

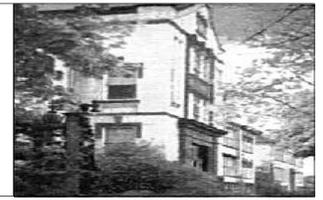
NEWPORT COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer 2008

www.newporttownship.com

Number 14

A Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization



Crime Watch Awards Presented at K. M. Smith Elementary School

By Tom Kashatus On May 29, K. M. Smith Elementary School conducted the 2nd Annual Glen Lyon Crime Watch Awards Day for first grade, second grade, Life Skills, Pathways, and Preschool A.M. and P.M. of the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. The theme for the coloring contest was to color a picture of a policeman surrounded by children depicting that a "Policeman Is Your Friend."

Fifty four awards were given with first place receiving a blue ribbon and a \$10.00 Wal-Mart gift certificate, second place a red ribbon, and third place a white ribbon. All awards were presented by Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia and newly appointed Patrolman Arie

VanKuyk. All pictures were judged by officers of the Newport Township Police Department.

Shown above are the blue ribbon winners along with members of the Glen Lyon Crime Watch. Front row left to right: Bianca Smith, Rebecca Turek, Jena Niewinski, Veronica Penko, Rebecca Mieczkowski, Leah Kubasek, Jade Tredinnick, Stephanie Layland, Nathan Hatalski, Andrew Stratton, Jacob Krupinski, Lily Kratz, Natalia Levandowski, and Jayden Piatt. Absent were Jared Millikin, Cheyenne Musick, Jonathan Ames, and Genevieve Nalepa.

Back row left to right: Mrs. Charlene Harwood, Head Teacher; Cindy Krestynick, Wanda Stec, Dorothy Vidumski, Crime Watch; Chief Robert Impaglia, Patrolman Arie VanKuyk, Newport Township; Bill Hourigan, Tom Kashatus, and Marie Morucci, Crime Watch.

Township Police Busy Citing Owners of Abandoned Vehicles

By Tom Kashatus Ordinance # 4 of 2007, "Abandoned Vehicles Ordinance," was passed by the Newport Township Board of Commissioners at the regular November meeting of that year. The gist of the revised ordinance deals with the status of disabled vehicles on public and private property. Section 2 states, "For the purposes of this ordinance, a disabled or inoperable vehicle shall be a vehicle that is not capable of being moved under its own power, or a vehicle with a deflated tire or tires and is incapable of regular use (except a vehicle that is temporarily immovable because of a flat tire) or a vehicle that is partially disabled, wrecked or junked; or a vehicle that is not displaying a current registration plate, inspection sticker and a discernable vehicle identification number.

This ordinance shall refer to all vehicles that are designed for the purpose of transporting people or property and it may be motorized or designed to be drawn by a motorized vehicle."

The term "person having an interest in said vehicle" refers to a person or persons who are owners/ part owners of said vehicle.

Over the past few months the removal of abandoned vehicles has been a priority and has been proceeding in a positive way.

Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia stated that the police department will continue the citation of the abandoned vehicle process based on complaints by the public and those violations noted by his officers during their routine patrolling of the township.

Did you know?

Newport Community News is available on the internet. The internet edition features many of our picture in color. This and previous editions can be found at the website: www.newporttownship.com

New Township Police Officer Sworn In

At the regular monthly meeting on June 2nd Newport Township Commissioner John Zyla swore in newly appointed Patrolman Arie VanKuyk, a graduate of Lackawanna Junior College and Dallas Area High School.

Officer VanKuyk is a veteran of Iraqi Freedom and is currently a member of the PA National Guard. He is hired at the rate of \$9.25 per hour which will be increased after his six month training period.

Looking on during the ceremony is Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia. Other officers currently serving on the Newport Township police force are Sergeant Jeremy Talanka, and Officers Norman Bodek, Justin St Clair, John Grabowski, Scott Neff, and Stanley Drevenik.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SUMMER 2008

The Newport Township Community Organization remains engaged in its primary goal of assisting in improving the overall quality of life within the community.

Once again this year members of the Organization took part in the Great American Clean Up through volunteering their services during the week long big junk drop off at the Newport Township Public works facility and picking up litter along Kirmar Parkway, the Township's major thoroughfare.

Nearly a dozen Community Organization members participated in the Township's Day of Caring and volunteered their time to assist in cleaning up the Recreation Park in Wanamie.

In addition organization workers took the time to expand and beautify the memorial honoring deceased members of our group which is located in the Park. *(continued on page 2)*

Efforts to renovate the Township's Recreation Park will continue throughout the Summer. Volunteers are needed to assist in this endeavor

The Community Organization supports the numerous initiatives announced recently by the Township's Board of Commissioners, and has requested that the local elected officials make a monthly report on the status of these subject projects. Construction of the South Valley Parkway presents a major opportunity to assist in developing underutilized land in the township.

The Community Organization's Recreation Committee has planned numerous activities for the Township's younger children throughout the Summer via its annual Summer Fun Program. We encourage residents to have their children participate in the programs planned by committee Chairpersons Merlyn "Murph" Fletcher and Mary Margaret Kashatus.

The Organization's Annual Fall Festival will take place at Holy Child Grove in Sheatown on October 11th. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this fun filled event.

In conclusion, remember a community is only as good as its citizens are willing to help make it. No one person or one entity



DOWN HILL DERBY

By Tom Kashatus It didn't generate the glamour and national interest that the annual soap box derbies do at Akron and Cleveland, but the Down Hill Derby recently held on Market Street in Glen Lyon and sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 430 resulted in seventeen

entries and a six category cake bake off with the theme, "Leaf to Cub." The event was well attended by spectators, Newport Township Emergency Services (police, fire, and ambulance), family and friends and there was no shortage of refreshments and food off the grill.

After Cub Master George Thomas inspected the craftily designed vehicles for "unauthorized design and discreet advantages" and the command "Start Your Engines" was given, the race was on from W. Enterprise Street to Railroad Street. When the dust cleared and racing was over Devon Nethercott was declared the first place winner. Second and third places were earned by Justin Skoniecki and Christopher Thomas, respectively. Awards were given in other categories for "Best Design" (Justin Skoniecki), "Most Outrageous Crash" (Jared Marshalllick), and "Better Luck Next Year" (Daniel Mieczkowski).

Surprised judges for the cake bake off were Fireman John Kemp and Community Organization Vice President Tom Kashatus. "Best Tasting" entry was awarded to the Mieczkowski Family; "Biggest Dessert" to the Norcross Family; "Grossest Dessert" to the Ditchey Family; "Best Use of Theme" to the Marshalllick Family; "Please Don't Make It Again" to the Ditchey Family, and "Anonymous" to the Miller Family.

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Editorial

It is time for The Newport Township Commissioners to take a hard look at themselves. The Commissioners need to learn to conduct their meetings professionally. They should not raise their voices and shout at each other and at the public during their public meetings.

Township Commissioner John Zyla commented loudly at a recent Board Meeting that he is disgusted with the Newport Township Community Organization and has washed his hands of it and anything it suggests or does and he wants nothing to do with it. The same Commissioner, at a later time and date asked an Organization member why the Organization did not send a letter to the Commissioners supporting them in their quest to have the South Valley Connector from route 29 approved and built. **Duh! This question from the man who wants nothing to do with us.**

Such behavior is typical of Commissioner Zyla who, if he wants something from the Organization or some other entity or person it is fine. However, if they want something the answer is most often (forget it, it can't be done, we will get back to you, there is no money, etc,etc,etc).

At the Board of Commissioners work session June 18th, 2008 the Chairman of the Township Recreation Board was taken to task for not having finished the Recreation Park Cleanup and for allowing a local youth to plan a project in the park as part of his Eagle Scout Project. (see page 5 to learn about the Project)

It turns out that the Commissioner in charge of Parks & Recreation knew all about the project and was going to present it to the board later at the meeting. He had apparently given a verbal go ahead to the Chairman who had passed this on to the youth and the project was already underway. (We applaud this project and hope the issue is quickly resolved.)

We Ask: Would it not be a good idea that the Commissioners communicate important matters to each other in a more timely fashion?

Township Business Manager

At the same meeting Township Business Manager Richard Zika complained that the recent clean-up at the Recreation Park included leaving large rocks in the park which interfere with grass cutting. When asked if he personally observed these rocks Mr. Zika said he does not go to the park. (The rocks are not on the grass and are, in fact, part of a previously approved memorial erected in the park by the Newport Township Community Organization.)

We could devote a whole page to the Business Manager. That will be saved for another day. For now we will just say the current Business Manager should be replaced by someone who is not rude, arrogant and quick tempered. Someone who takes pride in his job and in our Township.

In addition the new Business Manager should be someone who can write Grant Applications and bring some much needed funds into the Township. There are literally billions of dollars in grants available and our Township is certainly qualified for some of that money. We are aware that applying for grant money is not an easy task but it has to be done. We will concede that the Township has received some grant money but it is not nearly what we could receive if worked at diligently.

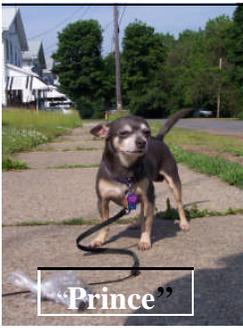
Nanticoke Historical Society to Present Program on Underground Miners

The Nanticoke Historical Society is pleased to announce a very special guest speaker for its June meeting on Thursday, June 26th.

Mr. Chris Murley director of Abandoned Mine Research Inc., specializing in Mine Equipment Restoration and Underground Photography will speak about his group, the "underground miners" and discussing what they do, old and new mining techniques, artifacts they have recovered and equipment restoration. He will show a video of the inside of abandoned mines.

The meeting will begin at 7P.M. at the Society home at 229 East Main Street in Nanticoke. It is suggested that those attending park on Spring Street to the rear of the Church for easier access.

Questions may be directed to the Society phone at 570-258-1367, via the internet at: NanticokePA.com or locallivinghistory.com/Nanticoke/welcome.htm



Residents Reminded Provide Proper Care & Control of Pets!

By Carol Marcincavage Dog owners in Newport Township have a responsibility to keep their dogs, and their neighbors, safe and happy during the Summer months.

Newport Township Ordinance no. 1975-4 regulates the keeping of dogs in the township. All dogs must be under the control of their own-

ers at ALL times.

First: "Running at Large" is prohibited. Dogs must be on a leash or under the perfect control of their owners at all times. Dogs that are running at large are "subject to seizure, detention, and disposal".

Second: "Disturbance of the Peace" is prohibited. Dogs that make loud noises "for more than one hour" or "continuous barking for periods of less than one hour but more than one-half hour...on two or more consecutive days shall be deemed to disturb the peace".

Third: dogs may not cause "Injury to Humans" by "biting, jumping on, knocking down or attacking" a person.

Fourth: owners or anyone in charge of a dog, shall not allow the dog to "soil, defile, defecate or commit any nuisance" on any public or private property without promptly removing any feces and disposing of them in a sanitary manner.

Fifth: it is "unlawful to keep more than four (4) dogs, six months of age or older on any premises, regardless of the number of owners" unless a kennel license has been obtained for the premises.

Newport Township residents should refer any complaints concerning dogs to the Newport Township Police Department from which warnings and citations will be issued.

It should be remembered that cats, also, can cause distress and injury to neighbors. Cats running loose can attack and bite or scratch people and other animals. Cats can dig up gardens and urinate and defecate in the dirt (cats can harbor disease that can be transmitted to a pregnant woman if she handles the dirt where their waste is deposited causing harm to the unborn child). Cats can also carry fleas and ticks which can be passed on to people.

Pets look to humans for their care and safety. Pets running loose can be hit by cars. Unvaccinated pets can get rabies and other diseases. They can get ticks in the wooded areas and high weeds and grasses. They can get caught in traps or eat spoiled foods or poisons put out for mice, rats and insects.

It is the responsibility of all pet owners to keep their animals under control at all times and not allow them to hurt other animals or humans.

Pets also suffer from the extreme heat of Summer such as was recently experienced in our area. Be sure that they have plenty of fresh water and both indoor and outdoor well shaded, ventilated areas in which to rest and take shelter.

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Land Reclamation in Newport Township By

Paul Jarecki Beginning in the early 1800s, coal was mined in Newport Township. The primary method of mining was tunnel-



"Newport Lake"?

ing deep into the ground until the late 1950s when strip mining became more prevalent. In recent years, the mining industry closed many of its operations in the Nanticoke/Newport area and by 2003 only one company, Casey-Kassa, is actively conducting mining in the area.

The Casey-Kassa mining operation is fully permitted but the long history of previous, unregulated mining has left much of the land in Newport Township disfigured and its water polluted. Newport Lake is what Robert Hughes calls the water filled impoundment behind Newport Cemetery located off Old Newport Street in Newport Center. The water is largely devoid of life because it is highly polluted with iron oxide, which gives it a characteristic orange color. Newport Lake was once a 40-foot deep pit left after the area was strip-mined. Seepage from the flooded, abandoned deep mines has filled the pit with highly contaminated water.

Robert Hughes is the Regional Coordinator of the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), a non-profit partnership of local organizations dedicated to the reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

Two years ago EPCAMR partnered with Earth Conservancy, the landowner, to remediate Newport Lake by extracting the iron oxide using a patented precipitation method and converting it to saleable iron oxide product which is used as a paint pigment.

They applied for a State sponsored Innovative Mine System Grant to fund their project. Their application was not approved even though Newport Lake contained high concentrations of high quality iron oxide and the recovery method received a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in 2008. The application period for these grants has ended but when it reopens EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy will reapply.

In the meantime, EPCAMR and Mr. Hughes continue in their reclamation efforts in the Township. They have applied for another State Growing Greener Grant to conduct a hydrogeological investigation in the Honey Pot section of Nanticoke and the adjoining section of Newport Township.

In an ambitious plan, test borings will be drilled down into the mine pool in the Honey Pot section. The water from the mine pool will then be rerouted to a lower elevation in Nanticoke where the mine water will be treated and the iron oxide recovered.

Mr. Hughes believes that the mine pools in Honey Pot and Newport Township are connected and by draining the mine pool in Honey Pot, the mine pool levels in Newport Township will be reduced and as a result Newport Lake will be drained. The dry impoundment can then be filled with approved fill. Mr. Hughes admits that accomplishing this plan may take a few years but he remains enthusiastic. The project has received written support from State Representative John Yudichak and Kenneth Johnson, Nanticoke City Administrator.

Did you know? Newport Community News is available on the internet. The internet edition features many of our picture in color. This and previous editions can be found at the website: www.newporttownship.com



People

By Heidi Selecky Americans who served their country during World War II are now fittingly referred to as The Greatest Generation because of their sacrifices in the face of great strife. Hundreds of Newport Township residents answered the call to arms. Among them is Glen Lyon native Matilda Sokolnicki Shelhamer. Matilda is the daughter of the late

Matilda Sokolnicki Shelhamer serving in Okinawa, Japan in 1945 & A greeting card sent back to a loved one during her stay on Okinawa.

Alexander Sokolnicki and Helen Tarnowski Sokolnicki, both natives of Poland. She grew up in Glen Lyon along with three sisters and three brothers. Her father worked in the mines and later opened a grocery store on the corner of West Main and Park Streets. She is a graduate of Newport Township High School, class of 1940. She finished her nurses training at Wilkes-Barre General Nursing School in early 1944. Because her brother Ray was stationed in Italy, she decided to join the Army nursing corps. Commissioned as a second lieutenant, she started basic training at Fort Meade, MD and was then assigned to posts in the states of Virginia, Texas, Washington and Hawaii prior to assignment to Okinawa, Japan. At that point in the war, Allied forces had invaded Okinawa and suffered heavy casualties. Many soldiers suffered head trauma. Matilda recalls that all nurses had to be escorted by two armed guards when making rounds in the tents. They often came under heavy sniper fire by the Japanese. After the war ended in 1946, she was home on leave and remembers a big homecoming party for all returning Newport soldiers at St. Adalbert's Church.

Upon her discharge, Matilda returned home and married Elmer Shelhamer in 1948. Elmer was a graduate of Newport High also, class of 1938, and served with General Douglas MacArthur's staff during the war. Matilda continued her nursing career at the Nanticoke State Hospital and was also a Newport Township school nurse. In 1949, the first of her four sons was born. Dan was followed by Al, Mark and Jim. The family settled outside of Philadelphia where Elmer worked for U.S. Steel. Elmer passed away in 1990. Matilda retired from nursing as the Head Supervisor of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mercer Medical Center in Trenton, NJ.

Matilda has resided in Glen Lyon with her sister Gertrude since 2001. Matilda is delighted to be back in Newport Township where she grew up.

Welcome home once again, Matilda!



Andrea Markiewicz McDonnell

By Heidi Selecky The Newport United Methodist Church on East Kirmar Avenue in Alden had its beginnings on October 17, 1885 when a group of worshippers met as Methodists in an Alden school.

First United Methodist Episcopal Church of Alden was incorporated on September 26, 1889. The land for the church building was donated by the DLW Railroad Company in Scranton in 1890. The church was built soon afterwards.

According to a newspaper account written at the time of the church's centennial, The Alden and Wanamie (St. James) Methodist churches were known as a circuit charge and from their inception were collectively known as the Wanamie Charge. In 1943, it became known as the Newport Charge with the Alden, Wanamie, and Glen Lyon churches. It is the only remaining Methodist church in the township.

The present pastor is Andrea McDonnell. Pastor McDonnell is the daughter of the late John and Jeannette Thomas Markiewicz of Sheatown. John Markiewicz worked as a carpenter for the Glen Alden Coal Company. Pastor McDonnell grew up with her brother John and sister Kathy. Andrea is a graduate of Newport Township High School, Class of 1961. She attended nursing school at General Hospital in Wilkes-Barre and received her certification as an LPN in 1963. She worked there until she married Edward McDonnell of Wilkes-Barre in 1969. Edward, a Vietnam veteran and a three-time Purple Heart recipient, was in the Navy at the time.

Edward spent the next 18 years in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman in x-ray technology and was assigned to various Naval hospitals. He and Andrea have lived in Charleston, SC, Virginia, Philadelphia, Long Beach, CA, and Okinawa. Along the way, Andrea received additional training in coronary care.

After Edward's retirement in 1986, the couple settled in Ashley. Andrea was attending her family church in Alden when the then pastor, Barbara Saxe, encouraged her to attend Lay Speaking School, a six week preparatory preaching course. Andrea discovered she had a calling and pursued further studies for the next nine years. Andrea received her license in 2006. Her first assignment was at the Newport Church from 2001 until 2003. After two years at the Courtdale Methodist Church, she was reassigned to Newport from 2005 until the present. She recently received her new appointment as Minister at Ashley Methodist Church and will begin her duties on July 1.

Pastor McDonnell and her husband currently live in Wyoming.

We wish her the best of luck in her new assignment.

Happy 4th of July

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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 2009

Newport Twp. Recreation Board Clean Up Day A Success

By Lorri Vandermark On May 31, 2008 The Newport Township Recreation Board, led by Commissioner Jack Vishnefski, sponsored a Community Clean up Day in the Wanamie Recreation Park. The Clean Up was a way to get the community involved in sprucing up the park, in order to make it safer and more enjoyable for the residents and visitors that will be using the park this summer. The recreation board was represented on this day by Commissioner Vishnefski, Judy Pazgan, Lorri Vandermark and Dawson Jenkins. Other organizations represented, included:

- South Valley Softball League had 16 members present (along with 6 youth members).
- Newport Twp. Community Organization had 11 members.
- Greater Nanticoke Area Rotary had 5 members.
- Melody & Jared Bartusek were volunteering for his Eagle Scout Project.
- There were also several community volunteers.

Overall, approximately 40 + volunteers were involved.

Although the day started out with rain, some remarkable things were still accomplished in a short amount of time.

The Newport Township Community Organization did a great job clearing trash, debris and old wood from the entry perimeter of the park. They also pruned a tree at the entrance that was being destroyed by a weed, and landscaped around a memory tree near the park entrance.

The South Valley Softball organization had two volunteers who were electricians. They fixed the light on the clubhouse building and made sure that everything else was in safe working order and also installed 2 new security lights that were donated by South Valley. Volunteers also cleaned the bathrooms. The fence around the Brad Piavas Field was painted and after drying, will have a safety topper installed to prevent players from being injured when they go after fly balls. The youth picked up trash, raked the park, sanded and painted. The play ground area received a face lift as well, with all the equipment being painted with primer. All of the unsafe wood on the benches was removed and the metal was painted with primer. The seats will now be replaced with new wood. The old, rotting planks were removed from the pavilions and are being replaced. The inside of the pavilions were cleaned and raked smooth, in preparation for continued improvement. All of the tables received the same treatment as the park benches.

This was only the first step for the park, as the Bartusek's will be continuing Jared's Eagle Scout project, by painting both pavilions. They will also be putting rock in each pavilion, as well as painting some of the playground equipment. Finally, Jared will be putting in a "memory walk" around the pavilion area, with local residents having an opportunity to purchase personalized pavers. The members of the Newport Township Recreation Board would like to thank all of the community groups and individuals who contributed in making this Clean Up Day a success.

In addition, we would like to thank the Newport Township Women's Auxiliary Group for providing lunch for all of the volunteers.

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.

Be There! See how our Township conducts business. You may be surprised, you will most likely be appalled.

Teen Plans Memory Walk & Park Beautification as a Portion of Eagle Scout Project



Jared Bartusek of Glen Lyon is currently working towards becoming an Eagle Scout. Part of the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout include a community service project.

Jared's project for this portion of the requirements is the creation of a Memory Walk in the Wanamie Recreation Park as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Jared is selling 4x8 bricks for the walk which will be engraved with the purchaser's message. You can use a person's name, pet's name, or just have an appropriate message on your brick.

A larger brick in the middle of the walk will be dedicated to **Jose Hitzner** for his service and dedication to our township.

The company providing the bricks recommends 3 lines with 18 characters, but you can use 4 lines with up to 21 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as a character. The cost per brick is \$35 and an optional certificate will be available for an additional \$5.00.

Jared is also painting pavilions, playground equipment and grills which have already been primed by the Township Recreation Board with a finish coat of paint. Additional gravel will be added where appropriate. All proceeds go to this project and to fixing the park. Jared would really appreciate your help by donating a brick! If you are interested or have any questions please call 736-6879 and ask for Jared or Melody.

Orders will be accepted until July 14th.

Editor's Note: An excellent project worthy of your support!

Join the Newport Township Community Organization Meetings are Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Main Street in Glen Lyon. For more information and to read all of our Newsletters go to www.newporttownship.com

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Picture In Time



Shaft No. 6 located 300 feet south of Breaker # 6 in Glen Lyon, where apartments off Rock Street now exist, was drilled 800 feet down into the ground to mine a huge horizontal vein of coal beneath Glen Lyon.

Near the shaft opening, the Susquehanna Coal Company constructed offices, a power station, repair shops, worker washhouse and a hoist building. The hoist building housed a powerful Corliss steam engine, which lowered two elevators that transported miners down into the mine. Another tunnel was constructed 600 yards south of the shaft to mine a vertical vein of coal under the hill paralleling Newport Street. Tunnel No. 7 was drilled into the hillside at the west end of Newport Street. (picture courtesy of John Forgach).



Joseph Dekutoski Recognized by Firemen

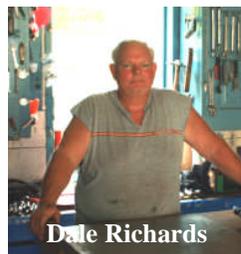
At the June meeting of the Consolidated Fire Company of Newport Township, Mr. Joseph Dekutoski, a lifetime resident of Glen Lyon, was

presented a certificate for his efforts to assist in the recent successful fund raising spaghetti supper sponsored by the emergency services (fire and ambulance) of the Township.

Joe has been a resident of Ken Pollock Apartments for a number of years and has always been available to help with community projects such as this in the past. Shown in the photo with Mr. Dekutoski (holding certificate) are Leona Kowalski and Gina Rodriguez, Co-chairpersons of the event, and Newport Township Fire Chief Dan Kowalski.



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Township Businessman

By Heidi Selecky The next time you go to a baseball game, take time to notice the playing field. Most ballparks have converted from artificial turf to real grass. Ever think about how the grass is maintained? To start with, it takes soil, seed, fertilizer, sunlight, and moisture in all the right combinations. As most homeowners know, grass must be cut to keep its lush appearance and occasionally, lawnmowers get a bit testy.

That is when Dale Richards of Sheatown comes to the rescue. Dale, and his wife, the former Ann Golomb who is originally from Buttonwood operate **Richards Garden Equipment** located at 144 Robert Street in Sheatown.

Dale is the son of the late Dale and Dorothy Phillips Richards. A graduate of Newport High School Class of 1962, and King's College, he taught English and creative writing in Newport and Nanticoke Area schools until his retirement in 1994.

He started repairing small equipment when he was fourteen. What started as a hobby eventually grew into a business. He also has a franchise to sell brand names such as Toro, Ariens, and Lawnboys to name a few. Eventually, his repair business branched out to include snowblowers, trimmers, and chainsaws.

When asked about proper maintenance, Dale offers several suggestions. Lawnmowers and snowblowers are small machines that require attention and service, much like a car. At the beginning of each season, the blades should be sharpened, the oil changed, filter cleaned, and sparkplug replaced. The most common complaint is that the lawnmower won't start. It is usually because the sparkplug, filter or oil needs to be changed. Also, if the gas is over three months old, the octane rating begins to drop and fails to ignite. Old gas will have a foul smell like varnish. Lawnmowers typically hold one quart of gas and mow for an hour to an hour and a half. Dale cautions that lawnmowers should not be allowed to run dry, except when putting them in off-season storage.

Winter storage for lawnmowers and summer storage for snowblowers should be in a dry place. Also, they should be drained of gas and covered with a tarp. The storage area need not be warm, as long as it is dry. If these suggestions are followed, lawnmowers will have a longer life.

It is Summer! Don't let the grass grow under your feet!

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**Tom Kashatus Recycling Coordinator
& Palmira Miller Event Coordinator**

Community Organization's 2008 Great American Cleanup Efforts Another Great Success

By Palmira Miller For the fourth year in a row the Newport Township Community Organization rallied 80 volunteers to participate in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup as part of the 2008 Great American Cleanup, in the campaign for a Cleaner, Greener America. Two big events were held throughout the Township, 464 hours were worked and 20% of the 27,687 pounds of junk items collected were recycled.

The Big Junk Drop Off ran from April 14th thru the 18th. This event provided Township residents an opportunity to remove unwanted items in and around their properties free of charge. Thank you to Thomas Kashatus, Bill Hourigan, Murph Fletcher, John Jarecki, Ray Braband, Lionel Antonez, Carolyn Phillips, Eugene Wacławski, & Mary Margaret Kashatus, who volunteered 115 hours to keep the Recycling Center in Wanamie open for 30 hours. Mike Dziak from Earth Conservancy sent Nick down from the compost facility to pack the dumpsters adding much needed space. Thank you to Amos, Waste Reduction and Mark, JP Mascaro for donating the dumpsters and hauling out 14,280 pounds (7.14 ton) of junk to the Keystone Landfill. Tom Kashatus removed and recycled 5,584 pounds (2.79 tons) of tin, steel, cast iron, and aluminum from this event.

The Community Pride Event, which is held throughout the State of Pennsylvania on April 19th, brought out 69 volunteers who worked 188 hours. Eleven (11) teams spread out along the main roads of Newport Township, cleaned 27 miles of roads, picked up 287 bags of garbage, 82 tires, and 170 bottles totaling 7,714.8 pounds of garbage.

A Special Thanks goes out to our sponsors who supplied tools needed for the cleanup and Drop Off Events. Dave Rinehimer, PennDOT, supplied gloves, vests, and Glad Bags. Dan O'Brien, Keystone Landfill for providing free landfill space.

A Special Thank You to our local sponsors who provided refreshments to our volunteers; RK Furs, The Variety Stop, Tarnowski's Smoke House, Park Market, the Pepsi Co in Wilkes Barre, Bush Distribution, Redners, Wegman's and members of the Newport Township Community Organization.

Thank you to the Board of Commissioners for the use of the Recycling Center and Town Hall in Wanamie along with the Police, Fire and Ambulance Crew.

Thank You to the 2008 Great American Cleanup National Sponsors: American Honda Motor Co., Inc., The Dow Chemical

Company, Firestone Complete Auto Care™ and Tires Plus™, GLAD® ForceFlex Trash Bags, Pepsi-Cola Company, Sam's Club®, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Sprint Foundation, Troy-Bilt® Lawn and Garden Equipment, Waste Management, Inc. and the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company. Educational Partners: ReCellular, Inc. and Rubber Manufacturers Association.

Thank you to the following volunteers who took part in the Community Pride Event:

The Wanderers Tom Kashatus, Bill Hourigan, Joe Grysiewicz and Carol Marcincavage. The Amazing Duo Mary Jo Evans and Murph Fletcher. The Wanamie Warriors Stephen Phillips, Steve Masakowski and Joan Beeunas. Team Orange Ray & Arieli Brabant and Vicki Frace. Hospitality, Carolyn Phillips, Sia & Russ Sager. Seven Shaft Hill crew Mary Margaret Kashatus, Heidi Selecky, John & Paul Jarecki, and Anthony Saypack. Piestrak family on Alden Mountain Road Ed & Cody Piestrak, Crystal Paluck, and Chad and Courtney Shettle. Cleanup at Ridgeview Peter Wanchisen, Joseph & Eliza Burke, John Farrell, and Peter Dennis. Cub Scout Pack 430 cleanup on Old Newport Street. Bill Ditchey, Stacey, Robert & Damien Gregory, Frank & Jared Marshalik, Jay & Devan Roote, Brandon & Elizabeth Savage, George & Collin Thomas, Jacob & Nicholas Havey, Rhonda Smith, Charles Heddings, David Mieczkowski, Jamie & Aaron Miller, Mike & Tyler Zaremba, Randy Hulles, Josh Brady, Emma & Bradon Ditchey.

The Newport Township Community Organization continues to recycle aluminum products and other metals including appliances, old grills, bed springs, fencing, lawnmowers, bicycles, radiators, piping, motor blocks, furnaces, etc. Pass the word to your friends and neighbors.

Again, thank you to all the volunteers who gave of themselves for a Cleaner, Greener America. We encourage all our residents to work together and take pride in the area they live to promote health and safety, for themselves and their neighbors.

Editors Note: Due to conflicts with the Newport Township Management there may not be a Great American Cleanup scheduled for next year. The Commissioners indicated that they do not want the waste containers placed on Township Property.



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Newport Township Community Organization's **Summer Fun Program**

10:00 AM to Noon Except July 9 at 9:00 AM

JUNE 25 Pioneers Players & Dance Team @ Rec. Park

JULY 9 Field Trip Hillside Farm Bus @ Rec Park 9AM

JULY 23 Magic Show & Learn Magic @ Holy Child Grove

AUG 6 Build an Indian Tee Pee @ Rec Park

AUG 20 Carnival Games & Characters @ Rec Park

Conducted by The Newport Township Community Organization

Summer Fun

The **2008 Summer Fun Program** is under way as this article is being written. The first session on June 18th was held on June 18th at Holy Child Grove. A great time was had by all in attendance..

The Summer Fun Program is designed to provide a variety of experiences, learning's, and understandings of different Cultural, Sporting, Historical, Educational, Ethnic, and other types of experiences in a fun way. The program has been designed for both younger and older children in mind.

This year's program started off on June 18th with a **Puppet Show**. The June 25th program features members of the **Pioneers Professional Football Team and Dance Team**. On July 9th a field trip to **Hillside Farms*** is scheduled. July 23rd is Magic at it's best followed by an **Indian Tee Pee** event on August 6th. The final session of the year will be held in the form of a **Carnival** featuring games and characters on August 20th.

The **Summer Fun Program** is planed and run by Community Organization members "Murph" Fletcher of Wanamie and Mary Margret Kashatus of Glen Lyon.

*** Parental Permission slips required for this event. They will be available at the June 25th Summer Fun Program and on the day of the event.**

2008 Great American Clean Up

A FEW OF THE MANY VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE CLEANUP A SUCCESS



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A
Key Organizer



The Great American Cleanup was awesome. Those of us that worked the drop off area during the week were impressed with people taking advantage of our service to them. Most all were gracious and most courteous when arriving with their materials. **Unfortunately we were unable to accept large furniture items this year as in the past years. However, you may leave one large item out for regular garbage pickup on the first regularly scheduled garbage day each month. Appliances and furniture are covered by this policy. Construction waste and demolition waste are not covered by this policy and must disposed of by you or your contractor.**

Please Note: Due to conflicts with the Newport Township Management there may not be a Great American Cleanup scheduled for next year.