

# NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NEWS

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

Volume 4, Issue 1

June 2012

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Police Dept.</i>	2
<i>Fire Dept.</i>	2
<i>DPW</i>	3
<i>Parks &amp; Recreation</i>	3
<i>Twp. Funds/Meetings</i>	4
<i>Code Enforcement</i>	4
<i>Refuse &amp; Recycling</i>	5
<i>Authority Members</i>	5
<i>Demolition</i>	6
<i>Township Officials</i>	6

### 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

What a difference a year can make. Last year I told you how cold it was and the snow never wanted to leave. Finally spring came and along with it rain, then more rain. It turned out to be one of the wettest springs and summer on record. However, we had a mild fall and mild winter, which was great for cost savings in our DPW budget.

We did manage to get streets paved last year and this year we are hoping to be able to pave Laurel, Spruce and the connecting alley in the Polander Hill section, pave Lee Mine Street in Alden and Russell Street in Sheatown. For Glen Lyon, the streets scheduled for paving and storm drain improvement include Third Street, Bottom of Engle Street and a portion of Park Street. We will be looking at other projects in Glen Lyon.

The Board of Commissioners has tried repeatedly to obtain State funding for a new Township Building and other projects working with State Senator John Yudichak and Representative Gerald Mullery. However, we have not been successful and will continue our efforts.

As you read this Newsletter, you will see that there are many exciting things going on in the Township involving our Recreation Board, DPW, demolition and clearance of structures and, as mentioned earlier, paving and storm drain projects.

As summer approaches, please be aware that the children will be out of school and drive carefully.

### President's Thought:

*Those who matter do not judge me.  
Those who judge me do not matter.*



### Surveillance Cameras Installed at Township Building

Please be advised that the Township Building is now equipped with surveillance cameras to observe both the inside and outside of the Township Building. As you enter the Building, please make note that what you do will be recorded.

The cameras are the result of a grant from the State Fire Commissioner's Office to the Alden Hose Company and we are grateful to them for their efforts.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



## Abandoned Vehicles Tagged and Towed

The Newport Township Police Department will be patrolling the Township for vehicles that meet abandoned vehicle ordinance criteria. Vehicles that meet the criteria will be tagged, ticketed and, if not moved within 72 hours from the day tagged, they will be towed.

An abandoned vehicle is any vehicle that has an expired vehicle registration, a registration that is not displayed, and an expired or not displayed state safety inspection. A vehicle in deplorable condition which is unable to run under its own power, is missing parts, has broken glass, flat tires or is leaking fluids also will be considered an abandoned vehicle.

Citizens may report any vehicle that they believe to be abandoned to the Police Department and they will investigate the issue and take the proper action.

As a reminder, it is now a State Law, that you cannot text and drive. Should you be caught texting while driving, you will be cited and fined. It is not worth the risk to do this and put your life in jeopardy.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Fire Department is off to another busy year with a total of 45 calls to date. We did go through a few dry weeks with warm weather but we were lucky and had only a few minor brush fires. The Consolidated Hose Company held their annual potato pancake, haluski and soup sale for the Easter Holiday season. Also, they are planning their annual summer bazaar to be held the last weekend in May. Anyone wishing to donate their time may contact Dan Kowalski or any member of the Consolidate Hose Company. Also, during the month of April, the Township Firefighters along with neighboring fire departments took a class on Rapid Intervention Teams. This class teaches firefighters what to do if a firefighter becomes injured or trapped inside a burning building due to a wall collapse or they fall through a roof or floor. It taught them how to disentangle and remove any injured firefighter from the building. It will enable firefighters to respond to a neighboring communities and assist them should this happen.

As summer approaches, please be courteous of your neighbors should you decided to burn something outside. As a reminder, you are allowed to burn paper, leaves, etc but not garbage, diapers and anything that can cause an obnoxious odor. Should any neighbor complain about your burning, the fire department will come to your property, put your fire out and issue you a warning about burning. Should they be called back for a second time, you can be cited and ordered to appear before the District Judge.



Remember to always check our website at [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org) for update happenings in the Township.



