

# NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NEWS

## THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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**Who To Call?**

- Emergency.....911
- Township Office:  
735-4735
- Police (non-emergency):  
735-2001
- Fire ..... 735-2000
- Sewer Authority:  
735-0423
- Tax Collector: 736-6319
- Ambulance: 735-4652
- Missed Refuse: 735-4735
- County Zoning: 825-1560
- Post Office Glen Lyon:  
736-6431
- Post Office Nanticoke:  
735-6540
- Compost Center: 736-6609
- Refuse Hauler: 735-0664

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE, by Paul Czapracki, President**

Well, Winter is finally over and the nice weather is on the way. The Board of Commissioners has been very busy over the past several months working on various projects for the betterment of our Township. I must say the Board’s workload has increased tremendously. I would like to share a few projects with you that we have on our plate at this time.

As most of you know, we have been tearing down dilapidated properties throughout the Township. As of now, we have demolished 21 buildings with 2 more scheduled for this Summer. Unfortunately we can only do what our resources will allow us to do. We are constantly working with Luzerne County Office of Community Development to acquire the additional funding needed to demolish more buildings.

Our next project is the biggest project our Township has had in a long time. The Board has been working with Senator Yudichak and his staff acquiring a \$500,000 grant for a new municipal building. The Senator has played a major role in attaining this grant through the Luzerne County Gaming Funds. The location for our new municipal building will be right off the Wanamie straight away, directly behind the basketball and tennis courts, in the Wanamie Recreation Park. In addition to Administrative and Police Offices, there will be a large meeting room that will be available to community groups to use upon request. This will provide a central meeting place for these organizations to meet.

Newport Township Police Department has a new Police Chief. Jeremy Blank was appointed Chief of Police following a resignation from the former Chief of Police. Chief Blank is doing an excellent job with the department. As of now, we currently have 10 part-time officers serving the Township.

In addition, the Board purchased 2 new police cars: a 2013 Ford Explorer AWD and a 2013 Ford Taurus AWD. Both of these vehicles are in service. Purchasing 2 new vehicles in one year has not been done in a long time.

As for our Fire Department , we have hired 3 new part-time driver/dispatchers, which gives us a better blanket of coverage to our citizens.

The Street Department did a great job of snow removal this winter. At times, our men were down to 1 operating truck, due to mechanical problems, and, with the help of our private contractors, we were able to keep our roads in safe driving condition.

As the weather gets nicer, our Street Department will be pothole patching, fixing curbing that may have been damaged by snowplowing and cleaning streets and storm drains.

Paving projects will be underway shortly in Alden. Spruce and Pine streets are scheduled to be repaved. This will be the result of Pennsylvania American Water replacing water lines. Also in Wanamie, a section of Brown Row will receive a new water line and be repaved in the section where the line is installed. In Glen Lyon, we will be making our sidewalks handicapped accessible on Second and Third Streets, which were paved last fall.

*Message Continued Pg.2*

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To help the Street Department, the Board recently hired Rich Guziak as a full time Street Department worker. Rich is from Glen Lyon and has worked as a part-timer for the last 2 years.

The Board of Commissioners is currently working with Senator Yudichak on trying to secure a grant for a new recycling truck. Hopefully everything will work out and we will have a new truck soon.

Financially, the Township is in the black and our heads are above water, which is an accomplishment when you hear about other municipalities which are struggling with their finances.

As President of the Board of Commissioners, am proud to sit next to such a fine group of individuals who care about this Township. We continue to keep making forward progress for the Township and strive to look at all possible avenues to acquire new resources to help us to do this.

I would like to personally thank you for your time in reading our Newsletter. I would also like to add that the Newport Township Board of Commissioners thanks each and every one of you...because we are proud to work for you.

Thank you again.

**TOWNSHIP RECEIVES \$500,000 TOWARD A NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

We are pleased to announce that the Township has received a \$500,000 grant from the Gaming Funds to be used toward the construction of a new municipal building. The estimated cost of the new building is \$775,000, with the difference to come from a \$275,000 USDA 40 year loan.

The 5,600 square foot, one floor, energy efficient, secure, and state of the art building will be erected on a 5.7 acre parcel of reclaimed land on West Kirmar Avenue, which was donated by the Earth Conservancy to the Township. Kirmar Avenue is a major artery that runs through the Township. This area is very attractive for new business given it is a high traffic area. Our new building will showcase the administrative offices, Police offices, and a much needed community room.

The community room will allow for basic government functions such as the Commissioners' meetings and serve as an emergency management center. Moreover, the new municipal building will connect Newport Township's recreational amenities, the Wanamie Recreation Park and Little League field to name a few. It will also be a catalyst for numerous value added community activities within the Township. These types of activities are critical to a vibrant and engaged community flourishing in the 21st century. Currently, the Township lacks this centralized gathering place for the community and these activities are either scheduled outside of the Township or not planned at all.

As you can see by the artist's rendering of this new Municipal building, it will be more than just bricks and mortar. The Newport Municipal and Commercial Commons will truly be the glue that binds this community together for generations to come by bringing municipal services, business development and recreational amenities together in one central location.



**2**  
**A1** FRONT ELEVATION  
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Two New Cruisers To Serve Township

Newport Township Police Department now has a 2013 Ford Taurus and 2013 Ford SUV to serve the Township. The two vehicles were obtained in 2012.



### New Chief of Police

Jeremy Blank was appointed Chief of Police as of January 1, 2013. A Township resident, Chief Blank became Chief of Police after serving the Township as a part-time Police Officer.

### New Equipment

Newport Township Police continue to obtain new equipment through donations. Thank You to the following:

**Glen Lyon Crime Watch:** (1) monitor and mount

**Newport Township's Women's Activity Group/Newport Township Community Organization:**

(1) Mobile CAD set up

**Newport Aggregate:** (2) desktop computers.

**Newport Township Lions Club:** (1) Digital Evidence Camera and (1) new monitor and mount

**Crazy 8 Sportsman Club:** (2) Mossberg Semi-Automatic Shotguns.

### Crazy 8 Sportsman Club Pictured left to right



Front row: Paul Stephanick, Thor Allen, Chris Miller and Ray Eroh.  
Back Row, Chief Blank, Jim Porzucek, Dean Miller, Dave Remsky, Ed Romisnks and Police Commissioner John Zyla.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



### Special Fire Police

After many months of hard work and research, Len Paczkowski has presented an Operating Manual for the Special Fire Police to the Township Commissioners. The current list of prospective Fire Police Members are: Len Paczkowski, Ronald Jones, Michael Makavenski, Robert Shemanski, Joseph Wilkes and Ronald Womelsdorf. An Ordinance approving the establishment of Special Fire Police and was adopted on April 1, 2013 and Len Paczkowski was sworn in as the first Fire Police Officer and has been named Fire Police Captain. To see the complete Operating Manual, check our website, [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org).

### Three Fire Driver/Dispatchers Added

In order to ensure twenty four hour/seven day a week coverage in our fire department, we have added three new part-time driver/dispatchers. They are currently undergoing the required training and when their training is completed, they will be added to the roster.

### Equipment

Much needed repairs to the Ladder Truck are required. Estimated cost of repairs is \$12,000.00 and the repairs will be done over the next several months.

### President's Thought:

**"Don't find fault, find a remedy ~ Anybody can complain"**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**2012 Street Projects**

During 2012, the following streets were repaved in Alden: Lee Mine St., Laurel St., Spruce St. and the alley connecting Laurel and Spruce Streets. Due to a major water line problem, Spruce St. only received a base coat as Pennsylvania American Water Company has agreed to replace the water line. In Glen Lyon, Second St., Third St., and the lower portion of Engle St. were repaved and storm sewer reconstruction took place at the corner of Park and West Main St.



**2013 Street Project**

Pennsylvania American Water will be replacing water lines and repaving the streets curb to curb in Alden. The streets affected will be Spruce St., Fine St. from the intersection with Hemlock and Pine Sts. Also a small section will be replaced on Brown Row in Wanamie.



**ALWAYS BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR  
ROAD WORK AND RECYCLING WHILE DRIVING  
THE TOWNSHIP STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.  
PROTECT OUR DPW EMPLOYEES.  
Thank You!**

**Handicapped Ramps To Be Added**

As a follow-up to the paving project that took place in Glen Lyon last year, handicapped ramps will be added this year.

**Newport Township Office Hours**

**Monday–Friday  
8:30 A.M.  
To  
3:00 P.M.**

**REFUSE AND RECYCLING NOTES**

**Grant Application For New Truck**

The Commissioners have applied for a grant to replace our 1997 GMC Recycling Truck through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. The estimated cost of a new truck is \$86,874.00

**2010 and 2011 Recycling Program Grant**

During March, the Township received a grant for our 2010 Recycling program in the amount of \$1,146.00.

In April, the Township was notified it will receive a grant for our 2011 Recycling Program in the amount of \$1,188.00

As of January 24, 2013, the Covered Device Recycling Act 108, now **prohibits** the following **electronic devices** from disposal at DEP solid waste landfills: desktop and laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals, and televisions. As the aforementioned items cannot be placed at curbside for collection. However, they may be taken to J. P. Mascaro & sons for disposal.

**Retreat SCI**

The Commissioners were pleased to hear that UGI, Gas Division, will be placing a gas line in to serve Retreat SCI. It will be a great improvement to the prison as it will allow the physical plant to be updated and secure the nearly 300 jobs provided to the area. The possibility is that once the gas line is installed, it may be continued over the mountain to serve Ridgeview and other parts of the Township.

**NEWPORT  
TOWNSHIP**

**2013**

**MEETING  
SCHEDULE**

*June 3*

*July 1*

*August 5*

*September 4*

*October 7*

*November 4*

*December 2*

*Regular meetings begin at  
6:00 P.M.*

*Work sessions will be held  
on the 3rd Wednesday of  
every month and begin at  
5:00 P.M.*

**Newport Township Web Site:**

**[www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org)**

Visit our site for  
Up to date happenings,  
ordinances,  
permit forms and info,  
occupancy forms and info,  
Refuse & Recycling calendar,  
department reports,  
previous newsletters  
and more.

**South Valley Parkway Project**

Over the last several years, there has been much talk about a proposed South Valley Parkway with long term plans to continue the Parkway into Newport Township. PennDot has made the Environmental Assessment for this project available.

Currently, the project proposes to construct the South Valley Parkway through the southern portion of the Wyoming Valley in Hanover Township and the City of Nanticoke. The project will alleviate safety and congestion problems associated with local and commuter traffic along Middle Road including the villages of Askam and Lower Askam.

The new two-lane roadway will have separate turning lanes and truck-climbing lanes at various locations. The project includes the reconfiguration of the existing PA 29, Exit 2 interchange and the construction of a new roadway that would travel undeveloped forest and reclaimed mine land north of Middle Road and reconnect with Middle Road just east of the intersection Kosciuszko Street.

West of the new Middle Road connection, three roundabouts would be installed at the existing Middle Road intersection with Kosciuszko Street, Espy Street and Prospect Street. The total length of the project's limits of work is approximately 3.6 miles with 2.7 miles of mainline encompassing roadway on new alignment.

The section of Middle Road roughly paralleling the new alignment will be maintained for local traffic.

The reconfiguration of the existing PA 29, Exit 2 would include new ramps, new roundabout intersections, removal of the existing ramps and reconstruction of sections PA 29 where the new interchange ramps tie into the highway northwest of the existing exit.

**PennDot To Replace Culvert Over South Branch Of Newport Creek**

PennDot has advised the Commissioners that they intend to replace the culvert of the South Branch of Newport Creek located on West Kirmar Avenue. Currently the plan calls for letting of the contract by December 2014. A detour will be in place during the construction utilizing Center Street, Old Newport Street, Robert Street and the West Kirmar Parkway. Access to all residential and business driveways within the project will be maintained at all times during construction.

**Mine Reclamation Project**

The Earth Conservancy is participating in a Reclamation Project in the Township. The project consists of reclamation of two areas involving about 40 acres located just off the Alden Mountain Road. A total of approximately 220,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated in the reclamation.

In addition, drainage and rock lined swales will be completed for storm water control. Bat gates will be constructed since a mine opening will be back filled.

The project is being funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Total estimated project cost is \$900,000 and the contractor is Earthmovers Unlimited, Inc.

**New County Prison A Possibility**

The Luzerne County Council is discussing the need for a new prison. We have sent a letter to the County Manager as well as members of the County Council urging them to consider placing the new prison in Newport Township. Our Township has a large amount of vacant land as well as a KOZ area.

**DEMOLITION IN GLEN LYON CONTINUES**

During 2012, two properties were demolished using Community Development funds, 44 Coal Street and 51 East Main Street in Glen Lyon.

In 2013, 85 East Main Street and 67-69 Newport Street, Glen Lyon are slated for demolition with bids being received in May and actual demolition completed by the end of July, 2013.

With the addition of these two (2) properties, it will bring the total buildings demolished by the Township Demolition Program to twenty-one (21) over the last several years.

The Newport Township Authority has contributed to the demolition program by funding the demolition of two (2) dilapidated buildings in Alden. Also, the Authority has funded all of the accompanying costs for the demolition program, such as, attorney fees, asbestos inspection and removal and newspaper advertising.

Other buildings will be scheduled for demolition as funds become available

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP  
AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

John Wilkes, President  
Joseph DeLuca,  
Vice-President  
Peter Wanchisen,  
Treasurer  
Diane Hillan, Secretary  
Steven Phillips

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP  
SEWER AUTHORITY  
MEMBERS**

Mel Dudeck, President  
Joseph DeLuca  
Vice-President  
Dawson Jenkins  
Secretary  
Peter Wanchisen  
Treasurer  
Sean Farrell

**RECREATIONAL PARKS**

The Newport Township Recreation Board is working on the Summer program to be held at various locations throughout the Township. Check our website [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org) or **Newport Township Recreation Board on Facebook** for updates to the program locations, dates and times.

New electrical lines will be run to pavilion no. 2 at the Wanamie park , a new roof was installed on one of the pavilions and a new slide is scheduled to be installed.

Spring cleaning has begun at the parks in Glen Lyon, Wanamie and Alden so they will be ready for the season. The Glen Lyon park is already open and is being enjoyed by the many children visiting it.

The Alden park is looking at having new swings installed soon thanks to the Newport Township Community Organization for their donation to make this happen.

The South Valley Softball team has been working at the Wanamie Park to prepare it for the upcoming season. In addition, the park is being utilized by the Nanticoke Area Little League, 7th and 8th grade boys, and the junior high girls leagues.

**RECREATION BOARD  
MEMBERS**

John Grabowski, President  
Bob Ranieri, Vice President  
Paul Pierson, Secretary  
Sue Mieczkowski, member  
Scott Shatley, member

Meetings are open to the public and are held the second Tuesday of the month at 6 P.M. in the American Legion in Glen Lyon

**2013 Commissioners**

**Paul Czapracki:** President,  
DPW

**John Zyla:** Vice-President,  
Police

**John Wilkes:** Commissioner,  
Fire

**John Vishnefski:** Commissioner,  
Parks

**Michael Roke:** Commissioner,  
Code Enforcement

**Business Office**

Township Manager, Code Official:

Richard V. Zika

Administrative Assistant:

Tania Gronkowski

Open Records Officer: Richard V. Zika

**Officials**

Police chief: Jeremy Blank

Fire Chief: James G. Hoffman

Tax Collector: Ken Angradi

Department of Public Works:

Joseph Hillan

Code/Nuisance Inspector:

Joseph Hillan

Editor: Richard V. Zika

Graphic Designer: Tania Gronkowski

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Mon-Fri 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.