

Newport Community News



*A Newsletter of the
Newport Township Community Organization*

*Winter 2006
Number 8*

State of the Township

The Community Organization gives Township residents a voice that they can use to express their needs and concerns and be heard by their elected officials. Three times over the last two and half years the Organization has asked its members and other community members to give their opinions as to what are our most important needs and what Township officials should do to meet those needs. The Organization has then presented a list of these needs and suggested actions to the Township Commissioners. In other words, the Organization has given you the opportunity to be heard.

Township residents have, over the last two and half years, consistently suggested that the Commissioners enforce the community's building code and improve the recreation areas. These have proven to be difficult problems, as we will shortly see.

On October 11, Township officials brought the owners of 5 properties before Magistrate Donald Whittaker on charges that they violated the community's nuisance ordinance in neglecting the grounds of their properties, for example by not cutting high grass and weeds or not picking up trash. This ordinance protects residents against vermin and against loss of property values resulting from the neglect. Owners of 4 of the properties were found in violation:

8 W. Kirmar Ave., Alden
64 E. Main St., Glen Lyon

(continued on page 3)

A Message from the President

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

Representatives of the Newport Township Community Organization continue to attend regular meetings and work sessions of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners. The local governing body is continually requested to plan a course of action for the Township's future and to draft a financial plan complementary to this strategy.

The Community Organization continues to strongly encourage strict enforcement of all the Municipality's ordinances especially those applying to code enforcement. The Organization is of the firm belief that further degradation of the Township's building stock can be curtailed if strict attention to, and enforcement of, all requisite codes and ordinances becomes the accepted policy.

All residents of Newport Township are encouraged to attend the meetings of the commissioners and participate in the local governing process. Decisions made at the local level can have a much greater impact on the present and future lives of citizens than most people realize.

The Community Organization held its third annual Fall Festival in October 14. All who attended enjoyed themselves, especially those who took advantage of the free hay ride. The group

(continued on page 6)



Community Organization Treasurer Steve Masakowski and Barbara O'Day in front of the Kirmar Avenue house in their neighborhood that the Township demolished in October. See page 4.

People

Notable

During the holidays we gather at dinner and tell stories about family and friends. Here are some stories about four of our notable friends and neighbors.

Bob Duliba of Glen Lyon broke into the major leagues in 1959 as a pitcher, playing first for the St. Louis Cardinals. He later pitched for the Los Angeles Angels, the Boston Red Sox, and the Kansas City Athletics. He pitched in 176 games and had a career ERA of 3.47. He won 17, lost 12 and saved 14.



Olga Trotszki in about 1919

After graduating from Wilkes College, **William Raub** of Alden earned his PhD in Physiology from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was also awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship. He has held various positions at the National Institutes of Health, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. He is currently the Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services.

In the 1970's **Mary Selecky** of Glen Lyon began her career in public health in northeast Washington State. She became director of the Tri-County Health District and helped create the Washington Department of Health. She was appointed Secretary of Health of the State of Washington by former Governor Gary Locke and continues to serve under the current governor, Christine Gregoire. Mary's anti-tobacco campaign has brought her national recognition. She has also served as President of ASTHO, a national organization of state health officials.

Olga Trotszki of Glen Lyon was a singer and actress in Broadway shows in the 1920's and 1930's and an associate producer, with Russell Janney, on Broadway. Their biggest success was the "The Vagabond King" in 1925, which made a great deal of money for them. Mr. Janney loved Olga, and after her early death in 1938, she was the inspiration for his best selling novel "Miracle of the Bells" in 1946, which made him a national celebrity. Two years later RKO Pictures made the novel into a film starring Fred McMurray, Alida Valli, Frank Sinatra, and Lee J. Cobb. The filmmakers shot some of the scenes in Glen Lyon.

During these holidays that celebrate love and compassion in its religious and everyday forms, we wish you love, happiness, good fellowship, and family stories.

Emergency Management Agency

On recent evening when the residents of Newport Township were going about their normal daily routine, a group of fifteen to twenty volunteers of the community's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) was meeting on the second floor of the municipal building in Wanamie. They were performing activities of an emergency exercise resulting from a simulated nuclear disaster at the Berwick PP&L power plant. These volunteers are the people who would deal with an actual emergency in the community, whether nuclear or, for example, a violent storm, a tornado, a flood, a train accident, a downed airliner, or a hazardous materials fire.

If you walked through the door of this exercise, someone would greet you and ask you to sign a register upon reporting for duty. You would then see **Cal Kanyuck** monitoring radiation levels, **George Kubasik** operating the RACES radio system, **Paul Mierzwa** or **Frank Czapl Jr.** in communication with Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency, **Joe Wilkes** making transportation arrangements for evacuation, **Janine Floryshak** in charge of medical readiness, and **John Kemp** working with the Public Works Department to line up heavy equipment.

You would see Fire Chief **Dan Kowalski** managing the fire department, Fire Truck Operator/Dispatcher **Ed Pauska** touring the township with a FEMA representative, **Jason Poremba** working on data for Public Information, Police Officer **Marisa Pauska** coordinating with other police departments, **Maria Alles** documenting information from the Luzerne county EMA and other sources, and a Newport Township Commissioner present and ready to make administrative decisions, such as dispatching police, fire, and street personnel, as well as evacuating Township residents. In the center of all this activity, you would see **Norman Bodek**, the Emergency Management Coordinator for Newport Township, in a calm and cool state of mind offering advice and direction to whoever needed it.

Because this was a drill and a simulated non-emergency exercise, either a representative from PP&L, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) would monitor the volunteer team's performance. Each team member has a deputy or subordinate and members are cross trained to perform each other's job. The monitor rated the team's performance in eighteen areas. *Its overall rating for the drill was the best for all participating communities.*

In the event of a true emergency, the residents of Newport Township will be evacuated to the Davis Street Shopping Center in Dunmore, Lackawanna County. The EMA team will be evacuated to Crestwood High School, the township's alternate Emergency Operation Center (EOC). If the emergency occurs during the time when school is in session, Greater Nanticoke Area students will be evacuated to Hanover High School where parents will have to pick them up. The populace of Newport Township can be rest assured that they will receive the best possible service during a real disaster. ♦

State of the Township (continued from page 1)

31 E. Enterprise St., Glen Lyon
93-95 W. Main St., Glen Lyon

Mr. Whitaker fined the owners of each of these properties \$500 for the violations. The owners have 30 days to appeal the Magistrate's rulings.

As of this writing, in early December, the properties are still neglected. People have suggested that the Township itself clean the properties, possibly putting a lien on the property for the cost of the cleanup.

Similarly, Commissioner Tom Kashatus believes that "People are still moving into Township housing without getting an occupation inspection." Earlier this year the Township announced



Serving hot food at the Fire Fighters' fund raiser in September

that it would send letters to local landlords reminding them that they are required to have an occupancy inspection on change of ownership or tenant in one of their rental units. More recently,



Children at the Firefighters' fund raiser in front of the ladder truck (fire truck) purchased this summer from Harleysville, PA.

the Commissioners have in their December meeting passed an ordinance requiring periodic occupancy inspections as a solution to the evasion problem. These periodic inspections would be in addition to those previously required.

In a third similar case, problems of trash and cleanliness have arisen in the Wanamie Recreation Area. And as the Community Organization's Summer Fun activities for children showed, we can provide better recreation opportunities for the our children. Tom Kashatus has suggested that the Township reactivate the Township's Recreation Board, a committee of citizens first appointed under a 1975 ordinance, by appointing people to fill these vacant positions. Recreation Commissioner John Vishnefski announced in December that the Commissioners will make these appointments in the new year. ♦

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Township Public Business

Demolition Program

In October, Newport Township's demolition program destroyed and removed three unsightly and uninhabitable buildings, removing the debris, disposing of any asbestos in a safe way, and re-contouring the land. These were at the following locations:

63 E. Enterprise Street in Glen Lyon
 17-19 Vine Street in Glen Lyon
 10 W. Kirmar Avenue in Alden.

The community is a better place now, especially for those who lived next to these dilapidated structures. There are still five buildings in the demolition program:

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



Mary Margaret Kashatus (right) and Sally Kashtus handled the bake sale at our Fall Festival

Fancis Zaleski and Tom Kashatus organized the Chili Cook-Off at our Fall Festival. There were three winners, but no losers. The chili was great!



These structures have passed through all the legal procedures required under the County's Office of Community Development (OCD) grant in order to be demolished. At their December meeting, the Township Commissioners voted to ask for bids for the demolition of these buildings.

About \$47,000 of the \$125,000 OCD grant remains unspent by the Township. Only one of the 5 buildings in the program has expensive-to-remove asbestos, but we will have to wait for the bids to be submitted to tell whether the remaining grant money will be enough to demolish all the structures. Once they use the entire grant, Township officials plan to ask OCD for further grant money to demolish other dilapidated buildings.

Dry Hydrants

A cooperative effort by the Newport Township Fire Department
 (continued on page 5)

Sales and Service

Buy - Sell - Trade



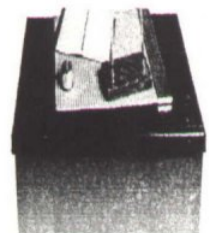
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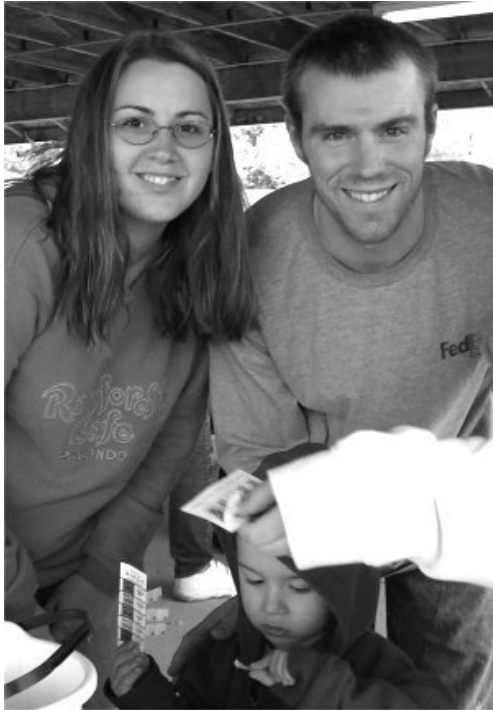
Pick up or Delivery Available!

Township Public Business (continued from page 4)

ment, the Newport Township Authority, Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Ron Papciak's M&P Construction Company has installed dry hydrants at Fairchild's Pond on Alden Mountain and at Najaka's Pond in Lee.

A dry hydrant is pipe for which one end is in a body of water and the other can be accessed by a fire hose. It allows fire fighters to quickly use a fire engine to pump water out of a pond or other body of water

onto a burning building. The installation work was finished in mid October. But it took several years of preparation to get to the point that the hydrants could be installed. Newport Township Authority President John Wilkes acted as liaison with DCNR, Paul Mierzwa was coordinator of the project for the Fire Department, and Ron Papciak, through M&P Construction, provided excavation services.



Having fun with instant bingo at the Fall Festival.

The cost was paid by a DCNR grant of



David Blight dancers from Mountain Top entertained us at the Fall Festival

engineering services, by a donation of \$3600 from the Newport Township Authority, and by a donation of excavation services by Ron Papciak.

The importance of this for Township residents is that because fire fighters can access water more quickly using dry hydrants, it may be possible improve the ISO (Insurance Services Organization) rating of the homes in the Fairchild Pond and Lee areas, possibly resulting in lower insurance payments for these residents .

Street Paving

This summer Newport Township paved a number of streets in Glen Lyon using a \$120,000 grant from Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD). The Township can apply for this

grant once every 3 years. The money must be used in areas where the per capita income is low, and since Glen Lyon is such an area, it is in Glen Lyon that the Township paved streets.

Because, as you would expect, streets in other areas of the Township also need paving, the Commissioners are looking for funds to do the work. One suggestion, made by Ron Filipini,

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Township Public Business (continued form page 5)

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Plains Township, is that we find small areas, a block or a group of adjacent streets, in Alden, Sheatown, or Wanamie where the per capita income is low so that we can apply the OCD grant to street paving in these areas. We could identify the areas by distributing questionnaires to the people in these towns. ♦

Newport Notes

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

The Community Organization thanks the **Newport Township Police** for participating in its Summer Fun activities at the Recreation Park in Wanamie. We neglected to include mentioning them in our fall issue.

Township Commissioner **Tom Kashatus** is ailing. In the past two years he has worked energetically to improve living conditions in the community. The members of the Community Organization wish Tom, our colleague and friend, a speedy recovery. ♦

Township Contact Information

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

Township Commissioners

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

President's Message (continued from page 1)

wishes to extend its deep appreciation and thanks to all participants who assisted in making this a successful undertaking and enjoyable experience to those who were there.

Many former residents are taking the opportunity to monitor the activities of the Organization by checking out the group's website. Several positive comments have been transmitted to the Organization's members from these individuals expressing their appreciation for the efforts being made to revitalize their former residence.



Lindsay Wasilewski at our Victorian Tea Party in November. The white gloves are a tradition. See page 7.

Special acknowledgment and thanks are due to the Newport Township Class of 1956 for its financial contribution to the Community Organization. It is gratifying to know that the efforts of the Organization are not going unrecognized. ♦

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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Contributors to the Community Organization

We thank the following generous people who made donations to the Community Organization during the year 2006.

Petrona Castellani
John Stapert
Ronald Ternosky
Mary Ann Reale
Savitsky's Edge

Mrs. Bezdziecki
Mary C. Selecky
Alvin Kurwelz
Marcella S. Kelly
George A. Strish

John and Sally Kashatus
Paul and Andrea Selecky
John and Christobel Selecky
Thomas and Antoinette Kaylen
Joseph and Juliana Semple

Eastern Fuel Oil
Citizens Bank
Dorrance Auto Center
Newport Twp Class of 1956

Spotanski's Pharmacy
Italian American Club
Air Products and Chemicals

Seasonal Events

Girls' Tea Party

On Sunday, November 5, the Newport Township Community Organization and the Guardian Elder Center at Sheatown hosted an English Tea Party at the Center.



At our Victorian Tea Party: Rachel Roccograndi, Kelsey Novak, Samantha Russian, and Carly Grabowski

Murph Fletcher and Mary Kashatus coordinated this cultural-social event. Mary Kashatus, representing the Community Organization, welcomed the guests that included residents of the Center and Township girls, ages eight and nine.

A history of the Victorian Tea Party was explained, as well as Tea Party etiquette and various types of Tea Party celebrations.

Guests were served fruit, mini sandwiches, and sweet treats along with harvest tea. Fine China was used and students from Holy Trinity Church helped to serve. Every one received a corsage.

The girls were provided with white gloves, a Tea Party tradition, and gift bags that included a replica of a tea cup and a raspberry tea bag.

The event came to a close after the girls performed the Little Tea Cup song for the residents.

The Community Organization gives a huge thank you to Joel Penor and Nancy Ushinski of the Guardian Center for their assistance with the project.

Crime Watch

The Glen Lyon Crime Watch Group held its monthly meeting at the Italian Club in Glen Lyon on Thursday November 9th. Marie Morucci, the president of the Crime Watch reported that members Wanda Stec and Karen Rejician are attending the Luzerne County Crime Watch Coalition meetings in Wilkes-

(continued on page 8)

Seasonal Health

Carbon Monoxide

According to the U.S. Department of Labor (OSHA), carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, and colorless gas. It is poisonous. Large amounts of CO can cause you to lose consciousness and suffocate within minutes. Symptoms of CO poisoning can begin with tightness in the chest, headache, dizziness, fatigue, or nausea. Long or high exposure to carbon monoxide gas can progress to vomiting, confusion, muscle weakness, and collapse into unconsciousness.

The U.S. EPA says that people die every year from malfunctioning or improperly used fuel burning tools, appliances and furnaces. Many more die from carbon monoxide produced when a car idles. To prevent CO poisoning:

- Have any fuel burning furnaces, space heaters or appliances checked for malfunctions and leaks at least once a year.
- Make sure chimneys and flues are not blocked or leaking.
- Use appliances that vent to the outside whenever possible.
- Do not idle a car in the garage, even if the door is open. Gas builds up quickly in an enclosed space.
- Do not use a charcoal grill indoors.
- Never sleep in a room with an unvented kerosene or gas space heater.
- Do not use gasoline powered mowers, snow blowers, chain saws, small engines or generators in enclosed areas.
- Have a working carbon monoxide detector on every level of the house and in your garage.
- Always properly use and maintain your fuel burning appliances.

Your Pet in Winter

The Fayetteville Animal Shelter and Animal service warns that cats and small dogs should be kept inside in the winter. Large, longhaired dogs that are kept outside need an elevated, correctly sized, dry doghouse with a flap over the door to keep drafts out. Always make sure warm dry bedding is put inside the dog house.

- Make sure unfrozen water and food is always available to your pet.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison to pets. Even a few spoonfuls can kill your pet. Clean up any spills or leaks quickly.
- Tinsel can cause obstruction of the intestines, glass ornaments can cut, wires on electrified decorations can kill, and holiday plants can be poisonous. Keep them away from your pet.
- Chemicals to melt ice can irritate the feet of a pet. Wipe off their paws after a walk.
- Remember roads are slick and icy in the winter. Drivers can not make fast stops. Keep your pets on a leash when walking outside.

According to the American Dog Trainers Network, at any sign that a pet is cold, such as shivering, not wanting to walk or limping, take it to a warm place quickly. Also, do not leave a metal collar on a pet that lives outdoors for long periods of time because cold metal can burn the skin. Even being outside for a short time in the winter can cause injury to your pet. ♦

Seasonal Events (continued from page 7)



At our Victorian Tea Party: Meghan Englehart and Deanna Thomas. Read about it on page 7.

Barre, which are sponsored by the Luzerne County District Attorney's office. In addition Marie reported that Wanda, Karen and she are enrolled in an eight week, one day a week program at the Pennsylvania State Police Citizens' Academy.

After conducting their regular business, the group was given a very professional and detailed presentation by Dan Kowalski, Newport Township's Fire Chief, which included a description of the personnel, history, awards, training, equipment, and activities of the fire department.

Afterwards, the Chief accepted a check for \$300 for the Newport Township Firemen's Association. Crime Watch has in the past also given contributions to the Newport Township Ambulance Association and Police Association.

Marie Morucci invites anyone interested in the activities of the Watch Group to attend their monthly meeting, held on the second Thursday of each month at the Italian Club in Glen Lyon at 7:00 p.m. The group needs additional members and volunteers to be block captains.

South Valley Parkway

The South Valley Parkway is a PennDOT project started in the fall of 2001. In June of 2003 PennDOT presented to the public several alternative plans. A committee of area residents and public officials was formed at that time to review those plans and to provide feedback to PennDOT. The concerns of this committee and of highway engineers were considered to arrive at a Preferred Alternative plan, announced at a public meeting in August of 2006.

The Preferred Alternative proposes a highway, starting as four lanes and narrowing to two, that begins at PA Route 29 near Loomis Park and ends at the Kimar Parkway near the K.M. Smith Elementary School. It will have an access to LCCC. The final

(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 Winter 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. Winter meeting dates are the following.

Tuesday December 26
Tuesdays January 9 and 23
Tuesdays February 13 and 27
Tuesday March 13

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

Mondays January 2, February 5, March 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 Heidi Selecky	736-6620
Health, Photography	Carol Marcincavage	
Seasonal Events	Francis Zaleski	
Advertisements	Linda Hourigan, Barbara Pelak	
Distribution	Joe Maloney Faye Maloney Mary Margaret Kashatus Steve Masakowski	

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

Seasonal Events (continued from previous column)

plans have not been drafted. Additional studies of environmental impact must be made to comply with existing legislation, both state and federal.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009 and will take about two years. ♦