



Spring 2024

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Number 76

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

The whisper of new green leaves has gladness in it. ~ James Oppenheim



**Budding Maple Trees on Center Street in Wanamie**

## 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 2024.

**Nanticoke-West Nanticoke Bridge:** Luzerne County now has access to \$55 million from casino gambling revenue that the County Council intends to spend on improvements to County roads and bridges. As of February 2024, the Council is looking into using at least part of this money for the replacement or repair of the Nanticoke-West Nanticoke bridge, which has structural problems that have reduced its vehicle weight limit to 15 tons. The County's consulting engineering firm, Alfred Benesch and Associates, has provided three options for work on the Nanticoke bridge: full replacement taking 3.3 years at a cost of \$64 million and two rehabilitation options, one taking 3.1 years, at a cost of \$47.8 million, and the second taking 2.6 years at a cost of \$39.6 million. Benesch recommended the least expensive alternative as providing safety for the public while being less costly than the alternatives.

On January 23 Commissioner John Zyla, Nanticoke Fire Chief Mark Boncal, Gail Conrad (adviser to the Plymouth Township Supervisors), and Township Manager Joe Hillan attended a meeting of the Luzerne County Council to express their opinion that complete replacement of the bridge, in order to accommodate a high level of traffic, is the only way that this project will give access to the Lower South Valley for future economic and residential development. Township officials intend to vigorously promote full bridge replacement as a high priority effort.

At a County Council session on February 12, 2024, Terence Ostrowski, President/CEO of the nonprofit Earth Conservancy headquartered in Ashley, spoke at the request of the Lower South Valley Council of Governments, which believes that full replacement is necessary for the economic and residential development of the Lower South Valley. He said that nearly 1,800 acres of economic development space is available in a corridor starting at the Dan Flood Industrial Park just outside Nanticoke and continuing into Newport Township, and that county officials should ensure the bridge plan they select can accommodate the increased traffic that he expects to come with development of this land.

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**Vote on Tuesday, April 23**

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**NorthPoint Development Warehouse Construction Project:** NorthPoint Development, a national construction company based in Kansas City, Missouri, has constructed two warehouses just off Middle Road near Alden on reclaimed strip mine land. One warehouse, completed in the fall of 2022 called Tradeport 164-9, is a 536,00 square-foot structure within Hanover Township. 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. Lowe's, the home improvement retailer, is now operating this warehouse, employing about 50 workers, with the possibility of increasing the number to 250 within a few years. 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 acquisition and demolition of blighted properties. Township officials 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 22 buildings in the first seven Groups of properties chosen for demolition. The total cost of their demolition amounted to \$391,000. In addition, the building at 69-71 West Main Street in Glen Lyon (formerly Tarnowski's store) was also demolished in May 2023 at a cost of \$22,000 after a Luzerne County court ordered an emergency demolition.

In November 2023 Township officials announced that an Eighth Group of buildings, consisting of 28 Line Street and 48 Newport Street, was chosen for demolition. In February 2024 they awarded a contract to Smart Recycling to demolish 28 Line Street at a cost of \$11,800. As of early March, Smart Recycling was in the process of demolishing the structure and expecting to finish the work within two weeks.

**Wanamic and Glen Lyon Cell Phone Towers:** Verizon began construction of the Wanamic cell tower in March 2023 and completed work in August 2023. The company completed construction of the Glen Lyon cell tower and put it into operation on December 20, 2023.

**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. In February 2024, Township Manager Joe Hillan announced that Comcast had completed installing its cable system in the Township and that service was now available to all residents. Breezeline also has a cable television system operating in the Township.

**Street Repaving Project:** During 2022 and 2023, the Township carried out an extensive project of repaving Township streets that was funded by a Covid-19 Recovery Funds Grant and a \$665,960 grant from Luzerne County's Community Development Office.

**Recreation Park Improvement Project:** In August 2023 the project of rebuilding the basketball and tennis courts was completed using Covid Relief Funds. In March 2023 Luzerne County informed the Township that it had received an American Rescue Plan Grant of \$395,738.50 to renovate the Wanamic Recreation Park by doing the following work: restoration of storage facilities, restoration of rest rooms, paving the parking lot, paving the walking trail, and restoration of the pavilions. By the end of November 2023 the renovation of the restroom/storage facilities and pavilions was completed. Paving of the parking lot and walking trail is scheduled for the spring of 2024.

**Lower South Valley Land Bank:** In August 2022, the Commissioners approved Ordinance #2 of 2022 authorizing the Township Manager to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with other parties of Luzerne County for the purpose of establishing the Lower South Valley Land Bank. In September of 2023, Township Manager Joe Hillan announced that the South Valley Land Bank acquired four properties at the August Luzerne County Judicial Sale: 1) 48 Newport Street (the building will be demolished as soon as the Land Bank receives the title for the property), 2) 5 Arch Street (the building will be evaluated for either sale or demolition), 3) 69-71 West Main Street (a garage on the property will be demolished as soon as the Land Bank receives the title), and 4) 128 West Main Street (this is a vacant lot that will be put up for sale in such a way as to keep it on the tax rolls). All properties are in Glen Lyon. Under Pennsylvania law, a land bank has the advantage of being able to acquire

a property at a judicial tax sale (free and clear sale) without having to bid.

**January 2, 2024: Organizational Meeting:** Magistrate Donald Whitaker administered the oath of office to reelected Township Commissioners Mike Roke, Paul Czapracki, and Debbie Zaleski. The Commissioners then elected Paul Czapracki as President and John Zyla as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners, and reappointed various Township officials to their respective current positions.

*Residents' Comments:* None.

*Meeting Business:* The Commissioners approved a three year contract with Kohanski Company PC for auditing services at a cost of \$13,900 in 2023, \$14,300 in 2024, and \$14,700 in 2025.

The Commissioners approved the following wages for Department of Public Works (DPW) employees: Jordan Sager, \$23/hour; Richard Guziak, \$21/hour; Jeremy Yokoronis, \$20/hour; and Richard J. Guziak (part time), \$15/hour.

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

- 1) A fueling station for the Lower South Valley Council of Governments should be operational by April 2024 and should result in a savings of 20-25% in gasoline fuel costs.
- 2) The Township received a letter from Steven Egenski, the sewage enforcement officer for the last 6 or 7 years, who informed the Township that there will be an increase in his rates as of January 2024. This involves mostly septic systems.
- 3) In December 2023, Raymond Insalaco from the State Auditor General's Office conducted an audit of the Township's 2022 Liquid Fuels funds, and found the account in compliance with State rules.

**February 6, 2024: Residents' Comments:** None.

*Meeting Business:* Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for January 2024, the Township had income of \$112,154.67 and expenditures of \$179,092.73. She also reported that the audit required for the Township receiving federal government grant money has been completed with the result that the Township is in compliance with regulations.

The Commissioners voted to hire Thomas Novakowski as a part-time Department of Public Works (DPW) employee.

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

- 1) In January 2024, Chris Goetz from the Department of Municipal Services reconciled the Township's Liquid Fuels report for 2023. Newport Township will be receiving its 2024 Liquid Fuels funds during the first week of March.
- 2) Pennsylvania American Water plans to start its 2024 Waterline Replacement Project in late April or May. The following streets will be affected: Apple, Orchard, Maple, and West Enterprise, all in Glen Lyon.

**March 4, 2024: Residents' Comments:** A Wanamic resident complained that the landlord of a rental property on his street was telling his tenants to park in a non-parking area.

*Meeting Business:* Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that for the first two months of 2024 the Township had income of \$271,903.79 and expenditures of \$309,512.13.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #1 of 2024 authorizing Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply for a State gaming grant of \$1,000,000 to repave ten Township streets. (This funding application is not a new one; it is a correction of an application for paving funds made in November 2023.)

The Commissioners approved Resolution #2 of 2024 authorizing the Township Manager to apply for a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to purchase police simulation training equipment to help officers prepare for real life situations. If the grant is awarded, the Township will enter into an agreement with Nanticoke and Hanover Township to share the equipment.



## NTCO President's Report

*By Steven Phillips* ~ The Newport Township Community Organization gratefully acknowledges the contributions and newsletter subscriptions it has received during the last quarter. These donations will help insure that our Organization is able to contribute to other worthwhile endeavors throughout the Area and will substantially assist us to continue to publish this document.

We continue to respectfully solicit your financial support into the future, and pledge to remain good stewards of your aid. The names of the most recent donors who answered our plea for contributions are as follows: Adelaide Kushibab, Tom and Pat Tarnowski, Joe Greytok, Ken Marquis, Theresa Berti, Dan and Maria Floryshak, Kathy and Bob Chapracki, Rich Vosheski, Stanley Domzalski, Jim and Jean Schinski, Al and Alberta Yarasavage, Paul Shutta, Carl and Grace Swithers, Gene and Arlene Domzalski, Richard Barski, Richard Trynowski, Charlotte Santry, and John and Sally Kashatus.

Concurrent with this good news, we are sorry to note that we have recently lost several citizens who were great assets to not only the NTCO but the entire Community as a whole. Their contributions to us, their families and their professions will not soon be forgotten. We have recognized some of these individuals in other sections of this Newsletter.

In order to fulfill our function as a true community organization we have continued to provide services when requested to our elected and appointed officials and to maintain the program of providing foodstuffs to qualified individuals and families on the second Saturday of the month. With respect to our food distribution event, the number of individuals and families served has increased from 175 to 200.

The NTCO, in concert with the Township's elected officials, continues to strongly advocate for the construction of a new bridge between the City of Nanticoke and Plymouth Township. It is believed that if the proposed project comes to fruition, not only will emergency services between the two municipalities be improved, but the potential for expanded growth and additional tax revenue for Newport Township will be a probable corollary.

Spring is upon us and all the litter cast along our roads during the winter months will be clearly revealed. We again implore our residents to not add to this unsightly picture of our Community and encourage their family members and friends to refrain from this practice.

We continue to encourage our local residents to strongly consider joining a Township organization which is striving to make our Area a better place in which to live and prosper.

Here is a list of local volunteer organizations: Newport Township Lions, Newport Township Women's Activity Group, Nanticoke Area Little League, Newport Township Fire Police, Newport Township Fire Department, Newport Township Crime Watch, Newport United, and the Newport Township Community Organization. Most hold monthly meetings in the Municipal Building in Wanamie.

The veterans' groups meet in the Glen Lyon American Legion on Newport Street and include the American Legion (two posts), the VFW, Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

All four churches in the Township have active social and fund-raising opportunities for their respective communities of faith.

All groups are supportive of one another and receive mutual aid.

**All-Newport Reunion** The All-Newport Reunion Committee is planning the annual event tentatively for Sunday October 13, 2024. Final arrangements will be announced in the Summer Newsletter. This reunion is open to anyone who attended Newport Schools during the existence of the Newport Township School District and the years leading up to the construction of John S. Fine High School of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District in 1970. Classes may reserve tables. Questions can be directed to Heidi and Paul Jarecki at 570-733-2540 or email: [hselecky@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:hselecky@pa.metrocast.net). Anyone wishing to join the committee is welcome.

## Newport Township Community News Finalist in National Newsletter Competition

The Newport Township Community News was notified on March 9 that it has been selected as a finalist in a national newsletter competition sponsored by Neighborhoods USA in both the printed and electronic versions. Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) is an organization based in Beaverton, OR that "provides opportunities for diverse people and organizations to share their ideas, values, and experiences to build stronger communities." It holds annual conferences in Lubbock, TX.

As stated on the website, "Community newsletters are an effective communication tool to share news about your city, community and neighborhood. A well-designed newsletter can spark an interest in neighborhood involvement, increase neighborhood association membership, and spur volunteerism. The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition awards excellence in community newsletters and is given in two categories/subcategories: Print Format Newsletters and Electronic Format Newsletters. Neighborhood Newsletter award entries [are] evaluated by a panel of judges. A first, second, and third place award [is] given in each category/subcategory."

The NTCO and everyone involved with the Newsletter would like to express appreciation to our advertisers and to our community, both current and former residents, and beyond for their continuing encouragement and support. A tip of the hat is extended to Chris Selecky for her help with submission to the competition. It is our hope that the Newsletter will continue long into the future.

Heidi and Paul Jarecki  
Editors



The Auxiliary of American Legion Post 539 in Glen Lyon distributed Valentine's Day baskets filled with baked goods and other items to home-bound members. Shown above left is Irene Namowicz with her basket. At right are member Corey Linker, Jessie Olshefski, and President Barb Meyers. Jessie is a former Army nurse and worked at Retreat Hospital for many years.

**Newport Township Crime Watch** will sponsor a presentation on "Senior Scamming" by the Office of the Attorney General in Harrisburg on Thursday May 9 at 5:00 pm at the Municipal Building in Wanamie. This event is open to the public. The presenter is David Shallock, Director of the Senior Protection Unit. The Crime Watch is also making plans for the annual National Night Out on August 6 at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown.

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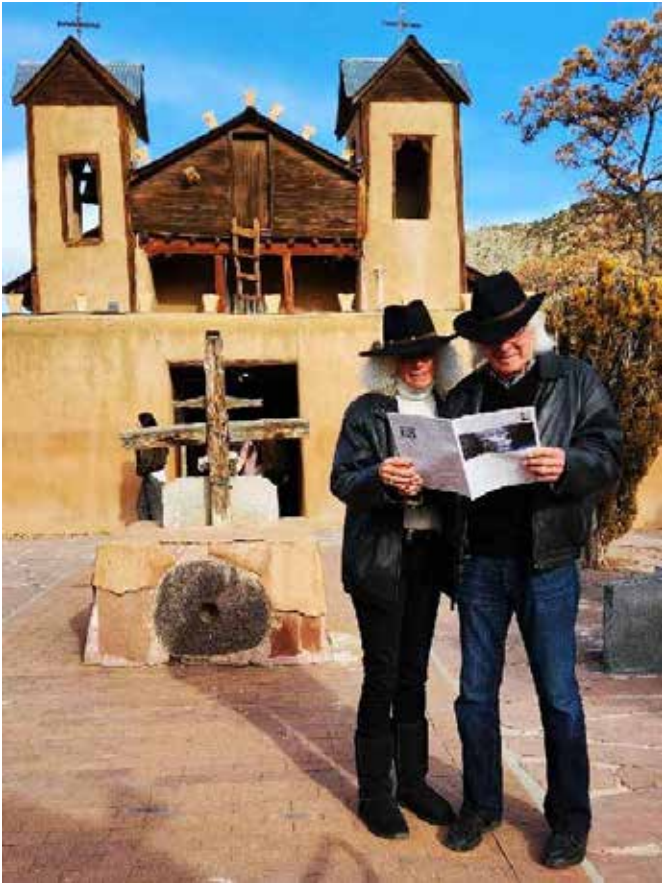
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Above: Paul and Peg Gregory take a break to read the Newsletter after admiring the spectacular Amalia Glacier. This glacier is located in Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, Chile and comes down from the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. The glacier partially surrounds Reclus Volcano and erodes the northern flank of it. Both John (left) and Paul (above) are members of the Newport High School Class of 1959 and grew up in Glen Lyon.

Pictured above are John and Chris Selecky of Laguna Beach, CA reading the Newsletter after visiting the Sanuario de Chimayo, about 30 miles north of Santa Fe. El Sanuario de Chimayó is a Roman Catholic church in Chimayo, New Mexico. This shrine, a National Historic Landmark, is famous for the story of its founding and as a contemporary pilgrimage site. It receives almost 300,000 visitors per year and has been called "no doubt the most important Catholic pilgrimage center in the United States." While the pilgrimage began in the 19th century, it was revived by survivors of the Bataan Death March after World War II. A small room called *el pocito* (the little well) contains a round pit, the source of "holy dirt" (*tierra bendita*) that is believed to have healing powers. An adjacent prayer room displays many photographs, discarded crutches, and other testimonials of those purportedly healed by the dirt and by visits to the Sanctuary.

St. Nicholas Church in Glen Lyon held a hoagie and bake sale on March 7. A basket raffle benefitted the people of Ukraine.



It was a sunny but chilly day for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group on Sunday March 24 at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Due to inclement weather on Saturday, the event was postponed to Sunday. At the signal from the Township Fire Truck, the children let loose and gathered as many eggs as they could carry. The Easter Bunny was also on hand to greet the children.





Pictured above is the swearing-in ceremony of re-elected Township Commissioners Michael Roke, Paul Czapracki, and Deborah Forgach Zaleski at the January meeting of the Township Board of Commissioners. L to R: Solicitor Christopher Slusser, Magistrate Don Whittaker, Commissioners John Zyla, Michael Roke, Paul Czapracki, Jack Vishnefski, Deborah Zaleski, and Township Manager Joe Hillan.



Newport Township Fire Chief Jim Hoffman is sworn in by Magistrate Don Whitaker. He is flanked by his wife Tiffany and their two daughters Everly and Charlie. Jim follows in his father's footsteps.



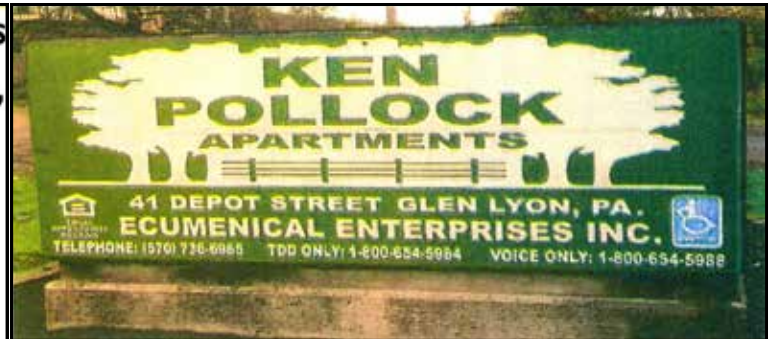
#### Electronic Bulletin Board

Newport Township and Newport United invite all community and church groups to advertise their events on both electronic bulletin boards, one located in Sheatown near Holy Trinity Cemetery and the other in front of the Municipal Building. Please provide details to Bernice Shipp, administrative assistant at the Township Office by calling 570-735-4735. The advertisements are limited to events sponsored by Newport Township groups.

#### ATTENTION NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Newport Township will be offering residents **Electronic Recycling** on Saturday, May 18 from 9 am until 11 am and **Paper Shredding** on Saturday, September 14 from 9 am until 12 pm. Details are available on [Newporttownship.org](http://Newporttownship.org). Fliers are also available at the Municipal Building. These events are for Newport Township residents only.

**Low and moderate income rentals and elderly rentals include electric range, refrigerator, off street parking, community room, coin operated laundry, video surveillance, handicap accessible.**  
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Pictured above are two cousins from Wanamie who harvested two bucks on the first two days of the 2023 deer season. At left is NTCO President Steve Phillips with his 11 pointer harvested on the first day, and at right is his cousin and hunting partner Bob Morris with his 10 pointer harvested on the second day. They were hunting on family-owned acreage.



**Newport Township Lions Club** distributed 70 Christmas food boxes to home-bound and elderly folks in the Township in December. Shown above are members standing left to right: Ed Zaborney, John Zyla, John Kurowski, Jeremy Blank, Krissy Blank, and Ron Womelsdorf. Kneeling is President Don Reese. This project has been an annual event for many years. The Lions meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Municipal Building.

**The Altar and Rosary Society**, Holy Spirit Parish, held a hoagie and Krispy Kreme doughnut sale on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11 at the Church of St. Adalbert in Glen Lyon. Pictured at right are hoagie makers: Carol Sobotka, Heidi Jarecki, the late JoAnne Thomas, Carol Wilkes, Jennifer Morgis, Theresa Langan, Jane Straub, Susan Braden, Greg Dukinas and Bruce Braden. Not pictured are Sylvia Vassia and Paul Jarecki. Members of the CCD class and parents also participated in the prep work. Another hoagie sale is planned for Election Day, April 23. Please place orders with Carol at 570-736-7149. Italian and turkey hoagies are available. All proceeds benefit the parish. Rev. Louis Kaminski is pastor.



At left are Marie Farrell, Carol Sobotka, Mary Ann Meeker, and Barbara Yacuboski enjoying the shrimp dinner sponsored by **St. Andrew's Church** in Alden on Saturday March 23.

Pictured below is the Spring Bingo sponsored by the **Newport Township Women's Activity Group** on March 10 at St. Adalbert's Church Hall. Proceeds benefit children's events such as the Easter Egg Hunt.

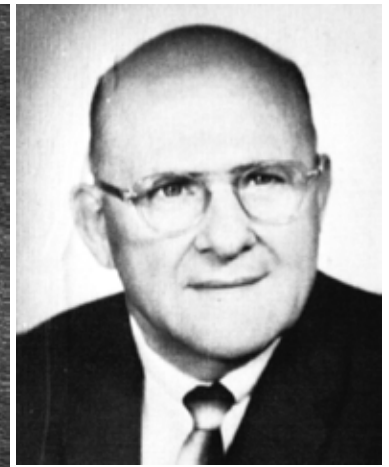
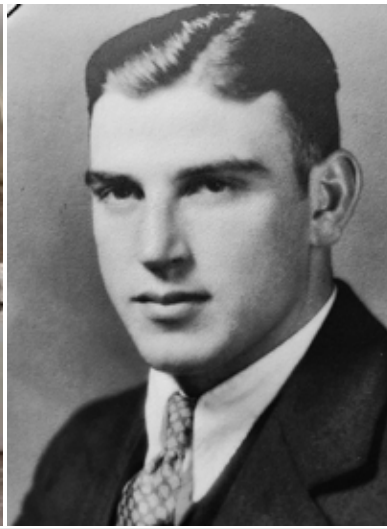




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Left to right: Anna and Andrew Stapinski on their wedding day, 1895; Stanley Stapinski as a young man; Narcey Stapinski as a young man. Top right: Dr. Stanley Stapinski, long-time Glen Lyon family physician. Bottom right: Narcey Stapinski, long-time Glen Lyon pharmacist.

## The Stapinski Family

By Sally Stapinski Kashatus ~ Andrew Adam Stapinski was born on November 20, 1867 in Poland, at that time part of Austria-Hungary. He immigrated to the United States at the age of nineteen, arriving at Ellis Island on May 16, 1887. In 1894 he declared his intention for Citizenship in the United States and received his citizenship papers in 1896. Andrew became a merchant with a general store connected to his home at 80 West Main Street in Glen Lyon and leased a plot of land in the area of Weineck Park, located at the top of Seven Shaft Hill, to farm vegetables for his family and his store. In addition to the produce, his store sold candy and ice cream. Although his family worked in the store, they also helped tend the farm during the growing season. With the store cared for, Andrew went to work in the coal mines and continued to work for the Susquehanna Colliery until his death at age 68. He was a charter member of St. Michael's Church in Glen Lyon, the Polish Union of America, the Paderewski Society and the Woodmen of the World.

Andrew's wife-to-be, Anna Ruptic, was born in Czechoslovakia on December 14, 1879. Anna's father, Karol Ruptic, was Czech and her mother, Mary (née Vastri) Ruptic was born in Bohemia, then a part of Germany. Because work was not plentiful in Czechoslovakia during this time period, Karol Ruptic moved his family to a Czech settlement in Romania named Eibenthal where Karol found work in the timber industry and farmed during the Romanian growing season. In 1883, the Ruptic family immigrated to the United States with children Joseph, Anna, Mary, Rose, Charles, and Caroline and made their home on West Main Street in Glen Lyon. Years later the Ruptic siblings welcomed a new sister to their family when their mother remarried and Tillie Siarcowicz Butkoski was born. Tillie joined Anna, Rose, and Caroline, often enjoying each other's company while talking and eating ice cream. The family lovingly named them the "Dolly Sisters," probably after Dolly Madison, the preferred ice cream of the time. Because Anna Ruptic and Andrew Stapinski lived next door to each other on West Main Street, it was perhaps inevitable that they fell in love. Although there was a 12-year age gap, they were married in 1895 when Anna was 15.

Anna and Andrew had 12 children. Andrew and Anna, as immigrants, knew the value of their children having a good education to succeed in this country. All of their children were lucky enough to finish high school. Their first-born Ralph died soon after his birth in 1896. Celia, their oldest daughter born 1897 finished at Newport High School and entered a nursing program. She worked as a nurse and was then able to add family monetary support, as did the other siblings, when they graduated and moved on in their post-high school education. Mary, born in 1901, graduated high school and was attending college at Bloomsburg when she died of the flu in October of 1918. Martha, born in 1904, graduated high school and received a bachelor's degree in education from Bloomsburg State College, a master's degree from Lehigh University and a second master's degree from Simmons

College in Boston. Martha was a teacher in the Newport Township School District, the Bethlehem School District and the District of Columbia Schools where she pioneered a work-study program that is now called the Cooperative Education Program. Helen was born in 1906, attended Bloomsburg, received a degree in education and taught in the Newport Township schools until she married John Brunoizzi. They moved to Washington DC for his law career. Stanley, born in 1908, graduated high school and attended Franklin and Marshall College. He continued on to Jefferson Medical College, where he partially paid for his education by playing professional football until he broke his femur. One of his professors was an orthopedic surgeon for the football team and informed Stan that his football career was over. Clem was born in 1909, graduated high school and left the area to work in business in the Boston area. Narcey was born in 1912, graduated from Newport Township schools and attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science where he earned his Ph.G (Graduate of Pharmacy) degree. He started his career in retail at Peoples Drug Stores in Tyrone and Scranton, then as a drug representative in the Bronx and New Rochelle N.Y. In 1937, he returned to Glen Lyon where he opened his own Pharmacy. Eleanor was born in 1914 and matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming an Occupational Therapist. She served as the Director of Occupational Therapy at Retreat State Hospital for many years. After moving to Bethesda, MD she worked at the Naval Hospital, then finished her career at National Institutes of Health also in Bethesda. Cyril, who was born in 1916, studied at Bloomsburg State for one year, then transferred to Franklin and Marshall. He received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and established a urology practice in Lancaster, PA. The youngest sibling, Eugenia (Jean), was born in 1919 and studied nursing at Penn State and went on to be an Occupational Therapist. The common denominator in the family of Andrew and Anna is that all the children finished high school during a time when that was very unusual; many children left school after the 8th grade in order to help support their families.

Andrew and Anna continued to live in Glen Lyon until Andrew died of a heart attack while getting off the trolley in front of his home on June 6, 1935. He was returning from work at No.10 drift of the Susquehanna Collieries. He was 68 years old. Anna remained in Glen Lyon for several years until she relocated to Chevy Chase, Maryland to be with her daughters, Martha and Eleanor. The ladies would later return to this area to spend summers at Lake Nuangola.

Stanley and Narcey remained in Glen Lyon for their entire medical and pharmaceutical careers. They stayed and served in the town they loved.

Anna passed away in November, 1968. Anna and Andrew are interred in St. Michael's Cemetery, Glen Lyon.

## Obituaries

*By Tom Kashatus ~* These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. They 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.

**TESTAGUZZA**, Marino P., 85, of Nanticoke, and formerly of Newport Township and Hanover Township, passed away December 12, 2023. Marino was born June 4, 1938. He was raised and lived in Sheatown for many years and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1957. He served in the US Army from 1957 to 1961. Marino was self-employed in the plumbing and heating business, as a plumbing and heating tradesman and instructor at SCI-Dallas, and as maintenance specialist at Marion Terrace Apartments in Hanover Township. Marino was predeceased by his wife, Lorraine (nee Poole) Testaguzza.

**ECKROTE**, Martha (nee Zionkowski), 84, of Wanamie passed away December 17, 2023. Martha was born on February 22, 1939. Martha was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Eckrote.

**SWITHERS**, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee O'Donnell), 89, of Nanticoke and formerly of Sheatown, passed away December 22, 2023. Betty was born on May 28, 1934. She had been employed by Bell Telephone Company, but mostly thereafter with her husband in the operation of Swithers Heating Oil Company as secretary and bookkeeper. She was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Melvin Swithers.

**PRIZNIAK**, Ronald, 77, of Newport Avenue, Alden passed away December 16, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Georgine Prizniak of Alden.

**HOPE**, Jean Marie (nee Lipski), 89, of Hopkinton, MA, and formerly of Newport Township, passed away peacefully December 22, 2023. Jean was born in Glen Lyon on September 12, 1934. She was raised in Glen Lyon, attended Glen Lyon schools, and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1952. She then graduated from Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing and worked as a Registered Nurse at Philadelphia General Hospital prior to retirement. Jean is survived by her husband of 67 years, Lee Hope.

**BONK**, Doris (nee McRoy), 80, of Glen Lyon, passed away January 2, 2024. Doris was born on October 25, 1943. She was employed by Leslie Fay Company Inc. and Glen Lyon Garment. Doris was predeceased by her husbands, Adam Joseph Baker Jr. and Thomas Joseph Bonk Jr.

**MASAKOWSKI**, Steven, 77, of Alden, formerly of Wanamie, passed away January 4, 2024. Steven was born on September 19, 1946. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1964 and Bethel State College with a BS Degree in Accounting. He served his country in the US Army with two tours in Vietnam. Steven was employed as an auditor for the US Department of Defense. He was a member of the Newport Township Community Organization and Holy Spirit Parish/Saint Adalbert's Church serving as an Altar Server, Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

**WOLFE**, Susan Anne (nee Ptashinski), 51, of Glen Lyon, passed away January 2, 2024. Susan was born in Nanticoke on April 27, 1971. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence Wolfe of Glen Lyon.

**SKAPURA**, Emma (nee Sakalosh), 96, of Dorrance, formerly of Newport Township, passed away. Emma was born and raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School. She was employed for 25 years with RCA Corporation in Mountain Top. Emma was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Stephen Skapura.

**WALLACE**, Marilyn T. (nee Smith), 77, of Polander Hill, Alden, passed away January 19, 2024. She was a graduate of Larksville High School. Marilyn is survived by her husband of 59 years, Joseph T. Wallace.

**GRABINSKI**, Carol A. (nee Bozinski), 80, of Nanticoke, formerly of Sheatown, passed away January 19, 2024. Carol was born June 22, 1943. She attended Luzerne County Community College; and she was employed by John Heinz Rehabilitation Hospital and Birchwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Carol was predeceased by her first husband, Anthony Boysha. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Robert Grabinski and brother, Donald Bozinski.

**DUNNE**, Mary Belle (nee Clark), 85, of Ionia, NY, and formerly of Alden, passed away December 23, 2023. Mary was born in Alden on April 28, 1938. She was raised in Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1956. She also attended Mansfield College and received a degree in Nursing. Mary retired from Saint John's Nursing Home in Rochester. Mary was predeceased by her husband, James.

**SCHREYER**, Gloria Ann (nee Rinehimer), 82, of Dorrance Township, passed away January 28, 2024. She was raised in Dorrance and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1959. Gloria was predeceased by her husband, Francis Schreyer; and brothers, Ronald Rinehimer and Millard Rinehimer Jr.

**MAKOWSKI**, Joan M. (nee Valentinelli), 87, formerly of Slocum Township, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024. She was the wife of the late Stanley Makowski. Her late sister-in-law was Lorraine (nee Makowski) Novakowski of Wanamie. Both Stanley and Lorraine were born and raised in Glen Lyon and were graduates of Newport Township High School.

**KARDASH**, Faith (nee Rudowski), 92, of Sheatown, passed away on January 31, 2024. Faith was born on July 28, 1931. She was raised in Nanticoke and was a graduate of Nanticoke High School with the Class of 1949. Faith was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Michael Kardash.

**DOUGLAS**, Regina (nee Augustine), 93, of Wilmington, DE, formerly of Alden, passed away January 17, 2024. Regina was born in Alden Station on October 25, 1930. She was raised in Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1949 and Wilkes Barre Business College. Thereafter, she was employed by the US Navy Department Bureau of Ordinances. Regina was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Richard "Dick" Douglas. She is survived by her sister, Marie Cardone of Nanticoke and brother, Norman Augustine of North Port, FL.

**ZALESKI**, Francis E., 83, a lifetime resident of Glen Lyon, passed away February 6, 2024 at his home. Francis was born on September 17, 1940. Being raised in Glen Lyon, he was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958 and also graduated from King's College with a BA degree in Education and a minor in English and French. Francis was a veteran of the US Navy serving on the submarine USS Cavalla. Francis retired as a teacher in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District and subsequently worked as a shuttle bus driver for Wilkes University. He was a member of the PSEA; NEA; American Legion Post 539; the American Motorcycle Association; the Newport Township Community Organization where he served for many years as Treasurer; and a coordinator for Marriage Encounter for the Scranton Diocese. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Lou (nee Butkoski) Zaleski.

**SUPKOSKI**, Bernadine (nee Byorick), 87, of Nanticoke, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 7, 2024. "Bernie" was born in Glen Lyon on March 23, 1936. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1954. Bernadine was predeceased by her brother, Frank W. Byorick; ex-husband, John G. Supkoski; and dear companion of 10 years, Marino Testaguzza.

**SMITH**, Gail Sharon (nee Wren), 85, of Sugarloaf and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 1, 2024. Gail was born on April 4, 1938. She attended GAR Memorial High School.

**RICHARDS**, Carl Thomas, 83, of Crofton, MD, passed away on February 7, 2024. Carl was born on September 12, 1940. He was raised in Sheatown and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. Thereafter, he received a degree in Music Education from West Chester College (now University); he later received a PhD in Political Science from the University of Maryland. His professional life was mostly spent in education, consulting, and teaching music; working for the State of Maryland in the Governor's Office and CSBS (Conference of State Bank Supervisors); and serving as Director of Webster University at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. and president of LECE International prior to retiring. Carl is survived by his wife, Bonnie (nee Sporre) Richards; and sister, Eileen Moyer.

**KOZLOWSKI**, Ada A. (nee Rule), 79, of Jackson Township, formerly of Newport Township and Nanticoke, passed away February 14, 2024. Ada was born May 17, 1944. She was raised in Wanamie and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1962. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Eugene Kozlowski Sr.; daughter, Melissa



Pesta of Jackson Township; and brother, Robert Rule of Wanamie.

**RICHARDS**, Dale "Butch," 78, of Wanamie, Newport Township, passed away on February 15, 2024. Dale was born on February 17, 1945. He was the son of the late Dale and Dorothy Richards. He was raised in Sheatown and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1962, King's College, and received a doctorate from Clayton University. He retired as a teacher from GNA School District. Dale is survived by his wife, Ann.

**BURD**, Alvin W., 73, of Wanamie, passed away February 21, 2024. Alvin was born on January 22, 1951. He attended Newport Township schools and he was a US Army veteran of the Vietnam War, serving from October 1968 to October 1972. Alvin is survived by his sisters, Fern Seiger; Faye Maloney, and Donna Burd; and brothers, Robert Burd, Ricki Burd, and Donald (Ducky) Burd.

**WILKES**, Kathleen "Kathy" Ann (nee Chesney), 80, of Sheatown, passed away February 24, 2024. Kathy was born in Nanticoke on March 5, 1945. She was raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1961 and attended Wilkes Barre Business School. She also acquired a CNA certification. She volunteered for the Girl Scouts and worked as a member of the support staff at GNA High School. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, John J. Wilkes Jr.

**DENOY**, Joseph Sr., 71, of Nanticoke, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away February 1, 2024. Joseph was born on March 6, 1952. He attended Mocanaqua and Newport Township schools, graduating from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1970. Joseph also received a degree from Bloomsburg State College and was employed by Luzerne County Community Development. Joseph was predeceased by his wife of 26 years, Lois J. (nee Tardio) Denoy.

**THOMAS**, JoAnne Dorothy (nee Kanjorski), 71, of Wanamie, passed away February 23, 2024 after sustaining injuries from a motor vehicle accident. JoAnne was born on February 6, 1952. She was raised in Glen Lyon and was a graduate of John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1970. She received an Elementary Education Degree from Bloomsburg State College, a Master's Degree in Education, and reading specialist certification. She retired as a teacher from the GNA School District after 38 years, teaching in Pulaski Jr./Sr. High School in Glen Lyon and K.M. Smith Elementary School in Alden. JoAnne was an active member of Holy Spirit Parish of Glen Lyon/Mocanaqua/Fairmount Springs and numerous community organizations. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, James Thomas.

**KERBAUGH**, Edward Harry, 100, of Sheatown, passed away February 24, 2024. Edward was born June 4, 1923 in Philadelphia. He was a graduate of

Lindenwold High School with the Class of 1941. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. He retired as a tool and die maker for Foster Wheeler in Mountain Top. Edward was a charter member of the Newport Township Lions Club; and a past Lions Club District Governor. He is survived by his wife, Theresa (nee Roman) Kerbaugh.

**OLIVIERI**, Deborah Jane (nee Rushin), 74, of Smyrna Beach, FL, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on February 8, 2024. Deborah was born in Nanticoke on June 23, 1949; she was the daughter of the late Stanley and Charlotte (nee Morris) Rushin. She was raised in Alden and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1967.



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Pictured left is US Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class, Jeffrey Deluca. At right is his Grandfather Vito Deluca (right) with Primo Canera during World War II.

### Jeff Deluca: US Coast Guard Veteran Helping Veterans

By Tom Kashatus ~ Jeff Deluca, son of Joseph and Janice Ottensman Deluca, grew up in Sheatown and graduated from John S. Fine High School in 1988. He volunteered for the US Coast Guard from 1992 to 1997, serving as a Diesel Mechanic aboard the USCGC Decisive, USCGC Storis, and NESU New Orleans. He was discharged as Petty Officer 2nd class in July 1997. Jeff received honors as "Sailor of the Quarter" twice during his military career.

Today Jeff works in Veterans Outreach out of the Veterans Center in Scranton, a satellite arm of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Travel in his "Mobile Veterans Center" (see photo below) will take him through 11 counties in Eastern Pennsylvania, and sometimes beyond. He has been to fairs, parades, prisons, gyms, school events, and veterans' events and meetings. His job is to get out the message that the Veterans Center is available to all veterans and to steer veterans in the right direction for available benefits. It is not unusual to make a trip to Washington D.C. or Philadelphia. At times he is available for assistance in cases that appear before Courts of Common Pleas.

Jeff's position requires two 75 hour courses: (1) VA Certified Peer Specialist and (2) VA Certified Recovery Specialist. Recently, Jeff was recognized for helping to make 2023 "National Veterans Day" a "tremendous success." His positive attitude and work effort helped to strengthen the event which allows the nation to reflect on the valor of our veterans and to remember the sacrifices they make to protect democracy, defend our values, and promote freedom around the world.

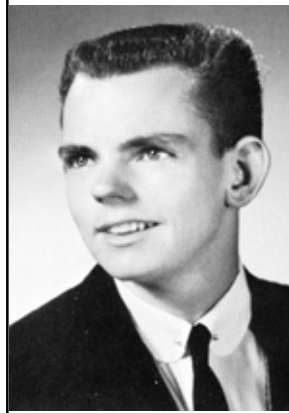
During an interview, Jeff made note of a trip that he made to Arlington National Cemetery in December 2023 observing "Wreaths Across America." The Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and touring the gravesites of those who have been laid to rest at Arlington left a lasting impression. Jeff is happy and proud to serve veterans who in turn have given so much to this nation.

Jeff follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Vito Deluca, who served in the Army during World War II as an MP in Italy. Vito had the honor of meeting former boxing heavyweight great Primo Canera, who became world champion on June 29, 1933. (See picture above.)

Jeff is the brother of Attorney Vito Deluca and Major Joseph Deluca (Ret.).



The Mobile Veterans' Center

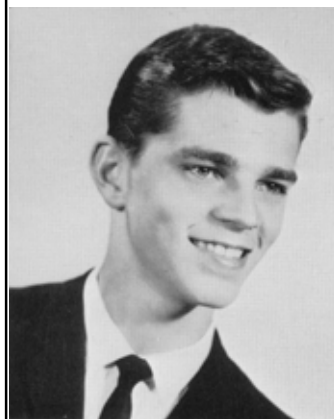


**Dale Richards**  
1962 Newport  
Senior Class Yearbook of  
Newport Township  
High School

### In Memoriam

"He could sure tell stories." That's what most folks remember about Dale Richards Jr., also known as "Butch." A long-time English and Creative Writing teacher at GNA High School, it was only natural that he could expound on many subjects. He would regale his friends with stories of his experiences and listeners would be enthralled. In addition to teaching, he also had a small business in his garage fixing lawn mowers and snow blowers. If he said it once, he said it thousands of times: "Drain the gasoline from your lawn mower in the fall so it doesn't clog the carburetor and store it in a dry place. Change the oil, and replace the spark plugs." If everybody did that, Dale would have missed visiting with his friends and customers! Dale loved spending time in the woods, be it in Newport Township or elsewhere. He was another kid who followed in his father's

footsteps. His Dad was long-time Newport High School math teacher, Dale Richards, Sr. To his wife Ann and his daughter Colette, son-in-law Shawn, and granddaughter Caleigh, the entire Newport Township Community offers sincere condolences.



**Steven Masakowski**  
1964 Newport  
Senior Class Yearbook of  
Newport Township  
High School

### In Memoriam

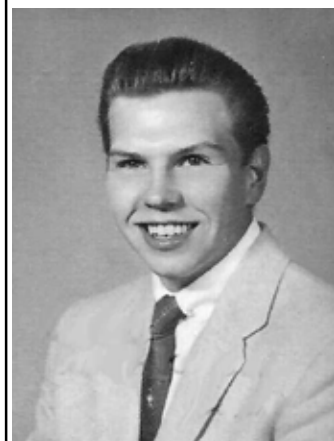
By Steve Phillips ~ During the past quarter, the Newport Township Community Organization has lost two of its stalwarts, Steven Masakowski and Francis Zaleski.

Both of these individuals served as Treasurer of the NTCO. Steve was the initial person elected to this position when the body was formed. He was responsible for establishing many of the accounting procedures and policies under which the office operated and he continued as a valuable resource to his successors when he retired from this role. He

was a valued and committed volunteer with numerous other of the Organization's many endeavors, and also worked closely with several of us during our joint litter pickups throughout the community. As an Army veteran, he proudly served two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Francis also was a diligent and committed volunteer while serving as this entity's Treasurer. He continued to perform the myriad of duties inherent in this position while battling the ravages of his declining eyesight, which ultimately forced him to resign from this position. In addition to this role, he also assisted in our litter pickups and was the co-driver of the tractor for the free hayrides the NTCO provided during its numerous prior Fall Festivals. As another proud Newport Township veteran, Francis was honored to have served on a submarine as a member of the United States Navy.

They may be gone, but they will not be forgotten. Bless them and their families and let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers. It was my honor and privilege to have been their contemporary and to have served with them.



**Francis Zaleski**  
1958 Newport  
Senior Class Yearbook of  
Newport Township  
High School





Shown with Mr. Halchak, seated, are Birchwood Administrator Angela Lowe, State Rep. Alec Ryncavage, Grandson Chris Halchak, son Eugene Halchak, grandson Bryan Halchak, daughter-in-law Carol Halchak, State Senator Lisa Baker, and Karla Krakowski.

### Happy 107th Birthday to Russell Halchak

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ Russell Halchak, formerly of Warrior Run and West Nanticoke, is a World War II veteran who served honorably as an MP in Italy. He returned home to West Nanticoke, married and raised his family, constantly working at many different jobs and dabbling in politics. He can now count 107 birthdays. He has lived for the past three years at Birchwood Health Care and Rehabilitation. On January 15, he celebrated with family, friends, AMVETS Post 59, and Birchwood staff and fellow residents. Even Joe Stanky and Leo Schuster showed up that day and provided "oldies but goodies" for everyone to enjoy and sing along.

The following week, more birthday acknowledgements were received when State Representative Alec Ryncavage and State Senator Lisa Baker came to show recognition to Mr. Halchak from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate for his accomplishments. They really made his day when they handed Mr. Halchak ten scratch-off lottery tickets. He proudly claimed \$23.00 in winnings.

Many former residents of Newport Township have received care from Birchwood over the years and Birchwood has been an employer of many Newport Township citizens.



Pictured above l to r: VFW Chaplain Joseph Molski; VFW Commander John Wildes; VFW Adjutant/Quartermaster Tim Derr; Trustee Cory Linker; Trustee Joseph Figlerski; and Senior Vice-Commander Edward Padagomas.

### Newport Township Military Organizations

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ The American Legion at 62 Newport Street in Glen Lyon is the home of a number of local military and veterans associated organizations based in Newport Township and where their meetings take place: (1) Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539; (2) Sons of the Glen Lyon American Legion Squadron 539; (3) Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 Auxiliary; (4) Lt. Chester F. Strzalka VFW Post 8353 of Glen Lyon and (5) Jeffries/Slapikas American Legion Post 971 of Wanamie.

This quarter, the doings of VFW Post 8353 and AL Post 539 are as follows: The veterans organizations continue to support: (1) **Project Warm** which provides homeless veterans in Northeastern Pennsylvania who are receiving care at the Wilkes Barre VA Medical Center with items such as hand warmers, scarves, gloves, jackets, blankets, etc. and (2) **Project Comfort** which is a new program and is mainly directed to and assists women veterans who are diagnosed with cancer to help maintain their emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being throughout their treatment.

VFW Post 8353 and American Legion Post 539 continue to support funerals with an honor guard and observe local ceremonies for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, Watch Fire, etc. Recent events held by AL Post 539, such as Halloween Haunted House, Luau Pig Roast, and end-of-year Holiday Party were all successful. Fundraisers will be held throughout the coming year and it is hoped the community will participate. On May 5, a breakfast will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a menu of scrambled eggs, home fries, dessert, etc. for the price of \$10.00.

With VFW & AL posts' election soon on the horizon, nominations for officers took place at the March meeting for each organization. For the VFW, the following nominations were successful: Post Commander, Corrine "Cory" Linker; Sr. Vice Commander, Edward Padagomas; Jr. Vice Commander, Patrick McMullen; Quartermaster, Tim Derr; Trustee (3 year), John Wildes; Trustee (2 Year), Ron Wolfe; and Trustee (1 year), Dennis Boor. Chaplain, Adjutant and Service Officer are appointed positions.

At an earlier meeting, AL Post 539 also held officer nominations. The following nominations were successful: Commander, Amber Borysiewicz; Sr. Vice Commander, John Wildes; Jr. Vice Commander, Patrick McMullen; Trustee (3 year), Larry Wolfe; Trustee (2 year), Robert McDaniels; and Trustee (1 year), Todd Noss).

Finally, a note to our friends and the public, please continue your generous contributions and support to our military programs such as the "Poppy Drive," and "Toys for Tots."

### Memorial Day Activities

Memorial Day is Monday, May 27. All Township veterans' organizations will participate in services at cemeteries and monuments in the Township to honor those who served in all branches of the military. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.



**JoAnne Kanjorski Thomas**  
1970 Newportrait  
Greater Nanticoke Area  
School District

### In Memoriam

The word devotion is defined as "love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause." If anyone would have to describe JoAnne Thomas with one word, this would be it. She loved her family and friends; she had unwavering loyalty to the causes she believed in; and enthusiasm for her profession, teaching. She deeply loved her husband Jim, her children Brian and Lindsey, son-in-law Paul and her two grandchildren, Rowan and Liam. Her cousins and friends enjoyed her company and her tranquility. She served many township organizations, including the Women's Activity Group, Holy Spirit Parish Council and was Vice-President of the

Altar and Rosary Society. She was proud of her Polish heritage and served as treasurer for the Polish Room Committee at Wilkes University. Even after retirement from the Greater Nanticoke Area School District as a long-time elementary school teacher and reading specialist, she became the Director of the CCD program at St. Adalbert's Church and taught all grades, from pre-school to high school. She was a wonderful cook and baker. Her sticky buns rivaled any bakery's and her generosity knew no bounds. We miss you dear friend. May you fly with the angels!





L to R: Gerard "Jerry" Rushin and Norman Augustine Sr.

## Buddies Meet Once Again After 70 Years

By Tom Kashatus ~ Norman Augustine receives the NTCO Newsletter by subscription, reads it, and then mails his copy to his friend, Gerard "Jerry" Rushin, as a way to keep in touch with each other. Norman and Jerry were childhood friends, attending K.M. Smith School, hunting and fishing together, and other general activities, until graduating from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1952.

Since graduation they endured a separation for 70 years after they went their separate ways throughout life. After graduation, Jerry attended East Stroudsburg State Teacher's

College, and became a physical education teacher in various school districts throughout Pennsylvania. He retired from Corry School District in Corry, PA in 1996 as the Athletic Director. He and his wife, Alice (nee Henning) reside in Spartansburg, PA.

Norman attended Wilkes Barre Business College, then enlisted in the Army and entered the US Army Financial School. Following completion of school, he was sent immediately to 7th Army Headquarters at Stuttgart, Germany. Upon discharge from the Army, he went to work for Kanarr Corporation in Wilkes Barre. Later, he worked for Luzerne/Susquehanna Railroad as General Manager, retiring in 1996. When Norman retired, he and his wife, Carol (nee Bestwick) who also retired, moved to North Port, FL. Carol passed away in 2010.

Last year, Norman paid a visit to his son, Norman Jr. and daughter-in-law Maria who live in Wilkes Barre Township. This became an opportunity for Norman Jr. and his wife, Maria, to drive "Pop" to Spartansburg for a visit with Jerry after a 70 year separation.

There is no doubt that the NTCO Newsletter helped to keep this long-lasting and beloved friendship alive throughout Norman and Jerry's lifetime.

**NORMAN AUGUSTINE**  
"Norm" Business  
Science Club 1; Recreation Club 2, 3; Science Club 4.  
★  
Has nice smile . . . loves to talk . . . hails from Alden . . . he is always cracking jokes . . . has beautiful red hair . . . is always talking in Mr. Shekleski's room . . . likes girls . . . loves to loaf.  
Ambition—To work in an office



**GERARD RUSHIN**  
"Jerry" Business  
Dancing Club 1; Sports Club 2, 3, 4; Football 2; Home-room Vice-President 3; Prom Com. 3; Holiday Program 3; Ring Com. 4.  
★  
Handsome . . . good natured . . . likes hunting . . . popular with girls . . . neat dresser . . . challenges statements with "Yeah?" . . . likes horseback riding . . . in cahoots with "Chuck" in English class.  
Ambition—To be a Phys. Ed. teacher



Norm and Jerry have been friends since childhood. Above are their senior pictures from the Newport Township High School Yearbook,



## Blue Mass at St. Andrew's Church

By Tom Kashatus ~ Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Alden recently held a ceremonial "Blue Mass" for area First Responders. The Blue Mass honors those who are actively serving as First Responders and is also an opportunity to remember and honor those who have died in the line of duty. Note that Saint Andrew's was established in 1884.


In the above photo shown after Mass and a hearty breakfast are a number of first responders of the Nanticoke/Newport Township Community and members of Saint Andrew's Church.

Seated at the table are Colleen Benscoter, Robert Shemanski, Susan Maza, Ronald Womelsdorf and Alexa Krupilis.

Standing left to right are: Mark Benscoter, Logan Krupilis (child), George Marr, Heather Meck, Joseph Maza, Dolores Huk, Gina Sitler, Bettse Matzoni, Rosemary Kuscavage, Maryann Shemanski, Alexis Sitler, Louise Marr, Leonard Paczkowski, Nickolas Marr, Norman Bodek, Nathaniel Marr, Alyssa Warho, Gary Womelsdorf, and Marilyn Littleford.

So old friend; Fill me in slow old friend; Start from hello Old Friend.  
I want the when, where and how; Old friends do tend to become old habit.  
Never knew how much I missed you till now.

Lyrics from "Old Friends," *Merrily We Roll Along*



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## Taste of the Township Salt

"There must be something strangely sacred in salt. It is in our tears and in the seas." ~ Kahlil Gibran

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Chemically, salt is a substance produced by the reaction of an acid with a base. Salt consists of the positive ion (cation) of a base and the negative ion (anion) of an acid. The reaction between an acid and a base is called a neutralization reaction. There are a lot of different salts (like potassium nitrate for gunpowder and

sodium bicarbonate or baking soda) but only one that meets our dietary needs and satisfies our craving for that salty taste. That is sodium chloride, often referred to as table salt. It is also known by its chemical formula NaCl which is an ionic compound made of sodium and chloride ions.

The Egyptians were the first to realize the preservation possibilities of salt. Sodium draws the bacteria-causing moisture out of foods, drying them and making it possible to store meat without refrigeration for extended periods of time. Human cultivation of salt is ancient, and the earliest known salt harvesting is believed to have occurred at Lake Yuncheng in the Chinese province of Shanxi around 6,000 BCE. Also around 6,000 BCE, people living in the area of present-day Romania boiled spring water to extract salts. Evidence of early Neolithic salt pans dating to 3,766–3,647 BCE has been unearthed in Yorkshire, England. Evidence of Bronze Age production, around 1,400 BCE, has been identified in Somerset. The addition of salt to food began relatively recently, about 5000 years ago. As people became increasingly addicted to it, salt became the most important object of trade and the economic foundation of several empires.

Salt comes from two main sources: sea water and the sodium chloride mineral halite, also known as rock salt. Rock salt occurs in vast beds of sedimentary evaporate minerals. Evaporates are deposits left after the evaporation of a body of water.

### Salt Facts

1. Egyptian mummies were preserved in a practice remarkably similar to that used for curing fish and birds. Ironically, during the looting of tombs from Thebes and Saqqara in the 19th century AD, authorities taxed the mummies as if they were salted fish.
2. The Egyptians began trading salt in the form of salted fish to Middle Eastern societies like the Phoenicians around 2,800 BCE. The Phoenicians, in turn, traded with everyone else around the Mediterranean. By 800 BCE, the Phoenicians were also producing large quantities of salt from lakebeds in North Africa, and they traded it, along with salted fish, for other goods.
3. Written records describe the production and trade of sea salt in China and date to 1,800 BCE.
4. Rome, like other Italian cities, was purposely built near a salt works that was situated at the mouth of the Tiber River. When the Romans moved their salt works further away, they also built their first great road, the Via Salaria (or Salt Road) over which Roman salt from Ostia was carried into other parts of Italy.
5. In Northern Europe, salt was being harvested as early as 400 BCE in mines outside of the Austrian mountain town of Salzburg, the word meaning literally "salt town."
6. During the American Civil War, salt was a precious commodity, used not only for eating but for tanning leather, dyeing clothes and preserving troop rations. Confederate President Jefferson Davis even offered a military service waiver to anyone willing to work on salt production on the coast. The ocean was the only reliable source of salt for the South since inland production facilities were so valued they became early targets of Union attacks.
7. When applied to snow or ice, salt lowers the melting point. Thus, large amounts are used in northern climates to help rid thoroughfares of accumulated snow and ice. Salt is used in water-softening equipment that removes calcium and magnesium compounds from water.
8. Though the material that gives seawater its salty flavor is composed of many substances, sodium chloride, or common salt, is by far the predominant compound. On the assumption that one gallon of seawater contains 0.231 pound of salt and that rock salt on average is 2.17 times as dense as water, it has been estimated that if the oceans of the

world were completely dried up, they would yield at least 4.5 million cubic miles of rock salt, or about 14.5 times the bulk of the entire continent of Europe above the high-water mark.

9. Brine is water containing a high concentration of salt. Natural brines of commercial importance are found in the Dead Sea as well as in Austria, France, Germany, India, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The Dead Sea, which covers an area of 394 square miles, contains approximately 12,650,000,000 tons of salt. The Great Salt Lake in Utah has three major tributaries, the Jordan, Weber, and Bear rivers which together deposit around 1.1 million tons of minerals in the lake per year. Since the lake has no outlet besides evaporation, these minerals accumulate and give the lake high salinity (far saltier than seawater) and density. This density causes swimming in the lake to feel similar to floating.

10. Salt (sodium chloride) is the only family of rocks regularly eaten by people.

11. Mixing salt with the water of cut flowers in a vase will help the flowers live longer. If you rub salt on your griddle, your pancakes will not stick.

12. The Pacific Ocean contains almost half of all the salt water on our planet. Many of the creatures that live in salt water would die in fresh water. Salt water ecosystems are the largest on Earth, covering 70 percent of the Earth's surface.

13. The Romans actually paid their soldiers with salt, because it was so important for things like food preservation. In fact, the word "salary" has its root in the Latin word for salt.

14. Salt appears several times in the Old Testament, most notably in the book of Genesis, in which Lot's wife (who doesn't appear to have a name of her own) is turned into a pillar of salt after disobeying God's commands.

15. A superstition says spilling salt will bring you bad fortune. Legend has it that you should take a pinch of the spilled salt and throw it over your left shoulder to cancel the bad luck. The left shoulder was where the devil was supposed to be sitting and tossing salt in the devil's eyes kept the devil away.

16. No mineral is more essential to your health and survival than sodium. It allows nerves to send and receive electrical impulses, helps your muscles stay strong, and keeps your cells and brain functioning.

17. Tears and all of our other body fluids are salty because of electrolytes, also known as salt ions which create the electrical impulses that helps power our brains and move our muscles. Electrolytes contain sodium (which accounts for the saltiness), potassium, and chloride.

18. The body needs a small amount of sodium to function, but most Americans consume too much sodium. High sodium consumption can raise blood pressure, and high blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Most of the sodium we consume is in the form of salt.

19. A study released in the scientific journal, *The Lancet*, involved more than 130,000 people from 49 countries and concluded that low-salt diets in people with and without high blood pressure may actually increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and death compared to average salt consumption.

20. A 2014 study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, tested sodium consumption in more than 100,000 people in 17 countries and found that the healthy range for sodium is between 3,000 mg (1 1/2 teaspoons) and 6,000 mg (3 teaspoons) per day. The American Heart Association recommends no more than 2,300 mg (about 1 teaspoon) a day and an ideal limit of less than 1,500 mg per day for most adults, especially for those with high blood pressure.

21. In cooking, salt balances sweetness and helps suppress other flavors, such as bitterness. When salt is added to processed meats, it restructures the proteins, which then act as a binding and emulsifying agent.

22. Unlike other types of salt, kosher salt is made solely of sodium chloride. It usually doesn't contain any trace minerals, iodine, or anti-clumping or anti-caking agents. Conversely, iodized table salt is fortified with iodine, an essential mineral that plays a key role in thyroid health and hormone production.

Sources: Wikipedia, [www.time.com/3957460/a-brief-history-of-salt/](http://www.time.com/3957460/a-brief-history-of-salt/), [www.history.com/news/off-the-spice-rack-the-story-of-salt](http://www.history.com/news/off-the-spice-rack-the-story-of-salt), [www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2014/01/fascinating-early-history-salt/](http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2014/01/fascinating-early-history-salt/) <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/why-are-tears-salty>, [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org), various websites.





## The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township Skunk

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki* ~ For years every Fall, our backyard on West Main Street in Glen Lyon was getting dug up by skunks looking for grubs. We finally got wise and now apply anti-grub material. Last summer however, a skunk took up temporary residence in our neighbor's garage. Beautiful as they are to look at, most folks prefer that our skunk friends live in the woods.

Skunk, (family Mephitidae) also called polecat, is a black-and-white mammal found primarily in the Western Hemisphere

and uses extremely well-developed scent glands to release a noxious odor when defending themselves. The skunk family is composed of four genera (Mephitis, Conepatus, Spilogale, and Mydaus) and 12 species, 10 of which are found in the Western Hemisphere. Primarily nocturnal, they live in a wide variety of habitats, including deserts, forests, and mountains. Most are about the size of a house cat, but some are significantly smaller. The common striped skunk is found from central Canada southward throughout the United States to northern Mexico. Adults grow to be about 18 to 32 inches long and may weigh up to 13 pounds. Their fur is typically black with a white V down the back, and they have a white bar between the eyes.

The oldest fossil identified as a skunk dates to 11–12 million years ago and was discovered in Germany. Genetic data indicate the family originated about 30–40 million years ago, with mammals that displayed skunk-like dentition (the arrangement or condition of the teeth in a particular species) dating back to the Late Cretaceous Epoch, some 100.5 million to 66 million years ago.

Because of the singular, musk-spraying ability of the skunk, the names of the family and the most common genus (Mephitidae, Mephitis) mean "stench," and *Spilogale putorius* means "stinking spotted weasel." The word skunk is a corruption of an Abenaki name for them, segongw or segonku, which means "one who squirts" in the Algonquian dialect. Skunk scent comes from anal glands located inside the rectum at the base of the tail. All carnivores have anal scent glands, but they are extremely well-developed in skunks. Skunks can aim the spray with highly coordinated muscle control. When a skunk is being chased by a predator but cannot see it, the spray is emitted as an atomized cloud that the pursuer must run through. When the skunk has a target to focus on, the spray is emitted as a stream directed at the predator's face. Although accurate to more than six feet, its total range is considerably farther.

### Skunk Facts

1. Striped skunks are common throughout their range. Despite their unique system of defense, they are eaten chiefly by great horned owls but also by eagles, crows, vultures, coyotes, foxes, dogs, bobcats, mountain lions, American badgers, and even humans.
2. Automobiles are a major cause of mortality for skunks in the United States.
3. Skunk pelts (especially striped) were once valuable in the fur industry but are less so today. Living skunks are more valuable, as most skunks prey primarily on insects, especially those harmful to agriculture. They are also very useful in destroying rats and mice that commonly infest farm buildings. Spotted skunks are particularly efficient hunters because they are quick and are able to follow rodents into smaller spaces than larger skunks can.
4. Skunks are a major carrier of rabies, which is fatal to skunks.
5. A skunk's sulfuric spray has a range of up to 10 feet, and its odor can be detected up to 1.5 miles. Skunks carry just enough for five or six successive sprays – about 15 cm. – and require up to ten days to produce another supply. Skunk spray is composed mainly of three low-molecular-weight thiol compounds. These compounds are detectable by the human nose at concentrations of only 11.3 parts per billion.

6. Skunks eat wasps and honeybees. Skunks are one of the primary predators of the honeybee, relying on their thick fur to protect them from stings. The skunk scratches at the front of the beehive and eats the guard bees that come out to investigate.

7. Immune to snake venom, skunks are known to eat poisonous snakes, such as rattlesnakes.

8. Although they have excellent senses of smell and hearing, they have poor vision, being unable to see objects more than about 10 feet away, making them vulnerable to death by road traffic.

9. They are short-lived; their lifespan in the wild can reach seven years, with most living only up to a year. In captivity, they may live for up to 10 years.

10. Skunks use their long claws to break apart rotting logs to find bugs that live within them. They also use those claws to help dig for insects, which leaves behind pits, which are easy signs of foraging. Skunks commonly dig holes in lawns in search of grubs and worms.

11. Skunks do not hibernate in the winter. However, they do remain generally inactive and feed rarely.

12. Some individuals are born solid black or solid white. A solid white skunk might be mistaken as an albino, but if its eyes are black and not red, it isn't lacking color pigmentation and is truly white.

13. Even though skunks are mostly active at night, they sometimes look for food by day, particularly in the spring when they have young and may be extra hungry.

14. It was considered bad luck in native American lore to encounter a skunk in one's path, and some tribes associated skunks with evil sorcery. However, many native American tribes located in the southeast region of America, such as Muscogee Creek, revered skunks for their readiness to defend themselves.

15. The traditional remedy for removing the smell of skunk spray is a tomato juice bath. However, tomato juice, in conjunction with vinegar, only serves to reduce the stench, as it doesn't neutralize the molecules that make skunk spray particularly pungent. Here's a particularly effective remedy that's safe for dogs and cats, as well as humans: Mix together 1 quart of 3-% hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda, and 1 teaspoon liquid dishwashing soap. Wearing rubber gloves, wash with this solution immediately after the spraying occurs. DO NOT get the solution in eyes. If you don't have peroxide, baking soda, and liquid soap on hand, use vinegar diluted with water.

Sources: Wikipedia; [www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Skunk](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Skunk); [www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/a-brief-history-of-the-hand-standing-skunk](http://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/a-brief-history-of-the-hand-standing-skunk); [www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-skunks](http://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-skunks); [www.skedaddlewildlife.com/blog/the-life-of-a-baby-skunk](http://www.skedaddlewildlife.com/blog/the-life-of-a-baby-skunk).

### Primary Election on Tuesday April 23, 2024

There are two wards in Newport Township. Registered voters from Glen Lyon and Lee vote in the Community Room at the Municipal Building in Wanamie. Voters who live in Sheatown, Ridgeview, Alden and Wanamie cast ballots in the Municipal Garage adjacent to the Municipal Building. Individuals must be registered and enrolled in a political party to vote in that party's primary. To register, go online to the Luzerne County Bureau of Elections website, or in person to 20 North Pennsylvania Avenue in Wilkes-Barre, phone number 570-825-1715. All citizens should make informed decisions. Polls are open on Election Day from 7 A.M. - 8 P.M. Last day to register to vote: **April 8, 2024.** Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: **April 16, 2024.**

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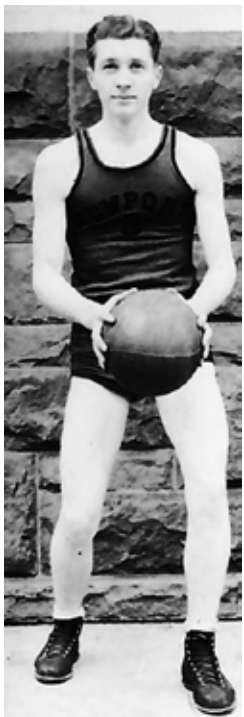


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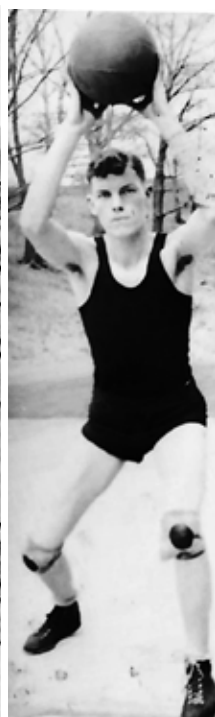




Mike Zlonkevich



James Murphy



Eugene Schraeder



Walter Serowicz



Edmund "Doc" Voshefski



John Horenza



Keith Jeffries



Sylvester Kasnikowski



Ed Gayewski



Eugene Schraeder Ed Gayewski



Keith Jeffries Sylvester Kasnikowski

## The 1936 Newport Township High School State Championship Basketball Team

These rare photographs of individual and paired members of the team were recently discovered among the albums of the late John Forgach. John was a Newport Township historian and his collection of photographs formed the basis of the NTCO's DVD projects. Heidi and Paul were tickled to find them and share them with our readers.

For descriptions of the 1936 season and the players, see *Newsletter* No. 24, pp. 4-5 and *Newsletter* No. 75, pp. 16-17. Additional articles can be found in other issues.



## C. F. Cook Photographer

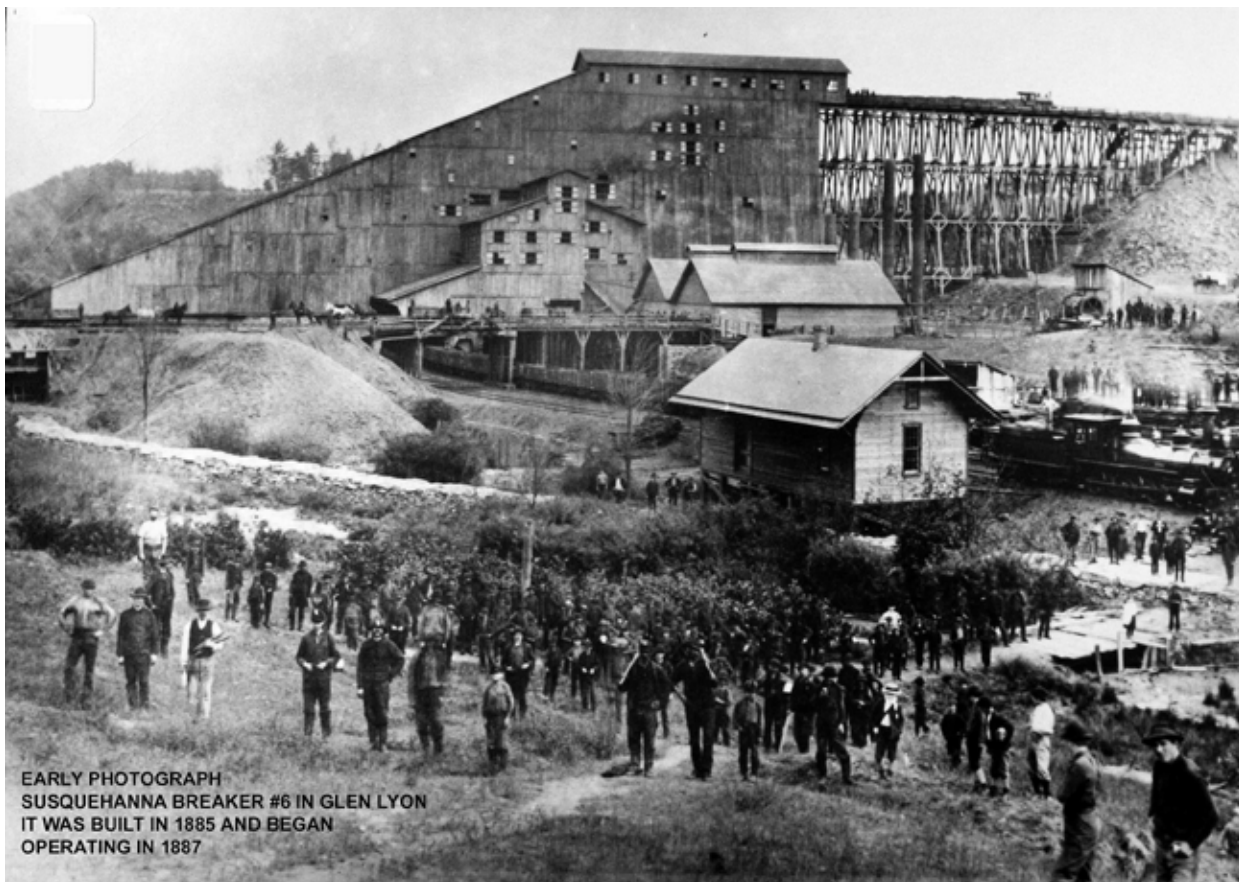
By Heidi Jarecki ~ At right is the earliest known photograph dating from 1889 of the Susquehanna Breaker # 6 in Glen Lyon. The history of the breaker begins in the early 19th century. According to the website [www.huberbreaker.com](http://www.huberbreaker.com), "Early prospecting for coal was both casual and unscientific. Outcroppings, where coal seams were exposed on the surface, were the most readily discovered. Seams where only a shallow layer of earth covered the coal were also easily detected. Outcroppings occurred mostly on rocky ridges which were traveled routinely by coal prospectors. Black meadowlands and salty soil were clues to shallow lying beds of coal, as were downed trees with coal particles clinging to their roots. As demand for

anthracite increased, exploration became more scientific. Test boreholes would be driven in regular patterns and the drill cores examined and measured. In this way depth and thickness of rock strata and coal seams could be computed and the geology of wide areas plotted. Less commonly, test shafts would be sunk or tunnels driven to locate coal." Thus, it was eventually determined that there were vast layers of anthracite below the surface of Newport Township and railroad companies quickly purchased former farmland. The Susquehanna Coal Company had its beginnings in 1867 as the Pittston Railroad and Coal Company. Two years later, the name was changed. Most of its stock was owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pennsylvania Canal Company. Construction of the Glen Lyon Colliery began in the 1870's and the breaker began operating in 1885. Two years later, it went into full operation.

This important early photograph was taken in 1889 by C. F. Cook (Charles F. Cook) who was born in Hanover, Lower Saxony in Germany in 1838. Not long after he was born, on January 7, 1839, members of the French Académie des Sciences were shown an invention that would forever change the nature of visual representation: photography. The astonishingly precise pictures they saw were the work of Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre (1787–1851). The process became known as "daguerrotype." C.F. Cook was an early student and practitioner of the art. He came to Wilkes-Barre in 1858 and set up a studio. In 1860 he moved to 17 South Main Street. The following advertisement appeared in the *Luzerne Union* on April 18, 1860: "Get your Photographs and Ambrotypes at C.F. Cook's Washington Gallery of Art, Public Square, below Steele's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where pictures in the highest style of the art are daily taken in all weather." The ambrotype was a photographic process on glass introduced in the early 1850s. It quickly grew in popularity because it maintained the image clarity of the daguerrotype, but was faster and cheaper to produce.

C.F. Cook was often called upon to take photographs of outings, such as the Washington and Baltimore camping party at Harvey's Lake, and held exhibits of his work. He kept up with the latest trends in photography, such as cabinet photography which was a style widely used for photographic portraiture after 1870. It consisted of a thin photograph mounted on a card. Another type was crayon portraiture, which was a print that was retouched with pencils or pastels.

In April 1867, Cook's studio was burned in a devastating fire that destroyed over 40 businesses between West Market and Franklin Streets in Wilkes-Barre. The fire began in the roof of a tin shop or an adjacent



bakery and the loss was estimated at \$100,000 (well over \$2,000,000 in today's money). Cook had no insurance. However, he was soon back in business at 17 South Franklin where he remained until April 1894.

Cook had an interest in the coal industry and there is mention in 1894 that he "finished some very fine productions of the West End Coal Co.'s breaker. The pictures are very large and show in detail every part of the great institution from the artist's point of view." That year he moved his studio from South Main Street to Carey Avenue.

C. F. Cook served as auditor for Plains Township. He was a corporal in the 143rd Regiment, Company D, Pennsylvania Volunteers for three years. He was active in the Central Methodist Episcopal Church and its societies. He married Mary Dailey in 1864 and they had two sons, John W. and C. Edwin. He died on June 24, 1894. His death was attributed to heart disease. The day after his death, a eulogy appeared in the *Evening Leader*. It reads in part: "[C.F. Cook] began securing a series of views of the most picturesque and historical spots of the valley and it is safe to say that among the thousands of plates he has stored away will be found views of every point of interest in this neighborhood – the river from all points both in summer and winter. The whole life of the deceased was devoted to his art and he tried to do the best in everything he undertook. For many years his gallery was located on South Main Street where the Boston Store (Boscov's) is now building." C.F. Cook is interred in the Forty Fort Cemetery.

On November 20, 1900, the following appeared in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*: "A barn in the rear of West River street near Academy Street, owned by Mrs. John W. Cook and rented by her brother Lewis Bailey, the busman, caught fire last evening at 6 o'clock and the upper portion, including the hay mow and roof was destroyed.....The entire stock of negatives of the late C.F. Cook, photographer, including those of Wilkes-Barre in the seventies, were also destroyed, his paraphernalia having been stored in the barn. Among them was the old bridge at Market Street and many old buildings about town." It is fortunate that copies of his photograph of Susquehanna Breaker #6 had been disseminated and therefore preserved for future generations.

Sources: [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com); [www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/mg/mg463.htm](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/mg/mg463.htm); [www.huberbreaker.com](http://www.huberbreaker.com); [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/dagu/hd\\_dagu.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/dagu/hd_dagu.htm), *The Luzerne Union Newspaper*; *The Union Leader Newspaper*, *Wikipedia*, *The Evening Leader Newspaper*, *The Wilkes-Barre Record*, various websites.

## A Brief History Lesson

By Heidi Jarecki ~ According to the *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* on May 12, 1915, "a hearing was had yesterday afternoon before the House election committee of the State legislature at Harrisburg on the Evans bill which has as its purpose the annexation of parts of Newport, Hanover, and Plymouth Townships by the Boroughs of Nanticoke and Plymouth. The bill has never come out of committee and yesterday there was a delegation of about thirty citizens from Nanticoke armed with facts and enthusiasm, both of which were used in an endeavor to get the committee to give favorable action on the bill." It was called the "Evans Bill" for State Representative Joseph Evans who introduced it.

The Newport delegation consisted of Attorney Michael Donohue who was solicitor to the School Board and Attorney Charles Shea, solicitor to the Township Board of Commissioners. The Nanticoke delegation consisted of about 30 men, including five lawyers led by Attorneys Richard Sheridan and Thomas D. Shea, and School Superintendent William Davis who was also secretary of the Nanticoke Improvement Association. Superintendent Davis presented figures showing how Nanticoke was "handicapped in carrying on its affairs by reason of comparatively small valuation." The Hanover Township Commissioners and the Hanover Township School Board were represented by Attorney P. W. McKeown. It is not known to this writer who, if anyone, represented Plymouth Township and Plymouth Borough.

Newport, Hanover, and Plymouth Townships were three of seven townships first settled by the Susquehanna Company of Connecticut. The history of Nanticoke begins in the 19th century when it was carved out of Hanover Township and Newport Township. In 1830, it was incorporated as a village. In 1874, Nanticoke was chartered by the Pennsylvania Legislature as a borough. Nanticoke experienced its greatest population increase between 1917 and 1925. This allowed for it to qualify as a third class city. The citizens voted in the fall of 1924 to form a city government and elections were held the following year. Plymouth Township was first settled in 1769. Plymouth Borough which was once part of Plymouth Township was incorporated in 1866. Hanover Township originally occupied all the land from Wilkes-Barre to Newport Township, and all the land between the Susquehanna River and the Lehigh River. In the 19th century, the original township was downsized when sections of it broke away to form new municipalities.

A separate article appeared in the *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* that same day. It is reprinted here in full: "Newport Township was strongly defended at Harrisburg yesterday by her two solicitors when the Nanticoke delegation of men headed by attorneys were given a hearing before the committee in the interest of the annexation bill which would give to the ambitious borough a large portion of this township. So ably did the local counsels speak against the bill that it is believed they were of as much strength in argument as the delegation of 35 from Nanticoke. At least this is the opinion derived from the report of the meeting at the capital [sic].

"Attorney Michael Donohue for the local school board denounced the bill as an unwarranted attempt of a large community to get control of a smaller one. He said that Newport township [sic] was on the map before Nanticoke was ever thought of and now the latter place comes forward and brazenly attempts to take from good old Newport its birth-right. Attorney Donohue said that Newport Township is well equipped with schools, police and fire protection, and that finally, the people do not want to go into Nanticoke. 'Kill this vicious bill,' pleaded Donohue.

"Attorney Charles A. Shea, for the local board of commissioners, closed the session with an eloquent effort against the bill. He asked why Nanticoke was trying to push itself at the expense of adjoining townships and regretted the fact that such a scheme of improvement was conceived. He told the committee that Newport Township is better paved and has just as good fire and police protection as Nanticoke; that the sanitary conditions outshine the ambitious borough and that all things considered it would be harmful to Newport to become part of Nanticoke."

Following the hearing, the Committee went "into executive session and unanimously decided to postpone action. This means that there is little show for the bill getting out inasmuch as the present session is almost ended."

Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, Wikipedia.

## Joe's Worm Castings

By Heidi Jarecki and Joe Michaels ~ It's Spring and time for gardeners to think about soil conditions, fertilizing, and the balancing of organic material, moisture, and sunlight to get the most out of their gardens. Joe Michaels in Alden offers a natural method of fertilizing: worm castings.

Worm castings are produced by, you guessed it, worms! They munch on organic matter, breaking it down into a dark, rich, nutrient-packed substance. This substance is packed with rich micro-organisms, beneficial bacteria and essential nutrients.

According to Joe, there are seven key benefits:

1. Nutrient-rich soil amendment. Worm castings are packed with essential nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, providing a natural boost to plant growth.
2. Improved soil structure. The organic matter in worm castings helps improve soil structure by enhancing its water-holding capacity, drainage, and aeration, creating an ideal environment for root development.
3. Increased microbial activity. Worm castings are teeming with beneficial microorganisms that promote healthy soil biology, including beneficial bacteria and fungi, enhancing nutrient availability and plant resilience.
4. Enhanced plant growth and yields. The nutrients and beneficial micro-organisms in worm castings stimulate plant growth, resulting in larger, healthier plants and increased yields of flowers, fruits, and vegetables.
5. Pest and disease suppression. The presence of beneficial microbes and compounds in worm castings can help suppress harmful pests and diseases, reducing the need for chemical interventions.
6. Environmental and pet friendly. Worm castings are an organic and sustainable soil amendment, minimizing environmental impact and promoting eco-friendly gardening.
7. Versatile application. Worm castings can be used in various ways, such as top-dressing, soil incorporation, seed starting, potting mixes, or as a component of compost teas, making them suitable for different gardening methods and applications.

Joe invites all gardeners in Newport Township and beyond to contact him at 570-735-7559 for more information.



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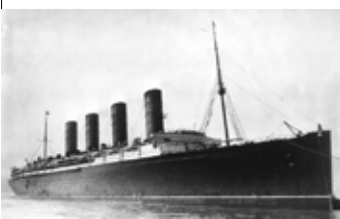
## The History of Kirmar Park Part IX: April–December 1915

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Kirmar Park was once located between Alden and Wanamie on West Kirmar Avenue. It had its beginnings in 1896 and was known until 1914 as Power House Grove. It was a popular venue for picnics, dances, baseball games, tennis, basketball games, private parties and more. The Park was affiliated with the People's Street Railway, a trolley system that served Newport Township and Nanticoke. This article continues the story of the Park which began in the Spring 2022 issue of The Community News.

Following the Winter 1915 basketball season in April, the cage surrounding the basketball court in the pavilion was removed and invitations were issued for dancing classes held by Mrs. J. Frank Seigel, the first to be held on Friday April 16. It was announced that beginning on May 7, society dances would be held every Friday evening under her supervision. Animal dance fads fell out of fashion when songs slipped from popularity, and new dances came at such a fast pace that oftentimes it was tough work to keep up with the new steps. But by 1915, the foxtrot became the dance that represented both the popularity of Ragtime Dances and changes in ragtime music.

Improvements to the Park were ongoing, with every effort being made to attract the crowds. The installation of a merry-go-round and other amusements was planned for May. However, it was not to be. When the purchase arrived at the Park, several important parts were missing. Then, it was discovered that all of the delivered property was stolen from the grounds of Kirmar Park. One June 14, a false pretense charge was made by Joseph Janezars of Nanticoke against Edward Kunkel of Wilkes-Barre in court involving \$700.00 (\$21,375.00 in today's money). The judge in the case, Judge Strauss, directed a verdict for the defendant and ordered court costs to be paid by the county. Whatever happened to the equipment is anyone's guess.

**The Lusitania Disaster** On May 7, 1915, the German submarine (U-boat) U-20 torpedoed and sank the Lusitania, a swift-moving British cruise liner traveling from New York to Liverpool, England. Of the



1,959 men, women, and children on board, 1,195 perished, including 123 Americans. A headline in the *New York Times* the following day—"Divergent Views of the Sinking of The Lusitania"—sums up the initial public response to the disaster. Some saw it as a blatant act of evil

and transgression against the conventions of war. Others understood that Germany previously had unambiguously alerted all neutral passengers of Atlantic vessels to the potential for submarine attacks on British ships and that Germany considered the Lusitania a British, and therefore an "enemy ship."

The sinking of the Lusitania was not the single largest factor contributing to the entrance of the United States into the war two years later, but it certainly solidified the public's opinions towards Germany. President Woodrow Wilson, who guided the U.S. through its isolationist foreign policy, held his position of neutrality for almost two more years. Many, though, consider the sinking a turning point—technologically, ideologically, and strategically—in the history of modern warfare, signaling the end of the "gentlemanly" war practices of the nineteenth century and the beginning of a more ominous and vicious era of total warfare. *Source: The Library of Congress*

Members of the Sheatown Baseball Association held a "farmer" dance on Saturday May 15. It was billed as the "first of its kind" at Kirmar. The Terrapins, a Nanticoke baseball team, sponsored a dance a week later on May 22. Members of the committee included Frank Sluzalis, John Merva, and Martin Mundry. Dances were generally good fundraisers and were well attended. Teams sought to defray the cost of uniforms and equipment.

It was announced that members of the Columbus Band would conduct a dance and picnic on Monday May 31. Memorial (Decoration) Day would also see the opening of the picnic grounds.

On Wednesday June 16, a dance was held by the Polish Falcons of Glen Lyon with Kanyuck's Orchestra providing the music. A featured attraction was a performance of the Polish Krakow Dance. The Krakowiak or Cracovienne is a fast, syncopated Polish folk dance from the region of Kraków. The folk outfit worn for the dance has become the national costume of Poland, most notably, the rogatywka, a peaked hat with peacock feathers. It became a popular ballroom dance in Vienna and Paris where, with the polonaise and the mazurka, it signaled sympathy towards a picturesque, distant and oppressed nation.



Rogatywka

The members of the Cabaret Club of Nanticoke conducted a private dance on Thursday June 17. Invitations were issued by the committee. Members of the Club were: Messrs. Delbert Craig, Stanley Janowski, Gaylord Price, Stanley Gizenski, Thomas Jacob, and William Warne. William Warne was Superintendent of the People's Street Railway and supervisor of Kirmar Park; therefore, he had considerable influence in the operation of the Park. Cabaret is a form of entertainment that originated in France in the late 19th century; it includes a variety of acts such as singing, dancing, comedy, and theatre, with a Master of Ceremonies acting as the host. It was reported the following day that "a large crowd attended the dance.... and enjoyed the affair to an early hour."

Also on June 17, the 23rd annual commencement exercises for the graduating class of Newport (Central) High School were held in the auditorium. Members of the 1915 class were: Margaret Caley, Marion Runyan, Margaret McHugh, Mary Levis, Nellie Papciak, Mabel Varker, Blanche Frankel, Celestine Dougherty, Pearl Terkoski, Freda Turner, Lucy Padogomas, Margaret Davey, David Phillips, Stanley Trotski and Andrew Gavey. Principal of the High School was George W. Cox. Diplomas were presented by Superintendent T.A. Dixon. The class held a private dance at Kirmar Park on Thursday, June 24. It was promised to be an "elaborate affair" for which extensive arrangements were made. It was largely attended by "the young set of dancers who greatly enjoyed the popular dances and were loathe [sic] to leave the affair when 'Home Sweet Home' was played. Oppenheim furnished the music. The patronesses were: Mrs. E.C. Barrett, Mrs. V.B. Sheeder, Mrs. S.J. Zaineritis of Wanamie; Mrs. C. E. Moore, Mrs. Earle Loomis, Mrs. William Warne of Alden; Mrs. J. Bergsman, Mrs. John Barrett, Mrs. E.M. Davis and Mrs. Ignatz Stapinski of Glen Lyon."

The tennis courts at Kirmar were busy with players after school was let out. As reported in the Evening News, "The tennis courts...are occupied from morning until night by lovers of this outdoor sport. It is now a very common sight to see a crowd of young people with a racket in their hand boarding the cars at Central Park (now Public Square in Nanticoke) for Kirmar. Superintendent William Warne has the courts fixed up in great shape and extends an invitation to the public to come to Kirmar Park and spend an hour or two on the courts."

On Saturday evening June 26, a foxtrot contest was sponsored by the Feds Baseball Club with music by the Luft Orchestra. The prize was \$5.00 (\$153.00 in today's money). On Tuesday evening June 29, members of St. Cecelia's Choir of St. Stanislaus Church in Nanticoke sponsored a dance with music provided by the Peerless Orchestra led by Samuel Oppenheim, a popular musician in Wyoming Valley.

The month of July saw a decided slowdown in the number of picnics and dances held at the Park. The reasons for this are not clear. There were just two events mentioned in the local papers: the Fourth of July celebration held by St. Michael's Church in Glen Lyon; and a moonlight dance "for the benefit of war sufferers."

Perhaps in response to this, on July 30, it was announced that dances would be held every Monday for the rest of the summer. A subscription dance was held on August 26, sponsored by "a number of prominent young men." A subscription dance is given for the same reason that any other dance is given--to be surrounded by one's friends, to enjoy music

and dancing, and generally to have a "good time." It is conducted very much on the order of a formal dance, except that it is semi-public and is usually held in a public hall. This dance was largely attended and music was provided by the Peerless Orchestra.

In August, an article appeared in the *Evening News* concerning the fare from Nanticoke to Wanamie on the trolley cars. The fare had been 10 cents for a number of years, and Wanamie residents sought to reduce the fare to 5 cents. As a consequence of competition from a new form of transportation, the auto bus, the People's Street Railway agreed to reduce the fare. There was one stipulation: "Notice [was] given that all those desiring to make use of the tennis courts at Kirmar Park must ride the street cars." The trolley system was attempting to protect its investment in the Park and keep the goodwill of the communities it served.

On August 27, a meeting was held at the Pavilion to organize a tennis club and arrange for tournaments to be played on the Kirmar courts. Men and women were invited to attend.

A picnic was sponsored by the Slovak Falcons Society and St. Joseph's Band of Nanticoke on Labor Day, September 6. As reported: "The committee in charge of the affair has left nothing undone in making the outing a big success. Music for dancing will be furnished by the above named band and it is expected that the picnic will be very largely attended." The following evening, a private party was held by Mrs. C.C. Rosser in honor of Mrs. Nettie Wood and son Kenneth of Philadelphia.

Occasional baseball games were still being played at Kirmar. On Wednesday September 8, the Glen Lyon Elk Juniors lost to the Nanticoke Indians by the score of 7 to 5. Among the players for the Juniors were: Staskiel, Riefski, Humphrey, Rogowicz, Figmic, Kaminski, and Riordan.

Basketball season was right around the corner. Coach Peter Turek of the Newport (Central) High School team held the first practice at the Pavilion on September 14. A number of "promising players" reported. The team would play their home games at Kirmar, with the first one scheduled around Thanksgiving. Manager of the team was Elsworth Coons and Dewey Phillips was elected captain. Members were: Elsworth Coons, center; Earl Smith and Jacob Swanberry, forwards; Edward Kielar (yes, Dr. Kielar) and Dewey Phillips, guards.

On Saturday September 18, the primary department of the English Baptist Church held an outing. The first of Saturday afternoon dances was held on September 25 and continued through the fall. The dances were under the direction of George Meyer of Nanticoke, "who has had experience in this kind of work and will make things interesting for the dancers." The Nanticoke basketball team in the State League was again managed by Charles "Pat" O'Brien and games would be played at Kirmar Park for the upcoming season. And Newport Township would be represented by the Newport Collegians in other amateur competitions, mostly played away from home. Two exceptions would be a game in December and one against Stroudsburg Normal on March 24, 1916.

On October 2, it was announced that gymnastics classes would be taught at Kirmar by Ruth Ann Robinson. "Free hand work and other



A Women's Gymnastic Class in 1915

healthful gymnastics will be introduced. Dancing lessons will also be given the children." Ruth Robinson also had charge of the YWCA classes in Wilkes-Barre. Beginning on Thursday October 12, two classes, one for the younger and one for the older people, were organized and were regularly attended. Among the skills taught were hand balancing acrobatics;

horizontal and parallel bars; flying rings, Indian club swinging (juggling); and tumbling. Classes were moved to Fridays and "some of the girls are taking advantage of the physical training class which is held at Kirmar Park."

Basketball season got underway on Monday October 4 with a game between the T.P. Jones team and Eyeopeners. The Eyeopeners won by the score of 18 to 14. "Nanticoke Night" was celebrated with a dance first on Tuesday October 12 and then on subsequent Monday

evenings. Couples were charged 25 cents and "extra lady," 10 cents. Attendance was not as expected. As reported on Tuesday October 19: "The music at these dances is alone worth the price of admission and there is no reason why there should not be more there next Monday evening than there has been in the past. The dance begins at 8 o'clock."

The Nanticoke basketball team in the State League held practices at Kirmar and "while none of the men have rounded into proper form so far, they have given a good account of themselves." A scrimmage at Carbondale was held on Saturday October 22. The Nanticoke High School team had tryouts at Kirmar on Thursday, October 28. Coach Schecterly held practices there as well. Another team made up of boys ranging from age 11 to 14 years organized under the name of the "Wanamie Juniors" and also practiced at Kirmar.

The Glen Lyon Beavers, a fraternal organization, planned a masquerade at Kirmar on Saturday October 30. "Every detail has been carefully looked after and the committee will [not] rest until everything for the success of the affair has been completed. There will be a grand march in which those wearing costumes are expected to participate. The course of march will make as number of fantastic figures. Prizes will be awarded to the person wearing the most elaborate costume and also [to] the person wearing the most ridiculous costume. Saturday evening is the night set aside for the celebration of Halloween in the Township and a large crowd is expected."

Workmen began erecting bleachers in the Pavilion in preparation for basketball season. By the beginning of November, the "cage" was also installed and with other improvements "this season will make Kirmar floor one of the best in this section of the state. Every requirement in accordance with basket ball [sic] rules will be observed to the letter and the arrangements for taking care of the fans will be all that is desired." In a subsequent article in the *Times Leader* it was noted; "The cage installed at Kirmar is one of the best and has baskets with glass backs so that the fans will be able to see a basket caged, no matter where they are seated. Additional seating capacity has been provided and Manager Warne of the People's Street Railway company, announces a fifteen minute schedule for the accommodation of the fans." It is likely that the cage remained in place when other events such as dances were held.

The second game of the season at Kirmar was on Monday November 15 between the Newport Five and the Pittston Orioles, with a second game at halftime between the Newport High School team and the Derr Memorial team of Wilkes-Barre, offering the first chance for fans to see the cage. As reported in the *Times Leader*, the Nanticoke team in the State League acquired two players: "Captain 'Lew' Wachter and 'Red' Leary, the giant center. The management realized that steps would have to be taken to strengthen the club, as it was far too weak to battle the other clubs of the circuit. Wachter and Leary are both reliable players who have had plenty of big league experience. They know basketball from every angle and they will doubtless mould [sic] the Nans into a pennant contender. Ray Schecterly, who is well known throughout this section, and Tierney, a former Stroudsburg Normal star, have also been signed. A number of Nanticoke and Newport Township boys have been tried out, among them being Ball, Semmers, Kemp, Schimmel, Thomas and Schappert. It is just possible that one of these fellows will make the other regular place."

An "Autumn Dance" was held on Tuesday, November 16. "A pleasant time is anticipated as every detail looking to that end has been worked out." The first State League game at Kirmar was on Thursday November 18 between Nanticoke and Carbondale. The Carbondale team was declared "an aggregation of players who have been cleaning up everything in sight. The Nanticoke team will be made up of new men this year with the exception of Schecterly. Two [New] York State League men, Wachter and Leary, have been signed and are expected to be the means of giving Nanticoke an entirely different variety of the favorite indoor sport. Schecterly, Schappert, Ball, and Tierney will complete the lineup. Nanticoke players will play in a cage on a home floor, but this should prove no handicap, as from the start, most league ball [is] played in that

## Greatest Songs & Tunes of 1915

Alabama Jubilee, sung by A Collins.  
Back To the Carolina You Love, sung by Al Jolson.  
Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers, sung by Al Jolson.  
Listen To The Mocking Bird, sung by Alma Gluck.  
The Old Folks At Home (Swanee River) sung by Alma Gluck.  
They All Had a Finger In The Pie On The 5 15.  
Those Charlie Chaplin Feet.



manner, as it is one of the regulations called for by the State League.” Admission was 25 cents for men and 15 cents for women. Nanticoke won the opener by the score of 29 to 18. It was estimated that 1,000 people attended. Peter Passes’ Italian Band paraded the streets and gave a concert before the game. Nanticoke had the lead all the way, the score being 20 to 8 at the half. Other teams in the League were Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Hazleton, Plymouth, Carbondale, Scranton, and Freeland. Nanticoke generally played host on Thursdays and other games were played variously on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, usually two or three games each week.

The second League game at Kirmar was between the Wilkes-Barre Barons (Keller’s Kids) and Nanticoke on Thanksgiving Day November 25. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*: “In a game marked by rough playing and an attendance that packed Kirmar Park at Nanticoke last night, Wilkes-Barre suffered defeat at the hands of O’Brien’s team by the score of 17 to 11. Twenty-nine fouls were called on Wilkes-Barre, the protests of the local boys being given no consideration. Neither team scored a field goal in the second half when trouble reached its height. McCarter (of the Wilkes-Barre team) and Wachter engaged in a short fistic encounter and Curlett (of the Wilkes-Barre team) endeavoring to restore order, was struck by Schecterly in a second. The fans had lifted the cage and rushed on the floor surrounding the players and further disorder [ensued]. Quiet was restored in a few minutes and the remainder of the game was played amidst much excitement.” In the *Evening News* it was described thus: “Numerous fouls were called on the Barons, McCarter seeming to be the chief offender against the rules. Some of the Barons, McCarter in particular, were carried away with the belief that they were being made the goat by the officials and rough house methods started. When McCarter and Wachter got a bit rough blows were exchanged. Curlett tried to interfere and the claim was made that Schecterly took a hand in the milling. Friends of ‘Shec’ and the player himself deny that he had any hand in the fracas. While the players were wrangling and mixing the crowd got busy, lifted the cage, and went out on the floor. This caused great disorder, but the floor was finally cleared and the game was finished.” About 1200 saw the game. Dancing followed.

It was found that more people showed up than could be accommodated at this game, so carpenters added 800 more seats in time for the next League game against Freeland on December 2. It was hinted that Nanticoke would be strengthened with a new player, and that would put a damper on Freeland’s quest for the pennant. Nanticoke “easily defeated Welsh’s team by the score of 28 to 18. Further evidence that the great indoor spot is popular in Nanticoke was given by the crowded hall, the newly erected bleachers being filled early in the evening. Of the three baskets made by Welsh two were of the sensational kind and were shot from the centre [sic] of the floor.”

On Friday evening, December 3, the Nanticoke sophomores defeated the freshmen by a score of 39 to 21. The following evening, Newport (Central) High hosted their “old rivals” Nanticoke High in a game. The gymnasium in the new Nanticoke High School was not yet completed, and when finished, it was expected that “the floor space [would be] the largest gym floor in the county and it is believed that fully 1,000 persons can witness games from the race track alone.” Nanticoke was victorious by the score of 14 to 11. Between the halves, a



second game between the Newport Collegians and the L.D.C. team of Wilkes-Barre was played. The Collegians overwhelmed the visitors with the score of 57 to 24. Admission was 10 cents.

Thursday December 9 brought Plymouth to town in a State League game. Nanticoke proved too much for Plymouth with the score of 22 to 11. As reported in the *Times Leader*: “The Plymouth boys had the better of the first half, being ahead at the close of that period by the score of 10 to 6. The Nans got going in the vesper period and piled up 16 points, while Plymouth was able to net but one foul goal. The crowd was of

fair size, there being several hundred Plymouth fans in attendance.”

On Saturday December 11, the Mercury A.C. second team played the Newport High team at Kirmar. The Mercury team won by the score of 23 to 16. Nanticoke played a game on December 15 in Carbondale. Scranton was up next at Kirmar the next night. “From most every angle the Lackawannaites [sic] look good. The locals are wise to this fact and have been doping out a few moves which they believe will tangle the wits as well as the feet of the upper enders. The splendid attendance at each game is the source of great satisfaction to the management and members.” The Scranton team was managed by Jimmy Kane. The pavilion was crowded and when the teams appeared for preliminary practice there was standing room only. Scranton was victorious by one point, 16 to 15, putting Nanticoke in fourth place with a 6 and 4 record.

The week before Christmas had the Nanticoke team playing three games: Wilkes-Barre on Tuesday, the 21st (a loss); Hazleton on Wednesday (a win); and Pittston coming to Kirmar on Thursday December 23rd. Pittston “will endeavor to get revenge on the Nans for the defeat suffered at the hands of the local boys on the Pittston floor some time ago.” Nanticoke won by the score of 20 to 11.

On Monday the 27th, Kingston, New York, the leaders in the [New] York State League, gave Nanticoke a run for their money at Kirmar. As reported, “Kingston’s style of play was somewhat different than the Nanticoke quintet has encountered this season and put O’Brien’s men off their feet in the early stages of the contest. Nanticoke did considerable fumbling and failed to connect at times when baskets appeared to be certain.” Nanticoke lost 22 to 14.

The following night saw a game between the Parsons Ex-High Team and the Newport Collegians. Hazleton came to town to play the Nans on Thursday December 30. Hazleton was looking to avenge the loss of the previous week. Jimmy Doyle from the Scranton team was a new player for the Nans and was expected to be in uniform and practice with the team. As reported in the *Times Leader*, “Vance, who it was first thought would be with the local team, has signed with Hazleton and may put in an appearance. Vance was left go by the local management for the reason that his playing with the locals would have made it necessary to let Wachter go, and as the local team could not afford to lose a man as valuable as Wachter, it was deemed best to transfer Vance to Hazleton and sign Doyle, who is not a former big leaguer. There will be a fifteen minute car service on the People’s street car line and dancing will follow the game.” Nanticoke won by the score of 22-13 without the services of Wachter on account of having a “poisoned” arm. When it was announced he wouldn’t be playing under doctor’s orders, a fan yelled, “Put that doctor in an insane asylum!” It was estimated that over 1100 fans attended the game. As reported, “There were ladies present and gentlemen do not smoke in the presence of ladies. For others there is a sign above the entrance. The others should also remember that the smoky atmosphere is hard on the wind of the players.” Nanticoke was in second place with a 9 and 5 record. Freeland was in first with an 8 and 4 record.

The last game of 1915 at Kirmar was the Nanticoke High School team playing the “Bucknellians” on New Year’s Eve. The Bucknellians were local boys who were students at Bucknell University in Lewisburg. The results of the game were not found.

The war in Europe continued. The British and French undertook a series of unsuccessful attacks against the Germans on the Western Front. Apart from their one offensive at Ypres in April, the Germans spent most of the year on the defensive. But for both sides it was a tough learning experience. The battles of 1915 showed both the Allies and the Germans how difficult it was to break through on the Western Front. In most battles, the British and French had around a three-to-one superiority in men and artillery. But, although the German defenders gave ground, they did not break and were often able to retake some of their lost positions. Both sides drew lessons from this, the results of which would be demonstrated in the huge attritional struggles of the following year.

To be continued....

Sources: *Wikipedia.com*; *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; *Wilkes-Barre Record*; *The Evening News*; *newspapers.com*; *The Library of Congress*; *various websites*

To collect photographs is to collect the world. ~ Susan Sontag

## Science of the Atomic Bomb

By Paul Jarecki and John Jarecki ~The movie *Oppenheimer* which opened in theaters last summer, portrayed the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, who was Director of the Los Alamos Laboratory near Santa Fe, New Mexico, where during World War II some of the most prominent scientists of the time led the effort to build the first atomic bomb. The movie, which received the Golden Globe Award and the Academy Award for Best Picture, dealt with Oppenheimer's scientific work, his political interests, friendships, romantic attachments, and how these complex factors and his efforts to minimize the danger of the nuclear weapons he had helped create, led to his conflict with opponents in the Washington government establishment.

In the film, one part of the story has been neglected, an explanation of how the atomic bomb works. A short answer to this question is that the nuclei (centers) of atoms of certain radioactive materials, such as uranium or plutonium, can interact in a process called a chain reaction, releasing a good deal of energy. If there is a critical minimum mass of this material in a small space, this chain reaction will occur very quickly, with increasing speed as it proceeds, and finally releasing a great amount of energy in the form of heat, light, pressure, and radiation, in other words an explosion.

An atomic bomb is a device that brings together, in a short period of time, a critical mass of these radioactive materials, resulting in a very destructive explosion. We can also look at this process in a little more detail. Here are some brief definitions and explanations:

**Atoms.** All materials around us in everyday life are composed of atoms, which in turn are made up of elementary particles: protons having a positive electrical charge, neutrons having no charge, and electrons having a negative charge. An atom consists of a nucleus (center), made up of protons and neutrons, and a cloud of electrons orbiting around the nucleus.

**Element.** An element is a material, such as the oxygen in the air, the iron in tools, and aluminum in various consumer items, in which all of its atoms have the same number of protons. The atoms of an element may, however, differ in their number of neutrons. Such variants are called isotopes and are labeled by the number of protons plus neutrons in their nuclei. For example, the uranium isotope used in the atomic bomb is uranium 235 and the plutonium isotope used is plutonium 239.

**Stable and Unstable Atoms.** The nuclei of atoms in most of the materials we encounter in everyday life, such as the oxygen, iron, and aluminum, are stable, that is bound together strongly enough that they do not normally change in any way. Others, such as those of uranium and plutonium are unstable and radioactive in that they may emit neutrons and protons or even split into two smaller nuclei, and in this way change into nuclei of different elements.

**Nuclear Fission.** When free neutrons strike and are absorbed by the nuclei of such radioactive elements as uranium and plutonium, the nuclei of these elements can split into two fragments and emit energy and usually two or more neutrons. This is called fission. If these fission-produced neutrons in turn strike other radioactive nuclei and cause them to fission, this is called a chain reaction. The number of split nuclei and emitted neutrons produced, and the amount of energy released increases as the reaction goes on.

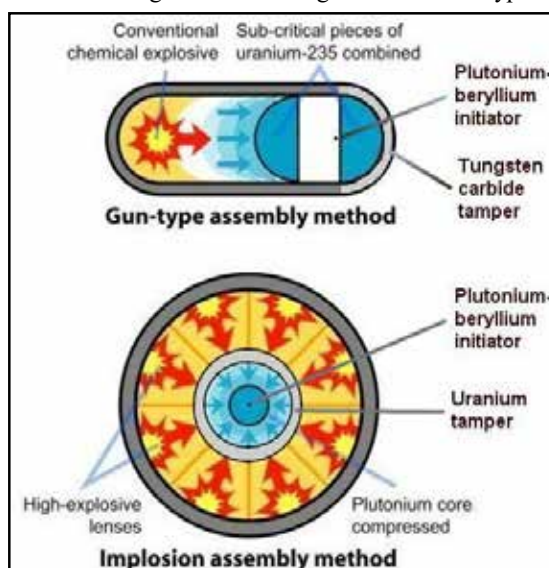
**Critical Mass.** The minimum mass of radioactive material needed for a chain reaction to continue is called the critical mass. Its value depends on a number of factors, such as whether or not the radioactive material is surrounded by a material called a tamper that reflects neutrons back into the radioactive material. For uranium, the critical mass is on the order of 10-100 pounds. For plutonium, it is on the order of 10 pounds.

**Fission Weapon.** The atomic bomb is mainly a mechanism that brings together, in a very short time, a critical mass of uranium or plutonium, which sustains a fission chain reaction that releases a great deal of energy creating an explosion. There are additional features that ensure that the chain reaction will perform well. There is an initiator that injects a number of neutrons into the radioactive material at the beginning of the chain reaction to make sure that the reaction starts on time. There is also a tamper around the radioactive material to reflect neutrons back into the chain reaction where they will contribute to the final result.

The first atomic bomb was built during World War II by a top secret Federal Government development effort called the Manhattan 21

Project. The Government began the project because of the fear that Nazi Germany would be the first to build such a bomb. The project involved large facilities in different parts of the country that produced the needed quantities of uranium 235 and plutonium 239. And, as mentioned above, it involved a group of prominent scientists leading the Los Alamos Laboratory staff in designing and building the bomb itself.

After a great deal of both experimental and theoretical work, these scientists decided on two final bomb designs, a simpler one for the uranium 235 bomb and a more complex one for the plutonium 239 bomb. The uranium device consisted of a gun that propelled one subcritical mass of uranium 235 into another subcritical mass of uranium 235, in this way making a single critical mass. There was also an initiator (polonium-beryllium) to ensure that there were neutrons available at the beginning of the chain reaction and a tamper (tungsten-carbide) to reflect neutrons back into the critical mass of uranium. The accompanying graphic shows a schematic diagram of this design labeled Gun-Type Assembly Method.



In designing the plutonium bomb, the scientists found that the plutonium 239 was more unstable than uranium, and that therefore if the subcritical masses of plutonium were not brought together quicker than in the uranium bomb, stray neutrons could cause the chain reaction to begin too soon, reducing the final explosive power of the bomb. They therefore chose a faster means of

bringing together a critical mass: they designed a device that would compress a subcritical spherical mass of plutonium into a smaller critical mass. They did this by placing a complex array of high explosives around all sides of the plutonium sphere. Detonation of these explosives formed a shock wave moving inward toward the center of the bomb compressing the plutonium. This method of detonation was called implosion because of the inward moving explosion. There was also an initiator (polonium-beryllium) and a tamper (uranium) as in the uranium bomb. The accompanying graphic shows a schematic diagram of this design labeled Implosion Assembly Method. The uranium bomb was called Little Boy and the plutonium bomb, which was round and fat, was called Fat Man.

On July 16, 1944 the scientists of the Los Alamos Laboratory conducted a test of the implosion device at a desert site about a hundred miles south of Albuquerque in the Jornada del Muerto Basin. The scientists, watching from about six miles away, saw an incredibly bright flash of light followed by a enormous ball of fire that kept growing and rising from the desert floor and turning yellow, green, and scarlet in color. It was unsettling and menacing.

A more direct indication of the destructive and horrific power that this bomb brought into the world occurred about a month later on August 6 when the military dropped the uranium bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. An estimated 200,000 people, mostly civilians, died either immediately by the force of the explosion or within 5 years by exposure to the bomb's radiation.

On the day of the July 16 New Mexico test, Oppenheimer was well aware of the future consequences of developing the bomb. After the test was completed, he remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita, in which the god Vishnu says "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

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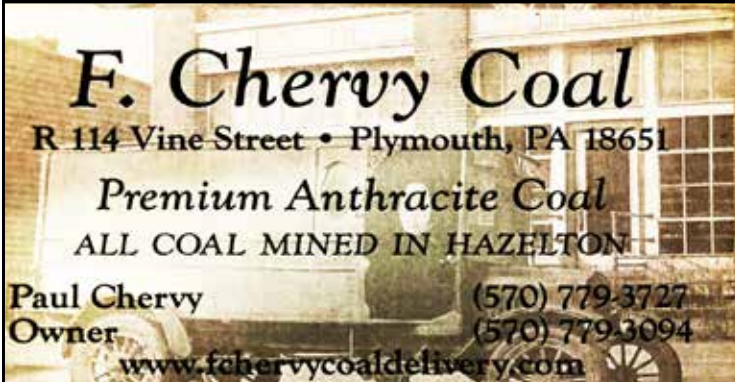




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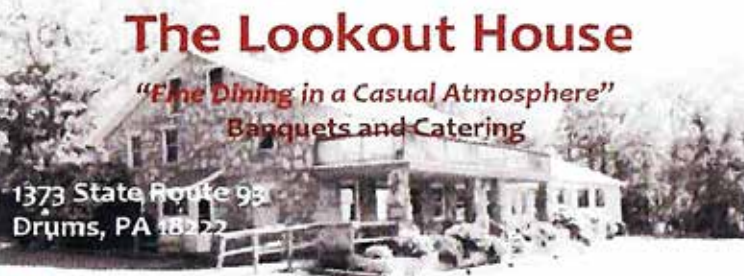
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### ATTENTION NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

This is a gentle reminder to keep your subscriptions current. The cost of mailing the newsletters has risen through the years and it has become more difficult for the NTCO to absorb the cost of unpaid subscriptions. Any donations will be gladly accepted. Please make your checks out to the NTCO. Thank you!

Editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki



### NTCO NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

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

- \$30.00 One-tenth-page or Business Card Size Ad
- \$50.00 Quarter-page Size Ad
- \$85.00 One-half-page Size Ad
- \$150.00 Full-page Size Ad

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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### 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](mailto:hselecky@pa.metrocast.net)

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

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### The Floryshak Family Glen Lyon Community Grant To Be Offered for the 2023-2024 School Year

This award will provide financial assistance in the form of a \$2,000 grant for help with the recipient's educational expenses to an accredited institution. The institution can be a 4 year, 2 year, or vocational program. The recipient must be a graduating senior student at Greater Nanticoke Area High School and will be selected based on positive community involvement as well as school and extracurricular activities. The donors of the award are Vincent Floryshak and Diane Grudkowski Floryshak, 1971 graduates of Nanticoke Area High School, and is given to honor the Floryshak Family.

Recipient selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Current residency of three years or more in Glen Lyon.
2. Documented participation in community service to either the high school or local area, e.g.- food banks, service organizations, religious group involvement, first responder assistance, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, Student Council, etc. There are many other examples.
3. Sports involvement with the High School. Two years varsity activity with any sport, band participation, or cheerleading/pep squad membership. Medical waivers are possible.
4. An up-to-one page essay on how you would further help the Glen Lyon community "if you became Mayor today."
5. Letters of recommendation from one teacher and from one community leader.
6. Copy of high school transcript. This grant is heavily based on community involvement, not on GPA.

A formal application is available in the High School guidance office for all interested applicants. The grant recipient will be announced at the school Awards Day program. The grant money will be sent to the recipient's school's financial office.

### 250th Anniversary T-shirts Still Available

In commemoration of the **Township's 250th Anniversary**, the NTCO is offering T-shirts. The design is copied from the three banners recently installed in the Township. With a donation of \$15.00, it will be yours! Limited availability in sizes S (2), M (1), XL (4), 2XL (1), and 3XL (7). Contact Heidi Jarecki at 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon or call 570-733-2540. Add \$6.00 for mailing. Thanks!

### 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 distributions take place in the Municipal Garage adjacent to the Municipal Building on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie. All recipients must pre-register at least five days before the event.

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

### 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)



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~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky