

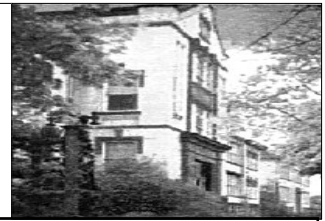
Newport Community News

Spring 2010

www.newporttownship.com

Number 21

A Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization



Strip Mine Pit, Site Of 6 Drowning Fatalities In Newport Twp., Reclaimed



Fatal Water Filled Pit



Aerial View After Reclamation



Present View From Fanucci's Hill

by Tom Kashatus As one departs Glen Lyon in an easterly direction toward Wanamie and looks northeast to the Retreat Mountain one can see a bare spot along the mountainside about four hundred yards east of the UGI power lines going to the Hunlock Creek power plant.

The area covers approximately 36 acres that are now under the ownership of Earth Conservancy which acquired it from the now defunct Blue Coal bankruptcy. Even though the land was posted, it was a favorite spot for youngsters to swim, picnic, and ride their ATV's and four wheelers. The peaceful look of the mountainside now is a huge contrast to the sporadic turbulence that had been experienced there over the past twelve years. On January 1, 1998 five young area residents lost their lives in a tumultuous tragic accident due to drowning in a strip mine pit, known to the locals as "Bare Ass Beach" (BAB), filled with water left by the coal barons of yesteryear. Six years later, unfortunately, tragedy struck again.

At about 9:00 PM as New Year's day in 1998 was coming to a close, Jennifer Dragon, age 18 of Plymouth, Richard Ammons age 42 of Berwick, Stephen Nowak, age 22 of Nanticoke, William Fishburn III, age 25, of Lavelle and William Vincent Jr. of Hunlock Creek perished when Nowak made a wrong turn. As he hit the brakes to stop the vehicle slid and plunged into the 15 foot deep water-filled pit. The only survivor was Joe Ruse of Nanticoke who miraculously forced his passenger's door open, swam from the Jeep CJ7, broke through the ice and sought help for his friends.

On April 26, 2004, BAB was again the site of an additional fatality when James Bertrand, age 30 of Nanticoke, riding with a friend, also perished at the troublesome site as the vehicle in which they were riding slipped into the water filled mining pit. The driver of the vehicle managed to escape from the submerged vehicle and survived.

Subsequently, lawsuits were filed and all have been either settled or dropped according to Michael Dziak, President/Chief Executive Officer of Earth Conservancy. Mr. Dziak also stated that Earth Conservancy has plans to reclaim scarred coal lands from Alden Mountain Road east to Warrior Run.

In October 2008, after receiving permission from Earth Conservancy, PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began the process of reclaiming the area with funds received from a federal program called the Abandoned Mine Trust Fund. These funds are not taxpayer monies, but are put into the pot from royalties received from coal companies for each ton of coal they mine. Mike Korb, Program Manager of the DEP Bureau of Abandon Mine Reclamation

which covers 17 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, stated that \$30,000,000.00 was funneled to Pennsylvania at that time. The cost of the project in Newport Township was \$717,000.00 and the work was done by Knorr Contracting from Bloomsburg, PA. The job was completed in August 2009.

Mr. Korb also stated that a reclamation process begins with research by his department personnel into the historical value of the land – ensuring that the area is free of gravesites and historical artifacts. Following these administrative details, clearing the trees and stumps from the affected area begins. The trees are not harvested but are piled in such a manner that the stumps and roots are used as a refuge for game in the future. Three thousand lineal feet of strip mine pits were back filled after the water was treated and drained. The remaining land was graded to resemble its original contour and natural beauty as much as possible.

Members of the Spooky Off Road Club erected a flagpole on the site in a concrete foundation which continuously flies an American flag. As one stands high at the reclaimed site one can experience a beautiful panorama of Wyoming Valley that is second to none.

There is also a lesson to be learned here. "Stay Out – Stay Alive" is a national public awareness campaign aimed at warning children and adults about the dangers of exploring and playing on active and abandoned mine sites. Every year dozens of people are either injured or killed in recreational accidents on mine property. More can be learned on this subject at www.MSHA.gov, and individuals can report unsafe public mine access, abandoned mine emergencies or abandoned mine locations to the MSHA hotline: 1-800-746-1553.

The story above is just one aspect of what NTCO is all about. If you have not already done so, please consider joining NTCO and becoming an active member. While we did not organize the project mentioned above, we have organized many cleanups of similar sites and are striving to make sure they stay clean and are eventually filled as money becomes available. Newport Twp. provides an excellent opportunity for hikers, hunters, campers, and just plain residents to enjoy their favorite types of recreation and the beauty of the surrounding hills and mountains.

Join the Newport Township Community Organization
For more information and to read all of our Newsletters go to
www.newporttownship.com

EDITORIAL

We congratulate The Newport Township Board of Commissioners and The Newport Township Authority on their continuing efforts to remove dangerous structures in all sections of the Township. Many additional properties require similar attention, and it is our hope that the Commissioners and the Authority continue to actively seek grant money, as well as designate a portion of local funds towards this effort.

Newport Township has a vast amount of land. It is our wish that our township leaders carefully consider their options regarding future development within Township boundaries. We have a vast amount of land and room for residential, commercial and recreational development. The possibilities are limited only by imagination.

Some of the things we would like to see in the near future are backfilling of all of the stripping pits left in the Township, additional marked hiking trails and clearly marked maps showing such trails. A good idea would be a feasibility study of developing a park for ATVs and snowmobiles with a limited commercial area near the park entrance for service facilities, a small restaurant and perhaps even a motel.

Pipe dreams? We think not! Newport Township has the potential for a great future.

NTCO Sets Up Editorial Board

By John Jarecki At the November, December and January Community Organization meetings, the members set up an Editorial Board consisting of the Organization's President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary, one non-officer, and the newsletter editor.

The purpose of the Board is to approve newsletter editorials written by the editor. The editorials will represent the views a majority of the Editorial Board.

The Community Organization's members are a diverse group of people, and the opinions expressed in the editorials do not, of course, necessarily represent the opinions of all members.

Members of the Editorial Board

Thomas Kashatus, President - NTCO
Palmira Miller, 1st Vice President - NTCO
William P. Hourigan, 2nd Vice President - NTCO
& Editor Newport Community News
Linda Conner, Secretary - NTCO
Carol Kuhn - NTCO Member

Newport Community News has appointed Shannon Kowalski as an Advertising Sales Person. Please welcome her when she calls at your place of business.

Newport Community News

A publication of news and historic information about current and past people & events in Newport Township

Published Quarterly
March - June - September - December

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President's Message

For the past five years the leadership of the Newport Township Community Organization has provided direction to establish in our community a Quarterly Newsletter, clean-up projects, documentation of illegal dumpsites within the boundaries of our towns and throughout the barren coal lands which comprise the remainder of the township, an internet website which is second to none, a summer fun program for children of all ages, many charitable contributions, highway cleanups, a Fall Festival to give craftsmen an opportunity to offer their wares to the public, community activism, capturing and documenting Newport Township history, establishing a profitable metal recycling program, tire and electronic cleanups, bipartisan political forums, and much more.

The leadership of President Stephen Phillips, 1st Vice President Russell Sager, 2nd Vice President Tom Kashatus, Secretary Palmira Miller, and Treasurer Steven Masakowski, along with our increasing membership, cooperating partnerships, and many supporters is to be commended for their efforts to bring a community together at a time when so many find it difficult to get involved and also become complacent.

Some of the above named officers have decided to step down and take a break from their previous responsibilities and/or accept new roles, and new officers have been elected for the upcoming year. During elections held in January and February the following officers and Directors were elected: President, Tom Kashatus; 1st Vice President, Palmira Gregory Miller; 2nd Vice President, Bill Hourigan; Secretary, Linda Conner; and Treasurer, Francis Zaleski. Elected to the Board of Directors of the Corporation were Stephen Phillips, Russell Sager, Steven Masakowski, Heidi Selecky, and Carol Marcincavage. Together we are pledged to continue our efforts of the past and will seek new ways in which we can benefit our township to bring it back to the stature that it once carried during a time of high prosperity in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's. We look forward to finding new ways to bring more of our youth in the township into the fold to carry on our established traditions. **That is our goal.** *Tom Kashatus,*

Newport Township Community Organization Officers & Directors 2010

Officers

President	Thomas Kashatus
1st Vice President	Palmira Miller
2nd Vice President	William P. Hourigan
Treasurer	Francis Zaleski
Secretary	Linda Conner
Assistant Secretary /Treasurer	John Jarecki

Board of Directors

Stephen Phillips - Russell Sager
Steven Masakowski - Heidi Selecky
Carol Marcincavage

Township Demolition Program Continues

By John Jarecki As I reported in the December newsletter, the Township Commissioners, at a special meeting on November 19 of 2009, awarded a contract for \$32,000 to T. Brennan's Heavy Equipment of Carbondale to demolish three dilapidated or damaged buildings in the community: houses at 19-21 Arch Street in Glen Lyon, 65-67 Laurel Street in Alden (The former home Joseph Hitzner), and 56 Spruce Street in Alden.

At the March Commissioners' meeting, Commissioner John Wilkes said that the demolition work on all three buildings has been completed.

Also according to Mr. Wilkes, two other properties are moving toward demolition: houses at 102-104 Newport Street and 335 West Main Street in Glen Lyon. The house on Newport Street has nearly completed the legal process leading to demolition. It needs only the approval by the County Office of Community Development, which provided a grant for the work. The house on West Main Street has already completed the legal process, including receiving County approval. About \$28,000 remains in a Luzerne County grant available for demolition work in Glen Lyon.

In another demolition effort, the Commissioners have unsuccessfully attempted to contact the owners of the house at 2-4-6 Third Street in Glen Lyon in order to get their permission to demolish the building. Commissioners have not been able to locate the owners and since the building is for sale in the County's repository sale of abandoned buildings, they have instead decided to follow a different course. They plan to have the Newport Township Authority obtain title to the building through the sale, and with the Authority's approval, demolish it.

In addition, there are two private efforts to eliminate dilapidated



Glen Lyon Family Theater Site

buildings. Last year the owner of the CMOS building, formerly the Glen Lyon Family Theater on East Main Street, paid for its demolition personally. As of mid February, again according to Mr. Wilkes, the demolition was 85 percent complete. John

Grabowski of Coal Street in Glen Lyon, is attempting to acquire the house adjacent to his at the corner of Coal and Spring Streets in order to have it demolished. Because of back taxes owed to the County, the purchase cost of the building at this point would be prohibitively high.

We again congratulate the Commissioners for their good work on the Township demolition project. And we congratulate the two private citizens for their own efforts to eliminate dilapidated buildings.

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Two New Businesses Open In Alden Section of Newport Township



Auto Repair & Service Shop Opens in Alden

By Heidi Selecky There is a new auto repair shop in the Township located on Kirmar Avenue, Alden in what used to be Dick's Garage.

Pictured above is Dan Dempkosky the owner and proprietor of **Busted Knuckles Auto Repair & Service**. Co-existing in the same building is JD Creations Auto Body & Custom Paint. The proprietor of JD Creations is Dan's nephew, Joe Dempkosky.

Busted Knuckles Auto Repair held its grand opening on New Year's Day of this year. Dan performs state inspections and emission tests, oil changes, brakes, tune-ups, radiator flushes and exhaust systems repair. "I do everything but sell tires," he says. Dan got his training at Vo-Tech High School in auto mechanics. In addition, he acquired hands-on experience at his dad's gas station in Mountaintop beginning when he was 12 years old. His dad owned Joe's Arco Station across from St. Jude's for many years. Mechanics run in the family, as Dan's son Justin is a partner in Busted Knuckles. Dan says the business is aptly named, as mechanics are prone to occupational hazards. The auto repair shop is open daily from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. with Saturdays and Sundays by appointment.

In addition to Busted Knuckles, Dan works full-time at Lion's Brewery in the warehouse and also as a truck driver. Justin is employed at Sapa Extrusions, Mountaintop. Dan grew up with one brother and four sisters. He is familiar with Newport Township as he lived in Glen Lyon for a few years before moving back to Mountaintop. He is married to the former Agnes Krantz and they have four children. In their spare time, they enjoy motorcycling and camping.

Grace Independent Baptist Church Will Provide Bus Service for Newport Township Residents Beginning

by Bill Hourigan Reverend Brian Korner of Grace Baptist Church recently announced that Grace Baptist Church will begin door to door bus service for Newport Township residents beginning on Easter Sunday.

Reverend Korner indicated the bus would pick up residents of the Township at their homes and return them to their homes after the services.

Pickup service will begin at approximately 8:15 AM Easter Sunday and will be provided each Sunday thereafter.

Services available will include Sunday School for all ages, Junior Church for children in Kindergarten and up, and Sunday Morning Service for teens and adults.

For additional information or to sign up for the bus service please call the church office at (570) 868-6298. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible. The church is located on Blue Ridge Trail in Slocum, PA.

J. D. Creations



By Heidi Selecky J. D. Creations, owned by Joe Dempkosky opened its doors a few months ago. The business specializes in auto body painting, airbrush art and murals, and striping. Joe

Auto Prepared For Custom Painting

does fiberglass, steel panels and all types of collision repair for automobiles and motorcycles.

He also custom designs art work on helmets as well. He acquired his training at Vo-Tech High School and continued with art classes at Luzerne County Community College. He is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday hours by appointment. J. D.'s is located in the same building as Busted Knuckles on Kirmar Parkway in Alden.

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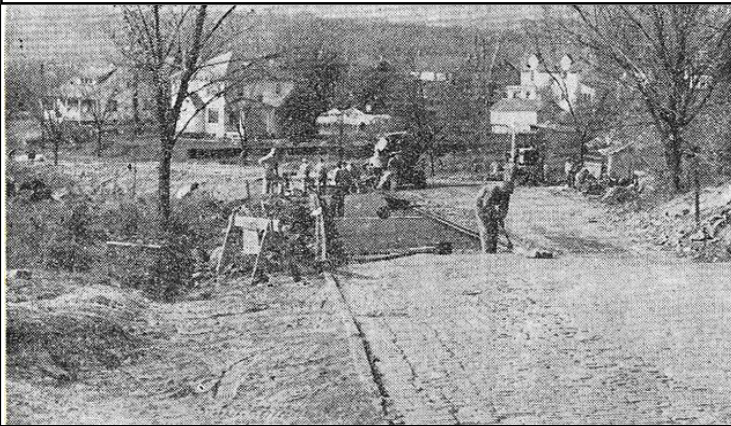


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Somewhere In Time

1947 Improvement Project On Alden Mountain Road



Workmen are shown pouring concrete on a relocated portion of the Alden to Nuangola road. The project was designed for the elimination of a dangerous reverse curve and was part of a general highway improvement program recommended by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club and approved by Pennsylvania's State Highway Department for completion over a 5 year span.

The contract for this link of the project was awarded to C. F. Goeringer Construction Company. The contract required resurfacing of 2.2 miles of road between Alden and the top of the mountain as well as super-elevation and widening of all curves. Estimated cost of the project was \$129,445.15.



Mary Selecky Named "Outstanding Career Public Servant at the State Level" by American Medical Association

Each year, the American Medical Association presents the Dr. Nathan Davis Awards for outstanding contributions "to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health" to elected and career public servants in national, state and local governments. In short, the award recognizes outstanding government service. Nominations are carefully screened and voted on by a panel of physicians, academics and career health professionals. On March 2, 2010, the award for "Outstanding Career Public Servant at the State Level" was given to Mary Selecky, Newport High School Class of 1965. Mary is the Secretary of Health for Washington State. Among her many achievements are reduced tobacco use among young adults, emergency preparedness awareness and development of local, state, and national public health policies.

Mary is the daughter of the late Paul and Helen Selecky of Glen Lyon. Her family attended the ceremony in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Mary on a job well done!

Green Hint: Rinse out bottles, jars, and cans, Recycle metal caps. Don't worry about labels - they will burn off at the plant. Include washed pie tins and foil, wire coat hangers, scrap metal.

People From Our Past



Peter Pace Leading Newport High School Band

By Heidi Selecki Music was a popular subject taught throughout the Newport Township School District. Many of us can remember our elementary school teachers leading us in "A Frog He Would A-Wooing Go" by first blowing the notes into a pitch pipe. In addition, music teachers such as Edison Fischer, Mrs. J. Brunozzi, Ray Phillips, Peter Pace, and later Leonard "Penner" Zimolzak took us as far as our talents and willingness to practice were able to take us. There were also private piano teachers such as Robert Owens and Connie Kush, and annual recitals were held at the high school each spring.

The Blue Notes was a student-led orchestra which played music similar to that of the Harry James Band. Vocalists such as Walter Kmietowicz, Dorothy Lacey, and Tom Sugalski performed with the orchestra at dances, school programs, and the annual Freshman Reception.

The first Newport High School Band was organized in 1939 under the direction of Ray Phillips. It had 39 original members. Majorettes were added and in 1943, there were 30 band members and 7 majorettes. In addition to appearing at athletic events, the band held concerts in May and also played for many patriotic affairs as well as flag raisings and scrap drive parades.

From 1944 to 1948, the high school band leader was Peter Pace. His official title was "Instructor of Instrumental Music." Mr. Pace also provided musical accompaniment for school programs and minstrels. During and following World War II, parades were frequent and Mr. Pace can be found in pictures from that era.

Mr. Pace was born in Italy and was a graduate of St. Cecilia's Conservatory of Music in Rome. He came to this country in 1909 and resided mostly in the Pittston area. He led Pace's Greater Pittston Band, which for many years was a popular attraction at parades, picnics and other public events. The band also played at funerals of prominent citizens. Mr. Pace was married to Mary Turon of Pittston and had two sons, John and Robert. He died in 1949 following a lengthy illness.

Information for this article came from the 1943 Newportrait and scrapbooks provided by Judy Obaza Nutaitis.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday-Mass of the Lords Supper
April 1st, 7 P.M. St. Adalbert's

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Church Basement until 11 P.M.

Good Friday-Celebration of the Lord's Passion April 2nd, 12 Noon
St. Adalbert's Stations of the Cross and Poor Mans Lunch Follow
Stations only at 7P.M in Wanamie

Holy Saturday-Easter Vigil April 3rd, 8 P.M. -St Adalbert's
Easter Sunday-Mass April 4th, St. Adalbert's 9 A.M.
St. Mary's 11 A.M.

Always Call 911 for a Police - Fire - Medical Emergency

Winter Not A Season That Slows Down Scouting Activities



Pictured are participants for the event. Bottom row: Gabriel Miller, Taylor Clements (1st Place), and AJ Youells (2nd place). Top row: Cubmaster Jamie Miller, David Mieczkowski (3rd place), Aaron Miller, Dylan Makavensky, and Daniel

by *Jamie Miller* Pack 376 held their annual Pinewood Derby February 24th at the Italian Club in Glen Lyon. It was a night full of fun and racing as families enjoyed race food of hot dogs and popcorn. All scouts did a great job building and decorating their cars. Upcoming events for Pack 376 are the annual food drive to benefit the Nanticoke food pantry (watch for door hangers to come out shortly – March or April), Blue and Gold Award dinner March 31st at Alden Manor, Knoebels Day on May 1st, sleepover at the Lehigh on June 5th, and family camping, fishing and swimming on dates to be announced. The pack will also partner with the Newport Township Community Organization on their township cleanup on April 17th.

Past events so far this season included a Christmas party with Santa and Winter Fun Day at Kirby Park in January where everyone enjoyed outdoor winter games, the Tiger Scouts earned their 1st rank in February. They had to learn various traditions as the scout promise, law, handshake, salute and sign to earn the rank of Bobcat.

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Green Hint Before trashing your unwanted but useable items, check your local thrift store, freecycle.org, or a site such as Craigslist.



by *Dawn Bobinoski* After an interesting start to the scouting year the Pack and Troop are settling in and now its back to business and looking forward to a full year of work, fun and just plain scouting. The following Cub Scouts achieved their rank of Bobcat: Dylan Bohinski, Stephen Kinlaw, Dustin Detrick and Gabrielle Bohinski (Pack 430 made Gabrielle an honorary Cub Scout. Joshua Norcross crossed over from WEBELOS Scout to Boy Scout.

Boy Scout Troop 430 traveled to Camp Acahela during the weekend of February 19th to participate in Polar competition. Pictured in attendance are John Corkell, Joshua Brady, Joseph Brady, Joshua Norcross, Connor Bobinoski, and Dakota Wolfe. Also attending were Assistant Scout Master John Bobinoski, Assistant Scout Master Joseph Brady Sr., and Quarter Master Randy Hulse.

Upcoming events for Pack and Troop 430 are as follows: Trout Day on April 17th – serving refreshments to the fishermen on Route 29 from 6:00 a.m. until ????, the Annual Down Hill Derby on April 25th (rain date is May 5th) which is open to all community children and any scouting packs and troops, Summer Camp at Camp Lavigne in Benton during July 4th to 11th, and an indoor flea market with more details to follow.

As always, Pack and Troop 430 are accepting new scouts and adult leaders. Anyone interested can contact Joe Figler-ski (735-5888), John or Dawn Bobinoski (542-7797, or Joseph Brady Sr. (736-3035).

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Demolition Project Finally Removes Hazardous Building on Arch Street in the Kanada Section of Glen Lyon



by Tom Kashatus After years and years of controversy, a long standing derelict structure in Glen Lyon has finally disappeared from the Kanada section of Glen Lyon. Through the combined efforts of Newport Township Board of Commissioners and especially the Newport Township Authority the two family structure at 19 -21 Arch Street has been demolished and now poses no structural threat to the adjacent properties or the environment. For the past twenty plus years and a long list of former owners, the property stood vacant and was mainly used for storage. Neighbors remembered when the structure was well maintained in the 1940's - 1960's and stood as a positive example to the local culture. Some expressed sadness to see a part of their community go through the unfortunate turmoil of dereliction and demolition, while some stated "Good riddance." Gene Ross reminisced about the well maintained single home (demolished many years ago) to the rear of the property in question when he was a young lad. Credit must be given to those in the neighborhood who constantly reminded officials that this structure must go.

Timothy Brennan Heavy Equipment of Carbondale was the successful bidder for the demolition project which included the Arch Street property and two properties on the "Polander Hill" area of Alden – one on Laurel Street (Hitzner's) and one on Spruce Street (Daniels'). Even though Brennan Heavy Equipment is no stranger to the demolition business, this was their first venture into Newport Township. The company is also involved in abandoned mine reclamation, sewer system installation, concrete sidewalks, welding and fabricating, and they are also certified to remove asbestos. They have worked from Lansford and Tamaqua to Sayre and Athens along the Pennsylvania/New York border. Tim (36) and one of seven brothers stated that his success wouldn't be possible without the untiring effort of his wife, Tammy, who manages the office and ensures that administrative affairs run smoothly. Generosity is also applicable to the workers and owner of Brennan Heavy Equipment for, when informed that the Newport Township Community Organization recycles to raise funds for its many projects, Dave Spall, Excavator Operator and truck driver, gave permission to take all that was available from the Arch Street demolition.

The total cost of the three demolitions was \$32,000.00. The Arch Street demolition was paid from a Luzerne County Community Development grant (\$22,000.00) and the demolitions in Alden were paid by the Newport Township Authority. At the present time Wanamie, Alden, and Sheatown do not qualify for Community Development funds based on per capita income for those areas. The Newport Township Authority also paid approximately \$5,200.00 for the soft costs necessary for the entire process. Examples for soft costs are: asbestos inspections, title searches, lien searches, engineering fees, etc. Members of the Authority Board expressed that the most difficult part of the project was "chasing down and convincing the Arch Street title holder to sign off on the paperwork to proceed with the demolition. The following are members of the Newport Township Authority who have taken upon the task to spearhead the demolition process of derelict properties throughout the township: John Wilkes Jr., President; Joseph Deluca, Vice President; Peter Wanchisen, Treasurer; Diane Hillan, Secretary; and Stephen Phillips, member. Over the past three years more than ten derelict structures have been demolished and properties cleaned up through the efforts of the Newport Authority and Newport Township Commissioners at a time when funding for these projects is very difficult to obtain.

Green Hint: Combine your separate errands - bank - grocery - drugstore - cleaners - ets. - into one trip and carpool with others to get to and from.

Green Hint: Daily cooking produces grease, smoke, and odors that can cause eye and nose irritation. To remove cooking pollutants, a ceiling or wall exhaust fan and two types of range hoods - -vented and ventless-are available. Range hoods are most effective and should vent to the outside.

Green Hint: Foods do not cook any faster when they boil violently. Turn down heat when boiling begins, you'll use less fuel, and foods won't boil over or burn dry. Also, match pan size with the burner size. A six inch pan on an eight inch element will waste more than 40% of the heat produced, and food will take longer to cook.

Green Hint: Instead of using paper towels, use a microfiber cloth. One cloth replaces up to 60 paper towels!

Green Hint: Follow manufacturers recommendations for laundry detergents and fabric softeners. An extra amount will not get your clothes any cleaner or softer. Concentrated cleaners are even better - they use less product, up to 60% less packaging to do the same job.



Newport Township Community Organization Participates In Wilkes-Barre's St. Patrick's Day Parade



Pictured from left to right: Stephen Valenti, Shelly Miller and Shawn Hadley

You can participate in **The Great American Cleanup of PA.** Join us April 17th in the Community Pride Event. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 A.M. at the Municipal Building parking lot in Wanamie. If you would like to clean up in your own area, contact Palmira at 736-6637.



Pictured above from left to right: 1st row Jeremy Yokononich, Craig Williams, Palmira Miller, Tom Kashatus, Bill Hourigan . On Truck: Joe Maloney, Kassandra Evans, Mary Jo Evans, Stephanie Evans, Shelly Miller, Stephen Valenti, Shawn Hadley, Faye Maloney In addition, Paul Jarecki, John Jarecki, Carol Marcincavage and Eddie Burd were present to assist. *Float Provided By J.P. Mascaro & Sons*

Thank you Mark Cesare of J.P. Mascaro & Sons for supporting NTCO over the past 6 years in the Great American Cleanup of PA.



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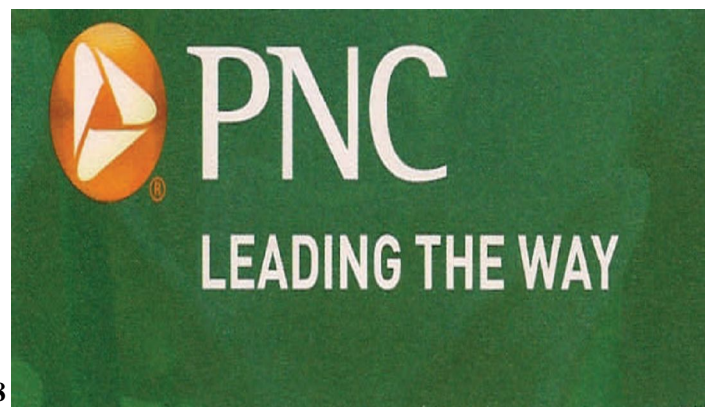
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St. Adalbert's Church Provides Shelter for Homeless in January



Pictured from left to right are volunteers preparing to serve the supper meal at St. Adalbert's Church: Mike Frantz, Betty Frantz, Celestine Klotz, Helen Klish, Rev. Joseph Kutch, and Mike Murawski



Pictured are the array of cots and personal belongings of those men participating in the VISION program at St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon during January 2010

by Tom Kashatus What does it take for someone to become homeless? Who in this wonderful country and land of opportunity may find themselves on the roles of the homeless? Does anyone really want to be homeless? Is there help out there for the homeless that will enable them to get back on their feet and become viable citizens once again? These are some of the questions that have plagued a certain percentage of our society and social agencies - seemingly - for an eternity. Fortunately for those in need there is help and many in Newport Township do contribute their time and resources for one week out of the year to help

those on the roles of the homeless. St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon of Corpus Christy Parish is just one of the safe havens for those in transition and in need of assistance until they get back on their feet. This past January, forty to forty five men ranging in age from early twenties into late sixties were housed and fed a supper meal in the basement of the church. The men begin arriving at the church at 4:00 p.m. daily by bus or van (very few have their own transportation) and begin to set up their sleeping quarters. There are snacks available until supper time when a catered meal is furnished by volunteers mainly from the Newport community organizations - Knights of Columbus of Glen Lyon, Christian Men and Women of St. Mary's of Wanamie, Altar and Rosary Society of St. Adalbert's, Mike Stratanski of St. Ignatius in Kingston and the Floryshak family, Mike and Betty (Orbon) Frantz from Cambra, the Kluger and Roke families of Glen Lyon, the Morucci & Brunozzi families. The students of Greater Nanticoke Area High School hold a fundraiser to help financially as do the parishioners of Corpus Christi Parish. Diane Hillan handles the bookkeeping. Without the approval of Father Joseph Kutch, the project would not be attainable. Vicky Frace organizes the volunteer help throughout the week and one can see Francie Brunozzi offering a helping hand every day since the program began at St. Adalbert's.

Cleanliness and personal hygiene are imperative as it is required to shower at the Wilkes Barre YMCA prior to coming to Glen Lyon. The food that is available is the same that you would generally find in the average household in the neighborhood. There is a main course, a salad, dessert, coffee and other drinks. Leftovers are available throughout the night for those who are in want.

Michael Smith (60) from Tunkhannock and an original Agnes flood victim of the 1970's was laid off May 1, 2008 from Proctor & Gamble where he worked for 9 years and 12 years. He currently holds a license for a Fork Truck Driver. Mr. Smith received unemployment compensation until he didn't qualify for extensions. When he couldn't pay his rent, Mr. Smith's landlady informed him he had to leave and told him of the VISION program. Michael vowed that he would not be a burden on his children. He is now on welfare and is applying for disability social security. Even though Michael has overstayed his welcome in the VISION program, the Director, Vince Kabichinski, has granted him an extension. St. Steven's soup kitchen in Wilkes Barre provides a lunch for Michael as well as many others, and he spends his time at the libraries and Kirby Park in the summers.

Clifford Williams age 47 from Williamsport, is a US Army (1981 - 83) veteran as are many of the other men. Clifford held a good job with Stroehmans Bakery, but he spitefully quit at the time he was going through a bitter divorce. He was assessed an increase in child support after a promotion and raise in salary. Mr. Williams stated that, "Quitting Stroehmans was the biggest mistake of my life." He moved to Luzerne County and found work through temp agencies, while the court found him delinquent of over \$20,000.00 in child support. He ended up in the Luzerne County Correctional Facility for five months, lost his apartment, and continues to look for work. He showed a good work history resume, but has no income. He is determined to get his life together and meet his obligations.

Greg Thompson (46) left Philadelphia eleven years ago where negative influence and bad choices led to alcohol and drugs. He has been in the Wyoming Valley for eleven years and recently was laid off from Men's Warehouse Distribution Center. This is his second experience with the VISION program and he remembers staying at St. Adalbert's two years ago. Mr. Williams collects unemployment but cannot afford an apartment. Greg stated that he plans to attend LCCC in March and go to school to attain a CDL license to drive tractor trailer. He also currently holds a license to remove asbestos. Greg claims that he deals with his drug and alcohol problem by attending AA meetings on a regular basis and prays every day that he does not fall back into his negative habits. He maintains contact and is in good standing with his family in Philadelphia. He appreciates and is indebted to the VISION program and informed me that many of the participants will generally volunteer for community projects, if and when asked.

Appreciation is given to anyone who wishes to donate their time to the program. Other donations in the form of clothes, toilet articles, winter gloves, food (cakes, pies, cookies, etc.), and soda are always needed. Contact persons would be anyone associated with the above mentioned organizations. Without the generosity and volunteerism found in participating communities, the "homeless program" of VISION of Wyoming Valley would not survive.

Glen Lyon Crime Watch

The Brain's Response to Methamphetamine*

by Karen Rejician Speed, meth, chalk, crystal, ice, glass-these are all names for the drug methamphetamine. Meth comes in many different forms and is snorted, swallowed, injected, or smoked. The form is known as ice or crystal, due to its appearance.

Meth is a powerful drug. It acts by changing how the brain works. It also speeds up many functions in the body. Meth can cause lots of harmful things including inability to sleep, paranoia, aggressiveness, loss of appetite and hallucinations. Meth also causes a person's blood pressure to increase and their heart to beat **faster**.

Methamphetamine is a stimulant that can cause depression, seizures and stroke.

No matter how methamphetamine is used, it eventually ends up in the bloodstream where it is circulated throughout the brain. Methamphetamine can affect lots of brain structures, but the ones it affects the most are the ones that contain a chemical called dopamine. Dopamine is sometimes called the pleasure neurotransmitter because it helps you feel good. The dopamine attaches to neighboring neurons.

Usually neurons recycle dopamine. But methamphetamine is able to fool neurons into taking it up just like they would dopamine. All this dopamine causes the person to feel an extra sense of pleasure that can last all day. But eventually these pleasurable effects stop. They are followed by unpleasant feelings called a ☐crash☐ that often lead a person to use more of the drug. If a person continues to use methamphetamine, they will have a difficult time feeling pleasure from anything. Imagine no longer enjoying your favorite hobby or an afternoon with your friends.

***Information courtesy of the National Institutes of Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health**

Enjoy the Spring!

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Newport Township Community Organization Recycles

by Tom Kashatus. Recycling of metals is just one of our main sources of income for the past two years. We recycle throughout the entire year and we just love to acquire those items that have become an eyesore within the town limits and also items that have been visual on the outskirts of our towns. Our major recycling efforts normally take place in April during our "Big Junk Drop Off" and cleanup of illegal dump sites with the assistance of inmates from the Luzerne County Correction Facility.

Giving credit to Newport Township officials for negotiating a contract with Mascaro Industries that includes pick up of one large household item per month which definitely has diminished illegal dumping throughout the township, let it be known that large metal items which are picked up and hauled away are taken to the landfill and buried just like ordinary garbage.

The Community Organization will pick up and recycle the following items from our residents: motor blocks, brake drums, wheel (tire) rims, lawnmowers, steel and galvanized pipe, gas grills, appliances, bed frames and springs, swimming pools, bicycles, exercise equipment, **car and motorcycle batteries**, and any **aluminum products**. Keep in mind that there is recyclable value even in **small appliances and electrical cords**. Many residents throw their old **Christmas lights** in the garbage. There is value for the copper in these wires and we will be happy to receive these items.

Even though appears to be on a small scale, this individual recycling business is becoming very competitive. Post cards are being mailed and phone numbers of recyclers are popping up on poles throughout our community.

There are two major reasons to consider recycling with the Newport Township Community Organization (1) **we are a 501(c)3 charitable organization under IRS regulations and your donation may be financially deductible and (2) the monies realized from our program are returned to the initiatives that we support throughout Newport Township**. Contact person for this project is Tom Kashatus at (570) 736-6981.



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Two small pies with one topping on each for \$14.50

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34 Orchard St., Glen Lyon, PA (570) 736-6600

“Happy Hour 5-7 Tues.-Sat. 3-5 Sun.

Tues. Buy Any Platter or Dinner
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Complete Solid Waste Services

Green Hint Did You Know? You may recycle paper with staples, clips, or spirals intact - the metal will be filtered out by machines later. Don't include any paper with food stains (pizza boxes for example), as they can contaminate a load. For **plastics**, remove bottle caps. They are made of a different type of plastic and can mess up a whole batch. Return plastic bags to stores. Find a local spot at plasticbagrecycling.org.

St. Dennis Church Founded As St. John the Baptist Mission Church in 1879 Has an Interesting History



Written by Tom Kashatus Where has the time gone by? For almost the past six years that the Newport Township Community Organization has been in existence, we have been meeting in the Knights of Columbus Hall, known to many residents as St. Dennis Church, on East Main Street in Glen Lyon. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Knights, we have a meeting place where we can come and go as we please and it is easily accessible to our members and the public whenever possible.

Historically the hall began as a mission in 1879 called St. John the Baptist and it was administered by St. Joseph's Slovak Church in Nanticoke, PA. At that time stained glass windows were obtained from Sacred Heart Church in Plains, PA; the bell was donated from the old Coal Street school house (and still remains in the bell tower); and a pump organ was brought in from St. Patrick's Church in Wilkes Barre. In July 1926 Bishop Hoban declared the mission a territorial church and renamed it in honor of St. Dennis (Dionysius) who was the first bishop of Paris and was martyred in the 3rd century A.D. He remains the patron saint of France. Reverend Frank McHugh was the first pastor and resided in an apartment two blocks away from the site as there was not yet a rectory.

From 1920 to 1936 St. Dennis was used by the congregation of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church at which time the church on

Spring Street, Glen Lyon was built. Around 1930, Retreat State Hospital was added to St. Denis Parrish as a mission and the priests often crossed over the mountain by foot to administer the sacraments to the patients and staff alike.

In the 1930's a rectory was built next to the church and an outdoor statue of the Blessed Virgin Mother was erected by the Holy Name Society and dedicated to the memory of Rev. Leo V. Gilroy to honor his ten year assignment. Rev. James O'Hara, Rev. Leo A. Granahan, Rev. Francis Durkin, Rev. Edward L. Collins, Rev. Albert Oldfield, Rev. Louis Grippe, Rev. Thomas McDermott, and Rev. Robert Nealon subsequently followed Father Gilroy. Throughout the 1940's, 50's, and 60's St. Dennis Church was always known as the "Irish Church" in Glen Lyon even though its heritage evolved from the Slovak faith and St. Dennis, himself, was French. I wonder why?

In 1985 Rev. Edward Masakowski, pastor of St. Adalbert's Church, Glen Lyon was appointed by Bishop Timlin to administer St. Dennis Parish. In 1989 both parishes celebrated their centennial anniversaries bringing special distinction to Father Masakowski. At the time he also served as parish priest of St. Michael's after Father Wayda retired.

Upon reminiscing Leonard and Betty Straub remember their fifty years as parishioners of St. Dennis and the final day when it closed. Leonard had the honor of removing the crucifix from the altar and carrying it to St. Adalbert's where it remains until today. Betty still visualizes the procession of parishioners walking as if in a funeral (some of the handicapped traveling by car) to St. Adalbert's and their despair at the closing of their church. They also remember the many people who observed mass on Sunday in the summer while standing on the front steps because the church did not have the capacity to accommodate its following.

In 1999 Rev. Carl Prushinski of St. Mary's Church in Mocanaqua, which was home to the Knights of Columbus Council 10676, stated that they could hold their meetings in the basement of St. Dennis' Church, if they would "clean it up." The move was made in 2001 under the auspices of Rev. Michael Quinnan of Corpus Christi Parish. The church was closed by the diocese in 2002 and then purchased with the rectory by the St. Denis Home Association, Inc., a 501C3 charitable organization under IRS regulations, who allow the Knights of Columbus and Newport Township Community Organization to hold their meetings and events there. At the time of the purchase John Opachinski Sr. was Grand Knight of the Council. He was followed by John Opachinski Jr., Bill Davis, and Henry Turchanik. Former Grand Knight Russ Sager in the role of liaison, and also a member of the Community Organization, negotiated the arrangement for the site to be used as their meeting place. This helps to fulfill an obligation of the Knights of Columbus which is to "reach out to the community." Today, the Knights of Columbus are led by Grand Knight V. J. George. An altar from the now demolished St. Michael's Church on West Main Street was moved to the Knights of Columbus Hall and is often used during services of the present organization.

Important Information to Post on Your Home Bulletin Board

Little League Opening Day Scheduled for April 24th

by Dave Buchinski The Newport Township Little League will open its 59th season of baseball and softball on April 24th at its complex in Wanamie. The day's festivities will begin with a parade that starts at 10 A.M. near the cemeteries between Glen Lyon and Lee. The parade will proceed throughout the entire township and will end at the Little League Field off Kirmar Avenue on W. Main Avenue in Wanamie.

Opening Day ceremonies will begin at 11:30 A.M. on the main field. Introduction of all players, coaches, and league officials will be followed by honoring several past members of Little League and members of the community. Championship teams, including our 6th place junior softball all stars in World Series competition will also be featured as part of the day's events.

Once Opening Day ceremonies have concluded, the **Aquafina/Major League Baseball** sponsored Pitch, Hit, and Run Contest featuring boys and girls, ages 5 – 12, from our league will take place. Prizes will be awarded in several age groups and winners will advance to regional and possibly national competitions.

The day will culminate with games on both fields and will continue into the evening. The Newport Township Little League has over 120 boys and girls, ages 5 – 16, and all reside in Newport Township. Levels of play include T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minor League Baseball and Softball, Major League Baseball and Softball, and Junior/Senior League Baseball and Softball. The season runs from Opening Day through the middle of July.

Finally, the League will team with the Newport Township Fire Department, as they did in 2009, and hold a bazaar on Memorial Day weekend. Come join us on Friday, May 28th; Saturday, May 29th; and Sunday, May 30th at the Holy Child Picnic Grounds in Sheatown. Enjoy plenty of homemade foods, drinks, games, etc. Entertainment this year will be provided by the bands M-80, 40LB Head, and Iron Cowboy. The weekend will also include a Fire Department parade and a fireworks show. This event is the major fundraiser for Little League and the Volunteer Fire Department, and we hope to see everyone there.

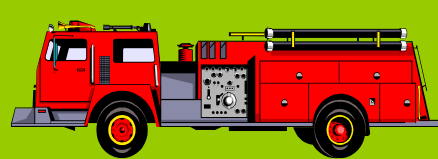
Newport's Memorial Weekend Picnic & Celebration 2010 Edition

Celebrating:

100 years of existence for Newport Twp Fire Department

&

Newport Twp Little League's 2009 participation in Little League World Series



Fireworks



Food & Snacks



Great Music



Food & Snacks



Fireworks

Friday – May 28th –featuring Wyoming alley's Best Party / Cover Band – M80

Saturday – May 29th – featuring Newport Twp's one and only 40LB Head

Sunday – May 30th –featuring Wyoming Valley's Best Country Band – Iron Cowboy

Firemen's Parade Saturday Evening

Fireworks Show on Sunday Night

Holy Child Grove 5:00 PM to Midnight

Important Information to Post on Your Home Bulletin Board



The 2010 Great American Cleanup



Newport Township Community Pride Event, Saturday, April 17th.

This year, as in previous years, residents can join Pennsylvanians across the state and Americans across the nation in cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides, streams, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Join the **Newport Township Community Pride Event, Saturday, April 17th**. Volunteers will meet in the municipal parking lot at 8:00 A.M. where supplies will be distributed before heading out to the main roads from Lee to Sheatown. After the cleanup, volunteers will enjoy refreshments.

The Big Junk Drop Off may take place Monday, April 12th thru Friday April 16th. Place and times are not yet established. To run this event, we depend solely on in-kind donations from area sponsors and volunteers. Four (4) volunteers are needed on site 8 hours a day, for the 5 days of the Drop Off. In addition, volunteers with trucks for picking up recyclable materials would be a great help to the program. Dumpsters for debris are also needed. Free Dumping at Keystone Landfill will be available. Your support is needed to continue running this program. Please check www.newporttownship.com for updates, watch for flyers posted throughout the Township, or you can contact me at 736-6637.

The week of April 19th we hope to eradicate several illegal dumpsites starting with St. Vladimir's Cemetery, Alden. To make this possible we are working with PennDOT, The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Luzerne County work release program, Keystone Landfill, and volunteers.

You can do your part by cleaning up your own back yard and around your neighborhood. Pick up a piece of litter every day while walking down the street, hiking along a stream or in the woods, fishing, boating, playing in the park, or anywhere else...if we all pick up one piece of litter every day, Pennsylvania will be clean and beautiful!

Know that beautiful communities are not only nice to look at, they are economically vibrant places where people want to live, work, shop and play and it's up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life. **The Newport Township Community Organization** along with the **Great American Cleanup** provides the means to do just that.

For questions, updates, or additional information, watch for flyers posted throughout Newport Township. You can also check www.newporttownship.com or contact Palmira Miller at (570) 736-6637

***This page was added after publication**

AN INVITATION TO YOU & YOUR GROUP



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Edward G. Rendell, Governor

SIGN UP TO JOIN THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
SIXTH ANNUAL GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP™ PROGRAM OF PENNSYLVANIA
PLANNED EVENTS BEGIN, APRIL 12TH TO April 23RD, 2010

To **VOLUNTEER** or **DONATE**, contact Palmira at 736-6637 or palmiram@newporttownship.com

What is it? This spring, you can help us with our local cleanup, beautification and community improvement program, the **Great American Cleanup™**. Millions of residents across the country are taking part in this springtime campaign to clean up and beautify communities all across America. The **Great American Cleanup™** is brought to you by The Newport Township Community Organization in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the State of Pennsylvania, National Sponsors, state and local sponsors.

In Pennsylvania it is a statewide cleanup campaign involving local and state government, businesses, waste haulers, and environmental and civic groups. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), in cooperation with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Inc., are sponsoring the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania.

Why should you do it? The **Great American Cleanup™** is a fun, educational, outdoor, springtime activity! In addition to organizing a litter clean up, your group can also take part in any other "Keep America Beautiful mission-consistent" activities as shown below. Upon registration, your group will be provided with trash bags, gloves and vests for litter collection and removal.

What activities can you take part in?

- Litter removal in an area and on a date you set
- Beautification, Community Improvement around your home and neighborhood
- April 12th to April 16th from 9am to 3pm - Big Junk Drop Off
NEW SITE LOCATION—Opposite Compost Center outside of Glen Lyon
Drop off your junk from your back yard and neighborhood.
- April 17th, 8am to 12pm - State Wide litter clean up along the Main Streets
- April 19th to April 23rd from 9am to 3pm - Illegal Dumpsite Cleanups
- Continuous Recycling Program throughout the year



For additional information visit

www.newporttownship.com, www.gacofpa.org, or www.kab.org