

## Dilapidated Buildings Pose Imminent Danger To Both Life and Property in Glen Lyon - Commissioners Claim Little Can Be Done to Rectify Situation



**Dangerous Building at 19 Arch Street**



**Fire Damaged Property at Spring & Coal Streets**

*By Bill Hourigan* At the beginning of the March Board of Commissioners meeting several new residents of the Township who reside on Arch Street in Glen Lyon aired their concerns regarding 2 buildings in Glen Lyon which they feel pose an imminent danger to anyone living adjacent to the buildings or driving or walking near the buildings.

Commissioners Roke and Wilkes indicated that they anticipate that up to three more buildings will be removed during 2009 with money provided from grants from Luzerne County. The Commissioners did not indicate which buildings were on the list as all details can't be released until final details are worked out with the County and the owners of the properties. The Commissioners did indicate that the 2 buildings in question were not on the list because the owners of the buildings would not cooperate with the Township's current policy for demolitions using grant money.

The buildings which the residents specifically mentioned are located at 19 Arch Street and at the corner of Spring and Coal Street in Glen Lyon.

The Arch Street building is a large 3 story structure with occupied homes on both sides which are within just a few feet of it. One of the support columns holding up the 2nd story porch is in place but appears very unstable. The second column is not supporting anything as it is broken loose from the porch it is supporting and is leaning towards the sidewalk and street in front of the building. The columns supporting the roof above the porch appear to be in a highly deteriorated condition. Windows are broken out throughout the building, some doors appear open and unsecured, and the foundation is collapsing in some areas. In addition the roof of the garage located behind the building has collapsed and the doors to the garage are in terrible condition with broken glass and sprung hinges.

When contacted, the current owner of the property initially agreed to allow the building to be torn down, using grant money that was available to the Township. However the owner later changed his mind and refused to sign the necessary paper work.

*See Buildings on page 4*

## Township Receives Funding For Coal Street Park

*By John Jarecki* At The Newport Township Commissioners March meeting, Commissioner John Vishnefski announced that the Township has received a grant of \$41,531 from Monroe County gaming money for use in installing playground equipment at the Coal Street recreation park in Glen Lyon.

In the grant application, the Township specified the equipment that it wishes to buy, and the Township's Recreation board has chosen sites to locate the equipment. The Township previously received a federally funded grant from the county Office of Community Development (OCD) for \$10,000 and a state funded grant from OCD for \$5,000, both intended for improving the Coal Street park. In all, a total of \$56,531 is available for work on the park.

Mr. Vishnefski said that construction will begin as soon as the granting agencies approve plans for the project and the Township requests and accepts bids for the work. He said construction might begin as early as mid-summer. We are fortunate to receive this grant because, as Commissioner Paul Czapracki said, we are one of only three communities that have received Monroe County gaming money. Mr. Vishnefski thanked State Representative John Yudichak, State Senator Ray Musto, and Congressman Paul Kanjorski for help in getting the grant.

The Commissioners recently met with Mr. Yudichak, Mr. Musto, and Governor Rendell's northeastern Pennsylvania representative Mike Lombardo in order to make sure that the Township had completed all necessary application work to be eligible for any federal stimulus funding that may become available for our area. They also let these leaders know that because Newport has both significant needs and plans for use of the money, it is ready to begin work on these projects as soon as it receives the funds.

The commissioners mentioned that the building of the South Valley Parkway, which would improve access to Newport Township for businesses, is still the most important project that they would like to see accomplished. They will be meeting again with Mr. Yudichak, Mr. Musto, Mr. Lombardo, and Congressman Kanjorski in order to promote its construction.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT SPRING OF 2009

*By President Steve Phillips* The Newport Township Community Organization extends its congratulations to the Township's Board of Commissioners upon its receipt of over \$41,000.00 in gaming funds to assist in the rehabilitation of the former Coal Street Playground in Glen Lyon.

The Organization has publicly indicated its willingness to financially participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

Assistance has been offered to the elected officials to aid them in their efforts to implement a number of other vitally needed projects including, but not limited to construction of the South Valley Parkway and construction of a new Municipal building. Other infrastructure improvements are proposed, and they have also received endorsement by the Community Organization.

The Organization has also requested that the Township Commissioners solicit interest from Municipal residents who are willing to serve when appointments are made to various boards or authorities within the Municipality.

The elected officials are encouraged to continue to publish their quarterly newsletter and keep residents informed of the status of the various projects and programs planned for the Township.

The Community Organization is deeply involved in assisting to identify illegal dump sites within the Municipality, and obtaining assistance to aid in the clean up of these locations.

As always, the Organization is seeking volunteers to assist in the Keep America Beautiful Campaign and the Great Pennsylvania Clean Up. April 25<sup>th</sup> is the date selected for the members of this Group, and other interested citizens, to collect litter along the Township's major thoroughfare.

Please consider aiding in this important beautification effort. You will be surprised at the amount of debris deposited by thoughtless travelers along the Kirmar Parkway.

Since its inception, the Community Organization has sought membership from all residents of the Township, as well as those who have Newport roots.

If you are interested in helping improve the overall quality of life within the Township, please contact the Organization's Second Vice President and Membership Chairman Tom Kashatus at 570-736-6981 for a membership application.

You can make a difference.

## Meet The Candidates Breakfast Scheduled By South Valley Chamber of Commerce

*By Bill Hourigan* South Valley Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Meet the Candidates Breakfast Buffet on Wednesday, April 29th at the Luzerne County Community College Educational Conference Center, Nanticoke, PA. The breakfast begins promptly at 8:30 AM.

Candidates for Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and the Prothonotary Office will be on hand to introduce themselves and answer questions.

Due to the recent problems within the Luzerne County Government the upcoming elections are a very important event. The South Valley Chamber of Commerce urges all who are able to attend this breakfast in order to learn more about the candidates and select those who they feel will be the best choices to fill the open positions.

To reserve a spot at the breakfast call the South Valley Chamber of Commerce at 735-6990 or email the Chamber at [svcc495@verizon.net](mailto:svcc495@verizon.net). Reservations for the breakfast must be made by April 15. The cost for the event is \$15.00 per ticket.

Checks should be made payable to the South Valley Chamber of Commerce. The address is Mill House, 1548 South Main St., Nanticoke, PA 18634.

## Editorial

The front page article on dilapidated houses highlights two of the most dangerous problem buildings in the Township. Under the current codes adopted by the Township there is a legal means of dealing with these two buildings. We urge the Commissioners to take action to eliminate these hazards immediately. We are tired of hearing there is nothing that can be done. It simply is not true. Placing yellow tape around the properties is not a solution. Tape will not hold the buildings up, nor will it keep out people, especially curious children.

Last year, a petition with 56 signatures of residents of the Township requesting action on the property located on the corner of Spring and Coat Streets was presented to the township officials. To the best of our knowledge, receipt of the petition was never publicly acknowledged, nor was any reply made to the petitioning residents.

It would be tragic if someone were to be seriously injured or killed at one of these sites. Criminal and exemplary damages which may result from lack of action on dilapidated buildings could result in legal and financial problems which will disgrace the Township, possibly result in legal charges against one or more Township Officials and the awarding of monetary damages which may put the Township in bankruptcy for years to come.

On a brighter note we wish to congratulate Township Officials on the grants they have received to revitalize the Coal Street Park in Glen Lyon. Revitalizing this long neglected park has been a goal of ours for some time.

The Newport Township Community Organization looks forward to participating in this project and has offered to help with our own financial contribution.

## Newport Township Police Offer Tips on Keeping your Home and Property Safe and Secure

Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia offers the following tips to help protect your home and property from burglary:

**Do not advertise "FOR RENT" or "FOR SALE" in windows of vacant homes.** Criminals will see this as a welcome sign to enter and remove valuables such as copper tubing and stained glass windows. We have had numerous burglaries in homes like this. Advertise in the newspaper but do not list the exact house number. Also, keep the home looking as if someone is living there – shovel the snow from the sidewalks and steps and keep curtains on the windows so no one can peer inside. Invest in a timer to activate an interior light at dusk.

**Remember to lock vehicle doors at all times.** Unlocked vehicles are much more prone to theft of the property in the vehicle or the vehicle itself than are locked vehicles. Keep valuables out of plain view in the vehicles. This includes loose change, GPS units, purses, and IPODS.

**ALWAYS CALL 911 FOR ALL POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCIES!**  
**This will ensure your call has been received and logged.**  
**This information may be required by your Insurance provider!**

# Paying for Local Government

*By John Jarecki* We pay for Township services through a combination of fees and taxes: the refuse and recycling fees, the earned income tax, and the property tax. The entire amount of the refuse and recycling fees and the earned income tax that we pay go to the Township. The property tax that we pay is divided among the Township, the school district and the county, as we will see below.

In 2009 the refuse and recycling fees will yield the Township about \$277,000 and \$37,000 respectively. Together they make up the largest block of Township revenue that is paid by residents. Each household now pays \$230 in refuse and recycling fees. Over the last few years, there has been a discussion about the fairness of paying these fees in this manner, the problem being that older residents without children at home still pay the same amount as younger residents with larger families and therefore more refuse.

The second largest income item paid by Township residents is the earned income tax, which will yield about \$255,000. The tax rate is 1% of earned income and is levied on Township residents, whether or not they work in the Township. Using the 2000 census data, which tells us that that the number of residents in the labor force is 1995, we can estimate that the average employed resident paying the tax pays about \$127.

The third largest income item that we pay is the property tax, of which Newport Township will get about \$224,000. We pay this tax in two installments each year: a spring payment, part of which goes to Luzerne County and part to Newport Township, and a fall payment which goes to the Greater Nanticoke Area School District.

The total property tax, paid to the school district and county as well as the township, is set at a rate of approximately 14.80 mills, where one mill means one dollar in tax per \$1000 of property value. The total tax rate is divided among its three recipients in the following way.

Recipient	Tax rate (mills)	Tax payment on property of average assessed value
School District	8.85	\$682
County	4.5	\$346
Township	1.45	\$112
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.80</b>	<b>\$1140</b>

According to an article which appeared in the November 18 Citizens' Voice, the average assessed value of a taxable property in Newport Township is \$77,029. The owner of such a property would pay a total property tax of approximately \$1140, which would be divided among school district, county, and township as listed in the table above. The largest share of the property tax, therefore goes to the school district (about 60%), with the county getting the second largest (about 30%), and the township getting the least (about 10%).

Another way of looking at property taxes is to compare the Newport tax rate with that of its neighboring communities: Plymouth Township, Hanover Township, and Nanticoke. This is shown in the following table, along with the tax payment due to the community on a taxable property of average assessed value in that community.

Community	Tax rate (mills)	Average assessed value	Tax payment on property of average assessed value
Plymouth Township	1.386	\$74,046	\$103
Newport Township	1.45	\$77,029	\$112
Hanover Township	2.058	\$135,354	\$279
Nanticoke	2.43	\$114,130	\$277

As you can see, our tax rate is the second lowest and our average payment is the lowest in the immediate area.

An average taxpayer in Newport Township, therefore, pays in support of his or her Township government, about \$230 in refuse and recycling fees, about \$127 in earned income tax, and about \$112 in property taxes. A taxpayer paying all three taxes or fees then pays about \$469 per year for Township government.

**Do You Know?** Glen Lyon was settled by English, Scottish and Welsh Farmers in the late 1700s. The area was chosen for it's rich soil and abundant water supplies. Principal crops included grains, apples, cherries, grapes and pears. Hickory and Butternut trees were also harvested.

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Buildings from page 1

The property on the corner of Spring and Coal Streets was damaged by a major fire in the mid '90s and has been sitting in place ever since. Over time, the sides of the building have bulged out, some parts of the roof have caved in, and doors have been broken open. This building is not only a hazard, its an embarrassment to the neighborhood as well as all other residents of Glen Lyon and the Township.

Neighbors report various animals passing in and out of both buildings.

Both of these buildings clearly present an imminent danger to the general public. The Township seems reluctant to take further action on the buildings due to the costs that may be involved. Provisions for properties such as the 2 in question are stated in the International Property Maintenance Code which the Township has adopted and is supposed to be enforcing within Newport Township.

Under this Code the Township can issue a citation for the violation(s) giving a reasonable time for correction of the cited violation(s). If the citation is not complied with, the Township then has the authority to fine the violator on a daily basis until the Code violations are corrected.

In the event the property owner fails to comply with the above mentioned citation (s), the Township also has the authority to order the owner to demolish the building with in a reasonable time. If this is not done, the Township may have the property demolished either by a government agency or a private agency and place a lien on the property to recover costs.

Collapsed Foundation & Garage Roof Collapsed 19 Arch St



Fire Damaged Property at Spring & Coal Streets



### Dog Owners Subject To Legal Action For Ignoring Pet Ordinance

By *Bill Hourigan* Township Ordinances require all pet owners to be in control of their pets at all times. Control of dogs is particularly important. Dogs may not be allowed to roam freely, they must be confined to the owners property or must be on a leash and fully controlled while being walked. All "poop" must be removed and disposed of in a sanitary manner. In addition constant barking and aggressive behavior are in violation of the Dog Ordinance.

Failure to follow these steps may result in fines and or seizure of the animal as a public nuisance.

**Did you know? Newport Community News is available on the internet. The internet edition features many of our pictures in color. This and previous editions can be found at the website: [www.newporttownship.com](http://www.newporttownship.com)**

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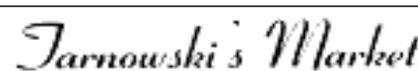
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## Newport Township Fireman's Community Ambulance Elects New Officers - Merger With Nanticoke City Put On Hold For Further Study

By Tom Kashatus Newport Township Fire Chief Dan Kowalski was elected President of the Newport Township Fireman's Community Ambulance Association replacing John Floryshak who held the position for the past five years. Also elected to serve the Association are Mike Makavensky, Vice President; Larry Ace, Secretary; Michele Hazleton, Treasurer; Jason Kowalski, Captain; Gina Domashinski, Lieutenant; Dan Kowalski, Joe Nealon, and Maria Alles, Trustees.

The movement to form the new South Valley Regional Ambulance Association, a joint effort between Newport Township's Association and Nanticoke City's Association has been put on hold until further notice. President Kowalski has recommended that the records of both interested parties be reopened and a more transparent effort be made of assets and liabilities prior to Newport Township moving forward with the venture. The consensus of all the members of the Newport Township Association is that they want what is best for all the citizens of our community regarding service and quality care. Newport Township has hired Kenneth Kovaleski, Esquire, from Jessup and with a law office in Clarks Summit to assist them in the legal process involved in this monumental move.

The South Valley Regional Ambulance Association has established a Board of Directors with Nanticoke resident Bernard Norieka designated as President. Also serving from Nanticoke will be Karen Hazleton and John Barton. Newport Township will be represented by Janine Floryshak, Vice President Designee, Dan Kowalski, John Floryshak, and John Elmy. Jane Durkin and Robert Fiorucci from Mountain Top will complete the nine member Board of Directors.

The Newport Township Ambulance Association will be conducting their annual subscription drive shortly. Rates will be reluctantly raised to \$25.00 for a single individual, \$35.00 for a family with minor children, and \$80.00 for a business. In the absence of medical insurance coverage a subscription is considered an extremely good investment for ambulance service and first responders in a medical emergency. For you who do not receive a subscription notice by mail, you may come to the Municipal Building in Wanamie for inquiries and/or you may pay your bill there. In the past the Nanticoke Ambulance Association and the Hanover Ambulance Association have cooperated with Newport Township residents who are subscribers to the Newport Township Ambulance Association. Further questions regarding this matter may be directed to the Association at 745-4652.

**Do you know?** Glen Lyon was originally known as Lyon's Valley after the town's most notable land holder whose last name was Lyon. The name was later changed to Gleann Lyon which was derived from Scottish Gaelic roots and means Valley of Lyon. In time, the word Gleann was modified to the English word Glen.



## Brush Fire Doused By Township Firefighters

By Bill Hourigan A quick response to a brush fire on the mountain behind a residence on the upper end of West Enterprise Street in Glen Lyon resulted in limiting the fire to a small area. An old structure, perhaps an old chicken coop, located at the rear of the residence was heavily damaged by the flames.

Firemen responded with two trucks and used a booster hose along with back tanks to extinguish the blaze. The firemen remained at the scene for over 2 hours extinguishing hot spots to ensure the fire would not flair up after they left the scene.

This incident serves as a good reminder for residents to avoid burning trash & leaves at this time of the year as the ground is quickly dried out by the sunny warm days of Spring and flying sparks can be turned into an uncontrolled blaze with just one gust of wind.

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## People - Informative Stories About Newport Township's Present & Past Residents



**Frank & Helen Nypower**

*By Heidi Selecky* :Helen Nypower of Glen Lyon is one of the oldest residents of the township. 98 years young, she was born on November 16, 1910 in Curwensville, Pa. Her father John Kopec came to this country from Poland along with his brother. On the ship, he met Nellie Pagnulla and

they were married shortly afterwards.

John worked in the mines for a time. He eventually opened a pool and billiards room and later, a grocery store.

Helen grew up with two brothers and three sisters: John worked in Rochester for Eastman-Kodak, Karl served during World War II and was killed at age 24 at Sugar Hill in Okinawa. Helen's three sisters all lived to be in their nineties and beyond. Her sister Martha reached the age of 100, and Pauline, a physician, lived to be 95. Stella is now 92. Helen's uncle Jake lived to be 104, so there is a pattern of longevity in this family.

Helen worked for a time in a five and dime, and then a blouse factory. She met her husband Frank Kulina in Catawissa through mutual friends. Frank's family consisted of 8 brothers and 1 sister, and they all worked in construction. They had moved from Catawissa to Kingston long before Helen and Frank met, and after they married that was where they set up housekeeping. They had two children, Kathleen and Helen. Frank joined the Air Force during the war. Tragedy struck the young couple in 1942 when Frank died of a heart attack when he was just 36.

Helen was living in Kingston with her two young daughters when she attended a wedding in Larksville in 1947. There she met Frank Nypower of Glen Lyon, whom she married in 1949. The family moved to Glen Lyon where she has resided since. She worked at the Darling Shop in Wilkes Barre until her retirement in 1973. Frank Nypower died in 1985. She has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Helen recalls as a newcomer how impressed she was of all the beautiful churches in such a small town. She enjoyed attending St. Michaels, which her husband's father helped build. Among her memories of an earlier time is the man who would swing a lantern to warn automobile drivers that the coal cars were about to cross under the breaker. She remembers all the businesses in town: Peterfreund's Furniture Store, Hagenbaugh's and Dada's Tavern, and the many friends she made here.

When asked her secret to a long life, she quickly credits her patience. Patience will get you through anything, she says. Good words of advice. We should all take heed.

## *Somewhere In Time*



**#6 Tunnel Entrance at North Side of Susquehanna Coal Company Breaker in Glen Lyon (1927)**

### ***Newport Fire Companies and Newport Little League Plan Bazaar For Memorial Day Week-End***

*By Bill Hourigan* Fire Chief Dan Kowalski has announced that the Newport Township Fire Companies and the Newport Township Little League will hold the first of what they hope to be an **Annual Bazaar** over the Memorial Day Week-End. The Bazaar will be held at the Wanamie Park beginning Friday, May 23 and will continue thru Sunday, May 25th.

Planning for the Bazaar is still under way. The Bazaar will feature food of all kinds, a rock climbing wall, a bouncing hut, and a Dunking Pool featuring local dignitaries. Additional activities will be announced at a later date.

A Firemen's Parade, featuring Fire Companies from throughout the area will be held on Saturday. The parade will travel throughout the Township and will end at the Bazaar. Trophies will be awarded to participating fire companies. The trophies will be for various categories which have not yet been finalized. In addition, the prize of a free clam bake for 25 fire persons will be awarded to the Fire Company which is judged best overall.

Watch for flyers and posters with more information which will be posted and distributed in the month of May.

### **Facts About Newport Township**

As of 2007, Newport township's population is 4,813 people. Since 2000, it has had a population decline of -3.86 percent.

The median home cost in Newport Township is \$75,400. Home appreciation the last year has been 1.15 percent.

Compared to the rest of the country, Newport Township's cost of living is 28.54% Lower than the U.S. average.

Newport Township public schools spend \$6,618 per student. The average school expenditure in the U.S. is \$6,058. There are about 19 students per teacher in Newport Township.

The unemployment rate in Newport Township is 4.60 percent (U.S. avg. is 4.60%). Recent job growth is Negative. Newport Township jobs have Decreased by 0.16 percent.

**ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS  
TUESDAY, MAY 19th  
IS ELECTION DAY  
BE SURE TO VOTE FOR THE  
CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE!**

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Alden To Celebrate 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**St Andrew's Episcopal Church**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 12 E. Kirmar Ave., Alden, is pleased to announce their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which will be held Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Celebration will commence at 2:30 PM in St. Andrew's Church for a special service of Thanksgiving and Holy Communion. Thereafter, a program and dinner will begin at 5:00 PM at Alden Manor in Alden. Tickets for the dinner are \$20.00 per person and can be acquired by contacting any parishioner.

An anniversary sponsor booklet is also being planned. The booklet will contain a history of the church and many pictures, past and present. The booklet will be in full color. If you are interested in attending or need further information, please contact Kevin Womelsdorf at 740-7698, Colleen Benscoter at 379-3329, or Louise Marr at 735-3298.

Dr. Henry T. Jones, rector of St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes-Barre in 1884, founded St. Andrew's Church. Two vestrymen of St. Stephen's – Richard Sharpe, president of the Alden Coal Company and Charles H. Weiss set out to build the church that exists today. Early in 1884, work began on the present edifice. The first service was

held in the basement of the church on October 21, 1884.

Through the years, many improvements were made to the interior and exterior of the church. These improvements were made possible by the donation of time, talents, and money of many dedicated people. Fund raising projects include dinners, flea markets, clam chowder and vegetable soup sales, our annual Fall Festival, candy sales, and Welsh cookie sales.

We think is right to pause in the course of our congregation's history to offer our thanks for the dedication and perseverance by the early members of St. Andrew's Church.

**Do Not Forget The Big Junk Drop Off April 20th to April 24  
Drop Off Location: Newport Township Recycling Center**

**The Newport Township Board of Commissioners meets monthly on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Building in Wanamie. Work sessions are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM at the same location.**

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**Area Near Alden Manor Where Proposed Parkway Would Enter Township**



**Area Near K. M. Smith School Where Proposed Parkway Would Exit onto Kirmar Parkway**

## Proposed South Valley Parkway Vital To Future Development In Newport Township

*By Tom Kashatus* There is no doubt that the impact of the construction of the South Valley Parkway from exit # 2 of the Nanticoke bypass to W. Kirmar Parkway in Alden will benefit Newport Township tremendously. All communities along the Middle Road to include Alden, Nanticoke, Warrior Run, Upper & Lower Askam will benefit in one way or another as well as Luzerne County Community College with easier access for traffic coming off Interstate 81. No one has made more of an effort to see this project come to completion than the Newport Township Board of Commissioners, especially within the past year by entering into discussions with local and state political leaders.

So, what has been the hold up? Mr. Mike Dziak, CEO of Earth Conservancy, addressed the South Valley Chamber of Commerce recently and attributed the delays to (1) shrinking transportation budgets, (2) individuals with political power and clout seeking their own respective goals, (3) delays for unending studies, and (4) changes in local and state priorities. Over 10 years ago Congressman Kanjorski expressed his vision of a four lane highway exiting from the bypass and hooking up with Route 11 just below Shickshinny. Eventually that "dream" was changed to a two lane highway which would run basically parallel to Middle Road, enter Newport Township near Alden Manor, run between E. Kirmar Avenue and K. M. Smith Elementary School following the old railroad bed, and ending at Robert Street or W. Kirmar Parkway.

Currently discussions involve terminating the highway at Kosciuszko Street in Nanticoke. Mr. Dziak emphasized that most of the \$11,000,000 earmark from the Federal Transportation Budget is still

in place. Most studies to date have been paid with state funding.

Mr. Dziak stated that a major portion of the South Valley Parkway corridor will involve Earth Conservancy lands. Historically Earth Conservancy acquired 16,000 acres of land due to the old Blue Coal bankruptcy. To date 1,200 acres have been reclaimed and restored. Recently 1,300 acres in the Joe Palooka Mountain area have been turned over to Pennsylvania for conservation purposes. A mine reclamation project in the northeast area of Newport Township is in progress and is expected to be completed within a year. This area has been victimized by unfortunate drowning accidents in recent years.

In addition, Mr. Dziak stated that it is imperative to development of lands in Newport Township that a replacement for the old bridge across the Susquehanna River from Nanticoke City to West Nanticoke be constructed. This, in addition to the rail spur that has been constructed by Ken Pollock Enterprises would benefit transportation possibilities for further development.

What can we, as citizens from the private sector, do to support our local elected officials and emphasize to county, state, and federal authorities that these projects are a top priority for the development of our Township? We can submit individual letters of support and recommendations to these authorities that they give every effort to continue on with these projects to completion. Citizen groups and community organizations may initiate petition campaigns and should also submit letters of encouragement to all representative officials to continue the good fight for progress.

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# Newport Township Community Organization and Pennsylvania Environmental Council Joining Forces To Cleanup Illegal Dumpsites In Newport Township

By Palmira Miller & Bill Hourigan The Newport Township Community Organization continues the efforts to revitalize and beautify Newport Township and promote the health and safety of our citizens. Everyone wants to live, work and play in a clean and green community. This can be achieved with the help and support of Newport Township's residents, community organizations, groups, churches, local businesses, and government.

This year the Community Organization will work with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) to address and clean up illegal dumpsites in Newport Township. PEC implements the Cleanup Our American Lands and Streams (COALS) Program launched in 2005 by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to address illegal dumpsites and create economic development opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Newport Township Community Organization members Palmira Miller, Tom Kashatus, John Jarecki and Bill Hourigan have been working with PEC's Vice President of the Northeast Region Office Julie McMonagle and Angela Vest-Vitolski, Office Administrative Coordinator to identify areas in Newport Township for cleanup. The Community Organization has obtained maps at the Luzerne County Court House in order to identify the property owners so that they may be contacted for permission to work on the areas identified.

Three of the areas identified are very deep holes left behind by strip mining operations. The holes contain large amounts of all types of waste and junk including construction debris, automobiles, auto parts, furniture, household appliances, above ground swimming pools, and just plain garbage.

PEC has grant money available to clean up these types of sites using professionals. Depending on bid prices received from contractors we are hopeful that at least 2 of the identified pits can be worked on this year. The smaller pits will be emptied by volunteers with the waste being placed along nearby roads where it will be removed to proper landfills by workers from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

## 2009 Locations Selected Cleanup

1. Alden - Behind St Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Between Robert & W Kirmar by Volunteers
2. Alden Mountain Road  
Near Fairchild Pond and the Power Lines  
Big Junk Pits by Contractors
3. Sheatown - Old Newport Street  
Newport Cemetery Road to Red Lake by Volunteers
4. Wanamie - Brown Row  
Road to Cemetery by Volunteers  
Tire Pit by Contractors
5. Wanamie straight away  
Tires under power lines by Volunteers
6. Glen Lyon  
Between Arch & Ridge by Volunteers
7. Glen Lyon Cemeteries - left side  
Several sites behind cemetery by Volunteers  
Appliance Pit by Contractors

Work at these sites will be scheduled for sometime between April 25th and May 9th.

The community Organization is looking for volunteers for the small projects. We also could use a few pickup trucks and a small or medium size front end loader to assist in moving debris to move the items to the highway edge for pickup and blocking off the access paths and roads to the sites. For additional information and selected dates please call Palmira Miller at 736-6637. (See page 12 for related information.)

## Glen Lyon Crime Watch Presented With A Certificate of Appreciation By Newport Township Police Department



Pictured from left to right are Crime Watch members Cindy Krestynick, Karen Rejician, Police Chief Robert Impaglia, Crime Watch members Marie Morucci, Dorothy Vidumski, Officers James Evans and Michael Ranieli.

At a recent meeting of the Glen Lyon Crime Watch, Newport Township Police Officer Justin St. Clair mentioned that Officer Jeremy Talanka had recently resigned his position as a Newport Township Police Officer to accept a career advancing position in Florida.

St. Clair also mentioned that when Officer Talanka resigned from the Newport Township Police Department the Department also lost use of Talanka's personal Taser weapon, a very effective non lethal weapon, which he had shared with other officers of the Department to use in the performance of their duties.

Upon hearing the above mentioned information, the members of Glen Lyon Crime Watch voted unanimously to contribute the funds necessary to purchase a Taser weapon for the Police Department.

Acceptance of the contribution was quickly approved by the Township Commissioners and the Police Department. The Crime Watch also provided funds to be used for training previously untrained officers in the proper use of the weapon.

## TO DO TODAY & EVERY DAY:

**Hug Somebody You Love  
Husband-Wife-Children-Relative-Friend-Neighbor  
& Don't Forget Your Pet. Heck, Hug Them All!**

## Scouts Stay Active During Winter Months



**Crossover Celebrants** (left to right) Jacob Harvey, Josh Brady and Brandon Ditchey

trip was a special “crossing over” ceremony for three proud young Webelo Scouts, Brandon Ditchey, Jacob Havey, and Josh Brady, they crossed over to the footpath of Boy Scouting.

Without a doubt the night of February 7 was bitterly cold as ice, snow, and cold winds enveloped the campground. The only relief came from the huge bonfire which enlightened the ceremony as the three boys repeated the scout oath and law – vowing to practice these sacred words for life. As their cub scouting came to an end the trek into boy scouting will teach them new scout values and ideals. The path to Eagle Scout will be long and challenging, but will be an adventure that could very well shape them into the leaders of tomorrow.

It was a camping trip that will not be forgotten by the young scouts, their leaders and parents.



**Polar Bear Competitors** (left to right) Joe Brady, Jacob Havey, Corey Hughes, Brandon Ditchey, Connor Bobinoski, Josh Brady, and Bill Yevich.

Ditchey, Corey Hughes, Jacob Havey, Bill Yevich, and Connor Bobinoski. Troop leaders are Joe Brady Sr., Bill Ditchey, John Bobinoski, and Randy Hules.

If you missed the Soup Supper sponsored by the scouts on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the American Legion in Glen Lyon, you missed one of the best ever community affairs in Newport Township. Over 25 pots of various soups were donated by the public, to include hamburger beef, potato cheese, venison, Italian wedding, chicken noodle, chili con carne, New Orleans ham & bean, corn & potato chowder, Manhattan clam chowder, etc., as well as a variety of pastries for dessert. You couldn't get a better deal for a meal when all they asked for was a free will offering. Many happy participants felt that the supper was

*By Tom Kashatus*  
Despite extremely cold weather camping trip scheduled for February 7th for Cub Scout Pack 430 and Boy Scout Troop 430 took place as scheduled to the State Game Lands in Noxen Township, Wyoming County. The purpose of the

Boy Scout Troop 430 recently participated in Polar Bear winter competition at Camp Acahela near Blakeslee where they placed 17<sup>th</sup> out of a field of twenty six by competing in dog sledding and survival practices of tent building, compass reading, and tent building. The young scouts were Josh Brady, Joey Brady, Brandon

a huge success.

Joe Figlerski, Committee Chairman for the local scouts, is requesting the residents of Newport Township to contact him if they have any items (in any condition) relative to scouting which may be recycled into the scouting program; i.e., uniforms, patches, books, pictures, camping equipment, etc. Mr. Figlerski may be contacted at 735-5888 and would arrange to pick up the items. They may also be dropped off at American Legion Post 539 in Glen Lyon sponsors of Pack 430 and Troop 430. Boy Scout Troop 430 will be sponsoring a car wash May 16<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at PenMart mini mart in Sheatown The scouts' annual downhill derby will be held on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and they will be selling Easter flowers up until Palm Sunday. You can call Tom at (570) 736-3025 or visit their web site at [www.pack430.webs.com](http://www.pack430.webs.com) for more details.

## NTCO Receives Award For Cleanup Activities



*By Bill Hourigan* (NTCO) Newport Township Community Organization was recently awarded the **2008 EPCAMR Partnership Award** for its continuing efforts to towards cleaning up areas of the Newport Creek Watershed at the Luzerne Conservation District's 4th Annual Banquet at Genetti's Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, .

Robert Hughes, Executive Director of the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), praised NTCO's work in Newport Township. Mr. Hughes' letter advising NTCO of the award stated, “Your local knowledge of the areas and the local businesses and individuals that EPCAMR has to reach in order to secure landowner agreements and access to in order for all of us to participate in these local community clean up projects is invaluable. Your hands-on approach to get your hands dirty along side of our staff and volunteers is to be commended. Newport Township, and all of its smaller communities, Glen Lyon, Wanamie, Lee, Sheatown, Newport Center, Alden Station, should be very proud to know that your collective efforts in our partnership to reclaim abandoned mine lands, remediate streams impacted by abandoned mine drainage, and to educate our youth on ways in which they can actively participate in community projects that will improve their own community, are all very positive attributes of a community group that cares about where they live, has a sense of true civic duty and pride, and is always looking out for their children's future in the area. The Newport Township Community Organization is a model group of citizen volunteers that others should emulate throughout the Wyoming Valley.”

**WANTED** Old Pictures of Newport Township for our next CD, We only want to copy them and return them to the owner. Family pictures are welcome as well as businesses and sports and special occasion pictures. Please contact Heidi Selecky at 736-6782 or Paul Jarecki at 736-3083 if you have pictures we may use.



The 2009 edition of the *Newport Township Calendar* with historical pictures is has sold out. The wooden miniature plaques of *Newport Township High School* are still available but going fast. They plaques were designed by the Cat's Meow, a company well-known for collectables of this type. They measure 4x6 and sell for \$15.00 (\$18.50 with shipping).  
 Thanks to the generosity of the late John Forgach and many other contributors, a DVD has been developed with over 700 pictures depicting the history of Newport Township. The DVD *Newport Township: Our Roots* will sells for \$15.00 (\$18.00 with shipping).  
 These items can be purchased by contacting Heidi Selecky at 736-6782 or Paul Jarecki at 736-3083

### Newport Township Community Organization Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Steve Phillips	President	735-3991
Russ Sager	1st Vice President	736-6823
Tom Kashatus	2nd Vice President	736-6981
Steve Masakowski	Treasurer	735-2367
Palmira Miller	Secretary <i>palmiram@newporttownship.com</i>	736-6637

### Newport Community News

**Editor & Publisher**  
 William P. Hourigan 736-6096 [billin63@verizon.net](mailto:billin63@verizon.net)

<u>Contributing Reporters</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Tom Kashatus Heidi Selecky Paul Jarecki John Jarecki Palmira Miller	Joe Maloney Fay Maloney Mary Margaret Kashatus Steve Masakowski Sia Sager Bob Connor

**Membership Information**  
 Call Tom Kashatus at 736-6981

### Advertising Information

Ad minimum size is 1 Column x 2" @ \$25.00 per issue. A 5% discount is available for those who agree to purchase advertising for 4 issues at a time. Additional size ads are available at a rate of \$12.50 per additional column inch. Assistance with ad design is available upon request.  
 For more details call Bill at 1-570-736-6096

### Newport Township Elected Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Area Of Responsibility</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Paul Czapracki	President of Board of Commissioners	Public Works	736-6859
John Zyla	Vice President Board of Commissioners	Police Department	735-1714
John Wilkes	Commissioner	Fire Department	735-6914
Michael Roke	Commissioner	Code Enforcement	735-7694 *email
John Vishnefski	Commissioner	Parks & Recreation	735-6984

\*[ntcodeenforce@aol.com](mailto:ntcodeenforce@aol.com) For reporting suspected code violation only! Please leave address of property in question, suspected violation

**AN INVITATION TO YOU & YOUR GROUP  
FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION  
VOLUNTEER AND JOIN GOOD PEOPLE DOING GREAT THINGS!**



SIGN UP FOR THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION'S FIFTH ANNUAL GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP™ PROGRAM OF PENNSYLVANIA BEGINNING, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> TO MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2009

**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?**

- State Wide litter clean up on the Main Streets Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 12pm
- Big Junk Drop Off April 20<sup>th</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm
- Litter removal in an area and on a date you set
- Illegal Dumpsite Cleanups, April 27<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm
- Beautification, Community Improvement around your home and neighborhood
- Recycling projects anytime throughout the year

To **register** or become a **sponsor**, contact Palmira at 736-6637 or email [palmiram@newporttownship.com](mailto:palmiram@newporttownship.com).

