



We want it to stay, but autumn always leaves. Beautifully. ~Terri Guillemets



Fall in Sheatown

## Newport Township Public Business

*By John Jarecki* ~ The following is an account of Newport Township public business arranged in two parts. The first is a discussion of continuing projects and the second a discussion of items commented on or acted on by the Township Commissioners at their monthly meetings in July, August, and September of 2022.

**Glen Lyon Curb and Sidewalk Improvement Project:** Funded by a \$1.4 million Luzerne County Infrastructure Improvement Grant that the Township received in 2018, this project will repair sidewalks and curbs along Main Street in Glen Lyon. In February of 2022, the Township asked for bids for the project and in March awarded a contract to Multiscape Inc. of Pittston to do the work at a cost of \$1,117,190.03. In April Multiscape started work on sidewalks and curbs on the west side of Glen Lyon. Most of the sidewalks on the west side of town were replaced by the middle of September. Work will continue into the fall as long as weather permits, with expected completion in the spring of 2023.

**NorthPoint Development Warehouse Construction Project:** NorthPoint Development, a national construction company based in Kansas City, Missouri, which has constructed a number of warehouses along the South Valley Parkway, is continuing construction of two warehouses just off Middle Road on reclaimed strip mine land. One

of these warehouses, a 536,00 square-foot structure, will be in Hanover Township, and a second warehouse, of 1.2 million square feet, will be entirely within Newport Township. The smaller warehouse is named Tradeport 164-9 and the larger is Tradeport 164-8. They are part of a group of nine Northpoint warehouses along the South Valley Parkway that are accessed from Exit 164 of Interstate Route 81. As of September 2022, construction was proceeding rapidly toward completion.

**Blighted Property Remediation Project:** During 2021 Newport Township received a State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Blight Remediation grant of \$289,970 and an LSA (gaming) grant of \$250,000 for acquisition and demolition of blighted properties.

Township officials are demolishing blighted buildings in groups that are, if possible, near one another in the hope that this will decrease costs. They first get permission from the owner to demolish the building, with the owner then keeping possession of the land on which the building stood.

The First Group of homes chosen for demolition were at 1) 36-38 Rock Street, 2) 40 Rock Street, and 3) 260-261 Miner Avenue in Wanamie. In January of 2022 the Commissioners awarded a contract to Smart Recycling Inc (SRI) of Dunmore (Continued on next page)

**Inside:** Township Business p.1-2; NTCO President's Message p.3; Summer Fun p.4; Township Construction Projects p.5; 250th Anniversary of Newport Township p.6-7; Janet Davis p.7; Township Events

p.8; Class Reunions, Food Pantry p.9; Taste of Township p.10; Flora & Fauna p.11; Obituaries p.12; Bus Stop Café p.13; Collin Kashatus joins Marines p.14;

Brexy's Bar p.15; History of Kirmar Park p.16-18; Ghost Story p.18; Clem Kovalich p.19; Ads p.20; National Night Out p.21; Ads p.22-23; NTCO p.24.

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to demolish the buildings at a cost of \$35,400. In February, this demolition was completed.

The Second Group of homes chosen for demolition were at 1) 56-58 East Main Street, 2) 15 West Main Street, 3) 239 West Main Street, and 4) 168 Newport Street, all in Glen Lyon. Brdaric Excavating has completed the demolition of these buildings at a cost of \$49,400.00.

The Third Group of properties chosen for demolition are at 1) 48-50-52-54 East Main Street and 2) 68 East Main Street, all in Glen Lyon. In April of 2022 the Commissioners awarded a contract to Brdaric Excavating of Luzerne PA for the demolition of these buildings at a cost of \$43,800. In June Brdaric completed the demolition of these buildings.

A Fourth Group of properties chosen for demolition consists of buildings at 128 West Main Street in Glen Lyon and 1050 East Main Street in Wanamie. At a special meeting on June 10, the Commissioners awarded a contract to Smart Recycling Inc (SRI) for their demolition at a cost of \$30,000. The contractor completed the work during the summer of 2022.

A Fifth Group of properties chosen for demolition consists of buildings at 5-6 and 7-8 College Hill in Wanamie, and Rear 61 Coal Street and Rear 30 Apple Street, both in Glen Lyon. As of early September 2022, Penn Eastern Engineers were preparing bid specifications for the project, with the expectation of asking for bids within a week.

**Street Repaving Project:** During the summer of 2022, the Township carried out an extensive project of repaving Township streets. By September it had completed paving 1) Center Street, College Hill, Miner Avenue, and Belles Road using Liquid Fuels (primarily gasoline) tax funds that the Township receives from the State and paving equipment that it shares with the Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG); 2) Burnett Street, Stralka Lane, Franklin Street, 600 feet of Water Street, and Depot Street, using Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD) funds; and 3) Hemlock Street, Old Newport Street, Prince Street, Marcella Drive, Edward Street, and Marie Drive using a State Correctional Institution (SCI) Retreat prison closure grant.

**K. M. Smith School Townhouse Construction Project:** On June 9 the Luzerne County Planning Commission approved plans by developer Joseph Napolro to construct 54 housing units on the property of the former K. M. Smith School on Robert Street. Mr. Napolro has already constructed 29 apartments in the former School building.

The new units will include 22 townhouses of 1,545 square feet, 20 townhouses of 860 square feet, and a three story 12 unit apartment building. The Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board approved the project in July of 2020. Site work has begun. It will be followed by the construction of the townhouses, which will begin either late this year or early in 2023.

### **Commissioners' Meetings in July, August, and September 2022**

**July 5, 2022:** A resident complained about adolescents in the Township who made noise, littered streets, and confronted older residents. Commissioner John Zyla said the resident should report such behavior to the Police Chief, who would deal with the problem.

The Township Commissioners approved Ordinance #1 of 2022, which regulates National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water discharges from small municipal storm water systems.

Township Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first six months of the year, the Township had revenue or \$1,644,117.80 and expenditures of \$1,617,178.78.

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

1) As of July 1, 1,683 property owners paid the Refuse and Recycling Fee. Twelve property owners failed to pay the Fee. The Magistrate will hold hearings for their cases.

2) On June 7 Township Commissioner Debbie Zaleski and Manager Joe Hillan attended two hearings of the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board in which 1) Nanticoke real estate developer Alexander McNitt asked for variances to construct as many as 33 upscale apartments in the former Pulaski School and to put as many as 200 storage units on the adjacent property, and 2) Verizon asked for variances to construct a cell phone tower on Township property in Wanamie next to the Municipal Building. The Board approved both projects.

**August 1, 2022:** A Township resident mentioned that she had heard that Nacero Inc., a company planning to construct a plant to manufacture gasoline from natural gas, has applied for a permit for the project. She added that she thought that the plant would degrade the quality of life in the community. Commissioner Paul Czaracki said that the Commissioners had

heard about the application but that they had not been contacted with further information by the company.

The Commissioners approved Ordinance #2 of 2022, which authorized the Township Manager to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with other parties of Luzerne County for the purpose of creating a Land Bank to be known as the Lower South Valley Land Bank. They also approved a motion to appoint Ronald Jones as Newport Township's Citizen Representative to the Land Bank. (A Land Bank is a tool, provided for by state law, that municipalities may use to acquire and return tax-delinquent properties to productive use. One advantage of a Land Bank is that it gives communities priority in buying properties in tax-delinquency sales.)

The Commissioners approved a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Newport Township and the Newport Township Fire Apparatus Drivers.

The Commissioners accepted, with regret, the resignation of Brian Stashak from the Township's Department of Public Works. They commented that he was a valued Township employee.

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

1) Magistrate Donald Whitaker held five hearings on July 19 involving residents who had not paid their 2022 Refuse and Recycling Fee. He found all five guilty and ordered them to pay the Fee.

2) The Township intends to repave, either late this year or early next year, Newport Street in Glen Lyon and Vandermark Road in Wanamie using grant funds that were received from Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD). The work has been delayed because of the difficulty of getting an available contractor towards the end of the year.

**September 6, 2022:** The Commissioners voted to award a contract to low bidder Don E. Bower Inc., in the amount of \$448,183.60, to carry out the project of improving drainage on and paving Fair Lane in Sheatown and of improving the tennis and basketball courts in the Wanamie Recreation Park.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #7 of 2022, which authorizes the submission of an application for a Local Share Account Grant (gaming grant) from the State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the amount of \$707,000 for the purchase of a new Pierce Fire engine and related equipment.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #8 of 2022, which authorizes the submission of an application for a Local Share Account Grant (gaming grant) from the State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the amount of \$395,738.50 for upgrading the walking trail, parking area, restroom, storage facilities and pavilions in the Wanamie Recreation Park.

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

1) As required by law, the Township has determined the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for its police pension plan (\$58,931.80), non-uniformed employees pension plan (\$20,488.00), and firemen's pension plan (\$0.00).

2) The Township has asked for bids for its refuse collection, with opening of bids scheduled for September 20 at 3 pm.

3) The Township will be applying to Luzerne County for Covid Relief funds for improvements to the Wanamie Recreation Park and to the Center Street alley.

4) The Township has received a \$50,000 donation from the Earth Conservancy towards improvements on the basketball and tennis courts at the Wanamie Recreation Park.

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## NTCO President's Report

*By Stephen E. Phillips* ~ We are all happy to see that the co-editors of this publication, Heidi and Paul Jarecki, are back in action after their recent battles with COVID. The illness and its aftereffects were very taxing upon the health of the two driving forces behind this newsletter's publication. The NTCO's quarterly newsletter is the signature endeavor of the Township's Community Organization and the publication is eagerly anticipated by its diverse group of readers. Their recent health issues clearly indicate that COVID can still strike any of us at any time, and that we should still practice safe health procedures.

The effects of the pandemic had a continuing negative effect on this Organization's plan to reinstate its full Summer Fun Program. However, Township Commissioner Debbie Zaleski and her husband Peter volunteered and spearheaded efforts to have a limited program available for area youth. Three events were held, two of which included participation from the Township Police Department and Fire Department. The third was a free painting exercise which was enjoyed by the youngsters. (See page 4.) The NTCO extends its appreciation to Debbie and Peter for their assistance.

We would be remiss if we did not extend public appreciation to the Mercy Special Care Hospital Auxiliary for its very generous donation to the Community Organization to assist in its efforts to provide aid to our area residents who need assistance in feeding their families.

The preceding comments are the perfect introduction to again reiterate that the NTCO continues with its monthly food distribution on the second Saturday at 11:00 am in the Township's Recreation Park in the Wanamie section of the Municipality. Everyone is reminded that all food recipients must be registered five days prior to the event. Also, all recipients must meet income requirements and sign a new declaration of need each year. Information regarding the event is listed on the Newport Township Community Organization's Facebook page. For additional information, please contact Chairperson Palmira Miller at 570-592-7876. Volunteers to assist in distributing the food are always welcome and are asked to report at 9:00 am. Currently approximately 130 families are being served each month.

When requested, the Community Organization continues to provide various administrative services to the Township's governing body and staff. Over the years, a close working relationship has evolved between the elected officials, staff, and the NTCO. Special acknowledgement should be given to Amy Saraka, President of the Newport Township Crime Watch, other organizational officers, members and all volunteers and groups who combined to make the National Night Out Event on Tuesday, August 2 a resounding success. All attendees have very positive comments to make about this annual event. (See page 21.) It's another example of what a committed group of volunteers can accomplish.

Remember, November 8 is Election Day. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please vote. A substantial number of our veterans gave their lives to insure that we retain the right to cast our ballot for those whom we choose to lead us.

The NTCO wishes to acknowledge the donations of Frank Urban, Juliana Semple, and Mary Selecky to help support the Newport Township Community News.



Pictured above is the construction site near the former K.M. Smith School where townhouses and additional apartments are being built.

3

## Newport Lions Golf Tournament



The Newport Township Lions Club held its annual golf tournament on Friday August 19 at the Mill Race Golf Course in Benton. The results are:

Champs: Blasi Jr./Benick 43  
1st Flight: Bobo/Barton 37  
2nd Flight: Markowski/Selecky 35  
3rd Flight: McDermott/Ryncavage 31  
4th Flight: Kravabloski/Brown 27

## 400 Club of Nanticoke Sponsors Dinners



*By Tom Kashatus* ~ The Nanticoke 400 Club on Prospect Street sponsored a dinner catered by Rentko's Catering of Nanticoke for the Nanticoke police, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs and the Newport Township police and firefighters. Mayor Kevin Coughlin along with 400 Club members acknowledged all honorees for their dedication to their communities.

Pictured above and seated from the left are: Loretta Chmura, chairperson; 400 Club members: Ron Doknovitch, Dave Arnold, Richard Myers, John Karpinski, and Mary Loke, co-chairperson. Standing from the left are: 400 Club member Edward Koupinas; firefighter Josh Bukofski; Nanticoke Mayor Kevin Coughlin; firefighter Greg Grzymski; police officer Andrew Hashagen; firefighter Dave Wojciechowicz; police officer Brian Kivler; and 400 Club member Suzanne Kruczek. Absent from the photo were caterer Gerard Rentko and Nanticoke Medic 25 members, Jill Hildebrand and Allison Houser.

## Trunk or Treat

**October 23** at the Guardian Healthcare Facility, Sheatown.

**October 30** at the Township Municipal Garage from 1-2:30. Sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group.



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## Newport Township Community Organization's Summer Fun



On June 26, the children were invited to meet Axel, Newport's own K-9 officer and his handler Officer Bill Dubiak. Pictured left are Moms and children getting to know Axel and how he can help police in a variety of situations, from finding firearms and explosives to search and rescue. Axel has served on the Police Force for over a year.

On July 24, the Cup of Paint Art Studio in Exeter held a children's painting class. Judging from the smiles on the children's faces, this was an enjoyable afternoon. See pictures below.

On August 6, a Fire Safety Program was conducted by the Newport Township Fire Department. Pictured bottom of page.

All events were organized by Debbie and Peter Zaleski and sponsored by the NTCO. They were held in the Wanamie Recreation Park. Refreshments were served.



The Fire Safety Program  
Sitting left to right: Zack Tarnowski, Charley Hoffman, Tiffany Hoffman, Everly Hoffman, and Allie Tarnowski.  
Standing: Jason Tarnowski, Jarrod Whittaker; Dave Hoffman, Jim Hoffman, Dave McGovern, Carolyn Phillips, and Stephen Phillips.

### What is HUSTLE?

Hustle is doing something that everyone is absolutely certain can't be done.  
Hustle is getting the order because you got there first, or stayed with it after everyone else gave up.  
Hustle is shoe leather and elbow grease and sweat. And missing lunch.  
Hustle is getting prospects to say "yes" After they've said "no" twenty times.  
Hustle is doing more for a customer than the other person is doing.  
Hustle is believing in yourself and the business you're in.  
Hustle is providing top quality service.  
Hustle is the sheer joy of winning.  
Hustle is being the hardest loser in town.  
Hustle is hating to take a vacation because you might miss a piece of the action.  
Hustle is hopping out of bed late at night to write down a great idea.  
Hustle is heaven if you're a hustler.  
Hustle is hell if you're not.



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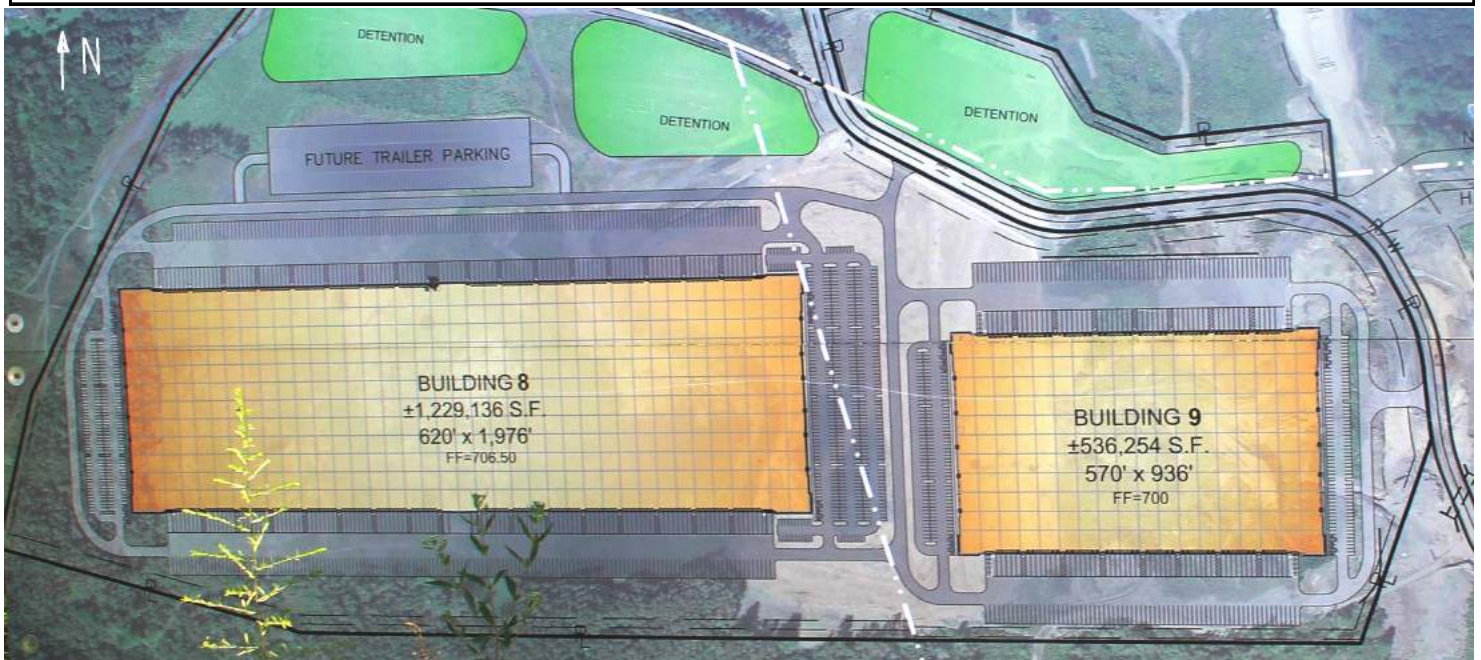
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At top is a map of the NorthPoint Development site. The building on the left is the 1.2 million square foot warehouse in Newport Township. The one on the right is the 536,000 square foot warehouse in Hanover Township. The picture above is the Newport warehouse as seen looking south from Middle Road. It has been reported that Lowe's Home Improvement has leased the building. The Newsletter has followed this story since it was first reported at the March 1, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting. (See the Spring 2021 Newsletter, no. 64.)

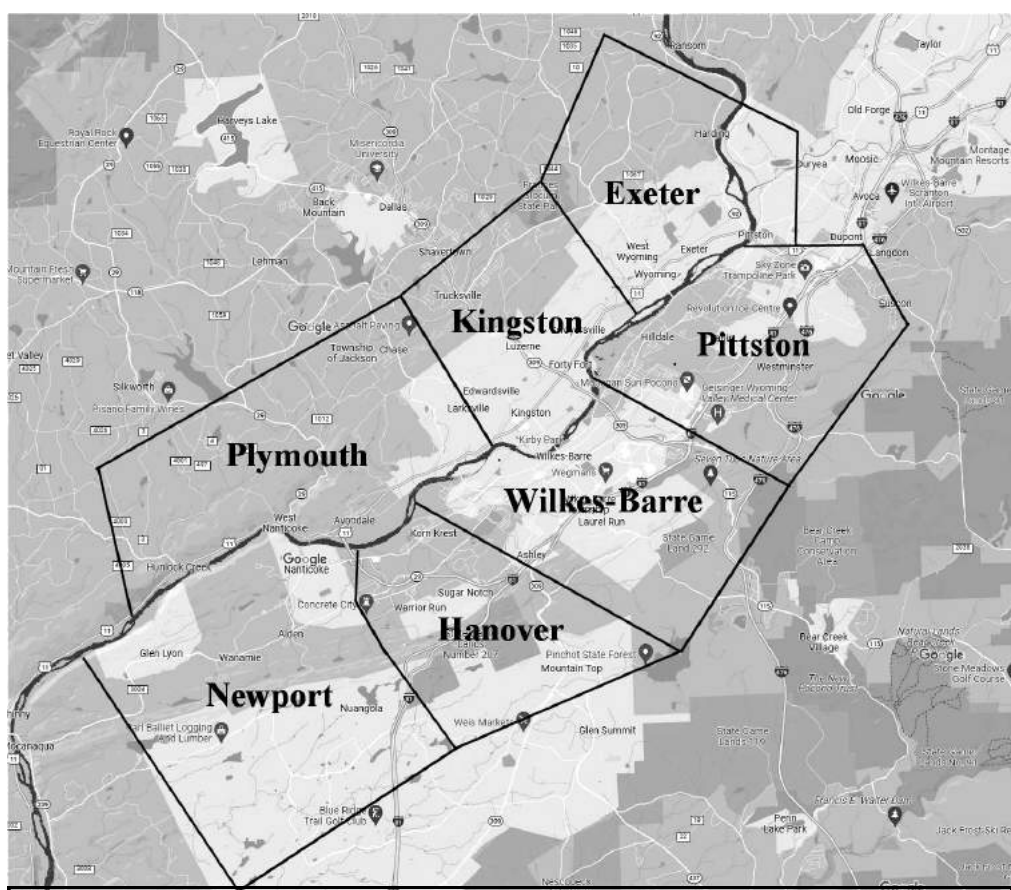
We are encouraged by Multi-Scape progress on the sidewalk project in Glen Lyon. In order to maintain the surface of our new sidewalks we are requesting all Main Street residents DO NOT use salt or any other de-icing products on the new concrete during the upcoming winter season. Multi-Scape will continue working on the project as long as the weather permits. Anticipated completion date is Spring 2023.

Joseph Hillan  
Township Manager

Pictured right: Work continues on the sidewalk project in Glen Lyon. This portion of the sidewalk joins the east side and the west side, and in former times, pedestrians walked under the trestle which connected the colliery to the breaker. Encroaching trees were removed and drainage was improved.







Above: The boundaries of the original seven Susquehanna Company Townships of Wyoming Valley as transferred from a map of the time and drawn approximately on a modern map.

## Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of Newport Township in 2023

*By John Jarecki* ~ European colonists established the first permanent settlements in Wyoming Valley in a short period of time just before the American Revolution, beginning in 1769. During this period settlers from Connecticut, acting under Connecticut's claim to sovereignty over the northern third of Pennsylvania, founded seven Townships that spanned the length and breadth of Wyoming Valley. Newport Township was the seventh of those townships. In May of 1773, Captain Prince Alden, a former officer of the Connecticut militia, and two associates John Comstock and Cyprian Lothrop, surveyed the boundaries of Newport Township. Prince Alden then went back to Connecticut and brought his family to settle in the Township.

The justification for the Connecticut settling of Wyoming Valley, at least as seen by Connecticut residents, was a Charter by the English King Charles II in 1662 that granted to the Colony of Connecticut, in addition to the land of present day Connecticut, all the land to its west as far as the Pacific Ocean. However, twenty years later in 1682, Charles also granted a Charter to William Penn that gave him ownership of approximately the area of present day Pennsylvania. Together these Charters assigned the northern third of present Pennsylvania, including Wyoming Valley and much of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River, to both Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

It was only in the 1750's, when Connecticut was running short of good land for farming, that its residents began to take seriously the colony's Charter granting it western lands, particularly in northeastern Pennsylvania. A group of Connecticut residents formed the Susquehanna Company and sold shares in it that gave each shareholder the ownership of a tract of land along the north or west branches of the Susquehanna River.

In 1754 representatives of the Company met with chiefs of the Iroquois Confederacy, and bought from them an area of northeastern Pennsylvania extending from the valley of the North Branch of the Susquehanna to a line about 120 miles to the west. With the coming of the French and Indian War in 1756 and other violence along the frontier, the Company's settlement plans were postponed, except for a failed attempt to settle in Wyoming Valley in 1762.

In October 1768, Richard and Thomas Penn, sons and heirs of William Penn and proprietors of the land of Pennsylvania, bought roughly the same land in northeastern Pennsylvania from the Iroquois as had been purchased earlier by the Susquehanna Company. With this purchase by the Penn brothers, the members of the Susquehanna Company were stirred to action. The race to take physical possession of Wyoming Valley was on, and both sides of the land dispute acted quickly.

The Penns immediately had large parts of Wyoming Valley surveyed as community-sized areas called manors, and by January 1769 had sold or leased 40 or 50 tracts of land in the Valley, including a 100 acre tract leased to Captain Amos Ogden and his associates at the location where Mill Creek enters the Susquehanna. This site is near the point where the present North Cross Valley Expressway crosses the River. Captain Ogden was tasked by the Penns with maintaining a trading post for carrying on trade with the Native Americans and defending the area against intruders. After taking up residence in the Valley, he and his associates built a blockhouse for their own protection at the Mill Creek site.

Meanwhile the Susquehanna Company made preparations to send 40 settlers to the Valley by February 1, 1769 and another 200 by May 1, 1769. The Company set aside five gratuity townships, so called because land in these areas was given as a reward, in addition to their shareholder properties, to settlers who reached the Valley within a few months. The first 40 settlers actually arrived in the Valley in March 1769. In the view of the Penns, these settlers were occupying land in

violation of the law of Pennsylvania, and within a short time, John Jennings, Sheriff of Northumberland County, which then included Wyoming Valley, arrested most of the settlers and had them sent to Easton for trial. In May, a second group of 200 Connecticut settlers, under the leadership of Major John Durkee, entered the Valley, followed a few days later by a third group of 50 settlers. The new arrivals immediately constructed a fort, Fort Durkee, near the present intersection of West River and Ross Streets in Wilkes-Barre. Among the Connecticut settlers listed as being in the Valley in June 1769 were Captain Prince Alden, John Comstock, and Cyprian Lothrop.

Captain Alden was born in Lebanon, New London County, Connecticut in 1718. He was the great grandson of John Alden, who came to America in 1620 on the Mayflower, settled in the Plymouth Colony, and served the Colony in numerous official positions, including Member of the Governor's Council and Treasurer of the Colony. Shortly after coming to Plymouth, John Alden married another Mayflower passenger, Priscilla Mullins. The couple are the subject of a popular nineteenth century poem "The Courtship of Miles Standish" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, published in 1858, a narrative loosely based on historical facts. Captain Prince Alden served in the Connecticut militia during the French and Indian War. In 1758 he was Quartermaster of a troop of cavalry attached to the Third Connecticut Regiment and was wounded in fighting near Fort Ticonderoga in New York State. In 1760 he was promoted to Lieutenant and later to Captain in the Connecticut force. Captain Alden became a member of the Susquehanna Company in 1761 by his purchase of a half share, later increased to 2 shares, in the Company. He came to the Valley with settlers that arrived in May of 1769.

The Connecticut settlers spent the summer of 1769 farming the land near Fort Durkee. In September David Meade, a Philadelphia surveyor working for the Susquehanna Company, laid out the boundaries of the five gratuity Townships. These were Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Hanover, Kingston, and Plymouth. Captain Alden was one of a committee of settlers selected to assist Mr. Meade.

In November of 1769, at the order of Pennsylvania's Governor, Sheriff Jennings bought a force of 200 men to the area to drive the Connecticut settlers out and enforce the ownership of the land by the

Penn family and its leasers and purchasers. At the same time, a group of about 20 men led by Captain Patterson from Fort Augusta, which was located in the present city of Sunbury, came to the Valley bringing with them a four pounder, a piece of artillery that fired a four pound shot. And the Pennsylvania settlers in Wyoming Valley, led by Amos Ogden in a surprise raid, took some of the Yankees prisoner, including their leader Major John Durkee. After the Pennsylvanians surrounded Fort Durkee and threatened to destroy it with their four-pounder, the Connecticut settlers surrendered and agreed to leave the Valley. Prince Alden, present at the surrender of the Fort, went back to his home and family in Connecticut and did not return until early 1773.

The next year 1770 was, to a large extent, a repetition of the events of 1769, actually a double repetition. In February, while Sheriff Jennings and his men and Amos Ogden were out of the Valley, a group of Pennsylvanians from Paxtang in Lancaster County, allies of the Connecticut settlers and led by Lazarus Stewart, ousted the Pennsylvanians from Fort Durkee, and took possession of the four-pounder. In March Major Durkee and a party of Connecticut settlers entered the Valley, used the four-pounder to fire on Amos Ogden's blockhouse, and after a short siege forced its surrender and the exit of the Pennsylvanians. However, the Pennsylvanians were not discouraged. In September they recaptured Fort Durkee from its Connecticut occupiers and re-arrested Major Durkee.

In December the two competing groups repeated the occupy-displace cycle. Early in the month, Lazarus Stewart and his men returned and re-captured Fort Durkee. And again, in late December the Northampton Sheriff, aided by a group of Pennsylvanians led by Amos Ogden, came to the Valley to arrest Lazarus Stewart and his men. They arrested a dozen, and the rest escaped, including Stewart. The Pennsylvanians demolished Fort Durkee and left a contingent of their supporters in the Valley to protect their acquisition. They built a new fort, Fort Wyoming, which stood on the present River Common in Wilkes-Barre near the intersection of River and Northampton Streets..

In the next year 1771, events played out in a much different way. In July the Susquehanna Company sent a force of about a hundred men under the command of Captain Zebulon Butler and a second force of forty of its Lancaster County allies, under Lazarus Stewart, into the Valley. They besieged both the Mill Creek blockhouse and Fort Wyoming. Pennsylvania ordered the Northampton County Sheriff to raise a force of 100 men to oppose them, but at least partly because the reported violence at Wyoming, was only able to raise a small portion of this number. This force was never sent. Instead, Amos Ogden and his associates sent out a group of twenty-two men who were able to reach the Valley and reinforce the Pennsylvanians. But this was not enough. In August the Connecticut siege ended with the surrender of the blockhouse and Fort Wyoming and its defenders agreeing to leave the Valley. This confrontation left the Connecticut settlers in sole possession of Wyoming Valley. By December new settlers were coming in every week. They enlarged and strengthened the blockhouse and Fort Wyoming. By November of 1772 a group of settlers had surveyed a sixth Valley Township, in the shape of a square with five mile sides, on the west side of the River north of and adjoining Kingston. This was Exeter Township. In May of 1773 Captain Prince Alden, now returned to the Valley, and his two associates John Comstock and Cyprian Lothrop, surveyed for its shareholders the seventh Valley Township of Newport. Prince Alden immediately returned to Connecticut and brought his wife and nine children to settle on his property in the Township.

It is not unreasonable to conclude that the Connecticut settlement succeeded, in spite of the armed opposition of the Pennsylvanians, in taking physical possession of the Valley and establishing the first permanent settlements at least partly because they were organized as the Susquehanna Company and were able to put large numbers of settlers in the Valley in a short time. The establishment of each of the Valley Townships, including Newport, was not accomplished independently but was inseparably part of the entire enterprise. Next year 2023 will be the 250th anniversary of the founding of Newport Township as part of that enterprise.

**Note:** Tom Izbicki wrote as his Senior Thesis at King's College "Newport Township, 1807-1900: A Study of the Transformation of an Agricultural Community into a Mining Community," which included a prologue on the founding of Newport Township. His thesis is a telling of the story of Newport Township. I would like to acknowledge his work in making me aware of the history of our community and in being very informative and helpful in writing the article above, which is a small, but I hope interesting, addition to that story.



Pictured above is Group Leader and quilt maker Rebecca Orlowski, Janet Davis, and recipient, Vietnam veteran Patrick Conway, at the Plains Township American Legion Post 558.

### Janet Davis: Volunteer Quilt Maker

*By Tom Kashatus ~* A few years ago Janet Davis of Newport Street, Glen Lyon retired from the Veterans Administration Hospital after a busy career in Food Service. Today she continues to keep a busy schedule and continues to be "busy as a bee." Actually the terminology refers to "quilting bee." Janet volunteers her time as an active member of the NEPA Chapter Quilt of Valor (QOV) Foundation. Janet is also a member of the Columbia County (QOV) Chapter where her interest in making these quilts began.

The NEPA Chapter Quilt of Valor (QOV) Foundation of which Janet is a member is a nonprofit organization that awards handmade quilts to service members and veterans from all branches of the military. Chapter Group Leader, Rebecca Orlowski, stated that these endeared quilts are an expression of gratitude meant to thank and comfort those veterans who serve and/or have served, whether in time of crisis or time of peace, and to honor them for leaving behind all that they hold dear during a prime time in their life. "The Quilt of Valor unequivocally says thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation."

Janet has attended many quilting bees/retreats throughout the week and on weekends. Along with her many friends and associates throughout Pennsylvania and even New York and Delaware, she has expended time, effort, and material. Awarding ceremonies have been held at many locations for either one recipient or a large number of recipients. Home base is the Plains American Legion Post 558 on East Carey Street in Plains Township.

Besides making quilts for QOV, Janet is also a member of Project DJ (Donating Joy) which makes smaller quilts for hospitalized and/or abused children and youngsters in foster care or Head Start programs. They meet weekly at the Trucksville United Methodist Church.

Janet was introduced to quilting over 40 years ago by the mother of her sister-in-law. At that time, all their quilting was done by hand. Janet's companion, John Murphy, has been her champion and an asset with his encouragement, along with the people who bring her the joy of accomplishment.

Janet and her associates dedicate a tremendous amount of time to their activity. The satisfaction that they receive is the respect and admiration from the men and women who are recognized for their military service above and beyond.

**Note:** See "Blanketing NEPA's veterans with love" an article by Bill O'Boyle in the *Times Leader*, Oct. 9, 2021, for more information on the Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties Chapter of the QOV Foundation.





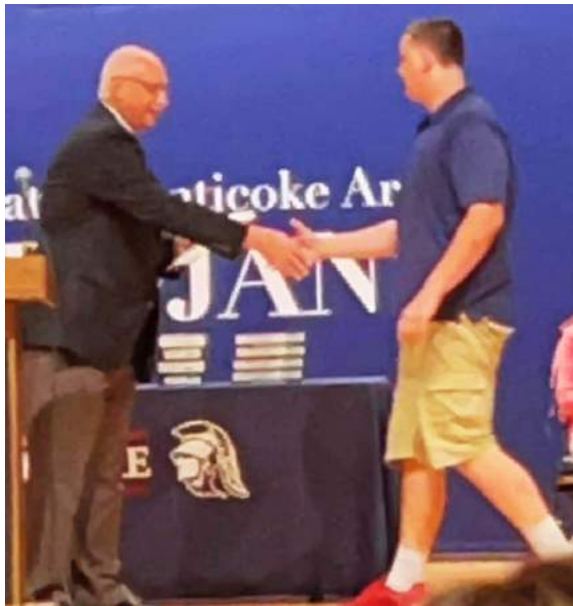
## Legion Auxiliary Officers Sworn In

At the August meeting, the elected officers of the Glen Lyon Legion Post 539 Auxiliary were sworn in by Marcia Finn, District President. Left to right are: Barbara Meyers, President; Marcia Finn; Stephanie O’Gorman, Vice President; Faith Kropiewnicki, Secretary; Tiffany Graham, Treasurer and Membership Chairman; Terri Meyers, Chaplain; and Faye Maloney, Sergeant at Arms. Absent was Heidi Jarecki, Historian.



## Scholarship Recipient

In June, Myla Vnuk of Lee was the finalist in a scholarship competition offered by the Altar and Rosary Society, St. Adalbert’s Church, Glen Lyon, Holy Spirit Parish. Shown above are JoAnne Thomas, Vice-President, Myla, and Carol Sobotka, Secretary. Myla is attending Wilkes University and plans to major in Secondary Education. She is the daughter of David and Michelle Vnuk.



On Senior Awards Day at the Greater Nanticoke Area High School, the Floryshak Family Glen Lyon Community Education Grant was awarded to two deserving seniors. Pictured left is Vincent Floryshak presenting the award to Austin Blank, son of Jeremy and Krissy Blank. At right is Myla Vnuk, daughter of David and Michelle Vnuk, receiving the award from Vincent Floryshak. The grants are sponsored by Vincent and Diane Grudkowski Floryshak, 1971 graduates of GNA. Among the criteria for awarding the grants are: documented participation in community service to either the high school or local area, sports involvement, a one page written essay, letters of recommendation from one teacher and one community leader and a copy of high school transcripts.



Pictured left are two of the long abandoned structures in Group 5 that will be demolished over the next couple of months. At far left is Number 5 and 6 on Vandermark Road. The home was associated with the Klukososki and Kosik Families and was once a speakeasy. Pictured near left is a structure which was an apartment house and grocery store formerly owned by the Gorczyza Family. Both are next to the former St. Mary’s Church in Wanamie.



## Class Reunions



### Newport Class of 1960

By Miriam Ross ~ An 80th birthday party for the Class of 1960 of Newport Township High School was held on August 20 at the Berwick Golf Club in Berwick. Pictured left are class members who attended. Front row: Rev. James McGahagan, Carol Wrubel Halchak, Miriam Charnogorsky Ross, Gloria Repotski Eget, Bernadine Swicklik Betkoski, Jacqueline Deluca Curry, Dorothy Polakowski Rinehimer, Carol Niemiec Maciejczyk, Carol Novak Krushefski. Back Row: David Kule, Gerald Butchko, James Caverly, Elbert Myers, Gerald Formulak, Marjorie Reakes Rinehamer, Lawrence Kray, Carl Kizelowicz, and Chester Krushefski.



**GNA Class of 1972** held its 50th Reunion at West Side Park in Nanticoke on August 13. Attending were: 1st row (sitting): Diane Biewlawa, Rev. Jerry Gorka, Susan Rhinehammer, Palmira Gregory, Judy Delaney, Mary Jo Galazin. 2nd row (woman with scarf) Mary Kay Bwyskal, Cheryle Barnes, Janet Smereski, Diane Winters, Janet Pierzchala, Eugene Dennis, Laurie Jones, Susan Olzinski, Lynda Synder, Antonette Steward. 3rd row: Dan Doris, Marie Kinney, Ken Kasporzac, Elaine Antonik, Dan Nearhouse, Thomas Wilson, Bernie Washikowski, Barb Warkowski, Betty Kubasek, Scott Spencer, Denise Klem, Mark Bodek, Gene Romanowski, Norm Bodek, Marie Lucas, Chris Sowa, Rick Pucci, Len Molsheski, Jim Derr, Henry Gesecki, David Obaza, Jim Burns, Theresa Novak, Thomas Shipkowski, John Kowalski, Judith Bienkoski, Deb Zabrenski, Mary Ann Mazur, Gary Wolmelsdorf, Gary Smith, Linda Walkowak, and Ed Zaborney.

### NTCO's Monthly Food Distribution Program

By Tom Kashatus ~ The Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) held its monthly mobile food pantry at the Recreation Park in Wanamie on August 13. NTCO also runs a monthly senior food box giveaway at the Glen Lyon Ken Pollock Apartments, serving eight families. This program is run by Lorrie Materiewicz. The NTCO Mobile Food Pantry works with The Commission on Economic Opportunity's Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, which provides assistance to organizations that distribute meals and groceries to families, children and elderly in need. It is the primary source of donated food for Northeastern Pennsylvania's food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other programs. The food bank is located in Jenkins Township on a site that was donated by Bob Mericle at Mericle's Center Point Commerce & Trade Park East. The NTCO, an all volunteer organization, has been operating the food pantry since June 2016. It started at the Glen Lyon American Legion. Since COVID, it was moved to the Recreation Park where it remains. NTCO's mobile food pantry is held on the second Saturday of the month from 11 am to noon. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive by 9 am. All recipients must be registered five days prior to the event. Recipients must meet requirements and sign a new "Declaration of Need" every year. For information, contact Palmira at 570-592-7876. NTCO quarterly newsletters are published January, April, July, and October. They are available at local merchants throughout the year and on the NTCO website: [www.newporttownship.com](http://www.newporttownship.com).



Volunteers who participated in the August event, first row, from left, are Fire Police Roy Tinney Jr., Nanticoke Fire Police Chief Fred Craft, Cassandra Evans, John Sutton, Ella Moore, Food Pantry Chairperson Palmira Miller, Makayla Corkell and Darien Evans. Second row: Chyann Evans, Kaylie Moore, Tom Moore, Ed (Joe) Bush, Rosemarie Phares, Mary Jo Evans, Lorraine Corkell, Christina Cromer, Larry Ace, Celia Wallace, Roy Tinney Sr., NTCO President Stephen Phillips; Amy Saraka, Al Vandermark and Dave Jumper. Also participating were Fire Police members Dave Namowicz and Ron Jones and NTCO Secretary Linda Conner.





## Taste of the Township Flour

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ "Knowledge is flour, but Wisdom is bread." ~ Austin O'Malley.

The use of flour in the Township is almost as common as breathing out

and breathing in. We use it to make bread, cookies, cakes, pies, noodles, pierogi, just to name a few. Merriam Webster defines flour as "a fine, powdery substance or meal, produced by grinding and sifting grain, especially wheat, or any various edible roots, nuts, etc."

Newport Township's connection to flour goes back to the 1770's. In *The History of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania*, by Henry Bradsby, 1893: "The first settlement in Newport was made by Maj. Prince Alden in 1772, on the Col. Washington Lee property. A few years after this his sons, Mason F. and John Alden, erected a forge on Nanticoke Creek. In the same year Mr. Chapman put up a log grist-mill with one run of stone near the forge." It wasn't until 1830 when Nanticoke was incorporated as a village, so Nanticoke Creek formerly lay within Hanover and Newport Townships' boundaries.

The first evidence of flour was found to be from around 30,000 years ago from the Upper Paleolithic region in Europe. The oldest technique used to make flour was using a combination of a stone mortar and pestle. Around 3000 B.C.E., the Egyptians began sifting flour using hand sieves. This helped separate the coarser parts of wheat grains from the finer grains. Later on, the Romans used flour by grinding seeds on cone mills. The ancient Greeks were the first ones to use watermills before 71 B.C. After watermills, appeared mills that were powered by wind. With the beginning of the Industrial age, mills were powered by steam and grinded the flour with rollers which were metal or porcelain, instead of horizontal stones. That increased flour production. Before the industrialization, white flour, made by removing the flour's germ, was expensive and only affordable for the rich. Roller mills made removing of the germ much easier so white flour became more affordable for the poor. The problem is that germ holds a majority of vitamin B and because white bread became a staple food for the poor, diseases caused by lack of B vitamins such as pellagra and beriberi started appearing in large numbers. When the vitamins were discovered and their connection with diseases found during the 1930s, flour was enriched with iron, niacin, thiamine and riboflavin. Folic acid was added in the 1990s.

A wheat kernel contains bran, endosperm, and germ. The bran is the outer covering of the kernel; it is high in fiber. The germ is the innermost part of the kernel; it is high in fat. The endosperm is the part which acts as a food store for the developing plant embryo. Endosperm takes up about 83% of the kernel weight and contains the greatest share of protein, carbohydrates and iron, as well as the major B-vitamins. It is also a source of soluble fiber.

Whole wheat flour is made using all parts of the kernel, while white flour is produced using only the endosperm. Wheat is particularly useful for baking because it contains a large amount of gluten. Gluten is a composite of the proteins gliadin and glutenin. Gluten is what gives wheat dough an elastic structure that allows it to be worked in a variety of ways. It allows the retention of gas bubbles resulting in an aerated final product with a soft texture, desirable for breads, cakes and the like.

Many varieties of wheat exist for making flour. Wheat containing 8 to 11 percent protein is called soft wheat. Wheat that contains 11-18 percent protein is considered hard wheat. The higher percentage of protein in hard wheat means more gluten, allowing it to rise more than soft wheat flour. All-purpose flour is a blend of soft and hard wheat.

Generally, flour can be typed by the amount of protein: cake and pastry flour, 7-9%; all-purpose flour, 10-12%; bread flour, 12-16%; high gluten flour, 14% and up; whole-wheat flour, 16%. Protein content can impact many functional properties of the flour, doughs and batters, such as water absorption, cohesiveness, viscoelasticity, dough strength, texture, loaf volume, and crumb grain.

**Bleached flour** is treated with flour bleaching agents to whiten it (freshly milled flour is yellowish) and to give it more gluten-producing potential. Oxidizing agents are usually employed, most commonly organic peroxides. A similar effect can be achieved by letting the flour slowly oxidize with oxygen in the air for approximately 10 days. Nutrients are lost during the bleaching process. Some of these nutrients may be replaced during refining—the result is known as **enriched flour**.

**Bromated flour** is flour with a maturing agent added. The agent's role is to help with developing gluten, a role similar to the flour bleaching agents. **Corn (maize) flour** is popular in the southern and southwestern United States and in Mexico. Coarse whole-grain corn flour is usually called corn meal. **Rye flour** is used to bake the traditional sourdough breads. Most rye breads use a mix of rye and wheat flours because rye has a low gluten content. Pumpernickel bread is usually made exclusively of rye, and contains a mixture of rye flour and rye meal. **Self-rising flour** is flour is sold premixed with chemical leavening agents. It is used for baking of lighter and softer baked products.

The milling of flour is accomplished by grinding grain between stones or steel wheels. Today, "stone-ground" usually means that the grain has been ground in a mill in which a revolving stone wheel turns over a stationary stone wheel, vertically or horizontally with the grain in between.

Flour dust suspended in air can be explosive. Some devastating explosions have occurred at flour mills, including one in 1878 at the Washburn "A" Mill in Minneapolis that killed 22 people. On April 7, 1981, 10 people were killed and dozens injured at a grain mill explosion in Corpus Christi, TX.



### Tarnowski's Kielbasa wins the People's Choice Award

Tarnowski's Kielbasa has won first place for both Best Smoked Kielbasa and Best Fresh Kielbasa at the Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Festival held on August 12-14. This is the second year in a row they have won both awards. John and Stacie Vishnefski are the proprietors of Tarnowski's Kielbasa located at 579 East Main Street, Nanticoke. John is the son of John and Diane Vishnefski of Wanamie.

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John & Anastasia Vishnefski



## The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township

### Red Fox



*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~* A sad day, we were returning from California after attending the funeral of Heidi's brother Paul. The return trip was long and tiring. We arrived at Avoca Airport late at night. My brother John and his wife Carol picked us up and we drove home. After passing the Parkway Inn on Kirmar Parkway, we rounded the turn when my brother caught some movement out of the corner of his eye and he hit the brakes. A large red fox then ran out in front of us in the bright headlights. The brightness of the lights brought out the amazing beauty of this very secretive animal.

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is the largest of the true foxes of the order Carnivora. It ranges across the Northern Hemisphere including most of North America, Europe and Asia, and parts of North Africa. The red fox originated from smaller-sized ancestors from Eurasia during the Middle Villafranchian period and colonized North America shortly after the Wisconsin glaciation. It often produces individuals with other colorings, including leucistic (pale or having reduced pigmentation) and melanistic (dark or black in color) individuals. Forty-five subspecies are currently recognized which are divided into two categories: the large northern foxes and the small, basal southern grey desert foxes of Asia and North Africa.

Red foxes live together in pairs or small groups consisting of families, such as a mated pair and their young, or a male with several females having kinship ties. The species primarily feeds on small rodents, rabbits, squirrels, game birds, reptiles, invertebrates and young ungulates (hoofed mammals, such as white tailed deer). Fruit and vegetable matter is also eaten sometimes. It is vulnerable to attack from larger predators, such as wolves, coyotes, golden jackals, large predatory birds such as golden eagles and Eurasian eagle owls, and medium- and large-sized felines. The species has a long history of association with humans, having been hunted as a pest and furbearer for many centuries, as well as being represented in human folklore and mythology. It is one of the most important furbearing animals harvested for the fur trade. It has extensively benefited from the presence of human habitation, and has successfully colonized many suburban and urban areas.

#### Red Fox Facts

1. The word "fox" comes from Old English, which derives from Proto-Germanic "fuhsaz."
2. The earliest fossil specimens were uncovered in Baranya, Hungary dating from 3.4 to 1.8 million years ago. The earliest fossil remains of the modern species date back to the mid-Pleistocene, often referred to as the Ice Age. Red foxes colonized the North American continent in two waves: before or during the Illinoian glaciation, and during the Wisconsinan glaciation. Red foxes in North America have been isolated from their Old World counterparts for over 400,000 years.
3. Adults measure 14–20 inches high at the shoulder and 18–35 inches in body length with tails measuring 12–22 inches. The largest red fox on record in Great Britain was a 38 pound, 4 foot 7 inch long male, killed in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in early 2012.
4. Red foxes feature prominently in the folklore and mythology of human cultures with which they are sympatric. In Celtic mythology, the red fox is a symbolic animal. In the Cotswolds,

witches were thought to take the shape of foxes to steal butter from their neighbors. In later European folklore, the figure of Reynard the Fox symbolized trickery and deceit.

5. The Sierra Nevada Red Fox is one of the rarest mammals in North America and is now limited to only two tiny California populations that likely consist of fewer than 50 — and possibly even fewer than 20 — individuals.
6. Red foxes are among the most important fur-bearing animals harvested by the fur trade. Their pelts are used for trimmings, scarfs, muffs, jackets and coats. The number of sold fox scarves exceeds the total number of scarves made from other fur-bearers.
7. If in their curiosity a red fox approaches you, clap and shout to scare them away. You want to teach them that humans are a danger and to avoid us.



#### Newsletter Subscribers Celebrate 66 Years of Marriage

*By Susan Pickering ~* Glen Lyon native Jean (Lipski) and her husband Lee Hope are celebrating 66 years of marriage! Jean was born and raised in Glen Lyon, the daughter of the late Stanley and Lillian Lipski. Jean was attending the Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing when she met Lee on a blind date in 1953. Lee was proudly serving his country and was stationed at the Philadelphia Naval Yard. After a 3-year courtship, Lee and Jean were married on September 8, 1956 at St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon. Her sister, the late Norma (Lipski) Ressler served as Jean's maid of honor, and her brother, the late Herbert Lipski sang at the reception which was held at The Hilltop in Nanticoke.

Following their nuptials, Lee and Jean first located to Mount Laurel, New Jersey and then in 1970 settled in Hopkinton, Massachusetts when Lee was transferred with the RCA Corporation. They raised four children: Theresa (Goodwin), Larry, Susan (Pickering) and Linda. They are blessed with 4 grandchildren: Danny, Andrew, Carson and Matthew.

Jean, Lee, and their family made many return visits to Glen Lyon where Jean always enjoyed the beautiful "snowball" trees, mountain views and reminiscing about "the good ole days." No visit was complete without a fresh kielbasa dinner and a trip to the Old River Road Bakery. Jean very much enjoys the Newport Township Community News and looks forward to every issue, which she reads over and over!

Jean and Lee now reside in a retirement community in Marlborough, Massachusetts and would love to hear from old friends and neighbors. They can be reached at:

Jean and Lee Hope  
421 Bolton Street  
#216  
Marlborough, MA 01752



## 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.

**ADAMCZYK**, Jason, 48, of Wanamie passed away on April 16, 2022. He was raised in Nanticoke and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1991.

**PETERS**, Violet "Vi" (nee Brenish), 94, formerly of Nuangola and Newport Township, passed away May 31, 2022. Violet was born in Nuangola. She was raised in Newport Township and graduated from Newport Township High School. She was owner and manager of her high-end trend setting designer clothing store "Peters' Boutique."

**WASHINSKI**, Ronald, 77, formerly of Newport Township, passed away June 3, 2022. Ronald was born in Nanticoke on June 30, 1944. He was raised in Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1962.

**NOVAK**, Robert G., 81, of Sheatown, passed away June 3, 2022. Robert was born in Nanticoke on July 5, 1939. He was raised in Sheatown and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958.

**BOGACKI**, Joan A. (nee Caporaletti), 80, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away on November 29, 2021. Joan was born and raised in Mocanaqua and attended school in Mocanaqua and Shickshinny. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958.

**MADDY**, Virginia I. (nee Gliddon), 84, of Alden passed away June 12, 2022. Virginia was born in Newport Township in 1938. She was raised in Alden and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1955. She served on the All-Newport Reunion Committee.

**BOLINSKI**, William C., 79, of Hanover Township passed away June 18, 2022. William was raised in Mocanaqua and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1960. William was a US Army veteran serving with the 716th Military Police Battalion at Fort Dix, NJ, with the rank of SP-5 upon discharge in 1963.

**MALEC**, Henry Edward, 89, of Prospect Hill, Alden, died May 18, 2022.

**LEGGE**, Robert A., 86, of Vandermark Road, Wanamie, passed away June 25, 2022, at home. Robert was born and raised in Newport Township and attended Newport Township schools. Robert was a veteran of the US Air Force.

**OREKINTO**, Alfred P., 97, of Pollock's Apartments, Glen Lyon, and formerly of Sheatown, passed away June 25, 2022. Alfred was born on November 11, 1924. He proudly served in the US Navy during World War II, participating in the Normandy D-Day Invasion. While attached to 1006th Sea-Bee Battalion, after the loss of his ship, his outfit constructed the first causeway on Utah Beach under heavy enemy fire.

**SHELHAMER**, Albert David, 72, of Burke, VA, died April 20, 2022. He was born in Nanticoke on June 6, 1950. He graduated from Bishop Egan High School in Fairless Hills, PA, and Pennsylvania College of Technology. Albert was a caregiver to his parents and Aunt Gertrude Sokolnicki of Glen Lyon prior to their passing.

**CYWINSKI**, Bernard R., 95 formerly a long time resident of Sheatown, passed away July 4, 2022. Bernard was born on June 5, 1927. He attended Newport Township schools, and was a veteran of the US Marine Corps serving his country as a mechanic during World War II.

**RUSCZYK**, Teresa "Terry" (nee Zalinski), 74, of Alden passed away July 4, 2022. Terry was born on April 27, 1948. She was a graduate of Hanover Memorial High School and attended Wilkes College.

**DICKINSON**, Helen T. (nee Tkatch), 92, formerly of Newport Township, passed away July 3, 2022. Helen was born and raised in Glen Lyon, went to school there, and graduated from Newport Township High School. She attended Nesbitt Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and retired as a Registered Nurse from Nesbitt Hospital.

**GREGORY**, Katherine "Kaye" M. (nee Swanberry), 98, passed away June 28th, 2022. Katherine was born in Wanamie on May 22, 1924. Kaye was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School.

During World War II. she worked as a riveter in an airplane hangar.

**EVANS**, Ronald A., 83, of Glen Lyon, passed away July 15, 2022. Ronald was born in Newport Township on December 9, 1938. He was a graduate of Northwest Area High School with the Class of 1957 and a US Army veteran.

**JUMPER**, Joseph William Sr., 68, of Glen Lyon, passed away August 2, 2022. Joseph was born in Wilkes Barre on July 6, 1954. He attended E. L. Meyers High School.

**KLIMCHAK**, Donald J., 64, of Ridgeview, passed away on August 4, 2022. Donald was born in Albany, NY, on June 24, 1958. He was owner and operator of Raub's Restaurant, Plymouth.

**ADAMS**, Autumn (nee Miller), 52, of Glen Lyon, passed away August 7, 2022. Autumn was born in Nanticoke on October 30, 1969. She was raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of John S. Fine High School of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District.

**BRIGGS**, Lloyd R., 83, passed away August 6, 2022. He was born in Nanticoke on July 2, 1938. He was a graduate of Nanticoke High School with the Class of 1956. Lloyd was a veteran of the US Navy serving aboard the USS Rigel. He was the husband of the late RoseAnn Krupinski Briggs, who was a Newport Township High School graduate with the Class of 1958.

**LEVANDOWSKI**, Henry F., 52, of Glen Lyon, passed away August 7, 2022. Henry was born in Nanticoke on November 30, 1969. He was a US Navy veteran serving during Desert Storm and a member of American Legion Post 539 of Glen Lyon.

**KISHBAUGH**, Paul D., 70, of Wanamie, passed away August 8, 2022.

**SLINGERLAND**, Richard C., 90, of Bronxville, NY passed away August 2, 2022. Richard was the husband of the late Lorraine (Cobosco) Slingerland, formerly born and raised in Glen Lyon and a Newport Township High School graduate with the Class of 1951.

**STRZELECKI**, Bernard J. Sr., 85, of Slocum Township/Wapwallopen, passed away August 13, 2022. Bernard was born in Slocum Township. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1956. He was a US Navy veteran.

**DOBROWOLSKI**, Theresa, 90, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away August 13, 2022. Theresa was born in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School. She received a nursing degree from Bellevue School of Nursing in New York City.

**KOCH**, Barbara M. (nee Burg), 80, of Taylor, formerly of Alden Mountain Road, passed away on August 30, 2022. Barbara was born in Philadelphia. She was a graduate of Northeast High School.

**RAMBUS**, Andrea I. (nee Zglinicki), 81, a lifetime resident of Glen Lyon, passed away August 31, 2022. Andrea was born in Nanticoke. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. She was also a graduate of Luzerne County Community College and was a member of the American Legion Post 539 Auxiliary.



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### The Bus Stop Café

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ When you stop for breakfast at the Bus Stop Café on the Square, 2 East Broad Street in Nanticoke, you might be lucky to get a "Hi" from the "Main Man," Eli Panagakos. That's because he's so busy with his endeared trade as chef of the best breakfast in town. However, he knows that you are there and he definitely appreciates your stopping by and will show recognition sooner or later. Eli has owned and been doing this breakfast thing for over 29 years. He started the business with his wife Susan, who unfortunately passed away in 2014. The business is near the corner of Market and Broad streets, where his Mom and Dad once owned and were proprietors of the popular Diamond Candy Shoppe. A trip to the restaurant is worth it just to view the Nanticoke and Newport Township historical photos that decorate the walls. The NTCO also thanks Eli for being one of our inaugural advertisers and a distributor of our quarterly newsletters.

### Election Day Hoagie and Bake Sale

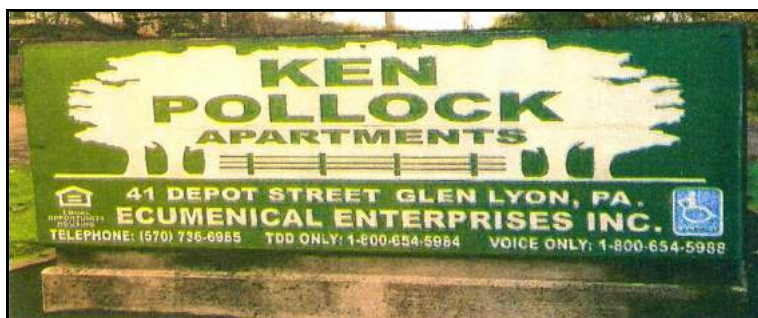
The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon will again hold its Hoagie and Bake Sale on Election Day, November 8. Please order by calling Carol at 570-736-7149. There are also order sheets in the back of the church. Hoagies are \$8.00 each. Deadline for orders is November 1. Pickup between 11:30 and 1.

### the BUS STOP cafe



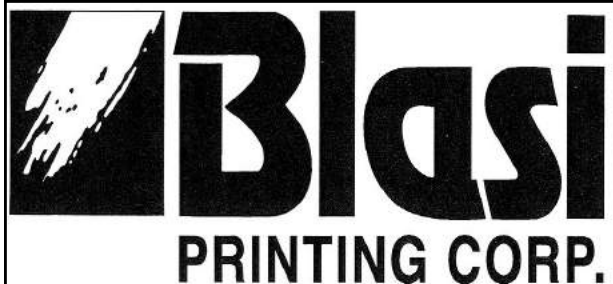
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inline aqueous coating finisher we can now handle your more complex and detailed jobs.**



## Collin Kudrako-Kashatus Enlists in US Marine Corps



By Tom Kashatus ~  
Pictured left is Marine PFC Collin Kudrako-Kashatus, Railroad Street, Glen Lyon. Collin left for Boot Camp at Parris Island, SC, on January 18, 2022. He completed his 14 week basic training there with graduation ceremonies being held on April 15, 2022.

Collin is a 2020 graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School. Throughout high school he was an honor student and excelled in wrestling

and football. After high school he enrolled as a student at Luzerne County Community College taking a General Studies course. Collin was employed as a "Fry Cook" for the restaurant Texas Roadhouse, located in Wilkes Barre Township, from October 2019 until his departure for Parris Island. Looking for a new direction in life, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the US Marine Corps. After basic training at Parris Island, Collin was assigned to Camp Geiger, Jacksonville, NC for five weeks of combat infantry training. Upon successful completion of training at Camp Geiger, he transferred to Naval Air Station (NAS), Pensacola, FL for twelve weeks of flight crew training, his chosen field. In September Collin transferred to the Naval Base at Portsmouth, ME, for two weeks of SERE (survival, evasion, resistance, and escape) training.

Collin is the son of proud parents, US Marine Corps veteran of the Bosnian War, Jonathan Kashatus, Glen Lyon, and Karry Kudrako, Nanticoke. He is third generation military with his maternal grandfather, US Air Force veteran Tom Kudrako serving in Vietnam and paternal grandfather, US Army veteran Tom Kashatus serving in Germany.



Pictured above are Marine Air Crew students at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, FL, left to right: PFC Carvalho; PFC Chester; PFC Collin Kudrako-Kashatus, PFC Gritton; and PFC Giard. They are performing a ceremony referred to as "Colors" which takes place during "Reveille" in the morning and "Retreat" in the evening. The students were stationed at Pensacola for flight crew training.



### Election Day November 8

Residents are reminded that Newport Township is split between two Congressional districts: Ward 1 (Glen Lyon and Lee) is in the 9th, and Ward 2 (Alden, Ridgeview, Sheatown, and Wanamie) is in the 8th District. Be informed and vote for the candidate of your choice!

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Pictured left is Edward "Brexy" Zolnerowicz, former owner of Brexy's Bar on Newport Street, Glen Lyon. His long abandoned bar and home will be demolished in the near future.

## Edward "Brexy" Zolnerowicz

*By Heidi Jarecki* ~ On July 5, 2022, the Newport Township Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 50-52 Newport Street in Glen Lyon. From 1945 until about 1975, the location was known as Brexy's Bar. It was a popular local watering hole, and many political meetings took place there as well.

Edward Peter "Brexy" Zolnerowicz was born on December 8, 1914. His parents were Peter and Josephine Zukiecz Zolnerowicz who came to this country from Poland. They had 6 children: Edward, Walter, Raymond, Jeanne, Helen, and Clementine. Peter died in 1936, and Josephine died in 1946. Josephine ran a successful hotel/bar at 150 East Main Street for many years.

Edward was educated in Newport schools and was employed by the M.A. Hanna Coal Company from 1932-1942 as a machine operator in the mines. With the outbreak of World War II, Edward enlisted on May 15, 1942. All three brothers served their country. Raymond, a Marine, was killed in the Battle of Tarawa (Please see Newsletter #66, Fall 2021, p. 18.) Walter was severely wounded in service in the New Georgia Islands in the South Pacific and was awarded the Silver Star. Edward participated in the African and Italian campaigns and lost his right arm in the Battle of Monte Cassino. (See next column.) He received a citation and the Purple Heart.

Edward married Leona Petrauskas of Wanamie on December 4, 1943. Following his discharge from Walter Reed Hospital on December 5, 1944, they set up housekeeping at 50-52 Newport Street. The building had been affiliated with the Ceccarelli/Antonelli/Bellino Families. They opened Brexy's Bar in 1945. In the early 1950's Edward was employed as truant officer for the School District. In 1957 he was elected tax collector for the Township as a Democrat and assumed his duties in January, 1958. Both he and Leona were active in local Democratic political circles. Leona served as President of the Newport Township Democratic Women's Club for several terms.

In 1959, Edward decided to run for county office, Recorder of Deeds. He ran against Dr. Walter Kozik a Republican and a dentist from Plains Township, and in so doing, turned over Newport Township, which was voting for a native son, from Republican to Democratic control. He won the election and eventually became Chairman of the Democratic Party of Newport Township.

In 1961, Edward ran for a second term as Newport Township Tax Collector. He had two challengers in the primary and captured the nomination. In November, he was victorious against Mrs. Helen Selecky, the Republican candidate.

In March 1963, it was announced that Edward would seek reelection for Recorder of Deeds. Following the primary election, Edward was again opposed by Dr. Kozik. In July 1963, Edward resigned his Tax Collector post because of a new state law stipulating that no elected county official may serve as treasurer of a township simultaneously. The Newport Township Board of Commissioners accepted his resignation at a special session and appointed Edward's wife Leona to fill the unexpired term.

15

## Brexy's Bar Sustains Heavy Damage

*As reported on the Newport Township Fire Department's Facebook Page* ~ On July 5, 2022, "just after 9 pm a box alarm was struck for 52 Newport Street in the Glen Lyon section for a house on fire. Units arrived to find a 3 story vacant structure with heavy fire showing from the first floor. Units worked for around 2 hours clearing the large structure and holding the fire to the 1st floor. The fire is under investigation at this time"

The Fire Department was assisted by the Hanover Fire Department, with calls to Kingston and Plymouth. No injuries were reported.

In November 1963, Edward lost the Recorder of Deeds election to Dr. Kozik. In 1965, Edward was re-elected to the Newport Township Tax Collector post, running against Dr. Peter Ravin. He took back the reins from his wife Leona.

On January 24, 1968, Edward passed away at the VA Hospital following a short illness. He was 53. Following his death, Leona was once again appointed to finish his term.

Edward and Leona were members of St. Mary's Church in Wanamie. Edward was active in its Holy Name Society and church affairs. He was a member of the Newport Township Lion's Club, the Newport Township Businessmen's Association, Knights of Columbus, VFW Post 8353, American Legion Post 539 of Glen Lyon, the Tatra Club and the Elks. He also helped organize outings of retired mine workers at Lily Lake.

Edward and Leona had no children.

Leona ran for the Tax Collector post in 1969, and lost to Mrs. Helen Selecky. On New Year's Eve, 1969, she married Rep. Stanley Meholchick of Ashley. She served as Democratic Committee Woman in the Township for 16 years. Leona continued operating Brexy's Bar until about 1975. She passed away on September 7, 1988.

The **Battle of Monte Cassino** (also known as the **Battle for Rome** and the **Battle for Cassino**) was a series of four assaults by the Allies against the Winter Line in Italy held by Axis forces during the Italian Campaign of World War II. The intention was a breakthrough to Rome.

At the beginning of 1944, the western half of the Winter Line was being anchored by Germans holding the Rapido-Gari, Liri, and Garigliano valleys and some of the surrounding peaks and ridges. Together, these features formed the Gustav Line. Monte Cassino, a historic hilltop abbey founded in AD 529 by Benedict of Nursia, dominated the nearby town of Cassino and the entrances to the Liri and Rapido valleys. Lying in a protected historic zone, it had been left unoccupied by the Germans, although they manned some positions set into the steep slopes below the abbey's walls.

Repeated accurate artillery attacks on Allied assault troops caused their leaders to conclude the abbey was being used by the Germans as an observation post, at the very least. Fears escalated along with casualties and in spite of a lack of clear evidence, it was marked for destruction. On 15 February American bombers dropped 1,400 tons of high explosives, creating widespread damage. The raid failed to achieve its objective, as German paratroopers then occupied the rubble and established excellent defensive positions amid the ruins.

Between 17 January and 18 May, Monte Cassino and the Gustav defenses were assaulted four times by Allied troops. On 16 May, soldiers from the Polish II Corps launched one of the final assaults on the German defensive position as part of a twenty-division assault along a twenty-mile front. On 18 May, a Polish flag followed by the British Union Jack were raised over the ruins. Following this Allied victory, the German Senger Line collapsed on 25 May. The German defenders were finally driven from their positions, but at a high cost. The capture of Monte Cassino resulted in 55,000 Allied casualties, with German losses estimated at around 20,000 killed and wounded.

*Source: Wikipedia*





## The History of Kirmar Park

### Part III: September 1908--September 1909

*By Heidi Jarecki* ~ Kirmar Park, originally known as Power House Grove, was situated on West Kirmar Avenue between Alden and Wanamie. It opened in 1896 and improvements were made each year. The large open pavilion served as a dance hall in summer, and after removable enclosures and steam heat were installed, a basketball court in winter. (Please see "The History of Kirmar Park Part I: 1896--1906" in the Spring 2022 Newsletter and "Part II: 1907--Labor Day, 1908" in the Summer 2022 Newsletter.) The Grove (and later Park) was under the supervision of the Superintendent of the People's Street Railway, a trolley system that ran between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke. K.M. Smith of Alden served as President of the Railway from its inception. The Grove was a popular venue for picnics, private parties, baseball games, dances, and basketball games.

The summer and early fall of 1908 was a busy one at the Grove with all sorts of outdoor activities. On Saturday September 5, 1908, a dance was held with music provided by Suwalski's Orchestra. The Labor Day picnic on September 7 was sponsored by the Falcon Society. On Friday September 15, the Jacob Walepers of Plymouth scheduled a baseball game against the Hunky Laborers for a purse of \$150.00 (\$4,884.00 in today's money). Anthracite Home No. 54 of Alden held a picnic on Saturday, September 19, promising "door prizes for ladies and men and several novel features."

The pavilion was closed in once again and the first basketball game of the 1908-1909 Power House season was played on Friday, September 25 between the Plymouth Rexalls and the Shawnees, with a second game at halftime between the Nanticoke Rexalls and the Young Orioles. The score of the second game was 6 to 2, the Nanticoke Rexalls being victorious. By the end of September, basketball season was off to a rousing start.

The Wilkes-Barre News reported that "in the second game of the season at the Power House pavilion the Honey Pot basket ball five easily defeated the Nanticoke Violets by a score of 24 to 8." Bachstein was high scorer for Honey Pot and Womelsdorf was high scorer for the Violets. The Centennials of Nanticoke defeated two teams on Friday October 2, the Honey Pot team by a score of 56 to 11, and the Wanamie High School team by the score of 24 to 4. On Saturday October 3, it was announced that the Nanticoke Rexalls, Grays, Juniors, and the Honey Pot second team had formed a league and the first game would be played that evening between the Rexalls and the Grays. The Rexalls were victorious by the score of 20 to 10. The Rexalls consisted of Cooper, Morgan, Thompson, Voshefski, and Pioch. Playing for the Grays were Kessler, Higgins, Kash, Shemaliski, and Koslofski. The referee was Thomas Lynn.

So popular was this new game that on Monday October 5 the following appeared in the Times Leader: "Several small boys' basket ball teams have decided to have league basket ball this winter and on Saturday evening opened the season at the Power House Pavilion. The game was between the Grays and Rexalls and was won by the latter by the score of 20 to 10. As the same court will be used by the entire league, games will be played on different nights. On Tuesday evening next the Nanticoke Juniors and Honey Pot second team will play." The following Friday on October 9, the Jaspers defeated the Centennials by a score of 18 to 14. On Tuesday October 20, the Honey Pot five easily defeated the Americans by a score of 44 to 14. Another game between these same two teams was played on Tuesday October 27, with the

Honey Pot team coming away with another win by the score of 37 to 21.

As previously stated, the Grove was under the supervision of M.E. Major, the superintendent of the People's Street Railway. On Monday, November 2, 1908, it was announced that he had tendered his resignation, effective immediately. William Warne, who was the power house engineer, was promoted to the post of superintendent. He was a young man who lived in Nanticoke and graduated from the high school. An accident in the power house almost electrocuted him, and he survived with severe burns to his hands and fingers (See Part II). Edward Griffith was then hired to work at the power house in Wanamie.

Advertisements in the local papers continued to attract basketball teams to the Grove. On November 11, 1908, one of many ads reads: "The Centennials of Nanticoke would like to play the Pyramids or Olympics of Wilkes-Barre, or the Pittston Crescoes on Friday evening at Power House pavilion." Sometimes weight limitations were mentioned: "The Glen Lyon five challenge any team in the county under 115 pounds for Wednesday evening at the Power House pavilion. Answer in the Record or call Anthony's drug store, Glen Lyon." Anthony's Drug Store was located at the top of the hill on East Main Street by the old Glen Lyon Bank building. Lopsided scores such as 54 to 8, 76 to 42, 73 to 20, and 64 to 12 were notable.

One of the dominant teams that season was the Nanticoke Centennials. They were constantly advertising for games and their playing was fairly aggressive. A game in late November between the Centennials and the Nanticoke Stars ended with a score of 64 to 12. All through the month of December 1908, the Centennials requested games with such teams as the Pittston Crescos, the West Wyoming Americus team, the Jolly Five of Wilkes-Barre and the South Wilkes-Barre Orioles. By the end of December, the team boasted a record of 16 and 1.

In a scholastic game played on December 9, the Sophomores defeated the Juniors of the Nanticoke High School by a score of 15 to 11. The game was witnessed by a large group of students and was well played. In late December, the Warrior Run team challenged the Hanover team to a game.

After the Christmas and New Year's holidays were over, playing resumed at the Pavilion. The first week of January 1909 saw a flurry of ads in the local papers requesting games. On January 9, the Alden second team played the Pittston Crescos, and accepted a challenge from the Centennials to play on January 15. The Centennials continued to place multiple ads in the daily newspapers and promised return games.

On January 14, it was reported that "the roof of the power house of the People's Street Railway Co. at Wanamie caught fire about 9 o'clock last night from overheated stacks. The fire was extinguished by the aid of voluntary firemen before the machinery was damaged, so that there was no interference in the operation of cars, but the roof was badly damaged. The fire ...threatened for a time to destroy the building." The high temperature that day was 23 and the low was 13, with a forecast of snow. If the generators had been damaged in the fire, the trolley cars and the pavilion would have been inoperable for a considerable period. No doubt the roof was repaired quickly.

That same day, January 14, the Orioles defeated the Alden team by the score of 74 to 34. By this time, there were on occasion three officials at games: the referee, the timekeeper, and the scorer. Otherwise, the referee would have to perform all three functions. Throughout January and February, teams scheduled games and practices with Pavilion management and astonishingly there were few mix-ups. There was however one on Friday evening February 5. On that day, the Centennials played the Wilkes-Barre Athletics, and there was also a reunion of the Bellas and Thomas families to honor Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bellas who were visiting from Puyallup, WA. The reunion featured music by the Sarpolis Orchestra and over 200 guests attended, some from as far as West Virginia. The results of the basketball game were not published.

On February 17, the Nanticoke Jaspers played the Glen Lyon Strugglers. The Strugglers lost by the score of 50 to 24. The next game reported in the local papers occurred on March 25 between the Miners of Glen Lyon who defeated the Mollie Coddies by the score of 42 to 40. This may have been the last game of the season.

The enclosures were removed from the Pavilion once again and spring and summer events commenced. On April 22, 1909, Sarpolis' Orchestra held a dance at the pavilion which was well attended. Their next



dance on April 30 had to be moved to the Alden Town Hall because the weather played an April Fool's joke: it snowed! As reported in the Times Leader: "Yesterday the weather, as well as many people pranked in a very great measure. Who on retiring the evening previous expected the ground to be covered with snow and to experience one of the roughest days for many months? No one, on all sides, the comment was, 'This is the worst day I have seen for April weather in my life.' It is now passed and is a matter of history, we may now anticipate warm weather, and soon have the pleasure of hearing the umpire call 'strike 1,2,3, you're out.'"

Once the weather returned to normal, the next dance at Power House Grove was sponsored by the Big R Social Club on May 12. Sewalski's Orchestra provided the music. On Saturday May 15, a picnic and dance was held by the Wanamie baseball team, with music by Oppenheim's Orchestra. A game was played between Wanamie and Glen Lyon for a purse of \$25.00 (\$825.00). Sarpolis' Orchestra ran a dance on Thursday May 20. The Nanticoke Laborers baseball team held a picnic on Saturday May 22. It was announced that the Washington Social Club of Nanticoke would hold a series of dances every Tuesday with music furnished by Duft's Orchestra. On Saturday May 29, the Holy Trinity Church in Nanticoke held its annual picnic and outing, and two days later, the Stickney Band held a picnic and dance, with "an interesting program of sports." Summer activities were under way.



In the summer of 1909, the Grizzly Bear dance rose to fame. This dance craze began in San Francisco, but was commonly danced on Staten Island ferry boats throughout the 1900s. The Dance of The Grizzly Bear is simple despite being described as "rough and clumsy". The dance would happen in pairs. It starts by the dancers yelling, "It's a Bear!", as the couples imitate the movements of a dancing bear, as they sway side to side. The footwork of this dance involves heavily stepping to the side, as one's upper arm bends from one side to the other. See picture at left.

On June 12, the Stickney Band held a dance, and on June 15, Marshall's Band held a picnic. Marshall's Band was led by James F. Marshall, who had moved from the small village of

Audenried in Carbon County to Wanamie in 1904. The first performance of the band was on August 12, 1905, when John Mitchell addressed the mine workers at Wanamie. It was estimated that over 4,000 people were present. As reported: "[John Mitchell] was given a flattering welcome and much enthusiasm was manifested. A special car on the Glen Lyon line had been chartered and this was elaborately decorated with the national colors... The party was accompanied by Marshall's Band, of fifteen pieces under the direction of James F. Marshall." John Mitchell (February 4, 1870 – September 9, 1919) was an American labor leader and president of the United Mine Workers of America from 1898 to 1908. Mitchell worked in the coal mines his whole life. Having started work at age six, by age fifteen he joined the Knights of Labor in 1885 and was a founding member of the United Mine Workers of America in 1890. John Mitchell died at age 47 on September 9, 1919, from pneumonia in New York City and was buried in Cathedral Cemetery in Scranton.



**John Mitchell**

On June 17, 1909, it was announced that "the Glen Lyon and Nanticoke Laborers teams will play for \$10.00 (\$325.00). These teams have met on several occasions and good contests have been the result. The game will take place during the afternoon while a picnic is in progress." The picnic was held by St. Mary's Church in Nanticoke and the music was provided by St. Mary's Band. The Laborers defeated Glen Lyon by a score of 9 to 4. Several hundred people watched the game. On Friday June 25, the annual outing of Bethel Sunday School took place at the Grove, with a baseball game, boys' race, girls' race, and a race for women promised.

### The Top Ten of 1909

1. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, by Fisk University Jubilee Quartet.
2. I've Got Rings on My Fingers, by Blanche Ring.
3. The Yama Yama Man, by Ada Jones & Victor Light Opera Co.
4. I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now, by Henry Burr.
5. I've Got Rings on My Fingers, by Ada Jones.
6. Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet, by Haydn Quartet.
7. Moonstruck, by Gertie Miller.
8. Choro & Poesia, by Banda da Casa Edison.
9. Good Evening, Caroline, by Frank Stanley & Elise Stevenson.
10. Shine on, Harvest Moon, by Ada Jones & Billy Murray.

Picnics were usually successful fundraisers for the various groups. They required a lot of planning, volunteers, and good weather. Sometimes though, a second attempt was necessary. On Friday July 2, 1909, the following appeared in the Wilkes-Barre News: "The annual event of the members of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company of this place (Nanticoke) at Mountain Park several weeks ago was not as successful as was first anticipated it would be, and as a consequence very little was realized by the company in the excursion. At a recent meeting of the company, it was decided to hold another picnic, this to be conducted at Power House Grove on Saturday, which promises to be more successful than the previous event. An interesting program of sports is being arranged and a goodly number are expected to attend the affair. The Citizens' Band of this place [has] been engaged to furnish a program of dance music during the afternoon and evening." It is assumed that the second picnic was indeed well attended.

On Thursday July 15, a picnic was held by the Ladies of Anthracite Home No. 54 Brotherhood of America who extended special invitations to Nanticoke Circle No. 114, Rhone Circle 115 and Alden Circle 116. Davidson's Orchestra provided music for dancing. This was intended to become an annual event. The Brotherhood of America was a fraternal organization, founded in Philadelphia in 1890 which admitted men and women. It promised an "interesting program of sports." On July 16, St. Andrew's Guild of Alden held a picnic, at which a large attendance was reported. The Stickney Band provided music for the annual picnic of Zion Reformed Church on July 21.

On August 4, 1909, the German Progressive Union held its outing at the Grove. A rather interesting invitation was placed in the papers: "Come people all, gros und klein, Zum picnic von German Fortschritts Verein, Zum Power House Grofe ob August the Fourth, For pretzels und beer, haben sie dort. Ice creaem and soda Zum essen und trinken, Races und sports, selbst tans vergnigen, Und sehr fiel nodi mehr, To make the outing a grand affair." A rough translation (this writer studied German) is "Come everyone, big and small, to the Picnic of the German Progressive Union to Power House Grove on August the Fourth. You will have there pretzels and beer, ice cream and soda to eat and drink. Races and sports for you to enjoy, and we will work hard to make the outing a grand affair." Three prizes were awarded for the largest German families on the grounds, and music was provided by Kanskopp's Band. Members of the Concordia and Leidertafel singing societies performed a concert. A tug of war between members of the Excelsior and Knickerbocker clubs was featured. Races included: Fat man's race, Old woman's race, 100-yard dash, young ladies race, ladies race (not over 40 years old), boys race, girls race, tallest man and shortest man, and a cake walk and a waltzing contest. All winners were announced in the papers and the picnic was considered a grand success.

A dance was held on Saturday, August 7 with music provided by the Citizen's Band. A baseball game was also played between the Power House Defenders and the Nanticoke Drivers. The Drivers won by a score of 17 to 4. Michael pitched for the Defenders, while Shykowski was on the mound for the Drivers.

The Stickney Band dates back to 1887 when the Star Band and Standard Band, both of Nanticoke consolidated. John J. Morreli was its first instructor and leader. Its members were considered "very fine musicians." They played all kinds of music: religious, classical, and popular dance. This is evident when the band held an old time barn dance on Monday, August 16.

On August 22, a clam bake was held by the baseball team of a newly formed Nanticoke Nest of Owls group. The group was credited with a number of "excellent social affairs." The Order of Owls was a secret



fraternal order founded in 1904 in South Bend, Indiana by John W. Talbot. According to its literature, the purposes of the society was "to assist each other in business, to help each other in obtaining employment, to assist the widows and orphans of our brothers, to give aid to our brother in any way that they may need, and assemble for mutual pleasure and entertainment." The local units of the Order were called "nests." The clam bake was considered very successful.

On Friday, August 27, the Moriah Sunday School gave an outing for their children at the Grove. As described in the Wilkes-Barre News: "From all predictions the young people will be afforded a real pleasant day through the efforts of the outing committee. Special cars will leave the square [in Nanticoke] at 1:30 o'clock for the park."

The following day, the Stickney Band conducted yet another dance at the Grove. On August 31, the parishioners of St. Michael's Church in



**First Diggings for St. Michael's Church on West Main Street, Glen Lyon. Picture dated June 21, 1909.**

Glen Lyon "had a pleasant day at the Grove and enjoyed the singing and dancing. The proceeds will be added to the church building fund."

On September 4, the Nanticoke Laborers played the Hudson Giants for a purse of \$10.00 (\$325.00) at their picnic. The Laborers claimed that during a recent game at Hudson, \$12.70 (\$413.00) in cash was taken from the pockets of their clothing. Sewalski's Orchestra was engaged to provide dance music.

Labor Day was celebrated on September 6, 1909. A monster picnic was held by the Nanticoke Circle No. 114, Brotherhood of America. The Stickney Band was on hand. There was also a lot of athletic races: a potato race, boys and girls races, fat women and lean women, fat men and lean men, and a three legged race. Prizes included a live turkey, a five-dollar gold piece, and a box of cigars.

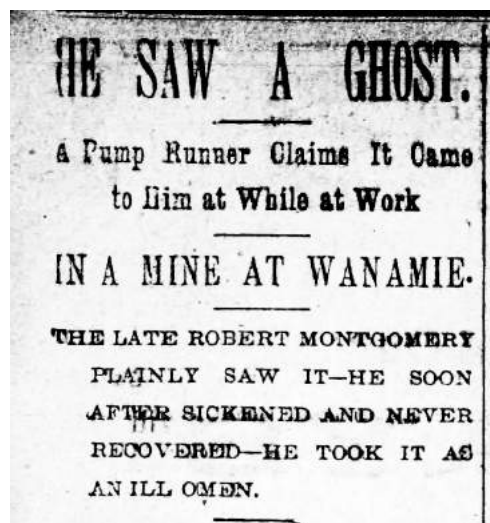
Two days later, a union picnic was held at the Grove by locals 897,898, and 899 of the United Mine Workers of America. As in past years, speeches were given by prominent labor leaders and national officers. Athletic events including foot races, jumping and vaulting, commenced at 3 p.m. and a waltzing contest was held in the early evening. Music was provided by the Stickney Band. There was keen competition in a rifle match. "The Park was literally crowded with people all day and toward evening it was materially increased. The committee [was] well repaid for their labors, netting a neat sum of money." Contest winners were announced in the Times Leader.

On September 18, Marshall's Band held a picnic and dance at the Grove. It was deemed "fairly successful. The cool weather being the cause of the attendance not being as large as it otherwise would have been." This was likely the last picnic held at Power House Grove for the summer season of 1909.

To be continued...

