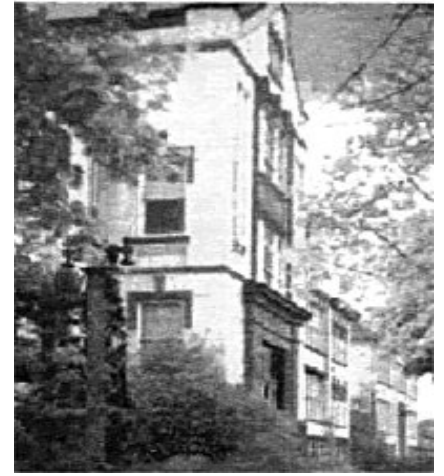


Newport Community News



*A Newsletter of the
Newport Township Community Organization*

*Fall 2006
Number 7*

State of the Township

As of early September, there are 8 dilapidated buildings in the Township's demolition program, funded by a \$125,000 grant from Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD). The program's numerous procedures include the following. The Township Commissioners, with the permission of a building's owner, ask the OCD to include the building in its demolition program, they inspect for and if necessary remove asbestos, and finally, with the approval of the County Commissioners, they contract to demolish the building. The buildings in the program are at the following locations.

- 1) 63 E. Enterprise St., Glen Lyon
- 2) 10 W. Kirmar Ave., Alden
- 3) 17-19 Vine St., Glen Lyon
- 4) 110 W. Main St., Glen Lyon (VFW)
- 5) 241 W. Kirmar Pkwy, Wanamie
- 6) 65-67 Ridge St., Glen Lyon
- 7) 95 Newport St., Glen Lyon
- 8) 592 Old Newport St., Wanamie

Buildings 1, 2, and 3 have passed through all the legal procedures needed to demolish them. In September the Commissioners voted to accept a bid of \$34,800 for their demolition by Shea Industries of Clarks Summit.

Building 4, the Glen Lyon VFW, partially collapsed in July. Under emergency procedures, because of the danger to residents, the County asked for bids to demolish it and received one, for

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A Message from the President

Steve Phillips, a resident of Wanamie, is President of the Newport Township Community Organization.

During the past three months the Newport Township Community Organization continued to monitor the activities of the Township's Board of Commissioners. Representatives from the Organization have maintained the policy of attending the regular monthly meetings of the governing body as well as the work sessions.

At the Township Commissioners' July meeting, the Community Organization, for the third consecutive year, presented the Commissioners with a list of the five areas upon which it was felt that the governing body should focus. A list of the five areas is more fully addressed in another article in this publication.

The volunteer group recognizes that its recommendations are only advisory, and that the Commissioners retain the right to impose their will upon

which areas the Municipality will focus its attention. However, the Community Organization continues to strongly encourage the municipal officials to adopt a specific action plan for the Community. The Commissioners continue to be reminded that no one plans to fail, rather that people fail to plan. Commissioner John Zyla did, however, indicate that he was of the opinion that the Township should strive to insure that adequate water pressure is made available to service all sections of the Municipality, thus

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The Community Organization sponsored five Children's Activities Days this summer. On Photography Day, mascots Tux and the Grump were a hit with children and adults. Read about it on page 5.

People

Hope Gernhart

Hope Gernhart of Glen Lyon thanks her lucky stars every day. And, no wonder. On June 27, during the heavy rains, Hope and Firefighter Larry Savage were helping to sandbag Newport Creek



Hope and Tom Gernhart with their children Erica 11, Elizabeth 4, and T. J. 1.

near the Heavy Equipment Center. Suddenly a four-foot wall of water came roaring down the mountain. "With no warning at all, the water just came over me and set me off my feet," Hope recalls. "It had initially thrown me into Larry's truck. I remember trying to get away from underneath it. I grabbed on to his door and was yelling for help. I didn't know where he was. I continued to be taken downstream about 200 yards and my husband rescued me. I opened my eyes to Jason Kowalski and Jason Poremba. I remember thinking I don't want to go anywhere, just get me home to my kids."

Runoff from the mountain above Wanamie had dammed up behind debris and broke through, creating the wall of water. It appeared so suddenly that nobody could get out of its way.

Hope is a volunteer emergency medical technician and her husband Tom is a volunteer firefighter in the township. They both get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people and the community. This incident is one neither one will forget. Tom feels that this will help broaden training for firefighters to include water rescue.

When asked what she learned from this harrowing experience, Hope replied, "You could be here one day and gone tomorrow. You never know. Tomorrow may not come."

Amen.

Newport Township Fire Department

The Newport Township Fire Department has something to crow about! On June 22 through June 24, the Honey Pot Fire Department hosted the 103rd annual Six County Firefighters' Convention. Fire departments from Luzerne, Lackawanna, Columbia, Montour, Schuylkill and Northumberland Counties gathered in Nanticoke to talk shop, discuss safety issues, and hear a lecture from Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann and other

speakers. The last day featured a carnival and a parade in which over 100 departments participated, some as far away as Garfield, New Jersey.

There is some friendly competition at the convention as well. A panel from the Delaware Valley Judges Association inspects and scrutinizes each piece of equipment, checking for dust with the finger swipe. The judges also compare the appearance of each vehicle as well as each marching unit. Trophies are given in several categories.

The Newport Township Fire Department won the most prestigious award given by the convention. Newport took first place honors for Best Appearing Company Overall. This is significant because it includes both equipment and personnel. This is the highest honor a fire department can receive and salutes the "Best of the Best."

Newport also won first place for Most Functional Engine with pumping capacity of 750 gallons per minute or under, first place for Most Functional Basic Life Support Unit, and second place for Most Functional Light Rescue Unit.

Congratulations to the Newport Township Fire Department. You make us proud! ♦

Presidents Message (continued from page 1)

substantially assisting in developing presently vacant parcels of land. Additional input from his fellow Commissioners is strongly encouraged.

The Community Organization continues to applaud the major strides recently made by the fire department under the capable leadership of Fire Chief Dan Kowalski. All residents are encouraged to support this department's fund raising activities.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Organization's third annual Fall Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Holy Child Grove in Sheatown.

The Township residents are reminded that more volunteers are needed to help guarantee that Newport remains a first class Township in all respects. ♦

Township Contact Information

Business Manager	Rich Zika	735-4735
Building Code Official	Rich Zika	735-4735
Exec. Director Newport Twp. Authority	Palmira Miller	736-6637

Township Commissioners

Fire Department	Tom Kashatus	736-6981
Police Department	John Zyla	735-1714
Street Department	Paul Czapracki	736-6859
Building Code	John Wilkes	735-6914
Parks and Recreation	John Vishnefski	735-6984 ♦

Township Public Business

New Fire Engines

At the beginning of the summer the Newport Township Fire Department had three fire engines: Number 1, a Class A 2001 pumper truck, Number 2, a Class A 1985 pumper truck in need of tens of thousands of dollars of repairs to brakes, exhaust, and especially the pumping system, and Number 3, a 1949 Ward LaFrance pumper truck, still usable but not up to present standards of performance.

This summer, the Stickney Volunteer Fire Company at 24 South Prospect Street in Nanticoke lost its fire house. At the July meeting of the Newport Township Commissioners, Jim Kaszowicz, the Company's Secretary, and Robert Bray, its president, gave the Company's fire engine, a 1972 American LaFrance truck, refurbished in 1994-95 at a cost of \$110 thousand, to the Newport Fire Department under the following conditions.

- 1) Within 4 years the Stickney Company can ask for its return.
- 2) If Stickney disbands, Newport gets free title to the engine.
- 3) Newport will put the Stickney name on both sides and the front of the engine. The Stickney members said that they wanted to see the engine used. The fire engine is in good condition and will be a useful addition to the Township's Fire Company

Also this summer, the Township's Firemen's Relief Association bought a ladder truck (fire truck) from Harleysville in Montgomery County. It is a 1978 Mack truck, refurbished about 10 years ago. The Association also bought a 1983 Mack rescue pumper (fire and rescue truck). The cost for both vehicles was \$50,000. Newport Township will reimburse the Association for the ladder truck, and take ownership of it. The Relief Association will retain ownership of the rescue truck. The Township will pay the Association \$45,000 for the truck by borrowing the money from the Association at no interest, and repaying the loan in yearly installments over 5 years. The ladder truck will be useful because of the number of our buildings with 3 or more stories.



At our Children's Activities Game Day, hula hoops and horseshoes were popular. We also had an Ethnic Dance Day.

The Stickney truck will replace the Number 2 1985 truck, and the ladder truck will replace the Number 3 1949 truck in fighting fires, but the 1949 vehicle will be kept as a reserve truck at this time. We thank the Stickney Fire Company for generously giving us its truck, which we were in need of and will put to good use.

Burning Ordinance

At their June meeting, the Township commissioners amended the nuisance ordinance, Ordinance Number 3 of 1986, by adding a Subsection 17 to Section 2. The amendment 1) forbids bringing material into the Township to burn, 2) forbids burning during non-daylight hours, 3) forbids fires emitting smoke or particles or bad odors detected off the burner's property, and 4) requires that burning be done by a resident at least 18 years of age. There are

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Variety of annuals
Hanging Baskets
Geraniums Cemetery Logs
Combo-Pots Vegetable Plants
Fall Mums

8 Kirmar Parkway, Alden 542-2316 735-2004
(Hrobback's Garage)
Next to Clawson's

**Mil-N-Jim's
Parkway Inn
Alden, PA**

**Full Restaurant Menu
Served Daily 11-11
570-735-2745
24 West Kirmar Avenue**

(570) 736-6585

Jarnowski's Market

**Home Made Fresh & Smoked Sausage
Made All Year Round**

**Holiday Orders Taken
Up to 7 Days Before**

**32 East Main Street
Glen Lyon, PA 18617**

Phone: (570) 736-6007

**Open: Everyday
4pm-10pm**

Glen Lyon Pizza

Party Platters

Fund Raisers

Weekday Specials!

Pick up or Delivery Available!

Township Public Business (continued from page 3)

exceptions: fires set by the Township, fire-fighting training approved by the Township, and fires solely for cooking are permitted.



At Photography Day we gave children cameras. Face painting and mascots Tux and the Grump were great photographic subjects. At the Bicycle Rodeo and Safety Inspection Day, mascot Crockett of the Pioneers was a picturesque addition to the fun.

Regional Police Force Study

The Township Commissioners voted in June to participate in a study of the feasibility of a regional police force for Nanticoke, Hanover Township, and Newport Township. Commissioners John Zyla and John Wilkes will be Township representatives on a steering committee directing the study, which will be conducted by the Pennsylvania Economy League. The Township will not pay any of the costs of the study.

The experience of a regional police force organized by four

municipalities in the Poconos suggests that regionalization results in improved police protection. However, taxpayer costs for that protection may rise in the meantime. Nanticoke and Hanover both have 2 detectives on their forces, and Hanover has a canine unit. These resources, it seems, would be available to Newport Township under a regional police system and would strengthen its police force.

Street Numbers

According to the International Property Maintenance Code, which is the legal building code in the Township, a building should have a street number, at least 4 inches high with at least a ½ inch stroke width, in a visible location on its front side.

First Demolition

In August, the Township demolished its first dilapidated building under a demolition program funded by a \$125,000 grant from Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD).

The building, the Glen Lyon VFW at 110 West Main Street, was demolished first only because of its partial collapse in July, making it a danger to the community. Two other buildings were ahead of it in the demolition process.

While the Township commissioners applied for the OCD grant and members of the Newport Township Authority administered the demolition program, the Community Organization played a role in bringing about this success. The Organization initiated an interest in working on the problem of dilapidated buildings and kept the issue alive in public discussions. Congratulations to all these groups.

It is important for us residents to understand that working together as a community can improve the quality of life here and is a worthwhile activity. ♦

The Office Bar and Grill • Main Road, Lee

Specials
 Tuesday--Seafood Wednesday--Steak \$10.95
 Thursday--All You Can Eat Pasta \$8.00
 Sat and Sun--Soup and Sandwich Only \$3.50
 Full Menu Also Available!

Grove Rentals 736-6684 Private Parties
 New Hours: Mon-Fri 4 pm, Sat 2 pm, Sun 11am

(570) 735-2225
 (570) 735-0167 FAX

Middle Road
 Nanticoke, PA 18634



Jeff Stewart

Restaurant, Lounge, Catering

\$



\$

\$ 22 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617
 \$ 570-736-SAVE Fax: 570-736-7111



The Variety Stop, Inc.

15 East Main Street
 Glen Lyon, PA 18617-1140

(570) 736-7369

Seasonal Events

Community Organization Recommendations to the Township Commissioners

The following list is the Newport Township Community Organization's most recent proposals to the Newport Township Board of Commissioners:

1. Establish the position of full time code enforcement official.
2. Strictly enforce all existing Township ordinances.
3. Develop a recreational program, which will meet the needs of Township residents of all ages.
4. Establish a planning committee charged with developing a Municipality wide revitalization plan and addressing all public safety issues including those relating to all terrain vehicles.
5. Rehabilitate the Township recreation parks.



Murph Fletcher and Mary Margaret Kashatus, dressed here for the Bicycle Rodeo, organized the highly successful Children's Activities at the Recreation Park in Wanmie this summer.

Summer Fun

The Newport Township Community Organization sponsored five days of children's activities this past summer. They were held at the Recreation Park in Wanamie and were co-ordinated by Mary Margaret Kashatus and Murph Fletcher.

Each day had a theme. The first was GAMES. It was held on June 26th and attended by six children. They played basketball, tennis, soccer, board games and ring toss.

The second was BRING YOUR FAVORITE PET OR DOLL. It was held on July 10th and attended by nine children. The children told stories about their pets and dolls.

Twelve children attended July 31st. Its theme was ETHNIC DANCING. Marie Gerlock gave the children lessons in Polka and Czardas. Mr. And Mrs. Gerald Hudak gave lessons in square

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Seasonal Health

Keeping Your Pets Safe in the Autumn

With the arrival of the fall season come colder weather, holidays, new visitors and new foods. Your pets face new challenges to their safety and health.

According to the Happy Tails Dog Spa October 2005 newsletter:

- Pets should have a warm, dry, draft free area in which to rest and sleep.
- Pets may require more calories in colder weather.
- A very small amount of antifreeze is very toxic to your pet. It smells and tastes great, but even a small amount can be fatal. Clean up any spill quickly
- Make sure food and water is not too cold.
- Fall bulbs are great for planting, but some are very toxic to your pets. Do not let your pet play with or chew on bulbs.

Halloween offers many dangers to your pet. The Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue offers the following advice:

- Vicious people have stolen, injured and killed pets around the Halloween holiday. Keep pets indoors during this time. Do not let them outside unattended.
- Trick and treat candy is not for pets. Chocolate is poisonous to many animals. Candy wrapping poses a choking hazard.
- Pets can knock over a lit candle or lit pumpkin decoration. Keep pets away so they are not burned or start a fire.
- Keep pets away from trick or treaters coming to your door. Costumes can make pets fearful.
- If you dress your pet up for Halloween, make sure they enjoy it and make sure the costume does not choke or injure them.

People spend more times indoors cooking meals that may contain foods and fats that upset a pet's stomach. Always consult a vet about any changes in your pet's diet. Monitor how many "treats" new visitors are giving pets.

In case a pet gets lost, always have identification on your pet. A microchip implanted by a veterinarian or a tag on a collar can provide others with the information to return a lost pet .

Seasonal Affective Disorder

According to the National Mental Health Association, some people suffer from depression and its symptoms of excessive sleeping and eating, craving for sugary starchy foods, and mood changes only during the late fall and winter months.

It is thought the shorter and darker days of fall and winter cause the production of the hormone melatonin to rise in the body. This hormone is thought to cause symptoms of depression.

The use of bright light therapy suppresses the brain's production of melatonin. Many people respond to the antidepressant effect of this therapy. Mild symptoms may be helped just by spending more time outdoors during the day, and arranging your home and workspace so more light filters into the area. Your doctor can help. ♦

Seasonal Events (continued from page 5)



Even the littlest of us enjoyed Summer Fun at the Rec Park.

dance, bunny hop, and chicken dance.

The theme for August 7th was PHOTOGRAPHY DAY. The thirty children that came were given cameras and driven around the township to take pictures of whatever they wanted. Tux, mascot of the Penguins, and Grump, mascot of the Red Barons, accompanied the children.

The theme for August 31st was BICYCLE RODEO AND SAFETY INSPECTION.

It was great to see the popularity of the children's activity days grow through the summer. Murph and Mary are planning to do this again next summer.

Public Participation at Township Meetings

At the June meeting of the Township Commissioners, Tom Kashatus asked Township Solicitor Richard Shiptoski whether public input at Commissioners' work sessions is allowed. Mr Shiptoski said that at Township meetings that are executive sessions, which discuss such matters as personnel and real estate, the Commissioners can exclude the public. But at other Township meetings, under Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act, public participation is allowed, and is actually mandated. Commissioners can regulate public participation, but they cannot ban it.

It is important that you know that you have a right to attend and express your opinion at most Township meetings.

Volunteer Fire Fighter Training

Pennsylvania law mandates the training of volunteer fire fighters. The basic training, called Essentials, has been increased to about 166 hours of classes. Instructors trained at the State Fire Academy teach the course. Newport Township's volunteer training officer Tom Gernhart says that a volunteer has to take a certification test after these 166 hours of training to get the Fire Fighter #1 Certification, and this is only the beginning of training. Tom will be attending the State Fire Academy in the near future to get his certification as an Essentials instructor. ♦

Newport Township Community Organization

110 ½ Railroad Avenue, Wanamie, PA 18634-4005

On the Internet: www.newporttownship.com.

Officers

President	Steve Phillips	735-3991
1st Vice President	Russ Sager	736-6823
2nd Vice President	Tom Kashatus	736-6981
Treasurer	Steve Masakowski	735-2367
Secretary	Palmira Miller	736-6637

Calendar of Summer Events

Community Organization Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus building (formerly St. Denis Church) on East Main Street in Glen Lyon. Fall meeting dates are the following.

Tuesday September 26 Tuesdays November 14 and 28
Tuesdays October 10 and 24 Tuesday December 12

Township Commissioners Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building in Wanamie. Fall meeting dates are the following.

Mondays October 2, November 6, December 4

Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Community Organization is printed four times a year. Its purpose is to tell Township residents about the Organization's activities and about their community.

Newsletter Staff

Editing, Public Business	John Jarecki	736-6620
People	Heidi Selecky	
Health, Photography	Carol Marcincavage	
Seasonal Events	Francis Zaleski	
Advertisements	Linda Hourigan, Barbara Pelak	
Distribution	Joe Maloney, Faye Maloney, Mary Margaret Kashatus, Steve Masakowski	

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about this newsletter, please call John Jarecki at 736-6620 or e-mail him at jjarecki@catvexpress.net. ♦

State of the Township (continued from page 1)

\$43,000. The Commissioners, again because of the danger, voted to immediately accept the bid, and demolition began on August 17, with funds coming from the \$125,000 OCD grant.

Building 5 has passed all the legal procedures needed to demolish it. Buildings 6,7, and 8 are at the stage of asbestos inspection. Expecting to get a lower price as a group, the Township plans to demolish buildings 5 through 8 at the same time. ♦