

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NEWS

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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	
• Missed Refuse: 735-4735	
• County Zoning: 825-1560	
• Post Office Glen Lyon: 736-6431	
• Post Office Naticoke: 735-6540	
• Compost Center: 736-6609	
• Refuse Hauler: 735-0664	

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE,

BY: PAUL CZAPRACKI, PRESIDENT

After another brutal winter that saw us use over 500 tons of salt and cinders to keep our streets safe, spring has finally sprung.

As the weather begins to become nicer, our Street Department will be pot-hole patching, fixing curbing that may have been damaged by snow plowing and cleaning streets and storm drains once again.

The Township is running smoothly, and as always we are looking for various funding sources for projects within the Township. We are in receipt of a \$110,000 O.C.D. grant from the county that will be used for demolition and street improvements in Glen Lyon. These are currently being reviewed by our Engineering firm.

Also, due to the increase in the gas tax the Township is receiving approximately \$15,000 more this year from Liquid Fuels. We are currently looking at street projects throughout the township for 2015 except in Glen Lyon which uses the OCD funding.

Finally, it is interesting to note that back in 2004 the Township was \$250,000 in debt. Now in 2015 we have cash on hand of \$631,735. We have borrowed \$150,000 with a 15 year mortgage, but no tax increase is expected to be needed to pay this.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Paul Czapracki

President, Newport Township Commissioners.

PRESIDENT’S THOUGHT

If you want things to be different perhaps the answer is to become different yourself.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

JUNE 1

JULY 6

AUGUST 4

SEPTEMBER 3

OCTOBER 7

NOVEMBER 5

DECEMBER 7

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

*Work sessions will be
held on the third*

*Wednesday of every
month & begin at 4:00
P.M.*

*Special Meetings and
Budget Meetings will be
scheduled as needed.*

Police Commissioner John Zyla and Chief of Police Jeremy Blank are looking to form a crime watch group for the whole township. Currently, Glen Lyon is the only village with a crime watch group. If you are interested please contact Commissioner John Zyla or the Chief of Police at the Municipal Building.

Nice weather has finally arrived. There are a few reminders for Residents.

- 1.) It is illegal to operate any ATV, Dirt Bike, UTV and anything with a motor that is not registered by PennDOT on any roadway or highway in the Township. Fines are very expensive and can include suspension of drivers license.
- 2.) There is a curfew of 10 p.m. for any person under the age of 18 years old. In order to be out after curfew you have to be with your parent or guardian.
- 3.) There is a noise ordinance that states all electronic devices that play music and television sets cannot be able to be heard more than 50 feet from the residence after 11 p.m. at night.

We are asking all residents to be aware of anything suspicious. If you see something that you feel is suspicious please call the Police Department.

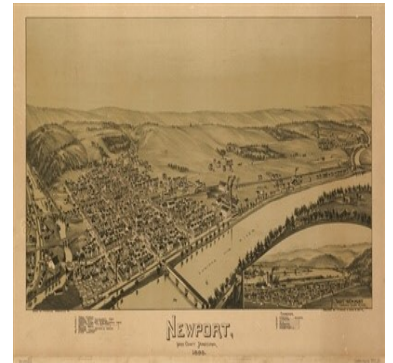
The Police Department is asking that all residents call 911 for both emergency and non emergency calls. It will aide in faster response times and better dispatching. 911 will dispatch to all non emergency calls also.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to stop down & see Chief Jeremy Blank.

HISTORY OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

Newport Township is a township in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and was established in 1772. The population was 5, 374 for the 2010 census. The township consists of Alden, Glen Lyon, Lee, Ridgeview, Sheatown, and Wanamie. According to the United States Census Bureau, the township has a total area of 17.2 square miles of which 16.8 square miles is land and 0.42 miles is water. It is drained by the Susquehanna River which forms the natural northern boundary of the township.

The northern and southern portions are mountainous, and the elevation on Penobscot Mountain reaches 1,500 to 1,629 feet above sea level along the township's southern border with Slocum Township. Most of the people live in the basin of Newport Creek, which flows northeast from Glen Lyon into the river in Nanticoke. The State Correctional Institute at Retreat in Newport Township is in a remote area along the Susquehanna which can only be accessed by a bridge over the river from the U.S. Route 11 or by helicopter.



FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Newport Township fire department would like to announce that there is a new fire chief. Jason Kowalski is the new Fire Chief for the township and is doing a great job with his department. Chief Kowalski has been with the department since 2005.

Newport Townships fire department helps protect the local community from fire and fire-related hazards. To help accomplish this, we have compiled a small list of safety tips. 1.) Every family should have basic fire prevention equipment in their homes. Smoke detectors should be located in every bedroom as well as hallway and each level of a home. Also, a small fire extinguisher should be kept in the kitchen, utility room, or bathroom where it can be reached easily in case of emergency. 2.) Clothing is also very important. To help keep families safe in case of fire, children should sleep in fireproof clothing. Fireproof clothing can help prevent burns on your children's skin as well as protect them from injuries caused when melting clothing sticks to the skin.

And 3.) all households should create and practice an emergency evacuation plan. Practicing drills with your family and the best exits from various parts of the house are key points. In case of fire emergency always dial 911.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The street department consists of three team players and after the long harsh winter that we have had our Department of Public Works certainly have their work cut out for them. There is plenty of clean-up to do after the snow has gone. As we all know the DPW works very hard for the township's resident's. Spring and summer clean-up is under way. The crew has begun patching pot-holes and cleaning the streets. Grass and weed maintenance will come next along the streets and in the parks. Please be cautious as you travel throughout the township and keep the DPW employees safe. The township has purchased a new 2015 Ford F550 for the DPW department. The truck was \$60,000 and will be paid for using Liquid Fuels Funds. No local tax dollars were used to purchase this vehicle. Pictured with the new DPW truck are Commissioners Michael Roke, John Wilkes, John Vishnefski, Paul Czapracki, & John Zyla. Also pictured is Township Manager, Richard V. Zika.



NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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

RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Pazgan
 Paul Pierson
 Heidi Jarecki
 Dane Cooper
 Cindy Foringer

Meetings are opened to the public and are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 at the Newport Township Municipal Building

Newport Township Web Site:

www.newporttownship.org

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

FREE ELECTRONIC RECYCLING COLLECTION

The County of Luzerne will be conducting a free electronic/recycling collection from 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 13th, 2015. Collection will be held in Hanover Township at the Hanover Area Junior Senior High School 1600 Sans Souci Parkway. Acceptable items for collection are as follows: answering machines, CD players, CPU's, duplicators, hard drives, keyboards, mainframe computer equipment, mp #3, mice, modems, peripherals, printers, radios, satellite receivers, scanners, shredders, tape players, transparency makers, word processors, VCR'S, video games, Wii, camcorders, cell phones, cordless phones, copiers, fax machines, laptops, microwaves, monitors, Nintendo, notebooks, pagers, personal computers, printed circuit boards, remote controls, telephones, telephone equipment, speakers, stereos, televisions, typewriters, UPS, x-box. For more information please call 1-800-821-7654. Pre-registration required for 20 or more computers and/or similar size items. Collection is not available to electronic equipment dealers. Non acceptable items for collection: air conditioners, air purifiers, batteries, blenders, curling irons, coffee pots, de-humidifiers, drills, electronic can openers, fans, humidifiers, hair dryers, hot plates, irons, lamps, lawn mowers, razors, satellite dishes, space

RECREATIONAL PARK CLEANUP HELD APRIL 25, 2015

The Recreation Board sponsored a clean-up event which took place on April 25, 2015. The event was registered with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council/Keep America Beautiful website, which enabled the board to get free gloves, trash bags, and vests. The registration also attracted several volunteers to help out.

Letters were sent to the various organizations and athletic groups in the Township, asking for volunteers. Supplies were purchased in preparation for the event. An electronic generator was borrowed to power the electric sander to get the graffiti removed from the tables and posts under the pavilions. In attendance were representatives from South Valley, the Wyoming Valley League, the Legion Auxiliary, the Newport Township Community Organization, and the Newport Township Women's Activity Group. About 30 people raked leaves, picked trash, sanded and painted the playground equipment as well as sanded the graffiti. A group of volunteers went to the Alden Playground and collected 18 bags of leaves and trash. The same group then went to the Glen Lyon playground where they collected 11 bags of leaves and trash. The Township truck was used to transport leaves from Wanamie to the Recycling Center.

With the assistance of Ray Brabant the new sliding board was installed in the Wanamie Park. Posts for the new sliding board were filled with concrete and the railroad ties surrounding the area were removed. 80 cubic yards of mulch was also spread at the Wanamie playground.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE TO DATE

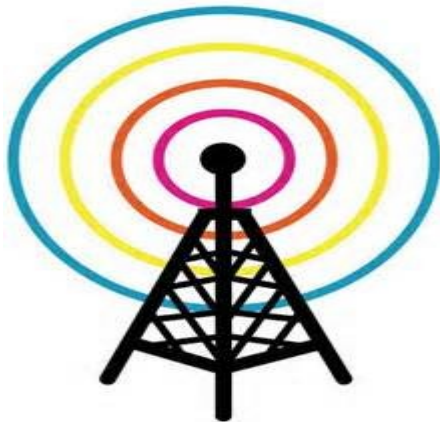
From	To	Fee	
\$0	\$499.99	\$20.00	For amounts exceeding \$50,000.00 the fee shall be \$375.00 plus an additional \$100.00 for any amount over \$50,000.00 and up to \$9,999.99 increment. The fee schedule does not include any inspection fees that may be required under the Uniform Construction Code. In addition, a \$4.00 State Mandatory permit fee will be added to permits for new construction, alterations, remodeling, decks, pools, etc.
\$500.00	\$999.99	\$40.00	
\$1,000.00	\$4,999.99	\$65.00	
\$5,000.00	\$9,999.99	\$85.00	
\$10,000.00	\$14,999.99	\$105.00	
\$15,000.00	\$19,999.99	\$125.00	
\$20,000.00	\$29,999.99	\$200.00	
\$30,000.00	\$39,999.99	\$300.00	
\$40,000.00	\$49,999.99	\$375.00	

SUMMER IS APPROACHING

With the upcoming spring/summer season, many of us will be starting new projects with our homes both inside and out. You may be considering putting an addition on your house, getting a shed/pole barn in the yard for all those supplies that are eating up space elsewhere, putting a pool in the yard in order to cool off in the summer, replacing a leaky roof from the damage that may have occurred from the long winter, placing a new fence in your yard to prevent people from looking at your yard, etc.

Please be sure to remember that you will need the appropriate permits for these new projects. All building permit applications can be obtained in the business office Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M. or on our website www.newporttownship.org. Zoning permits are required for new constructions and additions: which include houses, mobile homes, garages, carports, barns, sheds, decks, pools and other accessory structures. If you are in need of a zoning permit the information that would be required in order to obtain a zoning permit are as follows: 1.) name, address, & phone number of owner 2.) pin number which can be found on a tax bill or the deed in order to determine the zone of the property 3.) drawing of the property showing the footprint of existing structures & proposed new structure/addition 4.) distances to property lines (on drawing) from existing structures and proposed new construction. 5.) copy of septic permit 6.) cash or check payable to Luzerne County Planning Commission. Zoning is located 20 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilkes-Barre and can be reached at 570-825-1560. After a zoning permit is obtained you will need to bring the zoning permit (white page) and placard (yellow page) to Newport Township to obtain a building permit.

Verizon Cell Phone Tower



Verizon phone company is in the process of obtaining the appropriate clearances to install a new cell phone tower within the Township of Newport. The cell phone tower will be located in the Glen Lyon portion of the Township on Earth Conservancy land. This should bring to all the residents a better reception with their cell phones. There is not yet a scheduled time frame as to when the new phone towers will be installed, but they are being welcomed by most members of the community.

STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

As of April 30, 2015:

General Fund	\$93,232.83
Payroll Fund	\$22,974.66
Fire Tax Fund	\$16,346.76
Refuse Fund	\$208,222.84
Recycling Fund	\$48,686.69
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$136,269.28
New Building Fund	\$106,002.41
<hr/>	
Total Available	\$631,735.47

The Commissioners are consistently monitoring the flow of cash through the Township and strive to make sure that all bills are paid on time. No late fees are ever incurred and whenever possible we take appropriate actions to utilize discounts.

NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Township is very excited about the new municipal building. Newport Township has received a \$500,000 grant from the Gaming Funds which will be used towards the construction of the new building. Estimated cost of the new building is \$650,000 with the difference to come from a \$150,000 15 year loan.

Since September 2014 construction has been going on. Ground breaking was held in October 2014 for the new Municipal Building. Pictured to the right are Commissioner John Zyla, Commissioner Paul Czapracki, Senator John Yudichak, Representative Gerald Mullery, Commissioner John Wilkes, & Commissioner John Vishnefski. The expected occupancy of the facility is scheduled for July 1, 2015. Pictured below is the New Municipal Building.



Right to Know

Newport Township complies with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Right to Know law. Forms for "Request for Information" may be obtained at the Municipal Office during normal business hours. Please be specific on your request so as not to cause any delays in obtaining a prompt response to your request.

Newport Township Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 A.M.
TO
3:00 P.M.

Reminder to Residents:

Be sure your grass, weeds, or vegetation is not in violation of our Nuisance Ordinance. Keep vegetation trimmed, and grass and weeds under a height of six (6) inches.

A copy of the Nuisance Ordinance may be requested by filling out a Right-To-Know form at the Township Office during normal business hours.

Newport Township
1002 Center Street
Wanamie, PA 18634
Phone: 570-735-4735
Fax: 570-735-5595
E-mail:
newporttownship@pa.metrocast.net

2015 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: Kelli Valaitis

Open Records Officer: Richard V. Zika

Officials

Police Chief: Jeremy Blank

Fire Chief: Jason Kowalski

Tax Collector: Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau

Department of Public Works: Joseph Hillan

Code/Nuisance Inspector: Joseph Hillan

Richard V. Zika.....Editor

Kelli Valaitis.....Graphic Designer



BRIDGE REPAIRS SET FOR ROBERT ST., SHEATOWN

This summer the bridge located on Robert Street in the Sheatown section will be closed for repairs. There will also be a detour in place while the project is going on.

The project is expected to begin as soon as school is over and be completed by the time school begins. Detours will use Old Newport St. to Center St. to W. Kirmar Ave. or Rt. 29, west on Middle Rd. to E. Kirmar Ave. to W. Kirmar Ave.



310-SIGN

REFUSE & RECYCLING NOTES

The Township is pleased that it has been able to maintain the same refuse and recycling fees for the last three years.

This year a new 2015 Ford F750 Recycling Truck was purchased. A grant was received from DEP for \$78,000 with \$10,000 coming from the Recycling Fund. No General Fund taxes were used for this purchase. Pictured with the new Recycling truck are Senator John Yudichak, Commissioners John Vishnefski, John Wilkes, Michael Roke, Paul Czapracki, & John Zyla, Representative Gerald Mullery, Joe Hillan, DPW Supervisor, & Rich Guziak, DPW employee.



All unpaid Refuse & Recycling bills after the 1st of May will be turned over for collection.

J.P. Mascaro has until 5:00 P.M. each day of collection to pick up your refuse. If you are missed by the refuse hauler, please report it to our office at 570-735-4735 after 5:00 P.M. on the day of collection or the following morning. Remember to check your recycling calendars for any changes that may occur due to a holiday falling on a week day. Bulk service is still the first pickup of the month. This only includes household items. Effective January 1, 2014 landfills are no longer allowed to accept electronic devices including hard drives, monitors, keyboards, mice and printers or their components.

If a property becomes vacant after the refuse fee has been paid for the year there will not be a refund.

Beginning May 1, 2015 recycling takes place between the hours of 6:00 am and 2:00 pm and this will continue until Sept. 30, 2015. All recyclables must be placed in the township approved recycling containers. Any containers other than the ones that the township supplies may be considered a recyclable item. Also, please do not place yard waste or animal waste in the recycling containers as these will not be hauled away.

Recyclables are as follows:

Commingled Recycling: Clear & colored glass; #1 & #2 plastics only (no lids), aluminum & steel (tin) cans. Plastic bags are not recyclables.

Paper Recycling: Newspaper, magazines, phone books, junk mail only! Tie in bundles or place in paper bags. Please keep in mind that we do not recycle cardboard.

Can I collect cans from other's recycle bins?

From the time recyclables are placed at the curb, all materials become the property of the township. It is unlawful for any person to collect or pick up any such recyclable material. Only authorized Township personnel may collect recyclable materials. Upon conviction, penalties can include a fine up to \$300 and court costs or 30 days of imprisonment.

Residents are reminded to place recyclables out at the curb the night before collection date.