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



**OCD PROJECTS FOR GLEN LYON FOR 2012**

The Township has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development for projects in Glen Lyon.

**2012 STREET PROJECTS**

\$80,000 has been awarded for street and storm drain work and \$20,000 for demolition of structures. Currently the street work proposed is Third Street, Engle Street from Third Street East to the end and a portion of Park Street at the intersection with West Main Street. Also storm drain work is proposed for Third Street and Park Street at the intersection with West Main Street. Bids are anticipated to be received in late June or early July and work to begin in August.

The street projects for 2012 include the following repaving projects:

**ALDEN:** Lee Mine Street, Laurel Street, Spruce Street and the alley connecting Laurel and Spruce Street

**Sheatown:** Russell Street



**Newport Township Office Hours**

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

**RECREATIONAL PARKS**

**ALDEN PLAYGROUND:** So far this year, the fence has been repaired and a new section of fence has be installed. Also being planned, is to remove dirt from around the various pieces of playground equipment and install new mulch.

**WANAMIE PARK:** The tennis courts are open and a new double sliding board is planned to be installed during May. New mulch will be added where needed.

**GLEN LYON PARK:** This Park is open and being used by the children in the area. The Park will receive some touch up to the equipment and some new mulch added.

**NEWPORT  
TOWNSHIP****2012****MEETING  
SCHEDULE***June 4**July 2**August 6**September 5**October 1**November 5**December 3*

*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***

Visit our site for meeting minutes, ordinances, permit forms and info, occupancy forms and info, Refuse and Recycling calendar, department reports, previous newsletters and more.

**STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS****NEWPORT TOWNSHIP  
STATEMENT OF CASH ON HAND  
April 30, 2012**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 52,219.51</b>
<b>PAYROLL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 13,532.49</b>
<b>FIRE TAX FUND</b>	<b>\$ 5,820.13</b>
<b>REFUSE FUND</b>	<b>\$ 172,193.58</b>
<b>RECYCLING FUND</b>	<b>\$ 44,978.02</b>
<b>LIQUID FUELS</b>	<b>\$ 138,599.55</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$ 427,343.28</b>

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

As the spring weather brings the April showers and May flowers, it is also the time for grass and weeds to begin growing. As such, all property owners are advised to keep their grass and weeds under control.

Our Nuisance Ordinance, Ordinance No. 3 of 1986, section 2, item 1, states "weeds, grass or other rank vegetation to a height greater than six (6) inches on the average" will be in violation of the Ordinance. Being found guilty of being in violation of the Ordinance can carry a fine of up to \$300. per day for each day the violation is not taken care of plus court costs.

No warning letter will be sent for Nuisance or Code violations. A Certified letter will be sent followed by the filing of charges with the local magistrate if the necessary action is not taken to correct the issue by the stated date. Failing to claim a certified letter is not acceptable as a defense.

Please go to our website at [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org) to view Ordinance No.3 of 1986 in its entirety.

**PREMISES IDENTIFICATION**

The International Property Maintenance Code, which has been adopted by the Newport Township Commissioners, has a section for Premises Identification. It is very important that your property be identified in the event of the need for emergency personnel to respond if needed. As such, if your property does not have plainly legible and visible numbers from the street, please put them on your property. The numbers should contrast with the background, be either Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2".

REFUSE AND RECYCLING NOTES	NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY MEMBERS
<p>A reminder that the Township is picking up clean cardboard when paper is collected. By clean cardboard, this means no pizza boxes or other boxes that are dirty with food or contaminants. Please break down all cardboard boxes and bundle them for pick-up.</p> <p>The Township Commissioners have adopted two (2) ordinances relating to when refuse and recycling may be placed at the curb for pick-up. As of Monday, May 7, 2012, refuse and recycling containers <u>shall not be placed curbside more than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled date for collection.</u> Any person who violates this provision, shall first receive a warning from the Township. Any subsequent violation shall be considered a violation of both Ordinances and subject to prosecution and fines.</p> <p>We Cannot stress enough, if your Refuse or Recycling are missed, please contact the Township Office at 735-4735, Monday to Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. to report it. After hours, please leave a message with your address, day missed and what was missed: refuse in bags or cans, or recycling.</p>	<p>John Wilkes, President Joseph DeLuca, Vice-President Peter Wanchisen, Treasurer Diane Hillan, Secretary Steven Phillips</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ADDITIONAL ITEMS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY MEMBERS</p>
<p>Some additional items that we would like to point out:</p> <p>For Refuse Collection, remember the items you place in your bags must be <i>refuse</i> items only. We have had occasions when some residents will place broken glass and bottles in the bags. This is ok if you put a note on the bag that indicates there is broken glass inside. This alerts the refuse hauler to be extra careful. Also, broken window panes and other construction material must not be placed in any bag or can as this is not considered household garbage.</p> <p>The other matter of concern is the big item pickup at the beginning of each month. The refuse hauler will take one (1) large household item and no type of construction waste. Carpets must be cut into 4 foot lengths, tied or bundled with staples/tacks removed and refrigerators and air conditioners must have the Freon removed. If you have a mattress and box springs, you can only put out one or the other and then the next month put out the remaining item.</p> <p><u>Free Electronic Collection: Saturday August 11, 2012 From 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Hanover Area Junior Senior High School, 1600 Sans Souci Parkway, Hanover Twp.</u></p> <p><i>Acceptable Items:</i> answering machines, CD players, duplicators, hard drives, modems, scanners, tape players, personal computers, telephone &amp; telephone equipment, camcorders, copiers, fax machines, laptops, micro-waves, pagers, stereos, televisions, typewriters, copiers, VCRs, remote controls, mainframe computer equipment and more.</p> <p>Please call 1-800-821-7654 for more information.</p>	<p>Mel Dudeck, President Joseph DeLuca, Vice-President Dawson Jenkins, Secretary Peter Wanchisen, Treasurer Sean Farrell, Member</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>John Grabowski, President Bob Ranieri, Vice President Lorri Vandermark, Secretary Scott Shatley Vacancy</p> <p>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</p> <p>Please make sure you check our web site on a regular basis. newporttownship.org</p>

## DEMOLITION IN GLEN LYON CONTINUES



### 44 Coal Street, Glen Lyon

Finally, after many years of trying, the property at 44 Coal Street is going to be coming down. Thanks to the purchase of the property by John Grabowski and the Luzerne County Office of Community Development, bids were received on April 18, 2012 for the demolition of this property. The contract was awarded to Shea Industries and is scheduled to come down in May.



### 51 E. Main Street, Glen Lyon

Another eyesore in Glen Lyon, 51 E. Main Street, Glen Lyon is scheduled to be cleaned up. The demolition of this property took place nearly three (3) years ago by the property owner. The Contractor doing the work at that time left the job unfinished. As a result, the property owner allowed the property to go to the County for unpaid taxes. Once the County took possession, The Township was able to get the Luzerne County Office of Community Development involved and they agreed to provide the funds to clean-up the property. Bids were opened on April 18, 2012 and a Contract has been awarded to Shea Industries and is scheduled to begin May.

## ADDITIONAL DEMOLITION SCHEDULE

The Township has been awarded \$20,000 from the Luzerne County OCD for demolition during 2012. The next property that is scheduled is 85 E. Main Street, Glen Lyon. This is another problem property in Glen Lyon. This property has been placed in the Luzerne County Tax Repository and the Newport Township Authority has made an offer to purchase it. Once that is complete, we will have specifications and bid documents prepared and it will be put out for bid. It is anticipated that this will happen during 2012.

## **2012 NEWPORT TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

Regular Meetings: First Monday of Each Month

Work Sessions: Third Wednesday of Each Month

### **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: Robert Impaglia

Fire Chief: James G. Hoffman

Tax Collector: Ken Angradi

Department of Public Works: Joseph Hillan

Code/Nuisance Inspector: Joseph Hillan

Richard V. Zika .....Editor

Tania Gronkowski .....Graphic Designer

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP**