

Newport Community News



*A Newsletter of the
Newport Township Community Organization*

*Spring 2005
Number 1*

State of the Township

The Township commissioners have begun the new year 2005 by restoring community services to levels close to what they were, toward the end of last year, when they felt forced to scale them back, because of a shortage of income. They brought back all previously full time police and firefighters into full time positions. Township residents now once again have, under normal circumstances, police protection 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The only remaining part of the scale back of services seems to be the lack of a full time administrative assistant, who continues to work in a part time position.

The Township commissioners, in their budget for 2005, are projecting expenses of \$1,097,039 in the coming year. Among the major expenses are the following.

Expense	Approximate Cost
refuse and recycling	\$247 thousand
medical insurance and other benefits	\$158 thousand
police protection	\$123 thousand
fire protection	\$109 thousand

The commissioners are expecting income, paying for all these expenses, to come from several major income sources, the largest being the following.

Income Source	Approximate Amount
earned income tax (½%)	\$229 thousand
real estate taxes (35 mills)	\$209 thousand
state revenue sharing	\$38 thousand
building code enforcement	\$17 thousand
refuse and recycling fees	\$185 and \$40 per person

Another way of looking at these taxes is that, taking the commonly used figure of 1600 households in the Township, we find that the average household will pay about \$685 a year, or about \$57 a month, for refuse and recycling services, police and
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Steve Phillips,
President of the
Newport Township
Community
Organization, is a
resident of Wanamie



A Message from the President

The Newport Township Community Organization had its origins in a request from the Township's Board of Commissioners that the residents provide suggestions to help improve the Community's overall quality of life. In answer to that plea, the Newport Township Community Organization evolved.

Among its activities, in which a relatively small but committed group of Organization members have participated, were three large junk pickups in Glen Lyon, a weed cutting and litter pick up in the same community, and weed cutting and litter pick up projects in Alden and immediately adjacent to the Regional Equipment Center in Wanamie.

In October, the Organization sponsored a successful Fall Festival on the grounds of the Holy Child Church in Sheatown.

To acknowledge the decorating efforts of the Township's residents during the Christmas season, the Organization selected
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Jacob Ellis, Amy Ellis, and Albert Namovicz

People

Jacob Ellis, Albert Namovicz, and Gertrude Formulak

We would like to congratulate those we awarded prizes for their home Christmas displays. Gertrude Formulak of West Enterprise Street, Glen Lyon, won the third prize. Albert Namovicz of East Main Street, Glen Lyon won the second prize. Jacob Ellis of Marcella Street, Alden, won the first prize. While everyone who worked to put a Christmas display on his or her property did us all a service in making the Holidays more enjoyable, those winning these prizes did an exceptional job, in our opinion, in using lights and ornaments to create a pleasing effect. We thank them especially, but also everyone with a display, for their contribution to the community.

John Sidonis

We would like to welcome John Sidonis, a new resident of Glen Lyon, to the community. He bought Cobasco's Hardware Store and is working to put a Dollar General store in the building. We wish him the best of luck in his business.

Joe Rymar and Paul Czapracki

We would like to thank Joe Rymar for his work as President of the Township Commissioners. He resigned the post in January, but will remain one of the commissioners. Similarly, we welcome Paul Czapracki as the new President and wish him the best in his new position.

Tom Kashatus

We would also like to congratulate Tom Kashatus, chosen by the Commissioners in January to replace Joe Hilan who resigned to take a job with the Township. Tom has done a great deal of work for the Community Organization in documenting neglected and abandoned buildings, publicizing the problem on the local news, and cooperating with the Township's business manager in having the owners of these properties cited for violation of the nuisance ordinance. We wish him the best of luck.

John Roke

With help from State Senator Raphael Musto, the Township recently received a \$40,000 state grant to use towards buying a \$41,500 Ford F-350 truck for its road department. Former Township commissioner John Roke did a great deal of work to get this state grant. He deserves thanks from all residents for his service to the community.

Dan Kowalski

Dan Kowalski, of the Black Diamond ATV Club, is working to organizing an Anthracite Regional Trail System (ARTS), a recreational area for ATV use, on Earth Conservancy (EC) land in Newport and Cunningham Townships. ARTS would benefit the local area in several ways, such as capturing revenue from people already using the EC land for ATV recreation, bringing in business to serve ATV users needs, and reducing illegal activities on EC land.

Glen Lyon American Legion Home Association

On the third Sunday morning of the month, the Glen Lyon American Legion Home Association holds a breakfast in the Legion building to help pay for the building's utilities. The group cooks a tasty meal, which also serves as a social occasion, giving you a good way to meet many of your friends and neighbors.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

three families as recipients of cash awards for their holiday displays. The Organization also made financial contributions to the Wanamie families who lost their homes as a result of the devastating fire in January.

During 2005, it is anticipated that the Organization will continue with its large junk pickups and other related clean up activities throughout the Township. Continued emphasis shall be placed on cleaning up derelict and deteriorating properties throughout the Community. The Organization's Second Vice President Thomas Kashatus and his dedicated Committee have identified a substantial number of these parcels that should be addressed.

A number of owners have voluntarily cleaned up their properties subsequent to receiving a letter from the Organization.

The continued cooperation of the Township's Board of Commissioners is integral to resolving this issue.

Township residents are encouraged to contact any organization member to report any properties they deem to be a nuisance.

Any group is only as strong as its members. Therefore, all residents of the township are encouraged to join the Organization. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the Knights of Columbus on East Main Street in Glen Lyon. This is the site of the former St. Denis Church. Everyone interested in helping to insure that Newport remains a truly first class Township is cordially invited to attend.

Seasonal Community

Big Junk Clean Up

The Community Organization is planning to hold more Big Junk Cleanups in the coming year, beginning in the spring when the weather warms. The group will do these in Wanamie, Alden, and Sheatown, each town or local area on a separate Saturday. It will place notices in the Citizen's Voice and Times Leader before each cleanup giving the date and location of each. It will also put notices in your mailbox. Please watch for these announcements.

Yard Waste

Spring is the time of year when we get back to work on our lawns, yards, and gardens. We again begin generating yard waste, which includes grass, shrub clippings, brush, trimmed tree limbs, and weeds. Eliminating these items from your property is one easy to clean up and improve the appearance of your property.

Since this year we have a new trash service, Muscaro, the procedures for eliminating yard waste are different. As mentioned in Muscaro's fact sheet, given to you at the beginning of the year, there is no separate pickup for this waste. Instead you can include it with your regular waste, or pay Muscaro a small fee to make a separate pickup, or take it yourself to the Earth Conservancy composting station between Glen Lyon and Wanamie. The latter two disposal methods would seem to be useful for large amounts of yard waste.

Sheds

If you are building or placing a shed in your yard or elsewhere on your property, there are certain procedures that you are legally required to follow.

First you should check with the Luzerne County Zoning Office (20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, phone 825-1560) to see whether a shed is permitted in your area. Second, you will also need a building permit from the Township Manager's Office in the Municipal Building (Center Street, Wanamie, phone 735-4735.

Flashing Emergency Light

Dan Kowalski, a Township firefighter, is selling an emergency light that you can place in a socket on the front of your house. In case of emergency, you can have it flash as a signal to ambulance and other emergency workers, directing them to your home. You can purchase one of these lights from Dan or from the driver at the fire station (Municipal Building) in Wanamie. The proceeds from the sale of these lights will contribute toward the firefighters' expenses.

Township Ordinances

The Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance gives a person 48 hours, after he has been warned, to remove his car from either public or private property, before the police tow it away.

A Township ordinance forbids people walking their dog on a public street from allowing the dog to mess the sidewalk. You can report a person who does this to the police.

Jim Caley, Francis Zaleski, Russ Sager, and Steve Phillips during the Community Organization's Big Junk Clean Up in Glen Lyon last November



Seasonal Health

Physical Activity

With the coming of spring, outdoor activity becomes a more attractive option. You can improve your health and well being by becoming active at a moderate-intensity on a regular basis.

Regular physical activity reduces the risk of suffering from diseases such as coronary heart disease, stroke, colon cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure. It also helps to control weight, contributes to healthy bones, muscles, and joints, reduces falls among older adults, helps to relieve the pain of arthritis, reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression and is associated with fewer hospitalizations, physician visits, and medications.

Moreover, physical activity need not be strenuous to be beneficial; people of all ages benefit from participating in regular, moderate-intensity physical activity, such as 30 minutes of brisk walking five or more times a week.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Protect Your Children from Dog Bites

Each year, 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. Teach children basic safety around dogs and review regularly:

- Do not approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Do not run from a dog and scream.
- Remain motionless (e.g., "be still like a tree") when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (e.g., "be still like a log").
- Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
- Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- Do not disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Community Organization Members: (Sitting) Sia Sager, Carol Whiting, Suzie Shiptoski, Palmira Miller, (Standing) Carolyn Phillips, Faye Maloney, Linda Connor.

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

Officers

- President
Steve Phillips
- First Vice President
Russ Sager
- Second Vice President
Tom Kashatus
- Treasurer
Steve Masakowski
- Secretary
Palmira Miller

Calendar of Spring Events

- Tuesday, March 22
Community Organization Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Monday April 4
Township Commissioners Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 5; Tuesday, April 19
Community Organization Meeting at 6:30
- Monday May 2
Township Commissioners Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 3; Tuesday, May 17
Community Organization Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Monday June 6
Township Commissioners Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 7
Community Organization Meeting at 6:30 pm

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fire protection, maintenance of roads, and other Township services.

The Township will receive a \$120,000 federal Community Development Block Grant, which will be used to improve streets in Glen Lyon. Because of legal requirements included in the grant, the Township can only spend the money in Glen Lyon, in connection with low income housing there

In spite of the recent restoration of services, the Township still lacks money to pay for legitimate needs. Equipment, such as radios, used by the police is old and sometimes does not work properly. The police themselves recently had to raise money to buy a new and up to date computer to transact Township business. Several of the fire engines are old and in need of being replaced.

A new problem that the commissioners, and actually all residents, will have to confront is that trash collection costs, after staying fairly constant through the 1990's, are now increasing. The reason, according to a representative of J. P. Mascaro, our new trash collection company, is that his organization's gasoline and medical insurance costs are now rising, which in turn raises our trash collection fees.

Community Organization Notes

The Community Organization has written and adopted articles of incorporation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It has sent these articles to the State for approval. Getting this status would give the Organization exemption from income and other taxes and make it eligible for grant funds from government agencies and private foundations

Township Commissioner's meeting are held at the Municipal Building in Wanamie.

Community Organization meetings are usually held at the Knights of Columbus building (formerly St. Denis Church) on East Main Street in Glen Lyon. We plan to hold some future meetings in other locations in the Township. We will announce any alternate locations or changes in times in the newspaper.

All Township residents are welcome to attend meetings and join in this effort to improve the quality of life in the community.

Newsletter

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

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

If you would like to suggest a news item for this newsletter, please call John Jarecki at 736-6620 or e-mail him at jjarecki@catvexpress.net.

If you would like to join the Community Organization and have questions, please call John Jarecki at 736-6620 or e-mail him at jjarecki@catvexpress.net.