

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NEWS

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

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September 1, 2010

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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

Hot, hot, hot... what a Summer we had. I would like to remind everyone to be careful burning during this extremely dry season.

What a great opening day at the Coal Street park! The Newport Township Recreation Board, Boy Scouts and Women's Auxiliary Group did a great job. Thank you for all your donations and refreshments.

Our demolition projects are progressing with three more buildings scheduled to go this year. Some new homes are being constructed at Whitney Pointe and Center, St., Wanamie.

The Township has prosecuted illegal dumping cases and anyone caught will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Take your debris to the landfill, Newport Township is not a landfill.

Our DPW is continuing to patch potholes and make road repairs. Please be patient as we are limited to two full-time and one part-time employees. We are awaiting the final approval from PennDot before we can start paving in Sheatown.

Our Police Department has been cracking down on ATVs illegally driving on the roads. Several have been apprehended and prosecuted.

Enjoy the rest of the Year and thank you for the opportunity to make Newport Township a better Community.

Paul Czapracki
President, Newport Township Commissioners

President's Thought

People always take things for granted until they don't have them anymore;
That's when they realize just what they had.

CODE AND ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

Ordinance No. 8 of 2006 An Ordinance of Newport Township Providing for the inspection of Dwellings and Buildings Prior to Renting, Leasing, Changes in Residence and Occupation and the issuance of a Certificate of Use or Occupancy

Whereas, the Township Of Newport is desirous of providing for the health, welfare and safety of Township residents; and Whereas, this can be accomplished through the implementation of certain regulations governing and regulating housing within the Township,

Now Therefore, be it enacted and ordained by the Township of Newport, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. Applicability No person, firm, or corporation managing, selling, conducting or operating a house, building, apartment or dwelling unit of any kind shall sell, rent, lease let out, or permit the occupation or shall re-rent or re-occupy the same, without first securing a certificate of use and occupancy from the Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Office, his or her designee or the agency or person (s) designated by the Township for that purpose.

(continued pg. 6)

Code and Ordinance Enforcement—Continued

Section 1. Applicability No person, firm, or corporation managing, selling, conducting or operating a house, building, apartment or dwelling unit of any kind shall sell, rent, lease let out, or permit the occupation or shall re-rent or re-occupy the same, without first securing a certificate of use and occupancy from the Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Office, his or her designee or the agency or person (s) designated by the Township for that purpose.

Section 2. Inspection Prior to each managing, selling, renting, leasing, letting out, or permitting of the occupation or re-occupation of any house, dwelling, building, apartment or dwelling unit by the Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Officer, his or her designee or the agency or person(s) designated by the Township to conduct said inspection(s).

Section 3. Inspection Guidelines And Incorporation Of The Uniform Construction Code of 2006 Property Maintenance Section The Newport Township Building Code Officer or his or her designee, or the agency or person(s) designated by the Township to conduct said inspection(s) shall follow the guidelines for occupation enacted by the Uniform Construction Code of 2006, (Property Maintenance Section) or any revisions thereof, which is hereby incorporated into this Ordinance by reference thereto.

Section 4. Issuance Of Occupancy Permit If the Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Officer, or his or her designee or the agency or person(s) designated by the Township determines that the requirements as set forth and established by the Uniform Construction Code of 2006 (Property Maintenance Section) or most recent revision thereof, he or she shall issue a Certificate of Occupancy to the owner of said structure.

In the event the Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Officer or his or her designee or the agency or person(s) designated by the Township determines that the house, dwelling, building, apartment or dwelling unit does not meet the occupation requirements as set forth and established by the Uniform Construction Code of 2006 (Property Maintenance Section) or most recent revision thereof, he or she shall notify the owner thereof of any deficiencies, and a Certificate of occupancy shall not be issued.

Any habitation of said house, dwelling, building, apartment or dwelling unit without the deficiencies being remedied to the satisfaction of the Newport Township Building Code Enforcement Officer or his or her designee or the agency or person(s) designated by the Township, when applying the applicable Code, regulation or law shall be determined to be a violation of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Fees

A. Existing residential unit (existing individual home)

Permit fee plus inspection fee which shall be determined by the applicable fee schedule in effect at time of inspection. Currently the fee is \$25.00 for the Permit and \$60.00 for the inspection. Inspection shall be performed by the Newport Township Code Enforcement Officer or building inspection agency approved by Newport Township.

B. Existing Residential Multi-Unit Housing (any unit capable of housing more than one occupant in separate quarters)

Permit fee is \$25.00 plus inspection fee of \$60.00. Total \$85.00.

C. New Single Family Home

There shall be no permit fee. Inspection fee shall be determined by

2010 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: Ken Angradi

Department of Public Works: Joseph Hillan

Code/Nuisance Inspector: Joseph McGuire

Richard V. ZikaEditor

Tania GronkowskiGraphic Designer

the applicable inspection agency fee schedule in effect at the time of inspection.

Section 7. Violation and Penalty Any person(s), firm or corporation who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$600 and costs of prosecution, or in default of payment of such fine and costs, to undergo imprisonment of not more than 30 days. Newport Township also reserves the right to institute appropriate actions at law or in equity to enforce this Ordinance or any provisions thereof.

Section 8. Continuing Violations Each day upon which this Ordinance or any part thereof shall be deemed a new violation, after notice of said violation is given by Newport Township shall be deemed a new violation and each day the same is continued shall be deemed a separate offense and punishable as such.

Section 9. Enforcement The Newport Township Building Code Officer, or his or her designee, or the Newport Township Police Dept. shall be responsible for enforcement of this Ordinance and may issue citations or notices of violations or continuing violations relative to this Ordinance.

RECREATIONAL PARKS

Coal Street Park Dedication

June 12, 2010, Newport Township Recreation Board opened the Coal Street Park with a dedication ceremony. Rep. John Yudichak, Michael Lombardo of Gov. Rendell's Regional Office and Township Commissioners obtained grants to complete the project from Pa. Local Gaming Fund, Dept. of Community and Economic Development, and Luzerne Co. Office of Community Development. Funds were used to prepare the park and install new equipment. Volunteers and businesses helped to install the new equipment at the park. A Summer park program was held at each park within the Township.



First row, from left, are Lori Vandermark, recreation board secretary; Joe Figlerski, Scout committee chairman; Josh Brady, Scout; Joe Brady Jr., Scout; Joe Brady Senior Assistant Scout Master; Murph Fletcher, recreation board member. Second row: Bob Ranieri, recreation board co-chairman; Scott Shatley, recreation board member; Richard Zika, Township Manager; John Zyla, Township Commissioner; John Yudichak, State Representative; Paul Czapracki, Township Commissioner; John Vishnefski, Township Commissioner; Randy Hughes, Scout Quartermaster and John Grabowski, recreation board chairman

WANAMIE PARK.

The Wanamie Park is scheduled to receive repairs to the Tennis Courts. It is anticipated that the project could be bid this year, but more than likely, will be done in early spring next year. It will include a new surface and nets.

ALDEN PARK

The Pavilion was repainted, swings and chains were replaced and the fence is scheduled for repair early this fall. The Newport Township Authority will be providing funding for a new section of fence in the back of the park.

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

RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

John Grabowski, President
Bob Ranieri, Vice President
Lorri Vandermark,
Secretary
Scott Shatley
Murph Fletcher

Meetings are open to the public and are held the third Tuesday of the month at 6 P.M. in the Municipal Building.

Newport Township
1002 Center Street
Wanamie, Pa. 18634

Phone: 570-735-4735
Fax: 570-735-5595

E-mail:
newporttownship@pa.metrocast.net

**NEWPORT TOWNSHIP
2010 MEETING
SCHEDULE**

SEPTEMBER 8

OCTOBER 4

NOVEMBER 1

DECEMBER 6

*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.*

STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

So far this year, the Township is maintaining a positive cash flow by controlling its' costs and services. As of August 31, 2010 the fund balances are as follows:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 74,859.09
PAYROLL FUND	\$ 6,134.58
FIRE TAX FUND	\$ 18,408.14
REFUSE FUND	\$120,233.14
RECYCLING FUND	\$ 14,432.45
LIQUID FUELS FUND	<u>\$ 35,368.20</u>
 TOTAL AVAILABLE	 \$269,435.60

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

DEMOLITION PROJECTS

We are pleased to announce that 19-21 Arch St., 102-104 Newport St. and 335 West Main St., Glen Lyon have been demolished. Thanks to the Newport Township Authority, properties at 56 Spruce St. and 65-67 Laurel Street were also demolished.

A contract for the demolition of the old factory at the corner of Third and Engle Streets in Glen Lyon will be awarded at the October Commissioners meeting.

The Newport Township Authority has purchased the property at 2-4-6 Third Street, Glen Lyon through a tax sale. As soon as the Authority receives the deed, this property, along with the property at 64 E. Main Street, Glen Lyon will also be demolished this year

RIGHT TO KNOW

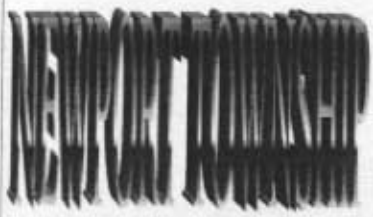
Newport Township complies with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Right to Know law. Forms for "Request for Information" may be obtained at the Municipal Office during normal business hours. Please be specific on your request so as not to cause any delays in obtaining a prompt response to your request.

Newport Township Office Hours

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

To Request a Copy of a Township Ordinance.

Copies of the Township's Ordinances may be requested by filling out the Right-to-Know forms located in the Township Office during normal business hours. Access may be granted at no cost but an appointment may be required to review the documents. The fee for requested copies is 25 cents per page. A certified record costs \$1 per record. All fees are payable to Newport Township in the form of cash, check or money order.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

During this past summer, DPW did considerable patching of potholes, a tremendous amount of grass and brush cutting, the sealing of cracks on Overlook and Vista Drive in Ridgeview and continued maintenance at our Parks and Playgrounds.

When you see the DPW crew working on streets in your area, please exercise extreme caution when approaching the area and drive safely.

Currently the crew is getting the equipment ready for the upcoming winter and making sure that everything will be operational.



The Federal Streets Project for Sheatown and Alden are still in the works, which is good news. The bad news is that PennDot has placed them on the back burner for review and approval. They have pushed the ARRA stimulus money projects for the whole state ahead of our project. This does not mean that, one of these days, we will be notified that the project is ready for bid. However, for the time being, we are at Penn Dot's mercy. We will not lose the \$160,000 funds for this project, it is just sad that it has taken so long to bring it to a reality. We continue to strive to search for grants and funding sources to do major repairs to other streets in the Township.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING NOTES

Newport Township filed over forty cases with the District Judge for failure to pay the 2010 Refuse and Recycling fee. Forty-one were found guilty and sentenced to pay \$261.42 plus \$77 in court costs and up to \$300 in fines. One case was found not guilty because the property has been vacant since the first of the year. If a residential unit is occupied, you must purchase a Refuse and Recycling sticker for that unit. Repeat offenders can expect to be fined the full \$300 for failure to pay.

The Township is in the process of seeking bids for Refuse Collection for 2011, 2012 and 2013. Hopefully, all bids will be competitive and we will not experience any large increases in fees for these years.

Our Recycling and Burning Ordinances are in the process of being revised to reflect changes in the State Law. The Township will be scheduling two (2) weeks in 2011 for the pick-up of leaves which will have to be placed in bio-degradable bags. One (1) week will be in the spring and another in the fall and they will be publicly announced in advance. The Burning Ordinance will be amended to prohibit the burning of any recyclable items. For 2011 cardboard will be picked up with recycling on paper days, and will have to be stacked and tied.

WHITNEY POINTE

After many years of waiting and anticipation the first home in Whitney Pointe is under construction. It is owned by Garfield and Susan McFarlane. We welcome them to our Community and wish them the best in their new home.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

NOTICE

The Newport Township Police Department does not handle civil issues.

Such as:

- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Evictions
- Property Issues
- Owed Rent
- Child Custody (if custody order is not in place)
- Utility Issues (Electric, Gas, Water, Cable, Phone, Heat)



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT—

Fall is coming and soon we'll be into the fall forest fire season. Please be extra careful when burning any items outside or discarding lit cigarettes. Recently we have added a Brush Truck #163 to our arsenal of Firefighting Apparatus. It was purchased through a matching grant made available by the PA DCNR. The Firemen's Relief Association provided the necessary matching monies to make the project possible. The unit is equipped with a 200 gallon tank and a high pressure pump, various hoses and tools for fighting brush fires. At this time our Fire Department is in excellent condition as far as equipment.



The Fire Department would like to thank all who supported us this past summer at the Second Annual Bazaar, at which we celebrated our 100th anniversary, and at the 4th annual Pow Wow and Gathering of the People. All monies made go directly to purchase and upgrade equipment. It is our belief that our department is ready for any emergency the community faces. However, we are looking for volunteers to join the emergency services departments. There are many jobs that need to be done.

We would like some feed-back concerning our fundraising. What would be most attractive to the residents? What would be a good community event to bring everybody together? We would like to know, feel free to call 735-2000 and let the Fire Chief know. It is our belief that our department can be ready for any emergency the community faces.

The Fire Department thanks the Community for it's continued support

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP