the final score was 18 to 1, the Colts on top.

That same year, a series of five games between the Colts and the Eagles was billed as "The Championship of Newport Township." The Colts defeated the Eagles in the first game by a score of 13 to 4. In the second game, "players were used by the Eagles who

did not take part in the first and it [was] claimed by the Colts that on Saturday when the game was called the Eagles lineup was very different from the original agreement. They (the Colts) then declined to play." The third game did not take place owing to a wrangle over certain players. In September, the Colts won most of their remaining games against Berwick, Port Griffith, and Georgetown. At the end of the season, a banquet was held at Strzalka's Hall and a program of vocal numbers was presented by the "Colts Quartet" consisting of Snopkowski, Raven, Nork, and Bender. This writer can attest to the prowess of "Uncle Pete" Raven, having heard him sing many times as a child.

The 1914 team organized in March and played games well into October. Among

the players were: Billings, Ternoski, Bender, Raven, Allison, Williams, Cooney, Phillips, Almore, and Kriefski. Some of their opponents were the Glen Lyon Eagles and Honey Pot. They were considered to be the Champions of Luzerne

County, although they lost a game on October 7 to the Nanticoke White Sox. Only the day before, they defeated Shickshinny by a score of 3 to 0. Two additional Glen Lyon teams, the Elks and the Cubs, were in the mix by then.

The 1915 team belonged to the Susquehanna League and consisted of Raven, Kriefski, Lash, Kemp, Seletski, Shiner, Bender, Phillips, Weiss, Keen, and Billings. Ernest Kemp was described as the ace first sacker (first baseman) and went on to become a popular dentist on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. Among the teams they played were Carbondale, Newtown, Ashley, and of course, Nanticoke. On Saturday August 28, 1915, Colts won the second game of the three-game series with the White Sox for a purse of \$100.00 (\$2,565.36 in today's money) by the score of 15 to 4. This game was played in Alden in front of a large crowd.

On September 16, 1915, a benefit was held to raise money for the upkeep of the baseball field, located at the end of West Main Street at the bottom of 7 Shaft Hill. The Glen Lyon Elks also participated. Several vaudeville acts and "reels of moving pictures" were presented at the Family Theater on East Main Street. That year, the Colts won the first class championship, and the Elks were the second class champions. As stated in the *Times Leader* on September 7, "As these teams do not have an enclosed grounds they are compelled to resort to affairs of this kind to secure funds to meet expenses incurred during the season and the lower end people should encourage the boys by patronizing their benefit."

Between 1916 and 1918, no games were reported in the newspapers. Many baseball clubs were on hiatus during World War I. The first game reported in 1919 was an upcoming game between the Colts and the Nanticoke Polo Sluggers on July 25, which was forfeited because the Polo Sluggers did not show up. They were a second-class team by then. The Colts did defeat the Polos by a score of 16-4 in August.

In 1920, another team, the Glen Lyon Yanks, was formed and advertised for games. The Colts advertised for games with four Nanticoke teams: the Grays, Turners, Swatters, and Cardinals; Hanover Athletic Association; Warrior Run Comets; Wilkes-Barre A.C.; West Wyoming Sluggers; Honey Pot Eagles; and Kearney A.C. They were defeated in a game against the Plymouth West Siders, 6-7 on July 4, but as reported, "it was not of good ball playing by the West Siders, but the raw deal they have given the Young Colts." The game ran 14 innings. At the end of the season, the Colts "were ready to meet the Wanamie team for the Second Class Championship of the County." In October, the Wanamie team beat them twice to claim the Championship. The Colts won 19 games and lost six that year.

In a game on May 15, 1921, the Colts lost to the Wilkes-Barre Usaacs by a score of 7 to 5 in Glen Lyon. The pitcher for the Usaacs not only pitched well, but also hit a single, two doubles, and a home run. (Yes, the pitcher!) On Decoration Day (Memorial Day) the Colts played a double header. The first game was against Shickshinny in the morning at



home, the second game was against the Nanticoke Grays at San Souci Park. They defeated the Grays by the score of 14 to 7. Previous to that, the Colts played an All Star team in Exeter and the game was called off on account of rain when the Colts were ahead 1-0. On June 8, they defeated Plymouth by a score of 19 to 4. The pitcher Appels struck out 20 batters. Parsons defeated the Colts in a game on July 17. The season ended with more wins than defeats that year.

In 1922, the Colts played games against the Plains A.C., the West Wyoming Victors, and the Security B.A. They were back to being a first-class team and players included: Vandermark, Brush, Wright, Ruskin, Garrison, Lewanduski, McKale, Kane, Barney, Foxy and Skeppi. On May 23, the Colts lost to the West Wyoming Victors by a score of 10-4. On June 4, the Colts defeated the Warrior Run Independents by a score of 9 to 3. On June 10, the Colts announced the signing of John Barron to fill a weak spot in right field. They declared they made a gold strike in signing him. They were in competition for the services of pitchers named Michael Sharp and Bush. As reported, "With such pitchers and a stonewall infield as Ruskin at first, Vandy at second, Levanduski at short, Kane at third, and a very good outfield such as Barney at left, Foxey at center and Barron at right, and an expert catcher in Garrison, Manager Shiffka wears a very big smile. No wonder, with a good team and the town behind him." They had a winning season.

The only Colts game reported in 1923 was a loss to the Georgetown Cubs by a score of 19-0. They turned the tables on the Colts. It was a different team that year, with few players returning. No games were reported in 1924. In 1925, the Colts continued to play, but it was clear the team was beginning to disband. There were other teams, particularly the newly organized team, the Condors, who were getting more attention and more players. On July 21, 1925, the Colts won a double-header with the Glen Lyon Athletics and the Alden Athletics. They lost to the Nanticoke Barons in September by a score of 19 to 9. In May of the following year, the Colts got their revenge with a decisive victory over the Barons by a score of 13-5. The team most likely disbanded after 1926. In the thirties, the original Colts participated in a few "old timers" games for charity.

In 1940, Bolish Kazmierski, president of the Glen Lyon Condors, organized a youth team called the Glen Lyon Colts. It was a third-class team. Players were: Albert Chimlefski, Zigmund Kishel, Stanley Levulis, Gilbert Chesney, Norbert Malshefski, Walter Piavis, Alfred Noss, Frank Wintergrass, Frank Digdon, Albert Malashefski, Donald Riordan, Henry Brezenski, S. Osmanski, and Edward Yeninas, with Albert Maleshewski as Captain and Helen Tomalowicz as Secretary. Advertisements for games

were placed in local newspapers, with no games reported.

In the early days of baseball in the Township, the Colts were a team to be reckoned with. They were a source of pride for Glen Lyon and the Township. The players themselves were mostly coal miners, many of them immigrants, strong and athletic. What attracted them to baseball is what still attracts players and fans today. As John Kashatus put it, baseball is a team sport where any one player can rise to the "moment." The Colts blazed the trail for other successful teams in the Township and contributed to the continuing popularity of the sport which has lasted well into the 21st century.

Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Record* and *the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*.

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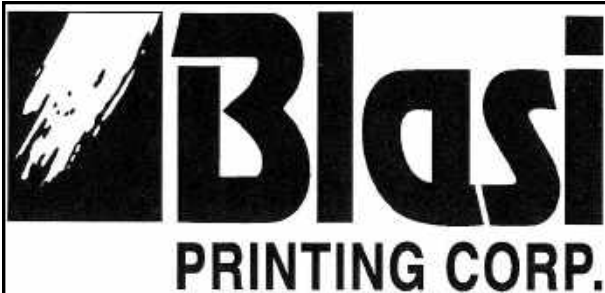
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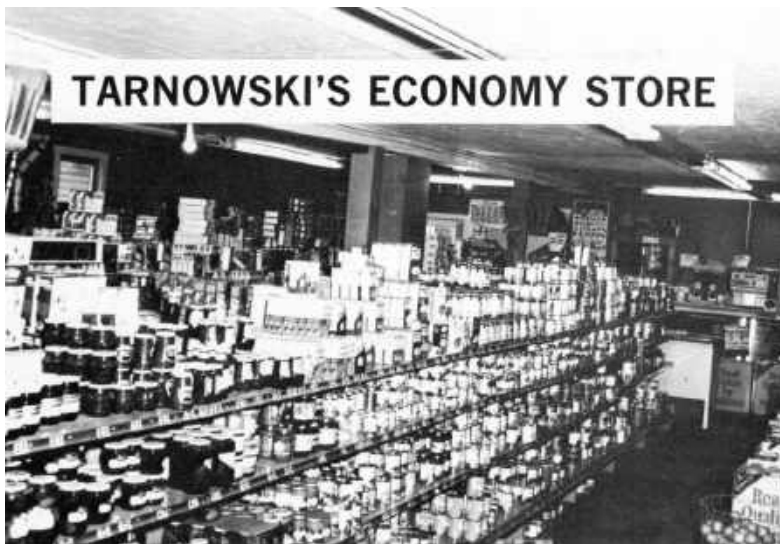
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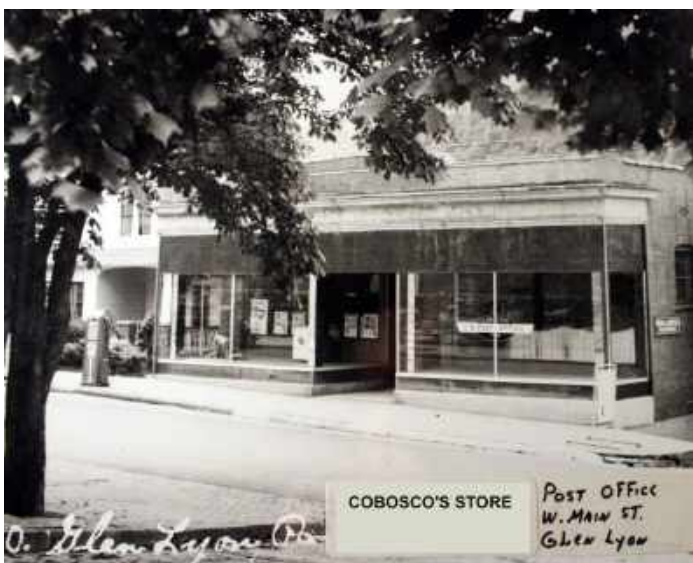
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## Glen Lyon

### Once a Bustling Community and a Shopper's Mecca

By Paul Gregory ~ Driving along Main Street in Glen Lyon today, it is hard to imagine that at one time there were many stores, small shops, entertainment venues, and professional services that made Glen Lyon a practically self sustaining community. There is some evidence of the number of stores that once existed when one sees the many closed or boarded up storefronts. Some of the storefronts were remodeled to be additional rooms in a home or apartment. When the mines were operational, Glen Lyon was an active, vibrant town. Businesses flourished. People could be seen walking through town, doing their shopping or stopping to chat with friends. When the mines closed in the late 1950s, businesses dwindled, some closed down, others moved to different locations. Dress factories picked up the slack, but not enough employment was available to sustain the many businesses. Eventually, the dress factories moved away, followed by the inevitable closure of many of the remaining businesses. Some businesses held on for quite a long time, but the prosperity and clientele were severely diminished.

Back then, there was no reason to go out of town to shop for daily essentials. Of course, if one wanted a specialty item, or the latest fashion, or a wider selection, then one would have to travel to Nanticoke or Wilkes Barre. The many stores and small shops ranged from grocery stores to hardware stores to clothing and dry goods stores to car dealerships. There were gas stations, car repair shops, small convenience stores, furniture stores, ice cream parlors, lunch-ettes, and many bars. Most of the businesses were owned and operated by residents of Glen Lyon, and in many cases they lived in the same buildings as their businesses. The business owners were vital members of the community. Besides storefront businesses, Glen Lyon boasted many professional services, skilled tradespeople, home delivery services, and entertainment venues. Glen Lyon had six churches, all were active and sponsored frequent social events in the community. It is sad to see that St. Michael's on West Main Street is no longer there, replaced by a parking lot.

A typical shopping scenario may have looked like this: On a nice Saturday morning a family would plan a shopping outing. Mom would stop in a clothing store to purchase a new blouse for her daughter and then head up to the drug store to buy a magazine and some personal care products. In the meantime Dad would go to the hardware store to buy some nails and a new paint brush. He also bought a baseball bat for his son. Then Dad and his son might head up to the barber shop for a haircut where they would chat with friends while waiting their turns on the chair. Mom and her daughter would go over to Mar-Jo's to pick up the family photos taken last week and then head over to the shoemaker to pick up their shoes. She might stop and chat with a friend relaxing on her front porch enjoying the pleasant weather. Dad and his son would go to Brunozzi's Car Dealership to admire the new Chevys. He feels that the family needs a new car but Mom is not sold on it yet. He likes the four door Bel Air, but Mom prefers the Nomad station wagon. Later on, the family would meet for lunch at M&B's, followed by an ice cream treat. The family would head over to the "5 & 10." Their daughter needs a new pencil box and the son will be starting the seventh grade at Pulaski Junior High, so he needs a lunch box. The shopping trip would end at the grocery store with everyone carrying a paper bag full of groceries. On the way home Dad spots a sign in a window of a bar, "Lobster Tonight." Both Mom and Dad agree to go out later for a seafood dinner.

Besides "brick and mortar" shops, many of the businesses provided home delivery. A fruit and vegetable huckster, Ernest Stasak, nicknamed "Stahoney," would bring fresh produce to the neighborhood. At each stop he would bellow out in his great baritone voice that day's produce. Milk and dairy products were delivered to homes by Clewells, Woodlawn, and Huntington Dairy. Dairy fresh milk, buttermilk, cream, and butter could be found on our porches early in the morning. A favorite was the milk that was not homogenized, that is, the cream was on the top. We kids were warned by Mom not to lick the cream, but we tried anyway! Insurance agents would visit to collect the monthly premium, many grocery stores had home delivery, bread and baked goods were delivered (Tuzzi's Bakery,

Sanitary Bakery, New York State Bakery, Kutz Brothers), cleaners would pick up and deliver clothing (Bart's Cleaners and Beach Haven Cleaners) and believe it or not, doctors made house calls! Paul Petro and Son delivered Frank's of Philadelphia sodas. A favorite was their black cherry Wisniak, which is still around. The ever present coal delivery trucks brought locally mined anthracite to heat our homes and in some cases to be used for cooking. We kids would watch the truck bed rise up and the coal would slide down the chute into the coal shanty. And don't forget Benick's Ice Truck, delivering ice to bars as well as to some homes that still had "ice boxes." On a hot summer day we kids would sneak to the back of the truck to get a chip of ice and let it melt in our mouths to cool us off. Not the most sanitary thing to do, but who worried about germs? Then there was Jimmy, the candy apple and popcorn man bringing treats to the kids in his red 1930s vintage truck. Lastly, there came the "ragman," blowing his horn to announce his presence. If we kids were lucky enough to find scrap metal, he would buy it for a few cents and we were rich!

Going back to the late 40s and 50s and relying on our fast fading memories, let's wake up those memories and visit some of the businesses.

### Grocery Stores and Food Markets

Most of the grocery stores were located along Main Street. There were a few smaller stores on other streets serving local customers. There was the deli counter, freshly butchered meats, a produce section, baked goods, frozen products, many canned goods, and of course treats such as candy, chips, and ice cream. For us kids, grocery stores were our answer for the much needed wood to build our forts. The wood came from discarded orange or cantaloupe crates. We were able to use the nails from the crates, however bent, to nail the boards together.

Since grocery and food stores were nearby it was not unusual to shop several times a week if not every day. One of the hated tasks for some of us kids was to come home from school, change our clothes, have a snack, and be all set to go out to play when, oh no, Mom hands you a short grocery list. We would reply, "But Mom do I have to, I have to meet my friends, we have important plans!" Mom would reply, "Too bad, if you stop complaining and hurry you can still go out and meet your friends." We'd run to the store, hoping that there was no line, get the groceries and hurry home. Usually groceries could be carried home in one paper bag. We didn't need an SUV to go grocery shopping.

Another hated shopping chore for us kids was going to Rasmus's Poultry Shop on a Saturday morning. The shop was located on West Main Street, between Benick's gas station and Tarnowski's. We'd be all set to go out after breakfast to rendezvous with our friends, but then were told to go to the poultry shop. Good grief! So we'd get a list of instructions from Mom and head to the dreaded shop. The inside was bare bones, a broken down sofa, maybe a chair or two. We'd give Mrs. Rasmus our order, which usually was for one or two dozen eggs and a chicken or chicken parts for Sunday dinner. Then we waited, in the smelly store, among the adults, bored out of our minds, anxious to get out and play with our friends. Finally, after what seemed like forever, she would call our name when the order was ready. The chicken did not come in a Styrofoam plate wrapped in plastic wrap. It came out of one of the live chicken cages on the back of their pick-up truck, killed and cleaned in back of the store, whole or cut into parts, and wrapped in plain brown paper. Talk about country fresh! Mrs. Rasmus totaled the amount owed using crayon on the brown paper, took the money (no credit cards) and gave us our change and finally we were outta there. While we kids might have complained, Sunday dinner was delicious. You could not beat their farm fresh eggs and poultry.

There were many grocery stores during this time period. Tarnowski's first store was a small shop near the end of Glen Lyon at the corner of West Main and Railroad Streets, across from Chet Mack's garage. They moved to West Main, across from the Terkoski building and eventually closed the small shop. They later opened a larger store on West Main and in Prushinski's Furniture on East Main Street, next to the Acme (yes, Glen Lyon had an Acme). Tarnowski's was famous for outstanding kielbasa, fresh and smoked and that is still true today. My wife Peg and I had an opportunity to visit Krakow, Poland, where our guide took us to a small restaurant that had the "best kielbasa" in the Krakow area. It was good and a nice experience to eat kielbasa in Poland, but I gotta say, Tarnowski's is much better. Chet Smocharski, an experienced butcher, had a store on Newport Street, that was started by his father. He eventually moved to West Main in the Terkoski building. (Continued on next page)



Sopka's Grocery, Kahler's Market, Davey Rosen's Market and Gross's Grocery stores were all located on West Main.

The Gross building burned down in the early 50s and was replaced by Benick's Gas Station. There were two grocery stores on West Enterprise Street (Company Patch), Casper's and Vishnefski's. Then there were Raineri's Produce, across the street from Dada's Café; Mitarnowski's on the corner of Newport and Maple Streets; the Bakery, located across from St. Michael's Church; the ACME, located across from Roosevelt School (now KVal); Danoff's Market, next to the Family Theater; Babetski's Meats and Groceries across from Pada's gas station; Lebarski Grocery in the same building as Ziggy the Shoemaker; Wytashek Grocery, near St. Nicholas Church; and Helmecki Grocery on Arch Street that served Kanada.

#### **Convenience Stores**

These small stores were the 7-11's of the day. They usually had some dairy products, canned goods, bread, packaged ice cream, candy bars and penny candy. They were a favorite with us kids because we could buy penny candy and, on hot summer days, "ice popsicles." The twin popsicles had two sticks and were meant to be shared. The challenge was to break them in half at the seam. Using our hands to split them they often broke in the wrong direction, but we soon learned to break them on an edge or building corner. Penny candy favorites included Mary Janes, tootsie rolls, tootsie pops, wax lips (red), wax mustache (black), licorice sticks (red, black or brown), Bazooka bubble gum that included small comic strips featuring the character "Bazooka Joe." Then there were the baseball cards. For a penny you could get a piece of bubble gum along with a baseball card. Our objective was to accumulate all the players of our favorite teams. This was done through buying the card and gum or by trading. One of the problems with trading was that most kids' favorite team was the Yankees. That made trading a challenge. Many cards featured second string or lesser known players. To get a star player such as Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Eddie Mathews, or Bob Feller was like winning the lottery. Some of the convenience stores included: Bertha's on Orchard Street, a lifesaver when something was needed on a Sunday morning; Brunozzi's store, next to the Vets; Obidizinski's candy store and Peroni's on Apple Street; Fischer's on Market Street known for their home made fruit flavored lollipops; Pete Blasi's and Cougie's on Newport Street; Bruma's on East Main across from Pada's; Billing's Ice Cream Store on Spring Street next to Keblish's; Rabbit's on Arch Street in Kanada; and Zastavny's on West Main, famous for their roasted peanuts. Zastavny also sold popcorn, candied popcorn, peanuts and candy apples at church picnics.

