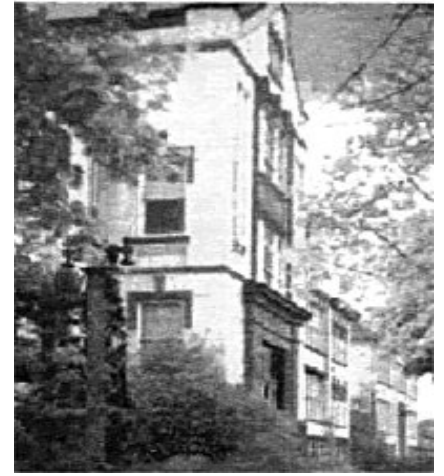


Newport Community News



*A Newsletter of the
Newport Township Community Organization*

*Spring 2007
Number 9*

State of the Township

In December of last year, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2007 in which our community plans to spend about \$1.1 million on public services and to receive almost the same amount in income, with a small surplus.

Just as in the 2006 budget, about 2/3 of Township expenditures go to pay for refuse pickup, fire fighting, police protection, and street maintenance. And about 3/4 of Township income comes from the refuse fee, earned income tax, and the real estate tax.

The 2007 budget again provides for basic community services. But reasonable people can disagree in how a complex budget like this is written.

And the Community Organization takes the position that our budget should address a broader range of our problems and concerns, including the large number of neglected and abandoned community buildings, the aging of those in use, and planning for future community development. Here are some details. (In what follows we leave out the Liquid Fuels Budget, which involves a state subsidy for roads only.)

The following list gives the largest expenditures in the 2007 budget, amounting to over 80% of the total, with smaller sources grouped together in the item Other.

(continued on page 3)

A Message from the President

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

Since its inception, the Newport Township Community Organization has been a strong advocate for a strict code enforcement program, and has lobbied for demolition of substandard structures throughout the Municipality. Therefore, the Community Organization is pleased to extend its appreciation to the Luzerne County

Office of Community Development as the grantor agency, the Newport Township Board of Commissioners as the grantee, and the Newport Township Authority as the program administrator for these three entities' joint efforts in the removal of ten blighted structures within the Township.

The Newport Township Authority has also committed monies from its coffers to insure that the ten subject building are razed.

Again this year the Community Organization will participate in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup on April 21. Volunteers from this group, as well as other civic

minded agencies and citizens, will clean litter along the Township's major thoroughfares. Volunteers are urgently needed. Those who participate will find that they not only perform a valuable community service but also get a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie with others who take part.

(continued on page 6)



Stephanie and Jamie Hroback preparing spring flowers in their family's greenhouse. Read about their family business on page 2.

People

Father Jacek

With Easter just around the corner, township residents will be busy preparing for the holiday season. Many still follow customs brought to this country by their ancestors. Polish, Slovak, Irish, Italian, Russian, Ukrainian, all have special rituals to commemorate this holy time of year. Having been born in Poland, Father Jacek Bialkowski, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, is very familiar with these traditions.



Father Jacek Bialkowski

Father Jacek was born in Lidzbark Warminski, in northeast Poland. Growing up during great political turmoil when the Polish unions asserted their rights against the communist government, he experienced great difficulties when he realized his vocation. His parents, Jerzy and Krystyna, were employed as managers. His father maintained public transportation and his mother was employed in the textile industry. Both parents lost their jobs when Father entered the seminary, but were reinstated when the communist government fell.

Father Jacek entered the religious life at the seminary of the missionary Divine Wood Fathers. In 1989, he came to the United States and attended Orchard Lake Seminary in Michigan and Christ the King Seminary near Buffalo. Through associates from Williamsport, Father Jacek was accepted for ordination in the Scranton Diocese. He was ordained by Bishop Timlin in 1990.

Father's first assignment was at St. Boniface's in Williamsport. After four years, he was sent to Towanda and was active in the Interfaith Ministry. In 2003, Father received his first appointment as pastor at Corpus Christi Parish. Some of his interests and talents might be surprising. He is fluent in Latin, Greek, French, and Russian, and has degrees in philosophy, psychology, and theology. He is an avid motorcyclist and Dallas Cowboys football fan. He also collects coins, owns two cats, and has done skydiving.

It might be a long way from Poland to Newport Township, but Father Jacek feels right at home!

Dave and Brenda Hroback

Think Spring! Brenda and Dave Hroback get a head start

every year. The proprietors of Hroback's Flowers in Alden are surrounded by sprouting green plants from January until they are ready for market on Mother's Day. Their greenhouses are located in Hunlock's Creek and are filled with petunias, impatiens, and geraniums. This writer visited them shortly after the Valentine's Day snowstorm. It is quite a contrast to see thousands of lush green plants inside the warm and humid greenhouses, while outside there are piles of snow and ice on the ground.

The business began in 1996. Brenda sought a situation that would help her family financially and also allow her to stay home with their two daughters. With advice from friends, especially Jenny Kanjorski of Huntington Mills, and information from books, Brenda and Dave built their first greenhouse. They started out with bedding plants, which include marigolds, zinnias, and begonias planted from seed. By 1999, they had three greenhouses and expanded into hanging baskets and vegetables. Today, there are six greenhouses and they've added herbs to the list.

This is truly a family business. Their two daughters have been working alongside their parents from the beginning. Stephanie, 21, is a senior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in elementary education. Jamie, 17, is a senior at Northwest Area High School.

Shortly before Easter, Brenda and Dave will offer for sale lilies, hyacinths, and daffodils. "Newport Township has been very supportive from the beginning," says Brenda. Located next to Hroback's Garage on West Kirmar Avenue, the business attracts customers from Wilkes-Barre, Mountaintop, and Kingston.

It's March! Think Spring!

Marie Morucci

Marie Morucci of Glen Lyon has words of advice for all residents: Be Vigilant! A member of the Glen Lyon Crime Watch, Marie has led efforts to make the township safer. The group had its inception during a commissioners' meeting held in St. Adalbert's Church basement in 1994. Originally, Marie wanted to be a block captain, but was elected President instead. She has held that office ever since.

Two members completed an eight-week course taught this past fall at the State Police Training Center in Forty Fort. The class covered such topics as forensics, crime prevention, arson, illegal drugs, and crime reconstruction. Upon completion of the course, Citizens' Police Academy certificates were awarded. Many participants in the class were students studying criminology at local colleges.

Cooperation with local police is an important factor in crime prevention. There are some rules one should always follow. Marie stresses, "Never give your social security number over the phone to a telemarketer. If you see anything out of the ordinary or suspicious, report it immediately. Always be aware of your surroundings. Never allow strangers into your home."

If you are interested in participating, call Marie Morucci for more information. The Crime Watch Group meets every second Thursday of the month at 7:00 in the Italian Club, Glen Lyon. ♦

State of the Township (continued from page 1)

Expenditures	Amount (Thousands of Dollars)
J. P.Mascaro (Refuse Pickup)	\$ 266
Fire Department	144
Employee Fringe Benefits	149
Police Department	137
General Government	79
Insurance	76
Street Department	66
Other	112
Total	\$1045

The next list gives the largest sources of income in our budget. They amount to over 85% of the total, with smaller sources grouped together as Other.

Income Sources	Amount (Thousands of Dollars)
Refuse Fee	\$ 277
Earned Income Tax	255
Real Estate Tax	224
Building Code Enforcement	45
State Shared Revenue	44
Recycling Fee	37
Other	170
Total	\$1052

The Community Organization would budget more resources into

finding solutions, for example, to the following two problems.

First, we have a housing problem that the Township addresses



Brenda Hroback. Read about her family's flower and plant business on page 2.

with minimal effort and expenditure. According to the 2000 census, one out of six household units in the Township is empty. Many buildings are dilapidated or unattended. Anecdotal evidence suggests that officials have not inspected many rental units for compliance with the building code. If we do not maintain these buildings, property values will tend to fall, and the appearance of the community will decline.

Similarly, we live with the possibility that new businesses, that we may or may not be comfortable with, will move into the Township and bring changes to our community that we are not now preparing for. The South Valley Parkway will connect Kirmar Parkway to the South Cross Valley Expressway, making Township land more attractive to business. Our community's abandoned mining lands are, according to a recent report, a desirable location for an ATV recreation park.

It would seem that now is the time to budget more of our resources to addressing our housing and development problems. ♦

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Smile!

Township Public Business

Demolition Program

At their January meeting the Township Commissioners voted to accept, under certain conditions, a bid from Shea Industries for \$53,500 to demolish the five buildings remaining in the Township's current demolition program. The Township had at that time \$47,000 left of its \$125,000 grant for demolitions from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD). The Township Commissioners' approval was under the condition that they could get \$6500 to make up the difference between funds on hand and funds needed.

OCD then added \$3000 to its original grant and the Newport Township Authority contributed \$3500 to the demolition program, providing the necessary money. As a result, at the beginning of March Shea Industries started work on demolishing the following buildings.



Mike Gabriel, who lives on Newport Street in Glen Lyon, standing in front of one of the latest buildings demolished



Portia Miller of Glen Lyon and her grandchildren Jordyn and Gabriel. Portia and her husband John won 3rd prize in our Christmas display contest.

241 W. Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie
65-67 Ridge Street in Glen Lyon (2 buildings)
95 Newport Street in Glen Lyon
592 Old Newport Street in Wanamie

John Wilkes, Commissioner in charge of Building Code Enforcement, said that he is not sure that we can get more County funds for demolitions. We will have to wait, he said, for several months to see if the County receives more federal money that can be used for demolitions.

New Ordinances

At their December meeting the Township Commissioners enacted two new ordinances that will affect landlords and tenants.

(continued on page 5)

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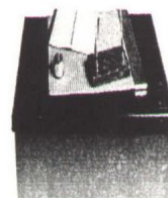
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Township Public Business (continued from page 4)

Ordinance Number 7 of 2006 requires that landlords, by February 15 of each year, provide the Township with the names and addresses of tenants who are at least 18 years of age. This information is restricted by the ordinance to the Township Manager, Tax collector, Clerk, and Solicitor.

The intent of this ordinance is for accountability of Township residents and, by giving notice of new tenants and residents, to make it more feasible to assess per capita taxes and enforce building codes

Ordinance Number 8 of 2006

requires that the Township give an occupancy inspection each year to rental properties having 3 or more rental units. This requirement is in addition to the present requirement that the Township give an occupancy inspection to a rental unit before its landlord rents or sells that unit. The landlord is required to schedule the inspection by February 15 each year. The Township will charge \$35 for the annual mandatory inspection, less than the \$60 charged for the inspection on renting or selling.

The intent of this ordinance is also to make it more feasible to enforce building codes.

Free Smoke Detectors

Fire Chief Dan Kowalski tells us that, if you do not have a smoke detector in your home, the Township Fire Department will give you one for free and even install it for free. The Fire Department is cooperating with television station Channel 16's Operation

Save a Life, which you may have heard about through its televised public service announcements.

Our residential building code requires a smoke detector on every floor and in the basement and in every bedroom. We strongly suggest that, if you do not have a smoke detector now, that you take advantage of this program and protect yourself and

your family. For more information call the Fire Department at 735-2000.

Fire Department Contributors

Fire Chief Dan Kowalski thanks all Township residents who have contributed to the Fire Department through their various fundraisers, such as the Motorcycle Run, their Heritage Days Festival Beer Concession, and their highly successful Boot Drive. The

(continued on page 6)

The Office Bar and Grill • Main Road, Leesport Specials

Tuesday--Seafood Wednesday--Steak \$10.95
Thursday--All You Can Eat Pasta \$8.00
Sat and Sun--Soup and Sandwich Only \$3.50
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Glen Lyon, PA 18617-1140

(570) 736-7369

Township Public Business (continued from page 5)

Department has used these contributions to buy equipment and to send fire fighters to training courses. ♦

Newport Notes

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

The Community Organization held its Christmas Display Contest again this year. **Earl and Elois Myers** of Alden won First Prize. **Tom and Joanne Capece** and their son **Michael** of Glen Lyon won Second Prize. And **John and Portia Miller** of Glen Lyon won Third Prize. Congratulations to all our winners. ♦

Township Contact Information

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

Township Commissioners

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

Newport Township Authority

John Wilkes	Chairman	735-6914
Joe DeLuca	Vice Chairman	735-1138
Peter Wanchisen	Treasurer)	735-7686
Helen Lopez	Secretary	735-1066
Stephen Phillips		735-3991 ♦

President's Message (continued from page 1)



Tom and Joanne Capece and their son Michael won 2nd prize in our Christmas display contest

The Community Organization's Recreation Committee, co-chaired by Merlyn "Murph" Fletcher and Mary Margaret Kashatus, is planning another extensive recreation program for this summer, following up its successful work of last year.

Once again the Township residents are reminded that a progressive Community depends to a great extent upon the efforts of a committed group of volunteers. Therefore, the Newport Township Community Organization encourages all Township residents to continue to monitor the activities of the elected officials, consider becoming a candidate for public office, and offer your service to the various volunteer organizations with the Community.

Working together, we can all renew Newport. ♦

Smile!



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Seasonal Events

Children's Summer Activities in Planning Stage

Murph Fletcher, who together with Mary Margaret Kashatus organized last summer's activities for children, has a long list of possible activities for children this summer. Here are some of them.



At our children's summer activities last year, a good time was had by all, including big birds and furry green monsters

A day trip to Moon Lake Park, including a nature talk by a professional naturalist

A visit by a representative of the Civil Air Patrol

A trip to the Anthracite Museum

A basketball clinic by a professional basketball coach

A bridge building project at the Wanamie recreation park

A BINGO game with the residents at the Guardian Center

A rubber band powered car building project

Murph is really excited about these and some other ideas he has to make our children's summer full of fun and learning. We are really anxious to learn about the program you develop Murph. Keep up the good work!

Possibility of an Ethanol Plant in Newport Township

Representatives of The South Valley Chamber of Commerce (SVCC), Pollock Enterprises, and John Yudichak have been in contact with Northeast Ethanol and Renewable Resources, a company that is interested in building a \$100 million processing plant in this area of Pennsylvania to produce ethanol, which is used as an additive to gasoline to fuel internal combustion engines.

Gerry Hudak, the President of the SVCC said that Northeast Ethanol has considered placing the plant in an area on the border between Newport Township and Nanticoke known as Whitney Pointe, which is owned by Pollock Enterprises. This area will be accessible by rail, which makes it an ideal area for industrial development.

The plant, if built there, will employ more than 70 people to

(continued on page 8)

Seasonal Health

Spring Allergy Time is Just Around the Corner

Sneezing, runny nose, watering eyes, rashes all await those with spring allergies. Your first step is to go to your doctor to seek his advice.

According to experts at Prevention Magazine, there are many steps that you can take along with medications to help control your allergies.

- Use allergy proof covers on your pillows and mattresses to control dust mites
- Wash bedding and blankets at least once a week in hot water
- Have bare floors in bedrooms
- Use damp cloths to remove dust
- Make sure your vacuum sweeper highly filters the air returned to the room
- Wear a dust mask and gloves when cleaning
- Reduce the number of stuffed animals and decorations inside the home
- When first using your automobile air conditioner, leave the car windows open to let any dust or pollen in the system out of the car.
- Use an air conditioner or dehumidifier to keep humidity below 50% to help control mold
- If you must do yard work, wear a mask and try to work in the cooler, less humid, part of the day
- Avoid perfumes, room deodorizers, cleaning chemicals, paint, and talcum powder

Dr. John R. Cohn, chief of the adult allergy section of Jefferson Medical College advises "Not enough people who could benefit from allergy shots consider them. They may help if you don't respond to usual treatments because they reduce your sensitivity to allergens instead of only treating symptoms. I find that about 80% of patients see an 80% improvement."

Your Own Stem Cells May Help Strengthen Your Heart

According to a "rapid track" report in Circulation, a Journal of the American Heart Association, injecting one's own stem cells directly into the heart muscle appears to be safe and effective in treating heart failure. "Rapid track articles are released online early because they have major clinical impact or represent important basic science discoveries" according to the American Heart Association.

The AHA reports "about 550,000 new cases of heart failure are diagnosed each year in the United States"

"This is one of the largest series of stem cell-treated patients reported so far and perhaps the first to inject stem cells directly into the heart," says senior author James T. Willerson, M.D., president of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and medical director and chief of cardiology at the Texas Heart Institute. "If our findings are confirmed in larger trials, this procedure could lead to an effective treatment for severe heart failure, and perhaps to a new form of gene therapy." ♦



Amanda Panagakos at our Victorian Tea Party for girls in November

process corn, soy beans, sugar beets or other vegetation that is rich in sugar in order to make ethanol. The plant must have an air quality permit, which means that the Environmental Protection Agency of the federal government and a Pennsylvania state agency will monitor the air exhausts of the plant. It is noted that this kind of process can produce a small amount of pollution or odor.

There have been controversies in other states as to the safety of this kind of plant.

Great Pennsylvania Cleanup

Once again Newport Township will participate in The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, which is a statewide cleanup campaign involving local and state government, businesses, waste haulers, and environmental and civic groups.

As part of The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, the Newport Township Community Organization, along with the Township's Department of Public Works, is holding a Big Junk Drop Off Monday April 16 through Saturday April 21 at the Recycling Center in Wanamie. This will be open to all Township Residents. Hours will be posted and volunteers will assist you at the recycling center.

On Saturday April 21st, we will take part in the statewide cleanup campaign by hosting The Third Annual Community Pride Event throughout the Township's Main Roads from Lee to Sheatown. Individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, and clubs, are invited to be part of this event. Gloves, trash bags, and safety equipment, will be provided while PennDot workers will remove the debris from the streets.

The Newport Township Community Organization is looking for individuals and local businesses to help sponsor the cleanup by providing refreshments or other supplies.

(continued in next column)

Newport Township Community Organization

110 ½ Railroad Avenue, Wanamie, PA 18634-4005

On the Internet: www.newporttownship.com.

Officers

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

Calendar of Spring Events

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

Tuesday March 27
Tuesdays April 10 and 24
Tuesdays May 8 and 22
Tuesday June 12

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

Mondays April 2, May 7, June 4

Newsletter

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

Newsletter Staff

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

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

Seasonal Events (continued from previous column)

Last year, 87 volunteers worked a total of 452 hours. Solomon Brothers from Waste Reduction and J. P. Mascaro donated dumpsters and Waste Management donated landfill space.

For more information, please contact Palmira Miller, Event Coordinator, at 736-6637, Commissioner Tom Kashatus at 736-6981 or visit www.newporttownship.com. ♦