

# Newport Community News



*A Newsletter of the  
Newport Township Community Organization*

*Fall 2007  
Number 11*

## **State of the Township**

*By John Jarecki*

In July our State Representative John Yudichak inserted into the State's capital budget a proposal to build a new \$200 million state prison in Newport Township on abandoned coal lands between Whitney Pointe and Glen Lyon.

This is not guaranty that the State will build a new prison in the Township. What this is, though, is the first step of a process that could bring a prison here.

According to a spokesman in the office of Representative Yudichak, the state capital budget is a preliminary plan for state spending over the next several years. In order to turn that plan into actual results, a great deal of work will have to be done. The state would have to do studies of the feasibility of the project, including studies of resulting traffic patterns and of the adequacy of utilities such as sewers and water supplies.

And, very important to us residents of Newport Township, we would have an opportunity to express our feelings at a public meeting about putting a prison in our community.

What do we know about the effect of state prisons in Pennsylvania on their local communities? We have a report dated May 2007 written by investigators at Edinboro University of Pennsyl-

(continued on page 3)

## **A Message from the President**

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

For the fourth consecutive year the Newport Township Community Organization has drafted a Five-Point Plan highlighting the specific areas upon which the Organization feels that the Board of Township Commissioners should focus its efforts in the coming year.

The Five-Point Plan is advisory in nature only, but it is prepared annually as a outline highlighting those topics viewed as most important by the volunteer group. The elected officials are encouraged to either adopt some or all of the recommendations as both entities strive to work together to improve the overall quality of life within the Township.

The five specific items addressed in this document are specifically addressed elsewhere in the publication.

October will also mark the Community Organization's fourth annual Fall Festival. The event will be held on October 6 commencing at 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Child Grove in Sheatown. All Township residents are strongly encouraged to attend with their friends and family members.

Predicated upon a suggestion from one of its members, the

(continued on page 6)



"Lemon, lime, sweet, and sour, how many boys can you kiss in an hour?" At the Community Organization's Summer Fun children's activities at the Wanamie Rec Park

## People

By Heidi Selecky

### Reverend John Seniw

Since 1895 St. Nicholas Church in Glen Lyon has been a place of worship first to Greek and later Ukrainian Catholics in the



Township. In recent times, Msgr. Bohdan Olesh served the parish for more than forty years until he passed away. The present pastor is Rev. John Seniw, who began his assignment three years ago. Father John is also pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Berwick, where he lives in the rectory.

Reverend John Seniw of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Glen Lyon

Born and reared in Erie, Pennsylvania,

Father John realized his vocation in high school. He encountered many people who were searching for God and, wanting to help them, he decided to become a priest. He attended Gannon University in Erie and then St. Basil's Seminary in Stamford, Connecticut where he earned his degree in philosophy. He continued his studies at St. Josaphat Seminary in Washington, D.C. and was ordained on May 16, 1982.

Serving the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Father John's first assignment was at St. Josaphat's Parish in Parma, Ohio. He was then appointed assistant pastor at St. Josaphat's Church in Philadelphia. The Archbishop Stefan Soroca requested that Father John continue his studies in Eastern Christianity and he was sent to St. Josaphat's Seminary in Rome. Father John now considers St. Josaphat, a bishop and martyr in the 16th century, as his patron saint!

Father John's interests include small-mouth bass fishing and fly fishing for trout. He also enjoys hunting for deer and small game. His faithful companion is a Brittany Spaniel named Marty who accompanies him on his adventures. He has also visited the Ukraine twice, both times being memorable experiences for him.

### Trishie's Tiny Treasures

Upon crossing the threshold of Trishie's Tiny Treasures in Sheatown, the visitor enters the delightful and fascinating world of miniatures. Miniatures have existed for thousands of years,

dating back to Egyptian times. Wealthy people collected miniature versions of items used in everyday life. By the early 17th century, the storage for such items became the dollhouses as we know them today.

**Trishie Bienkowski** of Alden has always been enthralled with this hobby. Upon reading an article about miniatures in AARP magazine, Trishie talked her husband Joe into making a trip to a miniature shop in Lancaster, the only one she had ever heard of. That was in 1978. She opened Tiny Treasures and never looked back.

Among the many displays are a greenhouse not much bigger than a shoebox, complete with tiny garden gloves, shovels, flower pots, and hanging baskets; an Egyptian burial tomb fit for King Tutankhamen, the sarcophagus the length of a teaspoon; and a garage, with gas cans, pliers, and little bitty jumper cables hanging on the wall.

The hobbyist group "Minis of Northeast Pennsylvania," with members from as far away as Syracuse, New York meets at Trishie's on the 3rd Saturday of each month to work on miniature projects.

Tiny Treasures offers a wide variety of dollhouses, furniture, and accessories for sale. Located at 66 Robert Street, the shop is opened Wednesdays 4 to 8 and Saturdays 10 to 2 and other hours by appointment. Call 735-1622 or 735-6688. Everyone is welcome.

### Native American Pow Wow

Susquehannock, Nescopeck, Mocanaqua, and Nanticoke are American Indian tribes that lived in the Wyoming Valley long ago. The Wanamose (or Wanamie) came from the Delaware River and settled near here in the 18th century. Native American culture came alive the weekend of August 25-26 with the first Pow Wow ever held in Newport Township at the Wanamie Recreation Park.

The Pow Wow, or Gathering of all People, is held several times during the year. Participants bond, dance, and share their traditions with each other and non-Indian people. **Russell Dawson** of Berwick is a member of the Tuscorora Nation. He organized the Gathering with sponsorship from South Valley Chamber of Commerce and assistance from the Newport Township Fire Department and Ambulance Crew. Approximately twelve tribes were represented, including Seneca, Aztec, Cherokee, Mohawk, and Oneida. Participants came from as far away as Ohio, Florida and Texas.

A Gathering typically begins and ends with the Grand Parade of the Colors or flags representing each group. A large circle is marked off with ribbons and a small fire in the middle is maintained by the Fire-Keeper. All dancing takes place here. Fire represents purity and the smoke carries prayers to the Creator. The Keeper cannot allow the fire to go out during the entire event.

Most participants wear regalia and jewelry typical of their tribe. The dances, such as the Shawl Dance, are often graceful and deeply significant. The Candy Dance and the Snake Dance make learning fun for both children and adults alike. ♦

**State of the Township** ( continued from page 1)

vania entitled "Prisons and Rural Communities: Exploring Impact and Community Satisfaction." The authors of the report interviewed prison officials and residents of four communities in Pennsylvania, including Dallas, which now have state prisons.

They found that people who live near these facilities have overall positive feelings about the prisons as neighbors, are pleased with what they see of the jobs created by the prisons, are generally satisfied with prison safety, and have only minor concerns about ex-offenders and parolees living in the community.

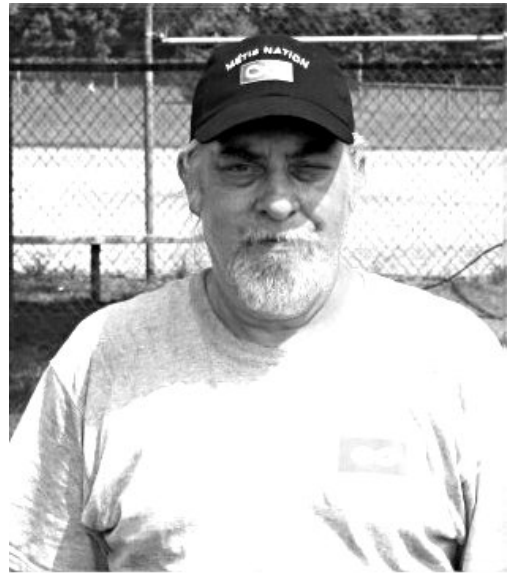
Prison officials say that the most important economic impact of the prisons is to create jobs. But prison employees typically live from 15 to 30 miles from the prison, which means that income and spending from these jobs is spread over a large area. Similarly, the prisons have little effect on local business.

In Newport we could expect a financial benefit from the prison in that it is estimated it would bring about 500 new jobs, each paying a Township Emergency and Government Services tax of \$52. That would add about \$25,000 to Township income.



Trishie Bienkowski, proprietor of Trishie's Tiny Treasures in Sheatown

According to Township Business Manager Rich Zika, we can also expect that the Township will receive prison construction fees of about one percent of the construction cost of \$200 million. That would be \$2 million, which could be used say to improve the recreation areas for our children, pave roads, or pay for a full time building code official to manage our problems with neglected and deteriorating houses.



Russell Dawson of Berwick, organizer of the Native American Pow-Wow, or Gathering, at the Rec Park in Wanamie

And looking further into the future, according to Representative Yudichak, Newport Township would benefit from state money being used to build roads and other public works for the prison, which would also be useful in opening up to development a valuable piece of abandoned coal land. We can imagine new homes and new businesses, all adding to Township income.

The State's Department of Corrections would like to build its new prisons within two or three years. Now is a good time for us to begin thinking about whether having a prison here would add or detract from the quality of life in our community. ♦

*John Jarecki is Editor of this Newsletter. He is also chairman of the Renew Newport Political Committee*



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## Township Public Business

By John Jarecki

### Department of Environmental Protection Forbids Municipal Burning

During the summer, the State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notified Newport Township that it cannot burn waste at the municipal shed in Wanamie, as it has been doing.



State Police Officer Martin Connors gave a talk and demonstration at our Summer Fun children's activities.

Community Organization member Paul Jarecki, who works for the DEP, says that municipalities, like Newport Township, cannot burn waste from residences without a permit. Newport does not have a permit, and it is expensive and time consuming to get one.

This will cause a number of problems for us. Commissioner Tom Kashatus says that people want to demolish old garages and dispose of the waste. A cheap way of doing this is by burning it. Similarly, the Community Organization collects big junk each April and makes use of free landfill space from the

Alliance Landfill to dispose of part of it. The Township has been burning another part of it at the municipal shed, which saves the cost of renting additional dumpsters and transporting them to a landfill for disposal.

As of now, we know of no low cost alternative to burning.

### Two New Part Time Police Officers Hired

In July the Township hired two new part time police officers: Justin St. Clair from Wilkes-Barre and Justin Gibbons from the Drums area. Mr. St. Clair is 24 years old and has three years experience as a police officer. Mr. Gibbons is a 2005 graduate of Lackawana College, and a classmate of Police Chief Robert Impaglia. This is his first job as a police officer. We now have nine part time police officers and one full time police chief. We wish the two new officers all the best.

### New Fire Engine Operators

In July, the Township hired Jason Poremba and Joe Nealon as part time dispatcher-fire engine operators. These are paid positions, but without benefits. We wish them all the best in their new jobs.

(continued on page 5)



Tennis at our Summer Fun children's activities

### T's and Things

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**Township Public Business** (continued from page 4)

**Recreation Parks**

The Township recently received a recreation grant of \$5000 from the State's Department of Community and Economic Development. According to Parks and Recreation Commissioner John Vishnefski, the Township will use the money to improve our recreation parks. We congratulate the Commissioners on getting this grant.

But as Commissioner Vishnefski has said, the Township needs much more money to do a thorough renovation.



Making paper, as it was done in colonial times, at Summer Fun

In July, 14 year old Chris Scholl, 13 year old Tom Turner, and 14 year old Jeff Levandowski, all of Orchard Street in Glen Lyon, presented to the Commissioners a petition, signed by over 200 residents, asking the Township to build a skateboard park in the Coal Street recreation area in Glen Lyon. Chris told the Commissioners that skateboarding is the number one recreation activity in the



Skateboarders : (first row) Tom Turner, Nick Bukofski, Jeff Levandowski; (second row) Mark Gorney, Jeff Acy

country, with more participants than Little League Baseball. He said that he and his friends are willing to raise money toward the park

This situation might be one more example of the inability of our community to provide recreational opportunities for children. But at a Community Organization meeting at the end of August, Randy Rushton of the South Valley Partnership (SVP), a group promoting community development in Nanticoke, Plymouth Township, and Newport Township, said the SVP offered to give to Newport, free of charge, the equipment to build an entire skateboard park. Mr. Rushton said that the SVP had planned to install the equipment in a Nanticoke recreation area, but decided to build another type of skateboard park, thereby freeing the equipment. There are still many unanswered questions about this. We will keep you informed.

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**Corpus Christi Parish**

Glen Lyon  
Sunday Masses  
4:00 p.m. Sat  
9:00 a.m. Sun



Wanamie  
Sunday Masses  
11:00 a.m. Sun

Weekdays 8:30 a.m.

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**Sale of Fire Engine Number 2**

The Township recently sold its Fire Engine Number 2 for \$15,000 to the town of El Dorado, Oklahoma. Engine Number 2 is a Class A 1985 pumper truck, about 22 years old and in need of repairs. Last summer, the Township replaced it in service by a 1972 American LaFrance truck, refurbished in 1994-95 at a cost of \$110 thousand by Nanticoke's Stickney Fire Company, and acquired as a gift from Stickney, which was closing its doors .

**May Primary Election**

In our summer newsletter, we neglected to acknowledge the winners of the May primary election. We especially congratulate Paul Czpracki, John Wilkes, and Michael Roke for winning the strongly contested Democratic primary. Paul received 555 votes, John 615, and Michael 595, out of a total of about 1200 cast. We also congratulate Bill Hourigan and Mike Figmic for winning the Republican primary. Bill received 25 write in votes, and Mike received 102 votes, out of about 140 cast. ♦

*John Jarecki is Editor of this Newsletter. He is also Chairman of the Renew Newport Political Committee*

**Newport Notes**

The Newport Township Community Organization will hold its annual **Fall Festival** on Saturday October 6 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Holy Child Grove in Sheatown. Co-chair Carolyn Phillips asks all community Organization members to help. Call Carolyn at 735-3991 or Palmira at 736-6637. For information about the children's art contest, call Janine at 736-4303.

The **Glen Lyon Crime Watch** meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Glen Lyon Italian Club. ♦

Community Organization anticipates holding forums where individuals will be invited to speak on topics of importance to the Township and its residents. These sessions are expected to be held in the near future, with tentative plans to devote one Community Organization meeting a month to the forums.

If any resident has a topic he or she would like to see addressed at one of these sessions, please contact any officer of the Community Organization.

All Township residents are respectfully urged to patronize local businesses to the maximum extent possible, especially those firms advertising with in this newsletter.

The Community Organization continues to serve as a strong proponent of citizen involvement, and recommends that all persons residing in the community continue to monitor the actions of local officials, and become involved in helping to chart the course of the Township's future. Please consider serving either as an elected or appointed official, or as a volunteer with one of the many other organizations within the Municipality. ♦

**Earth Conservancy President Mike Dziak Will Speak at Community Organization Meeting**

Earth Conservancy President and CEO Mike Dziak will speak at the September 25 Community Organization meeting, which will be held at Alden Manor at 6:30 pm. His topic will be the future of Earth Conservancy land.

Earth Conservancy is a non-profit organization committed to the reclamation and return to productive use of 16,000 acres of former coal company-owned land, thousand of acres of which are in Newport Township. The development of this land is likely to affect the lives of those who live in our community. We invite all residents of the Township to come and hear this important talk. ♦

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**Township Contact Information**

Business Manager Rich Zika 735-4735  
Building Code Official Rich Zika 735-4735

**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

**Newport Township Authority**

John Wilkes Chairman 735-6914  
Joe Delucca Vice Chairman 735-1138  
Helen Lopez Secretary 735-1066  
Peter Wanchisen Treasurer 735-1066  
Stephen Phillips 735-3991

## Seasonal Events

By Francis Zaleski

### Newport Township Community Organization Achieves Status as a 501 (c) 3 Tax Exempt Organization

In May of 2006 the Newport Township Community Organization applied to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for a tax exempt status known as 501(c) 3. We received approval in July of this year.

This means that your Community Organization is now tax exempt. Donations made to the Organization are tax deductible. The Organization can apply for and receive federal and state grants for community projects. And it can collect donations from corporations.

The application for this status

Native American Little Owl from New York in a beautiful outfit that she made herself

cost \$120.00. Attorney Christopher Kule of Tunkhannock who is a relative of David Kule, a former resident of Newport Township, aided the Organization pro bono.

### Community Organization Recommendations to the Township Commissioners

Each year the Community Organization submits to the Township Commissioners a list of five recommendations for community improvement. This year's recommendations are the following.

1. Establish the position of a full time Building Code Official.
2. Strictly and equitably enforce all existing Township ordinances and upon request make copies available to the citizens of the municipality at no cost.
3. Open the lines of communication, and permit public input on those issues having an impact on the community's residents prior to the commissioners voting on those specific items.
4. Develop a 10 year plan for the paving of Township roads and a 5 year capital improvement plan for purchase of equipment.

(continued on page 8)

## Seasonal Health

By Carol Marcincavage

### With Fall Comes Childrens' Foot Problems

According to the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), "It's that time of year again when kids begin begging for the most fashionable new shoes to wear to school. While parents may want to keep their young ones happy and content, it's important for them to remember their most important task, keeping their children safe and protected, in order to understand the importance of buying properly fitted, supportive shoes that offer protection and comfort."

The APMA advises "stiff materials on either side of the heel, adequate cushioning and a built-in arch. The shoe should bend at the ball of the foot, not in the middle of the shoe." Because childrens' feet grow so rapidly, their feet should be measured each time new shoes are bought and shoes should not slip at the heels. Heeled shoes or shoes with platforms should only be worn for a limited time each day. Children should wear flat shoes or good quality sneakers for at least part of the day. "

"For athletic activities, choose a shoe that is designed for the sport your child will be playing," states the American Podiatric Medical Association.

### Children Should not Specialize in One Sport Too Early for the Sake of Their Feet

The American Podiatric Medical Association advises "Early training should emphasize proper technique and basic movement skills in all sports, especially in children younger than 10. Podiatric physicians, specialists in treating the lower extremities, say children who concentrate on a single sport at too young an age are more likely to develop injuries of the foot and ankle.

Although a child may want one expensive \$100 dollar sport shoe because of fashion or peer pressure, the APMA believes it is better 1) to buy two pairs of \$50 sport shoes so the child can rotate wearing them and not wear out one spot in the shoe too early, 2) to always wear the socks the child will wear in the sport when trying on shoes, 3) to make sure the shoes are tied properly, and 4) to make sure there is at least one finger width of room between the child's toes and the end of the shoe.

According the APMA, "The immature bones of children are different from those of adults. The 'growth plates' in children's bones do not finish closing until age 15-17 in boys and 13-15 in girls. When stressed, these plates are more susceptible to injury than the tendons and ligaments that support the joints."

Podiatrists believe "repetitive overuse can cause inflammation of the growth plates. They advise parents to promote diverse physical activities for their children rather than one sport."

The APMA offers these tips to parents: "Don't put too much performance pressure on your child. Don't let children use running shoes for court sports. An ankle sprain could result. Change shoes often. Check the sizing and wear regularly." ♦

## Seasonal Events ( continued from page 7 )

5. In accordance with existing Township Ordinance Number Two of 1975, appoint members to the Newport Township Recreation Board.



Kayla Eckrote making friends with a red-tailed hawk at our Summer Fun children's activities at the Rec Park in Wanamie

### Protecting the Endangered Indiana Brown Bat

In the woods behind St. Adalbert's Cemetery some construction work was begun in early June and was completed around the end of August. The work was to erect a fence around the opening to an old underground mine tunnel known locally as the Ice Caves. The mine's tunnels go almost to Mocanaqua. The fence is huge.

It is about thirteen feet high and has a perimeter of about 416 feet. The fence's six inch by six inch square posts are anchored about five feet into the ground in a concrete and steel foundation. The posts are placed eight feet apart. Seventeen "V" shaped slats are welded between the posts. The slats measure four inches by four inches and are 3/8's of an inch thick. The top three feet of the posts are angled out from the center at a 45 degree angle. And precautions have been made to prevent digging under the fence.

The purpose of the fence is to protect the opening to the mine that has become the largest single bat habitat east of the Mississippi River. It is the home of at least two species of bats, one of which is an endangered species, the Indiana Brown Bat. It is estimated that thousands of bats live in this mine, but an accurate count can not be made.

The fence, which will cost about \$200,000, is being funded by fees paid by mine operators throughout the United States to the Department of Interior for mine reclamation projects. John Pace

(continued in next column)

## Newport Township Community Organization 110 1/2 Railroad Avenue, Wanamie, PA 18634-4005

On the Internet: [www.newporttownship.com](http://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 Fall 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 25  
Tuesdays October 9 and 23  
Tuesdays November 13 and 27  
Tuesday December 11

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 1, November 5, December 3

### 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, Twp Business	John Jarecki	736-6620
People	Heidi Selecky, Paul Jarecki	
Health, Photography	Carol Marcincavage	
Seasonal Events	Francis Zaleski	
Advertisements	Linda Hourigan, Teena Wrubel, Steve Masakowski	
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@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:jjarecki@pa.metrocast.net).

### Seasonal Events ( continued from previous column)

of the Office of Surface Mining in Wilkes Barre is overseeing the construction, which is being done by the J.J. Wasko Construction Company from Olyphant. Joe Wasko has been living at the site 24/7 since the start of the project. ♦