

Happy New Year 2011

NEWPORT COMMUNITY NEWS

Winter 2011

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Number 23

A Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization



M.J. Food Mart Opens In Glen Lyon

by Heidi Jarecki A new convenience store has opened in Glen Lyon on the corner of Market and West Main Street. The building was formerly the site of the JP Dollar Store, Cobosco's Hardware Store, and before that the US Post Office. Now called **MJ Food Mart**, the business is owned by Kirit Patel and his son, Jignesh. The store opened in November and the variety of stock has increased each week.

Kirit Patel was born in Gujarat, India. He attended pharmacy school and became a pharmacist in his own business. He married and has a family of two daughters and one son. When the time came to educate his children, he decided there would be better opportunities in the United States, so he immigrated to New York City. His son, Jignesh, attended SUNY at Stony Brook and St. George's Medical School in New York. He is presently at Yale University Hospital and hopes to become a pulmonologist. Jignesh's wife Khushboo is pursuing a residency in cardiology. They have a three month old daughter named Moksha. Kirit's two daughters live in Virginia and Scranton.

The family has lived in New York City, Long Island, Scranton, and Plymouth. Jignesh was interested in buying a house in northeast Pennsylvania for his family which includes his mother and grandmother. A friend suggested Newport Township as a pleasant place to live. While driving through Glen Lyon, he noticed the vacant dollar store that had a "for sale" sign and he got the idea for a convenience grocery store. He talked to as many residents as he could and they were very encouraging. Some even offered to help in any way. He liked the area and decided to buy the store and the house next door that came with it. After being in business for about six weeks, the family is very impressed with Glen Lyon as a quiet town with good, friendly people.

The stock in the store has increased over the weeks since it opened. It has an ATM machine, sells Pennsylvania lottery tickets, and also has greeting cards and toys. It sells candy, chips and pretzels, milk and soda, frozen vegetables, soup, assorted grocery items and pet food. They are well known brand names, like TastyKake, Hershey Ice Cream, and Turkey Hill ice tea. The owners are open to any suggestions as to what might be added. In the future, they hope to obtain a liquor license to sell beer.



The owners plan to pave the parking lot across Market Street and will allow people attending church services at St. Adalbert's to park there. Also, they allowed an international agency to put a collection bin for used clothing and shoes. Contributions are cleaned and distributed to where they are needed in this country and also to third-world countries. They are eager to be accommodating and also are aware that there are many people out there who need help.

NTCO welcomes the Patel Family to the Township and wishes them success in their endeavors.

Newport Township Government

by John Jarecki The Township Commissioners, at their October meeting, approved two amendments to Township ordinances, both recommended by the State Department of Environmental Protection and related to recycling. The first, an amendment to the recycling ordinance, allows clean cardboard to be recycled and requires the Township to pick up yard waste for recycling at least twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. The second, an amendment to the nuisance ordinance, prohibits burning recyclables. **Note: Flattened & tied cardboard will be taken on newspaper day.**

After receiving bids for Township refuse pickup, the Commissioners, at their November meeting, approved a three-year contract with J. P. Mascaro for refuse services at a cost of \$289,000 per year.

Also at this meeting, as requested by the Glen Lyon Hose Company, the Commissioners appointed J. C. Hoffman as Newport Township Fire Chief for a two-year term extending from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012. *(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1 col 2) There are three fire companies in the Township, one associated with Glen Lyon, one with Sheatown and Wanamie, and one with Alden. According to long standing tradition, the right to nominate a Fire Chief for a two year term rotates from one fire company to another every two years. This year, it belongs to the Glen Lyon company.

Also at the November meeting, the Commissioners appointed Scot Shatley to a 5-year term on the Recreation Board.

Demolition Program

Newport Township is continuing to work on its program to demolish abandoned and deteriorating buildings. At their October meeting, the Commissioners awarded a contract to Bdaric Excavating to demolish what was formerly Engle's Factory at 1 Engle Street in Glen Lyon at a cost of \$14,300. Bdaric soon demolished the building and re-contoured the land, at great improvement to the appearance of the neighborhood.

As of the December Commissioners' meeting, the Township was close to demolishing two more dilapidated houses: (1) the former Conyngham house, at 64 East Main Street in Glen Lyon, which had gone through the entire legal process in preparation for demolition, and (2) the house at 2-4-6 Third Street, also in Glen Lyon, which had gone through the entire process except for review by the state for historical significance. The Commissioners plan to ask for bids to demolish both buildings at the same time in order to save money. We congratulate the Commissioners on their fine work on this program in improving community safety issues as well as community appearance.

Good News Regarding Blighted Properties

by **Bill Hourigan** **Finally** - After years of trying unsuccessfully, Pennsylvania municipalities will soon be able to use new tools to deal with blighted properties.

A new law called **Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act**, recently signed by Governor Rendell will go into effect early in 2011.

This law will allow municipalities to hit owners of blighted and dangerous properties where it can hurt them the most, their assets.

The law gives municipalities the right to place liens against all of an owner's assets, not just the blighted properties.

The new law will allow municipalities to deny permits or licenses to any landlord who has been cited for violations in any community. They can also be extradited to Pennsylvania if they live outside the commonwealth.

This gives municipalities an important new weapon to fight neighborhood blight at the expense of the owners of such properties - not at the expense of the municipality.

Until now, cities and other municipalities have had very limited means of solving blight problems.

With this law, that can change. All communities need only educate themselves on the law and put it to work cleaning up neighborhoods with blighted buildings and make the owners, not the taxpayers, pay the cost.

**Many ask:
"What does NTCO do for the community?"**

Some Answers:

NTCO 2010

Conducts a recycling program that keeps metal junk off our streets and out of landfills. All profits earned are put back into the community. (A)

Publishes a quarterly newsletter (your reading it) with a distribution of 1200 copies. (A)

Maintains a Website (www.newporttownship.com) to inform and educate the public. (A)

Sponsor forums to meet candidates for local offices and learn about Home Rule. (2010)

Sponsors and plans cleanup events in April of each year during The Great American Cleanup. (A)

Held 2 Summer Fun Events at Mocanaqua Pool for both children & adults. (A)

Partnered with the Newport Township Fire Department and Little League to sponsor a Fall Festival where families can have fun, eat well, win prizes, meet and greet neighbors, friends, township employees, and first alert responders. (Formerly sponsored only by NTCO)

Items on the list above marked (A) consists mostly of projects we take part in or fully sponsor each year. We are always looking for ways to help in the Community.

In addition to the above items that NTCO participates in, we also donate time and money to support other programs within the Community. (See 2010 list below.)

Organization/Recipients	Amount
<u>Boy Scout Troop 430</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>Cub Scout Troop 376</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>Holy Spirit Parish Summer Bible School</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>Joe Brady Jr./ Eagle Scout Project</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
<u>LCCC "Walk of Honor"</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>Mill Memorial Library Reading and Craft Program</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>Nanticoke Trojanettes Soft Ball Team</u>	<u>\$125.00</u>
<u>Newport Twp. Ambulance Assn.</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
<u>Newport Twp. Crime Watch</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>Newport Twp. Fireman Assn. Bazaar</u>	<u>\$100.0</u>
<u>Newport Twp. Fireman Equipment Fund</u>	<u>\$45.00</u>
<u>Newport Twp. Little League</u>	<u>\$550.00</u>
<u>Picnic Table & Bench (Coal St. Park</u>	<u>\$1,274.00</u>
St. Dennis Home Assn. (Knights of Columbus)	<u>\$300.00</u>
Summer Fun Program	<u>\$264.00</u>
Total	\$4,108.00

General Election 2010



Pictured above at Newport Township Municipal Building, Wanamie on General Election Day, are from left to right. Gerald Mullery, Tina Wrubel, Mark Rinehamer, Michele Mullery, Cody Forgach and Gary Smith

by Tom Kashatus With the November election behind us, voters of Newport Township will be looking forward to many changes on the political front as the New Year will begin to unfold. Newport Township continued to vote Democratic contrary to trends on the nation and statewide levels. (Newport Township results are indicated in parentheses.) Governor elect (R) Tom Corbett (507), who will be replacing (D) Governor Ed Rendell, was outdistanced by (D) Onorato (792). US Senate Candidate (D) Joe Sestak ((789) outran (R) Pat Toomey (478) who will be replacing five term Senator Arlen Specter when the new Congress convenes. Even though (R) Lou Barletta (631) handily beat US Congressman (D) Paul Kanjorski (713) in the 11th Congressional District, Kanjorski was successful in Newport Township.

As State Senator (D) Ray Musto, 20th PA Senate District retired, former representative of the 119th Legislative District (D) John Yudichak (1,104) easily defeated his opponent Luzerne County Commissioner (R) Steve Urban (218) and that office will remain in Democratic hands. In the 119th Legislative District, newcomer (D) Gerald Mullery (942) beat (R) Rick Arnold (351) in a hotly contested race as Arnold exhibited a high degree of political strength in the Mountain Top area. Today the 119th Legislative District comprises the townships of Bear Creek, Fairview, Hanover, Newport, Plymouth, Rice, Slocum, and Wright. Mullery will also serve the residents of Edwardsville, Larksville, Laurel Run, Plymouth, Sugar Notch, Warrior Run boroughs and Nanticoke City.

Representative elect Mullery, who will replace Senator elect John Yudichak, resides in Alden. He and his wife, Michele, are the parents of four children. He will be the third representative from Newport Township to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the past seventy years. Previously Charlie Wright (R) and Leonard Najaka (R), both of Glen Lyon, served the residents of Newport Township, Nanticoke City, Slocum Township, Conyngham Township, Shickshinny Borough, Union Township, Huntington Township, Ross Township, Fairmont Township, Lake Township, Salem Township, New Columbus Borough, Nuangola Borough, etc. when

it was the 4th Legislative District of Luzerne County. Over the years the Township was also represented by William Curwood; Shickshinny, Fred Shupnik, Luzerne; Stanley Meholchick, Ashley; and Stanley Jarolin of Nanticoke City.



NTCO Sponsors Election Forum at LCCC

by Tom Kashatus Prior to the May primary the Newport Township Community Organization held a forum at Luzerne County Community College as primary candidates for the 119th legislative district debated the issues of our district and statewide policies. Participants in that discussion were Messrs. Mullery and Arnold, Supervisor Gary Zingaretti (D) of Bear Creek Township and Bob Morgan (D) of Mountain Top. Moderator for the event was Stephen Phillips of Wanamie and CEO of Berwick Industrial Development Association. The Organization held another forum at LCCC in October as Attorney Vito Deluca, Luzerne County Solicitor, and Attorney James Haggerty, Mayor of Kingston and Home Rule Committee Chairman, debated the Home Rule issue. That event was moderated by Mr. Joseph Rymar, Chairman of the LCCC Board of Trustees.

Luzerne County government will also see big changes for the future as the Home Rule initiative was chosen to bring in a new form of government. The present offices of County Commissioner, Sheriff, Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Recorder of Deeds, Jury Commissioner, Coroner, Treasurer, and Register of Wills will be eliminated. Voters will continue to elect the Controller, District Attorney, Common Pleas Court Judges, and a panel of eleven (11) who will choose a business manager to run Luzerne County affairs. Newport Township voted in favor of Home Rule with (708) voting yes and (637) voting no.

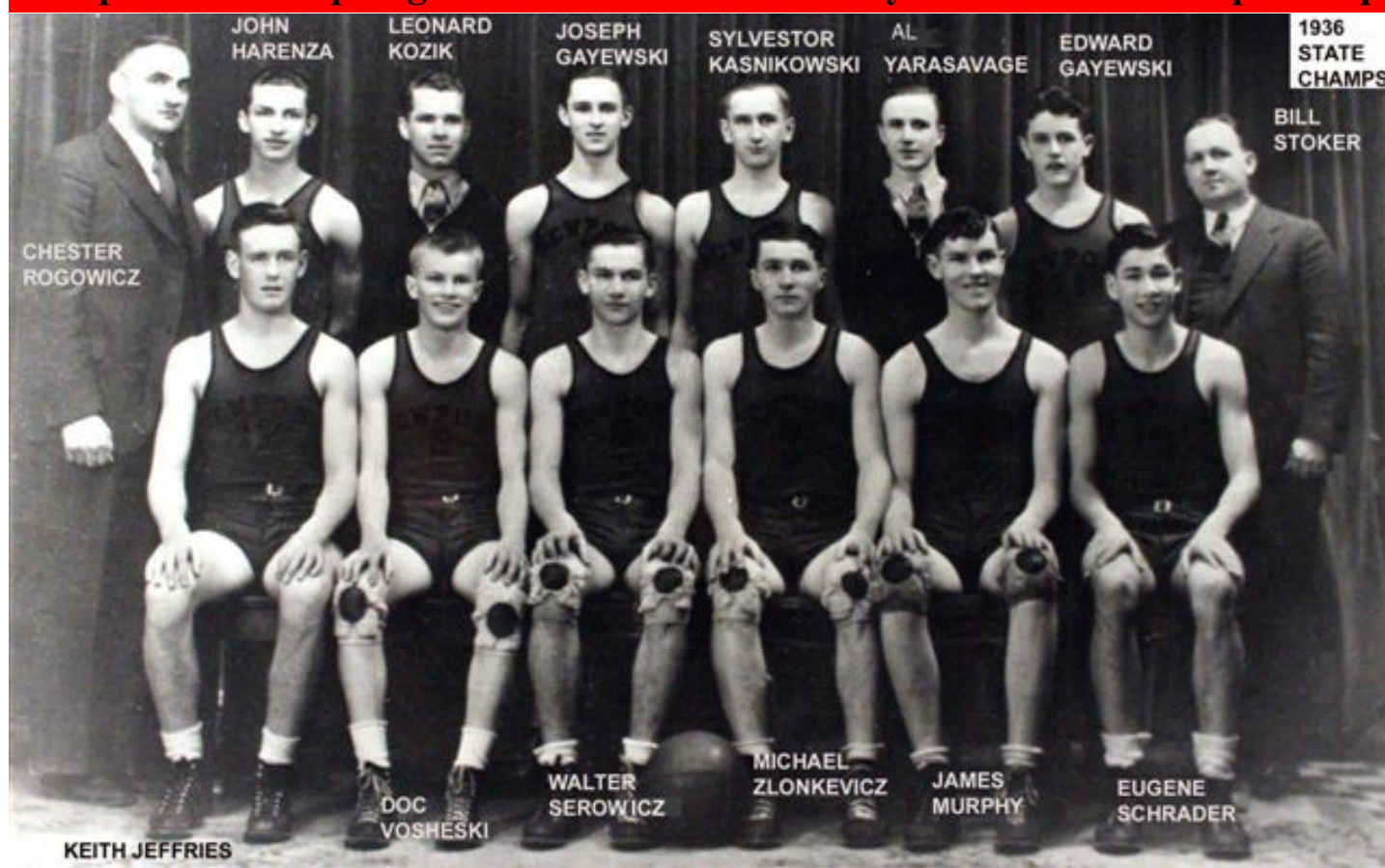
Note: As youths youth, Senator Yudichak and Representative Mullery resided in Plymouth Township with their families. They participated in many athletic activities together through the years and were team mates on the Greater Nanticoke Area District II Championship baseball team in 1988.

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Newport Township High School Wins 1936 Pennsylvania State Championship



A Team of Destiny

by Paul Jarecki When the high school basketball season began in December of 1935, there didn't seem to be anything special about the team from Newport Township. In the previous season under coach Chester Rogowicz, they had a 10-14 win loss record in the Wyoming League with 2 losses to their archrivals, the Nanticoke High School Nans. In the league opener, Newport easily defeated Meyers but was then soundly defeated by Nanticoke 36-23 on the victor's court. It also was the first home game under Nanticoke's new coach Lou Sweitzer. Sweitzer was the star of the 1923 Nanticoke State basketball champions. Newport then defeated Kingston, Coughlin and Plymouth before losing 32-30 at GAR. They notched two more victories before meeting Nanticoke for the second time on February 11. A loud and enthusiastic crowd of 1,500 fans jammed into the Newport gym to witness one of the most exciting games in this historic rivalry. It was a close, intense game throughout. With less than a minute to go and Nanticoke ahead by one point, senior guard and Captain Walter Serowicz scored a field goal and was fouled on the shot. His extra point was good and Newport won 37-35. Newport won its remaining five games, and with it the Wyoming League Championship and the right to compete for the P.I.A.A. title.

In those days there were no high school classifications. Only one high school would be basketball champion for the entire state. In their first playoff game, Newport won a decisive victory over Sugar Notch, the North League Champs, 52-35 before 1500 fans at Kingston High School. Junior Mike Zlonkievicz led the way with 22 points. In the next game,

poor foul shooting by Luzerne cost them a victory in the District 2 championship when they dropped a 36 to 32 decision to Newport before a packed house of 1,200 at the Plains High School gymnasium. Zlonkievicz again led the scoring with 20 points. Next up for Newport was the highly touted Berwick High School quintet. In the previous year, Berwick lost a close game to Allentown in the state semi-finals. Allentown would then go on to easily win the state championship. The Berwick game would be their toughest contest. With practically all their players returning, Berwick was highly favored to beat Newport. In a game before 1,400 wildly cheering fans Newport won one of the most exciting games ever played in the P.I.A.A. playoffs. The game started fast with Newport sweeping Berwick off its feet with a flashing attack. Edmund "Doc" Vosheski, Newport's junior forward did most of the damage with one sensational shot after another. Berwick, the Keystone League Champions, would come back and tie the score. In the second half, it was Walter Serowicz who saved the game for Newport by flinging in one-hand shots from all angles and Newport took a 27 to 26 lead with three minutes to go. Both teams scrambled madly for the ball in the time remaining but neither registered. The Red and Black walked off the floor a victor. Doc Vosheski was top scorer with 13 points followed by 10 for Walter Serowicz. By virtue of this stunning victory, Newport was favored to win the eastern finals against Lebanon. Lebanon had defeated Lower Merion to enter the contest but they were not considered the equal to the Berwick team.

(please turn to page 5)

(continued from page 4) Newport would defeat Lebanon 33 to 32 on the huge, glassy-floored Zembo Mosque Temple, Harrisburg. They were led by blond, grinning "Doc" Vosheski, a 125 pound mite of court dynamite. He shot from all angles with either hand and was the game's high scorer with 17 points. On April 4, 1936, little Newport Township High School from the hard-coal fields of Luzerne County would meet the Scarlet Hurricanes of New Castle High School from the rich industrial section of Western Pennsylvania for the state title at the Zembo Temple, Harrisburg. New Castle had beaten Beaver Falls for the District 7 title and then won playoff games against St. Mary's, Sharon, and Franklin Borough. The game was the topic of conversation among thousands of sport fans in Wyoming Valley. Newport fans chartered a twelve coach special train and hundreds of others traveled by automobile to Harrisburg. Wasil Washinski of Prospect Hill, Alden traveled by bicycle the whole distance to Harrisburg to be on hand for the game. Members of the Temple learned of his feat and paid his way into the contest. The trip took him nearly 12 hours. The championship game that followed before a capacity crowd of 5,000 fans could only be described as thrilling. Newport raced out to an early lead but the strong New Castle team fought back and with a minute remaining they were 2 points ahead. The lead lasted only seconds, when Vosheski scored with a one hand shot inside the foul line. At the next jump from center, Serowicz recovered the ball. Standing in the middle of the floor, he made no attempt to pass. He took the shot with 2 seconds to play, which whistled through the net without touching the rim. Newport Township's "team of destiny" was state champions. Walter Serowicz, playing his final game, not only scored the winning basket but was also the game's high scorer with 15 points.

The team returned by train to the Nanticoke railroad station at 5:15 in the afternoon and buses carried them through the streets of the township. The Glen Lyon Band and the Newport Township American Legion Post 539 Drum and Bugle Corps followed in a parade. The Newport police, headed by Chief Louis Staskiel and Attorney Peter E. Turek, as well as hundreds of private automobiles and trucks joined in. A parade a mile long formed and wound through Sheatown, Alden, Wanamie and Glen Lyon while a crowd, estimated at 10,000 people, lined the streets to get a glimpse of the squad. Coach Chet Rogowicz had three starting players returning for the next year's team: high-scoring forwards Mike Zlonkiewicz, Doc Vosheski and tall center Jimmy Murphy. The future was looking good.

The 1936 Newport Township state basketball champions consisted of Chester Rogowicz, coach, Bill Stoker, assistant, and players: Keith Jeffries, Edmund (Doc) Vosheski, Walter Serowicz, Michael Zlonkievicz, James Murphy, Eugene Schrader, John Harenza, Leonard Kozik, Joseph Gayewski, Sylvester Kasnikowski, Al Yarasavage, and Edward Gayewski.

The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader and the Wilkes-Barre Record were used as sources for this article.

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Pictured above are Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services, and Stephen R. Nocilla, Housing Director of Catholic Social Services, at the meeting on St. Stanislaus Apartments along with a view of a typical apartment's kitchen. *Photos by Paul Jarecki.*

A Meeting on St. Stanislaus Apartments

by *John Jarecki* Representatives of Catholic Social Services of the Scranton Diocese and of NDC Real Estate Management, Inc., along with Newport Township Commissioners John Zyla and Paul Czapracki, met with Township residents on Wednesday, January 5, in the Community Room of the new St. Stanislaus Apartments in Sheatown, which will soon be accepting tenants for the 30 apartments that are available to rent.

Using funds from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), Catholic Social Services renovated the abandoned buildings of the former St. Stanislaus Orphanage. The apartments will be managed by NDC Real Estate Management, Inc.

The PHFA requires that the apartments be rented to people in certain income groups. Given these rules, 4 of the apartments will be rented to handicapped people whose income is less than 20 per cent of the median income in Luzerne County, of the remaining apartments, 11 will be rented to those with income less than 50 percent, and 15 to those with income less than 60 per cent.

Rent includes water, sewer, refuse, and maintenance services. It does not include heat, which is provided electrically to each individual apartment. One, two, and three bedroom apartments are available. Rent increases with the number of bedrooms and with the number of persons living in the apartment.

After a presentation by Richard Kropa, from the Scranton office of NDC Real Estate, residents attending the meeting looked through the apartments. Each contains a small kitchen area and an adjoining living area that can vary from small to quite large. Bedrooms too are of variable size. To this reporter, the units seemed warm, pleasant, and spacious. In addition, the buildings contain two computer rooms and the previously mentioned community room.

According to reports about St. Vincent Apartments in Plymouth, which is managed by NDC Real Estate, the company does a good job of managing its properties.

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Gerald Mullery

by Heidi Jarecki Gerald Mullery, a resident of Sedor Hill in Alden, is the newly elected State Representative for the 119th-Legislative District. The district includes Nanticoke City, the townships of Bear Creek, Fairview, Hanover, Newport, Plymouth, Rice, Slocum, Wright and the boroughs of Edwardsville, Larksville, Laurel Run, Plymouth, Sugar Notch and Warrior Run. The challenge of representing a large district with diverse interests and concerns might be daunting to some, but Jerry is eager to get to work.

He defeated two candidates in the May primary, and ran against Republican Rick Arnold and Libertarian Brian Bergman in the November general election. The official swearing in ceremonies took place in Harrisburg on January 4, 2011.

Jerry grew up in Plymouth Township with two sisters, Lisa and Shannon. He graduated from Nanticoke High School in 1988 and then attended King's College, earning a bachelor's degree in 1992. While at Kings, his professors encouraged him to pursue a career in law, saying it would be a good fit for him. In 1989, he was elected tax collector in Plymouth Township and served one term before attending Duquesne University School of Law, earning his J.D. in 1998. Jerry loves being a lawyer and specializes in worker's compensation law.

Jerry is married to the former Michele Meck, whom he met in high school. They have four children, Leah, 10, Lauren, 8 who attend Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston, and Liam, 5 and Loudon, 3. They decided to live in Newport Township because they think it's a great place to live and because they have a lot of family and friends in the area. The family belongs to St. Faustina Parish in Nanticoke.

Jerry is active in local youth sports, a testament to his father Gerald, who set the example. His father was part owner of Sport-JES in Plymouth and passed away in 1989. His mother Janet currently lives in Nanticoke. Jerry serves as assistant coach in the South Valley Softball League, in which his daughters participate, and is president of the Greater Nanticoke Youth Soccer Association. He has coached for Newport Biddy Basketball and Good Shepherd Academy Basketball.

Jerry believes that Newport Township has great potential with all the land that could be developed. Whitney Point and Ridge View are good examples. He recognizes that abandoned properties are a big problem, especially in Glen Lyon. One solution might be the passage of Senate Bill 109 which allows government to take action against abandoned property owners. Jerry fears that many projects in the state will have to be postponed

as we are entering a period of austerity in state government. He believes that Newport Township is strong. Many communities are cutting services, but Newport seems financially secure. One example of this is the retention of the police force, however in the future, regionalization is likely. While on the topic of the police force, Jerry acknowledged that illegal dumping is a problem in the Township and the police should receive support to combat it. He is dismayed with the corruption in local county government and supports the new home rule charter.

Jerry has many Newport connections. In addition to friends and neighbors, his third grade music teacher was Eddie Day Pashinski, formerly from Sheatown, who now serves as State Representative from Wilkes-Barre. And his chief of staff is Leigh Bonczewski, formerly from Wanamie.

Jerry is ready to hear from his constituents about any concerns and issues. His district office is located at 156 Market Street, Nanticoke. He can also be contacted in Harrisburg at 115B East Wing, P.O. Box 202119.

We wish him the best of luck.



Car Hits Utility Pole on Kirmar Parkway

by Bill Hourigan On Tuesday, January 18 an automobile heading out of Glen Lyon toward Wanamie on Kirmar Parkway struck a utility pole on the right side of the road just past the ballparks and ended up with the front end pointing to the sky.

Newport Township Police along with the Newport Township Fire Department and Newport Township Ambulance, as well as the Nanticoke Ambulance responded to the scene rapidly.

Working together the emergency personnel quickly extricated the female driver from the vehicle and readied her for transport to a hospital. There were no other occupants in the vehicle.

Emergency personnel reported the driver suffered a broken arm and numerous cuts and scratches.



PNC

LEADING THE WAY

A Short History Lesson

THE YEAR IS 1910

What a difference 100 years makes!

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only.
Only 14% of homes had a bathtub.
Only 8% of homes had a telephone.
There were only 8000 cars and 144 miles of paved roads
The maximum speed limits in most cities was 10 mph.
The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
The average US wage was 22 cents an hour.
The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
A competent account could expect to earn \$2,000 per year.
A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4,000 per year and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
More than 95% of all births took place in the home.
95% of all Doctors had **NO COLLEGE EDUCATION**. Instead they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard!"
Sugar cost 4 cents a pound..
Eggs were 14 cents a dozen.
Coffee was 15 cents a pound.
Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering the country.
The Five leading causes of death were:
1. Pneumonia and Influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart Disease
5. Stroke
The American Flag had 45 stars.
The population of Las Vegas, NV was only 30!
Crossword puzzles, canned beer and iced tea had not been invented yet.
There were no Mother's or Father's Days.
Two out of every ten adults could read or write.
Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school.
Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local drug stores
Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."
Eighteen percent of households had at one full time servant or domestic help, many lived with the family.
There were about 230 murders reported in the **ENTIRE USA!**

A Short History Lesson

THE YEAR IS 1913

From The Sunday Independent January 5, 1913

Comments by an unnamed source quoted from a meeting of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners.

"The work of the commissioners for 1913 is a mighty important matter and this also is being watched with considerable anxiety. Among the improvements under consideration and one that should get the first chance is the paving of the road through Sheatown, leading to Alden.

This is the main roadway leading into that end of the township and with the exception of the Black Road is the only really available route. The latter is not used as much, as the one named, so that the paving of this should be started as soon as the weather will permit. It is understood that Commissioner Delaney has been promised this improvement from his fellow members of the board."

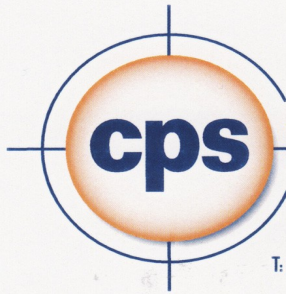
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Thanks to those above, we succeed!

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James Hoffman Appointed
Newport Township Fire Chief
at January Commissioner's Meeting



Roseanne Hoffman pins Chief's Badge on Husband Jim's shirt upon his swearing in as Newport Township Fire Chief.

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Our greatest glory is not in
never falling but in rising
every time we fall. *Confucius*

The 2011 Great American Cleanup

by *Palmira Gregory Miller* Spring cleanup will soon be here. April is the time of year that **The Newport Township Community Organization** puts a special effort into helping residents, cleanup, fix-up, and beautify the neighborhood.

Now is the time to get involved by suggesting beautification ideas, cleanups, or educational projects, as well as volunteering your time to community events.

In addition to individuals willing to volunteer their time and labor, we also need assistance in the form of vehicles to carry supplies for roadside cleanups, trucks to haul junk to a central dumping site, or perhaps someone or businesses to provide refreshments and/or lunch to volunteer workers.

For more information please contact Palmira at (570) 736-6637 email palmiram@newporttownship.com.

Get Involved for a Cleaner Community!!!

MILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY STORY TIME AND CRAFT TIME FOR CHILDREN IS STARTING FOR THE WINTER AND SPRING

The Young Children's (from 18 months to 5 years of age) Winter and Spring Story Time and Craft Time Program is starting on Tuesday January 25th at Mill Memorial Library at 495 East Main Street in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Please come into the library or call 570-735-3030 to register your child for the program which will take place on Tuesdays from 11 am to about 12 noon OR Thursdays from 1 pm to about 2 pm. The program will run until May 13th.

The length of the Story Time and Craft Time will depend on the attention spans of the children during each program day. An adult must be with the children at all times and space in the program is limited. Please sign up for only one program day, Either Tuesday or Thursday.

Guest appearances and special programs will be announced as the winter and spring progresses.

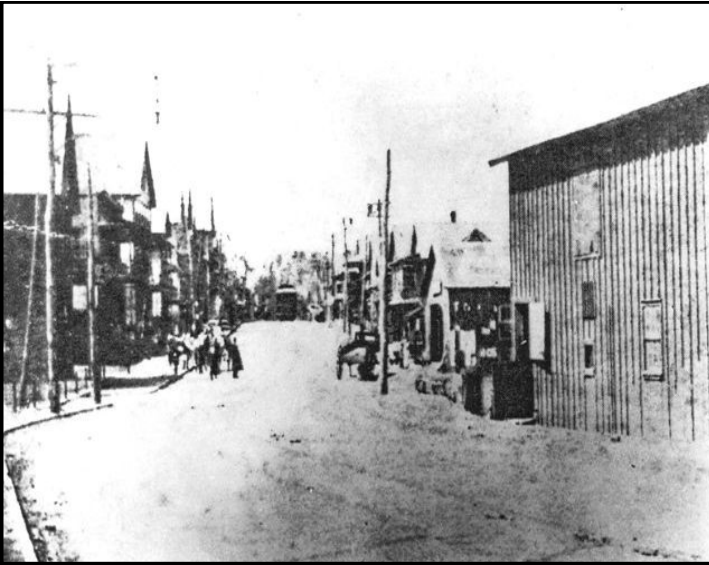
Come to the library and help your child play, listen to stories, make a craft, do a stretching or movement activity and interact with others.

Check out a book from the library and help your child read it at home.

Newport Township Community Organization Recycles

From motor blocks to wire, we recycle metals all year. If you have metal scrap of any nature, we will gladly pick it up and properly dispose of it. All the proceeds we receive are used to support community activities and projects within Newport Township. To schedule a pickup, call **Tom Kashatus** at 736-6981 or **Bill Hourigan** at 736-6096.

A Look Back in Time



Susquehanna Coal Company Mule Barn in Glen Lyon Destroyed by Fire

"Fire of mysterious origin broke out in the mule barn of the Susquehanna Coal Company at its Glen Lyon colliery around 5:30 AM, on July 1, 1914. Before it could be extinguished, the fire destroyed the big stables and the harness of the forty mules it sheltered with the result that the entire operation was forced into idleness today. The barn, which was about 50 ft. wide and 200 ft. long was located on West Main St in the area now occupied by Susie's Red Caboose and several homes.

Early goers to the mines discovered the flames and it was due to their efforts the lives of the mules were saved. No attempt was made to save the large quantity of hay stored in the structure as it was thought its value a trivial loss. After they had taken the mules from the premises, however, the rescuers realized the loss of the harness.

With the Mule Barn destroyed the 1,500 men and boys employed at the mine and (one must think) the mules enjoyed a holiday not marked on the company calendar.

The mules were an important part of the mine operation as they were used to haul refuse from the breaker to culm banks, tow empty coal cars and supplies into the mine and tow filled coal cars out of mine tunnels. They also lugged timbers from logging operations and other jobs requiring heavy moving in the mine operation.

The State authorities were called in to investigate the blaze which, like several others recorded in the Glen Lyon neighborhood last month, have proved too much of a problem for the local authorities to solve."

Constant and determined effort breaks down all resistance and sweeps away all obstacles!

Plans for 2011 Newport Township Little League Under Way



Pictured are the officers of Newport Township Little League. Sitting from the left are Richelle Myers, Secretary; Dave Buchinski, President; and Van Tocket, 2nd Vice President. Standing from the left are Eric Spencer, Player Agent; Tony Siewell, 1st vice President, and Mike Yalch, Treasurer.

by Dave Buchinski The 2011 season will mark the 60th anniversary of the Newport Township Little League, and throughout the season a number of special events are planned to celebrate this cherished honor. The league serves children ages 5 to 16 who live within the boundaries of Newport Township.

The variety of divisions include "tee ball" and "coach pitch" which are coed teams of children ages 5 to 7. There is minor and major league baseball for boys as well as minor and major league softball for girls. Little League Incorporated now offers junior and senior league baseball for boys ages 13 to 16 and junior and senior league softball for girls ages 13 to 16.

Registration for the coming season will be held on weekends throughout January and February at various locations throughout the Township. For those families who are interested in Playing Little League ball, registration information will be distributed to Newport Township students by the Greater Nanticoke School District. Registration schedules will also be posted in local newspapers.

Plans are in the works for an opening day celebration with a parade throughout the Township near the end of April. Newport Township Little League fields are located at the Little League Complex where W. Kirmar Avenue meets W. Main Avenue in Wanamie. The Brad Piavis Memorial Field and the Teeners League Field at the Wanamie Recreation Park are also utilized by Newport Township Little League.

In order to achieve a maximum schedule Newport Township, Little League teams will play games with teams throughout Wyoming Valley. There will also be an interleague schedule in all divisions with our friends from Nanticoke Little League. For more information concerning Newport Township Little League, please call Dave at 735-0397, Tony at 760-3699, or Eric at 574-9845. The annual bazaar is planned for the Memorial Day weekend on May 27th, 28th, and 29th.

Come join us for our 60th season and PLAY BALL!!!!



Left to right are: Dr. David Peterfreund, Elizabeth Rinehamer Peterfreund, Diana, Daniel Peterson, and Anne Rinehamer.

Diana Peterfreund

On November 10, 2010, a motion picture called *Morning Glory* was released in theaters across the country. The film stars Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford, Diane Keaton, Patrick Wilson, and Jeff Goldblum. The screenplay, partially inspired by Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys*, was written by Aline Brosh McKenna. The novelization of the screenplay was written by Diana Peterfreund, an author who has strong ties to Newport Township.

Diana's parents are David Peterfreund, who grew up in Glen Lyon, and Elizabeth Rinehamer Peterfreund, formerly of Wana-mie where Diana's grandmother Anne still lives. Diana grew up in Florida where her dad is an obstetrician/gynecologist in the Clearwater area. Diana graduated from Yale University in 2001 with dual degrees in Literature and Geology.

Diana has many fond memories of annual trips to visit her grandparents. "My grandfather had the furniture store in Glen Lyon and even after it was closed, the name was still up there and I remember as a child being impressed by seeing my name written out on a sign. There was a huge storage space for inventory in the basement of that building and, since I grew up in Florida with no basements at all, I always thought of it as a sort of magical bottomless cavern."

Diana's maternal grandfather, Harry Rinehamer, was a coal miner and she recalls that when she was very young they had a coal-burning furnace. Diana wrote her senior thesis at Yale on water pollution issues in local coal mines. "I remember taking a trip back to town to do research for the paper, and feeling more connected to my grandfather than I ever had before. In one of my introductory geology classes, there was a pop quiz on rock identification, and I was the only one in the class who correctly identified the anthracite coal (most people guessed obsidian). My professors actually suspected that I'd been cheating since they knew I was from Florida! At first, they didn't believe me when I told them my grandfather had been a coal miner, and it wasn't until I started dropping names like Glen Lyon and Nanticoke that they realized I was serious. Later, one of the professors brought me a picture of the old coal breaker in Glen Lyon, and told me he'd done (continued at top of column 2)

research there many decades earlier."

Diana also recalls family gatherings with a "zillion" cousins running around playing hide and seek and flashlight tag on the street all summer long. "There would always be parties and pic-nics and I remember thinking that it must always be like that."

Diana's creative abilities are evident in her books. She has written a series for young girls called the *Secret Society Girl* Series. One title is called "Rites of Spring (Break)" published by Dell. Another series revolves around a unicorn-hunter in novels like "Rampant" and "Ascendant" published by Harper Teen. She has contributed to non-fiction publications as well. Diana's books can be purchased from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Borders and are available in electronic format.

Diana married Daniel Peterson, a lawyer in 2007. The couple welcomed the birth of their first child Eleanor this past October. Check out her website at :www.dianapeterfreund.com.

Domestic Violence Service Center Seeking Volunteers for Annual Golf Tournament

Domestic Violence Service Center is looking for volunteers to serve on our annual golf tournament committee. The tournament will be held Friday, May 13, at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Course. Being on the committee is not very labor intensive or time consuming. Committee members help with obtaining golfers and hole sponsors. Three to four meetings will be held before the event. Please call Carol Crane at 823-6799 x 221. for additional information or to volunteer your services.

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NTCO Newport Township 2011 Calendar



St. Stanislaus Institute in Sheatown

Newport Township 2010 Commemorative Miniature & 2011 Calendar Ready for Sale

Once again Heidi Jarecki and Paul Jarecki have done an outstanding job on producing the 2010 Newport Township Community Organization Commemorative Miniature and the 2011 NTCO Calendar featuring both past and present sites in Newport Township.

The Commemorative is the third in a series. Previous commemoratives feature the Glen Lyon Breaker and Newport Township High School. These items have been very popular and both are still available.

Both the 2010 Commemorative and 2011 Calendar are currently available for purchase. The cost of the calendar is \$10.00. The commemorative pieces sell for \$15.00. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please contact Heidi Jarecki at 570-736-6782 or any officer of NTCO to place an order.

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All Articles, Pictures and Advertisements Must Be Submitted Prior to the 15th of the Month preceding Publication Month