



Happy Fall To All



NEWPORT COMMUNITY NEWS

Fall 2010

Online at www.newporttownship.com

Number 23

A Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization



Dangerous & Unsightly Properties within Glen Lyon Require Immediate Action by Township Officials

By: Bill Hourigan The next time you are out for a walk or ride in the Glen Lyon Section of Newport Township take the time to venture off East and West Main Streets and on to the side streets which make up the rest of the town.

While the Township Supervisors and the Newport Township Authority are aware of the many properties within Township boundaries and have in fact condemned many of them and put them on a list for demolition, more needs to be done.

A number of the properties are not secured, some doors and windows are open. Many windows are broken and large amounts of shattered glass are lying about. A few of the buildings still contain remnants of furniture and personal articles & clothing lying about.

The buildings which are easily accessible need to be sealed and taped off with safety barriers. In addition, frequent follow-up inspections of the sites in question need to be carried out.

The Township employs at least 2 individuals who are certified building code officials. It is imperative that these individuals get out in the community and note the problem properties and followup on making arrangements for ensuring that those which are not safe receive immediate attention to avoid the possibility of a tragic accident in or around the properties.

Pictured on page 5 are some of the worst properties to be found in Glen Lyon.

Please make an effort to pass by some of the properties shown. Many of you will be appalled by what you see.

Accidents ready to happen, imminent danger, hazardous conditions? All of the above.

As was stated above, many of the buildings which are in such bad condition have been cited and some are already slated for demolition as funds become available.

At the October 4th Newport Township Commissioner's Meeting an announcement was made which indicated that at least 2 buildings are slated for demolition later this year or early next year. The required paperwork is being completed for submission at this time.

Until such funding becomes available and actual, this reporter and his fellow members feel it is absolutely necessary that further steps be taken by the proper authorities to prevent any unauthorized person or persons, especially children and teens,

from entering such structures.

We realize that yellow tape and signs can't stop intruders and a policeman can't be stationed at even the most dangerous structures. However the tape and signs are at least a notice of danger and frequent checks by patrolling police officers are at least a deterrent to anyone entering the buildings.

(see page 5 for photos of some of the buildings)

Why Should You Be Involved In Glen Lyon's Neighborhood Watch

Because studies show that seven out of ten Americans don't even know who their neighbors are. Because criminals find it easier to operate in neighborhoods where people don't know each other, where the residents pay little attention to what's going on around them, where a thief or burglar won't have to worry about someone calling the police to report their activities. Working with neighbors to look out for each other is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent crime in your neighborhood.

For additional information about The Glen Lyon Crime Watch please contact Karen Rejician at 736-6254.

(Editor's Note): Glen Lyon Crime Watch meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7 PM at the Glen Lyon Italian American Club.)

See the News Below which Ties into our Lead Story

Late News From Township Commissioners

The September 2010 official publication of The Newport Township News published by the Township Commissioners reports that the following buildings are slated for demolition in the near future:

1. Factory at 3rd & Engle Sts.
2. Building at 2-4-6 3rd St.
3. Building at 64 East Main St.

Guest Editorial

I have asked the Editor to allow me to write a special editorial for this edition of the Newport Township Community Newsletter in light of the special event planned for October 16, 2010, when Heidi Selecky and Paul Jarecki, two people who work tirelessly for the community, will be married.

Heidi and Paul were both born and raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School in 1967. They each attended college outside of the area, but returned to live in their respective family homes in Glen Lyon after receiving their degrees. Heidi returned with a Master's Degree in Library Science from Villanova University and has since worked at Wilkes University's library while Paul, a chemist with a Master's Degree from Auburn University, is employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in Wilkes-Barre.

Heidi and Paul are key members of a unique group of township residents who see the many positive features of our community, including the beauty of its undeveloped sections of real estate and the native plants and animals it harbors. They take pride in the condition of their property and, as members of the Highway Cleanup Committee work to counteract destruction and damage wrought on the landscape by less concerned citizens who litter the highways, side roads and forest areas of our township.

In addition to caring for our present environment, the couple works to preserve the history of our 5 towns, recently honoring the contributions and sacrifices of those who preceded us by collecting historical photographs, some of truly impressive vintage, and digitizing the images, reserving them on DVDs. The project not only preserves the township's heritage, but has proved to be an important fund raiser, as hundreds of people from all over the country have purchased these DVDs and expressed interest in seeing more like them. Paul and Heidi also spearheaded two other important fundraising projects, organizing the production of the yearly Newport Township calendar and working with the renowned company, The Cat's Meow, to produce a collection of wooden cutout figures of historic township buildings, now available for purchase through the NTCO. Their dedication to the preservation of the township runs so deeply that they even scheduled their wedding for October 16th so that they would be free to help organize and work at the Fall Festival on October 9th!

We at the NTCO like to think that the organization was responsible for Heidi and Paul's relationship reaching this point. After all, they have both been members since its inception.

Perhaps some will say I go too far, but, whatever is responsible—perhaps it was the NTCO, perhaps the planets finally aligned correctly, or perhaps it even started at our Class of 1967 Reunion Committee meetings-- I personally am thrilled and delighted beyond words that these 2 people have "found each other" and will become one.

Paul & Heidi

**May Joy And Peace Surround You,
Contentment Latch Your Door,
And Happiness Be With You Now And Bless You Evermore**

Editor's Editorial

Contrary to the belief of some of our readers, NTCO was not formed to Pick on The Management of Newport Township. Rather, we were formed to gather members of the community together in an organization which would allow members to air their thoughts about the Township and ask questions about how to get things done and assist them in presenting their requests and questions to Township Officials.

The lead story in this edition may seem to conflict with the above statement. Not so, The story's point is to make people aware that there are some properties within Glen Lyon which need immediate attention and this attention is needed now, not next month or next year.

The houses which are located on 3rd Street and Spring Street needed attention years ago. They are both in deplorable condition, both are fully accessible to anyone who just wants to walk in and look around.

Both houses are structurally unsafe and present considerable risk to anyone who chooses to enter. In addition, they offer a spot of shelter to the many stray domestic pets that wander our streets, as well as any rodents or small wild game looking for a home.

It is our opinion that these are 2 properties which have needed immediate attention for years. We are sure there are others that need attention and urge Township Officials to set up a regular monthly inspection schedule.

Doing so may result in saving the lives of curious people, especially children and perhaps adults, who should know better.



Pictured in front of the Newport Township Municipal Building in Wanamie is Jeremy with his wife Krissy and two children – Austin and Brooklyn.

Blank Sworn in as Part Time Policeman

by Tom Kashatus Jeremy Blank of Glen Lyon was recently sworn in by Commissioner John Zyla during the August Commissioner's meeting as a part time policeman in Newport Township. After "riding along" with other officers for the past few months and completing his Act 120 educational requirements at Lackawanna Junior College, Jeremy will fill a much needed void within the police ranks of the Township. Residents will also see Jeremy perform duties with the Newport Township Volunteer Fireman's Ambulance as he pursues his EMT certification.

Welcome Aboard Officer Blank!



Coloring Contest Winners

by Tom Kashatus During the month of June, awards were presented by the Glen Lyon Crime Watch for their 4th Annual Coloring Contest held at KM Smith Elementary School in Alden. The contest included the First Grade, Kindergarten, Life Skills, Pathways, and A.M. and P.M. Pre-Kindergarten students of all municipalities in the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. Adults shown on the left are Crime Watch representatives Karen Rejician, Mary Margaret Kashatus, and President Marie Morucci. Shown on the right are members of Newport Township Emergency Services and award presenters Police Chief Robert Impaglia, EMT Amy McDaniels, and Fire Chief Dan Kowalski. Students competed in each classroom (19) for a blue, red, and white ribbon. The blue ribbon winners in the first row from the left are Myla Vnuk, Zachary Simon, Brianna Mitchell, Cassidy McDonald, and Josue' Castro. In the middle row from the left are Riley Brennan, Kelsey Heller, Kayla Pegarella, and Chase Krzywicki. In the top row from the left are Derek Cease, Brandon Bukofski, Kyle Zeller, Joey Bielecki, and Edwin Orellana. Blue ribbon recipients also received a gift certificate to Wal Mart. Absent for this picture were Taslima Ali, Sarah Merth, Ian Levy, Quentin Olsen, and Karlene Zegarski.



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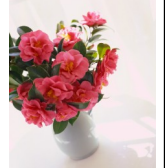
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Memorial Day Festivities



Pictured at St. Vladimar's as members of the Post 971 honor guard are Edward Kalinowski, US Marine Corps; Leonard Bonczewski, US Marine Corps; Martin Balas, US Marine Corps; Commander Paul Kearney, US Air Force and US Army; Gerald Dankowski, US Army; Eugene Novak, US Marine Corps, US Army, US Air Force; and Mark Rinehamer, US Air

by Tom Kashatus Remember when the Memorial Day holiday attracted dozens of residents and former residents to local cemeteries as the civilian military organizations – VFW, American Legion, AM Vets, etc. – and their auxiliaries showed up in full regalia to honor those servicemen who have paid the supreme price for their service to their country and those veterans who have served honorably and passed on naturally? Those were the days when observers couldn't find a place to park their cars you had to walk to the cemetery from a quarter mile away.

Times certainly have changed since then as the membership of many of these local patriotic and once flourishing organizations has dwindled to the point of difficulty in forming a detail to honor our military sons and daughters who have passed on into eternal life. The Jeffries/Slapikas American Legion Post 971 of Newport Township has not yet rolled over to the point of inactivity, even as their membership has fallen to an all-time low of thirty. Commander Paul Kearney still musters a squad of seven or eight to visit Newport Township cemeteries and memorials under its auspices – St. Vladimar's of Polander Hill, United Methodist of Alden, Holy Trinity and St. Nicholas of Sheatown, Newport Center Cemetery, St. Mary's (old and new) of Wanamie, the memorial at the Blockus site in Sheatown and the memorial near the Municipal Building in Wanamie.

Sad to say, no families and friends were present at the (old) St. Mary's, St. Nicholas and United Methodist cemeteries. A tombstone rests for Keith Jeffries at the Alden site. Jeffries was a US Navy veteran who lost his life at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 aboard the USS Arizona and his body is entombed there forever along with 945 other American heroes. Edward Slapikas lost his life aboard the USS Oklahoma, also at Pearl Harbor, and his body is entombed there with 450 fellow seamen. Sparse numbers of onlookers at the other local sites observed the honor guard perform its duties on a beautiful peaceful day in Newport Township.

Many thanks are given to those who placed a sea of flags at the gravesites of our veterans as the colors of red, white, and blue waved proudly throughout the day in the gentle breeze. A huge "thank you" must be given to the caretakers of our local cemeteries who have been untiring in their effort to maintain them at a high standard. Newport Township certainly has no shortage of those men and women who have served their country proudly in the armed services over the years. Readers are invited to visit the Newport Township Community Organization's web site www.newporttowship.com to view the biographies of our local heroes who have lost their lives during wartime. The names and biographies have been compiled by John Forgach (now deceased), a native of Newport Township, an avid collector of historical data pertaining to Newport Township and its residents.

Little League Closing Day



Pictured in front of the Newport Township Community Organization sign are from the left 2010 graduates Cory Hughes, Isaiah Stebbins, Rebecca Morgis, Chaquana Zendarski, Arianna Drayton, and Chelsie Czapracki

by Tom Kashatus Newport Township Little League celebrated their 2010 season with festivities on closing day by honoring its graduates and enjoying a day of fun and games for everyone. On a gorgeous Saturday in August everyone also had an opportunity to enjoy some "good grillin'" by head chef David Czapracki who was kept busy with hot dogs and hamburgers. Absent for the picture were Sarina Kinlaw, Nickolas Kowalski, Derek Fisher, Justin Benscoter, and Brandon Lewis.

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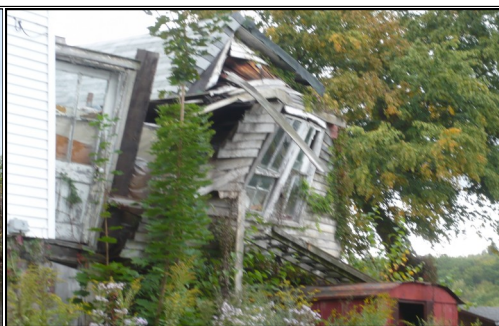
Pictured Below are just some of the buildings and structures in Newport Township referred to on page 1 of this issue. Many are repeats from earlier issues.



Dangerous Fire Damaged Home On Corner at Spring and Coal Streets



2-4-6 3rd Street Slated For Demolition



Collapsing Home and Untended Yard at 42 Newport Street



Theater Sight on E. Main Never Completed

A Mess At 144-146 West Main Street- Work on Building Stopped 5 Yrs. Ago



“Penner” Zimolzak

by Heidi Selecki The music curriculum in the Newport Township School system got a shot in the arm in 1951 when Leonard “Penner” Zimolzak returned to Newport and was hired to be the Music Director for the schools. Being only 23 years old, he brought energy, creativity, youthful enthusiasm and an ability to communicate with and motivate students to take part in his many musical

endeavors. Maybe it was just because Penner was a nice person.

Penner graduated from Newport High School in 1944, spent 2 years in the Navy followed by his getting his degree at Ithaca College. He was always into music and could play many instruments, including the oboe and bassoon, which he often played with the Wilkes Barre Symphony and with visiting symphonies that needed more musicians. Rumor has it that Penner also liked to date!

As the newly appointed Director of the High School band, he began by updating the music selections; he created new marching formations that were more entertaining to watch and motivating to the student musicians; he borrowed instruments to lend to students who wanted to play but couldn’t afford to buy them, which included borrowing a bass drum from the VFW; he coached the squad to help them improve; he convinced the majorettes to twirl 2 batons no other band was using (which gave them black and blue marks on both elbows!) and many other improvements to the program. He entered the band in parades, including the Bloomsburg Fair. Marching around the main ring at the Fair, band members had to be careful not to step in the pies left by the cows walking in front of them. And, the Cheerleaders had to be careful marching behind the band because they were followed by a small herd of cows and bulls and they feared that their red, cheerleader sweaters made them possible targets for the bulls. In addition to playing John Phillip Sousa music, the band was also unique, as it was the only one in the area to also play the theme from Dragnet and other pieces of topical music.

Penner also formed a small dance band called Penner’s Plumbers, which had only a few gigs in the area, but they played their hearts out on “The Bunny Hop”.

He also directed the Choral Group. He convinced a lot of students to join and took them to places like Retreat to sing at Christmas time. He took a smaller group to sing carols for shut-ins and to some of the churches to sing as their choir. In selecting music to be sung, he often picked music to educate the choral members, such as the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah.

Penner was a positive force for students for more than 20 years. He always made things fun to do, even if it was to practice or marching in the snow at the Berwick football game or on the band bus. But, when Newport High School was absorbed by the new school in Nanticoke in the mid 70’s, his position was eliminated. He stayed in the Township and opened The Buda, his store on the Kirmar Parkway and worked in various capacities around the area. It was also a hobby of his to collect Newport memorabilia, history and pictures. His collection was given to the Nanticoke Historical Society. Too bad it didn’t stay in Newport.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CLAM CHOWDER & HALUSHKI SALE

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, East Main St., Glen Lyon is having a take out clam chowder and halushki sale Friday November 12, 2010. Cost is \$7.00 per quart for clam chowder and \$5.00 per quart for halushki. Orders must be placed no later than Friday November 5, 2010. Please call 736-6229 or 736-6908 to place your order. A bake sale will also be held at the church on that day. Orders can be picked up at the church from 12 noon until 5:00pm.

Bingo At St. Adalbert Church Hall

St. Adalbert Altar & Rosary Society will sponsor a Bingo on Sunday, October 17th in the Church Hall at 2:00 PM. Doors open 1:00 PM. Any donations of new items for a raffle may be dropped off at the Parish Center.

Newport Township Women’s Activity Group

The Group is presently selling 2011 Entertainment Books. The books are \$25.00 each and will be on sale until December 15th. Please contact Judy Novak at 735-5914 to purchase a book.

Proceeds Benefit the children of Newport Township



Haunted Halloween

The 2nd Annual Youth Ministry Haunted Hall will take place on Halloween Night, October 31, 2010 from 6:00 PM to approximately 10:00 PM. The Youth Ministry will transform Holy Trinity Church Hall into a **Haunted Hall**. There is no charge. We encourage both adults and children to come and walk through the Haunted Hall on Halloween Night—if you dare....

South Valley Chamber of Commerce To Sponsor Fall Flea Market October 30th

The South Valley Chamber Of Commerce has announced it will be sponsoring a Fall Flea Market at the West Side Playground Building located at the end of West Grand Street in Nanticoke.

Hours are 8 AM to 1 PM All Vendors are welcome. Outside setups will be available if weather permits .
For additional information call 570-735-6990 or email svcc495@verizon.net .

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Theodore J. LaBrecque, retired judge

“Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream. They teach this to us very young because it takes so long to learn .”

Bruce Joel Rubin, screenwriter, director

“Don’t drink, don’t smoke, don’t take drugs. Seize the moment. Wealth is a state of mind. Life is there for the taking.”

Mark Kostabi, artist

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Be sure all students off the street after a school bus resumes moving.

Be sure all pedestrians are out of any intersection prior to proceeding at a **Stop** Sign.

Newport Township Community Organization & South Valley Chamber of Commerce Hosting Home Rule Charter Forum October 26th

The Newport Township Community Organization in partnership with the South Valley Chamber of Commerce are both committed to improve the economic base and quality of life in Newport Township and the Greater Nanticoke Area.

This year’s general election will help determine if the Citizens of Luzerne County will choose a new form of government when they vote on the newly proposed “Home Rule Charter” plan.

To give you the opportunity to hear the pros and cons of this issue, both organizations have come together to schedule a **Home Rule Charter Forum**, open to the general public, on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 6:00pm in the Educational Conference Center on the main campus of Luzerne County Community College.

Atty. James Haggerty, Chairman of the Home Rule Charter Commission will present the “Pro Side” of the issue while Atty. Vito DeLuca, Luzerne County Controller, will present the “Con Side” of the issue.

There is no charge for this presentation and all voters are encouraged to attend this event.

November 2nd 2010

Election Day 2010

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Attention

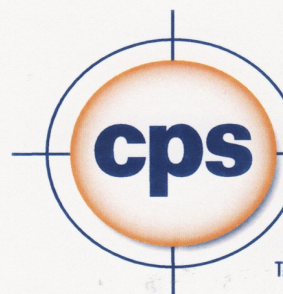
Newport Community News will feature an Up-coming Events Column in the next issue.

Please send the editor your group's information no later than January 10, 2011 for inclusion in the Winter edition.

Information should be for February, March, April and May events.

Articles about your projects, games, fund raisers, awards etc. are also welcome. Don't be shy, let us know what is going on and what your group or organization is up to. If we have room we will print it!

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NOVEMBER 2, 2010 GENERAL ELECTION

PLAIN ENGLISH STATEMENT

REGARDING THE COUNTY REFERENDUM TO ADOPT A HOME RULE CHARTER

The purpose of the ballot question is to determine whether the electors of the County of Luzerne wish to adopt the *"Report and Recommended Home Rule Charter for Luzerne County, Pennsylvania,"* filed by the Luzerne County Government Study Commission.

The question is presented for a "Yes or No" vote and a simple majority of electors needed for passage or rejection of the question.

NOTICE: to read the entire *"Report and Recommended Home Rule Charter for Luzerne County, Pennsylvania,"* and other related documents, prior to voting, **Google®: Luzerne County Home Rule Charter Ballot Referendum** or visit the Luzerne County Bureau of Elections located at 20 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 207, Wilkes-Barre, PA during regular business hours.

This Plain English Statement is drafted in accordance with Section 201.1 of an Act of Assembly dated June 3, 1937 (P.L. 1333, No. 320 CL. 25), known as the *Pennsylvania Election Code*, and is to be, and remain posted in triplicate in each of the various polling locations of the respective voting districts during the entire course of voting at the General Election to be held November 2, 2010.

BY ORDER:

RICHARD M. HUGHES III, ESQ.
BONNIE L. MARKOWSKI
ANTONIO J. RODRIQUEZ
LUZERNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
NEIL T. O'DONNELL, ESQ.
SOLICITOR TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ATTEST:
LEONARD C. PIAZZA III
LUZERNE COUNTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
NEIL T. O'DONNELL, ESQ.

This information is presented as a public service to the readers of Newport Community News who are eligible to vote.

We urge you to read the referenced proposal, make your decision, and cast your vote.

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
CALENDAR 2011
SPECIAL EDITION OF HISTORICAL PICTURES**

PRESIDENT – TOM KASHATUS
VICE PRESIDENT – PALMIRA MILLER SECRETARY – LINDA CONNER
VICE PRESIDENT – BILL HOURIGAN TREASURER – FRANCIS ZALESKI



NTCO Newport Township 2011 Calendar



St. Stanislaus Institute in Sheatown

Newport Township 2010 Commemorative Miniature & 2011 Calendar Ready for Sale

Once again Heidi Selecky and Paul Jarecki have done an outstanding job on producing the 2010 Newport Township Community Organization Commemorative Miniature and the 2011 NTCO Calendar featuring both past and present sites in Newport Township.

The Commemorative is the third in a series. Previous commemoratives feature the Glen Lyon Breaker and Newport Township High School. These items have been very popular and both are still available.

Both the 2010 Commemorative and 2011 Calendar are currently available for purchase. The cost of the calendar is \$10.00. The commemorative pieces sell for \$15.00. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please contact Heidi Selecky or any officer of NTCO to place an order.

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Publication Target Dates Modified

Effective immediately Newport Community News Will Published As Follows:

Spring Edition-April Summer Edition-July Fall Edition-October Winter Edition-January

All Articles, Pictures and Advertisements Must Be Submitted Prior to the 15th of the Month preceding Publication Month

Newport Township Community Organization

2010 Fall Festival

by Bill Hourigan The 2010 NTCO Fall Festival was held October 9, at Holy Child Grove in Sheatown. This year the Festival included the Newport Township Fire Department and the Newport Township Little League. They combined forces to handle the food concession and part of the bake sale. In addition a Car Show organized by Bob Conner featuring stunning models of the past was presented. Bob was assisted by Mike Yalch, Kyle Kazmierski, Gerry McMahon and Britton Glica

Featured favorites of the Festival included Crafters, Games of Chance, Chinese Auction, Hay Rides, Moon Walk, Face and Pumpkin Painting, a Magician Act, Chili Contest, Team Mascots Tux & Champ, John Stanky and much more

Mother Nature provided a beautiful Fall day and despite competition from a host of Fall Festivals throughout the region turnout was quite good.

NTCO Fall Festival Chili Contest



Pictured Above Left to Right-Palmira Miller, (NTCO Fall Festival Chair Person) John Adams (3rd place), Angela Lowe (1st place), Fran-



The Newport Township Community Organization gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organizations and volunteers that provided contributions or services to the Fall Festival. Alden Manor Complex, Barbara's Floral Shop, Berwick Offray, LLC., Binks Garage, Dorrance Auto Center, Eastern Fuel Oil, FM Kirby Center, Glen Lyon Italian Club, Hazle Beer & Deli, Hoegen & Associates, P.C., Janisons, Malishchak Brothers, Map's Restaurant, Marcy's Beauty Salon, McDonalds , Mimmo's Pizza & Restaurant, Old Country Buffet, Pantel Pumpkins, Patrice Marie's Beauty Salon, Pepsi Bottling Group, Piestrak's Gun Shop, Price Chopper, Red Lobster, Rentko's Catering, Richard's Garden Equipment, Sanitary Bakery, Shirley Hair Salon, Strish Funeral Home, Susie's Floral, The Variety Stop, Trish's Tiny Treasures, Bush Distributions, Village Pet Supplies, Walker's Jewelry, Weis Market, Wise Foods, Inc. John Stanky, Wyoming Valley Flyers, Tux, Champ, The Crafters, students from the GNA Honor Society, members of the Newport Township Little League, Newport Township Fire Department, Drug Task Force, Glen Lyon Crime Watch, First Alert Responders, Firemen, Policemen, Ambulance Crew, the Newport Township Community Organization, and especially Gerald Malishchak and Allen Kropiewnicki for providing us with the hay ride.



On the Left

NTCO President Kashatus and his son Jonathon & Jonathon's sons Conner & Colin along with Bear their Dog and 2 of the boy's friends , Jaden Burke & Jack Grabowski

GERALD J.

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