#### **Furniture Stores**

At one time there were three furniture stores in Glen Lyon: Grotsky's was located on Railroad Street and later moved to West Main; and Peterfreund's and Prushinski Furniture were both on East Main Street. Grotsky's and Peterfreund's not only sold furniture, but also sold TVs. They sold and installed carpeting and linoleum and also sold propane gas used for cooking. As "Murphy's Law" dictates, you would run out of propane while cooking Sunday dinner. Nate or Ernie Grotsky or Al Peterfreund or one of the Roke Brothers (who also sold propane) would come to the rescue, delivering a full tank of gas. Sunday dinner was a little late but was saved.

#### **Drug Stores**

There were two drug stores, Sokolnicki's Rexall Drug Store on West Main Street which later became Chesney's Pharmacy and Stapinski Pharmacy on East Main Street, next to the Glen Lyon Bank. For us kids, drug stores were great places to buy comic books (or as we called them, funny books). Some of our favorites were Superman, Batman, and Archie and Jughead. They cost ten cents. We would read several comics before deciding which one to buy, hoping that no one would yell at us. Stapinski's had a TV tube tester. When our TVs went on the blink, we would try to fix the problem by whacking the side of the TV. If that didn't work (it seldom did) and before calling the repairman, we would remove all the tubes from the TV set, take them to Stapinski's and use the tube tester to determine if one of the tubes was bad. If so then a new tube was purchased, hopefully correcting the problem. Both drug stores sold products similar to the larger chain pharmacies today, but on a much smaller scale. At one time both pharmacies had soda fountains. Both pharmacies also had public pay phones, identifiable by the blue and white

"Public Telephone" sign on the outside. Not everyone had a telephone back then.

#### **Clothing and Dry Goods**

The dry goods stores sold clothing, shoes, linens, fabrics, sporting goods, and sewing notions. While the selection may have been limited it was more than sufficient to support our everyday needs. The stores included Stern's, Orzechoski's, and Myers Mendolsohn's Dry Goods, all on West Main. Myers Store was first located in Gross's building and then relocated to Stern's building a few doors up Main Street after Gross's burned down. After the fire Myers held a "fire sale" for those items not destroyed by the flames. Most of the goods had a strong smoke odor but the price was right and, with a washing, were usable.

#### **Hardware Stores**

The hardware stores in Glen Lyon may not have been big enough to rival Home Depot or Lowe's, but they stocked a lot of products ranging from tools to kitchen utensils to sports equipment to small toys. If they didn't have it in stock, they would order it for you. Most of us got our fishing and hunting licenses at Biggy's or Cobosco's. They sold fishing and hunting equipment including rods and reels and shotguns and rifles. Both stores sold ornaments and trees at Christmas time. One of our favorite displays was the Lionel train displays in the windows of both stores. Biggy's Hardware moved to several locations on West Main Street. It was first located in the Rasmus building, next to Gross's Store, then moved across Main Street next door to M&B's and ended up in the old Dave Rosen store. Not only did Frank Bigos (Biggy) sell hardware, but he also sold, installed, and repaired Hallicrafter TVs. Biggy also sold Plasticville buildings for train layouts. Some of us who are train layout enthusiasts still have Plasticville buildings on our layouts, purchased almost seventy years ago from Biggy. Cobosco's Hardware was located in the same building as the old Post Office on West Main Street. and stayed in that location until it closed in 2002. Back then Mike Cobosco also sold gas from pumps in front of the store. Besides a large selection of hardware products, they also sold large appliances and TVs. Presently, the building houses M. J. Food Mart. (See *Newport Township Community News*, Summer 2012, for an article about Cobosco's authored by John Selecky.) Roke Brothers (Louie and Nello) on East Main Street next to the Family Theater not only sold hardware but were "jacks of all trades." They were electricians, plumbers, and did furnace installation and maintenance. Roke's also sold, installed and repaired Philco TVs.

#### **Gas Stations, Car Dealerships and Auto Repair**

Gas stations pumped gas, put oil in your engine, and repaired and inspected your car. They sold products such as tires, batteries, car polishes and cleaners, and other miscellaneous car related products. They also gave out free road maps. There was no GPS back then.

This was a time when gas was 25 cents a gallon and it was not uncommon to drive up to the pumps and ask the attendant for a dollar's worth. Your windshield would get washed and the oil checked. Some of the gas stations were "hang outs" where men would get together and solve all of the world's problems. Gas stations and garages included: Benick's Sunoco Station, built after Gross's building burned down; Chet Mack's Garage on the corner of West Main and Railroad; Dick Brunozzi's Auto Repair located behind the Vets; Dick Brunozzi also had a Kaiser/Frazer car dealership; Angelo Brunozzi's car dealership on Railroad Street (He sold Chevys and Buicks. The building is still in use today.); Pada's, at the intersection of East Main and Coal Streets, today a parking lot; and Jim Burn's Gas Station on the corner of West Main and Park, whose building still stands today.

#### **Other Businesses**

The Glen Lyon Bank on East Main Street across from where the Roosevelt School was is still an imposing building. While in fifth grade, we took a tour and were very impressed. The conference room looked like something out of a movie, with leather chairs, a large conference table, and paintings on the walls. The bank had marble flooring and marble wainscot. The door to the safe looked imposing and impenetrable. It exuded an atmosphere of professionalism, stability and financial security.

Mar-Jo Photography Studio was initially located in the Papciak Building on West Main and later moved to the end of East Main Street. Mar-Jo was involved in every stage of our lives, from baby pictures, First Holy Communion, grade school and high school, family pictures, to wedding pictures and special occasion pictures. Mar-Jo was called upon to take photos of several of our high school reunions. Morgis's Florist on West Main, next to Sokolnicki's Drug Store, was also an



important mainstay for many years. They provided flowers for the churches and occasions such as Christenings, weddings, funerals, Mother's Day, and proms.

Bart's 5 & 10 or Honabaugh's was located in the Kutz Building on West Main. It was a downsized version of a Woolworth's or Kresge's. For several years near Christmas, they sponsored a visit by Santa, who handed out pop-corn balls wrapped in red or green cellophane. Bart's Cleaners was also located in the store, hence we called the store Bart's. Next door was the State Store or, as we called it, the "Liquor Store." It was not today's Fine Wine and Spirits Shoppe with expensive imported wines. Upon entering the store there was a counter and behind the counter were many shelves containing wines and liquors. The person behind the counter would ask for your order and then get it from the shelves in back. The liquor store provided wine and whiskey to local bars as well as individuals. This may have been one of the few stores that were not locally owned.

Fanucci Beer Distributor on 3rd Street delivered beer to the bars as well as to homes. Stegmaier and Gibbons Breweries had their own trucks and delivered keg beer to the bars. The beer truck driver would unload heavy kegs of beer onto a thick rubber pad and roll them to the cellar door, bounce them again on the rubber pad down into the cellar and the kegs would be stored in the bar's large refrigerator.

### **Entertainment Venues Bars and Cafes**

Glen Lyon boasted many bars and "speakeasies." These bars did not serve craft beers or IPAs or Belgian imports. Your choices on tap were usually local beers such as Stegmaier, Gibbons, Valley Forge, Bartels or Franklin Brewery. Bottled beer might include Shaefers, Ballantine, Budweiser, Pabst and others. The standard mixed drink was a highball (whisky and soda) or gin and tonic or, most popular, a "shot and a beer." Wine was served from a gallon or half gallon bottle and poured into the equivalent of a juice glass. There were no stemmed glasses. Martinis and cosmopolitans were unheard of.

When the 2:30 colliery whistle blew the first shift was over. You could see the miners coming home, faces covered with coal dust, wearing their helmets and carrying empty lunch pails. Many miners cleaned up in the shiftn' shanty and stopped at their favorite bar to "wash the coal dust down" before going home. There was no air conditioning and doors were kept open in the summer, so walking past a bar on a warm summer day, you could hear loud talking, laughing, and language probably not meant for our young ears. The insides of the bars were curiosities to us kids. Some of us were from families that owned bars, so we knew what the insides looked like. As we came of age and patronized the bars ourselves we got to see them first hand. Many were similar and we knew most of the clientele.

Many bars had "side rooms" large enough for private events. These side rooms were the dining areas where food was served, mostly on weekends. Of course, families had to use the "Ladies Entrance" which kept them from walking past the usually raucous bar. We knew when fresh seafood was on the menu because it was written on the windows with an easy to clean soapy substance. "Crabs Tonight" or "Clams Tonight" or "Fresh Seafood" announced the weekend menu. The bars also provided entertainment such as darts, pool tables, shuffleboard, pinball machines, and card games. It was not unusual to go into a bar on a weekend night and see all of these activities going on at the same time. Bars sponsored dart leagues, where competition among the bars was stiff. The Italian Club sponsored bocce teams and had a bocce court where the parking lot is today. Many of the bars and clubs also hosted clambakes.

Speakeasies were usually small shops that had no liquor license. They would serve bottled beer and shots to their usual customers. No one seemed to mind and they were a convenience to the locals.

The bars included: Pete Keblish's Café on East Main; Gregory's Café on Orchard Street, known for great spaghetti dinners, which was later sold to Frank Kuchinski; Brexy's Café on Newport Street; and Szmal's Café and Dada's on West Main. Dada's was famous for great chili. The locomotive engineers enjoyed lunch at Dada's. They parked their engines on the tracks near the mule barn and went up to Dada's to feast on chili for lunch. Others included: Najaka's Bar on East Main Street, known for Friday night poker games; Smiler's Café on Orchard Street later sold to Ben Frace who served great lobster tail dinners; Ignatz Grochowski's Café, next to Number One

Fire House on East Main Street, later became River's; Bill Kashatus's Café, once located on the corner of Apple and Orchard, moved to West Main Street. across from Chet Mack's garage. Bill Kashatus's was known for great seafood, especially lobster tail dinners. The bar on the corner of East Main and 3rd Streets, across from St. Denis Church, had several owners during this time period including Louie Felici, Tony Schinski, Florence Gionta, Ray Kizelowicz and Carl Noy. The bar next door was Helen & Mickey's Café (Cheklinski's). Glen Lyon Cafe, at Coal and Main, was operated by Charlie Wright.

Private clubs requiring membership included: Fraternal Order of Eagles, commonly called the Eagles on West Main Street; American Legion on Newport Street, also frequently used for wedding receptions, teen dances, after prom parties, and other social events; The Italian American Sporting Club, on the corner of Orchard and Apple Streets, occasionally served great food and terrific pizza; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW or more commonly called the Vets) on West Main, once Strzalka's Café. All of these clubs catered to social events and, more importantly, were open on Sundays. At that time Pennsylvania Blue Laws made it illegal for a bar to open on Sundays. Some of the bars were open on Sundays; however, only known customers were allowed in.

### **Ice Cream Parlors And Luncheonettes**

While bars were places where adults met and enjoyed themselves, ice cream parlors were the meeting places for younger people, mostly teens. This is where we hung out, drank cherry cokes with a slice of pizza, and played the pin ball machine and the juke box.

While Glen Lyon did not have a full service restaurant, it did have luncheonettes including Jimmy Vessel's located in the Terkoski building on West Main and Roke's next to the Family theater. Jimmy also hosted poker games in the back booth. Several of the ice cream parlors served light lunches such as hamburgers, bar-b-cues, toasted cheese sandwiches and Nardone's Pizza.

M&B's, our high school hangout, was packed after high school football and basketball games. A special treat was a chocolate shake to wash down one of Barney's hamburgers or bar-b-cues. A slice of Nardone's pizza was 10 cents, a hamburger was 15 cents. If we got too noisy or out of line, Mary would let us know in no uncertain terms by yelling at us. M&B's was located across from Benick's gas station. They later moved to the Papciak Building on West Main. Roman's or the Sugar Bowl moved into M&B's old place and was known for great hoagies. If anyone ordered a hamburger on Friday, Mrs. Roman would commence to lecture them that meat was not to be eaten on Fridays. Snap's ice cream parlor and lending library was located next to the Bell Telephone building. Then there was Ma Malarchik's, near the breaker.

### **Other Entertainment Venues**

Glen Lyon had two movie theaters, the Family Theater on East Main and the Newport Theater on West Main. Beneath the Newport Theater was a bowling alley. Sports were as important then as they are today. Baseball was played at Weinick Park, home field of the Condors and the Newport High baseball team. Weinick Park had two dugouts, a refreshment stand, and a bar where beer was served. The bar consisted of a wood plank supported by a tree at each end. If the Condors or Newport won the game, the whole town would know it because spectators and players alike would blow their car horns as they drove along Main Street. Annual church picnics were held in the summertime at the Russian Pavilion on the east side of town and Podkul's Park (Glen Grove Park) at the end of West Main Street. These picnics were great social events. There were the usual beer stands, bingo games, gambling games, and rides provided by a "carnival company." Food was served such as kielbasa, French fries, pierogi, hamburgers and hot dogs, along with other sweets and goodies. The American Legion sponsored "Teen House," a place where teens were able to dance the night away.

### **Professional Services Funeral Directors**

The deceased were prepared at the funeral director's facility, and then were moved to the home of the deceased for the viewing. Most viewings at that time took place at home. Funeral directors included Strzalka-Polniaszek Funeral Home (now Strish's) on West Main (once located in the same building as the Vets), Shiffka and Prushinski Funeral Homes on East Main and Warmus Funeral Home on Arch Street.

### **Barbershops and Hairdressers**

Back then barbers (who were male) cut men's and boys' hair. Those who wanted a little luxury could get shaves. (Continued on next page)



There was no hair washing, blow drying, or styling. Len Namowicz (Lenny the Barber) was located adjacent to Morgis' Flower Shop. His shop was previously in Gross's Building and Dr. Stapinski's Building. Joe Barski was on Apple Street, Bill Zubritski (Bill the Barber), formerly Roman's Barber Shop, and Charlie Flowers were on West Main. Selli's was on East Main, across from Peterfreund's Furniture Store. Stan Doliva (Minuteman) was located in the Stegura Building on East Main. There were many hairdressers, some of whom had storefront shops while others had shops in their homes. They included Francie Brunozzi, Apple Street; Rosemary Zawatski, East Main; Betty Antolik in Kanada; Marcella Trotski Benick, Railroad Street.; Bernadine Swicklick Betkoski; Laura Ruskin; Matilda Burk; Lucy Sergott; and Clementine Brezenski.

Physicians included Dr. Stanley Stapinski (who served as the Luzerne County Coroner) and Dr. Edward Kielar, West Main Street and Dr. Frank Stegura, corner of East Main and Spring Streets. Usually an appointment wasn't needed, however the wait could be long. If you phoned the doctor, a person would answer! You did not have to listen to a recording telling you to dial 911, or press 1 or press 2. That wouldn't have worked back then anyway because all phones were rotary dial phones. Dentists included Dr. Terkoski, located above Sokolnicki's Drug Store, Dr. Kutz, above the liquor store, Dr. Williams on the corner of East Main and Spring Street, and Dr. Dykins on East Main. We kids hated going to the dentist! The sound of the drill and the sight of that huge needle were terrifying. For some of us that fear remains! Dr. Ottaviani, Chiropractor, was located on Railroad Street. Dr. Ottaviani installed a basketball hoop across the street from his office for all the kids to use.

There were three lawyers in town including the Honorable Paul R. Selecky, who became Judge of the Luzerne County Orphan's Court; Michael Donahue on East Main next to Stapinski Pharmacy; and Dan Ormanowski, next to Fischer's on West Main. Insurance agents worked out of their homes or in some cases had offices. Peter Sedor's home and office was located on West Main and Ed Strzalka had an office in the same building as the Vets. George Kovalich had an office in his home on Orchard Street and later moved to Hill Street. Bolish Schraeder's office was also on Orchard Street. Income tax preparation support was provided by Louis "Squire" Kutz. He also served as a Justice of the Peace and notary public.

#### Shoe Repair

There were three shoemaker shops, Joseph Kotecki and Zeno Minuti on West Main and Ziggy Kuchinski on East Main. It was common back then to have shoes repaired, soles and heels replaced, or torn seams sewn. The shops had a pleasant smell of shoe polish and leather. It was cool for us kids to have cleats attached to the heels because they made a unique tapping sound as we walked down the street. Mrs. Minuti, Zeno's wife, was a very pleasant lady who always said hello to us kids. She maintained a beautiful garden behind the shop with vegetables, flowers and a well manicured lawn.

#### Skilled Tradesmen

Glen Lyon was fortunate to have many skilled tradesmen. Some of these tradesmen worked full time jobs in the mines. Typical trades included plumbers, carpenters, electricians, painters, metal workers, and TV installation and repair. A few that come to mind include Dave Gregory, painter, paperhanger and general contractor. Dave worked on approximately half the houses in Glen Lyon over a more than 40 year career. Other painters that come to mind are Joe Tillitski and Johnny Russin. "Questo" Kishel and Ojewicz Brothers were well known plumbers. Carpenters included Ed Mierzwa, Bert Gregory, Tony Boyanowski, Matt Sezniack and Edmund Shemanski. Ted Wojciechowski and Stanley Niemiec did TV and radio repair. Carl Merolli was an expert stone mason who built many walls in town including the stone walls surrounding St. Adalbert's Church. Nick Conrad manufactured and installed much of the wrought iron railings in town. Many of these tradesmen were returning World War II veterans who learned their trade through the G.I. Bill. There were many more and for those not mentioned we sincerely apologize.

#### Conclusion

As the adage goes, all good things must come to an end. Susquehanna Colliery in Glen Lyon closed in July 1958, when miners were told not to return to work after the miners' vacation ended. This signaled the end for the many businesses that depended on the

miners. Then the coup de grace came suddenly on January 22, 1959 with the Knox Mine Disaster in Jenkins Township near Pittston. The Knox Mine Disaster occurred when workers were ordered to dig illegally under the Susquehanna River without proper safety precautions, creating a hole in the riverbed. This caused the river to flood into the many interconnected mine galleries in the Wyoming Valley. This disaster is referred to as the event which ended deep coal mining in the northern anthracite fields of Pennsylvania. The Glen Lyon breaker stayed open for several more years processing coal from the strip mines. Many of the miners and their families had to move away to find work. Some went to Camden, New Jersey to work at Campbell's Soup, some to northern New Jersey to work at General Motors, some to Detroit to work in the auto industry, and some to Levittown, PA to work at the Fairless Hills U.S. Steel Plant. For many years, The Times Leader newspaper could be purchased in Levittown stores and many bars served Stegmaier beer, giving evidence to the large number of miners and their families who migrated to Levittown. Many of the miners were hired immediately because of their reputation as hard workers. Some stayed and found work locally at the Dallas State Correctional Institution or at Tobyhanna Signal Depot or in the factories in Mountain Top.



Pictured Above: Ziggy the Shoemaker in his shop on East Main Street, 1980. Below: Gregory's Café on Orchard Street, 1938.



Those of us who grew up in Glen Lyon during the late 40s and 50s have wonderful memories that we cherish today. We enjoy discussing our experiences among ourselves, making the stories even better with each discussion, and relating the stories of our youth in small town America to our children, grandchildren, and younger friends.

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2012 issue; "Newport High School in the Late 50's: It was like "Happy Days!" (Part II)," by John Selecky, Fall 2012 issue; "Nicknames Unique", by John Kashatus, Winter 2019 issue. *History of Nanticoke City and Newport Township*, C. Charles Ciesla and the Nanticoke Historical Society. *A General History of Glen Lyon*, by Anthony "Tony" Doren, <http://www.pagenweb.org/~luzerne/patk/GlenLyonHistory.htm>.



# GLEN LYON BUSINESSES



Benick's Coal Delivery and Gas Station on West Main Street, 1 to r: Walter Jr. (Buddy), Jonathan, and Walter Benick Sr. 1983



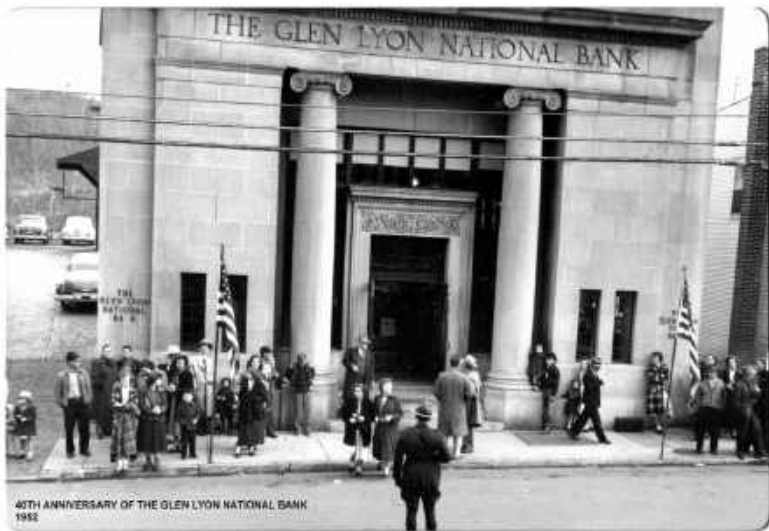
Annie Roman, Proprietress of The Sugar Bowl



Helmecki's Grocery Store on Arch Street, 1922



M & B's on West Main Street, 1959



The Glen Lyon National Bank on East Main Street, 1952



Joe and Mary Gavarecki ( MarJo Photography) in front of their studio on East Main Street, 1967





Pictured with Newport Township Fire Police Chief Len Paczkowski (right) are current Hanover Township Fire Chief Joe Temarantz (left) and former Hanover Township Fire Police Chief Ed Bliss. Newport Township, Nanticoke City, and Hanover Township Fire Police Departments recently have contracted to furnish mutual aid. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Ed Bliss.

## Newport Township Fire Police: The Beginning

*By Len Paczkowski and edited by Ron Jones* ~ In September of 2020, I celebrated fifty years of volunteer service in EMS, the Fire Department, and EMA. By the time I retired from my primary employment in 2012, the years of service were forty-two and I had seen a lot of change in the field but I never looked back. However, I did realize that I was no longer capable of performing the physical demands of these volunteer services. At the same time, I knew I could not walk away and my cousin Chet Prymowicz, who was the ladder truck driver and Assistant Chief for Nanticoke City Fire Department, would not let me.

So, I explored a few avenues such as part time fire apparatus operator which is part of my resume, driving for a medic unit, teaching first aid, etc. Luckily, I heard that Luzerne County Community College was conducting a Fire Police weekend and I decided to go on my own to see if (1) it was something I might enjoy, (2) it would be of benefit to the fire department, and (3) it might be the niche that would extend my volunteer service.

A few hours into the two-day class, I was hooked. I was anxious to talk with both Newport Township fire companies; and with their support, I partnered with former Fire Chief Jim Hoffman Sr. who was a huge supporter of fire police and very desirous of having a fire police unit in Newport Township. Jim worked very hard to bring the unit to fruition. The Board of Commissioners did their due diligence and crossed every "T" and dotted every "I" while Jim and I responded to numerous inquiries and attended meetings, work sessions, etc. We were off and running when former solicitor Rich Shiptoski, who was also a great asset in our formation, was authorized to post a legal notice establishing a fire police unit in Newport Township. Indeed, that was just the beginning.

After my swearing in as the first fire police officer in Newport Township, I was named captain by the Board of Commissioners. I immediately identified the need for more information and resources. Knowing that Kingston had a viable unit, I contacted my long-time friend Fire Captain Ralph Seltzer. Ralph gave me pointers and sage advice. He also put me in touch with Fire Police Captain Bill Williams who was exceptionally knowledgeable and willing to share any and all information based on fire police regulations and his extensive experience. Bill never hesitated to take a call from me and our fraternal relationship continues.

Recruiting had been well underway and a class was organized and conducted at the Wanamie Fire Station to train our first group of fire police officers. Among the current officers who were part of that

first class were Janine Floryshak; Ron Jones, who was subsequently promoted to lieutenant; Mike Makavensky; Bob Shemanski; Joe Wilkes; and Ron Womelsdorf, who now holds the position of sergeant. Later, Larry Ace, Jeff Mierzwa, Dave Namowicz, and Roy Tinney expressed their interest and have since joined our ranks as Newport Township Fire Police officers.

All this information plus my own training, reading, research, etc. needed to be applied and put to use at our incidents. Police Chief Jeremy Blank was very familiar with fire police requirements and training and guided us every step of the way. Chief Blank has a way of not giving commands but discussing, suggesting, guiding, teaching by example and mentoring. We continue an outstanding relationship with Chief Blank, Sgt. Thomas Nalbome, and all the Newport Township Police officers.

As we became established, we were tasked with creating mutual aid with Nanticoke City and Hanover Township. Nanticoke once had a fire police unit but no one was active at the time. Nanticoke Fire Chief Kevin Hazleton worked to see the agreement enforced. Hanover Township had an active unit and Fire Chief Joe Temarantz also believed in fire police and sanctioned a mutual aid agreement.

In the Summer NTCO Newsletter, we wrote about our relationship with Nanticoke City Fire Department and Fire Police and Captain Fred Kraft. Our units continue to function as one at a level of cooperation far over and above mutual aid expectations. We employ simultaneous dispatch and on scene command in order to achieve operational effectiveness. Working as one team, we discuss pre-plan actions, organize community events and conduct after-action reviews. We believe these efforts have enhanced communication and situational awareness in both communities.

Hanover Township Fire Police Captain Ed Bliss quickly became a valued source of information, equipment and guidance. Ed demonstrated a willingness to participate in mutual calls as well as in planning and support functions. A friendship developed not only personally but with our unit as a whole. Ed was invited to attend a number of our meetings where he discussed his experiences that one can only obtain from years of service. Recently, Ed stepped down from captain to lieutenant; and on behalf of the Newport Township Fire Police, I presented Lieutenant Bliss with a certificate of appreciation. A picture of the presentation is shown above. Stephen Moore now serves as Hanover Township Fire Police Captain.

We hope to continue including articles in future editions of the Newsletter and we thank the NTCO for all they do.

The Newport Township Fire Police also sincerely thanks the citizens of Newport Township and our mutual aid communities for all their support and cooperation.

## Nanticoke/Newport Class of 1970 Reunion

*By JoAnne Kanjorski Thomas* ~ Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the planning committee decided not to cancel, but to postpone the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1970 to October 9, 2021. This was necessary to assure the safety and health concerns of all classmates. The venue has also changed to Apple Tree Terrace, 4 Newberry Estates, Dallas, PA 18612, with DJ Rockin' Rich providing music.

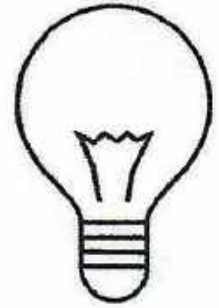
A Mass of Remembrance honoring deceased classmates will still be held on Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 11:00 am at St. Faustina Church on Hanover Street in Nanticoke.

The 50-50 raffle tickets that were purchased will be placed in next year's Reunion drawing. Those interested in purchasing tickets for next year's raffle should forward remittance and ticket stubs to JoAnne Thomas, 1028 East Main Avenue, Wanamie, PA 18634-4012.

Additional information regarding the Class Reunion will be forthcoming. Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing everyone on October 9, 2021.

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## Wanamie Lokie Returns to Northeastern Pennsylvania



At left: The Wanamie Lokie being placed on tracks at the Anthracite Miners' Memorial Park in Ashley. (Photo source unknown)

By John Jarecki ~ On June 25 the steam engine known as Wanamie 9, or the Wanamie Lokie, which was brought back to Northeastern Pennsylvania through the efforts of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, was placed on tracks at the Anthracite Miners' Memorial Park in Ashley. Two heavy duty rescue rigs from Falzone Towing lifted the 40,000 pound Lokie from a flatbed truck, also from Falzone, and placed it on the tracks.

The project was funded by a State gaming grant of \$21,000 from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and an additional \$5,000 from Ashley residents who own the Lark Mountain Consignment Shop in Wilkes-Barre Township. State Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski aided in securing state funding for the project. He also assisted in making arrangements in transporting the Lokie on the flatbed truck to the Memorial Park. State Senator John Yudichak and local legislators have supported development of the Park.

The Preservation Society purchased the Lokie from Vierson Boiler Works in Grand Rapids, Michigan for \$17,000. Restoration will be done by volunteers who have worked on steam engines at Steamtown and on the restoration of a Central Railroad of New Jersey steam locomotive (the CNJ 133) at Minersville, Pennsylvania. Matt Stegura, a history major at King's College and Lokie committee member, has been locating missing pieces of the Lokie, including its steam whistle, a steam gauge and a water sight.

The Lokie was built in 1915 by the Vulcan Iron Works in Wilkes-Barre. It was rebuilt in 1948 by Vulcan at its facility in West Pittston, and ran at Wanamie from September 1948 to early 1969. Before coming to Wanamie, it hauled coal at the Loomis Colliery in Hanover Township. It ran on narrow gauge tracks, three feet in width compared to standard railroad tracks of width four feet eight and a half inches. When its water tank is full, it weighs 27 tons. There is no tender carrying coal for steam production. Instead it ran using large chunks of anthracite left in piles along the tracks. "Lokie" is a colloquial term for "small locomotive."

Photos of the event can be found on the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's Facebook page.



Pictured above is Wanamie Lokie 4 taken by Albert Kislavage.

## Lions Golf Tournament Results

By Tom Kashatus ~Tournament Director, John Zyla, of the Newport Township Lions Club announced the winners of their 42nd Annual Golf Tournament which was held August 16th at Rolling Pines Golf Course, Berwick: Championship Flight, Pete Morren and Steve Tredinnick; 1st Flight, Donna Kravabloski and Steve Chmil; 2nd Flight, Ray Distasio and Dan Distasio; 3rd Flight, Tom Selecky and Gary Grodzicki; 4th Flight, John Molecavage and Jason Woods. It was a beautiful day for golf as 110 golfers participated in the tournament.

## Joseph Nealon Jr., 1962 - 2020



By Paul Mierzwa ~ Joseph Nealon was a fantastic fire fighter, outstanding EMT, incredible humanitarian and amazing friend who always gave selflessly of himself. Joe belonged to many organizations: Glen Lyon/Alden Volunteer Hose Company; Hanover Township Fire and Water Rescue; AmVets Post 59; Six County Fire Fighters Association; Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association; the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church Men's Club; the Ashley Fire Department; the Breslau Hose

Company 5, as well as volunteering his time for countless more. Joe was employed by Hanover Township Medic 9, Charnetski Transportation, and also worked as a bus driver for Hanover Township schools and the YMCA. He loved driving the children to school, athletic events, and camps. Joe started his career in Newport Township as an EMT for the Newport Township Firemen's Community Ambulance. Within a short time, he began his Fire Fighter Career here and served as Chaplain and Quartermaster of his Hose Company. He also worked as a part-time Fire Truck Apparatus Operator – where he was serving when the final call bell rang.

Joseph was born on March 20, 1962, and was the son of the late Joseph M. Sr. and Judith (Wilkie) Nealon. Surviving are his companion of over 20 years, Karen Tarnalicki; stepdaughter, Nicole Hanlon; sisters, Michelle Nealon; Joyce Skupski; and Justine Shields; and brothers, Jeffrey Nealon and James Nealon. Joe has been recognized and nominated to be placed on the wall of honor by the National Fallen Fire Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. His family has received countless cards and letters from all over North America as well as recognition from the White House. Joe's lengthy funeral procession showed the respect and love of the many people whom he touched in his far too short life. Even during the pandemic of COVID 19, hundreds attended the funeral, including The State Fire Commissioner, State Deputy Fire Commissioner, both Newport and Hanover Township Commissioners and state legislators, as well as countless fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, and friends. In a light rain, Joe made his final trip from the funeral home to his final resting place at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township on Hanover's water rescue truck, with an honor guard from Newport and Hanover Township Fire Departments walking on each side. The procession of emergency vehicles on East Saint Mary's Road stretched farther than the eye could see.

Joe's final resting place in St Mary's Cemetery may be where he spends eternity; but his spirit and life lives on in the hearts of the countless children, family, and friends that Joe has so deeply touched.



Pictured above: At the cemetery the Hanover Township Ladder Truck and Newport Township Fire Rescue Truck were present for the procession.



## Remembrance of Summer Past Part II



Left: Hollow Joe Pye Weed blooms near Three-Legged outside of Glen Lyon. Joe Pye attracts butterflies and deer. Above: A dove hopes to feast on corn and seeds in a Glen Lyon backyard.



Left: Can't you just taste those home-grown tomatoes? Above: A hummingbird feeds at a feeder on Vandermark Road in Wanamie. Below: A young fox visits yards in Wanamie. He made himself at home and didn't appear intimidated by human presence.





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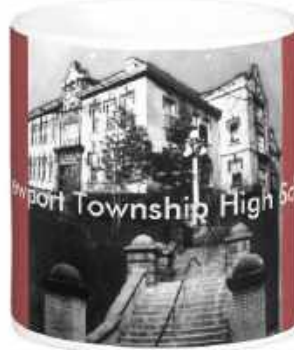


## Monthly Food Distribution Moved to Recreation Park

The Newport Township Community Organization, the Weinberg Regional Food Bank and the Newport Township American Legion have been working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the food distribution at the American Legion is temporarily suspended. When it is safe for large numbers of people to gather in small spaces, the Food Distribution will resume at the American Legion, 62 Newport Street, Glen Lyon.

With the cooperation of the Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager Joe Hillan, outdoor distributions have taken place at the Wanamie Recreation Park and will continue throughout the fall, weather permitting. Recipients must pre-register.

The NTCO apologizes for any inconvenience. Palmira Miller chairs this event for the NTCO. She can be reached at 570-592-7876.



## 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.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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### NTCO MEETINGS

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

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If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at [tomkash@verizon.net](mailto: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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**Be Proud of Newport and Make Newport Proud of You!**

~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky