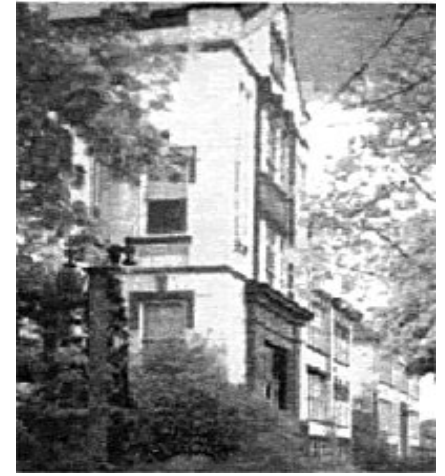


Newport Community News



*A Newsletter of the
Newport Township Community Organization*

*Summer 2007
Number 10*

State of the Township

Newport Township's problem of neglected and abandoned buildings takes on a variety of forms, such as the need to prevent the further deterioration of empty buildings, to demolish buildings that are a danger to neighbors but whose owners cannot be found, and to repair or demolish buildings that are a danger because of fire damage.

Many of us have empty buildings in our neighborhoods. Their owners do not maintain them, their roofs and sides deteriorate, and loose pieces of the structure fall off. The house at 147-149 East Main Street in Glen Lyon is an example.

Palmira Miller, a certified building code official has asked the Township Commissioners whether anything has been done to prevent the further deterioration of these buildings. John Wilkes, Commissioner in charge of building code enforcement, replied that things like this take a long time to fix and he would have to look at the relevant Township ordinances.

The house at 44 Coal Street in Glen Lyon is an example of a building whose owner cannot be found. It is damaged by fire, and at the March Commissioners' meeting one of the neighborhood residents said that she is afraid it will collapse. Neighbors are circulating a petition to have something done about it.

Township solicitor Richard Shiptoski says that the law in this

(continued on page 3)

A Message from the President

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

The Newport Township Community Organization congratulates those Township Commissioner candidates who garnered their respective party's nominations in the spring primary.

The Organization also thanks all those who had the courage to place their names on the ballot in order to give the electorate a significant choice of candidates.

This local volunteer body continues to urge all Township residents to become active participants in not only the local electoral process but as volunteers with various Township entities including various civic groups.

The public forum sponsored by the Township's Community Organization attracted nearly 60 interested citizens to the event held in the Glen Lyon American Legion's facility.

The Community Organization expresses its appreciation to the six candidates who attended the function, and made their respective positions on various pertinent issues known to the voters prior to the election.

During the previous quarter, the Community Organization

(continued on page 6)



David Buchinski, Russ Sager, and Janine Floryshak, candidates for Township Commissioner, at our Candidates' Forum in May. Read about it under Revival of the Democratic Process on page 5.

People

Robert Impaglia

Meet the new police chief of Newport Township! He is Robert “Rob” Impaglia, who currently lives in Plains Township. He is



Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia

23 years old and has two older sisters. A 2001 graduate of Coughlin High School, he received his police officer certification from Lackawanna College in 2005. He was employed as a part-time officer in Newport Township for sixteen months prior to his appointment.

After being on the job as police chief for three months, he believes that most problems including robberies, thefts, and domestic disputes stem from drug or alcohol abuse. Newport Township covers 17 square miles and the one full-time officer and eight part-time officers are stretched to the limit to provide police protection. Police procedures are complicated and time-consuming because they not only include patrolling the township, but also full investigations, follow-ups, and court appearances. Part-time police officers are not on the job continuously and it is more difficult to bring cases to a conclusion swiftly.

Chief Impaglia often stays past his working hours in order to show more police presence and to assist the part-time officers with their responsibilities. He asks residents who notice anything suspicious or out of the ordinary in their neighborhoods to call the police. He intends to vigorously enforce speed limits as they are posted. Speeders beware!

Chief Impaglia plans to relocate in the near future to be closer to his job. He is an avid outdoorsman, and likes fishing, camping, and ATVing. Gook Luck Chief!

Joe Hillan

On most summer evenings at the Little League field, players and spectators can hear a familiar voice announcing the lineup and the players as they come up to bat, that of Joe Hillan, who

also serves as Little League President and official score keeper. He has been a baseball fan since his youth. He spent summers as a youngster in Brooklyn with his grandmother, who lived three subway stops from Ebbets Field, where he saw Jackie Robinson play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He played baseball in high school. His father was a pitcher for the Glen Lyon Condors, and his Uncle Bernie played as catcher in the Brooklyn Dodgers minor league system. He has been involved with Little League since 1957 when his father-in-law, Chester Thomas Jr., was a manager and Joe was his assistant. In 1964, he became manager and coached until the late '70s. Now his son Joe is manager.

The Newport Township Little League, in existence since 1951, has survived all these years largely because of community support and dedicated volunteers. As President, Joe oversees day-to-day operations. The biggest expense is the Little League Charter issued by the Williamsport headquarters, which now costs \$1500.00. Other expenses include equipment, shirts, hats, and umpire wages. The lights were installed three years ago and were paid for largely from donations and fundraisers. Concession stand proceeds also help defray costs.

Today, Little League is divided into boys baseball leagues and girls softball leagues according to age group. The Newport Township girls' softball team was started in 1976 and was one of the first in the area. Through the years, hundreds of kids have learned the fundamentals of baseball and the principles of teamwork.

Susie's Red Caboose

All Aboard!! A real Reading Railroad caboose has called Lee its home since 1992, when it was moved by crane and flatbed from Chalfont Pennsylvania to its present location. Built in 1946, it saw service for many years, but when the unmanned caboose became the norm, it fell into disrepair.

After a train collector and then a church youth group owned it, **Paul and Susie Shiptoski** of Lee stepped into the picture. Through various contacts, Paul, an avid train collector, heard about the caboose. At the same time, Susie was thinking about starting her own gift shop and floral business. After two years of refurbishing, Susie's Red Caboose opened in 1994. A second caboose, a 1947 Delaware and Hudson, was acquired and sits behind the gift shop. It is a “bay window” caboose used primarily for storage.

Susie's Red Caboose offers a variety of gifts for all occasions: aprons, candles (this writer's favorite is “apple dumpling”), stuffed animals, baby items, pillows, gourmet teas, pancake mixes and syrup, to name a few. Also for sale are red sweatshirt jackets with “Polska” emblazoned on the front. Susie also has a great selection of Boleslawiec Polish Pottery, handmade and imported from Poland. Among the pieces are serving dishes, coffee cups, salt and pepper shakers, ladles and spoon rests, and butter dishes in multiple patterns. Silk flower arrangements and wreaths are also available.

Susie has won an award for her fresh flower designs from Floral Review Magazine and will deliver anywhere in Luzerne County. She also offers fruit and specialty baskets. For more information, please call 736-4380. ♦

State of the Township (continued from page 1)

matter is in favor of the owners of such properties. He says that, concerning a building that Nanticoke recently demolished without its owner's permission, he was told that it took three years and cost the city about \$10,000. One of the problems, he says, is that officials would have to pay to place a legal advertisement in a newspaper in the last known location of the owner. Such an advertisement alone could run over a thousand dollars.

Attorney Shiptoski says that a possible way of handling this problem is to ask the State of Pennsylvania to change its laws to make demolition easier and less expensive.

When a fire damages a building, parts of the roof and siding can



Joe Hillan, Little League President, announcing a game at the Wanamie ball field

come loose in the wind and fall onto neighboring properties or a roadway. The house at 270-271 Miner Avenue in Wanamie, which burned in January, is such a building.

The owner Larry Sirak died in the fire. As Township business manager Rich Zika understands the situation, Mr. Sirak has there-

fore defaulted on the mortgage, and ownership of the house has reverted to the lender Wells Fargo Bank. The insurer of the house is also Well Fargo.

By state law 20% of any insurance payment on the house would go into an escrow account held by the Township. Once the Township receives the money, it would be able to notify the owner that he has 30 days to repair or demolish the building. If the owner did nothing, the Township would be able to use the money in the escrow account to demolish the structure.



Suzie Shiptoski in front of her Red Caboose, a gift and floral business on Main Road in Lee

What has happened in this situation, though, is that the insurer has not made a decision about the payment of the insurance. The house remains a problem. In early June Commissioner John Wilkes reported that Wells Fargo told him that they expected to settle the insurance by mid June.

Because one out of every six housing units in the Township is empty, the number of neglected and abandoned buildings is a major problem. As the examples above suggest, a great deal of work is needed on this problem. It is for this reason that the Community Organization believes that the Township should have a full time building code official. ♦



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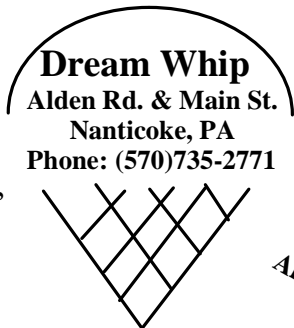
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Township Public Business

Crime Reports

Several people and groups have recently asked the Township commissioners to inform residents of crimes committed in the community. At the January Commissioners' meeting, Carol Marcincavage of Wanamie said that there was an attempted break in at her neighbors house. She asked the Commissioners to make reports of crimes publicly available to residents, say by putting these reports into the newspaper.

At the April Commissioners' meeting, Karen Rejician and Marie Morucci, from the Glen Lyon Crime Watch, requested that the Commissioners give them a timely list of crimes committed together with their time and location. They said that Crime Watch members act as eyes and ears for the police and that knowing what crimes are being committed would help Crime Watch members know what to look for. They also asked that a list of arrests be placed in the newspaper to keep residents informed. Steve Phillips of the Community Organization said that the



Township Commissioner candidate Frank Chest and Commissioner Tom Kashatus at our Candidates Forum

Township should place timely crime reports in the newspaper, mentioning as an example the Crime Blotter that appears daily in the Times Leader.

At the May Commissioners' meeting, Commissioner John Zyla read from a detailed crime report for April that had been sent to the Glen Lyon Crime Watch. Steve Phillips commended the Commissioners for issuing this detailed report, but said that in order for this kind of report to be useful to residents, it should come out more often than once a month.



Murph Fletcher, Mary Margaret Kashatus, and candidate David Buchinski at our Candidates' Forum

At the June Commissioners' meeting, John Zyla read a detailed crime report for May, and the new Police Chief Robert Impaglia said that he has been sending reports of serious crimes to the Citizens' Voice within 24 hours of their occurrence.

We thank the Commissioners and police for responding to these requests by residents that they be notified of local crimes in a timely way.

Fire Department Notes

The State Fire Academy has rated the Newport Township Fire (continued on page 5)

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Township Public Business (continued from page 4)

Department at the Bronze Level, meaning that 50 percent of the members are licensed or certified. Congratulations to all Fire Department members and their Chief Dan Kowalski.

In May Geisinger Health Care System honored a number of area firefighters with the award of "Emergency Service Provider of the Year." Geisinger included three Township firefighters among those honored: Jason Kowalski, Jason Poremba, and Tom Gernhart. They received the award for their work in last summer's flooding in Wanamie. We congratulate them all.

The Firemen's Relief Association has purchased 12 pagers, which are useful in contacting emergency workers in time of an emergency. The Association paid \$5300 for them. Its members have asked the Township to reimburse them for the pagers.

Revival of the Democratic Process in the Township

According to Township Commissioner Tom Kashatus, Newport's primary election in May was the most contested in 25 or 30 years, in the large number of candidates, the opposition to the endorsed Democratic candidates, and the number of



Susan Caley, Barbara Zaborney, and Teena Wrubel at our Candidates' Forum

Republicans running. Seven Democrats and two Republicans ran for three Commissioner positions. The Township Democratic Party endorsed three candidates, and the Renew Newport political committee supported five, three Democrats and two Republicans.

In the midst of this election, the Newport Township Community Organization held a Candidates' Forum, never before held in the Township during an election campaign for Commissioner.



Petrona Castellani and Carol Marcincavage at our Candidates' Forum

About 60 people attended the Forum, including candidates for the Greater Nanticoke Area School Board and for Luzerne County Commissioner. Community Organization President Steve Phillips moderated the Forum, asking candidates to express their views on matters of interest to the community, such as regionalization of police and fire protection, the desirability of having a county prison or an ATV park in the Township, and challenges now facing the community.

The contested nature of the election, it seemed, drew about 1100 voters to the polls, double the number of the voters in the uncontested election of two Commissioners two years ago. We congratulate all the candidates and their supporters for taking the time and expending the effort to participate in this election. They

(continued on page 6)

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Township Public Business (continued from page 5)

have gone a long way toward reviving, in our Township, the democratic process of selecting community leaders. ♦

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.

Joe Hillan, head of the Township Street Department, was injured in a car accident in April. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Italian Club, at the corner of Apple and Orchard Streets in Glen Lyon, is serving meals to the public Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:00 pm till 9:00 pm. (It is closed the first Friday of the month.) Servings include seafood, steak, and chicken. ♦

Township Contact Information

Business Manager Rich Zika 735-4735
 Building Code Official Rich Zika 735-4735

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 Delucca Vice Chairman 735-1138
 Peter Wanchisen Treasurer 735-7686
 Helen Lopez Secretary 735-1066
 Stephen Phillips 735-3991 ♦

Presidents Message (continued from page 1)

again and participated in the Great Pennsylvania Clean Up by picking up litter along the Township's major thoroughfare.

Residents deposited over 24 tons of junk at the Township's

Public Works Facility during this week long event. The Organization extends its appreciation to those Township Commissioners who participated in these activities.



Carolyn Phillips and Frank and Lorrie Vandermark at the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup and Big Junk Drop Off sponsored by the Community Organization

As part of its commitment to help make Newport Township a better community, the Organization contributed the sum of \$200 to the Township Police Department to assist in underwriting the cost and the related training expenses of a taser (electric shock) gun purchase. The Organization had previously contributed \$150 toward the purchase of a Breathalyzer by the Police Department.

The Community Organization's Recreation Committee is planning a number of activities for the summer season. A schedule of these events will be forthcoming shortly. ♦

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Hrobach's Greenhouse would like to sincerely thank all of our loyal customers. We appreciate and look forward to your business. We would also like to let everyone know we will not be offering fall mums this year. Despite the success we have had with them in the past, thanks to our customers, we have chosen to focus on other areas of the greenhouse to better serve you in the future.

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Once again, thank you for your much appreciated continued support. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you in the spring of 2008.

Seasonal Events

The 2007 Great American Cleanup

For the third consecutive year the Newport Township Community Organization, in conjunction with the 2007 Great Pennsyl-



Palmira Miller, Corrdinator of the Great PA Cleanup and Big Junk Drop Off, and her right hand man Commissioner Tom Kashatus

vania Cleanup, sponsored a Big Junk Drop Off at the Recycling Center in Wanamie. It began on April 16 and ended on April 21, the day of the Pennsylvania cleanup, on which volunteers cleaned the main roads from Lee to Sheatown. Coordinator for these events was Palmira Miller, assisted by Township Commissioner Tom Kashatus.

During the week of April 16, the Big Junk Drop Off was open to all township residents. Eighteen volunteers kept the Recycling Center in Wanamie open 50½ hours, working 195 hours separating recyclables and assisting residents with junk that they brought in. Throughout the week 49,100 pounds (24.55 tons) of garbage was collected and discarded free of charge to the Township and to its residents. To date 24,252 pounds of tin, steel, cast iron, aluminum, and appliances were recycled. Also 40 cubic yards of electronics were collected and will be recycled.

At the end of the week 90 volunteers took part in The Newport Township Community Pride Event, working 273 volunteer hours. Eleven teams spread out along the main roads of the Township, cleaned 26 miles of roads, and picked up 288 bags of garbage, 45 tires, and 132 bottles totaling 6,840 pounds of garbage, which PennDot workers removed.

Thank you to the Township Commissioners, the Firemen, Police Officers, Street Department, and to all the volunteers who gave of their time to take part in the cleanup.

A special thanks goes to our sponsors who supplied the tools needed in the cleanup and Drop Off. Dave Rinehimer, from PennDOT, supplied gloves, vests, and bags. John Hambrose of Waste Management provided free landfill space at the Alliance Landfill. Mark from J. P. Mascaro and Larry from Solomon

(continued on page 8)

Seasonal Health

West Nile Virus in Pennsylvania

West Nile Virus is a disease which causes an inflammation of the central nervous system. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, West Nile Virus was first detected in Pennsylvania in the year 2000.

The symptoms of West Nile Virus can range from very mild fever, headache, body aches, skin rash, and swollen lymph glands to very severe headache, high fever, weakness, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, and even death.

“Persons over 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease.” According to the Center for Disease Control, in Pennsylvania there have been 247 human cases and 8 deaths since then.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture “certain species of birds act as reservoirs for the virus”. The virus is spread primarily by mosquitoes which “pick up the virus when they bite, or take a blood meal, from wild birds infected with the West Nile Virus”. The mosquitoes then may transmit the virus to people and other animals when biting “to take a blood meal.”

According to the PDA, “the best method of prevention of infection with the West Nile Virus for people and animals is to reduce the risk of exposure to the mosquitoes that may carry the virus.” Eliminating mosquito breeding sites, the stagnant water sources in which they lay eggs and they develop, is the best method to reduce the risk.

Any container in which still water can collect, from the smallest can, to tires, pools, wheelbarrows, to the largest dilapidated building in which water can collect from leaking or destroyed roofs should be emptied or eliminated for the safety and health of the community.

Certain species of dead birds are collected to test for the presence of West Nile Virus. Controlling large mosquito populations is also a concern in stopping the virus spread. Any questions concerning reporting dead birds, mosquito populations, or current activities to control the West Nile Virus can be directed tot he West Nile Virus Surveillance County Coordinator for Luzerne County Ronald J. Rugletic. His address and phone number are the following.

Luzerne County Couthouse
200 N. River St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-1001

(570) 331-7052
(570) 331-7221

He can be reached by email at the following address.

luzcoesp@epix.net

You can explore a west nile virus website on the internet at <http://www.westnile.state.pa.us/index.html> ♦

Seasonal Events (continued from page 7)

Waste Reduction donated the dumpsters at the Recycling Center for the Big Junk Drop Off.



County Commissioner Candidate Greg Gulick and Palmira Miller at the Community Organization's Candidates' Forum in May

A special thank you goes to the following sponsors who provided refreshments to our volunteers: RK Furs, Antonio's Pizza, Weis Market, Parkway Inn, the Pepsi Co., the Variety Stop, Bush Distribution, Sam's Club, Wegman's, Old Country Buffet, Target, and members of the Community Organization.

A thank you goes to the 2007 Great American Cleanup National Sponsors: Honda, Glad, Pepsi, Waste Management, Sam's Club, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Sparkle, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Troy-Bilt, Wrigley, and Sprint.

Indian Pow Wow

Here's a treat for residents of not only Newport Township, but also Nanticoke City, Hanover Township, Cunningham Township, and all surrounding communities. An Indian Pow Wow is going to be held this summer on August 25 and 26 at the Newport Township Recreation Park in Wanamie. The Pow Wow will last each day from morning till night.

Planning the Pow Wow are American Indian representatives Jim Alt and Russell Zausos. Local representatives on the Pow Wow committee are Jerry Hudak, Murph Fletcher, Dan Kowalski, Leona Kowalski, and Tom Gernhart.

The two-day event will include lectures on Indian lore. There will be performances of Indian ceremonial dances by professional dancers from various Indian tribes.

Vendors will be selling genuine Indian crafted items such as jewelry, hand crafted leather, wind catchers, as well as many other ethnic items. The Newport Township Firemen's Association will be the principal vendor of picnic type food and beverages for the two-day event.

(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 Summer 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.

Summer meeting dates are the following.

Tuesday	June 26
Tuesdays	July 10 and 24
Tuesdays	August 14 and 28
Tuesday	September 11

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

Mondays July 2, August 5, September 5

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@pa.metrocast.net. ♦

Seasonal Events (continued from first column)

The Newport Township Police will provide security enforcement. Alcoholic beverages, drugs, and weapons of any type are prohibited. ♦