

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: 735-6148
- 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

Spring is finally here and the weather is getting warmer. It's time for Little League, Softball and Tee-Ball games to begin. The Newport Township Recreation Park is looking good and a new practice field is in the works. Thank You Newport Township Authority. Our Street Department has been doing maintenance work on the swings and restrooms at the park. A fresh coat of paint for the restrooms, as well as new hand dryers, which will be installed soon, and some new swings make beautifying improvements to our park. Volunteers have painted the fence and assisted with Rec park maintenance.

Recently, Newport Township Board of Commissioners has obtained three grants totaling \$56,441 for upgrading the Coal Street playground. The newly reorganized Recreation Board is looking into new playground equipment and maintenance of the grounds. New fencing, wall repairs and concrete slab removal are expected to be completed this Summer. The Alden playground can expect some work as well.

Residents of Sheatown can expect some relief from the driving conditions on Simon Street. John Street, William Street and Thomas Street in Sheatown will be paved, as well as necessary repairs to storm drains. In addition, Newport Ave. in Alden, may be paved—if funds are available. Funding for these projects comes from a \$160,000 grant from congressman Kanjorski's office with \$40,000 matching money from Newport Township. The Newport Township Authority contributed \$25,000 and Newport Township contributed \$15,000 to equal the \$40,000.

Newport Township Authority is again working with the Board of Commissioners on demolition of dilapidated properties throughout the Township. The property located at 19-21 Arch Street, Glen Lyon, is scheduled to be torn down this year. The Authority is pursuing additional funding in order to demolish several more dilapidated buildings in the Township this year.

The Board of Commissioners is deeply involved with review, approval, obtaining funding, and coordinating efforts to accomplish all of the above projects.

Thank you to our Street, Fire and Police Departments for your dedicated service to our Township. Thank you Newport Township Sewer Authority for working closely with our DPW. Lastly, I need to thank everyone of the residents of Newport Township for allowing us to serve you and help make the Township the best it can be.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Paul Czapracki,
Newport Township Board of Commissioners

An interesting quote:

To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

In February, the Police Department added another Part-time Officer to the force. His name is Michael Ranieli and he is now serving the people of Newport Township.

In addition, the Newport Township Civil Service Commission is now seeking applications for a full-time Police Officer to be added to the Police Department. Currently, the only full-time Officer is the Chief, Robert Impaglia. Because of the increased workload in the Department, the Commissioners feel another full-time officer is needed and authorized the Civil Service Commission to begin the process. This position was included in the 2009 budget. In today's society, crime is an unfortunate part of life and Law Enforcement needs to deal with a wide variety of problems. Crimes are committed for a number of reasons ranging from domestic issues that spiral out of control, to drug abuse, financial instability or mental problems. There is not always an easy answer or solution to these problems. Our primary functions are to prevent crime followed by the solving of crimes. With your help we can accomplish this goal— Chief Impaglia.

Here are a few tips from Newport Township Police Department to help prevent becoming a victim of crime.

- **Secure your homes:** use dead-bolts on doors; lock windows; use a security system, if affordable; a dog, if taken care of properly, is a good deterrent; use timer lights when not at home; keep valuables hidden; inform the Police Dept. and neighbors when you will be away; park a locked car, with valuables removed, in your driveway when away.
- **Call 911:** report any suspicious activity *immediately*, no matter how petty it may seem. Your call may remain anonymous, but give as much information as possible. Remember, old information is useless information.
- **Know your neighbors:** get to know your neighbors on a personal level. Look out for their property and have them look out for yours, as this is the best way to prevent crime.
- **Lock your shed:** keep ATV's, riding lawnmowers, and precious scrap metals (copper, aluminum and cast iron) out of the public eye. Use a good interior lock that cannot be pried or cut to secure sheds. Criminals can't steal what they don't see.

To contact the Newport Township Police Dept., call 735-2000 or Email: NTPD6302@hotmail.com

RECREATIONAL PARKS

We have finally received the contract from the State for the \$41,431 for the Coal Street Park in Glen Lyon. This combined with the \$10,000 from OCD and \$5,000 from the State Department of Community and Economic Office, will allow a project of \$56,431. These funds will be used for a Landscape Architect to layout the park, site preparation, restoration of equipment, with the final item being to fence in the entire area. Currently the Recreation Board is working on selecting various types of equipment, including a piece to serve as the focal point in the Park.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

As Summer approaches, here are some fire safety concerns for your home:

1. **Be sure to use the proper receptacle for the air conditioning unit.** *Don't overload your receptacles.* Using extension cords is not advised, unless they are rated for the specific unit.
2. **Contact a licensed electrical inspector if you have any questions about the wiring in your home.** Homes 40 years and older are three times more likely to have an electrical fire than homes 20 years old.
3. **Keep gas or charcoal grills 10 feet away from your home and never use them under porches or roofs.** Check all hoses and tanks for leaks *prior to use*. One half of all grill fires begin on balconies or open porches. When using charcoal, be sure the coals are out before disposing of them. Grills pose a carbon monoxide (CO) hazard if used too close to homes.
4. **A smoke detector is the most important fire safety tool!** Test it monthly and change the batteries when you change the time.

If you need a smoke detector or have fire safety questions, call the Fire Station at 735-2000.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

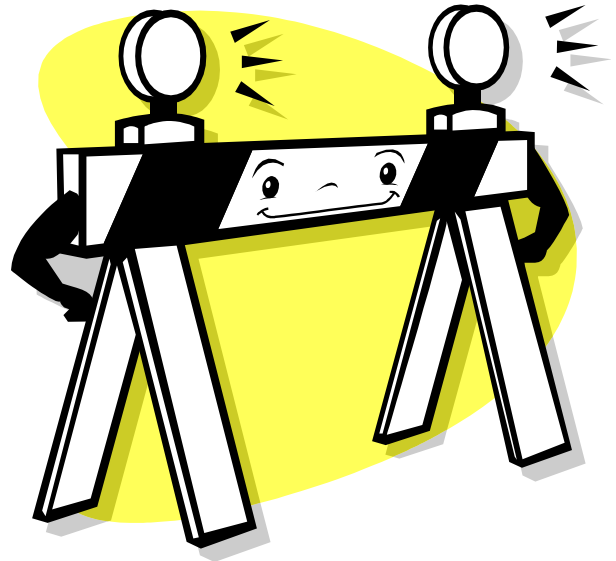
As the weather turns, the Department of Public Works is busy with street and storm drain cleaning. After that will come the patching of pot holes and general repair of streets.

Also planned for this year is the Simon Street reconstruction project. PennDot has taken the core samples it requires and is in the process of preparing the bid documents so this project can be bid and completed this Summer. This project will be funded by our Liquid Fuels fund.

The other major project is the Federal Streets Project. This is for John, Thomas, William Streets in Sheatown and Newport Ave in Alden. Funding for this project consists of \$160,000 Federal Money, \$25,000 from the Newport Township Authority and \$15,000 from Newport Township for a total of \$200,000. The project is scheduled to go to bid by June 15th, bid opening on July 15th and completion by October 15, 2009.

In addition to the work the DPW does on the Township roads and streets, it also does the pick-up of recycling two (2) days a week, and maintains the Township Parks and their equipment.

A reminder that you must use the Township Recycling bins for co-mingled items and all paper, etc. must be tied in a bundle. Please have your recycling out the night before as an early start may be required to complete other projects that day.



ROAD WORK AHEAD

Our Street Department thanks you for your care and consideration when driving through a work area.

Please drive safely when you see our crew working on the streets. A moment of distraction can cause an accident or take a life. Please obey all posted signs and signals.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING NOTES

The 2009 Refuse and Recycling bills are now overdue. Any unpaid bill as of April 30, 2009 will be turned over to the District Judge for collection. The current amount due is \$257.56. If it is turned over for collection, additional court costs are added to the amount due.

A reminder that you must use the Newport Township RED recycling containers. Any other containers will be taken during pick-up. Also, all newspaper, magazines, etc., must be tied in bundles.

Please do not put your refuse or recycling out days before your scheduled collection day. It not only causes an eyesore but is also subject to be torn apart by various types of animals.

This year you may still put out one (1) large item on the first collection day of every month in your area. All refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must have the Freon removed by a qualified person and the sticker attached that states that the Freon has been removed. Any extra large item should be broken into 4' lengths.

The Refuse hauler has until 5:00 P.M. each collection day to pick-up your refuse. If you are missed, please report it to our office at 735-4735.

STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

NEWPORT
TOWNSHIP 2009
MEETING
SCHEDULE

JUNE 1

JULY 6

AUGUST 3

SEPTEMBER 8

OCTOBER 5

NOVEMBER 5

DECEMBER 7

*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.*

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

So far this year, the Township is maintaining a positive cash flow by controlling its' costs and services. As of April 30, 2009 the fund balances are as follows:

General Fund	\$ 63,826.15
Payroll Fund	\$ 13,440.72
Fire Tax Fund	\$ 9,400.34
Refuse Fund	\$172,787.02
Recycling Fund	\$ 21,099.75
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$ 93,581.59
 TOTAL AVAILABLE	 \$374,135.57

The Commissioners constantly monitor the Townships cash flow and strive to make sure that all bills are paid on time, discounts are taken and no interest for late payments is charged.

Commissioners Meet with Senator Musto and Mike Lombardo

During the month of February, the Newport Township Commissioners had meetings with Senator Musto and his aide at the Municipal Building. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Senator to tour our existing building and fire station and to discuss the need for a new building. After the tour, Senator Musto agreed that the Township needs a new, updated building to house the Municipal Offices, meeting room, fire, police and ambulance equipment all at one location. He believes that funding for the project could become available in the next year or two.

The Commissioners also met with Mike Lombardo, Director of the Governor's Northeast Office. This meeting centered on many projects being considered within the Township, including the need for a comprehensive plan, the South Valley Parkway, connector road from River Street to Ridgeview, extension of the rail line into the Industrial park and other projects for the improvement of the Township and its residents.

Zoning Permits are required for:

New construction, additions, garages, car-ports, sheds, decks, pools and signs. Have the pin # from your tax bill or deed at hand when calling the Zoning office at 825-1560.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

DEMOLITION PROJECT

The Board of Commissioners and the Newport Township Authority are again co-operating in the demolition of derelict properties in the Township. Properties located at 19-21 Arch St., Glen Lyon, 65-67 Laurel St., Alden and 56 Spruce St., Alden, are expected to be demolished by this Fall. The Township Board of Commissioners has recently applied for \$50,000 in demolition funds from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development. Should this request be granted, additional properties in Glen Lyon will also be demolished by fall. Over the past several years 10 properties have been torn down through the aforementioned joint efforts with 3 more demolished as the result of other Township Code Enforcement activities. Prior to demolition, all properties receive an inspection to insure all asbestos materials are removed.

The actual demolition of a structure and property restoration takes less than one week. The time necessary to take the project to bid involves releases and waivers signed by the property owner, title searches, lien resolutions, asbestos inspections, approval of each individual property by the Luzerne County Commissioners, bid document preparation by the Township's engineer, and advertising in the newspaper, final bid acceptance by the Board of Commissioners and awarding of the demolition contract. All of these steps are legally necessary to demolish a structure due to primary use of county funds and take months to complete.

Multiple derelict structures are advertised for demolition bid as a cost saving measure. The reason being since contractor equipment needs to be moved to the Township only once per bid project.

WEST NILE VIRUS

Along with the warmer weather come mosquitoes. Do not allow any accumulation of stagnant water on any lot or piece of ground. The female can lay from 1 to 300 eggs that hatch in anywhere from 2 days to 3 weeks. Tires are often overlooked but can be an ideal source of stagnant water as are containers, wading pools, buckets, etc. Last year the State did set traps in the Township and no mosquitoes were found to have the Virus.

BATS HELP CONTROL MOSQUITOES

The Pennsylvania Game commission is expecting the white-nosed syndrome that affects brown bats to spread throughout Northeast Pennsylvania. The brown bats help control the insect population and are expected to be hit the hardest. Little brown bats eat thousands of mosquitoes every night. Mosquitoes need stagnant water to lay their eggs and any container holding an ounce of water will suffice.

WARNING TO RESIDENTS

Funds being solicited without approval of the Township Commissioners for parks or recreation may not be tax deductible. The Board of Commissioners have not approved any solicitation of funds from the public, nor have they received any funds.

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP
AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

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

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP
SEWER AUTHORITY
MEMBERS**

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

RIGHT TO KNOW

Newport Township complies with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 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

Newport Township
1 002 Center Street
Wanamie, Pa. 18634

Phone: 570-735-4735
Fax: 570-735-5595
E-mail: rvzika@pa.metrocast.net

**CODE AND ORDINANCE
ENFORCEMENT**

With the warmer weather approaching, here are some reminders about the **Nuisance Ordinance No. 3 of 1986**. For the purposes of the Ordinance, a “nuisance” is described as any property that is in such a condition that it can: injure or endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of others, or offends decency; or is offensive to the senses; or unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct or render dangerous for passage any public or private street, highway, sidewalk, stream, ditch or drainage or in any way renders other persons insecure in life or the use of property; or essentially interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property, or tends to depreciate the value of the property of others. All property owners must maintain their property as follows and not allow the following: weeds, grass or other rank vegetation to a height no greater than six (6) inches on the average; accumulation of dead weeds, grass or brush; poison ivy, ragweed or other poisonous plants; trees shrubs, plants or vegetation which overhang or border any public place or such as to allow seed, pollen or other poisonous particles therefrom to be carried though the air into any public place; Trees, shrubs, plants or vegetation which overhangs any sidewalk or street or which grows thereon in a manner as to obstruct or impair the free and full use of the sidewalk or street by the public, including the interruption or interference with the clear vision of pedestrians or person operating vehicles thereon; accumulation of rubbish, trash, refuse, junk and other abandoned materials, metals, lumber or other things; any condition which provides harborage for rats, mice, snakes and other vermin; any building or other structure which is in such a dilapidated condition that it is unfit for human habitation, or kept in such an unsanitary condition that it is a menace to the health of people residing in the vicinity thereof. If found guilty of violating any of the above, a fine of up to \$300 per day can be assessed against the violators.

OCCUPANCY APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS

The Property Maintenance Code of the Uniform Construction Code and Newport Township Ordinance requires **Occupancy inspections** prior to any person, firm or corporation managing, selling, conducting or operating a house, building, apartment or dwelling unit of any kind without first securing a certificate of use and occupancy from Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Officer. The certificate is good until the premises is vacated, or six months, whichever is longer. The Ordinance requires that all utilities are working properly. Some things the inspector looks for are: Cleanliness, Windows workability, Outlets covered & working properly, Light switches work, All plumbing & fixtures work, Hot water, Smoke alarms on all floors in all bedrooms and basement, Handrails, Heating system, Breaker/fuse box properly grounded & inspected and Drain pipes/sewer line working. The exterior of building in good condition, including all process and railings and checks the outside cleanliness around the building and property. Cost of the Occupancy permit is \$85.00.

2009 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

OFFICIALS

Police Chief: Robert Impaglia

Fire Chief: Daniel Kowalski

Tax Collector: Marie Morucci

Department of Public Works: Joseph Hillan

Code/Nuisance Inspector: Joseph McGuire

Newport Township News is the official publication of the Newport Township Commissioners.

Richard V. ZikaEditor

Tania GronkowskiGraphic Designer

HOUSE NUMBERS

The Newport Township Property Maintenance Code requires all buildings have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with the background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch.