

"Is not this a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love—that makes life and nature harmonize." George Eliot



Fall Scene from Holy Spirit Parish Center in Glen Lyon

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following is an account of Newport Township public business arranged in two parts. The first is a discussion of continuing projects and the second a discussion of items commented on or acted on by the Township Commissioners at their monthly meetings in July, August, and September 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. The Council has for some time been considering 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. In November 2023, Benesch Engineering consulting firm gave the County 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 full replacement of the bridge.

On January 23, 2024, Commissioner John Zyla, Township Manager

Joe Hillan, Nanticoke Fire Chief Mark Boncal, and Gail Conrad (Adviser to the Plymouth Township Supervisors) attended a meeting of the Luzerne County Council to express their opinion that complete replacement of the bridge, in order to accommodate more traffic, is the only way that this project will give access to the Lower South Valley for future economic and residential development.

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.

In April 2024 Luzerne County received an additional \$10 million in federal funding for the bridge through the State's Transportation Improvement Program. In order to use (Continued on next page)

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Sewer Authority, Township Improvements p. 7; LCTA Changes p.8; Flora & Fauna p. 9; Events p. 10; Caregivers p. 11; Obituaries p. 12-13;

Kirmar Park p. 14-17; Events p. 18; Zev Zawacki p. 19; Ad p. 20; National Night Out p. 21; Ads p. 22-23; NTCO p. 24.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5

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the additional funding the County must conduct the project through the Engineering and Construction Management System of the State's Department of Transportation (PennDot). And to comply with PennDot's process, the county may not use the Benesch recommendation as the basis for the project. Instead, the county must now solicit and review letters of interest from three engineering firms. On Tuesday August 13, 2024, the Council approved a resolution that puts the project into the PennDot's Engineering and Construction Management System.

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 2022 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. Smart Recycling completed the demolition in March 2024. In the spring of 2024 the Lower South Valley Land Bank had a contractor secure the building at 48 Newport Street in Glen Lyon.

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 \$565,960 grant from Luzerne County's Community Development Office.

In September 2023, the Commissioners awarded a contract to low bidder Pennsy Supply, at a cost of \$231,416.35, to pave selected streets in Newport Township with funds from the Luzerne County Community Development Office that were left from the grant used earlier in the year to pave Vandermark Road in Wanamie and Newport Street in Glen Lyon.

In May 2024 Pennsy Supply completed paving the following streets: in Sheatown, Logan Street, Fair Street, Fair Lane, Woodbridge Drive, Stoney Lane; in Glen Lyon, Church Street, Rock Street, Coal Street from Spring to East Main Street. Part of Center Street in Wanamie was completed in June.

In July 2024 the Commissioners authorized Township Manager Joe Hillan to submit an application for a grant of \$766,678.99 for paving James and Mark Streets and Vista and Overlook Drives in Ridgeview under the Multimodal Transportation Fund of the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

In August 2024 the Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD) notified the Township that it will make available \$183,791.00 for paving several Glen Lyon streets, Water Street, North Market Street, and Railroad Street from North Market to Depot Street, and for construction of wheelchair ramps at intersections in the area. The wheelchair ramps are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Recreation Park Improvement Project: In March 2023 Luzerne County informed the Township that it had received an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant of \$395,738.50 to renovate the Wanamie Recreation Park by doing the following work: restoration of storage facilities, restoration of rest rooms, paving the parking lot and walking trail, and restoration of the pavilions. In August 2023 the project of rebuilding the basketball and tennis courts was completed using Covid relief funds. By the end of November 2023 the renovation of the restroom/storage facilities and pavilions was completed, and in May 2024 paving of the parking lot and walking trail began. By July the renovation project was complete and on July 29, Luzerne County officials toured the Park to review the improvements. In September 2024, Commissioner John Vishnefski reported that the Township has received benches that are to be placed in the area around the tennis-pickle ball courts.

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 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.

July 1, 2024: Residents' Comments: A resident who is a Boy Scout asked the Commissioners for permission to construct and install multiple benches along the walking trail in the Wanamie Recreation Park as a service project, which would meet one of the requirements for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. The Commissioners approved his request.

Meeting Business: Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that Township income for the first six months of 2024 was \$1,395,913.02 and expenditures were \$1,369,942.51.

The Commissioners approved amending Resolution #19 of 2023 accepting the dedication from Marcella Sedor Kelly of Judith Creek Drive and Marie Drive in Alden for use as public roads.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #6 of 2024 authorizing Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply to the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund for a \$766,678.99 grant for paving James and Mark Streets and Vista and Overlook Drives in Ridgeview.

The Commissioners approved a motion to hire Brian Mandeck as part time Fire Apparatus Driver. Commissioner Mike Roke who oversees the Fire Department said that Mr. Mandeck is a very knowledgeable fireman from the Hazleton area. The Township has asked him to come here to train our young firefighters and is lucky to employ him.

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

1) Penn Eastern Engineering is developing cost estimates for repaving James and Mark Streets and Vista and Overlook Drives. These estimates will be used to apply for the above mentioned DCED Multimodal Transportation grant.

August 5, 2024: Residents' Comments: A resident said she was concerned about flooding from recent heavy rains in the Depot and Market Street areas in Glen Lyon.

Meeting Business: The Commissioners approved Resolution #8 of 2024 authorizing the Township to acquire a Pierce Pumper fire truck and other related equipment at a cost of \$203,639 by means of a lease-purchase agreement.

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

1) Magistrate Donald Whitaker has scheduled 25 hearings on September 13 for residents who failed to pay the refuse and recycling fee. The collection rate for this fee is 99% for 2024.

2) Computer Visionaries Inc (CVI) has installed security cameras at the Wanamie Recreation Park.

September 3, 2023: Meeting Business: The Commissioners approved Resolutions 9 through 12 of 2024, which authorized Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply for Local Share Grants (LSA) gaming grants as follows: a grant of \$257,126.10 to repair four roadways in Newport Township (two alleys in Glen Lyon and two in Sheatown); a grant of \$73,205.00 to replace concrete sidewalks between West Enterprise Street and Water Street in Glen Lyon; a grant of \$261,191.70 to complete installation of sidewalks on Main Street in Glen Lyon; and a grant not to exceed \$150,000 to install playground equipment on property located at the corner of Stralka Lane and Railroad Street in Glen Lyon.

The Commissioners voted to hire Dave Roberts as a part time fire apparatus driver.

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

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- 1) The Township has determined the minimum municipal obligations (MMO's) for the Township's three pension plans as required under Pennsylvania Law. For the Police, the amount is \$70,674.50; for the non-uniform employees, it is \$27,290.05; and for the firefighters, it is \$0.00. A minimum municipal obligation (MMO) is the state-mandated smallest amount a municipality must contribute to any pension plan established for its employees.
- 2) There will be a meeting on September 6 at 1:00 pm to open bids for the Glen Lyon Paving Project, of North Market Street, Water Street, 200 feet of Railroad Street, and wheelchair ramps at intersections in the area. The wheelchair ramps are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 3) At the same September 6 meeting, the Township will open bids for the demolition of a structure at 48 Newport Street and the garage at 69-71 West Main Street, both in Glen Lyon. Demolition will hopefully begin in September once quiet titles are received for these properties. (A quiet title action is a legal action that is intended to clarify ownership of a given property.)

NTCO President's Report

By Stephen Phillips ~ As noted in previous editions of this Publication, the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) deeply appreciates all contributions to assist in underwriting this Organization's charitable community-related activities, including aiding in paying for the cost of this Newsletter. Therefore, we are again pleased to acknowledge the names of those individuals or entities which have been instrumental in insuring that the concerted efforts of a small committed group of individuals can continue. We thank Marge Forgach, Carol Krushefski, Andrea Selecky, Bob Klish, Ted and Marilyn Evan, Juliana Semple, Gerald Formulak, Donna Wilkins, John Paul Martin, and Elaine and Bob Deluca for their monetary donations.

The NTCO as well as its sister volunteer groups continue to depend on the commitment of their dedicated volunteers and monetary donations from their supporters. We continue to urge out readers to maintain their financial support and to also strongly consider joining one or more of these bodies. We also express our gratitude to our Newsletter advertisers for their support and encourage other businesses to participate.

Since its inception in 2004, the NTCO has striven to be an asset to the Township and its elected officials. Recently this Group had the opportunity to join with the Township's Board of Commissioners and members from Luzerne County Council to tour the Municipality's Recreation Park and view the numerous improvements recently completed with funding channeled through the County officials. In addition, Commissioner John Zyla had those on this tour view the vast acreage on River [Retreat] Mountain which would be available in future years to support industrial, commercial and recreational activities, all of which have the potential to substantially increase revenue to all three of the local taxing bodies: the Township, the School District, and the County. Construction of the proposed new bridge connecting Nanticoke with Plymouth Township is one key element in helping to insure that this potential development can occur. We have previously alluded to the fact that in order for a community to provide its various municipal services expected and required by its citizens, a continued expanding tax base is an integral element. Communities that fail to progress can generally be expected to regress. That is why the NTCO continues to work with our local officials to insure the proposed bridge project becomes a reality. Conversations with major development entities indicate that a new bridge is a critical element for the positive potential utilization of this vast acreage. We continue to encourage citizen involvement in the Township's current activities and future proposed endeavors. An informed electorate is a key element in insuring the success of a governmental unit at all levels. You are encouraged to not just sit back and complain, but rather become engaged and become an advocate for positive change. Remember, "Ignorance is not really bliss," contrary to what many may believe.

Your NTCO is currently discussing the creation of a monument to celebrate our beloved Township's 250th Anniversary.

We underwrote the cost of several banners in 2023 which marked the 250 years of the Township's establishment. Currently we are considering a more permanent method to memorialize this event. Stay tuned for further developments.

We wish to acknowledge the Township Crime Watch's celebration of August's National Night Out. The Organization and its committed group of members and other dedicated volunteers continue to make this annual event one of the Township's major yearly events. Kudos to President Amy Saraka and her key workers for their dedication and commitment to insure this activity is successful on a yearly basis. (Please see page 21.)

NTCO's sponsorship of the food distributions continues to be successful. There are about 175 bags of food and other ancillary products handed out on a monthly basis. With the increase of food distribution sites throughout the area, we are now limiting the eligible recipients to residents of Newport Township. The program's coordinator Palmira Miller and her group of dedicated volunteers should be acknowledged for their commitment to this worthwhile endeavor.

Continue to be proud of Newport and make Newport proud of you.



Newport Township Crime Watch

At the August 15 meeting of the Newport Township Crime Watch, members participated in a drone demonstration by Neil Murphy. Neil is a detective with the Crimes Against Children Taskforce in the Luzerne County's District Attorney's Office. Training is highly technical and requirements include obtaining a remote pilot's certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration.



NTCO Celebrates 20 Years

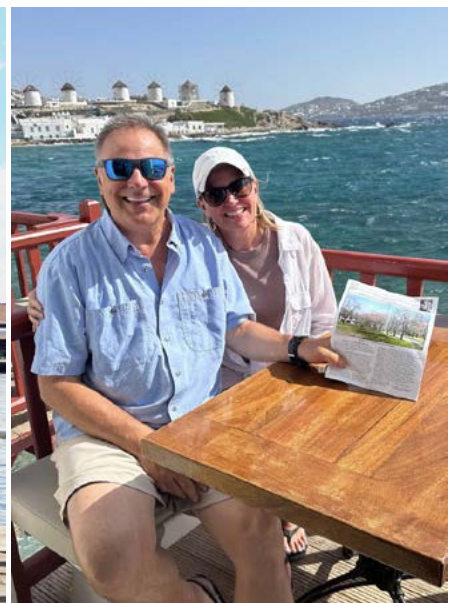
The Newport Township Community Organization celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. At its origins was a request from the Newport Board of Commissioners that residents provide suggestions to help improve the Community's overall quality of life. A small but committed group of citizens formed the NTCO and took on such activities as big junk drop-offs, a metal recycling program, litter cleanups of Township roads, a Fall Festival, a Christmas Decoration contest, Summer Fun programs for children, sponsorship of Little League teams, documentation and removal of illegal dumpsites, a Food Distribution program for those in need, monetary donations to sister organizations, assistance to victims of house fires, citizenship awards, and this nationally recognized Newsletter. It has held meetings at the American Legion and the former St. Denis Church in Glen Lyon. Meetings are now held at the Township Municipal Building on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm. Steve Phillips, Tom Kashatus, and Palmira Miller have served as President and Steve continues in that role today. The NTCO invites residents to join and help make life in the Township as good as it can be!



The Newport Township Women’s Activity Group celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a dinner at the R-Bar in Alden on June 22. The Group has been providing activities for children, such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Halloween Parade/Trunk or Treat, and Santa’s Visit on the Fire Truck. They also distribute back packs filled with school supplies. Congratulations on this milestone!



Mountaintop Top Kids Summer Camp spent a day at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Mountain Top Kids is a child day care facility with two locations in the Crestwood School District. The pickle ball, tennis, and basketball courts were utilized as well as the playground.



Have Newsletter Will Travel! Pictured are Gerry and Cynthia Formulak reading the *Community News* on their cruise of the Hawaiian Islands, here the island of Kauai. On a recent visit to the Netherlands, John and Christobel Selecky enjoyed catching up on local news by reading the award-winning digital version. At right are Rick and Karen Borofski touring Turkey and the Greek islands of Santorini, Mykonos and Rhodes. The picture was taken at a restaurant in Mykonos, Greece. Gerry, John, and Rick all grew up in Glen Lyon. Where will the Newsletter turn up next?



On July 29, several **Luzerne County Council** members traveled to Newport Township and presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$395,738. The funds were used for improvements to the Wanamie Recreation Park, including resurfacing of the tennis, basketball and pickleball courts, and renovating the pavilions and restrooms. The funding came from the American Rescue Plan Act. Shown l to r front row: Township Authority Member Ron Jones, Township Commissioner Jack Vishnefski; County Council Chairman John Lombardo; Township Commissioner John Zyla; County Council members Jimmy Sabatino and LeeAnn McDermott; and Township Manager Joseph Hillan. At rear are: Township Authority Member Steve Phillips; Township Commissioner Mike Roke; County Council Vice Chairman Brian Thornton; Township Commissioner Deborah Zaleski; and County Council member Gregory Wolovich Jr. A tour of the Park followed.

Attention Residents!

Beginning in January 2025 residents can no longer place glass in their recycling containers for pick up at the curb. Glass can be dropped off at the dumpster provided at the Municipal Building parking area. This change in the recycling program is a result of a state requirement with the 902 Grant that the Township has applied for to cover the cost of the recently purchased recycling packer truck. Thank you for your cooperation.

Joseph Hillan
Township Manager



Township's New Fire Truck Inches Closer to Delivery

Newport Township's new fire truck is being built at the Pierce Manufacturing Company in Bradenton, Florida. The company extended an invitation to the Fire Department for a tour of the plant and an inspection of the truck on July 9. Pictured left to right in front of the truck and with the Newsletter are: Fire Chief Jim Hoffman, Fire Commissioner Mike Roke, Kyle Gruber, Brian Mandack, Company Representative Dave Roberts, and Peter Selecky. Peter is a former Newport Township resident and volunteer fire fighter and is now a resident of Bradenton. Jim and Kyle were offered a test drive and found the truck to their satisfaction. The truck will be transported to Pennsylvania for additional enhancements before delivery to Wanamie. Delivery is expected this fall. Major funding for the new truck comes from a grant from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Township's Fire Department is made up of volunteers from the Glen Lyon-Alden Fire Company, the Newport Township Consolidated Fire Company, and the Newport Township Fire Police. Donations are welcome.



Eagle Scout Project

At the July meeting of the Township Commissioners, Boy Scout Joseph Holocheck, a resident of the Township, presented a plan to build and install benches at strategic intervals around the walking trail in the Wanamie Recreation Park. This project would partially fulfill requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. The Commissioners enthusiastically gave their approval.

Pictured above are: standing, Township Manager Joe Hillan, and Scout Joseph Holocheck.

Sitting are: Commissioners John Zyla, Paul Czapracki, Jack Vishnefski and Debbie Zaleski.



Newport High School Class of 1967 celebrated their 75th birthday with a party at the Italian Club on June 29. Pictured standing are: Paul Jarecki, Barbara Gizara Pelak, Mike Mihneski, Harriet Felici Ketcham, Trudy Matikiewicz Knorr. Sitting: Bonnie Cooney Lazar, Jane Kruczek Strzelecki, Heidi Selecky Jarecki, Charlotte Sopka Santry, Chet Mierzwa.



St. Faustina Parish in Nanticoke held their annual picnic at their Grove in Sheatown on June 21 and 22. Those who attended enjoyed live music, children's games, and a variety of ethnic food.



Holy Spirit Parish said goodbye to retiring pastor **Rev. Louis Kaminski** at a farewell party at the Falcon's Hall in Mocanaqua on June 19.



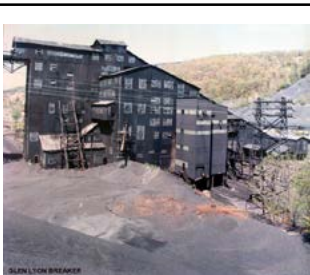
Holy Spirit Parish sponsored a six-mile **Pilgrimage** from Mocanaqua to Glen Lyon on July 13 led by Raphael Mica. About forty people participated. Prayers were recited and songs sung along the way.



Resurfacing of the Wanamie Straightaway from Glen Lyon to Sheatown by **PennDOT** began in August. Work has also begun on Center Street in Wanamie. Residents are asked to be aware of changes in traffic patterns until the projects are completed.



Once again, **Tarnowski's Kielbasa** was the winner of the annual Kielbasa Festival contest held in Plymouth on August 9 and 10. Shown are proprietors John and Anastasia Vishnefski. John grew up in Wanamie.



50th Anniversary of the Glen Lyon Breaker Fire

Fifty years ago on Halloween Night, Susquehanna Breaker #6 located on Main Street in Glen Lyon was destroyed in a spectacular fire that smoldered for weeks. Flames could be seen for miles around. There was much controversy and speculation about how the fire started. In 1974, it was one of the last remaining breakers in

Northeastern Pennsylvania. Pollock Apartments now occupy the site. The breaker went into full operation in 1887. Please see Newsletters #39, Fall 2014, p. 18 and #58, Fall 2019, p. 18 for previous anniversary commemorative articles.

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Plymouth Alive 2024
 1st Place 2016, 2021, 2023
 Best Fresh Kielbasa
John & Anastasia Vishnefski

Sale of the Newport Township Sewer Authority: My Opinion

By *Tom Kashatus* ~ Many thanks to reporter Bob Kalinowski for his recent article in the *Citizen's Voice* bringing attention to the public of the proposed sale of the Newport Township Sewer Authority (NTSA) to the Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority (WVSA).

The NTSA services Glen Lyon, Wanamie, Alden, Newport Center, Sheatown, Ridgeview, and a few properties on the Nanticoke side of the boundary line. The Newport Township Board of Commissioners have appointed the NTSA Board of Directors to operate the Authority, by charter, for a definite period of time. The current termination date of the charter is February 5, 2025. The NTSA and its property can become especially vulnerable when this document reaches its termination date and no extension is approved by the commissioners. The Municipality can then sell the assets at any time without any consensus from the NTSA board members.

The board members and staff are all Newport Township residents and their diversity of occupations couldn't be better. To the credit of our commissioners' appointments over the years, the NTSA, both board members and staff, have done a most favorable and effective job in its operation of the Authority. They have kept its rates reasonable and consistent and have completed upgrades necessary to meet current standards.

My conclusion from attending recent NTSA meetings is that the NTSA board members wish to continue with their current responsibility; however, it appears that Newport Township and the WVSA continue to negotiate and progress toward divestiture without much transparency to the public or the NTSA.

The NTSA Board of Directors consists of local long-time-residents as members, and the Authority hires local residents as employees and local contractors to do necessary contractual work. Upgrades by the Authority for future improvements have been discussed and determined; however, funds cannot be borrowed without a charter extension, at least for the time period in conjunction with the length of this document. It is noted that the NTSA Board has been very cooperative furnishing statistics and requested information to the Township Manager whenever needed during this anticipated sale.

It is felt that the importance of the NTSA to the residents of Newport Township and the value of its property would warrant full transparency of discussions and negotiations. It is recommended that public hearings be held for the benefit of residents and ratepayers who will be affected by any changes in the end. It might even be a good idea for this projected sale to be a public ballot issue during a primary or general election.



Shown moving slowly but progressively in the eastward lane towards Glen Lyon past the big curve in Lee are the crew and equipment of Pikes Creek Paving laying a coat of asphalt.

Resurfacing the Glen Lyon-Mocanaqua Highway

By *Tom Kashatus* ~ For the longest time, whether in public forums or talk in bars, after church, or at the grocery store, the highway between Glen Lyon and especially, Lee to Mocanaqua has been a topic of conversation regarding its horrible condition. Being just a rough-as-could-be road, when a commuter negotiates slow and careful travel dodging pot holes on this highway, it allows for a disgusting and memorable trip to one's destination. For Glen Lyon travelers, it got to the point where travel to Mocanaqua, Shickshinny, Wapwallopen, Berwick, and beyond would be more convenient, comfortable, and appropriate by going to Nanticoke and down Route 11 to get to those destinations.

Recently, against my better judgement, I took the "Moc" Highway to deliver some NTCO newsletters to Slice of Heaven Pizza in Mocanaqua and the Luzerne County High-Rise in Shickshinny after work hours. I noticed that a portion of the straight-away was paved. I thought to myself, "Maybe this is it – the time has come that PennDOT is going to pave the entire road to Glen Lyon." By the next day, I was convinced that this was the case, and within two weeks the entire road was paved and shoulders restored from Moc through Lee to the top of Seven Shaft Hill in Glen Lyon. When the job was completed, the trip from Glen Lyon to Moc was better than a super highway. I was excited to the point where I just had to take some pictures of the work being done and report it to the office of our State Representative Alec Ryncavage. So many times at forums and events, he was asked to help get the road in shape for travel by local residents.

Rep. Ryncavage stated, "Since being elected, paving State Road 3004-Glen Lyon through Lee to Mocanaqua – has been my top priority. Time and again residents from this area have reached out to me and my office urging us to push PennDOT for the paving of this vital roadway. As elected state officials, it is our duty to be the eyes and ears of our districts, particularly when dealing with large organizations like PennDOT. The Glen Lyon to Moc highway falls under PennDOT's District #4 which entails Luzerne, Lackawana, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties. In this region PennDOT is tasked with maintaining a vast transportation network – 3,932 road miles and 2,090 bridges. Ensuring that the public's voices are heard by PennDOT's decision-makers is a crucial part of an elected official's job.

"The paving of this important highway in our community is a significant victory for this year. However, our work is far from over as we must focus on Center Street in Wanamie which needs serious attention, as does Old Newport Street from Sheatown to Wanamie thereafter."

Election Day Hoagie Sale sponsored by the **Altar and Rosary Society** at St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon will take place on November 5. Choose between Italian and turkey hoagies. Cost is \$8.00 each. Delivery is available. Call Carol at 570-736-7149 to place your order. Thank you for your support!



The **Newport Township Women's Activity Group** will hold its **Fall Bingo** on Sunday October 20 at St. Adalbert's Church Hall in Glen Lyon. Doors open at 12 noon, with play beginning at 1:00.

There will be no Trunk or Treat event this year, due to Halloween falling on Thursday. The Group will participate in the Haunted Hall at the American Legion on Halloween night.

Come one, come all to the **Haunted Hall** at the **American Legion** on Newport Street in Glen Lyon Halloween Night

Guaranteed you will be spooked!
Treats for all!

Children and parents are welcome!
Doors open from 6 pm until 9 pm



Luzerne County Transportation Authority Gives Presentation on New Public Transportation System in Newport Township

By John Jarecki ~ Robert J. Fiume, Executive Director of the Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA), accompanied by assistants Gretchen Wintermantel, Kathy Bednarek, and Joe Roselle, gave a presentation at the August 5 Newport Township Commissioners' Meeting on their plans to restructure public transportation in the Township.

Their plan, projected to be put into effect in October or early November, is to eliminate scheduled bus service to Newport Township and replace it with on-demand van service both within the Township and to and from Nanticoke, where patrons can make a connection with scheduled buses that will take them to or from other locations served by the LCTA.

The van service would work in the following way: a person in the Township needing public transportation to another point in the Township, or to connect with bus service in Nanticoke, would arrange for a pickup time and place either by phoning the LCTA or by using an LCTA app on his or her cell phones. The patron (for example a woman) could do this either before her desired pickup time or at the time she needs the service. The van would then pick her up at a designated pickup point, such as a corner near her home, and take her to her chosen destination. A person needing transportation from a Nanticoke bus drop-off point to a location in Newport Township would also be able to arrange for van service in the same way.

The LCTA is making these changes because of low ridership in the Newport area. Under this plan, in which vans are used instead of buses, Newport would be what the LCTA calls a "microtransit zone." The Township will be one of three microtransit zones in Luzerne County. A second one would serve the Hanover Industrial Park, Ashley, Sugar



LCTA Presenters at the Newport Township Commissioners' Meeting on August 5, 2024, from left: Gretchen Wintermantel, Communications Director; Robert J. Fiume, Executive Director; Kathy Bednarek, Grant Coordinator; and Joe Roselle, Director of Administrative Services.

Notch, and Warrior Run, and the third would serve the CenterPoint Commerce Trade Park near Pittston, Avoca, Dupont, West Pittston, and the Avoca Airport.

The LCTA plans to extend the hours of both scheduled bus service to Nanticoke and shuttle service in Newport Township to 10:30 pm.



Valley With a Heart

Valley With a Heart held its 23rd annual motorcycle ride and picnic on Sunday, September 1 at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown. The event featured live music, basket raffles, children's games, food, and fireworks. Each year the group raises money to help families with seriously ill children by providing assistance for such things as medicine, co-payments required for hospital and doctors visits, and travel expenses. This year's poster child is Sadie Schultz of Nanticoke. Seven-year-old Sadie was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer. Sadie could not attend the picnic, but said thank you to all!



Money raised from the Walk of Warriors sponsored by veterans' groups who meet at the Glen Lyon American Legion on September 20 will benefit POW/MIA families. Nearly 81,000 American service members remain missing today. The participants, folks of all ages, walked a mile from St. Nicholas Church on East Main Street to the Legion on Newport

Street. A watchfire and solemn ceremony commemorating POW/MIA's was led by John Wildes and ended with taps and a 21-gun salute. Refreshments followed. Additional sponsors were Mocanaqua Sporting Club, Simply Convenient Convenience Store, and T & D Desserts. Thanks to St. Nicholas Church for the use of the parking lot.

On November 9, 2024, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 is sponsoring **The Taste of the Township**, a fundraiser to benefit veterans. This is a way for the community to sample menu items from local businesses. The event will be held at the Legion from 5 to 7 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 and are available at the Legion or by contacting Barb Meyers at 570-706-1456 or Faith Kropiewnicki at 570-417-8899. Businesses and restaurants interested in participating can contact Barb or Faith. Thank you for your support.



Newport Township Lions Club held its 46th annual golf tournament on Friday August 16 at Mill Race Golf Course in Benton. The winners are: Champion Flight: Tyler Benick and Dan Benick; First

Flight: Ryan Verazin and Andy Kaminsky; Second Flight: Bob Bray and Ron Drobenak; Third Flight: Gary Gavrish and Chuck Conforti; Fourth Flight: Paul Czapracki and Jim Obitz. Congratulations to all. The Tournament raises money for community projects such as Christmas baskets to elderly and home-bound residents.

Lions Club brooms are available at Friendly Food Mart on Robert Street in Sheatown or by calling Ron Womelsdorf at 570-735-8639.

The Lions meet at the Municipal Building on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm.



The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township Mosquito

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~

"If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito." Dali Lama

Yes, we can all learn some life lessons from the mosquito.

Mosquitoes are small flies in the family Culicidae (from the Latin "culex" meaning "gnat"). Mosquitoes have been classified into 112 genera, and over 3,500 species. The word "mosquito" is Spanish for "little fly." Mosquitoes have a slender segmented body, one pair of wings, one pair of halteres (highly sophisticated balance organs that oscillate during flight), three pairs of long hair-like legs, and elongated mouthparts.

The mosquito life cycle consists of egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages. Eggs are laid usually on the surface of water; they hatch into motile (capable of motion) larvae that feed on aquatic algae and organic material. These larvae are important food sources for many freshwater animals, such as dragonfly nymphs, fish, and ducks.

The adult females of most mosquitos have tube-like mouthparts called a proboscis that can pierce the skin of a host and feed on blood, which contains protein and iron needed to produce eggs. Most mosquito species feed on the blood of various hosts—vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and some fish and some invertebrates. The mosquito's saliva is transferred to the host during the bite, and can cause an itchy rash.

Many mosquito species can ingest pathogens while biting, and transmit them to future hosts. This makes mosquitoes vectors of parasitic diseases. Infected mosquitoes carry pathogenic organisms from person to person without exhibiting symptoms themselves. Prior to and during blood feeding, blood-sucking mosquitoes inject saliva into the bodies of their source(s) of blood. This saliva serves as an anticoagulant; without it the female mosquito's proboscis might become clogged with blood clots. The saliva also is the main route by which mosquito passes pathogens to the hosts' bloodstream. The salivary glands are a major target to most pathogens, whence they find their way into the host via the saliva. Mosquito-borne diseases include yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya, the parasitic diseases collectively called malaria, lymphatic filariasis (the main cause of elephantiasis) and West Nile virus. Mosquitoes transmit many types of diseases to more than 700 million people annually in Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico, Russia, and much of Asia, and cause at least two million deaths. It has been claimed that between 5% and 50% of all people who have ever lived have died of mosquito-vectored diseases. Mosquitoes cause the deaths of more people than any other animal taxonomic group.

The oldest known mosquitoes are known from amber dating back to the Cretaceous Period, between 145.5 and 65.5 million years ago. Three species of Cretaceous mosquito date back 99 million years ago.

Mosquito Facts

1. Adult females lay their eggs in stagnant water, near the water's edge or attach them to aquatic plants. They breed in lakes, temporary puddles, and marshes, both salt and fresh water.
2. Typically, both male and female mosquitoes feed on nectar, aphid honeydew, and plant juices, but in many species the mouthparts of the females are adapted for piercing the skin of animal hosts and sucking their blood. In many species, the female needs to obtain nutrients from a blood meal before it can produce eggs, or to lay more eggs. Mosquitos find nectar or its prey with visual or heat sensors. Among humans, the feeding preferences of mosquitoes typically include: those with type O blood, heavy breathers, an abundance of skin bacteria, high body heat, and pregnant women. Female mosquitoes hunt their blood host by detecting organic substances such as carbon dioxide and 1-octen-3-ol (mushroom alcohol found in exhaled breath) produced from the host, and through visual recognition. A large part of the mosquito's sense of smell, or olfactory system, is devoted to sniffing out blood sources. Of 72 types of odor receptors on its antennae, at least 27 are tuned

9

to detect chemicals found in perspiration.

3. Most mosquito species are crepuscular (dawn or dusk) feeders. During the heat of the day, most mosquitoes rest in a cool place and wait for the evenings.
4. Mosquitoes are in every land region except Antarctica and a few islands with polar or subpolar climates. Iceland is essentially free of mosquitoes.
5. Mosquito-borne diseases are currently most prevalent in East Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and India.
6. Insect repellents applied on skin give short-term protection against mosquito bites. The chemical DEET repels some mosquitoes and other insects. Some CDC-recommended repellents are picaridin, eucalyptus oil (PMD), and pyrethrum (from Chrysanthemum species).
7. Visible, irritating bites are due to an immune response from the binding of antibodies to antigens in the mosquito's saliva. There are both immediate hypersensitivity reactions and delayed hypersensitivity reactions to mosquito bites. Both reactions result in itching, redness and swelling.
8. General George Washington's greatest asset in the American Revolution was the Anopheles mosquito, which causes malaria. By the autumn of 1780, British General Cornwallis reported that his regiments were crippled by malaria and were "so totally demolished by sickness [and would] not be fit for actual service for some months."
9. A full moon can increase mosquito activity by 500 percent. This is because mosquitoes use visual cues to find their next meal, which is easier to do when the moon is full.
10. Mosquitoes cannot live or function properly when the air temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. They are mostly active at 60–80 degrees Fahrenheit.
11. According to the CDC, placing an ice pack on a bite for 10 minutes and then applying a mixture of baking soda and water for another 10 minutes can help get fast relief. The faster remedy, however, might be to take an over-the-counter antihistamine.
12. Other household remedies include: oatmeal, peppermint oil, aloe vera, honey, basil, vinegar, thyme, onion, witch hazel, lemon balm, chamomile tea, and garlic.

Sources : Wikipedia, <https://www.sciencefocus.com/planet-earth/five-ways-deadly-diseases-carried-by-mosquitoes-have-steered-the-course-of-human-history/1>, <https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/mosquitoes>, <https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/MosquitoLifeCycleFINAL.pdf>, <https://uanews.arizona.edu/story/making-blood-sucking-deadly-for-mosquitoes>, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/why-do-mosquitoes-bite-some-people-more-than-others-10255934/#TOGXy425Ci7DVmq2.99>



Shown above is a bobcat on the prowl at night in Lee. Bobcats tend to hunt at dawn and dusk. The bobcat can weigh up to 20 pounds, reach nearly 2 feet in length, and stand 2 to 3.5 feet high. Despite its striking resemblance to the household cat, the bobcat is a fierce predator. Preferring rabbits to anything else, it will also prey on rodents, birds, raccoons, foxes and even adult deer and domestic cats on occasion.



Amber Borysiewicz of Glen Lyon took her oath of command of the Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 on September 8th at the Legion home. Shown is District Commander Charlie Stockage of Hanover administering the oath to Commander Borysiewicz, Sr. Vice Commander John Wildes, and Tim Derr standing in for Adjutant Mike Figmic who was absent. Other officers who were unable to attend were: Jr. Vice Commander Patrick McMullen; Trustees Joe Figlerski, Ron Wolf, and Bob McDaniels; and Chaplain Joe Molski.

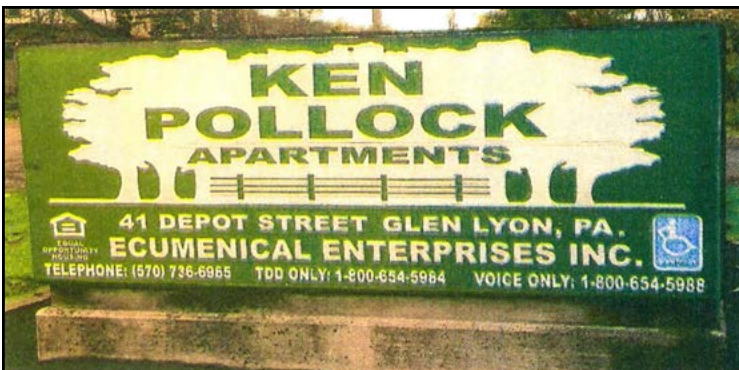


Low Boil Shrimp and Sausage Dinner


Pictured above are diners who participated in the successful low boil shrimp and sausage fundraiser at the American Legion. Members of the Legion, VFW, SAL, Auxiliary and other volunteers gave an extraordinary effort and many donations of food and hours of preparation resulted in a successful event. Music was provided by "2B1" – our own John Wildes, Dave Merithew, and Scottie Owens – and the Legion "rocked" with the songs of Willie, Waylon, and Johnny Cash until it was time to go home.



Newport Township Emergency Management Agency (EMA) recently held a practice drill at the Wanamie Municipal Building to evaluate existing procedures and make recommendations to improve plans for emergencies and evacuations. Kneeling: Roy Tinney Jr. and Jonathan Kerestes Jr. Standing: Chris Keller; Jason Kowalski, Twp. EMA Coordinator; Dave McGovern; Nicholas Kowalski; Dave Wojciechowski; Emily Malys; Leonard Paczkowski; Ronald Womelsdorf; Dr. Don Reese; John Zyla; Jason Poremba; and John Vishnefski. Interested parties may call Jason at 570-239-8917. The real drill will take place on October 22 at the Municipal Building.



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Nurturing – The Caregivers and the “Players”

By John Kashatus

Foreword The age-old question is asked, what has more influence on our perspective in life, nature or nurture? Infants and young children know comfort and love from those who feed, change, clothe, cuddle, and caress them. Pre-teens and teenagers are influenced by peers and others who affect their social behavior in those formative years. Having been born at the beginning of World War II and growing up in the 1950's, the center of my universe was Newport Township, more specifically, Glen Lyon. The encouragement by our families, Township residents and officials was significant in getting youngsters involved with many types of activities¹ in our community. My coming of age was the decade of the 1960's. The U.S. Space Program² was determined to land a man on the moon by the end of the decade. Our country's future was looking bright, having endured World War II (1941-1945) and the Korean Conflict (1950-1953). The second “British Invasion”³ came in 1964 and the genre of music of that era emphasized peace, love and kindness. Bob Dylan's “Blowin in the Wind” and Buffalo Springfield's “Something's Happening Here” were popular anti-war songs, but Barry Sadler's “Ballad of the Green Berets” made it to Number 1 in 1966 as war drums were beating in French Indochina. Demonstrations and political unrest continued through the late 1960's until the Kent State Massacre⁴ on May 4, 1970. Sandwiched in the '60s were the botched Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. Exposed to and influenced by these earlier revelations, this young adult, seeking his future in a perfect world, would find some imperfections along the way. Environment and genetics both play a role in our lives, but those who nurture are incredibly special.

Nurturing-A Personal Awareness As I started my professional career in 1964, I began to observe many changes in education, especially in the public schools. Students who were previously labeled as potential dropouts for assorted reasons⁵ were now being scheduled into both special and learning support classes. That placement provided opportunities for success and a better-quality life in the future. It became obvious to me that the “nurturing effect” had a positive influence on troubled student learners. In the Spring of 1970, I had a first-hand experience while substituting in the home-room of Mrs. Hill at K.M. Smith School. She had been a special education teacher many years before I entered college. As I entered the room, I was approached by four students who offered to help start the morning exercises. Two boys used poles to open the windows and adjust the shades. One girl took the roll sheet from the desk and marked the attendance. The other girl waited until all the students stood by their desks, then she led the Pledge of Allegiance. I remained standing, remarkably impressed, and observing the fresh volume of air which allowed butterflies to enter the room, the whole class began to sing the Star-Spangled Banner. At this point, I sidled toward the door as my eyes were flooding with tears. It was a unique, valued experience in my teaching career. The learning techniques and nurturing by Mrs. Hill, I am sure, helped her students to have a loving and productive life. This was also a “lesson in life” for this writer. Nurturing continues through life. We realize that our parents, biological or adoptive, take care of our needs from day one until we are set free to fly on our own. We are familiar with highly valued professional athletes and the extensive measures it takes to keep them healthy and to rehabilitate them when they are injured. Not to be compared to those idolized celebrities, there are people in the general population who may need aid to have a productive life or quality existence. For the purpose of this article, we will refer to those aforementioned as “players,”⁶ people who need special care. Although the care may not be as costly as the professional athlete's, it is most necessary for the players. We can define some of the players as a child born with a birth defect, a teenager or an adult injured from an accident, a middle-

1. Church groups, Cub, Girl and Boy Scouts, Sports -Little League, Bidy Basketball, school programs, plays, parades, dances, and contests (spelling bees and essays) were active during the era.

2. Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon on July 20, 1969.

3. The Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show on February 9.

4. During a protest, four students (a girl and 3 boys) armed with textbooks were shot and killed.

5. Slow learners, ADHD, physical and mental disabilities, chronic illnesses, etc.

6. A term which includes any person with an injury, illness or disability, 11 temporary or chronic.

aged adult stricken with a chronic illness and an older adult who has shortcomings, simply due to age. The aging process forces some of us to deal with a plethora of maladies. During the productive middle stage of life, most people are engaged in a career and a growing family. They may have to care for an aging parent or grandparent, help with a disabled child/sibling or other family member. As we travel along the path of life, there are many, many people who share in the responsibility to keep the player healthy and “raring to go”. The certified professionals who service the players with health care are Medical Doctors, Specialists, Physician's Assistants, Nurses, CNA's, Pharmacists, Therapists (Physical, Occupational, and Respiratory), Dentists, Hygienists and Nutritionists. There are the licensed “comforters”, who keep the players well-groomed and in great shape: the Barbers, Beauticians, Manicurists, Massage Therapists and Fitness Instructors. There are caregivers who assist with bathing and personal hygiene or do household chores. Amazingly, there are caregivers who have the same kind of compassion and concern for the player as a family member. Some prepare younger players to attend school or a developmental program daily. They may have to drive the player to medical and dental appointments or do grocery shopping. This latter group of caregivers would, most likely, be needed when summoned. Caregivers may need a substitute to assist the player when they must attend to their own personal matters. The local firefighters may be requested in emergency situations, especially falls, which are common to the geriatric population. As a person travels through the stages of life and lives to a ripe old age, one would consider that it would be great if he/she were not afflicted with some chronic illness that requires special attention. Living a long life doesn't come without “dodging potholes” along the way. Some players with debilitating illnesses or afflictions may need special care and/or facilities to survive. There are players who need to be admitted to an institution to persevere. Some players may have a home care agency provide assistance in their own home. In some situations, the caregiver or the player may have to relocate to the other's home. We are now talking about 24/7 (hours/days) responsibility. Major or minor construction may be needed to improve access to the bathroom for wheelchairs and shower chairs. Exit ramps, body lifts, lift seats and stair glides for the player may be very costly. The caregiving may be provided by a trained professional or a determined spouse, family member or a companion who chooses to provide the necessary care to support the quality of life for the player. Just as the infants and young children know the comfort provided to them, the elderly realize the same. The caregiver may have some intense moments with the player, like the baseball manager and the ballplayer, but that is understandable. It is proper that we thank those caregivers for all they do. THEIR SACRIFICES ARE PRICELESS.



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Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus ~ These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. They are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, a more complete obituary can be found on our website, 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 or call 570-736-6981.

EVAN, Joseph K., 76, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away December 8, 2023. He graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1966. He is survived by his wife, Loretta (nee Hartman).

FORGACH, Mark C. Sr., 69, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away May 21, 2024. He graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1974. He is survived by his wife, Charmaine.

KRUSHEFSKI, Chester "Chet," 81, formerly of Wanamie, passed away on June 10, 2024. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1960, East Stroudsburg University, and Temple University with a Masters Degree. He was also a certified Flight Instructor. Chet is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol (nee Novak) Krushefski.

BELDING, Mary (nee Vavrsek), 87, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away May 14, 2024. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1956.

RUDA, Maryann (nee Baigis), 80, formerly of Sheatown, passed away June 21, 2024. She attended Newport Township schools and graduated from Lake Lehman High School with the Class of 1962. Maryann was predeceased by her husband, John Ruda.

KREITZER, Kaycee, 19, of Glen Lyon, passed away on June 6, 2024 due to a tragic car accident. She graduated from Greater Nanticoke Area/Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-tech.

BLOSHINSKI, John W., 94, passed away March 25, 2024. He was the husband of Eileen (nee Ceppa) Bloshinski, a Glen Lyon native and Newport Township High School graduate with the Class of 1958. John was a US Navy veteran and retired from SCI-Dallas.

CORA, Louis E., 90, of Glen Lyon, passed away June 9, 2024. He was a Coughlin High School graduate with the Class of 1951. He was a US Army veteran serving during the Korean War.

COONEY, Tina (nee Kishbaugh), 68, of Glen Lyon, passed away on June 21, 2024. Tina was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Cooney.

YARASHESKI, Edward Jr., 90, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on June 23, 2024. Edward graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951. He then graduated from Wilkes College and earned his educational supervision certification from Seton Hall University. He coached football and basketball and was awarded "Outstanding Secondary Educator of America." Edward is survived by his wife of 69 years, Elsie.

MAYEWSKI, Frank "Meyers," 79, of Glen Lyon, passed away June 30, 2024. He graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1963. Frank was a US Army Vietnam War veteran.

REGIEC, Joseph M., 91, formerly of Glen Lyon and Mocanaqua, passed away July 4, 2024. He graduated from Shickshinny High School with the Class of 1951. Joe was a US Air Force Korean War veteran proudly serving his country from 1951 to 1955. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Eleanor (nee Madurski) Regiec.

GRUBER, Teresa (nee Stawasz), 88, of Sheatown and Nanticoke, passed away July 6, 2024. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1952 and the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. She was employed as a RN at Barrett Memorial Hospital of Patterson, NJ and retired from Nesbitt Memorial Hospital of Kingston. Teresa was predeceased by her husband of 42 years, Glenn Gruber.

CAPORALETTI, Christine A. (nee Lemanowicz), 85, formerly of Lee, passed away on May 18, 2024. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1957. Christine was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, PA State Police Sgt. John C. Caporaletti.

TARNOWSKI, Dorothy M., 91, of Glen Lyon, passed away July 14, 2024. Dorothy was born in Sheatown; she was the daughter of the late Walter and Antonina (nee Polniaszek) Tarnowski. She is survived by her brother Thomas of Raritan, NJ and numerous nieces and nephews.

FIGMIC, George, 78, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on July 15, 2024. He attended Newport Township schools. He was a US Army veteran and is survived by his wife Sonia (nee Paveltez) Figmic.

BETZ, Jean Audrey (nee Ambosie), 96, formerly of Mountain Top/Nuangola, passed away on June 2, 2024. Jean was a graduate of Newport Township High School. Jean was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Jack Betz.

VAN PELT, Evelyn T. "Sunny" (nee Verfin), 86, of Sheatown, passed away July 17, 2024. She was a US Women's Army Corps (WAC) veteran.

SPENCER, Sara T. (nee Jones), 68, of Wanamie, passed away on July 19, 2024. She was a graduate of GAR High School and LCCC with Associates in Science and Culinary Arts. Sara is survived by her husband of 38 years, Scott Spencer.

NOSS, John A. Jr., 74, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away July 20, 2024. He attended Newport Township schools. John was predeceased by his sister, Linda Brunner.

BRUNNER, Linda L. (nee Noss), 74, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away November 16, 2022. Linda attended Newport township schools. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Brunner.

ALBERTSON, Eugenia, 76, of Alden, died July 14, 2024. Arrangements were made with Earl Lohman Funeral Home of Nanticoke.

MAGA, Alfred D., 89, of Sheatown, passed away July 25, 2024. He was a graduate of Nanticoke High School and attended Penn State University. Alfred was a US Air Force Veteran and served as a pilot in training during the Korean War. Alfred is survived by his wife of 68 years, Nancy (nee Crouse) Maga.

O'DONNELL, Arletta N. (nee Eroh), 87, formerly of Dorrance Township, passed away on July 17, 2024. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1954. Arletta was predeceased by her husband, Cletus J. O'Donnell Jr.

BERGESEN, Janet A. (nee Reno), 84, formerly of Alden, passed away on April 19, 2023. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1956. Janet had been employed by the US Air Force at the Pentagon. Janet is survived by her husband of 64 years, Richard Bergesen.

BONCZEWSKI, Leon, 66, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Wanamie, passed away on August 1, 2024. He attended Newport Township/Greater Nanticoke Area schools. Leon is survived by his wife of 43 years, Teresa A. (nee Bralczyk) Bonczewski and sons, Thomas, Benjamin, and Leon Bonczewski; and brothers, Leonard and Leigh Bonczewski.

BALLIET, Donald James, 84, formerly of Dorrance Township passed away on August 15, 2020. He graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1954. He was a career US Air Force veteran and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. He also worked for L3 Harris (Harris RF) in the systems engineering department and retiring after 14 years. Donald is survived by his wife of 43 years, Helen Balliet.

LEWIS, Marie Margaret (nee Hess), 86, of Slocum passed away December 7, 2022. She attended Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951. Marie was predeceased by her husband, Albert "Pete" Lewis.

WACLAWSKI, Thomas S., 84, formerly of Wanamie, passed away February 27, 2018. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951. Thomas is survived by his wife of 60 years, Charlotte (nee Sudol).

MAGA, Sandra A. (nee Groblewski), 72, of Sheatown, passed away on August 3, 2024. She graduated from John S. Fine High School and also received a Medical Technology degree from Saint Joseph's Hospital in Hazleton. She spent her 47 year career in that field at Nesbitt Hospital in Kingston and later Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Sandra was predeceased by her husband of 37 years, Joseph Maga.

BEZDZIECKI, Diane, 63, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away August 6, 2024. Diane attended Greater Nanticoke Area School District schools. She is survived by her brother, Edward Bezdziecki of Hanover Township; and sisters, Judy Szymanski of Taylor, Irene Bezdziecki of Glen Lyon, and Janet Karper of Pittsburgh.

FITZGERALD, Leroy, 83, formerly of Newport Township, passed away April 25, 2018. He graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1952. He was survived by his wife, Margaret (now deceased); and daughter, Donna Fitzgerald.

HURST, Angeline, "Angie" (nee Secunda), 101, formerly of Wanamie, passed away August 15, 2018. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1934.

KRASUCKI, Robert S., 82, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away on July 25, 2024. He graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1959. He was a US Army veteran, served as a prison guard and was a Pennsylvania State Police Officer. Robert was predeceased by his wife, Patricia (nee Evanich) Krasucki.

FORGACH, Ann "Anna" (nee Hocko), 91, formerly of Alden, passed away August 15, 2024. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1951. Ann was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Joseph Forgach, a veteran of the US Air Force during World War II.

PIESTRAK, Barbara A. (nee Miller), 80, of Glen Lyon, passed away August 25, 2024. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1961. She is survived by her children, Jeffrey Piestrak, Sherry Piestrak, Kenneth Piestrak, and Crystal Piestrak-Paluck (husband, Peter), her caregiver.

WALTERS, Donna M. (nee Repotski), 73, formerly of Sheatown passed away on August 6, 2024. She graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1968. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Marywood University and was a music teacher in Greater Nanticoke Area and Hanover Area School Districts. She also was organist and choir director at Holy Spirit Parish, a soloist, and taught instrument lessons. Donna is survived by her husband of 33 years, Joseph Walters.

HUDAK, Eric, 59, of Nanticoke, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away August 25, 2024.

KOBUS, Paul J., 70, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away August 28, 2024. He graduated from John S. Fine High School. Paul was employed by and retired from the PA Department of Intellectual Disabilities, after a 35-year career at White Haven Center of White Haven, PA. He is survived by his partner, Barbara Kasabo and brother, Michael D. Kobus.

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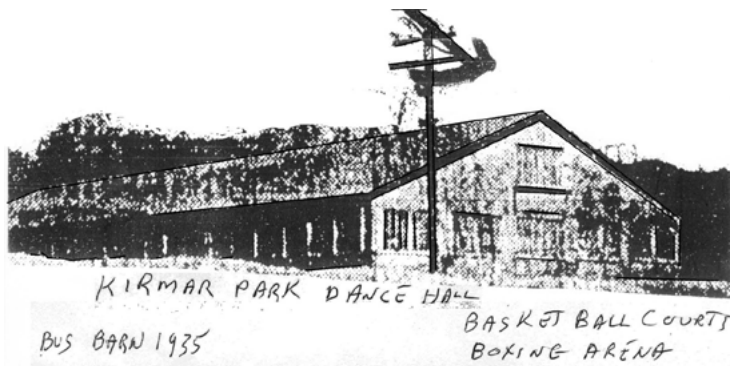


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The History of Kirmar Park Part XI: June-October 1916

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Kirmar Park was a popular destination for summer picnics, baseball games, basketball games, and dances. At various times, it featured a roller-skating rink, bowling alleys, tennis courts, and a race track. It was located on West Kirmar Avenue and was affiliated with the People's Street Railway, a trolley system that ran between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke. It began in 1896 and new features were added each year. William Warne who was Superintendent of the Street Railway was responsible for the management of the Park. This article continues the story of the Park which began in the Spring 2022 issue of the *Newport Township Community News*.

The newly organized Nanticoke Newport Tennis Association added three new members at their meeting on Sunday June 4, 1916 and the courts were crowded daily. There were three courts at Kirmar and two of them were reserved for members. So heavily used were they that there was speculation that the third court might also be closed to the public. The possibility of a tournament was being discussed. A bulletin board provided rules, schedules, and plans for future events. Meetings of the Association were generally held on Friday evenings.

Baseball was still wildly popular throughout the Township. It should be noted that each town had built their own fields and games were played from May until October. Sunday afternoons were generally spent playing or watching a game. The baseball field at Kirmar was used sporadically, but the new tennis courts and the pavilion continued to be a big draw.

The month opened with a Starlight Dance on Tuesday, June 6, sponsored by the Peerless Dancing Club. "The committee has arranged for a number of new and novel features for that night." Music was furnished by the Peerless Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Chizek and Mr. Suwalski. The Ragtime Dances remained the most popular in 1916: the foxtrot, the one-step, the two-step, the maxixe, the hesitation waltz, and their many variations, as well as the polka. The ten most popular songs of 1916 were: Somewhere a Voice is Calling, recorded by John McCormack; Pretty Baby, by Billy Murray; I Sent My Wife to the Thousand Isles, by Al Jolson; I Love a Piano, by Billy Murray; The Sunshine of Your Smile, by John McCormack; America, by the Columbia Mixed Double Quartet; The Lights of My Hometown, by Peerless Quartet; The Star Spangled Banner, by Prince's Orchestra; Turn Back the Universe and Give Me Yesterday, by Orpheus Quartet; and Everybody's Crazy on the Foxtrot, by Walter Jeffries. Other popular songs were I Can Dance with Everybody But My Wife, by Billy Murray; O Sole Mio and Santa Lucia, by Enrico Caruso; and M-O-T-H-E-R (A Word That Means the World to Me), by Henry Burr. The world's tallest building in 1916 was the Eiffel Tower which stands a mere 984 feet. Today the world's tallest building is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai which stands 2,717 feet.

On Thursday, June 8, Company E of Patriotic Order Sons of America of Alden entertained friends at Kirmar. Among the attendees were some familiar Township names: George Womelsdorf, William Hutchinson, Edward Littleford, Thomas Tennesen, Harry Fairchild, and Jasper Thomas. Company E was organized the year before and was "composed of young men who take pride in the weekly drills."

On Thursday June 15, the 1916 Newport High School Senior Class "met in one of the class rooms where important business was discussed. The class is in a quandary whether it would be advisable to hold a banquet, or a class dance followed by a party. It would seem more fitting to have the latter, due to the fact that a banquet, which would in all

probability be held at Wilkes-Barre, would be unhandy to attend on account of the street car strike [in Wilkes-Barre]. Should a dance be held, it would take place at Kirmar Park, and the members of the alumni could attend." The graduating class consisted of 13 members (probable misspellings acknowledged): Frances Zarzitski, Viola Fischer (who later taught in the elementary grades), Nellie Blackburn, Martha Howard, Rose Gronka (a Newport teacher who later married Dr. Edward Kielar), Irene Dubitz, Edith Medo, Carrie Keene, Julia Matusavage (long-time first grade teacher), Lucinda Semmers, Elizabeth Bieunas [sic], Karl Sarpolis (who became a physician and professional wrestler. See Newsletter #29, Spring 2012, p.22.) and Tony Gross. It was decided that a banquet and dance would be held at Kirmar Park. Graduation was planned for Saturday, June 17, but didn't take place until the following Thursday, June 22 in the High School auditorium. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*, "The stage was decorated with the class colors, gold and black, ferns and flowers. The graduates occupied the front of the stage and wore the black caps and gowns upon which was pinned their class flower, the yellow rose. Behind them [were] the members of the faculty and the high school chorus."

A "Confetti Dance" sponsored by the City Dancing Club of Nanticoke was held on Thursday June 22 at Kirmar featuring a six-piece orchestra.



A 1916 Tennis Player

The following evening, a meeting of the Tennis Association was held at the Pavilion, at which "a large number of new members are expected to be enrolled." In a follow-up article, the *Times Leader* reported, "The executive committee, of which William Warne is chairman, stated that the double court would be open today if the weather permits. Two new nets have been ordered. The public is invited to play on the three courts free of charge, but when

Association members are present, they have the right to play immediately. A tournament committee consisting of Earl Herbert, chairman; Isaac Baicker and George Kuhlman was appointed by the President [Peter Turek]." It was expected that a tournament would be played in the latter part of July with the Pittston Tennis Association. The Kirmar courts "are situated in such a position that hundreds might view the games."

On Saturday, June 24, the girl employees of the Bondy & Lederer Cigar Manufacturing Company of Nanticoke held its first annual outing at Kirmar. The firm employed 450 girls. On Monday June 26, the Orlando Club of Hanover held a dance at Kirmar Park. This was likely the only dance the club sponsored. The following evening, a dance was sponsored by the Polish Athletic Club of Nanticoke at Kirmar. All did not go well because "the fuse plugs [blew] out so often [likely caused by a heavy downpour] that it was found necessary to turn out the lights completely. One of the members of the club, while returning to the dance hall after having been in the Power House made a misstep and fell into the creek. He was taken to his home in Nanticoke where he made [a] change of clothing." The heavy downpour also caused problems for the People's Street Railway Company. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "The stream across from Searfoss' [Zerfoss'] butcher shop at Sheatown rose above the bridge and flowed over the street car tracks. The car that left Glen Lyon at 11 o'clock finally reached Nanticoke at 1:45 and this had to be done by changing cars and walking a considerable distance."

On Wednesday June 28, the 1916 Newport graduating class held its private dance at Kirmar. The hall was decorated with class colors "and some fine music [was] secured for the occasion." Hundreds of young people attended. The class also made plans for a banquet to be held at the Hotel Redington the following week. The Redington Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, which would eventually become the Genetti Hotel, was built by John A. Redington and opened October 11, 1906 at the corner of East Market Street and South Pennsylvania Avenue. The seven-story, lavish hotel was designed by the prominent architectural firm of McCormick and French. It contained many of the modern conveniences such as a dining room, telephone exchange, public bath, barber shop, butcher shop and bakery. Many notable visitors stayed at the hotel, including comedians Abbott and Costello. The Hotel Sterling predates the Redington by eight years.

In 1916-1917, a dispute with Mexico which would become known as the "Punitive Expedition" resulted in an active recruitment effort by the U.S. Army, including locally. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "In the

Punitive Expedition in Mexico, 1916-1917

The Punitive Expedition into Mexico that the United States Government undertook in 1916 against Mexican Revolutionary leader Pancho Villa threatened to bring the United States and Mexico into direct conflict with one another. Pancho Villa who controlled much of north-eastern Mexico during 1914 and 1915, experienced military setbacks after breaking with President Venustiano Carranza's government. Prior to the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), the U.S.-Mexico border had been only lightly policed. The instability of the revolution, primarily a civil war, led to an increased U.S. military presence. Villa's forces attacked U.S. mining executives in Mexico on January 9, 1916, provoking public anger in the United States. Villa's forces then raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916, resulting in the death of sixteen Americans and much larger casualties for Villa's forces. In response, the Wilson Administration ordered a punitive raid led by General John Pershing into Mexico with the goal of capturing Pancho Villa. Carranza regarded Wilson's actions as a violation of Mexican sovereignty and refused to aid the U.S. expedition. Careful diplomatic maneuvering successfully resolved the crisis and U.S. troops withdrew in February 1917. Villa eluded capture.

past...many men have not enlisted because they believed there was no opportunity for active service. With the Mexican crisis, however, there is every likelihood for sharp fighting. Recruits being enlisted will be sent to Fort Slocum in New York State." It is not known whether any Newport Township residents enlisted. Later, the Punitive Expedition would factor into America's entry into World War I.

On Thursday July 6, the City Dancing (C.D.) Club of Nanticoke held a "streamer" dance at Kirmar. The Hall was "artistically decorated for the occasion and good music furnished for dancing."

On Monday July 10, a dance was held for Newport High School alumni and friends. It had originally been scheduled for July 3 but was changed "on account of the members being away for the Fourth." Serving on the dance committee were Mary Sheeder, Charles Moore, Viola Fischer, and Margaret McHugh. "The committee [used] daisies and other wild flowers profusely in their scheme. The colors of the High School [were] elegantly arranged." As reported in the *Times Leader*, "the old pavilion at Kirmar was used for the banquet, after which the High School grads and their friends adjourned to the new dance hall and indulged in the terpsichorean (dancing) delight to the harmonic strains of Oppenheim's Orchestra. Mrs. Carr, an expert cateress [sic] from Wilkes-Barre, had charge of the menu. The hall was prettily decorated. Graduates from all over the State were present. Attorney Michael Donahue was toastmaster" and several speeches were made. This is the first indication that the "old" open pavilion which dated back to the opening of the Park in 1896 was still in use.

On Wednesday July 12, the Quintet (or "Quintex") Club of Nanticoke held a dance at Kirmar Park, "one of the most social functions ever held," with music led by Charles Pokorny who previously directed Alexander's Band. "The club has had considerable experience in the conducting of affairs of this kind and are endeavoring to make this one eclipse all former efforts." More than 200 couples were in attendance.

At the meeting of the Tennis Association on Friday July 14, the tournament was the main topic of discussion. It would be the first time locally that a tournament among outside clubs would be held. It was tentatively set for August against the Pittston Tennis Association. Six new members were enrolled, which brought the membership up to 33 (10 women, 23 men). It was decided to have playoffs from which the tournament team would be composed. The winners of the singles must defeat their opponents two times out of three, and in the semifinals and finals, must take three out of five sets. The matches among the club members were drawn at random. The referees were members of the Tournament Committee in preference to club members in general. Matches would be played between July 19 and August 3. Due to the amount of work this entailed, an additional person, Leo Knoll, was appointed to the Committee. On the first day, Thursday July 20, George Kuhlman defeated William Baurys when he captured two sets out of three. In the second match, Austin Dombroski defeated Harry Weisberger and in the third, Leon Schwartz defeated George Jennings. Michael Donahue easily beat Earl Herbert when he took two straight love sets. Additional matches in the first round took place on Sunday July 23 and the following day.

That same day, Thursday July 20, the C. D. Club held a "fan" dance. Their next feature would be a "balloon" dance. "This club is

always on the alert and this fact can best be attested by the scores of young people in attendance."

A benefit dance for Thomas Tippens of Nanticoke was arranged at Kirmar on Tuesday, July 25 by Nanticoke and Newport Township friends and musicians. Thomas was a well-known trap drummer who had been ill for some time. To advertise the benefit, Peter Pace (who later became the band leader at Newport High School) and his Columbus Band gave a concert in Central Park in Nanticoke, featuring several selections from grand opera. The benefit was very largely attended despite rainy weather.

The annual picnic of Zion Reformed Church of Nanticoke was held on Wednesday July 26 at Kirmar. The weather was damp, but the enthusiasm was not. "Extensive arrangements have been made for the affair. Good music will be furnished from 3 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., with dancing from 8 to 11:30." A program of sports was conducted, and the day was "a very enjoyable one." And on Thursday July 27, the C.D. Club held its "balloon" dance and 15-minute trolley car service was promised.

The following day, July 28, the annual outing of the Nanticoke Store Company employees from Glen Lyon and Nanticoke was held at Kirmar. The outing had been planned for Hunlock's Creek but was changed at the last minute due to rainy weather. This writer's Aunt Julia Selecky was among the Glen Lyon employees who attended. Some of the Glen Lyon employees didn't know about the change and traveled to Hunlock's Creek only to be sorely disappointed. The Nanticoke Store was located on North Market Street in Nanticoke and had its beginnings in 1903. It offered everything from blankets to shoes to hardware. It could not be determined at this writing where the Glen Lyon store was located or when it opened.

In August 1916, the Newport Township Board of Commissioners purchased a new Pullman fire truck that would be housed in the Wanamie Hose House. The fire truck was a "three combination piece consisting of a fire engine, ladders, and hose. The price of the truck is \$7,500 (\$216,426.61 in today's money). It will answer all fire calls in the Township. The citizens are much elated over the recent purchase and are anxiously awaiting its arrival in Wanamie." It was expected to be "the finest auto truck for fire companies in this vicinity."

On Tuesday August 1, an ice cream social was held at Kirmar Park by the Newport Township congregants of St. Francis Church in Nanticoke. It included a dance and other forms of entertainment. The money raised would go towards the building of a new rectory.

On Wednesday August 2, the Young Stars of Poland held their annual picnic at Kirmar. "Very extensive arrangements are being made for this coming picnic and from present indication everything points to a very successful affair. A program of sports will be arranged, and good music will be furnished."

The Tennis Association announced that in the final matches at Kirmar Park on Monday August 7, Alfred Kuhlman was successful in defeating Gerald Keddey of Wanamie in two straight sets, 6-2 and 6-1. The courts were closed to the public on Thursday August 17 and Friday August 18. The tournament with Pittston took place on Friday August 18 at Kirmar Park at 1:30. Four singles matches and two doubles matches were played. Representing Pittston were Max Marcus, Thomas Mangan, Loftus and Leframe. Representing Nanticoke-Newport were Michael Donahue, Leo Knoll, Leon Swartz, Ben Jones, George Jennings and Alfred Kuhlman. The Newport contingent met on the morning of the tournament and played individual matches. The first four with the highest grades would be the "regulars" and the other two would act as substitutes. No admission was charged and a crowd of several hundred attended. Pittston won the tournament. As reported, "The local (Nanticoke-Newport) club although outpointed put up a wonderful game against the experienced Pittston players. Donahue and Kuhlman for the home team won one match of doubles. They had for their opponents Loftus and Leframe. All the other doubles and singles matches were won by the Pittston club."

On Wednesday August 9, members of the Sunday School of Moriah Congregational Church held their annual outing at Kirmar. "The committee in charge are [sic] preparing an excellent program of sports. Arrangements have been made for a 15-minute car service after 1 p.m. A good time is in store for all who attend."

The following evening, the C.D. Club of Nanticoke held another dance, this one billed as a "Lucky Spot" dance. Prizes were awarded to the winners of several contests. These weekly dances were popular and always promised "good music." On Monday August 14, a dance was sponsored by St. Cecelia's Choir of St. Stanislaus Church in Nanticoke. It too was an enjoyable event.

In 1916, members of St. Nicholas Church on East Main Street in Glen Lyon built a pavilion where dances and picnics could be held. It was located behind Engel Street not far from the church. The Russian Platform Grove, or the Russian Pavilion as it became known, gave Kirmar Park a bit of competition because social groups could rent the grounds for their events. Music could be heard throughout the east part of town and folks either sat on their porches or steps and enjoyed a free concert or they were enticed into attending the event. The Glen Lyon Hose Company No. 1 held its annual picnic there on Saturday August 19, which featured athletic events and dancing. As reported in the *Times Leader* on August 21, "The Russian Platform Grove, situated in the lower section of Glen Lyon is the scene of numerous picnics of late. The grove is owned by the congregation of the Russian (Ukrainian) Church, and it has erected a large dancing pavilion. The picnic conducted on Saturday by members of the Glen Lyon Hose Company No. 1 was the largest held there this summer and dancing proved to be the drawing feature."

On Wednesday August 23, the annual picnic of the Sunday School and congregation of the Zion Reformed Church in Nanticoke was held at Kirmar Park. It featured "sports of various kinds and music throughout the afternoon and evening. The children of the primary department of the Sunday School [sang] several selections and also [had] a cake walk of their own. [A cake walk is a variation of the one-step.] The younger people enjoyed themselves by participating in games while the older members found dancing much to their enjoyment." The following evening, the City Dancing Club held another weekly dance, this one called "The Lucky Number," a contest which proved to be the enjoyable feature of the evening. On Saturday August 26, the firm of Bondy and Ledder, cigar manufacturers, held an outing for its employees at Kirmar from 4 until 11 p.m.

The Tennis Association sponsored a dance at Kirmar on Monday August 28. The dance committee was comprised of members Leon Schwartz, Earl Herbert, Emmett Curtis, Charles Moore, Arthur Mackie, Lillian Fischer, Jennie Barrett and Florence Barrett. Music was provided by George Sheeder's Orchestra. The dance went from 8 until midnight. "The floor was crowded with dancers" and the decorations were "novel." As reported, "the repeated encores give credence of the fact that the musical end was well taken care of. This orchestra will hold an invitation dance on September 25." The following evening, a dance sponsored by the Elite Club featured a one-step contest. Music was provided by the Federal Orchestra and prizes were awarded. A dance was advertised for Thursday, August 31, featuring St. Joseph's Band.

On Saturday September 2, the Central Labor Union held a picnic for its members at Kirmar. The Central Labor Union was an early trade union organization in New York, Brooklyn, and New Jersey, which later spread to Philadelphia. Begun in 1867, it is best known as the organization that created the American Labor Day holiday. The Central Labor Union eventually became part of the AFL-CIO.

Two days later, on Labor Day September 4, the Tennis Association held a tournament that was originally for members only. Instead, the tournament was played against the Plymouth Tennis Club. The local team consisted of the same people who played against Pittston. That same day, the Polish Relief Committee held another dance to benefit the Polish War Sufferers of Europe. The group had held a successful dance previously in May. "There will be plenty of amusements and games to make the day enjoyable for those who do not dance. An up-to-date orchestra will discourse the dance music."

On Wednesday September 6, the Quintet Club held a second invitation dance at Kirmar from 8 until 10 o'clock, with music by Hall's Banjo Orchestra. It had sponsored a dance previously on July 12. Hall's Banjo Orchestra was popular locally, playing all over the Wyoming Valley. The members consisted of Guy Hall on drums, "Heine" Kleinkauf on piano, Burt Dougherty on saxophone, and the three banjo players, Walter Good, George Ream, and Professor De George. No doubt the music was snappy and vigorous. Once again, a fifteen minute car service was promised.

The next evening, the weekly dance sponsored by the C.D. Club was held. As reported in the *Evening News*: "The dances conducted by the City Dancing Club at Kirmar Park every Thursday evening are increasing in popularity and the best crowds of the season attend. Feature dances are held occasionally, and these promote a great amount of interest. The dance held last evening by this club was very successful."

Discussion concerning a new school for Alden took place at the Newport Township School Board meeting on September 12. This school would eventually become the Pershing School, which was built on Newport Avenue. It was located above mining operations of the Bliss Colliery and was destroyed in a mine cave in 1928. (See Newsletter #20, Winter 2010, p.8) It was announced on September 14 that the Newport Township school children would return to classes on October 2. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*: "During the summer months, extensive repairs have been made to the various school buildings. The new school building of Wanamie should be finished in time for the opening of the present term. Should this be so it would avoid the much crowded conditions and thus the two sessions would again go into effect at the Wanamie Central High School. The hours for school under these conditions are unsatisfactory to the students but are the best that the board could do under the existing circumstances. The following from the graduating class of the Wanamie High School will enter Bloomsburg State Normal School on Tuesday: Edith Medo, Carrie Keene, Rose Gronka, Viola Fischer, and Tony Gross." The new school would be dedicated on May 30, 1917 as the Columbus School with a parade and flag raising exercises.

Township resident Oliver Stevens had sustained severe back injuries in a mining accident several months before. On Tuesday September 12, a benefit dance was held at Kirmar Park. A couple of weeks later, the *Evening News* reported: "The committee who were in charge of the dance recently held at Kirmar Park for the benefit of Oliver (Push) Stevens take this means in thanking the public for their patronage and also to those who assisted them in any way." Oliver passed away on November 3, 1916.

On Wednesday September 13, the annual outing of the Eastern Star Lodge Camp # 174 of Newport Township and Nanticoke, a Masonic organization, was held at Kirmar. As reported in the *Wilkes-Barre Record*: "The afternoon was delightfully spent in the shady spots at the park and singing and games were the chief importance. At 6 o'clock a corn roast was held and was attended by the members of the lodge, their families and a few friends. Several of the members gave brief but well selected addresses. In the evening the guests assembled to the dance pavilion where dancing was indulged in until a late hour of the night. Both the old and young found pleasure in this course of entertainment."

The 1916-1917 basketball season at Kirmar got an early start with practices held by the Newport Collegians during the latter half of September. The team played a majority of its games away from home. Peter Turek, a teacher in the High School, would serve as coach.

A masquerade dance given by the C.D. Club was held on Friday, September 15. "A prize will be given [to] the couple having the oddest costume as well as the one having the neatest costume. Persons not masked will not be allowed on the floor and not disbarred as previously stated." The Club sponsored another dance on Thursday September 21. "The crowd was larger than at any time in the season and a neat sum will go into the club treasury. The music was furnished by the Federal Orchestra."

On Wednesday September 20, St. Mary's Lithuanian Church of



St. Mary's

Wanamie held a band concert and dance at Kirmar. The *Times Leader* reported: "The best Lithuanian talent in Wyoming Valley will be heard in both vocal and instrumental music. The program consists of choir singing, vocal trios, duets, and solos in both English and Lithuanian, violin duets and solos, piano duets and solos. The committee has arranged for a gala day and a large crowd is expected to attend. Following the concert dancing will be held until a late hour in the evening."

Members of the Wanamie and Pittston choirs participated and the concert was a great success.

Invitations were mailed for the private dance held by George Sheeder's Orchestra on Monday September 25. This orchestra had previously played for the Tennis Association Dance. George Sheeder was "well known in the township as he made Wanamie his home for a number of years. He is a violinist of rare ability."

On Tuesday September 26, the Aarawanna Club held a "hurdy-gurdy novelty dance" at Kirmar Park. "The dance is an invitation affair and is something out of the ordinary." A hurdy-gurdy is a string instrument that



A Hurdy-Gurdy

produces sound by a hand-crank-turned wheel rubbing against the strings. The wheel functions like a violin bow, and single notes played on the instrument sound like those of a violin. Dancing took place from 8 until 12. The Aarawanna Club was likely short-lived as this is its only mention in local newspapers.

On Thursday September 28, the C.D. Club held its last weekly

dance of the summer. "The music throughout the season was furnished by the Federal Orchestra and was delightful to all. The club is composed of popular young men and to them a word of praise must be said for the manner in which they held the dances. Weekly dances will be held again next season and an early start is promised." A "banner crowd" was present. The Club, which had its beginnings in 1915, previously held its dances at Smoulter's Hall on East Main Street in Nanticoke. In 1917, the Club's dances returned to Smoulter's Hall. The City Dancing Club remained active until 1922.

On Monday October 2, Mary Weir, a dance instructor well-known in Wyoming Valley, held her first dance of the fall season at Kirmar, and the large crowd "gave assurance that the dances are to be successful social affairs. The dances will be held every Monday evening at Kirmar Park pavilion [during the fall and winter months]. Miss Weir is an accomplished dancer and takes delight in teaching the beginners." The following evening, the Quintet Club sponsored a private dance at Kirmar with music by the Hall Banjo Orchestra. It promised to be "a very elaborate affair." Many out-of-town people were present and the hall was decorated.

Since the close of the 1915-1916 Pennsylvania State League basketball season in April, rumors ran rampant that Charles "Pat" O'Brien, manager of the Nanticoke Nans, intended to move the team's home court from Kirmar to the Nanticoke State Armory. On August 20, 1916, a meeting was held in Wilkes-Barre and the franchise was granted to William Warne, Superintendent of the People's Street Railway. As reported in the *Times Leader* the following day: "Yesterday's action of the league's managers assures the fact that the State League team will again play at Kirmar Park and that most of the old personnel of last year's team will again represent Nanticoke. William Warne has the ability to give Nanticoke the best obtainable [management] and as for a playing hall, Kirmar Park pavilion is unsurpassed in the state." As reported on September 15, "Manager Warne is having two new large dressing rooms constructed at the Kirmar Park pavilion which will be modern in every respect with hot and cold shower baths and lockers. He is also having constructed a private office for the use of management and officers of the team. Other improvements will be made in the seating capacity of the pavilion whereby accommodation will be made for more than 500 additional seats. This will make the seating capacity of the Kirmar pavilion larger than that of any other hall on the State League circuit." The orchestra platform was moved to the upper end of the floor and a large number of bleachers was erected at the lower end. A total of five large rooms were added, including a dressing room for ladies which was sorely needed.

On October 4, the *Evening News* reported: "Followers of the local State League team will be glad to learn that James Tierney, one of last season's favorites and the pride of Newport Township, will play with the Nans this season. In a letter received by William Warne, owner of the local team from Tierney, who is at present residing with members of his family in Montana, the latter states that he will report the later part of next week. 'Dick' Leary is expected to arrive in town either today or tomorrow and Manager 'Lew' Wachter and [new member] 'Chief' Mueller are expected the early part of next week. By the latter part of next week all members of the local team will be in town, thence practice will be commenced." Members of the team were Johnson of Pittsfield, MA;



Dick Leary

"Chief" Mueller of Troy, NY; Dick Leary who played center;

Phillips and Reed who came from the West Penn League; and local products Schecterly, Tierney, and Schimmel.

On Monday October 9, the Newport Township High School boys team began practice at Kirmar, and "has been known all over this section to have a strong five and this year's team is out to set up a record for the school. Peter Turek, a member of the high school faculty, will coach the team. The manager, Edward Kielar, has arranged for a good schedule and some interesting contests are expected to take place. Earl Smith will captain the team. Although the girls' team had an unsuccessful season last year due to the late start, a change for the better is anticipated this year." That same evening, Mary Weir held her second dance, at which she offered a "Lucky Number" contest. Increased attendance was expected.

On Wednesday October 18, the High School boys lost to the Mercury A.C., 17 to 10. "The game was very well played and was featured by the close guarding of the Mercury A.C., holding Wanamie [Newport] High School with but one field goal until the last three minutes to play." Members of the Newport team were Earl Smith, D. Phillips, Rogowicz, Edward Kielar, Krolokowski, and Turek.

On Tuesday October 17, the Nanticoke Nans played an away exhibition game against Carbondale, losing 34 to 16. A second game between Nanticoke and Carbondale of the Pennsylvania State League took place at Kirmar on October 19, with admission at 25 cents. The local team has "been practicing daily for nearly two weeks and are in perfect condition." The Nans were victorious in the second game, 25 to 22. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "Before the game started Manager 'Lew' Wachter was very agreeably surprised when Attorney Michael Donahue of Glen Lyon, on behalf of the newspaper men of Nanticoke, presented him with a beautiful basket of roses. Attorney Donahue delivered a short but agreeable presentation speech, and when he finished with the name of Wachter the crowd went wild and cheered Wachter again and again." Dancing followed the game and the People's Railway provided 15-minute car service. On Saturday, October 21, the team traveled to Wilkes-Barre for an exhibition game against the defending champions. It was a one-sided game, the Barons winning 37 to 7.

The season opener on Thursday October 26 brought Pittston to Kirmar. The Nans were victorious 26 to 17. "The defensive work of the Nannies was so good in the closing twenty minutes that the upper-enders were unable to land a double decker, seven points being made from free throws." Dancing followed the game. The month of November would see basketball season in full swing.

The war continued in Europe. Before World War I had broken out, American public opinion had been more negative toward the German Empire than towards any other country in Europe. At the start of the war, President Woodrow Wilson declared that the United States would be neutral. However, that neutrality was tested and fiercely debated. Over time, especially after reports of atrocities in Belgium in 1914 and following the sinking of the passenger liner RMS Lusitania in 1915, the American people increasingly came to see the German Empire as the aggressor. From July 1 to November 18, 1916, the Battle of the Somme, a river in northern France, was fought between the Allies and the Central Powers. It was planned as a joint operation between British and French forces to break the deadlock on the Western Front. But due to the German attack on the French at Verdun, Britain and its Empire would have to take the lead on the Somme. The battle was intended to hasten a victory for the Allies. More than three million men fought in the battle, of whom more than one million were either wounded or killed, making it one of the deadliest battles in all of human history. The battle would end in mid-November, after a five-month struggle that failed to secure a breakthrough. On July 30, 1916, an act of sabotage by agents of the German Empire occurred in New York Harbor and would come to be known as the "Black Tom Explosion." The explosions killed at least 7 people, wounded hundreds more and caused damage of U.S.-made munitions that were to be supplied to the Allies, worth some \$20,000,000 (\$560 million in today's money). This incident also damaged the Statue of Liberty.

To be continued....

Sources: *The Times Leader*, *The Wilkes-Barre Record*, *The Evening News*, *The Library of Congress*, *United States Department of State*, *Wikipedia*, *Newspapers.com*, *Metropolitan Museum of Art*, *Pro Basketball Encyclopedia*, various websites.



Pictured are the Officers of the Glen Lyon American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 following their installation ceremony by District President Dorothy Collins on August 27. The Unit will host the Bi-County Meeting on October 19 at the Legion Hall.

Pictured above are: L to r: President Barb Meyers, Vice President Eileen Case, Secretary Faith Kropiewnicki, Treasurer Tiffany Graham, Membership Chair Danielle Wolfe, Chaplain Terri Meyers, and Sergeant-at-Arms Faye Maloney. Absent was Historian Heidi Jarecki.



Parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish welcomed **Rev. Philbert Takyi-Nketiah**, newly appointed Administrator with a party on September 11 at the Falcon's Hall in Mocanaqua. Father Philbert is one of eight priests from Ghana currently serving in the Scranton Diocese. Father's parents are George, a teacher and Juliana, a crop manager. He is one of five children: Gifty, Philbert, Linus, Winifred, and Stephen, some of whom are nurses. Father studied biology, chemistry, and physics in college. He then studied philosophy at St. Paul's Seminary in Accra and theology at St. Peter's Regional Seminary in Cape Coast. He was ordained at St. Paul's in Nsoatre on July 12, 2008. Father Philbert was formerly a trained nurse and has a master's degree in Health Care Administration. He arrived in the United States in 2019. Father also serves as chaplain at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, fly fishing, running, and soccer. Holy Spirit Parish consists of St. Adalbert's in Glen Lyon, St. Mary's in Mocanaqua, and St. Martha's in Fairmont Springs. Former Pastor Rev. Louis Kaminski retired on June 9.

At a 9-11 ceremony honoring First Responders at Mission BBQ in Wilkes-Barre Township, Newport Township volunteer firefighter **Brandon Baker** sang the National Anthem. Mission BBQ donated sandwiches to local area fire departments. A big thank you to all first responders for their sacrifices.

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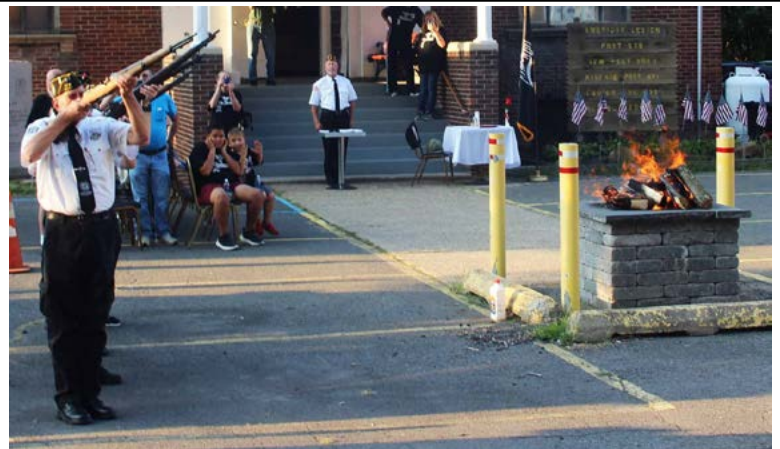
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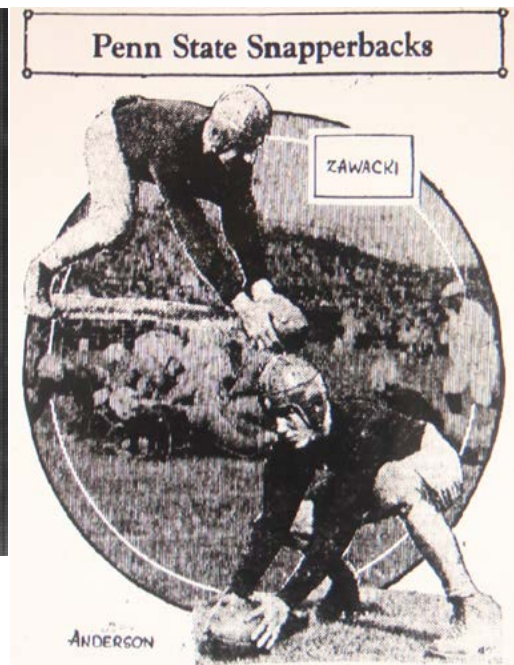
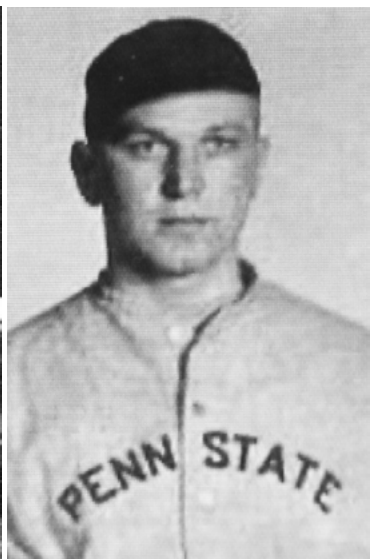
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Following the Walk of Warriors to honor POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 20, participants gathered at the Watchfire Event at the Glen Lyon Legion on Newport Street. During the Vietnam War, watchfires were used as a way to help soldiers separated from their units find their way back to camp. National POW/MIA Recognition Day always falls on the third Friday of September and honors those Americans who were prisoners of war and those who served and never returned home.



Zev Zawacki as a football player for Newport Township High School in 1926, as a baseball player for Penn State University, 1932 and his graduation picture from Penn State, 1934.

Stanley "Zev" Zawacki

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Stanley Leonard "Zev" Zawacki was born on May 13, 1910 to John and Mary Zawacki of Glen Lyon. Both John and Mary were born in Poland and immigrated to America. They were married on May 15, 1902 by the Rev. Andrew Sedlecki in St. Adalbert's Church and had eight children: Stanley, Verna, Edward, Louis, John, Alfreda, Heliodor, and Leonard. The family resided at 94 Newport Street. John was employed by the Susquehanna Collieries in Glen Lyon and worked there for over 50 years until his retirement. John passed away in June, 1961 and Mary, on September 25, 1965.

"Zev," as Stanley was known, was very athletic and starred in basketball and football while attending Newport Township High School. He graduated with the Class of 1928. Among his fellow graduates were Freddy Haverlak who became well-known in boxing circles (see Newsletter #60, p. 17), Clem Rogowicz, later coach at Newport High School, and Raymond Polnaiszek, long-time Glen Lyon funeral director. Zev worked for a year and in 1930, continued his academic career at Penn State College, now University, where he became a leading athlete.

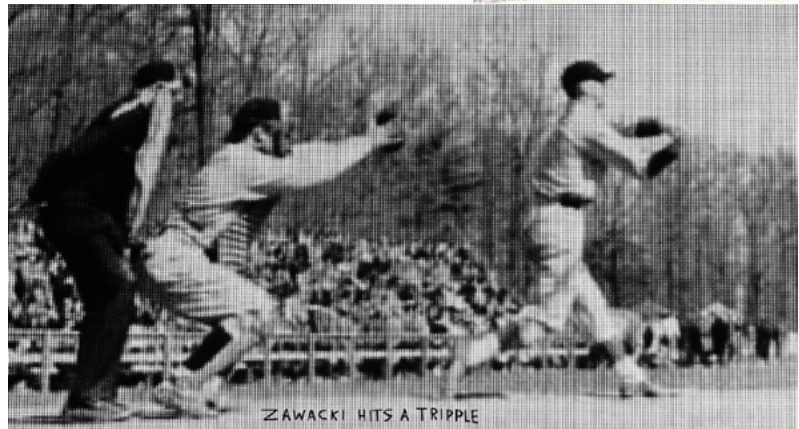
During his first year, he gained a regular tackle berth on the freshman football team. He also boxed and played basketball, but never went out for the varsity teams. He won the college foul-shooting contest, sinking 89 out of 100 shots and was selected for a position on the All-Intramural basketball team. He was also the regular catcher on the freshman baseball team.

As a sophomore, junior, and senior, Zev won two varsity letters each year, being the center on the football team, and the first baseman or catcher on the baseball team. In his senior year, Zev blasted a home run against Syracuse and scored a run in the 9th, winning the game 5 to 4. A month later, he went 2 for 4 with a home run against West Virginia and Penn State won, 14 to 3.

Zev played football under head coach Bob Higgins. Bob Higgins played college football at Penn State where he was a three-time All-American. He served as head coach at Penn State from 1930 to 1948. Over the first four years of Higgins's coaching when Zev played, the team amassed a record of 10-20-3. During his 1933 senior season, Zev injured his shoulder making a tackle, which cut short a promising professional baseball career.

In addition to being engaged in athletics, Zev was a member of the Tau Sigma Phi social fraternity and the Druids and the Parmin Nous, both honorary campus societies. He graduated in 1934 with a degree in Industrial Education. He then returned to Glen Lyon and became very active in local sports. Zev played baseball for several local teams, including the Wilkes-Barre Barons, and football with the Glen Lyon Go-Getters (See Newsletter #65, p. 14) He not only played for the Go-Getters but was also assistant coach under his former classmate, head coach Clem Rogowicz.

In 1937, he started his high school coaching career at Womelsdorf High School in Berks County, coaching the baseball team. Two years later, he accepted a position at Cherry Township High School,



ZAWACKI HITS A TRIPPLE



Zev on the Penn State Football Team

a brand new building in Bernice, Sullivan County. This new high school was a consolidation of Mildred, Lopez, Dushore, and Bernice schools. Zev taught history, industrial arts and shop. He coached both the boys and girls basketball teams and the girls volleyball team. His boys basketball teams were generally among the best in the BCAA League and in 1949 he captured the league championship. There was one occasion when Zev coached against his former high school. On April 3, 1945, Newport High School's basketball team traveled to Bernice and defeated Cherry Township in a

benefit for the Sullivan County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 23 to 12. In addition to his coaching duties, Zev served as a football official. He was supervisor and administrative head of the Dushore Center which sponsored federally financed defense training courses in association with Pennsylvania State College. At the Center he also taught the Penn State extension course in drafting.

Zev married Mary Halupka of Mocanaqua on June 14, 1940. Mary was a graduate of Shickshinny High School. They had two daughters Mary Elizabeth and Anne. While visiting New York in the summer of 1950, Zev was suddenly taken ill. For several weeks his condition did not improve. Surgery was performed at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre. Zev passed away on September 13, 1950 at the age of 40. The cause of death was intra-abdominal hemorrhage due to a bleeding duodenal ulcer. Mary passed away at age 90 on September 4, 1997. At the time of Mary's death there were 6 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Zev and Mary are interred in St. Basil's Cemetery in Dushore.

19 Sources: Centre Daily Times (State College), Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, The Evening Times (Sayre), The Citizen's Voice, ancestry.com, various websites.



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National Night Out

Sponsored by Newport Township Crime Watch on the first Tuesday of August each year, National Night Out is a community event which promotes partnerships between local police officers and the residents they serve. Pictured left are various participants, including State Rep. Alec Ryncavage, Police Chief Jeremy Blank, Township Commissioners and members of Crime Watch.



Despite the rainy weather brought on by Tropical Storm Debby, folks enjoyed the activities and displays, including the Smoke House demonstrations, children's games, and basket raffles. The Women's Activity Group handed out backpacks filled with school supplies to all children. The Boy Scouts provided a derby and Alden Axe House allowed everyone to test their throwing skills.





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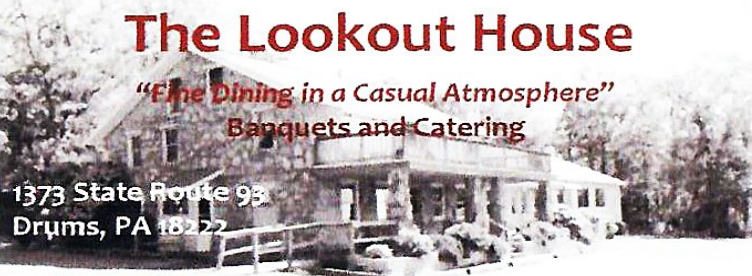
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Editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki



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

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

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at tomkashatus@gmail.com to be entered into our data base. You will then be notified of new publications on NTCO's website at <http://www.newporttownship.com>.

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Volunteers Needed!

The NTCO strongly encourages residents to get involved in whatever community activity best fits their interests and talents. There are several organizations to choose from: The Women's Activity Group, Little League Baseball, The Lions Club, The Newport Township Crime Watch, the Veterans' Groups, The Newport Township Community Organization, The Fire Department, and Emergency Management. In addition to performing charitable and protective services, the groups also provide social opportunities as well. Won't you join us?

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 when available. Alternate site is the parking lot in the Wanamie Recreation Park. 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.



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 installed in the Township last year. With a donation of \$15.00, it will be yours! Limited availability in sizes S (2), M (1), XL (3), 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. Shown modeling the shirts are Tom Tarnowski and Ted Evan, both formerly from Glen Lyon and who now reside in New Jersey. Thanks!

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