



# NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NEWS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: PAUL CZAPRACKI, PRESIDENT

2016 was a wild ride for Newport Township. For awhile it seemed that the flow of bad news was unstoppable, but the dedication and determination of our citizens made it possible to come back better and stronger than ever. I can report that our Township is on solid financial footing, and there is hope for a brighter future. Specifics will be listed in the Township Manager's section later in this News Letter.

Major priorities during the last few quarters had us focused on assessing the damage caused by activities of the previous township manager; taking action to correct security issues, analyzing and refining the 2017 budget, and at the same time ensuring that current projects were completed in a timely and orderly fashion. The new municipal building is a source of pride for our community; a bridge improvement project was completed, several dilapidated buildings were demolished, and future streetscape projects have been identified.

Our share of the liquid fuels distribution for 2017 was \$146,511, which will be used for specific road improvement projects throughout the year.

We were successful in finalizing the grant funding for the new DPW pole barn which is located adjacent to the Municipal Building. It will house township vehicles thereby extending their operational life and save money over time.

One of the crown jewels of accomplishments was the success in keeping SCI Retreat open and functioning. Efforts are underway to eliminate the reasons that got that facility on the list of possible closures in the future.

A renegotiated contract with Waste Management resulted in an annual reduction in the cost of garbage removal.

We continue to search for grant opportunities that will be used to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Paul Czapracki  
President, Newport Township Commissioners.



## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHT

*Even the longest journey starts with but a single step*

# NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

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





## Township Manager's Activities / Report

*Peter F. Wanchisen*

Over the last few months Newport Township has made great strides in terms of innovation, restructuring, and improving. We are now well on our way to executing a business plan that is more secure, more cost conscious, and better controlled.

Below is a list of major initiatives and accomplishments from June 2016 to March 2017:

1. Filed an insurance claim and received \$100,000 partial recovery of stolen township funds. The remaining balance of just under \$60,000 is expected by Q2, 2017.
2. Set up all deposit accounts for on-line banking thereby making access to balance information immediate from the Municipal office.
3. Converted to a "No Cash" environment thereby making the tracking of revenue and disbursements automatic and verifiable, at the same time adding a strong element of security and accountability.
4. Negotiated a deposit relationship with FNCB with which Newport is paid interest on our deposits. Based on our average balance this could result in approximately \$1,500 annually.
5. Updated the Alpha-List of township residents as an initial step in developing a accurate list of Newport residents. A comparison of Berkheimer tax reports, Township Code Enforcement list, Sewer Authority customers, and other information sources has resulted in the most accurate population measurement in many years.
6. Conducted a review of annual insurance costs and solicited competitive bids from various reputable insurance carriers. Liability, vehicle, and property coverage was transferred with a net annual savings of approximately \$40,000.
7. Fully funded the purchase of an off-road vehicle with grant money from Earth Conservancy, State of Pennsylvania Governor's Office, and the Newport Township Sewer Authority. This vehicle has proven to be effective in deterring illegal dumping and gunfire in the wooded areas of our township. It should be noted that, though it is primarily used by our police department, it is available to all township departments and neighboring municipalities should the need arise.
8. Initiated Heart & Lung insurance coverage for our police & fire departments to protect against major loss associated with on the job injuries.
9. Integrated ADP payroll processing to increase office productivity and shed liability for processing errors.
10. Initiated a strong and strict dual control policy / procedure for every revenue, disbursement, and deposit transaction.
11. Established a strong petty cash policy with cross check functionality.
12. Installed a credit/debit card option for processing of all payments received at the municipal office.
13. Provided financial oversight support for the Night Out event. Secure accounting and transfer of funds to a special purpose bank account designated for police related special purchases.
14. Reorganized and realigned municipal administrative and operational duties to create a more streamlined and functional work flow.
15. Switched electricity providers to South Jersey Energy with an initial savings of \$220 per month.
16. Established an Employee Incentive Program which is designed to stimulate ideas that result in cost reductions or revenue enhancements. Start date is expected to be announced during the second half of 2017.
17. Moved all fuel purchases for Township vehicles to a card based process. Automatic reporting as to who bought fuel, where & when they bought it, how much and the cost are all available in real time.

Our commitment is to operate in an open and transparent manner, serve our Citizens with respect, and provide disciplined management of Newport Township's resources and revenues.



Thought to ponder: If hind sight is 20/20, we must be committed to constant monitoring of our rear view mirror.

Ignoring history will guarantee a repeat of mistakes made in the past.

## **NEWPORT TOWNSHIP 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE**

MAY 1

JUNE 5

JULY 3

AUGUST 7

SEPTEMBER 5

OCTOBER 2

NOVEMBER 6

DECEMBER 4

*Regular meetings*

*begin at 6:00 P.M.*

*Work sessions will be*

*held on the third*

*Wednesday of every*

*month & begin at*

*4:30 P.M.*

*Special Meetings and*

*Budget Meetings will*

*be scheduled as*

*needed.*

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

2016 saw a flurry of activity in the Police Department. The most notable are the following:

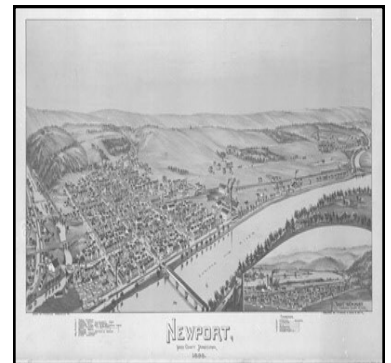
1. A new Interceptor police cruiser was added to our fleet of vehicles
2. A new Polaris side by side off road vehicle was purchased and has been deployed on patrols to deter illegal activity in the remote regions of our township.
3. The first annual Night Out event was a remarkable success which brought out residents of Newport Township and surrounding communities for an day of fun and civic activities. Plans are underway for an even larger event this year.
4. A cooperative effort among residents, land owners, and the Police Department has resulted in a noticeable decrease in the amount of illegal gunfire through out Newport.
5. A new Township Wide Crime Watch Program has been formed and is now functional. Residents are encouraged to get involved in this, and other civic organization, that are designed to improve the quality of life in our communities.
6. Residents are reminded that our community is home to several civic organizations with a common mission, Improving the Quality of Life in Newport Township. Please consider joining one or more and encourage other friends and family members to do the same. Newport Township Community Organization, Crime Watch, Lions Club, Women's Activity Group, and American Legion Auxiliary (unit 539) just to mention a few. Meeting days and times are posted in the municipal building for your convenience.
7. Come join the festivities at the Annual Night Out Against Crime to be held on August 1, 2017 at Saint Faustina's Grove. Don't miss the fun and great food. Remember; Making our Community a better place to live must be a concept embraced by Township officials, employees, and residents. If illegal activity is observed it should be reported. Our police force depends on engaged citizens to act as their eyes and ears. A cooperative effort is the best approach to crime elimination.

## **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 Prevention Tips:**

*Kitchen fires can be prevented by adopting the following precautions:*

1. Stay in the kitchen at all times when using the stove, micro wave, French fryer, or electric frying pan.
2. If you must leave the kitchen be sure that the above listed appliances are turned off.
3. If children are present, keep them at least three feet from the stove, and all pots should have their handles turned inward.
4. Water is not effective in extinguishing grease fires. Cover a grease fire with a lid to choke off oxygen.
5. Microwave fires. Keep the door closed and turn off the power. Fire will go out.
6. Keep the area around the stove clear of any combustible items like counter top cleaner, paper or plastic bags, or pot holders.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Just when we thought that Winter would be kind and gentle, March 14th arrived with all of its wrath, disruption, and a snow removal cost of just under \$20,000. Though our people were ready, our equipment proved that it was not. The heavy snow took its toll as breakdown after breakdown occurred. It is clear that updating our road maintenance equipment is a screaming priority. There is a grant application working its way through the system which, if successful, would add a new dump truck with plow and salt spreader. A decision on the grant application is expected during the second quarter of 2017.

The construction of the previously mentioned DPW pole barn (adjacent to the Municipal Building) will begin as weather permits. Total construction time is expected to be approximately 3 weeks. The building will house our township vehicles and pieces of equipment owned by the South Valley Council of Governments. Along with storage functionality, the building will provide a place to do equipment maintenance year round without weather concerns.

### Code Enforcement



Spring is finally upon us and each Spring signifies a time of renewal. New Code Enforcement Initiatives are underway Throughout the Township. Below are three of the priorities we will be focusing on in an attempt to improve the quality of life and image of our community:

1. We will be citing property owners who have excessive amounts of trash on their property, and, with the cooperation of our police department, will be tagging abandoned and un registered vehicles.
2. High grass, weeds, and other rank vegetation is not to exceed a height of 6 inches. To do so would be a violation of Ordinance #3 of 1986. Penalties could carry a fine of up to \$300 per day for each day the violation is not corrected.
3. As of March 6, 2017 Newport Township Commissioners approved Ordinance #2017-01 which adopted the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code. It provides for substantial penalties for non compliance. A copy of the Code is available at the Municipal Building for viewing.
4. Trash containers can be placed curb side no more than 24 hours before pick up.

### PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE



The Newport Township Recreation Board welcomes two new members, Valerie Jenkins Bartle of Newport Center, and Kristen Kaminski of Glen Lyon. Other board members are: Ray Brabant, Heidi Jarecki, and Judi Pazgan.

Plans are being developed for a clean up of the parks, and repair work in the restrooms is scheduled to begin soon. Also, the Walking Trail Project will kick off with an announcement that bids will be accepted during April. The trail will measure approximately 3,500 feet, and will be 10 feet wide providing a safe and level track to enjoy a healthy exercise. A \$40,000 grant was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to partially fund the project. A grand opening will be scheduled upon completion of the work.

The Recreation Board continues to support the efforts of Murph Fletcher and the Newport Township Community Organization in the implementation of another Summer Fun Program for the children of the Township. Additional support is provided to the Newport Township Women's Activity Group and the various youth sports organizations who utilize the fields in the Township. A soccer field has been added to the baseball, football, and softball fields.

The Recreation Board constantly strives to provide safe and secure areas for area children and adults to play, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors.

#### NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Debra Zaleski, President  
Joseph DeLuca, Vice-President  
  
Pete Wanchisen, Treasurer  
  
John Elmy, 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  
Heidi Jarecki  
Valerie Bartle  
Kristen Kaminski

Meetings are opened  
to the public and  
are held the third  
Wednesday of the month  
at 6:00 at the  
Newport Township  
Municipal Building

Newport Township Web Site:

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

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

## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE TO DATE

From	To	Fee
\$0	\$499.99	\$20.00
\$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

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.

## 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](http://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.



# STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

As of March 31, 2017:

General Fund	\$203,383.52
Payroll Fund	\$1,268.41
Fire Dept Inheritance	\$18,286.80
Refuse Fund	\$244,063.76
Recycling Fund	\$29,564.65
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$121,381.24

Total Available	<u>\$617,948.47</u>
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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 D.P.W. STORAGE BUILDING

Adding a modern and well equipped Department of Public Works pole barn to the Township's property at 351 West Kirmar Avenue not only enhances our public image, it also provides a state of the art facility where vehicle storage and maintenance can be done year round without concern for weather conditions. The 60' X 60' structure will house maintenance and construction equipment owned by Newport Township and also machinery owned by the South Valley Council of Government. The project was fully funded by a Local Share Grant commonly referred to as "Gambling Money" from the Mohegan Sun Casino.



Pictured from left to right: Norman Manovsky, Daryl Pawluch, Andy Pasonick, Emil Jarolen, State Rep, Gerald Mullery, State Sen John Yudichak, Joseph Yudichak, Paul Czapracki, John Vishnefski, John Zyla, Debra Zaleski, Peter Wanchisen

Warmer weather marks the beginning of intense road maintenance. The D.P.W. will be busy cleaning streets & storm drains and general repairs like pot hole filling. Our Street Department will appreciate your consideration when driving through work areas. We take the safety of our crews very seriously, and we believe that you should too. Please drive safely. A moment of distraction by using a cell phone or changing a radio station can cause a serious accident which otherwise would be totally avoidable.

### TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR SURROUNDINGS

There is nothing that speaks more about the character of a community than the appearance of the residences. Unsightly front yards filled with junk, debris, or high weeds sends message that the owner cares nothing about the community or fellow residents. Newport residents are better than that and must lead by example... Code Enforcement will help.

### 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

351 W. Kirmar Ave  
Wanamie, PA 18634  
Phone: 570-735-4735  
Fax: 570-735-5595

E-mail:

[newporttownship@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:newporttownship@pa.metrocast.net)

## 2017 Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Regular Meetings:  
First Monday of each month

Work Sessions:  
Third Wednesday of each month

## COMMISSIONERS

Paul Czapracki, President, DPW

John Zyla, Vice-President, Police

Michael Roke, Commissioner, Fire

John Vishniefski, Commissioner, Parks & Recreation

Debra Zaleski, Commissioner, Code Enforcement

## Business Office

Township Manager: Peter F. Wanchisen

Administrative / Operations Director:  
Joseph Hillan

Open Records Officer: Peter F. Wanchisen

## Officials

Police Chief: Jeremy Blank

Fire Chief: John Floryshak

Tax Collector:  
Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau

Department of Public Works:  
Joseph Hillan

Code/Nuisance Inspector: Joseph Hillan



## BRIDGE REPAIR AND ROAD PAVING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN

THE BRIDGE NEAR 242 WEST KIRMAR AVE IS SCHEDULED FOR REPAIR DURING THE SUMMER OF 2017. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT TRAFFIC MAY BE SLOWED, IT WILL NOT REQUIRE A DETOUR.

REPAVING OF MAINSTREET IN ALDEN AND GLEN LYON WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE 3RD OR 4TH QUARTER OF 2017.

THE STORM DRAIN IN FRONT OF THE FIRE STATION WILL BE REPAIRED DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2017



## REFUSE & RECYCLING NOTES

The Township is happy to report that the annual fee for trash and recycling was reduced by \$25.00. That was a result of our renegotiating a three year contract with Waste Management for the next three years.

Please be advised that it is imperative to display the yellow trash collection sticker in a place that is visible from the location that the trash is picked up. Further, any Refuse & Recycling fees not paid after May 1 will be turned over for collection and additional late charges will be charged.

Trash pick up days are listed on a calendar you received when the fee was paid. Please note that bulk items (couch, cabinets, rugs, etc) will be picked up on normal pick up days during the first full week of the month. So if the first week starts on a Tuesday (or later) the bulk item pick up will be the following week. There is a limit of one bulk item per month.

### 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.

**Refuse stickers must be displayed  
so they can be seen  
from the point of trash pickup.**



# Trash Removal Schedule

## Bulk Collection Item Pick-up\*\*\*

There has been some confusion regarding the days that big items are picked up. Following is a list of actual dates that Big Item Pick Up will take place through year end:

### Scheduled Day

#### Glen Lyon, Lee

April 6

May 4

June 8

July 7

August 10

September 8

October 5

November 9

December 7

### Scheduled Day

#### Alden, Sheatown, Wanamie, Ridgeview

April 7

May 5

June 9

July 8

August 11

September 9

October 6

November 10

December 8



There is a "One item limit" for each month.

\*\*\* Bulk Collection Items are furniture, mattress, box springs, carpeting (tied in 4 foot bundles), appliances, etc. No electronics will be picked up as bulk collection items.

## IMPORTANT !

Your Yellow Refuse sticker must be displayed so that it is visible from the point of refuse pickup.

## MAY IS LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

little tick

**BIG PROBLEM**



Lyme Disease

**PREVENT \* EDUCATE \* RESEARCH \* CURE**



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