



Every summer, like the roses, childhood returns. ~ Marty Rubin



**A Hummingbird Approaches a Feeder in Glen Lyon**

## 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 April, May, and June of 2021.

**Highlights:** April, Jason Kowalski appointed Fire Chief; Northpoint warehouse variance approved; May, Police Interceptor purchased; June, Police K-9 Unit established; County Planning Commission approval of Dollar General Store; Emergency house demolition; Blight Remediation grant; SCI Retreat closure grant; Covid-19 Recovery grant.

**April 5, 2021:** Residents commented on the monthly food distribution sponsored by the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) and the NTCO at the Wanamie Recreation Park and about the Pick Up Pennsylvania volunteer clean up program.

The Commissioners voted to accept the resignation of Mark Boncal as Fire Chief of Newport Township effective April 2, 2021, and to appoint Jason Kowalski as Fire Chief and James H. Hoffman as Deputy Fire Chief, both effective as of April 3, 2021.

Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that the Township is in good financial condition, and has collected 54% of the real estate taxes payable in 2021.

Twp. Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

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Expands, 1970 Class Reunion, p.8; Flora & Fauna, p.9; Obituaries, p.10-11; Thomas Roman, p.12-13; Primary Election, p. 13; Glen Lyon Go-Getters, p.14-17;

Playground Games, Demolitions, p.17, Ad, p.18; Population of Newport Township, p.19; Ad, p.20; Spring in the Township, p.21; Ads, p.22-23; NTCO, p.24.

1) The Township has sold 1,600 refuse stickers, compared to 1,534 at this time last year.

2) The TextMyGov program is up and running. The Township is now informing residents about how they can use it to receive Township notifications by text message on their mobile phones. Details are available on the Township website at [Newporttownship.org](http://Newporttownship.org).

3) Glen Lyon Sidewalk Project update: PennDot has required that, on this project, the Township have a minimum street curb height and that it obtain permits for all side streets that connect with Main Street. Township Engineer PennEastern is in discussions with PennDot about meeting these requirements.

4) Northpoint warehouse construction update: The Township has sent a letter of support to the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board which will conduct a hearing on April 6 concerning zoning variances that Northpoint Construction is requesting for its project of building a warehouse off Middle Road in Newport Township. (Luzerne County Zoning approved the variances.)

5) In March the State conducted an audit of the Township's use of State Liquid Fuels grant money, and found that all was in order.

6) A letter was sent on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and residents of Newport Township, to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission opposing the proposed 13% rate increase requested by UGI.

(Continued on next page)

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**Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!**

7) The Township received thank you notes from the Wilkes and Tilletski Families for honoring their mothers, who recently celebrated birthdays. Mrs. Helen Wilkes celebrated her 105th birthday, and Mrs. Josephine Tilletski, her 104th.

8) Demolition update for 116-118 West Main Street in Glen Lyon: The Township is still waiting for approval by the County of the purchase at the Luzerne County Repository Sale of the property at 116 West Main Street. The Township is also still trying to contact the owner of the property at 118 West Main Street.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #3 of 2021, which named 3 roadways in Glen Lyon as part of the Glen Lyon Sidewalk Project. They also approved a deed of dedication for 3 new streets in the Whitney Pointe Development. The deed specifies that these streets are to be set aside for public residential use.

**May 3, 2021:** Residents' comments included complaints about possible Quality Of Life ordinance violations on Walnut Street in Alden and comments on the monthly free food distribution sponsored by the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) at the Wanamie Recreation Park.

The Commissioners recognized a number of residents for their work in the community. They honored Joshua Bukofski, David Hoffman, and Nicolas Kowalski for their heroic efforts at the fire on North Market Street in Glen Lyon on March 18 in which one family member died. They honored the following residents for their service to the community: John Elmy, Murph Fletcher, Richard Stewart, Irene Bezdziecki, Doris Davies, Thomas Kashatus, Palmira Miller, Patricia Yudichak, and the Newport Township Lions Club.

Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first four months of 2021 the Township's income was \$803,947.69 and expenditures were \$403,754.65.

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

- 1) The Township sold 1,642 refuse stickers as of April 30, compared to 1,595 at this time last year.
- 2) Glen Lyon Sidewalk Project update: The Township is still in discussion with PennDot about their curb height and parking requirements for the project.
- 3) The Dollar General Store Construction Project is still moving forward. The construction company that will do the work has a hearing with the Luzerne County Planning Commission scheduled for May 13.
- 4) The residential construction project at the site of the former K.M. Smith Elementary School in Alden is underway with the construction of one, two, and three bedroom condos.
- 5) There are plans to construct 16 or more homes in the Ridgeview Section of the Township. The project currently needs the approval, by the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), of its plans for handling sewage and storm water.
- 6) Demolition update for the property at 116-118 West Main Street in Glen Lyon. The Township is still waiting for the approval by the County of the purchase at the Luzerne County Repository Sale of the property at 116 West Main Street. The Township is also trying to contact the owner of the property at 118 West Main Street.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #4 of 2021 by which the Township agrees to a 5 year lease-to-purchase agreement, with the company Red Lease LLC, concerning a 2021 Police Interceptor Ford Explorer equipped with computer hardware, software, and camera at a price based on COSTARS pricing. (COSTARS is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's cooperative purchasing program. Through this program, local governments can save money by making purchases at a lower cost.)

The Commissioners approved a Water Line Lateral Easement Agreement between Newport Township and the company constructing the Dollar General Store on West Kirmar Avenue. This agreement gives the construction company the legal right to run its water lines under the Wanamie Recreation Park.

The Commissioners approved a motion to replace Paul Mierzwa with Fire Chief Jason Kowalski in the position of Chief Engineer of the Newport Township Fire Department.

The Commissioners approved a motion to accept the resignation from the Newport Township Police Department of Angel Brazdzionis effective May 12.

**June 7, 2021:** The Commissioners voted, on the recommendation of the Newport Township Civil Service Commission, to hire David Hoffman as a full time fire apparatus operator with the Newport Township Fire Department.

The Commissioners voted to establish the Newport Township Police K-9 Unit and to appoint Police Officer William Dubiak as K-9 Handler. Officer Dubiak will be working with Axel, a police dog that he purchased from the Czech Republic. Axel is trained to detect firearms, gunpowder, and explosives, and to assist in criminal apprehension and search and rescue activities. The K-9 Unit will work with both the Newport and Nanticoke Police Departments.

The Commissioners voted to disband the Newport Township Recreation Board due to lack of interest and participation.

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

- 1) The Township has sold 1,681 refuse stickers out of a possible 1,694, and has filed citations at the Magistrate's Office for the 13 residents who did not pay their refuse and recycling fee. The Township has reached what appears to be an all-time high of 99% collection rate for this fee.
- 2) Glen Lyon Sidewalk Project update: PennDot has requested that Newport Township apply for a highway occupancy permit obligation bond for the construction in the amount of \$311,184.64. This bond insures that work on the project is done according to specifications. Once this bond is secured, the Township will submit paperwork to PennDot for its final approval of the project.
- 3) On May 13 the Luzerne County Planning Commission gave conditional approval to the construction of the Dollar General Store on West Kirmar Avenue. It is expected that construction will begin in the next few months.
- 4) The Kirtland M. Smith apartment project is continuing with the construction of one, two, and three bedroom condos. Three new homes are under construction in the Whitney Development in Ridgeview. Construction can begin on 16 more homes when plans for a waste elimination system are approved by the State Department of Environmental Protection..
- 5) Demolition Update of 116-118 West Main Street in Glen Lyon: On Saturday May 15, the building at 118 West Main Street began to collapse. After the Township Police, the Department of Public Works, and the Fire Department secured the area, the Township engineer determined that the structure was an imminent danger to the general public. The Township asked for emergency bids on demolishing the structure, and on May 25 it was demolished by excavating contractor Smart Recycling Inc of Dunmore.
- 6) On May 25 State Senator John Yudichak and State Representative Gerald Mullery announced that the Township had been awarded a State Blight Remediation Grant in the amount of \$298,870. The Township's Blight Remediation team has put a great deal of time and effort into this project. Funding should be available in the next several months.
- 7) The Township will receive \$536,653.66 from a State Facilities Closure Transition Grant because of the closing of the State Correctional Institution at Retreat. The funds will be used to pave Main Street in Wanamie and Northern Avenue in Sheatown. The Township will ask for bids for this work in July.
- 8) A letter was sent on behalf of Newport Township to State Senator John Yudichak and State Representative Gerald Mullery expressing opposition to Pennsylvania Senate Bill 597. This Bill would place community water and sewage systems under the control of the State Public Utilities Commission, and would mandate that municipalities implement an asset management plan. This mandate would be a great financial burden to local governments.
- 9) The Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA) will be installing a bus shelter at the corner of Depot and West Main Streets in Glen Lyon. It is expected that the work will be done by the end of July.
- 10) Newport Township will receive \$599,247.60 as a Covid-19 Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Grant which is authorized by the Federal Government's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Township will receive half of the money in June 2021 and the other half next year. These funds can be used for a variety of projects as specified by the United States Treasury, and must be used by July 2024.



## NTCO President's Report

*By Stephen E. Phillips ~* As a long time proponent of encouraging citizen involvement in their respective communities, the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) applauds the Township Commissioners for recognizing a number of Township residents for their commitment and dedicated service to various municipal entities during the May meeting of the chief elected officials. Special recognition is due to all the award recipients, and it is hoped that this will encourage other Township residents to perform civic duties with the community's numerous organizations. The Township Commissioners are strongly considering designating May as the month during which deserving local citizens will be acknowledged for their civic endeavors. Hopefully, this will in fact become an annual event.

In the Spring edition of this Newsletter, a request was made regarding soliciting contributions to aid in funding the NTCO's philanthropic efforts and publishing this paper. Several former and current Township residents have responded. Among the initial respondents are: James and JoAnne Thomas, Francis and Mary Lou Zaleski, John and Chris Selecky, Juliana Selecky Semple, Mary Selecky, Tom and Antoinette Kaylen, Ted and Marilyn Evan, Illaria Steele, Margaret Forgach, Theresa Berti, and Daniel Floryshak. We thank all contributors for their donations which are deeply appreciated.

This writer would also like to acknowledge the assistance of his long-time friend and schoolmate Leonard "Murph" Sklaney to our Newsletter co-editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki when they experienced a computer malfunction. Without Murph's knowledge and aid, it would have been very difficult to have published the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

The NTCO has been an active participant with Newport United since the latter group's formation. Newport United provides an opportunity for the various local groups to work in unison to initiate and implement major projects. Newport United's most recent effort is directed toward implementing the Hometown Heroes program within Newport Township. Under the program's parameters, photo banners honoring Township natives or residents who have served in the military will be placed on electric power poles throughout the community. The first order of banners may be hung by July 4. Over the years Newport Township has had a substantial number of its sons and daughters serve in the United States military, and this is an appropriate way to honor their service.

The monthly food distribution sponsored by the Community Organization continues on the second Saturday of every month at the Township's Recreation Park. The Township government and its staff are important contributors to the program's continued success. The beneficiaries of this program have expressed their appreciation to all who continue to donate their time and expertise to insure that the needs of the less fortunate are met.

Accolades are due to State Senator John Yudichak and State Representative Gerald Mullery for their successful efforts to obtain nearly \$300,000 oriented toward a program of blight remediation within the Township. The Township's Blight Remediation Project is designed to remove 18 blighted properties that are either currently on the Luzerne County Repository List or have owners who are willing to cooperate with the removal process with the understanding they will retain ownership once the blight is removed. It is expected that the funding will be used for demolition, engineering, legal and administrative costs.

It should be noted that several economic development-related projects are in the offing for Newport Township. North Point Bliss I LLC is proceeding with its plans to develop an approximately 83 acre site in the Township's Alden section. It is expected that a 1,300,000 square foot structure will be constructed on the parcel. A Dollar General facility is expected to be constructed adjacent to the Kirmar Parkway west of the Municipal Building and Garage. The former K.M. Smith Elementary School is being converted to residential housing and the adjacent open acreage will also be utilized for housing purposes. Upscale residential housing is projected to be constructed in Whitney Pointe which is proximate to the Township's Ridgeview section. It is anticipated that successful implementation of these proposed projects will substantially add to the Township's tax base and increase the existing population. All of which can have a positive effect on the Municipality's future.

## Newport United Sponsors Banner Project

*By Heidi Jarecki ~* Newport United, a consortium of Township organizations, is sponsoring a Hometown Hero banner project. Residents have the opportunity to purchase a banner to honor a living or deceased veteran of the armed forces and active military. The banners measure 30" wide and 60" tall. They are a 2-sided printed banner with the picture of the person to be so honored, with the branch of service and when they served. At the time of newsletter publication, there were more than 75 orders. The deadline for submission of this year's order was June 11. Banners are \$175.00 each. They will be displayed for a two year period. Depending on the interest, a second order may be placed and hung by Veteran's Day. Applications can be found at the Newport Township Municipal Building. Checks are payable to Newport United and can be given to Joe Hillan, Township Manager.

## Newport Township Police Department Starts K-9 Unit

*By Heidi Jarecki ~* Meet Axel, the newest member of the Newport Township Police Department. He is shown at left with his handler, Officer William Dubiak. Axel is a German Shephard who was born in the Czech Republic. Officer Dubiak describes him as "86 pounds of muscle. His pedigree, his family tree is pretty good. He has six police dogs in his family."

After getting discharged from the Marine Corps, Officer Dubiak used his VA benefits to get Axel trained for free in New Jersey. Axel is certified to detect firearms, gunpowder, and explosives. He has also been trained in criminal apprehension and search and rescue.

Axel made his first public appearance at the June Commissioners' meeting at which time the Board of Commissioners officially approved an agreement to utilize Axel as a police dog. Those in attendance fell immediately in love with him. He has a gentle demeanor, but don't let that fool you. He has prior experience in Susquehanna County with the Hop Bottom Police Department and



has also served Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. He will also serve Nanticoke City upon request.

With the help of donations, one of the Township police cruisers was outfitted with a special crate to house Axel while he's on patrol.


As far as anybody can remember, Axel is the first K-9 officer in the history of Newport Township. Welcome to the Force!

## Like Our Newsletter?

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## SPRING IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP



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## Mullery Secures \$298,870 to Fight Blight

Official Press Release May, 25, 2021

State Rep. Gerald Mullery, D-Luzerne, today announced a state grant totaling \$298,870 was awarded to Newport Township for the ongoing effort to fight blighted properties.

"Removing blighted properties is a win-win for our communities," Mullery said. "It not only makes neighborhoods beautiful for residents to enjoy, but also makes these communities more attractive to tourists and visitors. I am pleased to see this project get the funding it needs, so these unsafe eyesores can be demolished."

"Prior to the pandemic starting, Newport Township was working hard with Representative Mullery's office to make blight a priority. We were worried that the pandemic was going to hinder our progress until today. These funds will go a long way to combat blight in Glen Lyon and throughout Newport Township," said Joe Hillan, Newport Township Manager.

The funding comes from the Blight Remediation program and will be used to remove 18 blighted properties that are either currently on the Luzerne County Repository list or with owners who are willing to cooperate with the removal process with the understanding they will retain ownership. The funding will be used for demolition, engineering, legal and administrative costs.

The Blight Remediation program was created under the Commonwealth Financing Authority in 2019. It is a reimbursable grant program that awards grants up to \$25,000 for planning projects to develop blight plans and grants up to \$300,000 for remediation projects to demolish and clear blighted properties, acquire properties to demolish or rehabilitate them, rehabilitation or reconstruction of blight properties and administrative costs.



At the May meeting the Township Commissioners recognized the following citizens for their volunteer work: Kneeling: Firefighters Dave Hoffman, Nick Kowalski, and Josh Bukofski. Standing: Dr. Donald Reese, President, Newport Twp. Lions Club; Richard Stewart, Maintenance of Alden Cemetery; Debbie Zaleski, Newport Twp. Code Enforcement Commissioner; "Murph" Fletcher, NTCO Recreation; Tom Kashatus, NTCO Recycling; John Elmy, Assistance with Newport Twp. Administration; Patricia Yudichak, Volunteer with Charitable Organizations; Irene Bezdziecki, Highway Clean-ups; Michael Roke, Newport Twp. Fire Commissioner; Doris Davies, Community Clean-ups; Joseph Hillan, Newport Twp. Manager; and Palmira Miller, NTCO Food Distribution.




## Newport Township Lions Club Donates to Township Organizations

Pictured sitting: Jeremy Blank, Newport Twp Police Chief; Ronald Womelsdorf, Newport Twp Consolidated Hose Co.; Jason Poremba, Glen Lyon-Alden Hose Co.; Len Paczkowski, Newport Twp. Fire Police; Ron Jones, Newport Twp. Fire Police. Standing: Don Reese, President Newport Twp Lions Club; Jordan Sager, Newport Twp. DPW; Joe Hillan, Newport Twp Manager; John Vishnefski, Newport Twp Recreation Commissioner; John Zyla, Lions Club Golf Tournament Chairman & Police Commissioner.

The Newport Township Lions Club on behalf of all the organizations that belong to Newport United has given a generous financial donation to Newport Township to purchase equipment. The following recipients are grateful for the donations: Police, DPW and Recreation Departments. They have also donated to the Newport Consolidated Fire and the Glen Lyon-Alden Hose Companies and the Newport Township Fire Police. The Lions Club was able to make these generous donations because they were one of the fortunate clubs that was able to hold a fund raising project (Golf Tournament) during the current COVID-19 Pandemic. Pictured above are the recipients of the Lions Club donations. On the table is a power saw that was purchased for the Department of Public Works.

## Reminder to Keep Properties Clear

Summertime has arrived in Newport Township. Residents are reminded about some of the Sections of Ordinance No. 3 of 2018 (Quality of Life). High grass and weeds, placement of indoor furniture outside of the home, placement of refuse and recycling containers on the front porch or visible from any public right of way are just a few of the violations residents should be aware of. The full ordinance is available on our website [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org). The main purpose of the ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents by helping to create a clean environment for the citizens of Newport Township.



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## Sound of Cicada

If this tiny cicada can create such a huge noise by its tymbals, what's your excuse not to trust in your abilities? ~ Manu Kalathil



## Taste of the Township



### Eggplant

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) is a plant species in the nightshade family Solanaceae. It is grown worldwide for its edible fruit which is purple, spongy, and absorbent. It is related to the tomato, chili pepper, and potato. Its skin and seeds can be eaten, usually cooked. Eggplant is nutritionally low in macronutrient and micronutrient content, but the capability of the fruit to absorb oils and flavors into its flesh through cooking expands its use in the culinary arts.

There is no consensus about the place of origin of eggplant. The plant species has been described as native to India, where it continues to grow wild. It has been cultivated in southern and eastern Asia since prehistory. The first known written record of the plant is found in an ancient Chinese agricultural treatise completed in 544. Arabs in the early Middle Ages introduced it to Spain in the 8th century and it was grown throughout the Mediterranean area.

The name of eggplant was given it by Europeans in the middle of the eighteenth century because the variety they knew had fruits that were whitish or yellowish in color rather than purple and were the shape and size of goose eggs. They really did look like eggs.

### Eggplant Facts

1. The eggplant is a berry by botanical definition, but is regarded as a vegetable when cooking.
2. Because of the plant's relationship with various other nightshades, the fruit was at one time believed to be extremely poisonous.
3. The plant was cultivated in India and China for more than 1,500 years.
4. Slowly, eggplants were introduced to Europe and Africa. Spaniards then brought the crop to North America.
5. By the early 1800s, white and purple varieties were grown in America.
6. More than 60% of eggplants are produced in China. Other major producers include India, Egypt, Turkey, and Iran.
7. Eggplants are also commonly known as aubergines. The word "aubergine" comes from the ancient language of Sanskrit.
8. Eggplant has more nicotine than any other edible plant, but the amount is very low and can't do any harm.
9. Eggplants can have many colors such as white, green, purple, and purple with white stripes.
10. Eggplants contain 95% water. 50% of the volume is air.
11. Eggplants are known as "King of the Vegetables" in India.

References: Wikipedia, <http://blog.aghires.com>, and [www.worldwidewords.org](http://www.worldwidewords.org)

## Moussaka Montaren

*This recipe is from the South of France and adapted by Chris Selecky*

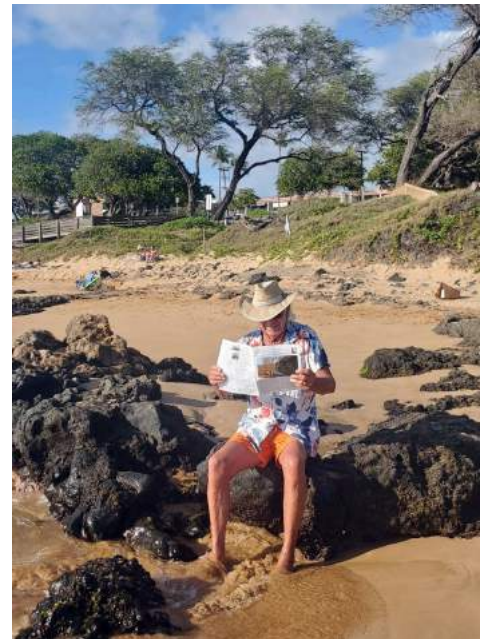
4 lb eggplant	Béchamel
1 lb ground lamb	2 c milk
2 lb tomatoes	3 tbs flour
1/2 large onion	4 tbs butter
1 tsp cinnamon	pinch nutmeg, salt and pepper
1 tbs fresh thyme	
1 tsp honey	
Grated parmesan, olive oil, salt and pepper	

1. Chop eggplant (peel or partially peel if desired), toss with a good amount of salt, and allow to drain for at least an hour, up to five hours.\* Dry the eggplant well and set aside. Peel and chop tomatoes.
  2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Chop the onion and saute in olive oil until glassy. Add tomatoes, cinnamon, honey, salt, pepper, and thyme to the pan. Simmer on low heat for 30 minutes. Brown the lamb in a separate pan, drain, and add tomato and onion mixture, checking and adding salt and pepper if needed.
  3. Prepare béchamel sauce (melt butter, stir in flour to make a roux, add milk and stir until creamy.) Add nutmeg, salt and pepper.
  4. In an au gratin pan, place one layer of eggplant, and follow with one layer of the meat mixture, then a thin layer of parmesan, and a layer of béchamel. Repeat layers ending with béchamel. Bake 1 hour.
- \* It is very important that the eggplant has been allowed to drain enough to be dry or the dish will be watery. When draining the eggplant, place something heavy on top of it. An option is to put a layer of thinly sliced potatoes on the bottom to soak up the liquid if the eggplant isn't dry. This would make a heartier dish. Serves 8-10 people.

For 2-4 servings, divide ingredients by 4 and let it spend a bit less time in the oven.

### Have Newsletter, Will Travel

With the miracle of the vaccine distribution, the COVID-19 pandemic is slowly diminishing and travel is beginning to resume. The Newsletter made its way to Kamaole Beach in Maui, Hawaii in the hands of John Selecky. John grew up in Glen Lyon and lives with his wife Chris in Laguna Beach, CA. Kamaole Beach is often frequented by sea turtles who lay their eggs in the sand. They are protected by law. The tide is rolling in at John's feet.



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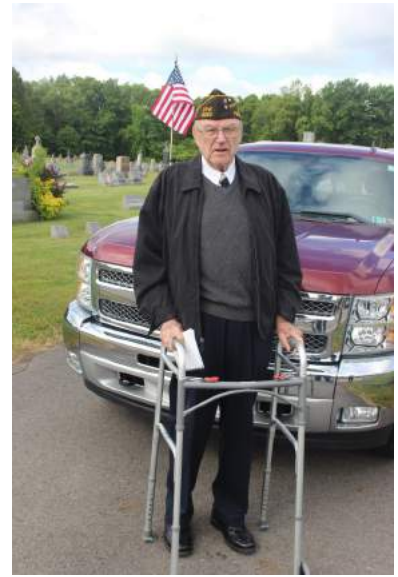
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## MEMORIAL DAY



Left. Memorial Day ceremonies at St Michael's Cemetery and St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Glen Lyon. Middle, the bugler Todd Noss plays Taps at St. Nicholas Cemetery, Glen Lyon. Right, Joe Molski, longtime VFW Chaplain.



Shown above are friends and members of Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 who participated in the ceremonial placing of new flags on the graves of veterans at the Glen Lyon Cemeteries for Memorial Day 2021.

Sitting/kneeling left to right: Janet Molski, Joseph Molski, Joe Figlerski, Austin Blank, Shannon Kovacs, Krissy Blank, Patrick McMullen, and Kyle Pegarella.


Standing Left to right: Joe Hoover, Bernie Mihneski, Joe Goodas, Robert McDaniels, Todd Noss, Mike Figmik, Patrolman William Dubiak, Ed Padagomas, Ron Trzeciak, Max Nelson, Debbie Forgach Zaleski, Police Chief Jeremy Blank, Paul Kovalich, Eileen McMullen, Tim Derr, Baby Dillon Swicklik, Stephanie O'Gorman, and Shawn Swicklik.



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### K-Val Convenience Store Renovates and Expands

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~* This spring, K-Val Convenience Store located at 15 East Main Street in Glen Lyon underwent a complete renovation. In addition to convenience store merchandise, lottery tickets, and a deli, it now features refrigerated cases for a wide variety of soda, beer, and sports drinks. A selection of wines will be available by the end of June. Also included is a game room where patrons can play electronic video games.

Pictured above right is the owner, Mehul (better known as “Mike”) Patel. He purchased the business from Beverly Kanyuck Banks in 2015.

In 1987, Beverly and her husband Joe opened their first convenience store The Variety Stop which was located at 59 East Main Street in Glen Lyon. That same year, it became the first in the Township to offer Pennsylvania Lottery Tickets for sale.

In December 1987, Beverly and Joe won a large prize in the Pennsylvania lottery. They purchased the property at 15 East Main Street, the site of the former Roosevelt Elementary School, which was closed in 1960 and burned down in August 1974. They built a new store on the site in 1996, and installed gasoline pumps.

Beverly decided to retire in 2014. Mike’s sister and her husband own a couple of local convenience stores and alerted Mike to the property which was for sale. Mike, his wife Mohini, son Neil, and daughter Niti then relocated from Princeton, New Jersey and in 2015 became the new proprietors.

The recent renovations greatly expands the size of the store. The beer selection includes domestic and foreign brands. In addition to the store renovations, Mike also upgraded the gasoline pumps to accommodate credit and MAC cards.

### Nanticoke/Newport 1970 Class Reunion

*By JoAnne Kanjorski Thomas ~* After a long and challenging year, let’s all get together on the weekend of October 8-10, 2021 and renew our friendships, acquaintances, and share our experiences in life.

The reunion will take place on Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm at the Apple Tree Terrace, 4 Newberry Estates, Dallas PA 18612. Smart, casual dress is recommended. DJ Rockin’ Rich will provide the music. Reservations are requested to be completed and returned no later than September 8, 2021 to JoAnne Kanjorski Thomas. An icebreaker will be held Friday October 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm at Benny Brewing Co., 1429 San Souci Pkwy., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

On Sunday, October 10, 2021, a Mass will tentatively be held at 10:00 am at St. Faustina Church, 520 South Hanover Street, Nanticoke PA in memory of deceased classmates.

The 50-50 raffle tickets that were already purchased will be included in the drawing at the reunion. Additional tickets for purchase if you choose will be included in your reunion letter that will be sent soon.

If you have any questions, contact: Debbie Maximowicz Malia at 570-814-0745, JoAnne Kanjorski Thomas at 570-814-5271, or Sandy Chesko Iracki at 570-885-8517.





This mourning dove was photographed on a summer afternoon at a bird feeder in a Glen Lyon backyard. Photo by Paul Jarecki

## The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township Mourning Dove

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ The mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) is a member of the dove and pigeon family, Columbidae. The bird is also known as the American mourning dove, the rain dove, turtle dove, and the Carolina pigeon. Mourning doves are light grey and brown and generally muted in color. Males and females are similar in appearance. The species is generally monogamous, with two squabs (young) per brood. Both parents incubate and care for the young. It is one of the most abundant and widespread of all North American birds and is a leading gamebird, with more than 20 million birds (up to 70 million in some years) shot annually in the United States, both for sport and for meat. Its ability to sustain its population under such pressure is due to its prolific breeding. One pair may raise up to six broods of two young in a single year. The wings make an unusual whistling sound upon take-off and landing, a form of sonation. The bird is a strong flier, capable of speeds up to 55 mph.

### Mourning Dove Facts

1. Mourning doves are the national bird of the British Virgin Islands.
2. Mourning doves eat almost exclusively seeds and consume 12 to 20 percent of their body weight per day.
3. Mourning Doves tend to feed busily on the ground, swallowing seeds and storing them in an enlargement of the esophagus called the crop. Once they have filled, they can fly to a safe perch to digest the meal.
4. During the breeding season, you might see three mourning doves flying in tight formation, one after another. This is a form of social display. Typically the bird in the lead is the male of a mated pair. The second bird is an unmated male chasing his rival from the area where he hopes to nest. The third is the female of the mated pair, which seems to go along for the ride.
5. They can drink brackish spring water (up to almost half the salinity of sea water) without becoming dehydrated the way humans would.
6. The oldest known mourning dove was a male, and at least 30 years, 4 months old when he was shot in Florida in 1998. He had been banded in Georgia in 1968.
7. To attract these gorgeous birds to your yard, install an open platform feeder or scatter seeds across the ground. Wild grasses, grains and ragweed are a few of their favorite foods, though they will eat larger seeds, including sunflower seeds, and shelled peanuts.
8. The coooooOOOOO-woo-woo-woo call is almost always uttered by the male mourning dove, not the female. These distinctive mourning dove sounds are wooing calls, an enticement to a mate or potential mate.


9. The birds vocalize quite a lot and that's where they get their name, because of their mournful call.
10. It's fairly common to see two mourning doves cuddling with each other. Mating pairs often mate for life.
11. Mourning doves perch on telephone wires. Their flight is fast and bullet straight.
12. When a dove visits you, the message of love, hope and peace is often conveyed. The mourning dove is also considered a symbol of Holy Spirit, the third person in the Trinity. In Christian religions, the Trinity consists of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

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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.

**ADAMS**, John R., 70, of Glen Lyon, passed away March 11, 2021. John was born August 30, 1950, in Nanticoke and raised in Wanamie. He attended Newport Township and Greater Nanticoke Area schools.

**STAPERT**, Tillie "Tekla" (nee Howanitz), 89, formerly a long-time resident of Glen Lyon, passed away March 10, 2021. "Tekla" was born in Nanticoke on January 10, 1932 and raised in Glen Lyon. As a life resident of Glen Lyon, she graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1949. She obtained a BS degree in Nursing from Temple University. She was employed by Nanticoke State Hospital and retired from Mercy Hospital in 1992. She was a member of Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Glen Lyon.

**ROUSHEY**, John, 60, of Nanticoke, formerly of Wanamie, passed away March 15, 2021. John was born in Nanticoke on March 22, 1960 and raised in Wanamie. He attended Newport Township schools and graduated from John S. Fine High School of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. He had been employed by the Newport Township Sanitation Department and Penn Footwear.

**MILLER**, Grace, 13, of Glen Lyon, died March 21, 2021, at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest, from injuries sustained in a house fire. Gracie was born on September 18, 2007 in Margate, FL. and she was the daughter of Christina (Perry) Miller. She was an 8th grade student at Greater Nanticoke Area where she played trumpet in the marching band and sang in the school chorus. Grace was an organ donor and gave the gift of life - her heart, liver, kidneys, pancreas, bone and skin to other individuals.

**TANEY**, William, 77, of Dorrance Township, passed away on March 19, 2021. William was born in Dorrance. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1961 and Luzerne County Community College, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He worked as a machinist in metal fabrication and was a member of the Irem Temple County Club.

**ANTOLIK**, Eleanor (nee Voshefski), 95, of Nanticoke passed away March 21, 2021. She received her RN training at West Side School of Nursing, Scranton, and retired after 25 years at Guardian Elder Care in Sheatown.

**ZUBRITSKI**, Daniel, 72, of Myerstown, formerly of Newport Township, died March 25, 2021 at home. Daniel was born in Nanticoke on December 30, 1948 and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1966, a veteran of the US Army during the Vietnam War, and a trooper for 37 years with the Pennsylvania State Police, retiring in 2007.

**PIERONTONI**, Joseph F., 77, of Jacksonville, FL, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away on January 14, 2021. Joseph was born on September 22, 1943 in Nanticoke and raised in Mocanaqua. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School and president of the Class of 1961. He also graduated from Wilkes College with a business degree in Hotel Management.

**FORGACH**, Lt. Col. Peter A., 85, of Eatontown, NJ, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away March 25, 2021 at home. Peter was born in Glen Lyon in 1935. He was a graduate of Newport High School Class of 1953 and The Citadel in Charleston, SC with a BS Degree in Business Administration. Lt. Col. Forgach was a 24-year career US Army veteran, serving in the areas of Supply and Maintenance in Vietnam, Europe, Thailand, Korea, and continental United States. Lt. Col. Forgach had donated his body to medical science to the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Anatomical Association Body Program.

**ZIMOLZAK**, Chester E. "Chet," 83, of Elizabethtown, formerly of Newport Township, passed away March 25, 2021. Chet was born in Nanticoke on July 14, 1937 and raised in Glen Lyon. He was the son of the late Chester E. Zimolzak Sr. and Stephanie (Dombrowski) Zimolzak. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1955 and Penn State University with a degree in Geography. He also received a Master's Degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin. He was employed as a professor of Geography at UWVA, Glassboro State College, and retired from Rowan University in 1992.

**PRESNAL**, Frank Sr., 94, of Alden, passed away April 6, 2021. Frank was born in Stearns Station, Newport Township on June 18, 1926. He attended Newport Township schools. Frank was a US Army veteran, serving during World War II with the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion in Central Europe and the Rhineland. He was a member of American Legion Post 350 in Nanticoke.

**KRAMER**, Emilia "Millie" (nee Urban), 90, of Ashley, formerly of Mountain Top and Glen Lyon, passed away February 6, 2021 at home. Emilia was born in Glen Lyon on August 6, 1930. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1948. She had been employed by the Lazarus Department Store of Wilkes-Barre; also the self-employed owner of The Ashley Floral Company; and she retired from United Rehabilitation Service. Emilia was an elected official of the Crestwood School Board for 30 years.

**FRONCZKIEWICZ**, Leonard, 53, of Glen Lyon, passed away March 30, 2021. He was born in Wilkes-Barre and graduated from Coughlin High School.

**VANDERMARK**, Elizabeth A., 95, of Nanticoke, passed away April 13, 2021. Elizabeth was born in Wanamie on October 12, 1925. She was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School Class of 1943. She attended Penn State University and Wilkes College. She had been employed as a Hearing Assistant and Administrative Officer with the Social Security Administration; Field Support Specialist with the Bureau of Hearings of Land Appeals; and retired as a Senior Workmen's Compensation Claims Examiner for the Department of Labor Black Lung Office in Wilkes-Barre.

**MIRAGLIA**, Diana J., 74, of Laurel Run, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away April 17, 2021. She is survived by her husband Stanley.

**DAVIS**, Thomas, 82, of Chestnut Street, Alden, died April 17, 2021. Tom was born in Kingston. He had worked for the Pipefitters and Plumbers Local 524 and retired as owner and operator of Thomas Davis Plumbing and Heating. He was a US Navy veteran. He was a faithful volunteer at the monthly NTCO Food Distribution.

**BRITT**, Stanley J. (nee Zubritski), 79, of Walnutport, formerly of Mechanicsburg and Glen Lyon, died April 11, 2021. Stanley was born in Nanticoke on August 1, 1941 and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1959 and King's College with a B.S. in Accounting. He was a veteran of the US Army. He was employed in health care administration.

**KARDASH**, Michael, 89, of Sheatown, passed away April 23, 2021. Michael was born on April 30, 1931 in Newport Township and raised in Alden. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1949. He was a US Navy veteran serving aboard of the USS Roanoke and USS Wisconsin during the Korean War. His civilian career was in welding and construction. He retired from Reilly Plating Company at age 87. He was a member and council president for 55 years of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Alden and a member of American Legion Post 350.

**CONRAD**, Leona L. (nee Moyer), 96, formerly of Nanticoke and Newport Township, passed away April 28, 2021. Leona was born in Wanamie on May 14, 1924. She was raised in Wanamie and was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1942.

**BIANCO**, Louise, (nee Kanyuck), 104, of Rockville, MD, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away April 21, 2021. Louise was born in Glen Lyon on April 20, 1917. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1935 and Wilkes Barre Business College.



## Obituaries

**KASHATUS**, Maria, 52, of Glen Lyon, and a long time resident of White Haven Center, completed a "circle of life" as she passed away on May 2, 2021 at Residential Home Health and Hospice at Geisinger South in Wilkes-Barre (the old Mercy Hospital). She was born on September 23, 1968, the first born of Thomas and Margaret (Sabanos) Kashatus; was raised in Glen Lyon during her early childhood; and became a resident of White Haven Center where she lived for over 40 years.

**KACILLAS**, Doris J. (nee Sager), 91, of Kingston Manor, formerly of Nanticoke and Newport Township, passed away May 2, 2021. Doris was born in Newport Township on April 28, 1930.

**OMICHIANSKI**, Leonard J., 89, of Dearborn Heights, MI passed away May 9, 2017. Leonard was born in Glen Lyon on July 27, 1927 and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1945.

**OMICHIANSKI**, Chester P. "Chet," 99, of Naples, FL, passed away on July 5, 2020. Chester was born in Glen Lyon on June 12, 1921 and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School. He was also a graduate of the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in NJ and Wilkes College. He was a US Army Air Corps veteran serving during World War II in the European Theater of Operations.

**IZBICKI**, Marguerite A. (nee Cherrie), 97, of Oley, PA, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away May 11, 2021. Marguerite was born in Glen Lyon on July 14, 1923, and graduated from Newport High School in 1941. She married Anthony Izbicki on December 25, 1941.

**BALLA**, Helen (nee Wytoshek), formerly of Sheatown and Nanticoke Towers, passed away May 23, 2021. Helen was raised in Newport Township and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1947.

**TOMMOR**, Verna K. (nee Andrysick), 96, of Alden, passed away May 25, 2021. Verna was born on June 30, 1924. She was raised in Newport Township and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1942.

**SPAIDE**, Eva Jane (nee Stewart) 100, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Alden, passed away June 3, 2021. Eva Jane was born on July 12, 1920 in Alden.

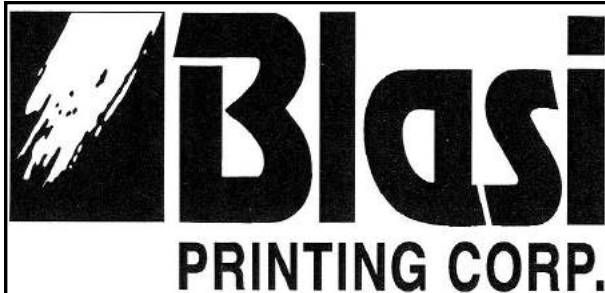
**ZIMNOCH**, Barbara "Gale" (nee Blackburn), 77, of Wilkes-Barre, and formerly of Wanamie, passed away June 3, 2021. Barbara was born in Nanticoke on July 12, 1943. She was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1961.

**POTOESKI**, Judith (nee Kazmierski), 73, of Leesburg, FL, formerly of Newport Township and Shickshinny, passed away June 7, 2021. Judith was born in Nanticoke on October 10, 1947. She was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools. She had been employed as an LPN at Birchwood Nursing Home in Nanticoke for many years.



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## Newport Township's State Legislators

### Thomas Roman

*First in a Series by Heidi Jarecki ~* There are five known state legislators who have called Newport Township home. Our current State Representative, Gerald Mullery, is a resident of Alden. He represents the 119th Legislative District which includes Dennison Township, Foster Township, Freeland, part of Hanover Township, part of Hazle

Township, Jeddo, Larksville, Nanticoke, Newport Township, Nuangola, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Rice Township, Slocum Township, Sugar Notch, Warrior Run, West Hazleton, White Haven, and Wright Township. Representative Mullery was first elected in 2010. Previous representatives of the 119th were Fred Shupnik, Stanley Jarolin, and John Yudichak.

In years past, legislative districts were allocated by county. Newport Township typically found itself in the Fourth District of Luzerne County, along with Nanticoke. The boundaries changed through the years. In 1964, Luzerne County went from 7 districts to 6 and Newport was moved to the 2nd Legislative District, along with Black Creek Township, Conyngham Borough, Salem Township and Slocum Township. Nanticoke remained in the 4th District. In 1969, a massive statewide reapportionment took place and the 119th District was formed.

There are four other Township residents who were elected to the General Assembly representing the then Fourth District: Thomas Roman, 1921-1922; John Hermansen, 1927-1935; Charles Wright, 1937-1938; and Leonard Najaka, 1945-1952. In 1962, Tad Tarnowski of Glen Lyon ran as a Republican and lost to the incumbent, William Curwood of Shickshinny.

One hundred years ago in 1920, the Fourth District was comprised of Conyngham Township, Fairmount Township, Hunlock Township, Huntington Township, Nanticoke Borough (Nanticoke became a third class city in 1926), New Columbus, Newport Township, Ross Township, Salem Township, Shickshinny Borough, Slocum Township and Union Township. Thomas Roman became the first Township native to win election as State Representative.

Thomas Gibbons Roman was born on August 13, 1893 in Alden, the youngest of five children. His parents were Frederic Leopold Roman, who immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1872, and Josephine Young Roman, who was born in Alden. His siblings were Elizabeth, Jane, Frederic, and Russell. The family lived at 141 Sharpe Street and later moved to East Kirmar Avenue. They belonged to St. Andrew's Church.

Thomas was educated in Newport Schools and aspired to become a teacher. After graduating from High School in 1910, he attended East Stroudsburg State Normal School and earned his teaching certificate. He earned his degree from Center College in Kentucky. He was appointed teacher in the Pershing School in Alden in 1912 and became principal in 1917.

In 1918, Thomas enlisted in the Navy and served aboard ship as a captain's writer. He was honorably discharged in 1919.

On April 7, 1920 Thomas announced himself as a candidate for Representative of the Fourth District. Back then, Republicans and Democrats could cross-file and run on both tickets in the primaries. Besides Thomas Roman, the other candidates were John Kolodziejczak (Collins), Thomas J. Morgan, W. Bruce Good, and William Davis.

Thomas placed ads in the local papers declaring that people should vote for him, "the man who came up from the bottom and a man who is acquainted with the district and who will represent his people intelligently." And "Vote for Thomas G. Roman, for Representative. Principal of the Pershing School of Newport Township. A man

who served the public for eight years without a fault." "Vote for Thomas G. Roman for Representative. Qualified, Equipped, Able to Plead the People's Cause."

The day following the primary election on May 18, the Times Leader reported that "voting was light at all polling places in the Fourth Legislative District yesterday. With returns in from all but twelve of the districts out of the forty six, Roman gets a nice lead for the Republican nomination and Kolodziejczak (Collins) the Democratic.... Thomas G. Roman, the Republican nominee, was the only candidate from Newport Township. He consequently poled [sic] a fairly large vote in his district... Roman also poled [sic] a good vote through the country districts and with only twelve of the country districts yet to hear from it looks as if his lead will increase." By May 21, he won the Republican nomination by "at least one hundred majority, while Collins walks away with the Democratic nomination, beating his nearest opponent two to one.... Roman had the Republican majority in Newport Township with almost one hundred to spare, ran good in Nanticoke, and practically gained two-thirds of country district votes."

On October 14, Thomas campaigned in Sweet Valley, and was one of three speakers who "impressed upon the audience the extravagance of the Democratic administration (Woodrow Wilson was President) and the 'League of Nations (the precursor to the United Nations) as a breeder of future wars and a menace to the peace of the world.'"

In the general election on November 2, 1920, Thomas garnered 5,020 votes to defeat John Collins Kolodziejczak who got 3,307 votes. It was reported that his election expenses were \$330.55. On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote. It is uncertain how many women voted in local elections that year.

On December 18, 1920, Thomas married Mary Jones of Nanticoke. Mary was also a graduate of East Stroudsburg and served as a teacher in Nanticoke for several years. The couple set up housekeeping at 234 Robert Street in Sheatown. They were the parents of a daughter, Margaret, and grandparents of four.

While serving as representative, Thomas was assigned to the Public Roads Committee. He wasted no time with sponsorship of bills. He proposed appropriations for Nanticoke Hospital in the amount of \$221,000. He introduced a bill establishing an eight-hour day for the fan engineers and pump runners in the anthracite region. It was reported from the Committee on Mines and Mining with an affirmative recommendation.

He also introduced a bill to transfer a nurses' home erected on the grounds of the Nanticoke State Hospital to state control. The Governor named a commission to handle the transfer. He proposed a tax on hotels and restaurants to raise revenue for the state. Hotels having fifteen rooms would pay an annual license of \$5.00, while those having 400 or more would pay \$25.00 a year. Restaurants would pay a license fee of \$3.00 or \$5.00 depending on seating capacity. The Commissioner of Health would issue the license.

He also sought to bring attention of the State Board of Public Charities to the scope and character of the work being done at St. Stanislaus Orphanage, "caring for 140 boys and girls, many of them made orphans when the "flu" raged in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys in 1918." He was asking the state to render substantial financial aid.

In 1922, Thomas ran for reelection against Dr. F. Davis, Thomas Morgan, and John Stavitski, all of Nanticoke. John Stavitski was the high vote getter. Thomas ran unsuccessfully for Newport Township Commissioner in 1937 and 1945. He was active in the Glen Lyon American Legion and was a member of the Nanticoke Lodge 541 (Masons), POS of A, Alden, John Bunyan Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and the Rod and Gun Club of Nanticoke and Newport Township.

After the Pershing School was heavily damaged in a mine subsidence, the K.M. Smith School was built in 1930. Thomas served as a beloved 6th grade teacher and principal until he retired.

There is one story about Mr. Roman that bears repeating here. There was an eight foot deep pond that was located in a settled area near the K.M. Smith School and in winter, students would take a short cut across the frozen pond on their way to and from school. On December 3, 1947, Thomas Bodek, 11, was dismissed along with his classmates at 4:00. He and his companions started across the pond, and according to newspaper reports, "The ice broke under the boy's weight and he went beneath the surface of the icy water. His fellow students stood by helplessly.



The students told police they had seen Thomas come to the surface twice and had disappeared again when Principal Roman came along. The students hurriedly explained the situation to the principal, who duffed his topcoat and entered the water to grapple about for the boy. He finally located him and brought him to shore where Newport Township Patrolman John Kovalich and Arch Turner and Lee Littleford, township residents, began artificial respiration. When Thomas had been restored to consciousness, he was taken to the hospital. He is suffering from the effects of submersion and chills. Principal Roman is not considered to be seriously ill."

Mr. Roman retired in 1955 after a 43 year teaching career. Arch Turner then took over as principal of K.M. Smith School.

Thomas Roman passed away on March 12, 1970 at age 76. Mary passed away on June 11, 1975 at age 82. They are interred in Hanover Green Cemetery.

Sources: *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader Evening News*; *Wilkes-Barre Record*; [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us); [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com).

## Primary Election 2021

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ On May 18th voters went to the polls to nominate candidates within their party for (1) state-wide judgeships on the Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth courts; (2) county judgeships for the Court of Common Pleas, members of County Council, and County Controller; (3) candidates for school boards; and (4) local municipal candidates for various offices.

Historically back in the 1930's and 40's, there were six wards and nine voting precincts/districts in Newport Township: Ward #1, West Glen Lyon and Lee with District #1, No. 4 Hose Company on Orchard Street and District #2, VFW Post 8353; Ward #2, East Glen Lyon with District #1, Keblish's Café and District #2, No. 1 Hose Company; Ward #3, Wanamie with District #1, Wanamie Hose Company and District #2, Deluca's on Center Street; Ward #4, Alden, with voting at the Alden Hose Company; Ward #5, Sheatown and Newport Center, with voting at the Sheatown Hose Company; and Ward #6, Retreat State Hospital. Retreat even had its own Newport Township Commissioner at one time. Citizens would walk to the polls and converse with their neighbors about what else? Politics. When the vote counting took place after 8:00 pm, the crowds which assembled for the vote count gave the impression that a championship basketball game was going on inside.

Today, due to consolidation, Newport Township has two wards: Ward #1, Glen Lyon and Lee; and Ward #2, Wanamie, Alden, Sheatown, Newport Center, and Ridgeview. Very few voters walk to the polls, if any. Numbers are traditionally low, except for presidential elections. Sometimes we wonder if change is really worth it.

Newport Township contests that were on the ballot were for two Commissioners at large to be nominated for 4 year terms; a Judge of Elections for each ward; a majority and minority Inspector of Elections for each ward, and two Constables at large for 6 year terms.

On the Democrat side for Commissioner the vote totals were: John Zyla (D) from Sheatown (416) and John Vishnefski (D) from Wanamie (366). On the Republican side, John Zyla (D) received 17 write-in votes and John Vishnefski (D) received 12 write-in votes and eleven other individuals received at least one write-in vote.

Incumbent Constable Norman Bodek (D) filed a petition for re-election on the Democrat ticket and received 463 votes. There were no candidates on the Republican ticket leaving a vacancy for constable in Newport Township.

On the Democrat side for Judge of Elections in Ward #1, Joseph C. Hillan (D) of Glen Lyon received 155 votes. There was no candidate for the Republican Party. On the Democrat side for Judge of Elections in Ward #2, Megan Tennesen (D) of Sheatown received 297 votes. There was no candidate for the Republican Party.

There are two Inspectors of Elections, one in each party, to be chosen by the electorate during the municipal election; and that would be a Majority Inspector and a Minority Inspector. For Inspector in Ward #1, Brooklyn Blank (D) of Glen Lyon received 135 votes while Krissy Blank (R) of Glen Lyon received 43. For Inspector in Ward #2, Richard Tennesen (D) of Sheatown received 269 votes and Joseph Urban (R) of Ridgeview received 92 votes. It is

noted that the Majority Inspector is designated by the party of the Presidency at the time of the election.

School Board candidates normally run for four-year terms; however, at times there may be a two-year term available when a position is vacated for whatever reason. Also School Board candidates can cross-file to run on the Democrat and Republican tickets as long as they receive the required number of signatures on petitions circulated by individual political parties. The Greater Nanticoke Area School District consists of Nanticoke City, Newport Township, Conyngham Township, and Plymouth Township. In the 2021 primary election, five candidates in each party were to be selected for four year terms. Those who were nominated by the Democrat Party were incumbents (1) Wendy Wiaterowski (D) of Nanticoke City (1,256) [549]; (2) Megan Tennesen (D) of Sheatown (1,234) [530]; (3) Frank Shepanski (D) of Ridgeview (1,231) [512]; (4) David Hornlein (D) of Wanamie (1,181) [486]; and new-comer Mark O'Connor (D) of Nanticoke City (1,120) [515]. All candidates cross-filed for a nomination on the Republican ticket and those totals are in brackets. There were no registered Republicans in the contest for School Board.

The race for Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas is developing into a contest that will make history this year. Due to retirements, there are two open seats on the court. This is also an office for which candidates may cross-file. Five candidates vied for the two seats available: (1) Former District Attorney Stephanie Salavantis (R) of Kingston who resigned as DA to run for judge; (2) Rep. Tarah Toohil (R) of Hazleton and Representative of the 116th Legislative District; (3) Magisterial District Justice Alexandra Kokura Kravitz of Dupont; (4) Attorney Laura Dennis of West Pittston; and (5) Attorney Jim Bobeck (D) of Kingston.

Results of the May primary countywide are as follows: (1) Attorney Stephanie Salavantis (R) (14,628) [13,379]; Alexandra Kokura Kravitz (D) (10,790) [4,634]; Jim Bobeck (D) (10,321) [6,030]; Laura Dennis (D) (7,951) [4,528]; Tarah Toohil (R) (6,165) [13,379]. Attorney Salavantis and Rep. Toohil received the required two nominations on the Republican ticket and Attorney Salavantis and District Judge Kravitz received the required two nominations on the Democrat ticket.

In 1991 Luzerne County's first female judge, Ann Lokuta, set the table for other women to follow in her footsteps. In 2022, the future court will have five male judges, Vough, Hughes III, Sklarosky, Lupas, and Pierantoni and five female judges, Gartley, Gelb, Rogers, plus two.

For County Controller, a four year term, incumbent Michelle Bednar (D) (21,239) votes will be opposed by Walter L. Griffith Jr. (R) (19,341).

For Luzerne County Council with 5 open seats and 4 year terms the table is set with incumbents, Matthew Vough (D) (18,309) and Sheila Saidman (D) (18,020); former council member Jane Walsh Waitkus (D) (16,131); and new-comers, Maryann V. Velez (D) (15,853); and Jimmy Sabatino (D) (15,154). They will be challenged by new-comers, John Lombardo (R) (11,7747) and Gregory Wolovich Jr. (R) (10,508); incumbent Chris Perry (R) (10,379); and new-comers Brian Thornton (R) (8,810) and Kevin Lescavage (R) (8,603).



Pictured above is the Election Board of Newport's Ward #2. Seated left to right, Machine Operator Anna Lamareaux; Clerk Ronald Womelsdorf; Unidentified. Standing left to right: Constable Norman Bodek; Machine Operator Jacqueline Yalch; Cassandra Yalch; Majority Inspector Richard Tennesen.



GOAL GETTERS  
FANUCCI FIELD, GLEN LYON  
COACHES  
CHET ROGOWCZ  
JOE ROGOWICZ

"BIFF" KRAFCHICK

TED ANGRADI

"DOC" RUSKIN

"KOOL" SEKULSKI

JOE DELUCA

HARRY FUDJAK

FRANK "BRUMA" BROMORSKI

"CHICK" CHICKLINSKI

EDDIE MATTIOLI

JACKIE KOVALESKI

LEN MORGIS

Top row: "Biff" Krafchick, Ted Angradi, "Doc" Ruskin, "Kool" Sekulski, Joe Deluca  
in back Bottom row: Len Morgis, Harry Fudjak, Frank "Bruma" Bromorski, "Chick"  
Checklinski, Eddie Mattioli, (probably) Walter Olenginski, Jackie Kovalesski.

## The Glen Lyon Go-Getters

*By Heidi Jarecki* ~ The Glen Lyon Go-Getters were an amateur football team made up of former high school and college players. It had a large following and it wasn't unusual for 1,000 people to show up at games. They played most games at Fanucci's Field at the east end of town thanks to the generosity of Ben Fanucci. They later played games at Weinick Park at the top of Seven Shaft Hill. The team began in 1930 and disbanded following the 1938 season.

The term "Go-Getters" came into usage during World War I. The general connotation of the word is someone who is ambitious, reliable, aggressive, alert, one who always delivers the goods and gets it done. It became a popular name for sports teams. Locally, there were the successful Go-Getters basketball team sponsored by the Wilkes-Barre Young Men's Hebrew Association in the 1920's; the Dupont Go-Getters baseball team; and the Go-Getters basketball team of Sugar Notch. There was even a Glen Lyon Go-Getters baseball team for a few years. There were three films with the title, "The Go-Getters." The first one was in 1923, a silent film starring T. Roy Barnes and Seena Owens. The plot involves a disabled soldier who is determined to win out in the struggle for existence. The 1937 film starred George Brent and Anita Louise. There is also a 2018 film of the same title. The three films have vastly different plots. But this writer digresses....

Back to 1930 in Glen Lyon when a group of young guys decided to organize a hometown football team. Joe Deluca served as manager and their coach was Joe Rogowicz. They advertised in the Wilkes-Barre papers for games which were generally played on Sunday afternoons at 2:30. Admission was 35 cents. They held practices during the months of August and September and the very first game took place on Sunday, October 19, 1930 on their home field against the Brookside Athletic Club (A.C.). Brookside had already won three games and there was great anticipation. As reported, "The first half of the game was close. Glen Lyon scored only one touchdown in this period. The Go-Getters entered the second half determined to increase their margin of victory. When the final whistle blew the home team had scored a total of 20 points, while the opposing team's try for a score was in vain due to the sturdy wall which the Go-Getters' line built. The feature of the game was the passing combination of Krafchik to Morgis. Peter Raven officiated." About 1,500 people attended. Keep in mind that the same players played both offense and defense. There were 11 members on the team in total and they played the entire game.

Over in Wanamie, a football team called the New Wans was organized which also advertised for games. Alden had a football team called the Stars and Stearns/Sheatown's team was the Centre. Hometown football teams were every bit as popular as the baseball teams.

That first year, the Go-Getters were undefeated. They played the Manley A.C. of Lee Park on October 26 and won by the score of 20 to 0. Next came the Wanamie New Wans, whom they defeated by a score of 19 to 0. A week later, they played Anthracite A.C. of Wilkes-Barre, whom they blanked, 25 to 0. On November 16, they played Luzerne. Reports in local newspapers of games played by these amateur teams were every bit as descriptive as a professional game. As reported, "Flashing that consistent brand of football which has characterized their play in all the games thus far the Glen Lyon Go-Getters garnered their fifth consecutive victory against Luzerne...It was in the second quarter that Glen Lyon really cut loose. With a deceptive attack and the line-making holes for the fast-running backs, the ball was soon in position to be scored. Ruskin, going on a wide end run, tallied, but the point after touchdown failed. Glen Lyon again started a steady march for the goal. Through the medium of the forward pass and the catching of said passes by backs and ends, they put the ball on the 5 yard line. S. Krafchik crashed the line on the first down and was stopped. Taking the ball again on the second

down he crashed the line and made the score. The point after touchdown was also successful, Olender (sic) again scoring on a pass from Angradi." "Olender" was Walter Olenginski.

Their next game was with the Nanticoke Panther-Eagles, which was billed as one of the leading teams of the county. The Go-Getters defeated the Panther-Eagles by the score of 12-0. It being "Booster Day" the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps entertained the crowd between quarters and at halftime. The next game was against the Sugar Notch Tigers on November 30. On December 7, they played the final game of their inaugural season with the Alden Stars and won, 7-0. Not only did they win every game, but it was remarkable that no team was able to score against them. They captured the championship of the Lower Valley League. Pictured above is that first 1930 team.

Meetings were held in the off-season, as well as various fundraisers, usually dances at Kirmar Park, a large multi-function building that stood on West Kirmar Avenue, or the Russian Pavilion which was located behind Engle Street in Glen Lyon. In August, 1931, the team sponsored a "balloon and confetti" dance. Occasionally there were events at the Family Theater or the Newport Theater to raise money for uniforms and equipment. They would reorganize and elect officers. In 1931, following their first season, the team voted that Ben Fanucci be presented with a "gold" football in appreciation for the use of his field.

During the winter months, multiple men's basketball teams played in the Pulaski gym. One of the teams was the "Go-Getters," not to be confused with the football team. However, it is likely that members of the football team played basketball to keep in shape.

In 1931, it was reported that "some of the players had been accepted at various colleges, leaving Coach Rogowicz in a ticklish position but with many new candidates aspiring for places, the prospects for another successful season are more than bright." It was expected that the team would enter the C League of the Luzerne County Amateur Football Association which had organized in 1927.

With spanking new uniforms and possessing "immense power and speed," the Go-Getters played their first game of 1931 on October 4 against the Hillside A.C. of Edwardsville whom they defeated by a score of 19-0. Their next game with the Pringle Panthers had to be cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with the Glen Lyon Condors baseball team. The game was rescheduled for November 1, which they won. On October 25, the Glen Lyon team defeated the Hanover Green Tigers by the score of 6-0 and the Luzerne Reds on November 8 by the outstandingly lopsided score of 99-0. The following Sunday, November 15, their opponent was their neighbors the Mocanaqua Tigers. This game was supposed to determine the "undisputed leadership of independent gridiron ranks in lower Luzerne County. Undefeated in battle with the strongest professional elevens in this section until the current season, the Mocanaqua proteges of "Lou" Lustig are ruling a slight favorite in the pre-game predictions." The Go-Getters proved them wrong with a good defense and two touchdowns by Ted Angradi and one by Morgis. Extra points were made by Krafchik and Kovalesski. Other players include:



Mattioli, Hillan, Checklinski, Broma, Fudjak, Sekulski, and Ruskin. On November 22, the Go-Getters chalked up another win against the Kingston A.C. by a score of 7-0. Their next game was on November 29 against the Lee Park Anthracite A.C. before a crowd of 3,000 fans. The score was 20-0. Apparently there was some controversy because the Go-Getters claimed that "the Lee Park boys walked off the field with three minutes to play when a penalty for clipping put the ball on their own one-yard line." The final game of 1931 was against the Alden Stars the following Sunday. The Go-Getters remained undefeated.

In 1932, any resident of Glen Lyon was invited to try out for the team. The team held meetings at Sparky's Bar, owned by Zigmund Rembetski. They sponsored a series of dances at the Russian Pavilion, the first on June 4 featuring the popular radio orchestra the "Polka Dots." More incentive to win was provided by James Wachler, a prominent jeweler who donated prizes to be presented to the two best players on the team. The pressure was on!

The first practice was held on August 22. The Go-Getters remained an independent team. In September it was announced that three players left the team for various reasons and that John Kotulak and Anthony "Tunney" Jedzinski, formerly with the Nanticoke Panthers, signed up with the Go-Getters. There was a total of 22 players, 11 regulars and 11 reserves. The four backs were referred to as the "four horsemen:" Mattioli, Kotulak, Kelly and Krafchik. They sported a "record that [is] not equaled by any amateur team in this section of the state." The first game of 1932 was against the Lowland Elks on October 2. Both teams played a great defensive game, and the only score came from the Go-Getters quarterback Ed Mattioli in the second quarter. The following week the team was idle due to a Condors baseball game. On October 16, they played Georgetown which was composed of several former Coughlin High School stars. The Go-Getters once again came out on top, 10-0. Next was the Mildew Collegians of Kingston, which the Go-Getters defeated by a score of 26-0. Krafchik threw for three touchdowns and rushed for one, outdoing the Collegians' quarterback, "Cannon Ball" Sisco. The next game was against the Old Forge Indians which defeated all teams who came across their path. They were the champions of Lackawanna County and were reputed to have a heavy line and a fast backfield. A large crowd was expected. True to form, the Go-Getters were able to defeat the Indians by a score of 13-0. This time Kelly served as quarterback and scored one touchdown. Mattioli scored the other and the extra point came from Kotulak. Other players were: Buber, Hillan, Roski, Selli, Sherkus, Connors, Jiggs, and Krafchik. Reserves included Stashak, Sokol, Chuch, Felici, and Shutta. (All names are spelled as they appear in newspaper accounts.) Next up was the Ashley A.C. which was defeated by the score of 26-0. Fudjak and Hillan featured on defense.

On November 13, 1932, the Go-Getters finally met their match who defeated them for the first time. The team traveled to Binghamton to play the Wildcats at Johnson Field. Buses took Township fans to cheer them on. According to the Binghamton newspaper, "A steady advance from midfield started shortly before the third period ended resulted in the Wildcat touchdown early in the fourth....The [Glen Lyon] eleven threw a scare into the Wildcat supporters by coming back to the four yard line but there the [Wildcats] forward wall held and took the ball on downs." The score was 6-0, Wildcats. Mattioli was quarterback for the Go-Getters, who had won 27 games in a row. What was truly remarkable was that other teams couldn't score against them.

Next up was the Kingston A.C. on November 20. "Buber played a bang-up game at end. Both teams played on even terms in the first quarter. After a drive of 30 yards, Krafchik threw a 30 yard pass to Buber who caught it over the goal line for the first touchdown." The final score was 20-0, Go-Getters. Four days later, the team played a Thanksgiving Day game with the Berwick Rinky-Dinks at Fowler Stadium, which ended in a scoreless tie. "The Go-Getters completely outplayed and outclassed the Columbia County champions but couldn't push over a touchdown....Just as the game ended, the Go-Getters had the ball on the two yard line and had four downs to make it." The following Sunday, with just two days rest, the Go-Getters played the Mocanaqua Tigers at which 5,000 people were expected.

They lost their final game of the season, 8-0. It was their third game in a week. Edward Mattioli won scoring honors for the season with 28 points. They won 6, lost 2 and tied 1. The total points scored were 105 compared to 14 by opponents.

In appreciation, on February 13-14, 1933, the team was treated to a showing of "All-American," a football film at the Newport Theater on West Main Street. A program of short talks was presented. Practice for the 1933 season were held in August and September. Locally it had become an issue as to whether playing fields were enclosed or not. So in September, 1933, the Go-Getters announced that they would play their home games at the enclosed Weinick Park field, and practice sessions would be held at Fanucci Field. Businessmen in the Township were willing to support the team financially. Players included: Bill James, Joe Connors, Freddy Raspen, Chet Morgis, Eddie Mattioli, Harry Pudziak (probably Fudjak), Morris Sokol, George Wyda, Cap Caley, Carco Selli, John Hillan, George Mundry, Dan Albanese, Paul Sherkus, John Kotulak, Bill Rotski, Harvey Morgans, Spike Thomas, Happy Sergott, Teddy Zabora, and Stanley Krafchik.

The first game of 1933 took place on October 1 against the Parson Panthers, a win for the Go-Getters with a score of 7-6. They rallied in the fourth quarter and a long pass from Biff Krafchik to Connors brought the ball from midfield to the five yard line. Krafchik plunged over for the touchdown. The extra point was made by a placement kick. The next Sunday was a game with the Heights Indians. The Indians were both coached and quarterbacked by Bobby Law, a former Notre Dame luminary. The Indians humbled the Go-Getters with their first loss of the season with a score of 7-0. "The Indians presented a solid line, deadly tacklers, an airtight forward pass defense and an attack of such deception that the Newport lads were at sea from the opening whistle to the final gun." On October 15, a game was played with the Triple "A" Club of Wilkes-Barre. Coach Joe Rogowicz made several changes in the lineup and was confident of a victory. His prediction came true with a score of 12-0. As reported, "The Wilkes-Barre boys put up a stiff fight from beginning to end....[the first Go-Getter score] came in the last two minutes of the third quarter with a pass to Kotul...in the closing minutes of play, the ball in the hands of the Triple A who started an aerial attack which soon was stopped by the ball bouncing off the fingers of one of the Go-Getters into the hands of tackle Fudjak who ran twenty-five yards for the next score of the game." What an exciting finish!

The Wilkes-Barre Heights had another good team, the Eagles who defeated the Go-Getters on October 22. The score in that contest was 7-0. The lone score in the game came in the first quarter "when Payne recovered a fumble on the Go-Getters 8 yard line, Valent then took the ball off tackle over the white line. The winners made 10 first downs to their opponents four." The following Sunday, October 29, the Go-Getters played a game against the Mahonoy City Professionals at Weinick Park. The game ended in a 6-6 tie. "Several thousands of fans witnessed the game which was one of the best staged here in several years. The Luzerne County gridders won a moral victory over the visitors considering their past record....The Go-Getters made their only score early in the opening quarter on a series of line plays and finally a fake pass. The Professionals evened the count in the following period after a fumble in the local eleven's backfield." In that game, Thomas Moore, the center for the Professionals sustained a compound fracture of the right leg when he was tackled after intercepting a forward pass in the last two minutes of the game.

On November 5, the Go-Getters defeated the Berwick Rinky Dinks with a 7-3 score. "A beautiful placement kick by fullback Valentino in the closing minutes of the first half placed Berwick in the lead... [Then] a sixty-yard drive shortly after the third quarter opened, terminating with fullback Krafchik crossing the goal line for a touchdown gave the Go-Getters a victory." The following Sunday's game did not go well for the Go-Getters. They lost to the West Side Sportland team by a score of 13-0. The game was played on a snow covered field, which hampered the playing of both teams. The Go-Getters rebounded on November 19 with a win over the Breslau A.C. by a score of 7-0. The only score came on the opening kickoff, when Krafchik kicked the ball to the 20 yard line where a Breslau man touched it and the ball rolled into the goal zone, where James the flashy end of the Go-Getters fell on the ball giving Glen Lyon the first and only score of the game.

On November 26, the Go-Getters welcomed the East Stroudsburg State Teachers College for a game at Weinick Park. The school teachers



were favored because of the excellent drilling and experience. However, the Go-Getters surprised everybody with Krafchik throwing a fifty yard pass early in the opening quarter and the defense holding. The final score was 6-0. A Thanksgiving Day game was played with the Mahonoy City Professionals to benefit two injured players, Harvey Morgan of the Go-Getters who had suffered a broken shoulder, and the aforementioned Tom Moore, who had a fractured leg. The Go-Getters won by a score of 26-0. The final game of 1933 was with the Warrior Run team, which ended in a 7-7 tie at Weinick Park. Cold weather hindered the players on both squads and there were few spectacular plays in the contest. Coach Rogowicz used practically all of his players in the game. At the end of the season, the Sportland A.C. of Edwardsville laid claim to the 1933 amateur football championship in Wyoming Valley.

On February 3, 1934, the first annual banquet of the Glen Lyon Go-Getters was held at the Hi-Hat Inn, which was located on Route 11 below Shickshinny. The attendance included the players, the coach, and invited guests, more than 75 people. In August, the team made its first formal application for a berth in the Luzerne County Amateur Football League. The first week of practice was in September. The roster included: Harry Fudjak, Biff Krafchik, Red Ratski, John Kotulak, Emil Sergott, Bill James, John Sokol, John Hillan, Joseph Sabol, Joseph Connors, Thomas Mundy, Harvey Morgan, Teddy Zaber, Carce Celli, Chester Morgis, Jiggs Yahimak, Fritz Kasper, and Clem Rogie.

One interesting change took place that year. According to the Times Leader, "Revisions in the Blue Laws are expected to result in mounting in the grid sport locally in the 1934 season. During the last two years football was somewhat on the decline and the amended laws will make the game more profitable for sponsors."

The first game of 1934 was on September 30 against the Heights Eagles at Weinick Park and the Eagles came away with a 7-6 victory. Over 2,000 fans were in attendance. Glen Lyon's score came in the second quarter on a pass from Kotulak to Connors and the Eagles scored in the fourth quarter. The difference was the extra point carried over the goal line by Stephanick. The next game was played on October 14 against the West Wyoming Ramblers, formerly the Nomads. Glen Lyon made single touchdowns in the second and third periods and two six pointers in the fourth. The final score was 25-0. The following Sunday on October 21 was a game with the Freeland A.C. The Go-Getters were victorious with a score of 13-0. "Freeland gave them one of the toughest battles this season, but the line plunging of the Go-Getters' backs was a little too much for Freeland... One of the outstanding plays of the game was a lateral pass which was put in play by Rogie to Biff and the latter tossing a forward pass of 60 yards into the hands of Coony, a waiting end over in the goal zone."

On October 28, the Go-Getters played again at Weinick Park against the Warrior Run A.C. The game started at 3:00 and not the usual 2:30. The Glen Lyon boys were able to score only one touchdown. They won the game, but the team was "not what they were two Sundays ago." They held practices that week on Thursday and Friday nights at the Russian Pavilion field, presumably because lighting was available there. On Sunday November 4, they were scheduled to play the Syrian A.C., but results were not published. Nor were results published for the game on November 11 against the Lowland Elks. On November 18, the Go-Getters traveled to North End in Wilkes-Barre to take on the North End A.C. The North End team was undefeated that year and handed the Go-Getters its sixth defeat in five years, 19-0. The North Enders "garnered 10 first downs to the downriver team's two. Before the game was minutes old, North End had compiled a 50 yard drive for the first tally." The Go-Getters could not stop the passing game of the North Enders, while failing to score a single point, which was rare. The game on November 25 was cancelled. A Thanksgiving Day matchup with the Berwick Trojans was the last game of 1934 season. Results could not be found in the local newspapers.

In 1935, meetings of the team were held at the Glen Lyon Bowling Alley. Clem "Kelly" Rogowicz who played his college football at East Stroudsburg State Teacher's College took over the coaching responsibilities. The first game of their sixth season was on October 13 with the Ashley Ex-High team. The Go-Getters were described as "having a heavy powerful charging line and a fast run-

ning backfield. [They] expect to fill the game full of power plays and all the deception that can be piled into one game." They won the Ashley game, but hit a snag the following week with the Nanticoke Ex-High team. "The game was filled with thrills as both sides battled reminiscent of the old high school rivalry." The score was 21-0. The first touchdown by Nanticoke came in the first quarter, a run from the four yard line. The second touchdown was made on a blocked punt. The third was made on an intercepted pass. The Go-Getters were clearly outplayed. On October 27, the team played the Anthracite A.C. from Lee Park in Glen Lyon. The game ended in a 6-6 tie, with both teams making 12 first downs and scoring one touchdown. The final game of 1935 with the Covina Tigers was played on November 24, after having been cancelled from the week before. The Go-Getters came out on top, 27 to 6.

In early September, 1936, a large squad of over twenty players showed up for practice. Coach Rogowicz had his club in A-1 condition. Assistant coach was Zev Zawacki and the manager was Bill Rotski, who operated the Family Theater. The players came from all over the Township and advertisements for games were placed in the newspapers. They were now known as the Glen Lyon All-Stars; however, eventually the team went back to its original name. The first game of 1936 was played on Sunday, September 27 against the South End A.C. of Wilkes-Barre, who were coached by Ray Chesney. The results of this game were not reported. On October 4, the second game was played against the Brookside A.C., formerly known as the Covina Tigers. The Go-Getters routed them by a score of 53-0. Five of the eight touchdowns were scored on passes. Before the game against Shickshinny on October 11, Walter Serowicz who starred on the 1936 Newport High School State Basketball Championship team, and Len Kozik, Newport High backfield ace, joined the Go-Getters. 1500 people watched the Go-Getters defeat Shickshinny by the score of 7-0. The backfield was slowed up by a muddy field which handicapped both teams. Players on the Go-Getters included Wyda, Morgis, Sokol, Kazmierski, Glidden, Nork, Sager, Czapratski, Schinski, Latonis, Bross, Sabol, and Serowicz. On October 18, the Go-Getters traveled to Plains. Nick Rudawski, a former Newport High player and an All-State fullback with East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, joined the Go-Getters. On a muddy field, the Plains A.C. eked out a victory 6-0 over the Glen Lyon team in the fourth quarter. It turned out that Nick Rudawski was operated on for appendicitis the day before the game and didn't play. On October 25, the Go-Getters had little difficulty beating the Syrian A.C. by a score of 20-0. "Using power plays and long passes, the Go-Getters gained at will only to have their attack slowed down by penalties." Kazmierski, Raspen and Serowicz scored the three touchdowns. Tony Schinski made three big runs to make the scores possible.

The following Sunday, a second game with the Plains A.C. was scheduled due to popular demand but game was cancelled due to steady rain. It was announced that the Go-Getters would clash with the Nanticoke Grey Ghosts on Armistice Day, Wednesday, November 11 in a charity game. The Ghosts beat the Go Getters by a score of 25-12. An interception in the second quarter led to a touchdown by Nanticoke, and another interception in the fourth was disastrous for the Go-Getters. 3,000 people were in attendance. On November 18, they played the Freeland Tigers which ended up in a 6-6 tie. "The Tigers scored early, with Glen Lyon scoring in the third quarter through the air." On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, a game with the Freeland Tigers ended with a victory at Weinick Park for the Go-Getters. The score was 7-0. "Both teams fought on even terms until the third quarter, when a pass brought the locals the lone tally." The season ended with five victories, two losses, and one tie.

In 1937, the team met at Sherbin's Hall on East Main Street, Glen Lyon and decided to enlarge their membership to include all sportsmen. On June 10, 48 members were admitted with initiation exercises set for June 18 and the organization was called the "Go-Getters Social Club." They also planned a series of dances, featuring Fred Ottaviani and his Band of Colors. "Dance Among the Pies" was the slogan used for advertising. In August, Clem Rogowicz was selected to coach the Newport High School Football, Basketball, and Baseball teams. Dominic "Doc" Ruskin, a four time letterman at Newport High, took over as coach of the Go-Getters. Most of the games were played away, and the home games were played at Fanucci's Field. Bill Rotski stayed on as manager.



The first game was at Freeland on September 19. The squad consisted of 26 men in new uniforms. As of November 6, the Go-Getters had won 6 games and had no defeats. They defeated Freeland, Shickshinny, the Exeter Indians, the Scranton Pros, and Plains. Ed "Doc" Vosheski was among the stars the Go-Getters depended on. On November 7, no game was played due to the inability of securing a game. On November 14, a game was played against the Luzerne Ex-Highs. "An aerial attack following a recovered fumble in the early minutes of the contest enabled Luzerne Ex-Highs to down Glen Lyon Go-Getters 7-0. It was the invaders' first setback of the season." For two Sundays in a row, the game between the Nanticoke Grey Ghosts and the Go-Getters was postponed due to inclement weather. The game was likely never played, thus ending the season with 6 wins and 1 loss.

The final year of the Go-Getters was 1938. The coach, Doc Ruskin took over a restaurant called Lucci's on East Main Street in Glen Lyon and renamed it "Doc's Restaurant." It became the team's meeting place. On September 25, a game was scheduled with the Luzerne Reds. However the game had to be cancelled because some of the players were playing baseball games. So, the McCormack All-Stars of Ashley coached by Richard Murphy was a last minute substitute. The game marked the first time the Go-Getters played at night under lights. It was a newly built stadium on East Liberty Street in Ashley. The team practiced daily at Fanucci's Field. John Harenza and Peter Tereshinski, former Newport High School stars, had joined the team. The Go-Getters pulled off a 7-0 victory before 2500 people. "After three passes put the ball deep in the All-Stars Territory, Kotuwak rifled a 10 yard bullet to Chapracki who picked up a few more yards before crossing the goal for the only touchdown."

The Go-Getters anticipated playing 8 games that season, with four games including the All-Stars of Ashley already scheduled. Try as she might, this writer could not find the results of the 1938 season except for the Ashley game. It appears as though the local newspapers were not published between October 1938 and April, 1939. The team likely disbanded following the 1938 season. In 1940 there was an effort to reunite certain teams, but it was not successful.

Judging by the large attendance at games, the Glen Lyon Go-Getters were a source of pride for the town and the entire Township. Those young men loved the game of football, and were excellent players. Given the opportunity, one wonders how many of them could have played professional football. What is astonishing to this writer is that she remembers some of the players from her childhood, and never knew they were such good athletes.

May they all be remembered for their accomplishments on the gridiron and in life.

Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; *the Wilkes-Barre Record*; *the Press and Sun Bulletin* (Binghamton, NY)

## More Playground Games We Used to Play

In the Spring 2021 Newsletter appeared an article about playground games that were played in Newport Township in the 1940's and 1950's. We invited our readers to send in games they remember.

From Tom Izbicki: I recall the girls in the Kosciuszko schoolyard jumping rope to: Gypsy, Gypsy Rose Lee

Who will my future husband be....

There was also a game of **War**. The kids carved out rectangles in the dirt named for different countries. Someone would declare war on a country by tossing a stick into it. The rest would run away. The one with the stick would throw it at whoever was in reach. If you hit that person with the stick, you carved out a chunk of that person's territory as yours.

From Walter Sowa: As I read my wife the titles of each game, we went down memory lane, and reviewed each one of them. I could add two more games: "**Duck on a Rock**" and "**Nip**". They were simple and cost-effective games.

Also, while playing late at night, the curfew would sound..."9 o'clock whistle". We would scatter and run home.

We could have been classified, by today's standards, as being poor, but we didn't know it.



### Going, going.....

This house on the corner of West Main Street and Stralka Lane in Glen Lyon near where the VFW once stood was on the Township's list of dilapidated properties. It took matters into its own hands when the roof collapsed and made the surrounding area unsafe. The Township quickly responded and asked for emergency bids. A crew from SRI (Smart Recycling Incorporated) in Dunmore demolished the building in May.



This property on Old Newport Street in Newport Center was the scene of a tragic fire which claimed the life of Diane McKenzie and the family dog just before Christmas of last year. The burnt structure was razed in May.





# Kval Outlet Food, Beer & Wine



15 E Main St  
Glen Lyon, PA 18617

570-736-6980

## Breakfast

Sausage Egg & Cheese	\$2.69		8"	12"
Bacon Egg & Cheese	\$2.69	Italian	\$4.49	\$6.99
Ham Egg & Cheese	\$2.69	Ham	\$4.49	\$6.99
Pork Roll Egg & Cheese	\$2.69	Turkey	\$4.49	\$6.99
3 Egg Omelet	\$4.99	Ham & Turkey	\$4.49	\$6.99
3 Egg Southwest Omelet	\$5.99	Tuna Salad	\$4.49	\$6.99
3 Egg Meat Lover Omelet	\$7.99	Chicken Salad	\$4.49	\$6.99

## Hoagies

## Starters & Fries

	5 pc	10 pc		Small	Large
Mozzarella Sticks	\$3.49	\$5.99	French Fries	\$1.99	\$3.49
Pierogi	\$3.49	\$5.99	Cheese Fries	\$2.49	\$3.99
Potato Pancake		\$3.99	Loaded Fries	\$3.49	\$4.49
Chicken Nuggets		\$4.99	Wing Fries	\$2.99	\$4.29
	2 pc		Curly Fries		\$3.99
Pizza Egg Rolls	\$3.99		Cheese Curly Fries		\$4.49
	3 pc	5pc			
Chicken Tender	\$5.99	\$8.99	Loaded Curly Fries		\$4.99
	5 pc	10 pc	Funnel Cake	\$4.99	
Chicken Wings	\$5.99	\$9.99	Fries (20 pc)		
	30 pc	50 pc	Popcorn Chicken	\$3.49	\$5.99
Chicken Wings	\$24.99	\$36.99			

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Sausage Pizza	\$13.99	Bacon Cheeseburger	\$4.99
Chicken Wing Pizza	\$14.99	California Burger	\$4.99
Meat Lover Pizza	\$17.99	Crispy Chicken Sandwich	\$4.99

## Burgers

## Hot Subs

	8"	12"
Philly Cheesesteak	\$5.99	\$7.99
Chicken Cheesesteak	\$5.99	\$7.99
Meatball Sub	\$4.99	\$6.99
Chicken Wing Sub	\$4.99	\$6.99
Chicken Parm	\$4.99	\$6.99
B.L.T.	\$4.99	\$6.99

\*Cold Cuts available

\*Customizations available

\*Extra meat: \$2

\*Extra topping: \$1

\*Price subject to change

\*Take out only



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Year	Wanamie	Glen Lyon	Newport Township	Luzerne County	Pennsylvania
1840			1,099	44,006	1,724,033
1850			808	56,072	2,311,890
1860			620	90,244	2,905,215
1870			1,279	100,915	3,521,051
1880			1,531	133,065	4,282,891
1890		2,255	5,411	201,203	5,258,014
1900			6,529	257,121	6,302,115
1910			10,277	343,186	7,665,111
1920			10,992	390,991	8,720,017
1930			12,087	445,109	9,631,350
1940			11,474	441,518	9,900,180
1950	1,028	3,921	9,247	392,241	10,498,012
1960		4,173	7,083	346,972	11,319,366
1970		3,408	6,002	342,301	11,793,909
1980			4,989	343,079	11,863,895
1990				318,090	11,881,643
2000		1,881	5,006	319,250	12,281,054
2010			5,374	320,918	12,702,379
2020					13,002,700

Source: <https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>

Above: The populations of Newport Township, Luzerne County and Pennsylvania

## The Population of Newport Township

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Every 10 years, a census of the American population is taken as directed by the U.S. Constitution. The first census took place in 1790. As shown in the above table, the population of Pennsylvania has risen steadily from 1,724,033 in 1840 to 13,002,700. In contrast, the populations of Newport Township and Luzerne County have fluctuated. It is clear that the populations of both Newport Township and Luzerne County were greatly affected by the rise and fall of the coal industry.

Newport Township actually predates Luzerne County. Newport was formed in 1773 and Luzerne County was formed in 1786. Originally, Newport encompassed 103 square miles. As the population grew and towns sprang up, the boundaries of the Township shrank. Nescopeck Township was the first separation in 1792, followed by Hollenback in 1815. Then in 1840, the lines for Dorrance Township were drawn. In 1854, Slocum Township to our south came into existence. With the great influx of immigrants in the latter half of the 19th century, the village of Nanticoke experienced rapid growth. In 1874, Nanticoke Borough was formed from land in Newport Township and Hanover Township. The final separation of land that was once in Newport was in 1875 when Conyngham Township was formed from Hollenback. Today, Newport encompasses 16.8 square miles.

Luzerne County also shrank in area. Lackawanna County was created on August 13, 1878, following decades of trying to gain its independence from Luzerne County. Lackawanna County has the distinction of being Pennsylvania's last county to be created, and the only county to be created after the Civil War. Despite losing 465 square miles when Lackawanna County was formed, Luzerne County still gained population between 1870 and 1880.

At its inception, Newport Township was a farming community. Everything changed when coal was discovered. Newport Township is located in the Northern Anthracite Coal Field and contained huge quantities of anthracite coal. Anthracite is valuable because it burns cleaner and longer than other coals. It was in great demand because it could drive engines efficiently and was popular for residential use in heating homes. Rapid economic growth began to occur after 1870, springing from a new group of innovations in what has been called the Second Industrial Revolution. These innovations included new steel making processes, mass-production, assembly lines, electrical grid systems, the large-scale manufacture of machine tools and the use of increasingly advanced machinery in steam-powered factories. Coal was in great demand for the production of steam power.

In 1860 only small quantities of coal were being mined in the Township. Coal was not yet accepted as a fuel and the mining industry was still in its infancy. But by 1868, the Newport Coal Company was running a breaker in Wanamie. By 1885, the company's collieries employed 821 workers and produced 147,000 tons of coal a year. Alden Shaft #1 was begun in 1881 and within 3 years was shipping over 100,000 tons of coal per year. By the turn of the century, the Alden breaker was processing 250,000 tons per year and employed 600 workers. The Glen Lyon Susquehanna Number Six Colliery began shipping coal in 1885. Soon, it was shipping over 400,000 tons of coal per year and employed 1,100 workers.

This was a remarkable time in Newport Township as well as the entire Wyoming Valley. As the mines opened, roads, railroads and bridges were built, thousands of homes went up, churches, schools and banks were constructed, and water and electric lines were installed. Dozens of ancillary jobs were created: teachers, storekeepers, road and railroad track builders, carpenters, health care workers, plumbers, shoemakers, restaurant and bar owners, and office workers.

In 1840 there were 1,099 persons in Newport Township but ten years later it had dropped to 808 after Dorrance had been separated. In 1854, Slocum Township was formed, and the township had a population of only 620 persons in the 1860 census. The population of Newport increased dramatically from 1860 to 1870 from 620 to 1,279 when Newport was becoming a mining community. In spite of losing land to Nanticoke in 1874, the population of Newport Township increased steadily from 1870 to 1930 when it peaked at 12,087.

From its inception as a poorhouse in 1860, the population of the complex of buildings known as Retreat was always included in the Township's census. The State Correctional Institute at Retreat closed its doors in 2020 and this will affect the next population count in 2030.

After 1930, the coal industry began its slow decline. During the years of World War II, coal was needed to power ships. After 1945, the general demand for coal decreased due to the emergence of cheaper and cleaner fuels, most notably oil and natural gas. The population of Newport Township decreased from its peak in 1930 to 4,989 in 1980. Since then, the population has stabilized at around 5,000. When the 2020 numbers become available, it is hoped that the numbers hold steady so that changes in government from 1st Class Township to 2nd Class Township won't have to occur.

Note: As of June 7, 2021, the population of Pennsylvania has been adjusted to 13,011,844. Because of strong population growth in states like Texas, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon, Pennsylvania lost one Congressional seat, from 18 down to 17. The Census Bureau will deliver redistricting data to the states by August 16, 2021.

Sources: *The History of Nanticoke City and Newport Township*, by Charles Ciesla; *Newport Township, 1807-1900: A Study of the Transformation of an Agricultural Community into a Mining Community*, by Thomas Izbicki; various websites.



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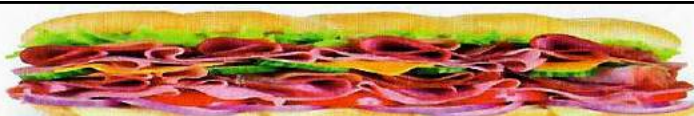
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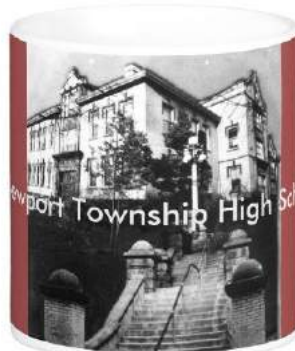


## Monthly Food Distribution At Wanamie Recreation Park

The Newport Township Community Organization and the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank run by the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) have been working together to host a Food Distribution in Newport Township for those in need. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the food distribution at the Glen Lyon American Legion was suspended. It resumed at the Wanamie Recreation Park in May 2020 and has been held there ever since on the second Saturday of the month in a drive-through format.

With the cooperation of the Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager Joe Hillan, outdoor distributions will continue at the Wanamie Park for the foreseeable future, weather permitting.

Recipients must pre-register. Palmira Miller chairs this event for the NTCO and 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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NTCO will make available printed copies of its quarterly newsletter to those living outside the area. An annual fee of \$10.00 covers the cost of mailing via the US Postal Service. Send your check payable to "NTCO" to Heidi Jarecki, 28 W. Main St., Glen Lyon, PA 18617; email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at [tomkashatus@gmail.com](mailto:tomkashatus@gmail.com) 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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