Sources: *Wilkes-Barre News*, *Wilkes-Barre Record*, *Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Record*, *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, *Wikipedia*, <https://playback.fm/charts/top-100-songs/1909>, [libraryofdance.com](http://libraryofdance.com), various websites.

## From the Wilkes-Barre Sunday News August 16, 1896



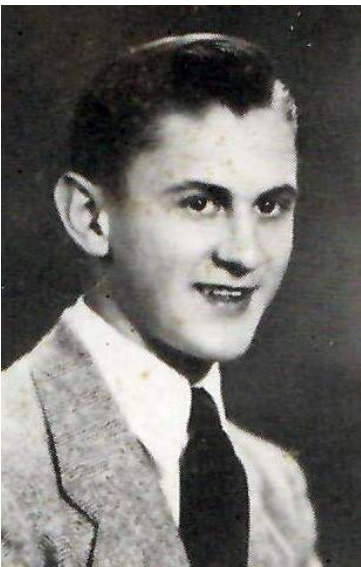
Robert Montgomery, of Wanamie, who died one week ago, was rather superstitious in his life time and shortly before he died he told a story about a ghost or apparition that appeared to him while he was at work in the mines. He told the story to but a few intimate friends and cautioned them not to say anything, but it leaked out since his death.

Mr. Montgomery was for years employed as pump runner in No. 18 colliery of the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal company at Wanamie. He was a brave soldier in the late war and was not easily frightened. He claims that some time ago while he was attending to his work he heard a peculiar noise in the mine. He paid little attention to it at the time. A few moments later a peculiar feeling came over him as though there was an awful draught circulating through the mine and he became chilly. He looked up from his work, as he had just started to oil the machinery, at the repetition of the strange noise. He claimed he felt as though there was someone else about besides himself. He could not see anyone and strained his eyes far into the dark recesses. Just then he beheld a white object, about the size of a man. It moved about as though floating in the air and kept a certain distance from him.

He spoke to the strange apparition several times, but not a sound came from it and it soon disappeared from view, keeping its face towards him all the time. Mr. Montgomery at once made a search but he failed to find anyone lurking or hiding about and he was in a quandary to explain the matter. He became superstitious at once and took it for an ill omen, to warn him of the approach of death. He quit the mine at once, took sick of a complication of diseases and never recovered. He took it for granted, however, that the apparition appeared to him to warn him that he was soon to die. Some of his friends tried to dispel his thoughts about death, by saying it was a man sent in by the company to see if he performed his duty. But the deceased would never believe anything else but that it was the omen of death.

*Editors' Note:* Robert Montgomery, aged 55, died on Thursday August 6, 1896 after five months of illness. He had been a resident of Wanamie for 27 years and was "a man of sober, industrious character, prominent in church and society circles." He was a member of Conyngham Post, Grand Army of the Republic, having served in the Civil War and Wanamie Council, Order of United American Mechanics. He was survived by his wife and seven children.





## CLEMENT KOVALICH

We don't think anyone could give "Kemmer" due credit for all he has done towards the school. After being Class Vice-President in his Sophomore year and Class President in his Junior year, he was elected Class President in his Senior year by an almost unanimous vote. In addition, he held the position of Treasurer of the Student Council, and he was a member of the basketball and baseball teams. "Kemmer," we've been proud to have you as our classmate, Class President, and friend.

Clem Kovalich in the 1948 Newport Township High School Yearbook.

"Nobody could hit the ball harder or farther than Kemmer."

See the *Newport Township Community News*, No. 35, Fall 2013, p. 21.

## Clem "Kemmer" Kovalich

By John Kashatus ~ Kemmer Kovalich was a Newport Nutcracker who wore the Red and Black in high school baseball and basketball. He wore the U.S. Army Green for America. He wore a few different baseball hats along the way: the Kanadians, the Glen Lyon Athletic Club and the Mayfield Clothiers of the Kitty League.<sup>1</sup>

Clement Kovalich was born on November 5, 1930 and grew up with three siblings, Regina, Sylvester and Joseph on Spring Street in Glen Lyon. His father, George, was a coal miner, who died when he was nine. His mom, Helen, was a homemaker and everything else that was needed to raise four children. He attended Roosevelt School, Pulaski School and Newport Township High School where he was elected President of his Class in both his junior and senior years. He was a good teammate who excelled in varsity basketball and baseball. In 1948 after his senior year, Clem was the starting third baseman for the Glen Lyon Kanadians, who won the Championship of the Anthracite League. You may recall that the Kanadians and Condors were feted to a banquet at the Glen Lyon American Post 539 during that Fall.<sup>2</sup>

After graduation, Kemmer was unsure of his future. Following a discussion with his parish priest, Father Granahan of St. Denis Church, he decided to join the Army. From 1948 through 1952, Kemmer completed his military obligation, serving at White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico along with playing some intramural basketball and baseball. He was discharged with the rank of Sergeant First Class.

In the late spring of 1953, he returned to baseball, playing for the Glen Lyon A.C. in Wyoming Valley's Central League. Under Manager Al Noss the team started the season winning five of their first six games, laying claim to first place. Kemmer was an integral part of the offense, leading the team with home runs and RBI's. In five of the six games<sup>3</sup> from May 2nd to June 7th, he was 8 for 19, with 7 runs, 2B, 3B, 3 HRs, .421 average. This writer was an eyewitness to some of those home runs that he blasted out of Weineck Park. In early June, Clem Kovalich signed a professional contract with the New York Giants of the National League. He was assigned to play at Class D Mayfield, Kentucky in the Kitty League. When Mayfield completed their season, Kemmer was assigned to the Giants Class C franchise in the Northern League at St. Cloud, Minnesota.<sup>4</sup> There were only a few games remaining on their schedule. He played in seven of them under the tutelage of Manager Charlie Fox.<sup>5</sup> Fox told Kemmer that he would

1. Minor League Class D located in Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee.

2. *Newport Township Community News*, Issue #58, Fall 2019, p. 12.

3. Box score from opening game is not available.

4. Minor League Statistics: Games 67, Plate Appearances 254, At Bats 235, Runs 42, Hits 59, Doubles 7, Home runs 7, Runs batted in 31, Stolen bases 13, Batting average .251.

5. Charlie Fox, "Most honest man I ever met," who later became manager of the San Francisco Giants.

support promoting him the following year to continue "chasing his dream", but should consider using the G.I. Bill to get a college education, which would provide more security in life.

Clem returned home and joined the Glen Lyon A.C., which was positioning itself for the Central League playoffs. League rules permitted a limited number of professional players to compete, provided they played a sufficient number of regular season games. There were exceptions where a player could be added when a rostered player was inducted to military service. That occurred in 1953 when Bob Duliba, who was under professional contract with the St. Louis Cardinals organization, replaced Eddie Domzalski, who was activated in the Coast Guard. With two professionally experienced ballplayers, the A.C. was well-fortified to enter the post-season in the Central League. The "Hometown Nine" defeated Hunlock Creek (2 out of 3) in the semifinals and defeated Sugar Notch for the Central League Championship. Duliba delivered from the mound and Kemmer hit safely in every game, including a couple of home runs. A challenge from the Brookside Yanks, Champions of the Wyoming League, was accepted by Glen Lyon. Brookside had professional players (Jasonis and Tondora) on their roster, who also played in the Kitty League and the Northern League. Again, Duliba, Kemmer and the team excelled in that contest as Glen Lyon won the "bragging rights" in the Wyoming Valley.<sup>6</sup>

Taking advice from his St. Cloud Manager Charlie Fox, Clem enrolled at Bucknell University, majoring in engineering. He started his classes at Wilkes College<sup>7</sup> from 1953-1954, then he transferred to Bucknell's campus in Lewisburg. In September 1954, Kemmer married Joan Gayewski in St. Michael's Church and started a family, driving many times between Glen Lyon and Lewisburg. On attaining his BS in Electrical Engineering in 1957, with the advice of his uncle, he applied and was hired by IBM Federal Systems Division at Oswego, New York. He started his career and relocated his family to Vestal, New York.

There are many stories of people and folklore that have emanated from Newport Township and some have been published in the NTCO Newsletters. This writer is sure that there are some stories which haven't made it to newsprint, but have passed on through families and friends. The story of this hometown guy who was the president of his class, played varsity basketball and baseball, went into military service during wartime, attended college under the G.I. Bill and married a girl from the "other side of the breaker" was unique, but not uncommon in the late 1940's and early 1950's. With a deep faith in God, Kemmer focused on family and career. He and Joan raised three children Rebecca, Denis and Jill<sup>8</sup> in Vestal, NY. During his career at IBM, Clem was involved with the NASA Saturn Apollo Program. In fact, he met Astronaut Frank Borman at the Wings of Eagles Air Show at the Elmira-Corning Airport in 1998 and they exchanged some pleasantries. After retiring, Kemmer reconnected with two guys from his younger years, Don DeLuca and John Wido, who then lived in the Vestal area. They met for coffee/breakfast on a regular basis and reminisced about the "good old days" in Glen Lyon and Mocanaqua. Clem told his family that he regretted his father dying when he was only nine years of age and his son Denis responded, "In that short time, he must have taught you a lot to become the best father possible." As one might reflect on the many achievements during Clem Kovalich's career, this writer when just 11 years old was impressed with the raw power of the slugging third baseman.

In the early summer of 1953, the unimaginable happened when Clem "Kemmer" Kovalich was signed to a professional baseball contract. Having been out of the game since 1948 with the exception of some intramural action in the Army, the fact that Clem, having played in only six Sunday games with the Glen Lyon A.C. and then "inking" that contract, is truly AMAZING! Although his professional tenure was short-lived (one season), Kemmer was an inspiration to the younger generation as he joined the other pro-baseball signees during that era.<sup>9</sup>

Clement Kovalich passed away on August 12, 2017 in Vestal, NY.

6. *Newport Township Community News*, Issue #35, Fall 2013, p.21.

7. Wilkes College, which had started as Bucknell Junior College, continued a joint relationship with Bucknell University.

8. The children enjoyed visiting their grandparents in Glen Lyon, taking nature walks and going to M&B's.

9. *Newport Township Community News*, Issue #30, Summer 2012, p.22. Stan Pawloski, Cleveland 1949; Emil Augustine, Cardinals 1951; Bob Duliba, Cardinals and Kenny Welgoss, Phillies 1952; Tom Klukoski, Phillies 1958; Gene Domzalski, Yankees, 1958.

Sources: *Times Leader*, Heidi, Dr. Denis, Rebecca, Joe Bet and Stan Pav.



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## National Night Out



On August 2, the Newport Township Crime Watch held National Night Out in St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown. This event is held nationally by Crime Watch groups across the country to promote community-police partnerships. Among the groups participating were the Newport Township Fire Department, the Fire Police, Boy Scout Troop 418, and UGI. Face painting by Karen Metta and free children's games added to the fun. A bake sale and basket raffle were featured as well as demonstrations. DJ Kurshner provided music and entertainment. GNA Honor Society members assisted. Various food trucks and food stands offered ice cream, hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries and more. Luzerne County DA Sam Sanguedolce also paid a visit (pictured left). This event raised funds for the purchase of a speed sign for the Newport Township Police Department.

National Night Out returned to Newport Township after a three-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Crime Watch hopes to see everyone again next year!





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	2 pc		Curly Fries		\$3.99
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	3 pc	5pc			
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## Monthly Food Distribution Held at Recreation Park

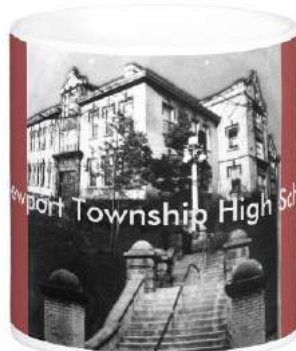
The Newport Township Community Organization and the Weinberg Regional Food Bank are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need.

With the cooperation of the Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager Joe Hillan, outdoor distributions take place in a drive-through format at the Wanamie Recreation Park on the second Saturday of the month between 11 am and 12 noon. Seasonal fruits and vegetables, along with milk, canned goods, rice and pasta are among the foods available. The Distribution will continue through the fall and winter months, weather permitting.

All recipients must pre-register. Residency and a declaration of need must be confirmed.

Volunteers should report at 9:00 am.

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



## Two Ways to Remember Newport High School

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

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

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at 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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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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~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky