



Winter Returns to Newport Township



A typical winter scene in Newport Township: a snowy day in Wanamie from atop Penobscot Mountain

Newport Township Community Organization 2011 Citizenship Award

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~Volunteerism and community service are the selfless acts that many people do to make our world a better place. From coaching young children to delivering meals to elderly people who have restricted mobility, we all have benefited from their efforts. Sadly, community service is on the decline and this is a hindrance to the revitalization of our community. The NTCO believes that bringing attention to community service and the people who are responsible for these efforts will serve as examples and encourage more people to follow in their footsteps. This is the purpose of the Citizenship Award. While there are several deserving candidates, the recipient of the first NTCO Citizenship Award for 2011 is Phoebe Thomas Hillan.

Phoebe and her late husband Joe are shining examples of community involvement over many decades. Their devotion and commitment has touched the lives of many people in Newport Township. A list of the activities includes:

- Newport Township Little League: Joe was a coach and president for many years as well as the announcer at every game. Phoebe was treasurer of the refreshment stand and chairperson for the advertising signs that surround the Little League field. She is still actively involved in Little League affairs.
- Girl Scouts/Brownies: Phoebe was a girl scout/brownie leader for 20 plus years and received a 35-year pin. She once served as unit manager over all the troops in the area.
- Religious instruction: Phoebe currently teaches the First Holy

Continued on page 2



Phoebe Hillan

Communion class at Holy Spirit Parish, and initiated Vacation Bible School, a popular annual summer event for children.

Also, she has been an active member of several church societies, and currently belongs to the Holy Spirit/St. Adalbert's Altar and Rosary Society.

- All-Newport Reunion Committee: Phoebe has been a member and driving force for the all-Newport Reunion almost since its inception and now practically singlehandedly organizes it every year.
- Newport Class of '51 Reunion Committee.
- PTA: Phoebe was involved in four different PTA's while her children were in school and held offices in all of them.

In addition to all of her community service, she also managed the demanding task of being a mother to five children: Luanne, Joe, Phoebe, Marianne, and John. Luanne passed away in 1977. Phoebe has six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Phoebe was born in Slocum Township to Chester and Mary Stair Thomas in 1933. She grew up with two sisters and one brother in Alden and Sheatown. Her father worked at the Wanamie Colliery in the timber yard and operated the crane. She met her husband Joe in high school. After graduation in 1951, she worked for Atty. Sara Baicker and then became secretary to Frank Shepala, principal of Newport High School. She married Joe Hillan in 1954 one year after he joined the Marine Corps. They lived in North Carolina and California until his discharge in 1957 when they returned to civilian life in Newport Township. Joe became an electrician and worked hard to support his large family but still found time to be active in community service. He contributed an enormous amount of time particularly to his church and the Little League.

The NTCO took great pleasure in awarding Phoebe Hillan its first Citizenship Award and presenting it to her at their annual dinner meeting on the 28th of December. The NTCO would also like to congratulate the other nominees for their outstanding service to our community and thank them for a job well done.

Open your heart – open it wide; someone is standing outside. ~
Quoted in *Believe: A Christmas Treasury* by Mary Engelbreit

CHANGES AT THE GLEN LYON POST OFFICE

By Heidi Jarecki ~ As part of cost-cutting measures nationally by the U.S. Postal Service, the Glen Lyon Post Office has been downgraded to servicing P.O. boxes and retail (stamps and shipping) only. Mail is being delivered from the Nanticoke Post Office. Jeff Stanton, former postmaster, has been transferred to White Haven. Judy Novak and Laura Elderkin will service the retail desk. We encourage all township residents to use the Glen Lyon Post Office whenever possible as sales activity is being monitored.



Jeff Stanton

ORGANIZATIONAL OPINION

The Newport Township Community Organization's 2012 Eight Point Plan

Narrative by President Tom Kashatus ~ After much thoughtful deliberation, the following eight point plan has been developed and approved by the membership of the Newport Township Community Organization. It is to be used as suggestions to plan the progress and development of Newport Township for 2012. It is our hope that the Board of Commissioners will regard these suggestions in the same spirit as New Year's Resolutions, as a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and on what still needs to be done. We have made some progress towards erasing the negative stigma, "So, who wants to live in Newport Township?" Immense credit must be given to those eight new home owners who have taken the initiative to build their homes and raise their families in Newport Township. And "hats off" to Catholic Social Services for their foresight in renovating the former Saint Stanislaus Orphanage after a long period of dormancy into a multiple apartment complex of 30 units. We hope to encourage positive attitudes and positive directions for the future. What do you think about the Eight Point Plan? Please let us know.

1. Strict code enforcement in all areas of the Township.
2. Create an empowered recreation board with the ability to raise funds and have a budget.
3. Hire a grant writer.
4. Set up a rebate program for senior citizens regarding waste removal and recycling.
5. Encourage prospective developers of land and building to develop Newport Township.
6. Install pedestrian walking signs at all school bus stops to slow down traffic movement especially during the school year.
7. Encourage the employment of a camera system to monitor illegal dumping and the elimination of illegal dump sites throughout Newport Township.
8. More effective methods of tracking absentee property owners and landlords to ensure that they follow all applicable laws.

GLEN LYON CRIME WATCH

by Karen E. Rejician ~ PLEASE help us take a stand against methamphetamine crime in our neighborhoods. This is a highly addictive and dangerous illegal drug. We are affected not only by the crime associated with the addiction, such as theft and home invasions, but also the production of the drug in home laboratories. Meth can easily be made with over-the-counter cold medication such as Sudafed, common household chemicals and a hot plate or burner. Every pound of meth cooked results in up to five pounds of toxic chemical wastes that pose serious health and environmental hazards, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Methamphetamine while being cooked has a very distinctive odor. Be aware of chemical fumes and look for disposed containers that contained brake cleaner, paint thinner, acetone, fertilizer, rock salt, red devil lye and anhydrous ammonia. These are signs that meth may have been produced. **BE AWARE! BE SAFE! MAKE THE CALL** to local authorities. Go to my blog for monthly Newport Township crime reports: <http://domania.us/KarenElizabeth/MonthlyCrimeReports5.html>.

The Crime Watch meets monthly at the Italian Club on second Thursdays.

Thinking about community service?

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. ~ Winston Churchill

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Editors:

I read with great interest in the fall edition of the Community Organization's newsletter a story about Congressman Lou Barletta's visit to the Rose Tucker Senior Citizens Center in Nanticoke on August 31 in which he discussed the financial problems of the federal government and possible changes in Social Security and Medicare.

If you are retired or close to retirement, these possible Medicare changes will not affect you directly but will instead significantly diminish the lives of your children and grandchildren.

If you are far from retirement age, you still have an interest in how these programs are managed. After all, barring some misfortune, you will inevitably reach retirement age. You will then have to deal with the health problems of advanced age and a probably reduced income.

Medicare was a great achievement when Congress enacted it in 1965. Until that time, seniors could not get medical insurance. They have more health problems, so private insurance companies refused to insure them.

It is important for you to know that on April 15 of 2011 Congressman Barletta voted to end Medicare as we know it. (Thankfully, this legislation did not become law.)

Under current law, Medicare specifies the health care benefits to which people are entitled, and the federal government pays whatever is needed to honor those entitlements. Mr. Barletta voted for a plan sponsored by Republican Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. Mr. Ryan's plan would replace specified health care benefits by a specified payment to a private insurance company, which as time goes on, would grow more slowly than health care costs, leaving more for you to pay.

Whatever insurance the specified payment buys is what you would get. Nothing more. And it would buy less and less as time goes by. If you want more, you would have to pay out of your own pocket.

What would this mean for you? Eight years into Mr. Ryan's plan, you as a typical 65 year old retiree would be paying, as I estimate using non-partisan Congressional Budget Office figures, roughly \$3500 more than you would under present law.

So what, you might say. The government has financial problems and somebody (even if it's you) has to pay. Well, in December of 2010 the members of Mr. Barletta's Republican party in Congress threatened to stop all Congressional business unless the Bush era tax cuts for the wealthy were renewed. They were renewed.

So, the government has money problems. Mr. Barletta's party is not asking the wealthy to make sacrifices to pay for them. But he is asking you to pay for them. Big time. Simply, Mr. Barletta is not defending your interests in Washington. He is up for re-election in November 2012. Do not vote for him. It is not in your interest.

John Jarecki

Holiday Magic

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. ~
Norman Vincent Peale

LETTER TO THE EDITORS: POLICE DEPARTMENT EMAIL ADDRESS

Hello,

The following email address has been created for residents to forward information to the Newport Township Police Department about crimes they may have witnessed or have information about, and issues in the township involving action police can take (parking, abandoned vehicles, speeders, suspected drug activity, etc.)

This email account will be available to ALL officers so that issues can be taken care of in a more timely manner. This is NOT meant to REPLACE calling 911 or calling the police station. If you have a specific issue you wish to discuss with an officer, please call. If you wish to email or speak with me about an issue, you can still email my work email:

NTPD6302@hotmail.com

The email address for the Police Department is as follows:

NTPDcrimetips@yahoo.com

Thank You

Chief Robert Impaglia

Editors' note: The phone number for the NTPD is 735-2000.

Beware of Scam

by Tom Kashatus ~ Kathy K of Alden recently received in the mail a check for \$3,980.00 from PHD-LLC, 995 Kennedy Blvd., Orlando, FL 32810. For all intent and purposes everything about the check looked legitimate – until she began reading the Prize Claim/Final Notification letter.

Briefly, she was informed that she was one of 20 winners of a \$3,000,000.00 mega lottery jackpot held in the United Kingdom (Great Britain). The check for \$3,980.00 was deducted from her winnings of \$150,000.00 and is to be used for payment of taxes which totaled \$1,995.00 and was to be paid directly to the tax agent.

However, she was advised not to cash the check until she contacted claim agent Michael Quest at 1-416-887-4415. What aroused Kathy's attention and put up a red flag of concern was the following language in the letter: "We urge you to keep this winning CONFIDENTIAL until your claim has been processed and your cash remitted to you as this is part of our security protocol and to avoid double claiming or unscrupulous acts by non-participants taking advantage of this program."

Needless to say Kathy didn't bite at the attempt to take advantage of her natural instinct to seek a better life. She still lives by the motto taught to her at an early age by her parents: the safest way to get ahead is through honesty and hard work.

NOTICE: Need for Old Cell Phones

The Community Organization is accepting old unused cell phones that are eligible for recycling. These cell phones are being collected by Temple Israel of Wilkes-Barre. They will be re-programmed and donated to individuals who are victims of domestic violence in order that they may call for assistance when needed. Call Tom Kashatus at 736-6981 to make arrangements for collection of these phones.

Thank you.

Tom Kashatus

Memories

Editors' note: From time to time, we will ask people who grew up in the Township to describe what it was like in the "old days." Elaine Tarnowski Deluca, formerly of Glen Lyon, graduated from Newport Township High School in 1966. She is a wonderful writer with remarkable insight. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did.

A Reflection of Glen Lyon in Times Past By Elaine Deluca

I often think about how fortunate I am to be positioned exactly where I am in the flow of human events regarding the cultural and ethnic aspects of our lives in our community and families. It seems like I have lived in two or three different worlds in my lifetime, as change has come so dramatically and swiftly. With the death of both of my parents in the recent past I find myself often dwelling on how things used to be in my youth. I realize that so much of what transpired in Glen Lyon in those years will never be known by my children.

Our community was steeped in ethnic traditions carried on by the immigrants who settled here. Both my parents were of Polish descent and the Polish traditions of their youth were the backbone of their efforts in rearing their family. This was true as well for my friends with Slovak, Lithuanian, Italian, Irish, Russian, and English roots.

In our home, Polish Pride was expressed through my mother's cooking and entertaining. The kindest gesture to anyone is to offer a seat at your table. Sharing a meal is sharing our "humanness" – our basic need to eat – a field where all are equal and where peace and acceptance and sometimes unspoken forgiveness can reign. All of our immigrant forefathers understood this and the joys and sorrows of a family were expressed at the dinner table. I remember my mother routinely making pierogi, platski, kluskie, and kapusniaki. I can still see my Babcia cutting home made noodles on her kitchen table while a large pot of soup simmered on the coal stove. A family member from Alden provided us with the seed gravy fermented in a crock from rye flour for our Easter Boscht. My Dzadie always had a friend who killed a goose and harvested the blood for our Christmas Czarnina. The women in our family all canned vegetables and fruits and pickled cucumbers and peppers filled with cabbage in crocks in the cellar. Sauerkraut was made in a crock or barrel to last the entire winter. My Italian friends enjoyed homemade pasta every Sunday for dinner, accompanied by their homemade Italian red wine. These delicious meals always kept us coming back for more and kept us connected as a family.

Most of our social life was centered around our church. My parents worked long hours and had limited funds to enrich our cultural life outside our home. Our church introduced me to a love of music by participation in the children's choir. We were taken to the "big cities" on church bus trips where the wider world was open to us. The summer provided time spent at Lily Lake, where fishing and swimming were enjoyed. At least once during the summer we were treated to the drive-in movies and to the San Souci amusement park. Our daily routine usually included a visit to either the Coal Street or the Kosciuszko School playgrounds. We played baseball and

jumped rope and wrote on the sidewalks with fat, round sticks of white chalk that I was told came from the mines.

The town was divided in half by the coal breaker. I had the good fortune of experiencing life on the West Side until 3rd grade and then on the East Side until I left Glen Lyon after high school graduation. The town provided all of our needs. In my memory there were 11 grocery stores, 4 gas stations, a post office, 3 hardware stores, 3 furniture stores, a clothing store, 2 ice cream shops, a candy shop, 6 churches, 3 schools, a poultry shop, a florist, 2 dentists, 2 doctors, 2 playgrounds, a baseball field, 2 picnic grounds, a beer distributor, 3 funeral parlors, 2 movie theaters, a photo shop, a lawyer, 2 drug stores, a bank, 2 fire halls, a shoe maker, 3 clothing factories, a coal mine and 12 bar rooms.

Glen Lyon has changed quite a bit since I was a child. I feel that the closing of the mines and the clothing factories and the dominance of the automobile in our lives has contributed significantly to these changes. One thing that does remain and cannot be changed, though too often forgotten, is our ethnic backgrounds that brought all of us to this town. We owe it to Glen Lyon and our ancestors to delve into our memories or the memories of others to try and keep those things alive that served us well in our youth. Get out your mom's recipe books and photo albums and plan an old fashioned family gathering. Talk to your children about a time when life was simpler, slower and conversation was the art of the day.

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.

Lyon's Den

34 Orchard St., Glen Lyon, PA 18617
Phone: 570-736-6600

Happy Hour

Sunday	5 PM - 7 PM	\$0.50 mugs
Tuesday	6 PM - 8 PM	½ price mixers & shots
Thursday	7 PM - 9 PM	\$0.50 mugs

Wing Night Wednesday \$0.35 each (In house only)

Tuesday thru Sunday Open 5 PM till Close

Kitchen Last Order @ 9:45 PM

Closed Mondays

Christmas is a time when you get homesick—even when you're home. ~ Carol Nelson

Township Business

By John Jarecki ~ These are some of the important matters acted on or discussed in Township Commissioners' meetings from October through December of 2011.

October: The Newport Township Commissioners approved a collective bargaining agreement with the Township police officers for the period July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013.

November: Township Manager Rich Zika announced that the Township engineer was writing specifications for bids for another building demolition project. This project involves demolition of the building at 44 Coal Street in the Glen Lyon. It also involves the clearance of the property at 51 East Main Street in Glen Lyon, where there still stand remains of the former C. Moss building, the building itself having been demolished privately.

As of this writing in early December, the engineer was still working on the bidding specifications of the property at 51 East Main. This work has taken a long time because of complications arising from such things as a brick wall on the property and the closeness of the foundation of the building next to it. These have to be handled carefully to ensure there are no problems after the work is done.

It is a big accomplishment to finally demolish the house at 44 Coal Street. It has been abandoned and a nuisance for decades. For a good part of this time the house has been on the County's list of properties with unpaid taxes.

The County office in charge of these properties, for whatever reason, never allowed the property to advance to the list of properties for sale at less than the unpaid taxes on it. It was only when the County gave the work of this office to a private company that the property advanced to the unpaid tax sale list. At that point a neighbor bought the house and agreed to have the Township demolish it.

In other matters, the Commissioners hired Joseph Bachalski of Shickshinny as a part time police officer at a wage of \$11.00 per hour, which will increase to \$11.75 after six months. He is a graduate of Northwest High School and a 2008 Police Academy graduate.

The Commissioners reappointed Mel Dudeck to a 5-year term on the Newport Township Sewer Authority.

December: The Commissioners reappointed John Wilkes to a 5-year term on the Newport Township Authority. He is now President of the Authority. They reappointed Robert Sobotka to a 6-year term on the Township Civil Service Board. And they appointed Susan Mieczkowski of Sheatown to the Township Recreation Board.

Also, the Commissioners approved the sale of the property at 84-86 Old Newport Street in Sheatown to Swinka Realty of Olyphant, which bought the property at County auction for a bid price of \$2,160.

Look no further...

Past the seeker as he prayed came the crippled and the beggar and the beaten. And seeing them...he cried," Great God, how is it that a loving Creator can see such things and yet do nothing about them?" God said," I did do something. I made you." ~ Author Unknown

Township Budget for 2012

By John Jarecki ~ At a special meeting on December 27, the Township Commissioners approved a budget for 2012. The budget is divided into four major parts, for which revenue and expenses are listed in the following table.

	Revenue	Expenses
General Budget	\$ 761,662	\$ 761,496
Refuse Budget	\$ 333,500	\$ 331,633
Recycling Budget	\$ 52,000	\$ 49,568
Liquid Fuels Budget	\$ 99,410	\$ 98,500
Total	\$1,246,572	\$1,241,197

For the 2012 budget as a whole, the five largest sources of revenue are listed in the following table along with the corresponding amounts from the 2011 budget.

	2011	2012
Refuse and Recycling Fees	\$ 381,375	\$ 385,500
Real Estate Tax	\$ 245,000	\$ 287,000
Earned Income Tax	\$ 250,000	\$ 268,000
Liquid Fuels Payment from State	\$93,000	\$ 99,410
State Shared Revenue	\$ 46,400	\$ 42,862

These amount to about 86% of total income. The largest source of 2012 revenue, refuse and recycling fees, is a refuse fee of \$195 per household and a recycling fee of \$30 per household, both the same as in 2011. The 2012 real estate or property tax rate is 2.20 mills (a mill is \$1 in taxes per \$1000 of property value), .25 mills higher than in 2011. The Township Commissioners increased this rate to pay for increased expenses in the year ahead, such as the cost of leasing two new police cars and increases in salaries and wages. The tax raises about \$42,000 more than in 2011.

The six largest anticipated expenditures from the 2012 budget are listed in the following categories along with the corresponding amounts from the 2011 budget.

	2011	2012
Refuse Collection	\$ 289,440	\$ 289,440
Street Department	\$ 199,309	\$ 230,625
Police Department	\$ 147,991	\$ 172,421
Fire Department	\$ 165,813	\$ 165,595
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$ 138,031	\$ 138,677
General Government	\$ 101,318	\$ 104,239

These categories amount to about 88% of total expenses. For 2012, the largest expenditure, refuse collection, is the same as in 2011. For 2012, both Street and Police Department expenses are significantly higher than in 2011. The Street Department increase is about \$31,000 and the Police Department increase about \$24,000. The reason for these increases include the above mentioned cost of leasing two new police cars and increases in salaries and wages in both

WISE WORDS

Don't look where you fall, but where you slipped. ~ African Proverb



Shown working the polls at the Glen Lyon Italian American Sporting Club are from the left: Tanya Hoffman, Delbert "Dibbsie" Evans, Joseph Jumper, Paul Czapracki, and Bernard "Sonny" Witkowski

2011 General Election Results

By Tom Kashatus ~ A huge change will be taking place within the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas this coming January. During the past few years a large number of cases have been presided over by senior (retired) judges as a result of the corruption scandals that basically decimated our judicial system at the Court of Common Pleas level. Indicating residency, political party, nomination status, and vote total, the voters of Luzerne County on November 8th elected the following six attorneys to judgeships in Luzerne County for 10 year terms: Jennifer Rogers, Harveys Lake (D), Rep/Dem, 41,706; Fred A. Pierantoni, Dupont (D), Rep/Dem. 39,881; Joseph Sklarosky Jr., Fairview Township, (D), Rep/Dem. 39,535; Michael T. Vough, Pittston (D), Rep/Dem, 35,739; Dick Hughes, Fairview Township (R), Republican, 34,995; Lisa Gelb, Laflin (D); Rep/Dem, 34,755. Come January 2012, Luzerne County will have a full court of ten authorized judges, as Judge Joseph Cosgrove's term has expired. President Judge Thomas F. Burke Jr., Judge David W. Lupas; Judge William H. Amesbury; and Judge Tina Polachek Gartley will remain on the bench. Salary for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Luzerne County is \$161,850.00 per year. The judges who were filling in to ensure that the system performed efficiently were Senior Judge Joseph M. Augello, Senior Judge Hugh F. Mundy; Senior Judge Chester N. Muroski; Judge Joseph J. Musto; Senior Judge Patrick J. Toole Jr.; Judge Joseph J. Van Jura; and Judge Lewis W. Wetzel.

Also at the county level the board of three commissioners will be replaced with a home-rule form of government.

At the local level for Commissioner of Newport Township, Paul Czapracki (D) led the Democratic ticket with 627 votes as he was high vote-getter of the three to be elected. Michael Roke (D) received 609 votes, and John Wilkes Jr. (D) followed with 598 votes. There were no opposing candidates on the Republican ballot. Over the past fifty years due to population

loss and cut-backs in county government, Newport Township wards and precincts have decreased from six wards and nine precincts to just three wards and three precincts – the Glen Lyon Italian American Sporting Club, the Wanamie Hose Company, and Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown.

For School Director of Greater Nanticoke Area School District the trend was Democratic. The following incumbents were elected for four year terms also without any opposition: Tony Prushinski (D), Rep/Dem, 2,236; Chet Beggs (D), Rep/Dem, 2,202; Ryan Verazin (D), Rep/Dem. 2,154; and Kenny James (D), Rep/Dem, 2,125. Frank Shepanski (D), Rep/Dem, 2,178, of the Ridgeview Section of Newport Township was elected to a two year term without opposition.

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Frank Galicki's Stellar Career Connected to Newport Township High School

By Tom Kashatus ~ On August 21st Frank Galicki was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame with other former Newport residents, John Kashatus Jr. and Lori Scally Zaleski (noted in previous newsletter). Frank was born and raised in Mocanaqua but has strong roots in Newport Township coming from the Galicki Family who resided on Orchard Street in Glen Lyon. After completing his elementary education in Conyngham Township, he joined the Newport Township school system when he entered Pulaski Junior High School in Glen Lyon. Frank played football (linebacker) and baseball (catcher) for Newport Township High School his freshman and sophomore years. He then starred for Greater Nanticoke Area School District as a junior and senior after the jointure of Nanticoke City, Plymouth Township, Conyngham Township, and Newport Township. As a young lad while still in school Frank played baseball for the Glen Lyon Condors in the Central League as a catcher. After high school graduation Frank entered Wilkes College and completed an illustrious career in football and baseball capturing many honors in both sports. He majored in education, taught and coached at Northwest High School, served as principal for GNA and Dallas High School, and now is Superintendent of the Dallas Area School System. For many years Frank served as a basketball referee and baseball umpire.

During his acceptance speech, it was interesting to note that Frank is very proud of his Polish and Slovak heritage and small town upbringing. He and his wife Terry live in Mocanaqua on Italy Street just a few yards from the Susquehanna River where they raised their three daughters, Dora, Tess, and Lena. Frank may have done many things and received much recognition, but his life really centers around family and friends as noted

when he paid homage to all those he cherishes and who have contributed to his success.

Following are quotes from his speech which may have been the most memorable moment of his induction:

"My Dad Ralph 88 years young started me on the path to athletics when he secretly signed the permission form in 1965 so I could play football as a freshman for [the] Newport Township Nutcrackers. We told my Mom who was afraid that I would get hurt that I had to leave to go to work and needed a lunch. That lasted through pre-season workouts, but when school started Mom found out everything, so we really heard about it. The second game of the season was Parent's Day, so I pleaded with Mom to come. She did, and I put the flower on her at midfield and from then on she never missed a game high school, college, and semi pro. She became my biggest supporter along with Dad.

"My parents supported all my activities and I am very proud to be their son. I wish my Mom could be here – but she is watching from above and I know that she is proud of what I have accomplished. Thanks for all the guidance, direction, and love you have shared over the years.

"Lastly – my Rock, my home base, my partner and best friend, my wife, Terry – thanks for all of your love, support, and patience. You are always there for me and I will never forget it. Thanks, Honey. I love you. Everything I am is because of you and your support."

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TARNOWSKI'S KIELBASA PASSES TO NEXT GENERATION



Above, John Vishnefski and his wife Stacie carry on the family tradition of making kielbasa. Below is a 1949 picture of the four Tarnowski brothers. To the right is Mike Tarnowski, former proprietor.



By Heidi Jarecki ~ The Tarnowski Family has been making kielbasa in Glen Lyon since 1946 when brothers John, Leo, Chester and Tad developed their special recipe. They combined the ingredients, filled it into casing, and smoked it using cherry wood. The closely guarded family recipe was passed to Chester's son, Mike, who took over the grocery business in 1990. He has been making kielbasa full time at the store located in the rear of 32 East Main Street, Glen Lyon since 1998. Recently, Mike passed the recipe on to John Vishnefski, Tad's grandson. John promises the product will always have the same great taste it is famous for.

John is the son of Diane (Tarnowski) and Jack Vishnefski of Wanamie. He graduated from Nanticoke Area High School in 1997 and from Penn State University in 2002 with a degree in Recreation and Park Management. He moved to Alabama where he got extensive business experience working for a Toyota dealership in Tuscaloosa. In 2009, John moved back home and married Stacie Brezna. He operates Vishnefski Windshield Repair, using a patented technique to repair cracks using liquid resin to keep them from spreading. Call 570-855-4643 with questions concerning this service.

Tarnowski's Kielbasa is made with fresh pork, ground beef, garlic, water and spices and is then smoked in the smoker. Fresh sausage, kielbasa with extra garlic, regular and hot kielbasa sticks, kielbasa loaves, breakfast links and

smoked turkey kielbasa are also offered for sale. John has expanded business hours, Tuesday through Friday, 9 to 6, and Saturday, 10 to 3, and is closed Sunday and Monday. Shipping is available. Call 570-736-6585. Holiday time is especially busy so get your orders in early. Mike is still on board, helping to make kielbasa and offering advice. Tarnowski's kielbasa has traveled to such places as Kentucky, Texas, California, Washington State, Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Florida and even Thailand.

Something that's been popular for 65 years has got to be good! Smaczno!

Dan Kozak, Sales

Tony DiMaria, Service Manager

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Great Expectations

Promise only what you can deliver. Then deliver more than you promise. ~ Author Unknown



Rev. Anthony J. Generose, J.V., E.V.

By Heidi Jarecki

It isn't very likely that a Catholic priest would be able to fix a furnace or a leaky pipe, but Father Anthony Generose can. The first pastor of the newly established Holy Spirit Parish was in the plumbing and heating business with his dad for a number of years before he entered the seminary. This knowledge has served Father well on many occasions, especially as a pastor. That's only part of the story.

Father was born in 1962 in Hazleton to Robert Sr. and Patricia and grew up in Lattimer Mines, Hazle Township along with his siblings, Ann Theresa, Robert Jr., and Melissa. When in the fourth grade, Father started to study music and learned how to play the cello under the guidance of the late Father Joseph Ferrara and the staff of the Hazleton Philharmonic. Father performed with the Hazleton Philharmonic on many occasions and in different venues both here and abroad until he entered the seminary at age 29. The gift of a musical education has also benefited his priestly ministry.

During Father's early teen and high school years, his dad worked as a pipefitter during the construction of the nuclear power plant in Salem Township. After graduating from Bishop Hafey High School, Father was accepted as an apprentice in Pipefitter Local 524 and began a four-year program of working the trade by day and attending the union trade school two nights a week. When construction of the nuclear power plant was finished and the facility went into operation, Father completed his apprenticeship and, once his dad was laid off, both he and his dad went into business together.

The seed of Father's vocation to the priesthood was planted within a tightly knit Catholic upbringing and one day in 1991 Father paid a visit to his senior high school religion teacher, the late Father Maurice Raymond. After some discussion, Father

Raymond picked up the phone, called the seminary, and the rest is history. When Father told his parents, his mother said, "When are you going?" His dad was a little more concerned and asked Father to "think about it." In the end, Father and his parents realized there was no looking back. From then on Father's folks became the proudest parents you'll ever meet and his most faithful partners in prayer and life.

Father graduated from the University of Scranton in 1995 with a degree in Philosophy and entered the seminary at the Pontifical North American College in Rome while studying theology at Pontifical Gregorian University. The experience of living in Rome, visiting the Vatican often, and being in the company of Pope John Paul II on occasion was deeply spiritual. On one occasion, Father was invited to meet the Holy Father with Bishop Timlin, and during a special audience, was welcomed by Pope John Paul II with kind words and a firm handshake. Attending Papal Masses at the Basilica of St. Peter remain unforgettable and affecting experiences. When Father's studies were completed in 1999, he returned home and was ordained a priest by Bishop Timlin in St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

His first parish assignment was as an assistant pastor at St. Mary and St. Stephen Parishes in Plymouth while teaching religion at Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston. After two years, Father was assigned as an assistant pastor in Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton. Not even a year passed in this assignment when Father was sent as Pastor to St. Mary and Ascension Parishes in Mocanaqua.

Not three years passed when Bishop Martino approached Father personally after a liturgical celebration at the Mocanaqua parishes. It was then that Father came to know of Bishop Martino's desire for him to return to Rome and study canon law. Father Generose, along with Father Brian Clarke, V.G., returned to the Pontifical Gregorian University to complete three years of study toward a license in canon law followed by a year of studies in Roman jurisprudence, that is, the application of the law pertaining largely, but not exclusively, to the matter of marriage nullity cases. Today Father serves the people of the Diocese of Scranton as Judicial Vicar and Episcopal Vicar for Administrative Canonical Processes by helping couples prepare for marriage and hearing cases pertaining to marriage nullity.

As busy as Father's life and ministry seem, he still enjoys a round of golf on occasion and tries earnestly to spend as much time as he can with his parents and immediate family which includes his wonderful brother, sisters, in-laws and seven nieces and nephews. With the consolidation of parishes in the area, Holy Spirit Parish was formed from what had once been eight parishes as late as the year 2000. Today, Holy Spirit Parish worships at three sites: St. Martha's in Stillwater, St. Mary's in Mocanaqua and St. Adalbert's in Glen Lyon. Father serves as Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish with the tremendous assistance of a faith-filled and devoted parochial vicar in Father Thumma Savari.

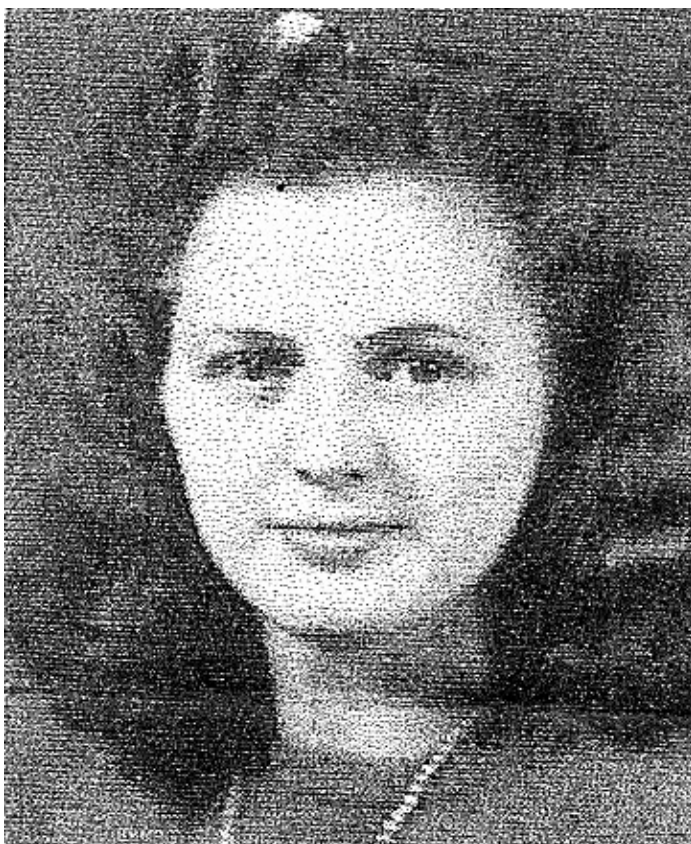
One of a Kind

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

~ St. Augustine

When we sleep, there is.....

No Pillow so soft as God's promise. ~ Author Unknown



Pictured to the left is Tina as she appeared in the Newport Township H. S. "Newportrait" and above most recently as she appeared with Peter Finocchiano, the latest recipient of this distinguished award.

Newport Township Alumni Legacy

By Tom Kashatus ~After graduating from Newport Township High School, S. Josephine "Tina" Rogowicz, Class of '42 and Sheldon P. Peterfreund, Class of '36, both of Glen Lyon, eventually married and found their careers taking them to Syracuse, New York. Sheldon attended the University of Chicago and later received a PhD in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Air Force during WWII and served as a combat pilot in the European Theater of Operations while achieving the rank of Captain. Tina received her degree in education at Syracuse University and became an elementary teacher in the Syracuse school system while Sheldon taught philosophy at Syracuse University for 40 years.

As Sheldon and Tina believed in giving back to their community the family established a scholarship fund fifteen years ago called the "Sheldon P. Peterfreund Undergraduate Prize in Philosophy." It recognizes distinguished philosophy majors at Syracuse University by endowing a deserving student with a \$1,000.00 scholarship on a yearly basis. As Karen Weiss Jones, Assistant Dean for Advancement of the College of Arts and Sciences stated, "Syracuse University needs the donations of time, talent, and treasure of its talented and successful alumni to provide the best education possible for its students."

Sheldon has passed on and Tina is now living at The Nottingham which is a senior living community in Jamesville, NY, that provides an active lifestyle for today's independent seniors.

The Magic of Christmas

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

~ Burton Hillis


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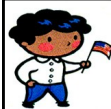
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Shown in the photo from the left: Todd Kamowski, Brian Novak, Ron Papciak, Brian Williams, Mark Wassel, Joseph DeLuca Jr., Mike Zubritski, and John Evans.

Pennsylvania Environmental Council Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

By Palmira Gregory Miller, PEC Program Coordinator ~

During the week of November 13th members of The Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO), The Spooky Off Road Club, and The Over 45 Club participated in the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program which was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In April 2011 Ron Papciak took the lead in removing over 4 tons of unsightly garbage and over 300 tires from an area on Old Newport Cemetery Road and along the old Nanticoke Street connecting to Stearns Station. With more work to be done, members of the Spooky Off Road Club and the Over 45 Club were able to finish the cleanup on November 13th, under the PEC Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, resulting in the removal of 6 tires and 13.35 tons of garbage at an estimated cost of \$2,000.

The next day, Monday, members of the NTCO and Luzerne County Work Release Program completed two cleanups around Weinick Park and an area near the Newport Aggregate Rock Quarry resulting in the removal of 27 tires and 4.03 tons of garbage at an estimated cost of \$1,500. The NTCO used its trailer and members' trucks to transport garbage to the dumpster which was stationed off the main road in the old Weinick Park area. As illegal dump site material was in transport to the dumpster, someone called the Township Police to report possible illegal dumping. Police Chief Impagliaia was quick to respond. Needless to say, he caught us dumping trash - into the dumpsters!!!!

Several weeks prior, someone reported illegal dumping in the Glen Lyon area of Pipe Road. This infraction led to a



Shown in the photo from the left: Tom Kashatus, Linda Conner, Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impagliaia, Bill Hourigan and members from the work crew of the LCCF.

citation for a mother and her son who were arrested which resulted in a \$300.00 fine, payment of court costs, and removal of the garbage dumped.

Also funded by the USDA and during the same week, the Newport Township Community Organization partnered with Ashley Borough, PEC, and LCCF to remove trash and transported a number of tires from public property just off Main Street in the vicinity of Pizza Bella to Waste Reduction in Hanover Township.

We continue to encourage everyone to call 911 if you see any suspicious activity that resembles illegal dumping. Our police force needs the public's help in keeping our community safe and secure from violators of environmental concerns. It is everyone's responsibility to be the eyes of the community.

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St. Andrew's Fall Festival



St. Andrew's kitchen staff at the Fall Festival: from left Olwen Meck, Bettse Matzoni, Mark Bencoter, Colleen Bencoter, Nathaniel Marr, Linda Helmecki (Photos by Carol Jarecki)



Father John Leo

By John Jarecki ~ St. Andrew's Church in Alden held its annual Fall Festival on Friday September 30 and Saturday October 1 of last year. The parishioners have held this Festival every year since 1981. It is the main fundraiser for the church.

On sale at the Festival are dinner foods, baked items including homemade bread, and craft items such as fall and Christmas home decorations, some of which are made by the parishioners themselves. There is a rummage sale and a random auction with a variety of prizes you can win.

Other fundraisers, which the parishioners do several times a year, include the sale of soup and Welsh cookies and a three-day rummage sale. This year the parishioners held the sale for only one day and donated the clothes that were remaining to the flood victims in Mocanaqua. The parishioners have contributed personal grooming supplies to the Vision Program, which provides shelter for homeless persons. Recently, they donated \$200 to a needy family in the community.

St. Andrew's Church is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem. It was founded in 1884 and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2009. The Church has 44 parishioners. Father John Leo is its pastor and Susan Maza is Senior Warden of the Vestry, the Vestry being similar to a board of directors and

Senior Warden being its president. Father Leo carries out the religious functions of the church and the Vestry manages the secular side. Father Leo celebrated his 90th birthday in December. He was born in Burlington, Vermont and ordained a priest in 1953. His first assignment was to State College, Pennsylvania, where he served as pastor of four parishes in the area. From 1961 to 1964 he served as a chaplain in the Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. From 1964 to 1980 he worked for the Episcopal Diocese of California in an administrative role. When, in 1980, the Diocese of El Camino Real was formed from the California Diocese, his work took him to the newly formed diocese, where he remained until 1997. He came to Wilkes-Barre in 1999, where he now lives. He is now beginning his fourth year as pastor of St. Andrew's.

The church building, on East Kirmar Avenue, still has its original stained glass windows. Inside, its walls and ceilings are covered with beautiful dark woodwork. The altar is wood and a picturesque pipe organ is located toward the front of the church to the right of the altar.

We had a great time at the Festival sampling the food and talking to Father Leo and the parishioners. Their vegetable soup was delicious!



Decorative Festival items for sale with Sandra Jarosewicz Boback in foreground



Susan Maza, Senior Warden of the Vestry

THE 2011 NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL ALL CLASS REUNION



The Newport Township All Class Reunion was held at the Alden Manor on East Kirmar Avenue, Alden on Saturday October 7, 2011. 155 attendees from eight different states as far away as New Mexico participated. Phoebe Thomas Hillan, Class of '51, Chairperson and the Reunion Committee did a fantastic job of organizing the event. Father Adrian (Donald) Tirpak T.O.R. Class of '51 gave the invocation and led the group in a rousing version of the Newport High School Alma Mater.



Father Adrian (Donald) Tirpak Class of '51 and Mrs. Phoebe Thomas Hillan, Chairperson, Class of '51.



High school classes from 1940 to 1970 were represented. Sitting: Mr. Elwood Rinehimer, Class of '40 and his wife Irene Fanucci Rinehimer, Class of '40. Standing: Mrs. Marguerite Cherrie Izbicki, Class of '41.

SECRET TO A LONG LIFE

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, nor to worry about the future, but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly. ~ *Siddhartha Gautama*

REUNION WISDOM

Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. ~ *Satchel Paige*

The 50th Reunion of the 1961 Newport Township High School Class



In attendance were: Albert Yarasavage, Alberta Waclawski Yarasavage, Andrea Markiewicz McDonnell, Anthony Stashik, Barbara Guzik Reginato, Barbara Stempowski Lunnon, Beverly Hoch Kelchner, Bonita Gregory Strish, Carol Bozinski Grabinski, Carol Presnal Stashik, David Kocher, David Krafchik, Delores Hoch Burdette, Dennis Burke, Edward Sopko, Elaine Schraeder Hackenburg, Ernest Pierontoni, Fae Engler Skirchak, Frances Meshinski Evans, Jean Sudol Primatic, Jerome Cybulski, Joanne Capece Kollar, John Greytok, Joyce Cavallini Yohey, Judith Heller Cybulski, Leonard Zdnavage, Loretta Smereski Cerauolo, Mary Ann Rosmus Steber, Miriam Fink Rombold, Patricia Yankowski O'Connell, Raymond Urban, Richard Burman, Richard Vosheski, Ronald Evans, Ronald Fiorani, Ronald Hall, Ronald Presnal, Sandra Eckrote Michaels, Thomas Federici, Virginia Wozinski Pickle, William Taney

By Al Yarasavage ~The Newport Township Class of 1961 held its 50th anniversary reunion on the weekend of October 7th and 8th. Forty one classmates attended the mixer at Map's restaurant in Nanticoke and/or the reunion at Genetti's Inn and Suites in Hazelton. Members came from as far away as Australia, California, and Arizona. Musical entertainment was provided by DJ Jim.

The members of the committee were: Joyce Cavallini Yohey, Jean Sudol Primatic, Virginia Wozinski Pickle, Theresa Novelli, Alberta Waclawski Yarasavage, Richard Burman, Edward Sopko, Thomas Federici, and Al Yarasavage.

The committee is looking for volunteers to help plan the next event, the "Pushing 70s Birthday Picnic" to be held in the summer of 2013. Anyone interested please call Al Yarasavage at 570-678-3037 or email at ayarasavage@epix.net.




From left: Heidi Selecky Jarecki, John Jarecki, Carol Marcincavage Jarecki, Sharon Julius, Palmira Gregory Miller, Paul Jarecki

Community Organization Members Attend Evening for Pennsylvania's Environment

By John Jarecki ~ Members of the Newport Township Community Organization attended the 21st Annual Evening for Pennsylvania's Environment held on October 27 at the Woodlands. The Northeast Environmental Partners, a coalition of concerned public and private organizations, holds the event to

present their Northeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Partnership Awards to individuals and organizations that, through partnership, have achieved excellence in environmental protection or conservation. Also at this event, the Partners present the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award to an individual who has made a long-term contribution to environmental quality through leadership, dedication, and commitment to partnering.

The Community Organization has been active in environmental work in the Township. And we are proud to say that Palmira Gregory Miller, now Community Organization President, is a 2009 recipient of a Partnership Award for her work as Event Coordinator for the 2009 Great American Cleanup of PA which consisted of three projects: 1) Newport Township Community Pride Event (cleanup of main Township roads), 2) Big Junk Drop-Off, and 3) partnering with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to clean up five illegal dump sites in Newport Township.




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HALLOWEEN IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

Despite an unusual snowfall of six inches on October 29th, a large crowd of enthusiastic costumed children and their parents attended a Halloween party at the American Legion in Glen Lyon sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group. Hotdogs, soda, and bags of treats were served. Some of the grownups got into the act too!





Spaghetti Dinner Holy Spirit Parish

On Sunday October 30, the Altar and Rosary Society of Holy Spirit Parish in Glen Lyon held a spaghetti dinner in the church hall. Over 200 people were served. Pictured at left are Society members Linda Hourigan, Carol Sabotka and Heidi Jarecki.

TURKEY BINGO

On November 13, the Newport Township Women's Activity Group sponsored a turkey bingo, bake sale and Chinese auction at St. Adalbert's Hall in Glen Lyon, pictured below.



"The Miracle of Bethlehem"

St. Faustina Parish presented a live nativity "The Miracle of Bethlehem" at the St. Faustina Parish Grove in Sheatown on December 2 and 3. It is a story of Jesus from His birth to His resurrection. On the night of the production, the weather was cold but crystal clear and the actors performed under a starry, moonlit sky. Much credit must be given to Chairperson Jack Minsavage, Coordinator Pat Botsko, Producer Judy Minsavage, Directors Len and Charlotte Golobek, Designers Andrea Josefowicz and Joseph DePalma, Animals, lighting and sound Jess Exley, Dave Yezefski and Ed Bezdziecki and of course all the wonderful and enthusiastic actors.





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE AMERICAN LEGION IN GLEN LYON

The Newport Township Women's Activity Group held a children's Christmas party at the American Legion in Glen Lyon on December 10, co-sponsored by the Glen Lyon American Legion and the Over 45 Club of Newport Township. A packed house of children, infant to 12 years of age and their parents were present. Special appearances were made by Robert J. Smith, who performed an amazing juggling act, and that jolly old elf, Santa Claus.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT - An evening concert of Christmas songs delivered by a beautiful voice in an old church is a perfect way to celebrate the Christmas holidays. On December 27th at St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon, vocalist Catherine Fahey accompanied by Donna Walters on piano treated an appreciative audience to just such an evening. The concert, sponsored by the Newport Township Community Organization, was a joy to all who attended. The NTCO along with Catherine and Donna would like to extend their best wishes for a Happy New Year to all Newport Township residents.



To the right is Catherine Fahey performing at the St. Adalbert's concert. To the left is Dr. Cailin Manson, Catherine's former voice teacher, who added to the festivities with a flawless vocal rendition of "Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming." On the left below is pictured Dr. Cailin Manson, Donna Walters and Catherine Fahey. On the bottom right is pictured Catherine Fahey, Tom Kashatus, President of the NTCO, and Heidi Jarecki, who organized and coordinated the event.



NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1951 HOLDS REUNION



To the left is pictured class members in attendance:

1st row: Phoebe Thomas Hillan, Elsie Guiliani Yarasheski, Theresa Mapajewski Castellani, Dorothy Tarnowski, Romaine Buchkowski Borofski, Ann Terkoski Zalewski, Theresa Pawlowski Walker.

2nd row: Dorothy Sedor Ashford, Emily Frankiewicz Feeley, Eleanor Urban Ciela, Dave Edwards, Geraldine Delestowicz Whittaker, Mae Smith Mather, Rosemary Gaydos Pericles, Janet Jakes Augustine, Basil RuDusky.

3rd row: Edward Yarasheski, Emil Augustine, Gerald Shekletski, Charles Jones, Thomas Figmick, Martin Misavage, Robert Ambrose, Andy Texoris, Joseph Shemanski, Rev. Adrian (Donald) Tirpak.

The Newport Township High School class of 1951 held its 60th Class Reunion on October 8 at the East Mountain Inn, Wilkes Barre.

THE NTCO HOLDS ITS FINAL MEETING OF 2011

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ On December 28, the Newport Township Community Organization held its last meeting of 2011 at the Alden Manor Complex. It was a time for reflection on the past year's accomplishments. The highlights of the evening were the excellent dinner served by the Alden Manor staff and the presentation of the NTCOs Citizenship Award to Mrs. Phoebe Hillan. For many years, Mrs. Hillan has been an outstanding example of service to the Newport Township community and is a well-deserving recipient of the award. It is our hope that this recognition inspires others to follow in her footsteps. It was also a time to acknowledge the changes within the NTCO in the upcoming year. Tom Kashatus is stepping down as president. In this role, Tom was tireless in helping to revitalize the Township. Although he will still be involved in community affairs, his leadership and his attitude that "no problem is too great to be overcome" will be sorely missed. The presidency is now in the capable hands of Palmira Gregory Miller. The Newport Township Community Organization Officers for 2012 are: President – Palmira Gregory Miller, 1st Vice President – Tom Kashatus, 2nd Vice President – Bill Hourigan, Secretary – Linda Conner, Treasurer – Francis Zaleski, Assistant Secretary / Treasurer – John Jarecki. Those elected to the Board of Directors for 2012 are Mary Jo Evans - a 1 year term to finish Russ Sager's 2 year term, Joe Maloney – 3 year term, Heidi Jarecki – 3 year term.



Pictured above is Mrs. Phoebe Hillan accepting the NTCO Citizenship Award at the December 28 NTCO meeting held at the Alden Manor Complex. From left to right are: Tom Kashatus NTCO President, Mary Margaret Kashatus member of the Citizenship Committee, Mrs. Phoebe Hillan, Heidi Jarecki and Palmira Miller, members of the Citizenship Committee.

Class of '62 Plans Reunion

By Stanley Czapracki ~ Newport Township High School Class of 62 is continuing plans for its 50th class reunion which will be held on September 22, 2012, at Bentley's, Route 309, Ashley. An ice-breaker is also planned for September 21, 2012, at the American Legion, Glen Lyon. Contact information is needed on the following: Richard Bendock, Joan (Kirschner) Potoeski, Mary Lou Krauser, Simon Makarewicz, Darlene (Prince) Curwood, Ada (Rule) Kozlowski, Joseph Spack, Sandra (Yemzow) Schmalz, and Marilyn (Ziembra) Featherstone. Anyone having information on the above classmates is asked to call Stanley Czapracki at 570-735-5147 or email Newportclassof62@gmail.com.

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THE GLEN LYON JEWELS AND THE 1946/1947 BASKETBALL SEASON

By Paul Jarecki ~ In 1946 the war was over and American soldiers returned from service all over the world. It was an exciting time full of hope. Sports were becoming more and more popular. In the Wyoming Valley there was great interest in basketball at all levels, high school, college, professional and amateur. Amateur leagues and teams were forming by leaps and bounds. Returning veterans and other athletes from all over the county filled league rosters. Luzerne County was a frenzy of basketball activity.

It was the opinion of many sports enthusiasts that the Glen Lyon Jewels was the best amateur team in northeastern Pennsylvania. By the beginning of March, they had an overall record of 30-1 playing a hectic schedule with games in the highly competitive County League and in exhibition games with the toughest teams they could find. They easily won the County League regular season championship with a 20-1 record, the only loss being to St. Joseph's of Nanticoke. The star of the St. Joseph's team was 6' 6" Syl Bozinski who played for Penn State University's basketball team as a freshman and who would later become Nanticoke High School's all-time winningest basketball coach. After capturing the County League regular season championship, the Jewels qualified for the County League tournament along with St. Joseph's AC of Nanticoke, Rozy Kozy of Edwardsville and the Wanamie Bears. At the same time, the Jewels entered the open division of the prestigious 16th Annual William A. Rogers Memorial Tournament, held at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA along with 15 other teams. The Rogers Tournament was billed as the finest collection of college and amateur cage stars ever assembled locally and many of the County League players participated. The tournament favorite was the Swoyersville Sports Club. They assembled an impressive team of ex-Swoyersville High

School standouts and college players from Temple (John Ballots, Lou Ravin, Ira Borsavage), Lafayette (Paul Semko, Andy Semko), Muhlenberg (Clark Siracuse), and Bloomsburg (Francis Ramutkowski). One of their Temple University players, Lou Ravin, was a former star at Newport Township High School who had also played for the Wanamie Bears.

The Jewels played well and in the later rounds defeated South Wilkes-Barre Hobby Center, 50-32 and Kovc's Market, champions of the Playground Association, 41-36. In the semifinals, they met the highly touted Swoyersville team at the Wilkes-Barre Armory. Because of great fan interest, the games were moved from the YMCA to a bigger facility. The Jewels, who were playing with only six players, led at half time 19-18 but in the second half Swoyersville forged ahead. Swoyersville had many good reserves while the Jewels were not deep and this turned out to be critical. The Jewels finished the game with only four players in a 40-31 loss after Smocharski and Rasavage both fouled out. Ed "Doc" Vosheski was the game's high scorer with 12 points. Swoyersville would go on to win the tournament by beating another highly rated team of college players, West Brothers, 46-34. Doc Vosheski won the tournament's Sportsmanship Award.

In the County League Tournament, the Jewels lost two straight games to Rozy Kozy and were eliminated from that tournament. Rozy Kozy was a very good team but would lose the County League Championship to St. Joseph's and they were eliminated from the Roger's Tournament by West Brothers. At the very end of the season, the Jewels agreed to play a three game series with the Wanamie Bears to determine the championship team of Newport Township. Before a big crowd at Pulaski gym the Bears prevailed 60-50. Play was to continue the following Monday at

Continued from previous page

Wanamie but no record of that game or any other can be found. In the season of heavy basketball activity in 1946/1947, the Glen Lyon Jewels were in the middle of everything. Their lineup changed continuously because of the availability of players and their full schedule sometimes had them playing more than one game on a given day. In spite of this, they won over thirty games and lost only five against the stiffest competition. They were a great team. The Jewels consisted of top scorer Doc Vosheski (former star on the 1936 and 1937 Newport High School championship teams), Pete Zlonkiewicz (1st team All-League and star of the 1940 League Championship Newport Township H.S. team), Ziggy Kishel, Roy Beleski, Paul Zlonkiewicz, Ed Kmietowicz, John Adamowicz, Nick Zlonkiewicz, Ed Pashinski, who was also on the 1940 Newport team, and Al Cihocki of Nanticoke. Others who played for the Jewels were Chester Smocharski, Rasavage, Kasloski, Walter Serowicz, Piavis, and Macur.

How Sheatown Got Its Name

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Sheatown is named for its founder, Thomas Shea, who was born in 1814 in Ireland. He had at least three children, Patrick, Mary and Ellen. He came to America in 1847 and settled in what is now Nanticoke. Nanticoke was formed from land belonging to Newport Township and Hanover Township with Hanover Street as the dividing line. Nanticoke was a village in 1830 and the population grew to the extent that it became a borough in 1874 and then a city in 1925.

In the late nineteenth century, five families were among the principal landowners in what became Nanticoke: Shea, Fairchild, George, Alexander, and Mill. Thomas Shea owned and operated a realty company and became quite wealthy. This was due to the fact that coal was discovered in parcels of land he owned. He exchanged those coal rights for surface land, part of which became Sheatown. By 1884, he was worth \$75,000, which converts to \$1,796,343.58 today. It is likely that he was directly involved in the planning of Sheatown.

In 1884, Thomas Shea was known by the title "Father of Nanticoke," so he had considerable influence. He had become a widower and that same year at 70 years of age, he offered marriage to Susan Murphy.

The Shea family was prominent in Nanticoke and Newport Township for many years. When the charter for Nanticoke borough was granted in 1874, elections were held and Thomas's son Patrick was elected to the school board. Patrick had begun to acquire additional Newport property in 1870.

Patrick and his wife Honora (O'Connell) had two sons, Thomas D. and Charles A. who became lawyers, and a daughter Anna. Thomas D. Shea married Theresa Maloney who was a daughter of the mayor of Pittston in 1891. They had no children. His brother, Charles A. married Rosemary Maloney, Theresa's sister, and had five children, one of whom was named Thomas M. Shea. Anna Shea who was a sister to Thomas D. and Charles A. died in 1888 at age 15.

Thomas Shea (the founder of Sheatown) had at least two daughters, Mary and Ellen. Mary married Joseph Smith, the health officer of Nanticoke and they had seven children. Mary Smith died in 1897. Ellen married John Smoulter, a prominent banker and

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Treasurer of Luzerne County. They had two daughters. Ellen Smoulter died in 1901.

At the Luzerne County Recorder's Office, records of multiple land transactions in what became Sheatown among family members and other purchasers are on file. A map dating to 1896 shows how Sheatown was laid out. It appears that the first deed sold was to Catherine Roach for a lot on Robert Street for \$275.00 on September 22, 1897.

You can guess who Thomas and Charles Streets in Sheatown are named for, as well as Shea Street in Nanticoke. Other Sheatown streets are said to be named after Prince Alden, his son John and one of his grandsons, William. Robert Street was originally called Sheatown Road and was probably renamed for a coal company official or a politician. If anyone knows who Simon, Raymond, and Frederick Streets are named for, please let us know!



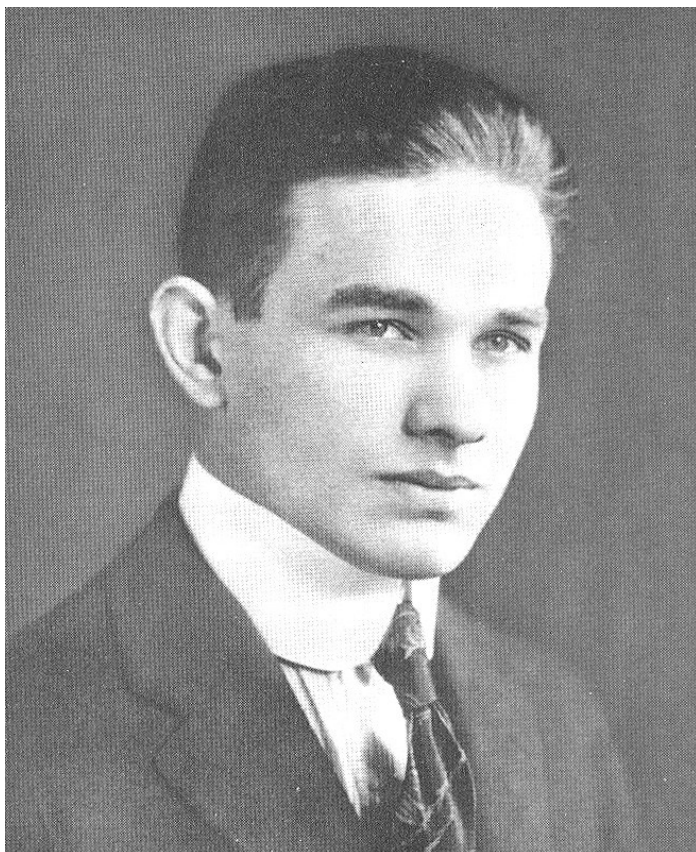
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WANT TO BE WARM THIS WINTER?

One kind word can warm three winter months.

~ Japanese proverb



John W. Sarpolis, M. D.

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Among several physicians who lived and practiced in Newport Township when the mining industry was at its height was Dr. John Sarpolis. He was born on March 22, 1896 in Wanamie to Peter and Elizabeth Machulonis Sarpolis. His father was a miner and later became the proprietor of a hotel and saloon. John grew up with five brothers. They were Joseph, Modie, Peter, William, and Karl. All six worked in the mines as teenagers and shared a love of music. Karl also became a physician and moved to Texas, where he was known nationally as a professional wrestler.

John received his early education in the public schools of Newport Township. He attended Newport High School for three years, then graduated from Lake High School, Chicago in 1914. He attended the University of Chicago and then entered Loyola Medical College from which he obtained his medical degree in 1919. He served his internship at Robert Burns Hospital in Chicago for almost two years. In May, 1921 he married Hazel Clutter, daughter of Archibald and Laura Clutter of Springfield, Illinois. He remained in Chicago an additional two years before returning to Wanamie in 1923.

Dr. Sarpolis ministered to the sick in Wanamie and in 1926, moved to Glen Lyon. He resided at 22 East Main Street. He was a popular physician, skilled and caring. He was elected a member of the auxiliary staff of Nanticoke Hospital and also the American Medical Association. He was active in the Pennsylvania State Medical Society and the Luzerne County Medical Society.

Dr. Sarpolis was the father of two children, John and Laura Mae. He was an active Republican. He died in September, 1937 at age 41 after an illness. He was given a military tribute at his funeral services and members of the Luzerne County

Medical Association were pallbearers. Also participating were the nurses and staff of Nanticoke Hospital, the Newport Township American Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary.

Officiating at the funeral was Rev. William Hollaway of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Alden. Internment was in the Lithuanian Independent Cemetery, Nanticoke.



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Winter is the time for...

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home. ~ Edith Sitwell

Advice from a Gardener

In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.
~ William Blake