

Spring 2023

Online at [www.newporttownship.com](http://www.newporttownship.com)

Number 72

Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization Editors: Heidi and Paul Jarecki

In Spring, everything is full of promise... and nature rejoices in her virgin loveliness. ~ Charles Lanman



Dogwoods in Newport Center

### 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 January, February, and March 2023.

**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. By late November the company had replaced all Main Street sidewalks from the west end of town to the intersections of Coal Street and Third Street with the exception of the south side of the block between Apple and Chestnut Streets. On this block there are two abandoned buildings that should be demolished before a new sidewalk is put in. The contractor suspended work in the late fall because of the onset of winter weather and is planning to resume work in March if the weather permits.

**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, has completed construction of the first of two warehouses just off Middle Road on reclaimed strip mine land. The completed warehouse, called Tradeport 164-9, is a 536,00 square-foot structure within Hanover Township. The contractor completed work on Tradeport 164-9 in the fall of 2022. Safelite AutoGlass is now operating out of the building. The second warehouse, called Tradeport 164-8, is a 1.2 million square feet structure entirely within Newport Township. On its completion, Lowe's, the home improvement retailer, is scheduled to operate this warehouse. According to the *Citizens' Voice* Newspaper in early January 2023, Lowe's warehouse management was advertising for workers. The two buildings are part of a group of nine Northpoint warehouses along the South Valley Parkway that are accessed from Exit 164 of Interstate Route 81.

**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 the (Continued on next page)

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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.

There were 13 buildings in the first four Groups of properties chosen for demolition. The total cost of their demolition amounted to \$158,600. A fifth group of 4 properties was demolished by the beginning of February 2023 at a cost of \$109,200. These demolitions cost more per building because two of them, on Coal and Apple Streets in Glen Lyon, were at rear addresses. As of early March, the Blight Remediation Committee was planning to ask for bids to demolish a Sixth Group of buildings in time for the Commissioners to award a contract at their April meeting. The Sixth Group consists of one building at 81 West Main Street and another at 77 Ridge Street, both in Glen Lyon.

**Wanamie Cell Phone Tower:** At a hearing of the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board in June 2022, Verizon asked for variances to construct a cell phone tower on Newport Township property in Wanamie next to the Municipal Building. The Board approved the variances. Luzerne County then issued a zoning permit, and after checking plans for the tower, Newport Township issued a building permit. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2023.

**Glen Lyon Cell Tower:** At a hearing of the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board on March 7, 2023, Verizon asked for variances to construct a cell phone tower at 1 Depot Street in Glen Lyon, behind the Ken Pollock Apartments. (See page 5.) The Board approved the variances. Verizon plans to construct the tower this year. Cell phone service is poor in Newport Township and the two cell tower projects are expected to improve the situation.

**Cable TV Update:** In December 2022 the Commissioners approved Ordinance #6 of 2022 requiring cable television systems to obtain a franchise to operate in Newport Township and establishing regulations for a cable television system operated by Comcast. Comcast plans to start installation of a cable system in the Township in the 4th quarter of 2023. Breezeline already has a cable system operating in the Township.

**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.

By early December the Township had completed the project of paving Robert Street Alley and installing storm drains. The work was funded by a Covid-19 Recovery Funds Grant. In March 2023 the Commissioners awarded a contract to low bidder Pennsy Supply to repave Vandermark Road in Wanamie and Newport Street in Glen Lyon at a cost of \$344,712.67.

**January 3, 2023:** Residents' Comments: A member of the Newport Township Community Organization who manages the monthly Commission on Economic Activity (CEO) food distribution mentioned that she had been talking to Township workers about how her group could use the Municipal Garage to carry out their food distribution during the winter months.

Meeting Business: Township Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the year 2022, the Township had revenue of \$4,404,548.54 and expenditures of \$4,274,477.74.

The Commissioners approved a motion to appoint Peter Wanchisen to a 5-year term on the Newport Township Sewer Authority. They approved a motion to allow the Newport Township Community Organization to use the Municipal Garage for their monthly food distribution from January through April.

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

1) Refuse and Recycling bills for 2023 of \$385 per household have been mailed. Because of the large increase in the fee from last year, 2 residents will have until April 30, 2023 to pay this fee.

2) A resident asked if it could be arranged for the Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA) bus to stop at the Dollar General Store on Kirmar Avenue. The Township then wrote to the LCTA and received an email saying that they investigated the site of the Dollar Store and found several safety problems related to having the bus stop there. Unfortunately, the cost of a remedy to the problems would be too high at this time. (See page 3.)

3) The time of the pickup of big junk items by our trash collector has changed. Instead of being in the first full week of the month, it will now be on the first trash collection of the month in the town where the resident lives.

**February 6, 2023:** Residents' Comments: Two residents asked what the Township could do about neighbors who violated building codes or nuisance regulations. The Commissioners said that they welcome information from residents on violations of the building code and Quality of Life Ordinance. A member of the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) thanked the Commissioners for allowing the NTCO to use the Municipal garage during the winter for its monthly food distribution.

Meeting Business: The Commissioners approved an amendment to the Newport Township Sewer Authority's Articles of Incorporation to extend its term of existence by two years.

The Commissioners approved a resolution to apply for a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to make improvements in the Earth Conservancy (EC) Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Facility on Kirmar Avenue.

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

1) In January John Mazur from the State Liquid Fuels Fund inspected the Township's report on Liquid Fuels grant money and found no errors. The Township will receive its Liquid Fuels grant for 2023 in the first week of March.

2) In January Edward Kardisco from the State Auditor General's Office completed an audit of the Township's three pension plans and found two minor errors in the management of the Police Pension Plan. The Township will immediately correct these.

**March 6, 2023:** Residents' Comments: Residents asked the Commissioners for help in reducing the annoyance and noise of ATVs near Township homes, in reducing accidents on the highway down Fanucci's Hill into Glen Lyon by increasing lighting and dealing with black ice, and in reducing littering on major Township roads by putting up signs telling motorists about the littering penalties. The Commissioners said that they would work to solve these problems.

Meeting Business: Township Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that, for the first two months of 2023, Township income was \$420,895.71 and expenses were \$380,473.81.

At the request of Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) President Steve Phillips, the Commissioners voted to grant permission to the NTCO to put up 3 banners commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of Newport Township in 1773. One banner will be at the west end of the Township in Lee, one at the east end in Sheatown, and one at the Municipal Building in Wanamie.

The Commissioners voted to recognize Caleb W. Sheldon of the Kilmer Agency as the Township's exclusive agent of record for insurance for fire apparatus vehicles.

The Commissioners announced that the Township had received, through Luzerne County, a Federal American Rescue Plan grant of \$365,000 for improvements to the Wanamie Recreation Park. They will use it to pave the parking lot and walking trail and to remodel the restrooms.

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

1) On Wednesday February 22, we received word from Congressman Dan Meuser that the Federal Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through its Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, had awarded the Township a grant for \$564,761 to be used for the purchase of a new fire engine, a Pierce Saber Pumper. The new vehicle will replace the Township's 1976 Mack Fire Engine, which is too old to continue in use. At the time the Township requested the grant, it would have covered the entire cost of the new engine. Since then, however, (Continued on next page)



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the vehicle's price has increased to about \$710,000. The Commissioners intend to get the additional funds to buy the engine and will immediately place an order for it. They voted to put the Mack vehicle up for sale on Muncibid.

### NTCO President's Report

*By Stephen E. Phillips ~* With the approach of the Spring season, once again the litter problem along Newport Township's roadways, especially the Kirmar Parkway, becomes readily apparent. Since its formation in 2004, the Newport Township Community Organization has diligently striven to keep the municipality's thoroughfares and the area's environs as pristine as possible. It has been, and remains, a difficult task in which we can claim limited success. The NTCO has chosen to maintain the appearance of the Kirmar Parkway, the Township's major roadway, as one of its prime activities. Unfortunately travelers along the highway, who are probably to the greatest extent local residents, are prone to continuing to throw refuse from their vehicles in substantial amounts. In the past, and continuing to this day, items are deposited along the highway within a short period after dedicated volunteers collect the litter for proper disposal. This presents a negative picture to those who may be considering the community as a location for their future residence or as a potential site for a new business. The local elected officials and committed volunteers from various Township organizations find it increasingly frustrating to have individuals for whom they are trying to provide a better overall environment continue to act in this manner. This topic has been addressed several times in other editions of the *Newsletter*. However the problem remains and there is no indication that it will abate in the immediate future. The situation is created by inconsiderate people, and can, in reality, only be remediated by these individuals eliminating this type of behavior. This writer has previously advocated for increasing the fine for littering and having those found guilty of this offense sentenced to 50 hours of community service which would entail solely collecting the material scattered along the local roads. These suggestions alone will not alleviate the situation. The mindset of the perpetrators must change. For those who are guilty of this transgression, you are urged to refrain from future similar actions.

On a more positive note, this Organization, since its inception in 2004, has diligently worked to assist the local elected officials in whatever endeavors they requested. Among the various areas in which assistance was rendered during the last quarter included aiding in obtaining the grant for the purchase of a new fire truck, advocating for the construction of a new bridge between Nanticoke and Plymouth Township, supporting the construction of a cell tower in Glen Lyon, and requesting an extension from the Commonwealth for the period to complete the demolition of sub-standard structures within the Community.

The Township Board of Commissioners was the impetus of the formation of the NTCO and during the close to 20 years of its existence the two bodies have developed a close working relationship related to a joint goal of improving the Municipality's overall quality of life, and guaranteeing continued success in the future. Another example of municipal cooperation is the Township's approval for the Organization to utilize the Municipal Garage during the winter months for its monthly food distribution. This has protected the volunteer workers and foodstuffs during this period's generally adverse weather conditions.

The NTCO is also involved in a combined venture with its sister organization, Newport United, to attract more volunteers to aid in the efforts of local groups to assist in continuing the attempt to upgrade our many attributes. Consider this a request that you contemplate joining us in this effort.

The NTCO would like to thank our most recent donors for their support: Dolores Sugalski, Tom and Pat Tarnowski, Joann Furek, Theresa and Eugene Berti, Leon Sidas and Virgie Pickle, Stanley Domzalski, Margaret Bacon, Margaret Womelsdorf, Gene Haverlak, Emily Weisberg, Arlene and Gene Domzalski, Lorrie Materewicz, Norman and Sandra Wruble, Daniel Gulick, and Daniel and Maria Floryshak, It is much appreciated.

### LCTA Response to Township Manager Joe Hillan Concerning Request to Provide Bus Service to the Dollar General

Dear Mr. Hillan,

Thank You for reaching out to the LCTA in regards to adding the Dollar General as a stop. Upon review of the location of the Dollar General, I feel that making this a stop could jeopardize passenger safety and have advise[d] against making the Dollar General a stop at this time. My decision comes from Kirmar Avenue [which] has several discrepancies that I feel would put a passenger at risk. First, there are no sidewalks for any of the passengers to use in getting to the Dollar General. When traveling east on W. Kirmar Ave. from W. Main St. (going toward the municipal building) there is a curve in the roadway just before the entrance to the Dollar General that at night could pose to be a blind spot when stopping at the entrance. Also, when disembarking passengers opposite of the Dollar General, there is a ditch located on the side of the roadway making it difficult for passengers to navigate and then have them cross the roadway where the speed limit is set at 45 MPH. Lastly, the area has no street lights to illuminate the area. With the winter weather upon us and the sun setting at 4:30 pm, I feel this could be a dangerous situation.

If certain conditions were made such as lighting, a bus shelter and/or a bus pull off were installed, then we may be able to reconsider the Dollar General as a stop. If you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or Kathy.

Wayne Kravitz, Luzerne County Transportation Authority  
December 21, 2022

### Newport United Wants YOU To Assist in Improving Newport Township's Quality of Life!



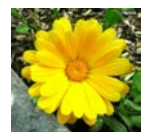
*By Steve Phillips ~* Following a request by Newport Township's Board of Commissioners, Newport United was organized in 2018. It represents a combined effort of the various volunteer groups in the area to identify various projects which can best be implemented by utilizing the resources and expertise of all participants. Proponents of this idea strongly support the concept of continuing to maximize the assets of multiple parties to aid the municipality in continuing to fulfill its full potential as a First-Class Township.

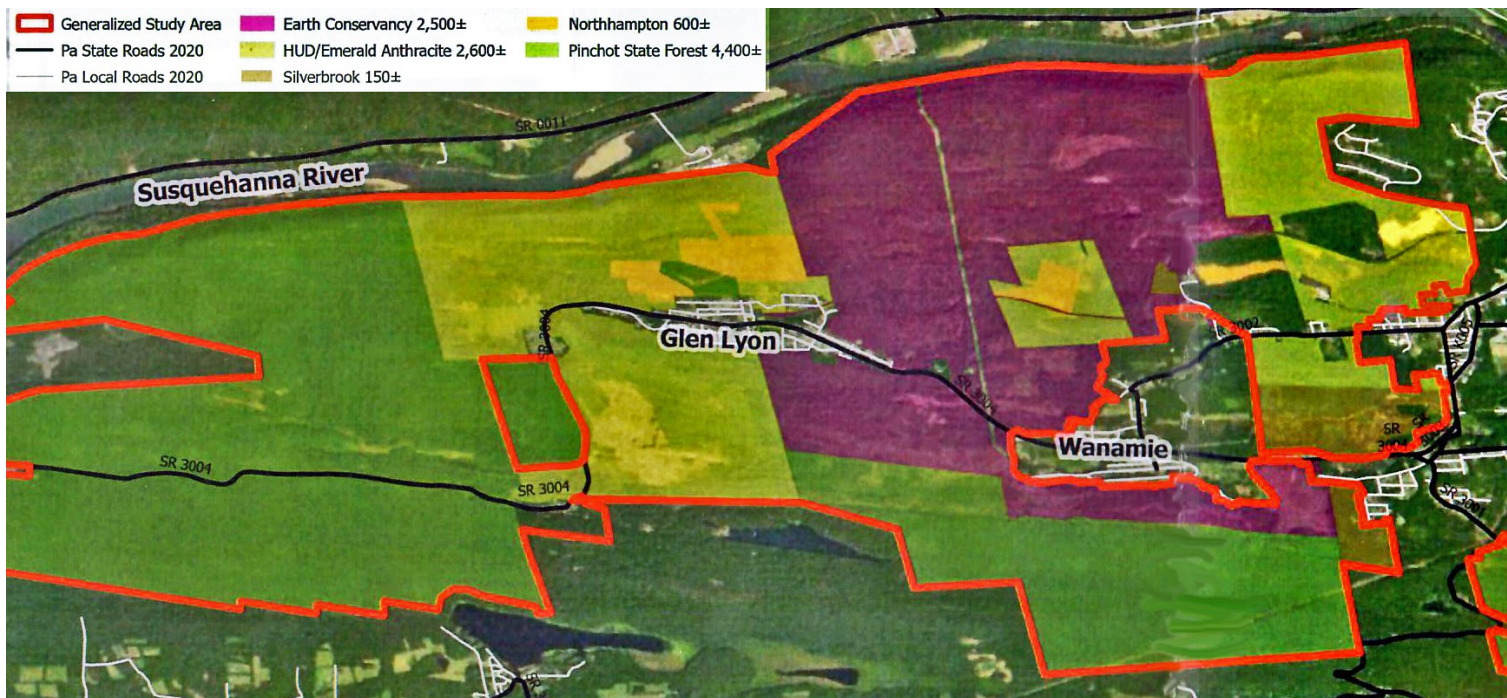
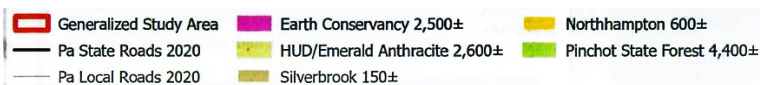
This Organization's initial successes include the purchase of the electronic bulletin board located adjacent to Holy Trinity Cemetery in Sheatown which is utilized to promote the various activities taking place throughout this locale; sponsoring the Township's Hometown Heroes Banner Program which currently has over 180 local veterans honored for their service; and establishing the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Program which is held next to the Municipal Building.

However, like many churches, veterans organizations, social and fraternal bodies, and other civic volunteer services, fewer individuals are contributing their time and finances to help guarantee that these vital community endeavors will continue to function. To help insure that we can continue to offer our assistance to the community, we need the help of your organization or your personal participation. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact Newport United's President John Zyla at 570-735-1714.

Thank you for your consideration.

The NTCO wishes everyone  
a happy Spring Season!





## A Summary of the Report on the Newport Township OHV Recreation Park Feasibility Study

See Also Newport Township Community News, #3, Fall 2005, pp.1,3; #59, Winter 2020, p.14; and #64, Spring 2021, p.6

The Report was prepared by Earth Conservancy in consultation with LAIRD LA Landscape Architecture, P.L.L.C. and its partners, The Institute and WAR Landscape Architecture.

Summary by Paul Jarecki with approval of Recreation Commissioner Jack Vishnefski and Township Manager Joe Hillan.

### Results of Study

1. Even though the study area is composed of 11,400 acres, the recommendation is to begin with the core owned by Earth Conservancy (EC) property (2,499 acres). Ownership and/or management of an OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) park by EC are not an option.

2. Several successful OHV areas in Pennsylvania were examined. Of these, the most feasible structure in order of suitability, was ownership by the state, a private owner or a nonprofit. In the report is an explanation on how they determined this.

3. Projections were based on available information from existing OHV facilities in Pennsylvania. The facilities are:

**Allegheny National Forest**, Forest, Elk and McKean Counties

**11 Pennsylvania State Forests** containing motorized recreation areas

**Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area**, Northumberland County

**Indian Creek Valley ATV Club**, Fayette County

**Rock Run Recreation Area**, Cambria and Clearfield Counties

**Famous Reading Outdoors**, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Carbon Counties

**Mountain Ridge ATV Park**, Somerset County

4. The study area is 11,400 acres. There are five primary landholders: EC 2,500 acres, DCNR (State) 4,100 acres, HUD/Emerald Anthracite 2,600 acres, Silverbrook 150 acres, and Northampton 600 acres. (See map.) 1,400 acres owned by EC are slated for sale to the Pinchot State Forest.

5. Because there are multiple landowners, securing all of the acreage in the study area may be difficult. Other parcels included in the study area but not owned by EC either will need to be purchased by the same entity or made useable for recreation under a formal lease agreement or permanent easement. Kiehar Lake, PGC property and leased mining acreage located in Newport Township are not part of the plan.

6. Start up costs range from \$1.2 million to \$3.9 million. The emphasis initially should be on enhancing the existing trail network and providing modest amenities. Later phases can focus on expanding the trail network, enlarging the physical plant and adding specific features. An unofficial trail network runs through all of these areas and is extensively used for illegal OHV riding. It is recommended the concept of an OHV Park be expanded to include other forms of recreation making it an "Outdoor Adventure Area." Entry to the park for motorized

recreation would be fee-based, both day passes and annual passes.

7. Economic analyses were performed by The Institute using IMPLAN software. Generation of state and local taxes will yield over \$73,000 with the largest portions derived from sales and property taxes. Visitors will generate economic impacts as they purchase food, lodging, other retail items, gasoline, and motor parts and services. The model anticipates \$3.4 million in economic output and support for over 37 jobs. Modeling suggests that visitors will generate over \$276,450 in federal taxes. State and local taxes generated is estimated to be over \$284,200 annually, comprised largely of sale and property taxes.

8. Based on the current information regarding land use, market trends, community input and success of similar facilities within Pennsylvania, it is believed an OHV riding facility in Newport Township is suitable, feasible and sustainable.

### Comments

1. First of all, it is important to note that if EC cannot find a competent buyer for their property this project cannot proceed because EC cannot manage a facility of this type. Also the buyer must not only be capable of managing the facility he must deal with the other landowners in the study area. He must either buy their property or secure rights to access their properties. This seems to be a difficult thing to accomplish.

2. The report is a bit hard to read but that's because what is asked of them is complicated and difficult to explain. Overall it is well done.

3. Instead of using just models why couldn't they describe the tax contributions and economic impact on communities of the facilities they investigated? Did these tax and economic advantages occur in real time?

3. The report contains many interesting maps, discussions on local history and descriptions of existing land features.

4. The report identifies several successful OHV facilities in Pennsylvania, however, they do not explain what success means. Advantages are talked about in general terms but the report does not discuss advantages to the actual facilities they investigated. Can they be more informative and specific in real life terms, especially as to how the facilities affected the local economy and tax base? This is attempted in Appendix C but only for three facilities, Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area, Rock Run Recreation Area and the Hatfield-McCoy Trails Project in West Virginia. Why didn't they include the other facilities they investigated?

5. How are the identified facilities managed? How are laws enforced? The report should explain in greater detail the workings of the existing facilities. Do private owners make a profit? They attempt this in Appendix C but only three facilities are described.

### Conclusion

Based on the current information regarding land use, market trends, community input and success of similar facilities within Pennsylvania an OHV riding facility in Newport Township is suitable, feasible and sustainable but if EC cannot find a competent buyer for their property this project cannot proceed. The report is well done but the description of the existing facilities that were investigated is too short.





## Newport Township Receives Grant for New Fire Engine

On March 2, 2023, Congressman Dan Meuser met with Newport Township Fire Officials in Wanamie to discuss the replacement of the 1976 fire engine. A grant in the amount of \$564,761.90 was awarded by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to Newport Township's Fire Departments. The new engine will be built in Florida and will take roughly 14-15 months to complete. From left to right: Michael Shea, NTCO President Steve Phillips, Township Manager Joe Hillan, Capt. Jared Whittaker; Capt. Josh Butkofski, Grant Writer Ron Jones, Lt. Dave McGovern, Recreation Commissioner Jack Vishnefski; Rep. Dan Meuser, Capt. Peter Helmecki, Deputy Fire Chief Jim Hoffman, Fire Chief Jason Kowalski, Fire Commissioner Mike Roke.

## Glen Lyon Cell Phone Tower Zoning Hearing

*The following is the statement submitted by the Chairman of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners, Paul Czapracki, on behalf of the Commissioners to the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board on March 7, 2023 in support of the installation of a tower in Glen Lyon by Verizon that would improve cell phone communication.\**

Thank you for the opportunity allowing me to address the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board this evening.

I am speaking on behalf of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners and those Township residents and entities, who are lending their support to the installation of the cell tower within the Village of Glen Lyon. For several decades, this section of the Municipality has had difficulties in obtaining various means of communication as easily as experienced by other portions of the township. Glen Lyon's location in a valley between two higher elevations has been a major contributing factor to this negative geographic feature. With the recent rapid advance in technology and its attendant influence on methods of communication, it has become increasingly important that this particular locale have readily available resources required to insure its continued safety and economic viability. At various times, cell phone service and other wireless devices are not currently dependably available in Glen Lyon. This factor has had a negative effect on the health and safety of its residents as well as posing a potential adverse impact on the Village's future and economic growth. Recently, a lifelong resident's cell phone and life alert system malfunctioned because service was not available while this individual was experiencing a life-threatening event. Upon collapsing, this person pulled the operational landline telephone to the floor and placed what very well was probably a lifesaving call to the required health services. In this day and age, how many individuals or families have retained their landline telephones? Protecting the health and safety of its residents has been and remains the highest priority of local governments. Police and fire departments and other first responders depend upon adequate cell phone service to receive and respond to emergency calls. Rapid response is oftentimes the difference between life and death for those affected by these potentially life altering events. In the midst of an urgent situation, it is essential that safety officers have immediate and dependable communication service readily available. Because Newport Township is located within the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone related to the Nuclear Power Plant in Salem Township, it is an obvious necessity that immediate communication is available in the event that evacuation of the Area is mandated. It should be noted, that Glen Lyon has consistently had the highest population of any of Newport's towns. Dependable cell phone service is also a necessary prerequisite to insure adequate health and safety measures are readily available to our elderly and handicapped residents. Also, adequate cell phone service is very important for parents to monitor the location of their preteen and teenage children. An analysis of those who utilize cell phones will probably reveal that a substantial number of individuals who protested against certain cell tower locations are very dependent upon their own devices. For the past several years, 5



Paul Czapracki addressing the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board

Newport Township's elected officials and numerous volunteer groups and individuals have been diligently striving to improve the municipality's overall quality of life. To assist in achieving this goal, an integral element is to guarantee that the Township's overall economic base continues to expand, thus insuring that local government has the necessary financial resources to continue to provide the community services required by an anticipated expanding population and projected larger commercial and industrial base. Without the ability to have and utilize the technological resources required to attract new residential and additional employers, the community is destined to lose its overall viability as a destination, thus having a negative impact on all of the three current taxing bodies within the county. Encouraging continued growth within all of the County's Municipalities will have a positive impact within the entire Area. Please assist us achieve our goals in Newport Township.

\* The Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board approved the variance unanimously.

## Attention Newport Township Residents

Spring time has arrived in Newport Township and residents are urged to take pride in their community. In the past residents could be seen outside cleaning their front porches, raking and cleaning their yards, sweeping the sidewalks in front of their homes and even helping out the elderly people in the neighborhood with maintaining their properties. This is a great time of the year to start bringing this type of community pride back into our Township. It is just the simple things like keeping your property and front porches clean of debris and garbage and recycling cans, cleaning up after your dogs in your own yard or when you are taking them for a walk and picking up litter that will make our community a more vibrant place to live and visit.

## Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding

Newport Township will be holding paper shredding and electronics recycling events this summer. Please check the website at [newporttownship.org](http://newporttownship.org) or call the Municipal Building at 570-735-4735 for more information.

Joe Hillan  
Township Manager



**Newport Township Budget for 2023**

by John Jarecki

At their meeting on December 22, 2022, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2023. The budget is divided into five major parts, of which revenue and expenses are listed in the following table.

	Revenue	Expenses
General Budget	\$ 1,509,024	\$ 1,509,024
Refuse Budget	583,795	583,795
Recycling Budget	67,000	67,000
Liquid Fuels Budget	125,629	125,629
Capital Purchase Budget	40,736	40,736
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,326,184</b>	<b>\$2,326,184</b>

For the 2023 budget as a whole, the six largest sources of revenue are listed in the following table along with the corresponding amounts from the 2022 budget.

	2023	2022
Refuse and Recycling Fees	\$650,795	\$393,625
Real Estate Tax	538,400	566,100
Earned Income Tax	530,242	412,000
Building Code Enforcement	141,618	203,900
Liquid Fuels Payment from State	125,629	139,982
State Shared Revenue	75,764	76,325
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,326,184</b>	<b>\$2,014,043</b>

These six sources amount to approximately 88% of total income. The following is a list of Township taxes and fees and their rates for 2023, with corresponding figures from 2022.

	2023	2022
Real Estate Tax		
(for General Government)	3.75 mills	3.75 mills
(for Fire Protection)	.40 mills	.40 mills
Emergency and Municipal Tax	\$.52	\$.52
Earned Income Tax	.50 %	.50 %
Real Estate Transfer Tax	.50%	.50 %
Per Capita Tax	\$5	\$5
Trash and Recycling Fee	\$385	\$235

The only change in these figures is the approximately 63% increase in the trash and recycling fee, making it the largest source of 2023 revenue. The Township also expects the following large changes in revenue from its sources of income in 2023: 1) about \$30,000 less from the real estate tax because rising prices makes it difficult for people to pay these costs, 2) about \$60,000 less from building code enforcement and the real estate transfer tax because, after the completion of the new warehouse off Middle Road, there will be less new construction and therefore less income from building permits, and 3) about \$100,000 more from the earned income tax because of an expected increased number of jobs, such as in the newly built warehouse.

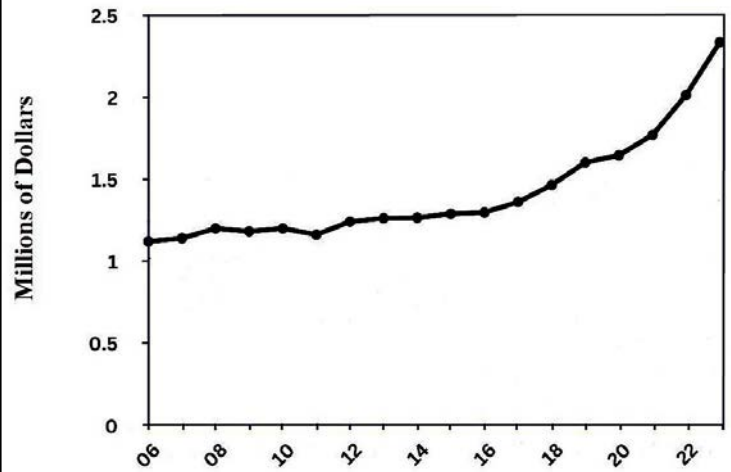
The six largest expenditures from the 2023 budget are listed in the following categories along with the corresponding amounts from the 2022 budget.

	2023	2022
Refuse and Recycling	\$560,650	\$300,138
Police Department	375,287	372,607
Street Department	360,919	368,740
Employee Fringe Benefits	321,604	301,994
Fire Department	304,058	264,549
General Government	237,448	228,283
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,326,184</b>	<b>\$2,014,043</b>

These categories amount to approximately 92% of total expenses. The largest category of expenses, with the largest increase over last year, is refuse and recycling. The increase is caused by the large increase in what trash collection companies are charging. In 2023 our trash collector will be charging \$552,400 per year, an increase of about 89% over last year. All municipalities that are signing trash collection contracts this year, as Newport Township is, are facing large increases. To explain these increases, Waste Management, one of our local trash companies, mentions the increase in the cost of diesel fuel and increases in worker hourly wages and other compensation needed to attract and keep workers. Another large increase in Township expenses is the approximately \$55,000 increase in the Fire Department budget because of, at least in part, the hiring of another full time fire equipment driver.

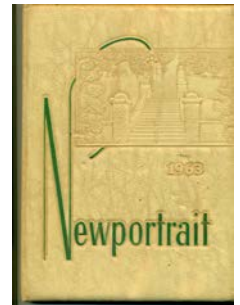
The following chart shows the changes in total expenditures in the Township budget from 2006 to 2023. Changes in income over the period follow expenditures closely. For the period 2006 to 2016, the income and expenses increased at a rate of about 1.5%, slightly less than the inflation rate of 2% for the period. From 2016 to 2021, however, Township officials, more active in managing finances, increased revenue and expenditures by an average of about 7.2% a year. For 2022, revenue and expenditures increased by about 13% over 2021. About half of this revenue increase was the result of fees from new construction and an increased property tax to be used in paying for a new fire engine. For 2023 expenditures will increase by about 16%. About three quarters of that increase is the result of the increase in costs of trash collection paid for by a corresponding increase in revenue through a higher trash collection fee.

**Newport Township Budget Expenditures 2006-2023**



**Newport High Class of 1963 Plans Reunion**

The Newport Township High School Class of 1963 will hold its 60th year Class Reunion on September 23, 2023 at the R-Bar & Grill, 119 East Kirmar Avenue in Alden. Classmates who did not receive an e-mail or mailed invitation are requested to contact Bob Chapracki at 610-269-7640. Hope to see everyone there!



**GNA Class of 1973 Plans Reunion**



The Greater Nanticoke Area High School Class of 1973 will be celebrating their 50-year Class Reunion on September 2 and 3, 2023. To help better communicate the details of the reunion events, classmates are encouraged to stay in contact through any of the following methods:

- 1) request to join the "Nanticoke Area Class of 1973" Facebook group page.
- 2) provide a valid email address.
- 3) provide a phone number for text messaging.

Email addresses and phone numbers can be sent to Bob Kellar at "bobkellar2525@gmail.com" or Dan and Maria (Kowalski) Floryshak at "adjmflory@gmail.com."

**All Newport Reunion Returns**

The All-Newport Reunion will return on Sunday October 8, 2023 from 12 pm to 5 pm at Holy Transfiguration Hall in Rhone (Hanover Section of Nanticoke). Price per person has yet to be determined.

This reunion is open to anyone who attended Newport schools at any time. Members of the Committee are Joe Molski, John Jarecki, Heidi Selecky Jarecki, and Paul Jarecki. Registration information will be mailed in June. Please send us your name and address if you wish to be added to the mailing list. Contact Heidi Jarecki at 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617; phone number 570-733-2540; email hselcky@pa.metrocast.net. Hope to see you there!

**Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale**

The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon, Holy Spirit Parish is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale. Pickup is Saturday April 15. Choice of Regular Glazed (12) Lemon Filled Glazed (6), Raspberry Filled Glazed (6), Crème Filled Glazed (6), and Chocolate Glazed (6). \$12.00 per box. Please call Carol at 570-736-7149 before April 10. Thank you!

## American Legion and VFW Meetings

By Tom Kashatus ~ It's pretty much official that both the Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 and the Chester Stralka VFW Post 8353 meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month. However, the meetings are separate and the minutes are separate. This has been the best solution thus far for both units — since the VFW Post Home was demolished a few years ago — to meet at the Post Home of the American Legion. Also, since the Jeffries-Slapikas American Legion Post 971 of Wanamie does not have a home, they normally meet at the Post 539 home located on Newport Street in Glen Lyon.

On Sunday March 12, AL Post 539 and VFW Post 8353 held nominations for officers. Election of officers will take place at the regular meeting in April for both organizations. The oath of office and installation will occur on Memorial Day at Post 539 following the ceremonies and meal.

On Friday March 17, Post 539 held a raffle in its social hall to chance off a Winchester 12 gauge SPX pump shotgun, won by lucky gal Kathy Pohlidal. Generally, on a Saturday night once a month, members look forward to “Veterans’ Night” whereby a military movie is shown. The winter season house dart league and corn hole league have come to a close and participants are looking forward to Awards Day. Start-up on Thursday nights for the summer house dart league is eagerly anticipated.

On Sunday March 19, the VFW held a breakfast at the Post 539 social hall as a fundraiser to supplement general expenses. A raffle for a Savage Axis II bolt action 2506 caliber rifle with scope was also held during the breakfast. Winning ticket was purchased by Joyce Wilson. On May 7, the VFW is sponsoring a 12 gun raffle, supported by the Mocanaqua Sporting Club, the Wyoming Masonic Lodge, and Piestrak’s Gun Shop in Alden which will be held at the Post 539 social hall.

Both organizations strongly support March’s “Women’s Recognition Month” as they recognized members Sgt. Margaret Haydock and Sgt. Cory Linker, both of Nanticoke. Sgt. Haydock is a recipient of the Army Commendation Medal and the Air Medal for Meritorious Service. She participated in 32 combat helicopter missions as a door gunner. She served with Co. G, 104th Aviation Chinook Unit in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom during 2003-2004.

Eleven year US Army veteran and member Sgt. Cory Linker, recipient of the Bronze Star; Meritorious Service Medal; and Army Commendation Medal, was recognized for her exemplary service with the 2nd Armored Division (Forward Unit) during Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Sgt. Linker was also deployed for Operation Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia.



Pictured above is American Legion Post 539 member Robert McDaniels (center) of Shickshinny, who was recognized by American Legion National Commander Vincent J. Troiola, for his 50 years of continued service. Also shown with Mr. Daniels are Finance Officer Tim Derr (left) and Commander Shawn Swicklik (right).



Pictured l to r: Post 539 Commander Shawn Swicklik; Sgt. Cory Linker; Post 539 Trustee Joe Figlerski; Sgt. Margaret Haydock; VFW Quartermaster Tim Derr; and VFW Commander John Wildes.

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At near left is the property at 50-52 Newport Street which once housed Brexy's Bar. It had long been vacant when it caught fire last year and was significantly damaged. Please see *Newport Township Community News*, #70, Fall 2022, p. 15.

### Blighted Property Remediation Project

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ The Township continues its demolition of long abandoned properties that have fallen into serious disrepair. The process can take several years. All of the structures in this grouping are in Glen Lyon.

Above is the property at 81 West Main Street. It was built in the late 1920's and is mainly associated with the Misavage Family. Other families include Kiselowicz, Koshinski, Fox, Gross, and Boguszewski. The address served as the Fraternal Order of Eagles Post 2160 in the 1940s and 1950s.



At near left is a home at 70 Ridge Street, formerly associated with the Gamulka and Kotch Families. Thomas William was later owner. Additional properties are being evaluated for demolition in the near future.



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### Township Events at Press Time

March 23. Hoagie and Bake Sale at St. Nicholas Church, Glen Lyon. Basket Raffle benefits Ukraine.

March 26. Spring Bingo sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group at St. Adalbert's Church Hall, Glen Lyon.

April 1. Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Women's Activity Group in the Wanamie Recreation Park.

April 2. Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Italian American Sporting Club Auxiliary in the Wanamie Recreation Park.

April 2. Food Sale at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown. Soups, potato pancakes, halushki, etc. Serving 11 am to 5 pm.

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## Local State Police to be Honored

By Tom Kashatus ~ Retired members of the Pennsylvania State Police stay in touch by way of an on-line bulletin board. Items of interest are posted as are notices of the passing of this aging group. Retired State Police Sergeant Chet Zaremba of Nanticoke, shown in photo left, was browsing this bulletin board when he noticed an article that he found most interesting.

The Shenandoah Valley School District in Schuylkill County had recently installed a large display in the school to honor members of the State Police from that school district. It was noted that through the years, 53 graduates of Shenandoah Valley High School and the district's former high schools had become members of the Pennsylvania State Police. The display is a large wooden cut-out in the shape of Pennsylvania with a tab for each member listing their name, high school, and year of graduation. Sergeant Zaremba realized that this was a significant number and also that there was also a large number of troopers from the Greater Nanticoke Area and that number might rival the Shenandoah Valley group.

Sergeant Zaremba then began research to compile a list of graduates from Harter (in Plymouth Township), Nanticoke, and Newport High Schools who became State Troopers. In his initial count, he found 47 that made the list. He then reached out to other retirees for input and received additional names.

Sergeant Zaremba met with Captain Patrick Dougherty, Commanding Officer of Troop "P" of the Pennsylvania State Police, which covers the Greater Nanticoke Area and explained the project to him. Captain Dougherty himself is a graduate of John S. Fine High School of the Greater Nanticoke Area (GNA) School District with the Class of 1991. Captain Dougherty gave his approval to the project and provided the names of currently active Troopers who are GNA grads. Sergeant Zaremba then met with Dr. Ronald Grevera, Superintendent of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District, who was also very supportive of the project. Dr. Grevera brought the idea to a school board meeting and was able to obtain approval of the GNA School Board.

Sergeant Zaremba knows that the most important part of the project is now before him and that is to reach out to the community for names of those Troopers who are Nanticoke, Newport, Harter, or GNA graduates. At this point in time, the list has grown to 70 names with the earliest being a 1928 graduate of Nanticoke High School. (Note: There was a time when students from Dorrance, Slocum, and Conyngham Townships and Nuangola Borough attended and graduated from Newport Township High School. These former students who are/were troopers are eligible for inclusion.)

Sergeant Zaremba asks that the rank and name, year of high school graduation, and name of the high school of any known Trooper, active or retired, living or deceased be forwarded to him at cz3826@aol.com. Initially, this project will be funded by the Nanticoke Historical Society; however, at the final completion of the project, donations to offset that expense will be appreciated and recognized. Chester Zaremba serves as Vice President of the Nanticoke Historical Society.



Pictured left to right are: Jim Zuzuel, Plymouth Township; Rodney Harmon, Nanticoke City; Jordan Sager, Newport Township; Burt Golightly, Plymouth Township; Rich Guzak and Jeremy Yakavonis, Newport Township; Jim Jones, Nanticoke City.

## COG Begins Work in Newport Township

By Tom Kashatus ~ What is the COG? COG is an acronym for Council of Governments (Full name: Lower South Valley Council of Governments) which is a number of local municipalities that have come together to work for the benefit of their municipalities, i.e., public works, fire protection, public safety, etc. Newport Township is a COG member along with the following municipalities: Nanticoke City, Plymouth and Hanover Townships, and Plymouth, Sugar Notch, and Ashley Boroughs.

Favorable weather this winter provided an opportunity to do some early public works in Wanamie. Much needed roadwork on Coal and Chestnut (Brown Row) Streets, i.e., grading, filling, topping, pipe replacement, and drainage work was accomplished with the assistance of our COG members and equipment.

Equipment used were a roller, grader, and payloader from the COG and trucks from member municipalities. Crushed stone and clean fill was acquired from Newport Aggregate.

When you see local roads and streets being paved and/or repaired, most likely the COG is involved with Newport Township's Public Works employees. Since its inception the COG has been a huge benefit to Newport Township and its member municipalities in mutual aid and monetary savings.



**The Newport Township Lions Club** recently purchased power tools for the Newport Township Department of Public Works, and jackets for the Newport Township Fire Police. Pictured seated l to r: Jordan Sager DPW, Ronald Womelsdorf, Ronald Jones and Leonard Paczkowski, Fire Police. Standing: Don Reese, Jeremy Blank, and John Zyla, Lions Club.

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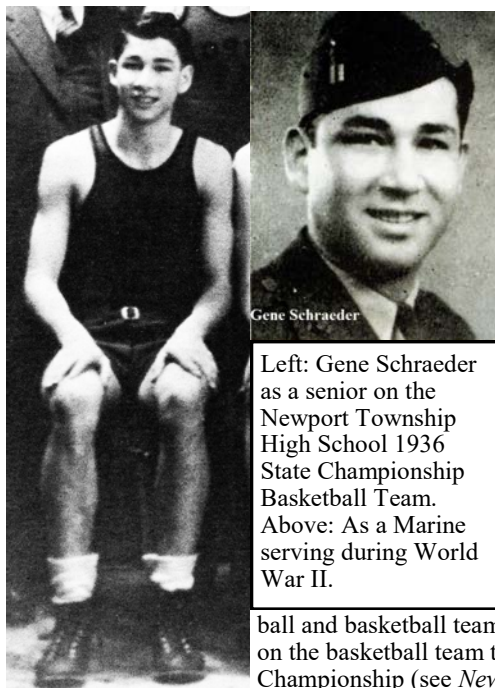
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Gene Schraeder

Left: Gene Schraeder as a senior on the Newport Township High School 1936 State Championship Basketball Team. Above: As a Marine serving during World War II.

## Gene Schraeder Athlete, Marine, Physician

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~

Gene Norman Schraeder was born in Glen Lyon on March 13, 1918. He was the son of Joseph Schraeder and Otylia Briski Schraeder. His father worked in the coal mines. The family resided at 61 Coal Street in Glen Lyon and consisted of twelve children: Raymond, Bolish (Bob), Frank, Edward, Gene, Joseph, Helen, Rose, Frances, Sophia, Phyllis and Cecile.

Gene attended Newport Township High School, graduating second with high honors with the Class of 1936. He also served as Class

President. He was on the football and basketball teams. In his senior year, he played on the basketball team that won the Pennsylvania State Championship (see *Newport Township Community News*, #24, Winter 2011, p. 4). He described

himself as a “handy man” on the basketball team. Following graduation, he attended Pennsylvania Military College in Chester, PA on a full scholarship. At the Military College that first year, he was the youngest member of the football squad and was an immediate star by scoring the first touchdown that season. He was also a member of the basketball team. In 1940, he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering with highest honors, the award bestowed by General George Marshall.

On June 12th of 1940, he received a commission as a second Lieutenant. In February of 1941 he graduated from the Marine Corps Basic School in Philadelphia as a Lieutenant. Gene then left for Quantico, VA to study aircraft at Base Weapons School and was assigned to Camp Elliott in San Diego, CA.

On December 8, 1941, Congress declared war on Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Soon after in 1942, Gene was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division and was sent overseas to the Pacific area where he took part in combat with the Marines in the Guadalcanal, Saipan and Tarawa invasions. He was wounded at Tarawa when he was blown from a boat and received injuries to his left knee from a shell fragment. As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, he received two Presidential citations and the Purple Heart. He served overseas until July 16, 1944. He returned home with the rank of Major. Two of his brothers also served in the military. Flight Officer Raymond Schraeder was a pilot stationed with the U.S. Air Corps at Lincoln, Nebraska and Seaman First Class Bolish Schraeder served with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific area. Gene’s other honors included attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, receiving the highest honors at the U. S. Navy School of Language for Russian at the University of Colorado and becoming the Liaison Officer at Fox’s Hollywood studios for the production of training films.

Following his military career, he graduated from Temple University Medical School and was awarded highest honors in pediatrics. He interned at Atlantic City Medical Center, New Jersey and completed a pediatrics residency at

Temple and St. Christopher Hospital for Children. He practiced medicine in New Jersey in numerous capacities including Chief Atlantic County Health Inspector and School Doctor.

Notably, he served as Medical Director for the 1964 Democratic Convention which took place at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City from August 24 to 27, 1964. President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a full term and Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota was nominated for vice president.

During the 1950s, the Schraeder Family held annual reunions locally. Gene was elected president in 1958.

Gene married Gloria Marie Miller of Pleasantville, New Jersey in November, 1944 and they had five children: Gene Jr., Kathy O’Brien, Ann Marie Brzyski, Jane Boyer and Joan Howard. Gene passed away February 12, 2001 at age 82. Gloria passed away on November 30, 2014 at age 93. At the time of Gloria’s death, the couple had 12 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Gene and Gloria are interred in Laurel Memorial Park Cemetery in Pomona, NJ.

## World War II: The Pacific Theater Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Saipan

The **Guadalcanal Campaign** was a military campaign fought between August 7, 1942 and February 9, 1943 on and around the island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. It was the first major land offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan. On that first day, Allied forces, predominantly United States Marines, landed on Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and Florida, all in the Solomon Islands. The objective was to use Guadalcanal and Tulagi as bases in supporting a campaign to eventually capture or neutralize the major Japanese base at Rabaul on New Britain. The Japanese defenders, who had occupied those islands since May 1942, were overwhelmed by the Allies, who captured Tulagi and Florida, as well as the airfield. In December 1942, the Japanese abandoned their efforts to retake Guadalcanal, and evacuated their remaining forces by February 7, 1943.

The **Battle of Tarawa** (see *Community News*, #66, Fall 2021, p.18) was fought in November 20–23, 1943 between the United States and Japan at the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. Nearly 6,400 Japanese, Koreans, and Americans died in the fighting. The Battle of Tarawa was the first American offensive in the critical central Pacific region. It was also the first time in the Pacific War that the United States had faced serious Japanese opposition to an amphibious landing. On Tarawa the 4,500 Japanese defenders were well-supplied and well-prepared, and they fought almost to the last man, exacting a heavy toll on the United States Marine Corps.

The **Battle of Saipan** was a battle fought on the island of Saipan in the Mariana Islands from June 15 to July 9, 1944. The American 2nd Marine Division, 4th Marine Division, and the Army's 27th Infantry Division defeated the 43rd Infantry Division of the Imperial Japanese Army. The loss of Saipan, with the deaths of at least 29,000 troops and heavy civilian casualties left the Japanese archipelago within the range of United States Air Force B-29 bombers. The Japanese archipelago is a group of 14,125 islands. that form the country of Japan. It extends over 1,900 miles.

## Nanticoke Area Little League Schedules Opening Day

Nanticoke Area Little League will have opening day ceremonies on Saturday April 22. The Parade starts at 10 am and will proceed from the Hillan Field in Wanamie to the Nanticoke Field behind the High School. Opening ceremonies will begin at approximately 11 am.

Games will begin promptly after opening ceremonies on both the Newport and Nanticoke fields. Times and teams will be announced at a later date.

Please check the Facebook page for more information. Nanticoke Area Little League invites children from Newport and Plymouth Townships and Nanticoke City to participate. Play Ball!







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## Obituaries

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

**MOYER**, Carl, 91, of Greenbriar Drive, Dallas, formerly of Jackson Township and Newport Township, passed away on December 5, 2022. Carl was born on September 19, 1931. He was raised in Sheatown – Newport Center and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1949. He was a US Army veteran and served as a corporal during the Korean War. Carl was predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Esther (nee Grant) Moyer.

**ROBACHINSKI**, Pauline (nee Antonelli), 94, of Swartz Creek, Michigan, formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 5, 2022. Pauline was born in Glen Lyon on October 10, 1928 and raised in Glen Lyon. She attended Newport Township schools. Pauline was predeceased by her husband, Stanley Robachinski.

**SAWCZUK**, Michael P. Ph.D., 78, of Alden passed away December 11, 2022. Michael was born on April 9, 1944 in Detroit. He was a graduate of Wilkes College and the University of Pennsylvania earning a Ph.D. in Business Management. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jean (nee Beggs) Sawczuk of Alden.

**SLAYZAK**, Jean Marie, (nee Lukashewski), of Poughkeepsie, NY, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away. Jean was born on December 10, 1940 and raised in Mocanaqua. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. Besides her parents Vincent and Jean Bodek Lukashewski, she was predeceased by her husband, Joseph.

**MORRISSEY**, John Anthony, 82, of Forty Fort, formerly of Newport Township, passed away. John was born on October 20, 1940 and raised in Alden. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. He was a US Army veteran serving with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, KY.

**DUDA**, Frank, 74, of Wanamie, passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Frank was born on April 25, 1948. He was raised in Nanticoke and graduated from Nanticoke High School with the Class of 1967. Frank was a US Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War and a patrolman for the Nanticoke City Police Department. Frank is survived by his wife of 49 years, Donna (nee Margelewicz) Duda.

**ARGENTO**, Maria “Ria” Rose (nee Scarantino), 72, of Yatesville, formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 17, 2022. Maria was born in Nanticoke on October 30, 1950. She was raised in Alden and was a Newport Township graduate with the Class of 1968 of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. Maria Rose is survived by her husband, John Argento.

**KRAFCHIK**, David, 79, of Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 20, 2022. Dave was born in Wanamie on June 3, 1943. He was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1961. He attended Brown University and Temple University, played football, and received his Masters Degree from Temple. He is survived by his wife, Molly.

**MIODUSKI**, Robert E., 90, of Aberdeen, MD, formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 16, 2022. Robert was born in Glen Lyon. He was raised in Glen Lyon, attended Newport Township schools and graduated from Newport Township High School. After graduation he enlisted in the US Navy and was a veteran of the Korean War. Following discharge from the military, he attended college, graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics, and later with a Master of Science in Statistics.

**RUSSIN**, David J., 63, of Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 20, 2022. David was born on July 28, 1959 and raised in Glen Lyon. He graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1978. Dave was a national champion power lifter.

**GENSEL**, Arlene (nee Shershen), 95, formerly of Shickshinny and Newport Township, passed away on Christmas Day, 2022. Arlene was born on New Year’s Day, 1927. She was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools. Arlene was predeceased by her husband, Samuel Arthur Gensel.

**KILLIAN**, Carol (nee Larish), 76, of Reyburn Road, Shickshinny and formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away. She was raised in Mocanaqua, and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1964. She was predeceased by her husband John.

**YOUELLS**, Mary Ann (nee Yanoka), 78, of Plymouth, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on December 29, 2022. Mary Ann was born on April 7, 1944. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1962. Mary Ann is survived by her husband of 57 years, David Youells and brother, Robert Yanoka of Glen Lyon.

**TRUMBOWER**, Velma Naomi (nee Ruckel), 103, passed away December 24, 2022. Velma was born on March 18, 1919. She was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1937. Velma was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Carl.

**VANDERHOFF**, John James Jr., 74, of Glen Lyon, passed away October 14, 2022. John was born on July 13, 1948. John was a US Army veteran serving in the Vietnam War and was a member of the Hanover Township Amvets Post 59. John is survived by his wife, Michaelene (nee Kociban) Vanderhoff of Glen Lyon.

**LEMANOWICZ**, Chester, 91, of Newport Township, passed away January 1, 2023. Chester was born on August 2, 1931 in Lee. Chester was predeceased by his first wife, Irene Lemanowicz, and second wife, Louise Lemanowicz. He is survived by his son, Richard Lemanowicz of Glen Lyon.

**CHOPAK-MUELLER**, Jill A, 61, of Annandale, VA, formerly of Main Road Lee, passed away on January 2, 2023. Jill was born in Nanticoke on November 2, 1961. She was raised in Lee, attended Newport Township schools, and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1979. She then graduated from Florida Institute of Technology in Jensen, FL with a B.S. in Ocean Engineering. She had worked for the Department of Navy’s Naval Sea Systems Command; the U.S. Naval Submarine Force in Arlington, VA as a Chemical Engineer; and the Washington D.C. Navy Yard. She is survived by her husband, Bruce Mueller of Annandale, VA.

**BREHL**, Carl, 73, of Sheatown, passed away on September 27, 2022.

**TUSHINSKI**, Robert, 81, formerly of Newport Township, passed away December 25, 2022. He was raised in Glen Lyon by his late parents Clem and Sophie (nee Gonsecki) Tushinski and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1959. He graduated from Susquehanna and New York Universities and earned a PhD from Columbia University. Robert was predeceased by his wife, Liliji Tushinski

**KOWALESKI**, Eugene R., 90 formerly of Newport Township, passed away on December 21, 2021. Eugene was born in Mocanaqua on December 1, 1931. He was raised in Mocanaqua and Lee and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1949. He was a US Navy veteran serving as an Arlington Cemetery and Presidential honor guard in Washington D.C. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Joan (nee Neil) Kowaleski (see next obituary).

**KOWALESKI**, Joan M. (nee Neil), 87, passed away September 25, 2021. She graduated from Altoona Catholic High School with the Class of 1952 and Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. She was employed in the Mercy Hospital (now Geisinger South) Emergency Room.

**KOWALESKI**, Edmund F., 87 formerly of Newport Township, passed away on December 19, 2022. Edmund was born in Lee on February 9, 1935. He was raised in Lee and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1953. Edmund was a veteran of the US Navy. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Frances Kowaleski.

**GILES**, Betty “Betty Boop,” 57, of Glen Lyon, passed away on January 10, 2023. Betty was born on June 27, 1965. She was a graduate of Hanover Area High School. She was predeceased by her husband, Michael Giles.



**MORRIS**, Norman T., 76, formerly of Newport Township and Mocanaqua, passed away on January 10, 2023. Norman was born in Nanticoke on September 8, 1946. He was raised in Wanamie and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1965. Norm is survived by his wife, the former Joanne Gultus.

**VASILAKOS**, James L., 83, of Nanticoke and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 23, 2022. He was born on March 5, 1939. James is survived by his wife of 62 years, the former Barbara Bush.

**RINEHIMER**, Irene E. (nee Fanucci), 100, a lifetime resident of Glen Lyon, passed away January 1, 2023. She was predeceased by her husband Elwood in 2019.

**BURKE**, Dennis L., 80, of Orefield, passed away September 17, 2022. Dennis was born in Baltimore, MD, on May 12, 1942 and raised in Sheatown. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1961. He was a US Army veteran of the Vietnam era and later became a Pennsylvania State Trooper. Dennis is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara (nee Humko) Burke.

**GOMMER**, Dorothy M. (nee Maguire), 81, of Wapwallopen, passed away January 17, 2023. Dorothy was born in Wilkes Barre on March 25, 1941. She attended Newport Township schools. Dorothy was predeceased by her husband, William Gommer, Newport High School Class of 1958.

**HOWANITZ**, Helen (nee Yarmolowicz), 89, of Fairmount Springs, passed away January 20, 2023. Helen was the wife of the late Edward Howanitz who was born and raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

**CARUSO**, Mary (nee Capece), 97, of Halladale Beach, FL, and formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away.

**WALKER**, Theresa M. (nee Pawloski), 88, of Wanamie, passed away January 20, 2023. Theresa was born in Nanticoke on May 14, 1934. She was raised in Wanamie and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951. Theresa was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Al Walker.

**DOMZALSKI**, Shirley (nee Wintergrass), 89, of Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, passed away January 21, 2023. Shirley was born and raised in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951.

**GRUBER**, Henry Marcus, infant son of Kyle and Kelly Gruber of Pond Hill passed away shortly after birth. Kyle Gruber was raised in Sheatown and was very active as a volunteer in Newport Township activities.

**PICKLE**, John F. "Jack," 79, of Newport Township, passed away January 24, 2023.. For many years, Jack was a resident of Alden and later Sheatown. He was born in Brooklyn. After high school, he joined the US Navy and served as a Gunner's Mate in Vietnam. He was employed by the US Postal Service and later as a school bus driver. He is survived by former wife, Virginia.

**ROSICK**, Linda (nee Sechak), 78, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on January 25, 2023. Linda was born in Glen Lyon on June 4, 1944. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1962. She is survived by her husband Paul.

**SWEENEY**, Rita A. (nee Rilk), 80, of Wanamie, died January 23, 2023. Rita is survived by her husband, Andrew Sweeney.

**BARNARD**, Mary Ann (nee Harrison), 85, of Glen Lyon, died Thursday, December 29, 2022.

**CHERRIE**, Donald Albert, 97, Of Largo, FL, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on January 19, 2023. Donald was born in Nanticoke on July 23, 1925. He was raised in Sheatown and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1943. He was a World War II Army veteran serving as a Combat Infantryman in the European Theater.

**LYNCH**, Lawrence E. "Larry" "Uncle Larry," 87, of Sheatown, passed away February 6, 2023. Larry was born in Wilkes Barre on September 1, 1935. He was raised in Wilkes Barre, and graduated from GAR High School with the Class of 1953. He served with the Pennsylvania National Guard 109th Field Artillery Regiment earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was the owner of Uncle Larry's Plumbing and Heating

and served as President of the Newport Township Sewer Authority. Larry is survived by his wife of 65 years, Florence (nee Butchie Baker) Lynch.

**YOCUM**, Rosalie A. (nee Delikat), 82, of Conyngham Township, passed away on February 1, 2023. Rosalie was born in Slocum Township on July 31, 1940. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1959. She was predeceased by her husband, Larry R. Yocum Sr.

**SPENCER**, Shelley (nee Nethercott), 56, formerly of Newport Township, passed away February 7, 2023. Shelley was born in Wilkes Barre on May 31, 1966. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1985. Shelley is survived by her husband of 20 years, Samuel M. Spencer.

**KRUPINSKI**, Norma C. (nee Olshefski), 88, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on February 4, 2023. Norma was born in April, 1934. She was raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1952. Norma was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, John S. Krupinski Jr.

**PEREZ**, Asuncion, 51, of Glen Lyon, passed away February 11, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Hayfa (nee Shakkour) Perez.

**GOLASZEWSKI**, Veronica Theresa (nee Sklaney), 100, formerly of Railroad Street, Alden, passed away February 15, 2023. She was born in Alden on June 29, 1922. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1940. Veronica was predeceased by her husband of 37 years, Joseph Golaszewski.

**MIERZWA**, Giselle K. (nee Sabanos), 77, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on February 19, 2023. Giselle was born in Nanticoke on April 15, 1945. She was raised in Lee and attended Newport Township schools. Giselle is survived by her husband of 56 years, Michael E. Mierzwa

**STOBODZIAN**, John C., 58, longtime resident of Railroad Street, Glen Lyon, passed away February 14, 2023.

**KUCHINSKAS**, Albert P., 84, passed away on August 4, 2022. Albert was born in Kingston and was a graduate of Kingston High School. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean (nee Schraeder) Kuchinskas, a Newport Township High School graduate with the Class of 1955.

**YOST**, Johnny R., 53, of Glen Lyon, passed away February 18, 2023. He was born in Hazelton on August 25, 1969. He graduated from Hazelton High School with the Class of 1987. He is survived by his husband, Thomas Panzarella.

**SEDORCHUK**, Mary Alice (nee Lane), 72, of Wanamie, passed away February 26, 2023. Mary Alice was born in Wilkes-Barre. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry "Hank" Sedorchuk Jr.



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Left: Dada's Dart Team Shirt worn by members. Right: The many trophies won by Dada's Teams.

## Baseball in the Tavern Nine Innings of Metal Tips, Wooden Shafts and Feathers

By John Kashatus

### Prologue

"During a dark, snowy night, the visiting entourage created a special warmth as they entered the host tavern. Auxiliary lights were dimmed and the focus was on the light above the dart board in the shooting gallery. After the pre-game warm-ups, the line-ups were presented and the games began. There was nary a sound until the on-deck shooter called out the score, and a roar would erupt, dependent on the variables, when a lead would change, a point score of nine, or when a game was won."

Drinking establishments are synonymous with many other terms: taverns, saloons, clubs, nightclubs, barrooms, taprooms, restaurants, pubs, cafés, speak-easies, etc. Some of our country's greatest decisions were made in taverns prior to the Revolutionary War. During the post World War II years, it was very common to have barrooms supporting sports programs in their respective communities. They would sponsor teams in adult basketball leagues and provide funding for Little League uniforms.<sup>1</sup> The Glen Lyon Vets organizations totally financed Newport Township Bidy Basketball in the early 1950's.<sup>2</sup> The Italian American Sporting Club sponsored a semi-pro baseball team in the Central League during the mid-1950's. Some years later, many softball teams were organized and supported by local bars. Some talented bowlers would frequent a local taproom and lo and behold, those patrons teamed up and were sponsored by the business owner in one or more of the bowling leagues in the area. Since we have established that these drinking establishments served community interests "outside" the respective business, we will focus on the "inside" of that beehive of activity.

Other than liquid libations and food service, some taverns are equipped with items that promote various forms of activity. Televisions have been a focus of attention regarding special events which include the Super Bowl, World Series, Olympics, while back in the 1950's, the Friday Night Fights packed the house. These local pubs may have had a juke box, a shuffleboard, a pin ball or bowling machine or a pool table where customers can show some of their talents. There may be a reserved table for playing cards: pitch, pinochle and poker which were card games typical of that era. One "inside" activity that featured a high degree of talent and created a lot of buzz was American dart-shooting. I knew there was an interest in

1. Newport Little League was established through the efforts of the Newport Township Lions Club.

2. See *Newport Township Community News* #39, Fall 2014, p.20-21 and #40, Spring 2015, p.18-19.

darts in my pre-teen years, because I spent time doing chores in my parents' (John "Dada" and Mary Kashatus) tavern. In fact, it was not uncommon to observe two patrons debating some sports or political issue, then try to settle it by shooting a game of darts. The issue was usually settled in an amicable manner.

In the middle 1960's, the war in Viet Nam was growing to a boil and many local "Sons of Newport" were drafted or joined the Armed Forces. The winters seemed long and the television news programs focused on the war. There were protests in the streets and the burning of draft cards which began to polarize the nation. The clientele who frequented a local bar would seek an escape from the outside world to their

comfort zone. That comfort zone led to one outstanding dart team in Glen Lyon. My brother Tom should be credited for establishing the franchise in the Intercity Dart League prior to his enlisting in the United States Army in November, 1963.<sup>3</sup> When I returned home from college, I became the interim manager of the new franchise. Dada's competed in the league which included two other teams from Newport Township, the Royal Oak in Sheatown and New York Joe's in Alden. Nanticoke was represented by Bucu's Tavern, J & L's Bar, Rasmus' Café and George's (Smith). Moratori's, located in Sugar Notch, was the eighth franchise. During the ensuing years, the Intercity Dart League included teams from other Wyoming Valley communities, namely: Wilkes Barre, Swoyersville, Edwardsville, Back Mountain, Ashley and Mocanaqua. Mary Ann's, Frace's, Dee's, Mocanaqua Italian Club, Doc Walko's, Redick's, Steve & Ed's, Shanky's, Jan's, Mayflower Café, K & L, Roper's and the Glen Lyon American Legion Post 530 had franchises in the Intercity Dart League. A few years later, the enthusiasm grew so much in Glen Lyon that Dada's No. 2 franchise joined the league.

The highlight of my tenure as general manager was the championship in the second season, when my brother was in military service. The experience and team chemistry during the inaugural year provided the components for the 1964/65 League and Playoff Championship. In fact, Dada's dart teams were champions and contenders many times through the decade. John Andrusis, lead-off shooter, excelled and became established as a top shooter in the league. The team included: Tom Figmik, Vito DeLuca, Joe Samuels, "Ranger" Joe Ternosky, Ed Winters, Gene Smolinski, Ed Bush and myself. When that 17-week season came to an end, every member had made valuable contributions to the team.

Following that second season, the roster was bolstered with some outstanding shooters. John "Jocko" Sokoloski, Larry Pawlush and Stan Czapracki became stalwarts during that era. Frank Wilczewski, Dan Sokolowski and Al Rasmus were also in the starting line-up during a few intermittent years. The talented members of Dada's dart teams were mostly Glen Lyon and/or Newport Township native sons. They came from various occupations; in fact, some commuted to distant communities to work because the local job market was not strong. Over the years the team was comprised of unionized laborers and tradesmen, telephone and steel workers, welders, correction officers, teachers, and management level employees.

The dart league games were played on Monday nights,<sup>4</sup> when the bar business was usually slow. The visiting team, along with some supporters, would show up at a prescribed time and the owner or his/her designee would buy "the house" a first round drink. That show of good faith gave a shot in the arm to the host. That generous measure would be reciprocated when the return match occurred. The line-ups (five

3. Tom returned to manage the dart team in 1967.

4. Monday Night Football didn't exist until 1971. The dart games moved to Wednesdays during the 1970's.



shooters) for each team would be submitted to the official score-keeper. The visiting team would shoot the first inning, followed by the home team.<sup>5</sup>

Each pie shaped inning on the dart board has three scoring zones - small white, red, and large white. Each dart that hit the small white zone had a value of 3, in the red zone a value of 2, and in the large white zone a value of 1. Each shooter was issued three darts for his turn. The action would continue through nine innings.<sup>6</sup> The whole process would be repeated for game two and game three. One match point would be awarded for each game and copies of the score sheets would be sent to the league secretary who would post weekly standings as well as the high individual scorers. A good shooter would average 40 points per game or better in the three game series, but it was not uncommon for shooters to score in the 50's. Rarely, an outstanding shooter would hit 60.<sup>7</sup> My brother Tom attested that one of his teams averaged 225 points per game during one season - a 45 point average per man. The success of Dada's dart teams and the sponsorships of championship basketball and softball teams in the later 1960's were responsible for the bar's tag line "Home of Champions," which was included on the Coca Cola sign suspended at the corner of the tavern.<sup>8</sup>

The dart season lasted about four months during the winter. The action of the Intercity League on Monday nights created added interest in the local bars; those bars developed "house" leagues which usually competed on Saturday afternoons. Some members of the younger generation were inspired by the dart shooting resurgence. They would frequent the tavern during non-busy hours and spend some serious time practicing without interruption.<sup>9</sup> During that era some of the talented dart shooters would register in regional tournaments with much success. It was not uncommon for those skilled dart shooters to become well known throughout the area, thus attracting a crowd when making an appearance in a local match or tournament. Thus, that initial season in the Intercity League re-established a culture of dart shooting locally; the second season elevated that culture into numerous championships during the era, which is evidenced by the photo displaying the trophies.

### Epilogue

The local tavern dart shooting of the 1950's and 1960's evolved into three-man teams and the Pennsylvania State Dart Tournament. The inaugural tourney took place in 1969 at the Freeland VFW. The first State championship team from Lapoka's Café in Nanticoke included two who were from Newport Township - Len Kislavage of Wanamie, and Al Mitchell of Glen Lyon. In fact, the same team repeated winning the title in 1970. The dart team of Stan Czapracki, Tom Figmik and Tom Kashatus were runners-up in the state finals in 1973. During a four year period, they were joined by John Sokoloski and placed in the state's top ten three times. Ted Pawlush of Wanamie was on a team from Freeland which won the state championship in 1975. Frace's Cafe from Glen Lyon claimed the state title in 1985 with Paul "Slug" Makarczyk of Glen Lyon leading that team. Makarczyk was also on three other state championship teams in 1991, 1994 and 1995. There have been three Newport Township dart shooters inducted in the Pennsylvania Dart Wall of Fame: Makarczyk in 2001, Alden native Larry Sklaney in 2002, and Kislavage in 2008. This mid-winter tavern activity has developed into a year-round talent-driven sport, which draws much attention annually, culminating in the PA State Championship. It is interesting to note that a vast majority of state championship teams are represented by the "Anthracite Belt" - the cities and towns from Wilkes-Barre to Pottsville.<sup>10</sup>

5. Later on, winning the "bull's eye" would determine what team shot first.

6. Similar to baseball.

7. John Kozlowski (George's) shot a 64 in 1964 at Dada's. Dan Sokolowski shot a 65 and Stan Czapracki hit a 63 in the same game for Dada's in 1968 at the Mocanaqua Italian Club.

8. CYC Basketball Champs in High School Division in 1967; Newport Township Slo-Pitch Champs in 1966 and 1967.

9. Rich Chapracki recalled getting shooting tips from Dada during one afternoon session.

10. Pennsylvania State Dart Champions (check online)

Sources: Internet, Tom Figmik, John Sokoloski, Tom Kashatus and Stan Czapracki, who provided much legwork to complete this story. 15



### Newport Class of 1958 to Celebrate Reunion

By Tom Kashatus ~ Newport Township High School Class of 1958 is preparing to schedule their 65th year class reunion. Class members have been meeting to discuss the necessary requirements prior to sending out further information for the celebration. Shown above l to r are Betsy Littleford Matzoni, Marie Augustine Cardone, Theresa Mitarnowski Dauber, Benjamin Dekutoski, Barbara Barski Yacuboski, Julianna Sopko Zarzycki, and Roman Repotski. Absent are Tom Kashatus, John Sokoloski, and Ray Domzalski.

Questions may be referred to Marie Augustine Cardone at mcaraaazn@yahoo.com; phone number: 570-735-2052.



Newly Elected State Representative for the 119th Legislative District Alec Ryncavage (R, Plymouth Borough) attended the March 14 meeting of the NTCO. Pictured are officers Tom Kashatus, Linda Conner, Steve Phillips, State Representative Alec Ryncavage, and John Jarecki. Rep. Ryncavage and his staff look forward to working with Township Commissioners and serving Township residents. His Nanticoke Office is located at 50 North Walnut Street, Suite 102. See page 7.

### BEN FRACE LOBSTER OR CRAB CAKE DINNER

PLACE: ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH  
12 East Kirmar Ave., Alden Station, PA 18634

DATE: Saturday, April 22, 2023

9oz. Lobster Tail \$29.95  
Crab Cake 16.95

Both dinners include: fresh cut fries or baked potato, homemade coleslaw, and dessert

\*\*take outs—\$1.00 extra\*\*

Three seating times: 3:00-4:30; 5:00-5:30; 7:00-8:30

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Call 570-735-4049 for tickets

Reservations deadline is Monday, April 17th

Coal Street Playground in Glen Lyon has been permanently closed due to continuous vandalism. Anyone caught on the property will be arrested for trespassing. The Board of Commissioners has yet to determine the future of the property.



## The History of Kirmar Park Part V: 1912

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Kirmar Park was once located on West Kirmar Avenue between Alden and Wanamie. It was originally called Power House Grove and had its beginnings in 1896. It was managed by the Superintendent of the People's Street Railway, who during this time period was William Warne. The People's Street Railway was a trolley system that ran from Glen Lyon to Nanticoke. In Nanticoke, passengers could continue on to other parts of Wyoming Valley. The President of the Railway from its inception was K.M. Smith of Alden, who also served as Superintendent of the Alden Coal Company. Power House Grove became an important part of community life in Newport Township, Nanticoke, and beyond. This article continues the story of the Grove which began in the Spring 2022 issue of the *Community News*.

In 1912, the President of the United States was William Howard Taft of Ohio, a Republican. The Governor of Pennsylvania was John Kinley Tener, an Irish-born American politician and major league baseball player and executive, who served from 1911 until 1915. United States Senators were still being chosen by the respective state legislatures. During this time period, two Republicans represented Pennsylvania in the Senate, George T. Oliver and Boles Penrose. Newport Township was in the 11th Congressional District, and political wrangling took place between Charles Bowman, the Republican and his Democratic rival George McLean. McLean accused Bowman of campaign finance fraud, and Bowman was ultimately removed from his seat at the end of the year. Sitting on the Newport Board of Commissioners were Messrs. Talneratis, Delaney, Hansen, Twzinski, and Stralka.

Every January, the stockholders of the People's Railway held a meeting at the office of the company in the power house. Suggestions for any improvements to the Railway and the Grove would be made, discussed, and approved.

The first basketball game of 1912 was on Tuesday January 2 between the Utopians of Nanticoke and the Alden Stars. The Utopians defeated the Stars by a score of 36 to 26. "The feature of the game was the excellent shooting of Parks for the Utopians who had twelve baskets." Remember, it wasn't until 1913 when closed woven nets were eventually replaced by open-ended nets. Two nights later, the Rexalls played the Liggetts. The Liggetts team consisted of the following players: James Williams, James Cooper, B. Van Fossen, P. Jones, P. Locke, E. George, F. Morgan and Anthony Sarday.

On Friday, January 5, the Rexalls defeated the Spauldings of Wilkes-Barre by the score of 34 to 29. It was a "fast and interesting game of basket ball." Saturday afternoon saw a game between the Central (Newport Township) High School and the Excelsior team. The high school team won by the score of 24 to 8.

On occasion, the Pavilion was used for drills by Company L of the Pennsylvania National Guard. On Monday, January 8, members were requested to take the 7:30 car from Nanticoke. The next night was a game between the Liggetts and the Lehigh Valley team. Wednesday saw a game between the Wanamie Crescents and the Pittston Maroons. The pavilion was used not only for games, but also practices. The Nanticoke High School team held a practice before its game with Wyoming Seminary. On Thursday, January 11, the Rexalls played the Maroons of Wilkes-Barre.

All basketball activity was suspended for a while because St. Michael's Church in Glen Lyon held its second annual week-long

winter fair beginning on Monday, January 15. Preparations and decorating were underway. The opening night was "a success, there being a large number of people in attendance during the evening in spite of the stormy weather which threatened to keep many at home. The interior of the pavilion is well heated and illuminated for the occasion." The temperature had dropped well below zero all across Pennsylvania. January 15 was declared the coldest day in 30 years. The coldest temperature reported was 40 below in Lopez in Sullivan County. Ice twelve inches thick disabled locomotives in Williamsport. The cold spell lasted several days.

The Fair continued. Justice of the Peace Max Adamski completed a "handsome oil painting a picture of the magnificent tombstone erected over the grave of the late Father Siedlicki in the Saint Adalbert's cemetery at Glen Lyon, who for many years was pastor of the St. Adalbert's Church of that town." The painting was donated to the Fair Committee and was put on display at the fair where it attracted considerable attention. Friday night was designated "Children's Night" and on Saturday the last night of the fair, a masquerade ball was held and prizes given. Large crowds attended each night and the money realized helped pay off the debt on the new church.

Basketball activity resumed following the closing of the fair. On Wednesday, January 24, the Utopians defeated the Newport High School team by the score of 22 to 18. The following night, the Rexalls played the Bartels, and on Friday, the Nanticoke High School team challenged the ex-High School team to a game. On the High School team were: Bruno Grajewski, A. Brader, S. Puckey, R. Curtis, J. Kosker, R. Schecterly, J. Lorah, E. Morgan, and R. Thomas. On Tuesday, January 30, the Utopians played a game with the Nanticoke Orioles.

February saw a new team composed of Wilkes-Barre Record newspaper carriers play against the Chester (PA) High School team. There was also a reorganization of the All-Americans of Nanticoke and the team played the Utopians. On Wednesday, February 7, the following article appeared in the *Evening News*: "Handling the enormous amount of mail, which comes to this town (Nanticoke) every day and throwing baskets are two entirely different arts as was evidence at the Power House Grove pavilion last evening when the post office clerks met with defeat at the hands of the Leggett's quintet by a score of 38 to 8." On Friday, the Cardinals beat the Dorranceton team by the overwhelming score of 82 to 15. On February 16, Nanticoke High School had tryouts for the baseball and track teams. On the 21st, the Clippers of Wilkes-Barre defeated the Jaspers of Nanticoke by the score of 30 to 5. The Colgates played the Hersheys on February 22 and the following day, the afternoon game featured the Nanticoke High School Juniors and the Colgates. The score was 16 to 13 in favor of the Juniors. In the evening, the Liggetts played the All-Scholastics of Wilkes-Barre. A second game between the teams of West Pittston and Nanticoke High Schools was squeezed in. On Tuesday February 27, the Superba Club Juniors of Alden defeated the Newport High School team by the score of 22 to 19. Scholastic leagues were yet to be organized in Wyoming Valley. 1912 was a leap year, which meant an extra day for basketball games. The Liggetts played the Plainsville Hose Company on February 29.

A game played between the "Old Oriole Five" of Wilkes-Barre and the "Old Americus team" of Nanticoke on Saturday March 9 attracted much attention. Practices were held at the Grove and the game was played in the Nanticoke Armory. The game began at 8:30 followed by a dance until 11:30. Games at the Grove continued through March until the 30th, when the Davis Five played the Colgates. It was likely the last basketball game of the season.

April brought baseball back to the Grove. The first practice was held by the St. Francis Athletic Club on Sunday afternoon, April 7. On April 15, the attention of the world was riveted on one of the deadliest maritime disasters in history. The *RMS Titanic* sank in the early morning hours in the North Atlantic Ocean, four days into her maiden voyage



Main Altar in St. Michael's Church

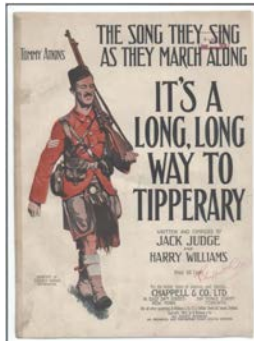


from Southampton, England to New York City. The largest ocean liner in service at the time, *Titanic* had an estimated 2,224 people on board when she struck an iceberg. Her sinking two hours and forty minutes later resulted in the deaths of more than 1,500 people. Traveling first class were members of the British aristocracy and wealthy Americans, including John B. Thayer, vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and his wife, Marian. The Pennsylvania Railroad had a direct affiliation with the Susquehanna Coal Company. John perished and Marian survived. Milton S. Hershey, founder of Hershey's Chocolate, made plans to sail aboard the ship's maiden voyage, but cancelled his booking before the ship set sail. Second class passengers included leisure tourists, clergy and academics. Third-class passengers were a diverse group of nationalities and ethnic groups. In addition to large numbers of British, Irish, and Scandinavian immigrants, other passengers were from Central and Eastern Europe, Lebanon, and Hong Kong. Some travelled alone or in small family groups. Several groups of mothers were travelling alone with their young children—most going to join their husbands, who had already gone to America to find jobs, and having saved enough money, could now send for their families. The sinking of the *Titanic* continues to captivate people to this day.

On April 18, it was reported that "Joseph Stiff, a resident of Wanamie, was admitted to the Nanticoke Hospital suffering with a compound fracture of the leg. He is employed by the People's Street Railway Company at [the] Power House and while at his work yesterday afternoon, lost his footing and fell into a trench, sustaining the above injury."

The first dance of the 1912 season was held on Saturday April 20 by the Stickney Band of Nanticoke. One of the popular dances that year was the turkey trot. It originated in California in about 1900 and Joseph M. Daly wrote music for the dance in 1912. It was considered a bit risqué and eventually was overtaken by the fox trot.

Popular songs in 1912 included *On Moonlight Bay*, with lyrics by Edward Madden and music by Percy Wenrich. *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* was written as a tribute to Ireland. *In the Garden* was a gospel song by Austin Miles. *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, by Jack Judge and Henry James Williams became very popular during World War I. The lyrics for *Be My Little Baby Bumble Bee* were by Stanley Murphy and music by Henry I. Marshall. *Keep Away from the Fellow Who Owns An Automobile* was written by Irving Berlin. *I Love You Truly*



*Truly* was a parlor song written by Carrie Jacobs-Bond. This was the first song written by a woman to sell one million copies. It may be remembered from the film *It's a Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed.

On Tuesday, April 30, the following was reported in *The Evening News*: "Edward Karlus, ten year old son of Thomas Karlus, of Market Street (Nanticoke), underwent a delicate operation Sunday afternoon when a splinter of wood measuring almost one inch and a half was removed from the bottom of his foot. Young Karlus with several other companions were playing basket ball at the Power House Grove pavilion during the early winter. Because they possessed no basket ball shoes and owing to the slippery condition of the floor, the boys decided to take off their shoes and play the game in stocking feet. During the game, young Karlus ventured to one side of the hall, where the splinter entered his foot. Previous to Sunday the young man succeeded in taking out a portion of the splinter, but as the foot still continued giving him trouble, he decided to see a physician. Last Sunday afternoon Dr. Bennett performed the operation and a splinter as above stated was taken out of the foot with the aid of instruments." Surgical anesthesia was still in its infancy and young Edward probably had to endure the surgery without the benefit of anesthesia.

The first baseball game was between the Nanticoke Colts and the Fauls Artists of Wanamie on Wednesday May 8, 1912. On Saturday May 11, Newport High School played St. Mary's of Wilkes-Barre.

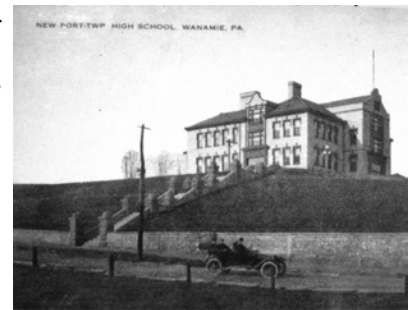


A good game was expected. On May 14, the High School team was defeated by the Wanamie Stars composed of married men by the score of 8 to 6. On May 19, the Crescents defeated the Colts by the lopsided score of 17 to 2. The next day, Fauls Artists defeated another Wanamie team, the Mud Splashers, by the score of 21 to 10.

Harvey Morgan of Wanamie said goodbye to his bachelor days at the Grove. As reported on Tuesday May 28: "An unusual 'stunt' was carried out within the boundary lines of Power House Grove recently when Harvey Morgan, a well known Wanamie young man, entertained over a score of his friends at an all-day event, which commenced early in the morning and the party was not disbanded until darkness approached. Morgan's present intentions of taking unto himself a helpmate for life prompted the young man to royally entertain his associates and friends before becoming a benedict (a newly married man who has long been a bachelor). Various athletic events were carried out during the day and tempting refreshments served. Mr. Morgan is the coal inspector for the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company at Wanamie and is one of Newport Township's best known young men." Harvey married Amelia Shultz of Nanticoke at the ripe old age of 21!

Baseball resumed on June 9 with the Nanticoke Laborers crossing bats with the White Sox team of Nanticoke for a purse of \$25.00 (\$778.00 in present money).

On Friday June 14, the senior class of Newport High School graduated and included the following: James Dougherty, Samuel Varder, Julia Prentice, Mary Jones, William Hutchinson (see *Newport Township Community News*, No. 63, Winter 2021, p. 14), Edna Jenkins, Leah Craig, John Barrett, Freas Keen, Elizabeth Morris, Barbara Swanberry, Lester Yohey, and Charles Moore, a total



of 13. On the following Wednesday June 19, the Class entertained their friends at Power House Grove with a private dance. On June 20, the Victors Social Club held a carnation dance to raise money for the baseball team. Carnations were promised for all.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Nanticoke Polish Falcon Society conducted their first annual picnic at the Grove on July 17. As reported, the affair "was a decided success. A large crowd was in attendance during the afternoon and evening and a neat sum was realized on the affair." A committee of the St. Stanislaus Society was "busily engaged making extensive arrangements" for their picnic on July 20.

On August 1, the Victors Social Club held another dance and a waltzing contest was held. Local 897, United Mine Workers of America held a picnic on August 3. "An interesting program of sports" was arranged including a baseball game. It was well attended and realized a good sum. The annual outing of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Beavers in Nanticoke was held on Tuesday August 20. Local lodges organized as early as 1910 and the Fraternal Order of Beavers was created in 1911.



The month of September saw more picnics and dances than all of the summer months put together. On Labor Day, September 2, St. Mary's Band of Nanticoke conducted a picnic "which promises to be a very successful affair. A committee of the musical organization are leaving nothing undone in making extensive preparations for the day." On Friday evening, September 6, America Council, No. 72 Daughters of America of Wanamie conducted a private dance at the Grove. The Daughters of America is an American secret society, a nativist

(Continued on next page)

organization dating from the late 19th century. Music for the dance was provided by Oppenheim Orchestra of Wilkes-Barre. On Saturday September 7, St. Mary's Church in Nanticoke held a picnic that was well attended. One week later, on Saturday September 14, United Mine Workers of America Locals 400 and 894 of Alden and Wanamie respectively held a picnic. On September 16, the Victors Baseball Club held a farmer's dance, with music by Oppenheim. The dance also featured a waltzing contest and the pavilion was decorated for the occasion. It was announced that the trolley cars would leave Public Square in Nanticoke every 15 minutes. On September 17, it was reported that "several members of the Stickney Hose Company



1912 Fire Truck

enjoyed a ride through Newport Township early last evening with the fire auto truck and incidentally advertised the picnic being conducted today at the Power House Grove by the Glen Lyon Hose Company No. 1 and also the coming firemen's fair to be held in the state armory (in Nanticoke). The appearance of the auto fire truck over the Township streets attracted considerable attention." The picnic featured a waltzing contest of which "David Griffith of Coal Street and lady friend were awarded a handsome prize as winners." On Saturday September 21, the Stars of Poland conducted a picnic for which extensive arrangements were made.

There were noticeably fewer baseball games being played at the Grove during the summers of 1911 and 1912. One probable reason is that baseball was becoming so popular that teams in Sheatown, Alden, Wanamie, Glen Lyon and Nanticoke which consisted mainly of boys and men who worked in the mines built their own home fields. Thereafter, only occasional games were played at the Grove. Eventually the baseball field at Power House Grove would be converted to a different use.

On Wednesday evening October 2, St. James Lutheran Church of Newport Center held a pie carnival. "Ladies will kindly bring pies, any style. A handsome quilt will be disposed of during the evening. Ice cream and home-made candy will be for sale. Everybody welcome." According to *History of Nanticoke City and Newport Township 1703-2003*, by C. Charles Ciesla and the Nanticoke Historical Society, "St. James Reformed and Lutheran Church at Newport Center was organized in 1821 and was comprised of these denominations – Lutheran, Reformed, and Methodist – each faith had three representatives who met as a council. The first edifice was erected in 1826 in upper Wanamie beyond the reservoir.... That building was razed in 1939." The St. James pie carnival was the last event before the pavilion was enclosed and readied for the 1912-1913 basketball season.

Open ended nylon nets were approved for use in 1912, and were slowly adopted. This was a major milestone for basketball since the free falling ball after a made basket dramatically increased the tempo and scoring of the game. The first advertisement for a basketball game at the Grove appeared in the *Wilkes-Barre Record* on October 9: "The Maroon basket ball team of Nanticoke challenges the Wakoas or the Protheons, also of Nanticoke, to a game at the power house grove. Answer in Record." The Protheons of the Nebo Baptist Church were a newly organized team captained by R. Kressler. They played their first game against the Wakao team on Friday October 11. The Wakao club was victorious by the score of 10 to 6.

Company L, Ninth Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard sometimes held drills at the pavilion. Since about 1898, the Company maintained a rifle range near the power house of the People's Street Railway. On October 19 1912, a fatal accident occurred. Bruce Lorah, a seventeen-year-old pit and target attendant, was struck by a bullet that hit a stone and bounded. The bullet entered his head and Bruce died almost instantly. Bruce was a high school student from

Wilkes-Barre. Prior to this incident, no accident of any nature had occurred. The person who fired the gun turned himself in and was held under bail for several weeks until the investigation and inquest were completed. He showed great remorse. On October 31, it was announced that the range would be closed for the season. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record* on November 8: "The conclusion of the jury is that Bruce Lorah came to his death by a bullet which passed through or glanced from something in or upon the protection in front of the pit and caused the wound which resulted in his death. The opinion of the jury is that had the protection been of sufficient height and strength to resist the force of said bullet that the accident would not have happened." The Ninth Regiment was censured for not offering sufficient protection. A bill was introduced in the state legislature to compensate the Lorah Family for their loss, but was vetoed by the Governor.

Basketball resumed. The Maroon team met for practice at the Grove on Friday October 25. They were eager for games. On Tuesday November 5, they played the Cardinals of Nanticoke. On Friday, the Maroons played the Brothers and the following Tuesday November 12, they played the Junior Mechanics. On Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>, a dance was held by St. Andrew's Guild of Alden. The following evening, the Maroons played the Nanticoke Blue Bells. On November 27, the day before Thanksgiving, the congregation of St. Michael's Church held a theatre and dance at the pavilion "which proved to be a financial success." The Colgates of Nanticoke advertised for a game to be played on Thanksgiving, November 28. The Wilkes-Barre Business College requested games on successive Fridays with the Maroons, Pittston High School, and Newport High School.



Newport High School  
BASKETBALL TEAM  
1912-1913

Left to right: James Tierney, David Phillips, Roy Swanberry, John Bryan, Irving Miller.

The Presidential Election took place in November 5, 1912.

Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat from New Jersey, defeated the incumbent William Howard Taft, Theodore

Roosevelt, the Progressive Party candidate and Eugene Debs, the Socialist candidate. Wilson was inaugurated on March 4, 1913.

On Wednesday December 4, the Maroons lined up against the Wilkes-Barre Business College and won, 23 to 12. Members of the team were: Finley, Schimel, Fuge, James, and Kinjora. The Olympic Juniors were requested to take the 7 o'clock car to the Power House to play the Wakoas. The Juniors were victorious by the score of 63 to 20. On Saturday December 7, the High School Scrubs played a double header, one in the morning with the Colgates and the other in the afternoon with the Rexalls at the Power House. The Scrubs lineup included Charles Buchinski, Paul Enke, Kirtland Adams, Edward Knoll, and Richard Thomas. In the evening, the Maroons defeated the Wakoas by the score of 34 to 2. On Wednesday December 11, the Liggetts defeated the Cardinals by the score of 26 to 20. On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Wilkes-Barre Nationals played the Nanticoke Nationals. The Maroons won a double header on December 19, the Eagles by the score of 23 to 8, and they managed to squeak out a victory against St. Francis by the score of 30 to 28. The Maroons met their match against the Calvary Comets and lost 28 to 25 on December 20. On December 30, the last game of 1912 at the Power House Grove was between the Nanticoke Olympics and the Nanticoke Eagles. The Olympics won 22 to 16.

Opposing teams that played at the Power House Pavilion expected return games. Basketball season was hectic, to be sure.

To be continued.....

Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Record*; *The Evening News*; *The Wilkes-Barre Record*; *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; *History of Nanticoke City and Newport Township*, by C. Charles Ciesla and the Nanticoke Historical Society; *Wikipedia*, [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com); <http://alookthrutime.com/popular-music-of-1912>; [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov); various websites





At left, Sophia Furman as she appeared in the 1924 Bloomsburg State Normal School Yearbook. At right, the Kirmar School which was located near the Alden Hose House.

### Newport Township Teachers: Sophia Furman

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Sophia P. Furman was born on December 12, 1903. Her parents were John and Julia Furman who immigrated to this country from Poland. Julia arrived in 1893 and John arrived the following year. They married in 1895. They were the parents of five children: George, Mary Baran, Sophia, Edward, and Anthony. Anthony, born in 1910, died in infancy. The family lived on Polander Hill in Alden, and by 1930 had moved to 20 Gruver Street. They were members of St. Stanislaus Church in Nanticoke. Tragedy struck the family when Edward died in 1931 at age 24. His death was attributed to myocarditis, an acute dilation of the heart. Julia passed away on November 6, 1945 and John passed away on April 25, 1949. They are interred in St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

Sophia was educated in Newport Township Schools and graduated from the High School with the Class of 1922, the largest class up to that point with a total of 23 students. By comparison, Nanticoke High School graduated 48 students the same year. Among her fellow graduates were: Clara Belefski, Edith Morris, Alice Mulherin, Helen Krolkowski, Walter Gavey, William Anthony, Louis Lerda, and Aloysius Selecky.

Sophia aspired to become a teacher, and attended Bloomsburg State Normal School. She earned her teaching certificate and graduated with the Class of 1924. According to the Bloomsburg Yearbook, Sophia was known as “Zosh.” She is described thus: “Yes, we all know whom you mean when you say ‘Zosh.’ But did you say – ‘pep?’ Yes, indeed, lots of it, especially last summer. Leave it to ‘Zosh’ to have good times, and a good time it will be even if it’s teaching down town when Miss Greatehead pays her a visit. And at lunch! Well, she certainly is a ‘pep.’ Even though we, as a gang, are naturally inclined toward the kitchen and dining room she certainly gets us out of there early enough when she dines with us. She likes the library very much and frequents it often, especially in the evening. That’s where you will find her if she’s not at home or at Sta’s. But we almost forgot something. ‘Zosh’ has a strong affinity for fishing. Ask her about her catch. May success be yours.”

Among the other Bloomsburg graduates that year were Emma Burkett, Helen Krolkowski, and Louis Lerda of Glen Lyon and Elizabeth Krushinski of Wanamie. Graduation exercises were held on June 2, 1924 and ten days later, all of them, including Sophia, were hired as teachers in the Newport School District. In addition, Alice Mulherin, Helen Novak, Andrew Tirpak, Stasia Raiewski, Chester Rogowicz, Helen Zydanowicz, and Margaret Smith were newly hired teachers that year. Martha Stopinski (sic), Helen Krolkowski and Frances Shaughnessy were hired as substitute teachers. It seems as though teachers couldn’t be hired fast enough.

Sophia was assigned to the Alden (School) Building, which by 1925 was called the Kirmar School. The Kirmar School had replaced a smaller school in the same vicinity. The Kirmar School was located near the Alden Hose House on what is now East Kirmar Avenue. What had previously been known as Main Street in Alden was renamed Kirmar Avenue sometime in the early 1920’s to honor Kirtland Marion Smith, (the first three letters of his given names), perhaps better known as K.M. Smith, Superintendent

and later President of the Alden Coal Company and prominent citizen. (See *Newport Township Community News*, #49, Summer 2017, p. 20.) In addition to the Kirmar School, there was also a school on Railroad Street in Alden. The Pershing School on Newport Avenue was built in about 1923, and five years later, sustained significant structural damage when a mine shaft opened underneath the school. Pershing students were transferred back to the Kirmar School until the K.M. Smith School was completed in 1930.

Sophia taught at the Kirmar School from 1924 until 1930. In 1930, she was transferred to the brand new K.M. Smith School, where she remained for the rest of her teaching career. In 1930, Sophia participated in a Red Cross membership drive and she

attended social events organized by the K.M. Smith Teachers. In 1933, Sophia’s salary was listed as \$1400.00 (\$30,000 in today’s money). Teachers’ salaries were commonly published in the newspapers until the late 1940’s. The following year, 1934, most teachers took a salary cut and her salary was listed as \$1365.00. Although not a huge amount by today’s standards, back in the Depression years, a cut of \$35.00 could create some hardship. The age-old argument arose concerning certification and years of experience. Most teachers at that time held 2-year teaching certificates. As reported, “Minority [school] directors protested the cut tendered teachers who have been teaching for forty years, while an increase was given to younger teachers because they held a bachelor’s or master’s degree.” By 1936, Sophia’s salary had improved to \$1462.50, (\$29,324.00) which was comparable to most other teachers’ salaries. In 1943, her salary was listed as \$1500.00 (\$24,173.00). By the late 1940’s, individual teachers’ salaries were no longer published.

When the Alden Playground opened for the summer on June 6, 1939, Sophia served as a judge of the parade which included decorated vehicles, and original costumes worn by the children. In May 1941, she served as a judge in the 75 yard dashes at the annual track and field day at the high school. During World War II, Sophia volunteered as a registrar for gasoline rationing.

She sometimes served as chaperone for various school trips. In 1948, she accompanied 70 boys and girls to a performance of “Alice in Wonderland” at Kingston High School. In 1953, fifth grade pupils took a tour of the Economy Stores Warehouse. Sophia was among the teachers who also made the tour. In 1964, 73 students toured the Luzerne County Courthouse under the guidance of Al Noss of Glen Lyon, who was an employee in the Clerk of Courts Office and who was also Newport Township School Board secretary. Again, Sophia was among the teachers who chaperoned the students.

Following the destruction of Newport High School by fire in December 1963, the Greater Nanticoke Area School District was formed in 1965-66. In February 1969, Sophia announced her retirement at the monthly meeting of the Greater Nanticoke Area School Board. Among her fellow retirees were: Stasia Kowalski, Hazel Leeson, Andrew Najaka, Zigmund Shekletski, Chester Zimolzak, and Arch Turner. A total of 16 professional staff members were honored at a testimonial dinner on May 23, 1969. The principal speaker was the Honorable Peter Paul Olszewski. Gene Domzalski offered an address of welcome, Lawrence Ford served as toastmaster, and Superintendent Louis Gawat gave remarks. In addition, faculty members of K.M. Smith School honored their own retirees: Sophia, Hazel Leon, Andrew Najaka, and Arch Turner. Sophia’s career spanned 45 years.

Of Sophia’s remaining siblings, George passed away at Retreat State Hospital on August 13, 1966. Sophia’s sister, Mary, the wife of Joseph Baran, passed away on November 17, 1994 at age 96.

Sophia Furman passed away on April 17, 1986 at age 82. She never married. She is interred in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Nanticoke.

Sources: *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, *Wilkes-Barre Record*, [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), [www2.census.gov/prod2/popsca/p60-043.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/prod2/popsca/p60-043.pdf); 1924 Bloomsburg State Normal School Yearbook.





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**Church Events** Above left: On Sunday January 8, the Children of the CCD program at **St. Adalbert's Church** in Glen Lyon performed a short program commemorating the visit from the Three Wise Men to the Infant Jesus. The Feast of Three Kings falls on January 6 and represents the Epiphany and the end of Christmas celebrations. It is also known as the 12th Day of Christmas. JoAnne Thomas and Jane Straub serve as instructors. Pastor is Rev. Louis Kaminski. Above right: This cupcake dessert was designed by Diane Vishnefski of Wanamie for Super Bowl Sunday, when the Philadelphia Eagles played the Kansas City Chiefs. A Hoagie and Bake Sale was held at St. Adalbert's Church on February 12. Pictured below left is the hoagie crew: sitting, Carol Wilkes, JoAnne Thomas, Theresa Langan. Standing, Heidi Jarecki, Carol Sobotka, Sylvia Vassia, and Jennifer Morgis. Below right is the kitchen crew for the Shrimp Dinner held at **St. Andrew's Church** in Alden on February 11. Shrimp, coleslaw, and French fries were served, along with dessert. Pastor is Rev. Charles Warwick, pictured right.

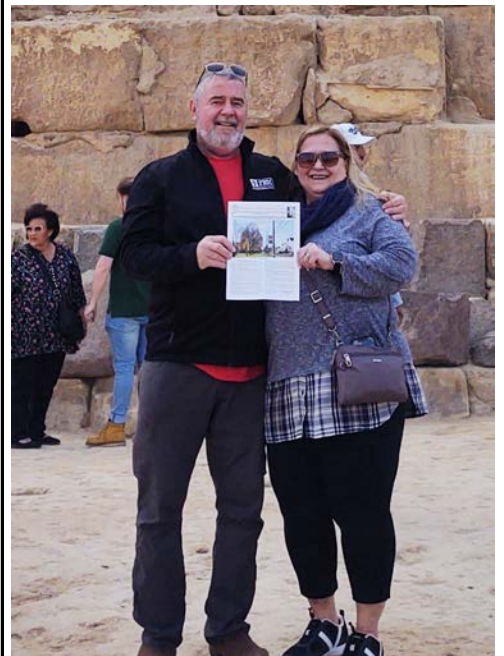


**Newsletter on the Road**


The Newsletter continues to travel to the most exotic places in the world. Thanks to our readers for sharing your adventures with all of us!

At left, the Newsletter found its way to the Okefenokee Swamp Park in Waycross, Georgia. The Park offers railroad and boat tours of the unique ecosystem, wildlife, and natural beauty of the Okefenokee Swamp.

At right are Jerry and Val Malishchak of Wanamie at the Pyramids in Egypt on New Years Eve. Most of the Egyptian Pyramids were built as tombs for the pharaohs and their consorts. The most famous Egyptian pyramids are those found at Giza on the outskirts of Cairo.







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	2 pc		Curly Fries		\$3.99
Pizza Egg Rolls	\$3.99		Cheese Curly Fries		\$4.49
	3 pc	5pc	Loaded Curly Fries		\$4.99
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	5 pc	10 pc	Fries (20 pc)		
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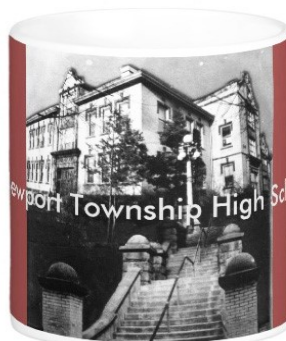
## Monthly Food Distribution

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 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 April Distribution will be held at the Municipal Garage on Kirmar Avenue and will remain there in the ensuing months until further notice.

All recipients must pre-register. Residency needs to be confirmed.

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### NTCO NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

Contact Joe Maloney for more information at 570-736-6828

- \$25.00 One-tenth-page or Business Card Size Ad
- \$50.00 Quarter-page Size Ad
- \$75.00 One-half-page Size Ad
- \$150.00 Full-page Size Ad

### NTCO MEETINGS

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

### NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

President: Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991  
 Vice President: Tom Kashatus 570-736-6981  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Conner 570-736-6580  
 Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: John Jarecki 570-736-6620  
 Newsletter Editors: Heidi & Paul Jarecki 570-733-2540  
 Advertising Agent: Joe Maloney 570-736-6828  
 Webmaster: Palmira Miller [palmiram@newporttownship.com](mailto:palmiram@newporttownship.com)  
 Assistant Webmaster: John Jarecki [jjarecki@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:jjarecki@pa.metrocast.net)  
 Website <http://www.newporttownship.com>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991  
 Mary Jo Evans 570-736-7277  
 Heidi Jarecki 570-733-2540  
 Joe Maloney 570-736-6828



We are on Facebook!



### NTCO NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at tomkashatus@gmail.com 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### NTCO RECYCLES

We recycle metals—motor blocks, brake drums, wheel rims, lawnmowers, pipe, charcoal grills, appliances, bed frames and springs, swimming pools, bicycles, exercise equipment, etc. We also recycle car batteries, electrical cords and wires, old Christmas lights, and aluminum products to raise funds for our Community projects. The public's participation is always appreciated. Please call Tom Kashatus at 570-736-6981 or email tomkashatus@gmail.com

**Be Proud of Newport and Make Newport Proud of You!**

~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky