



insideNewberry

To honor the past...inform the present... envision the future, **insideNewberry** is published quarterly by Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) as a service to the neighborhood to promote community pride and facilitate communication between residents, schools, civic organizations and businesses. NCP is a non-profit community-based organization established in 2006. Please support our sponsors who made this issue possible!

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Your stories and photos are always welcome.

Photos will be returned.



BRODART GETS A MAKEOVER

Company Reinvests in Building

Many in our community are very familiar with the six-story headquarters building of Brodart Co., near the corner of West 3rd and Arch Street in Newberry. But did you know the structure, built in 1920, was originally occupied by the the Armour Leather Company, a tannery? Those who grew up in Newberry may recall hearing some of the building's rich history.

For instance, an historical note of interest is the reason why all the windows were painted black. In 1942, during World War II, the County Office of Civil Defense asked Americans to participate in "blackouts", which were intended to darken cities so enemies could not see and hit their targets in an air raid. The tannery complied, painting windows black, allowing the tannery to continue night shifts.

In the 1960's Brodart moved into the property and continues its business as a provider of books, supplies and furniture for the library and educational institution markets.

Recently, Brodart reinvested in the building by replacing the old painted windows, the roof, the heating and air condition units, added a fresh coat of paint and made significant improvements to increase energy efficiency; Making this landmark a focal point that the company and community can be proud of.

Brodart continues to be a supporter of the community through time and donations to the YMCA, the Steven's Reads program, hosts the Newberry Community Partnership's annual Newberry/Jaysburg Christmas Tree lighting and Visit from Santa, and holds their popular bi-annual Book and DVD sale.



Brodart Co., before renovations (above) and after (below).



FALL LITTER PICK-UP WELL ATTENDED

On September 27, 2014, the Newberry Community Partnership's Safe Clean & Green team hosted its autumn cleanup.

Established 8 years ago, this twice a year event is growing in the number of volunteer participants. Along with picking up litter, trees were pruned and garden beds were weeded. Because the banners announced CLEANUP NEWBERRY, residents saw it also as a time to spruce up their own properties.

Among the volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning were members of AmeriCorps, PATH to Change, Boy Scout Troop 14 and Cub Pack 14 from St. Johns UMC, joined by individual residents and friends of Newberry/Jaysburg.

The spring clean-up is always around the globally celebrated Earth Day. This year the clean-up will be Saturday, April 25th from 9:30 AM to Noon. We meet on the corner of West Fourth and Diamond Streets. Vests, bags, gloves, and refreshments will once again be provided.

Recruit some friends and neighbors and join in! Think globally, act locally.

~ Submitted by Julia Hulslander

Thank you to Weis Market, Pepsi for the water, and Equinox, Ltd. for new vests!



Above left: Christian Frey, Newberry resident and NCP Board member, pruned many street trees on West Fourth Street. Above right: Members of Boy Scout Troop 14 and Cub Pack 14 volunteer for duty. Bottom left: Brooke Williams and Kim Cipriani also help out. Bottom right: Jackson School Principal Kirk Felix and family join the Clean Up.

HOME GARDENERS, MAKE THE CUT!

All About Pruning Landscape Trees and Ornamental Plants

Get the new gardening year off to a good start by joining us for this free educational program. Master Gardeners Karl Zierle and Paul Nyman will be presenting. Attendees will learn the definition of pruning, and gain understanding of tree biology and pruning objectives.

By the end of the activity, participants will be familiar with pruning tools, how to train young trees, and the various reasons and types of pruning for ornamental plants and trees. When you are ready to make that first cut this spring, you will be able to cut with confidence!

This event will be held on Saturday, January 24th from 10 AM till 12 Noon in the Chapel Room of the Lysock Complex at 542 County Farm Road, Montoursville, PA, Lycoming County.

PRE-REGISTRATION is requested due to limited seating. Pre-registration must be completed by 4:30 PM, Thursday, January 22nd. To register, call the Cooperative Extension Office at 570-433-3040 or go online to <http://extension.psu.edu/lycoming/events> and click on this event.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing special accommodations or have questions about the physical access provided, call Carol Loveland at 570-433-3040 prior to your participation or visit.



NCP'S SAFE CLEAN & GREEN TEAM: DIRECTION FOR 2015

Walkway – Bikeway

For several years we have been working in pursuit of a corridor running parallel to 3rd Street along the old RR bed from Arch to the ancient RR bridge over Lycoming Creek, connecting to the existing bike path. This would make an excellent portal into and out of Newberry and take pedestrians on foot and bike off rather dangerous West 3rd Street. The holdup has been an inability to connect with key property owners.

Recently David Stone, the new Bicycle Coordinator for Williamsport, addressed the NCP's Safe, Clean & Green Team. David is promoting a more bike friendly Williamsport for a multitude of very good reasons and states that this Newberry route, along with better access to the River Walk, are the two most important goals for him and his committee. Lycoming County transportation planner, Mark Murawski has met with S,C&G and supports the idea and can be enlisted to help promote the plan.

David believes that we need to show the Mayor and others, that there is real community interest in such a plan. At his suggestion, the NCP will be drafting a resolution that board members and S,C&G members would sign. We will seek the support of residents, community leaders and business people in Newberry to support this idea.

Community Policing

We would like to see the return of community policing, (CP) in Newberry. When we had some form of this with Officer Mark Lindauer attending monthly meetings, we were learning about the potential of CP. We had a productive two way exchange of information that gave us a sense we were contributing to the safety of the community. Several years ago there was a change in organizational structure in the police department; CP was eliminated.

As a result of several letters to the Mayor and other safety officials, I was invited by Mayor Campana to meet with him and Chief Foresman and advocated for the return of CP. Lt. Helm, who was involved with CP in the past attended the October SCG meeting and we had a lively, informative give and take session. Although it doesn't look like CP will come any time soon, we will continue to pursue it.

Renovation of Deteriorated Housing

This would be an intense and rather complex project and practically speaking, may need to follow the first two. Using programs that exist for this purpose, NCP would purchase deteriorated or condemned housing and oversee its renovation. The property could be sold to appropriate individuals or families, or kept and

managed for an income stream. There are many details of this project but doing the necessary research and planning would be worthwhile. A program such as this would represent a huge step toward promoting a safe and attractive future for our community.

For the NCP to embrace these projects, we will need additional people with ideas, energy and skills to make it happen. We know you are out there folks. It's critical that you join with us to make them happen.

~ Submitted by Robbie Cross, S,C&G Chair

The Safe, Clean & Green Team meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 PM at the Kast Hotel. Call Robbie at 570-322-5900.

The NCP meets at WECCC, the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM. Call 570-601-0298.

A BIG THANK YOU to the following for their help with our 5th Annual Newberry/Jaysburg Christmas Tree Lighting:

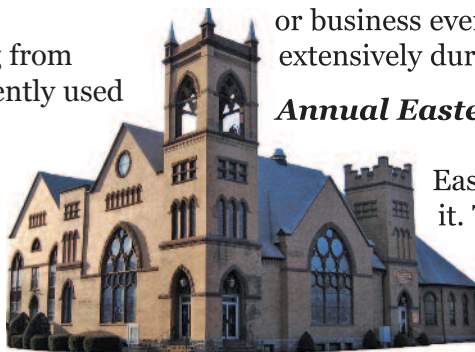
- Rick Dill, Karen Hostrander and the Brodart staff for hosting Santa & Mrs. Claus and treating us to hot chocolate.
- Joe & Trina Rinker of Harvest Moon Plaza for cookies.
- Steve Hulslander and West Branch School students for leading the caroling.
- Skip Smith of Smith Radio for providing a sound system so we could all be heard.
- Sherry & Craig Strayer & Newberry Sub Shop for a beautiful Christmas Tree and gifts for the kids.
- Lamar Advertising for electric to light the tree.
- And last but not least, Mayor Campana and the great guys from the Streets and Parks Department for setting up and decorating the tree and adding Christmas lights on Arch Street.

~ Newberry Community Partnership

WEST END CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Winter Clothing Drive

Now that you received new clothing from Santa, please consider donating your gently used winter clothing (that's been hanging in your closet and not being worn) to the WECCC Clothes Closet. We are currently in need of winter clothing and could use your help. Perhaps you lost or gained weight and the clothes no longer fit. Your clothing can be "repurposed" to new families in need. We accept donations during regular business hours.



or business event. This spacious room was used extensively during the holidays.

Annual Easter Candy Sale

I know it is too early to think about Easter but it will be here before we know it. The WECCC will be making and selling peanut butter and coconut crème eggs. Watch for our banner in front of the building announcing our spring fundraiser.

Community Room Rental

The Community Room is now complete and available to rent for an event or meeting. We have tables and comfortable chairs that can be arranged to suit your need. There is ample parking and wheel chair accessibility. Keep us in mind for any family, holiday

Thank you for supporting our mission and ministries at the West End Christian Community Center and for your compassion and willingness to "Help Us – Help Others". **Happy New Year!**

~ Marge Thompson, Executive Director

NOTE: For information about the Clothing Drive, Community Room Rental, Easter Egg Sale, Thrift Shop and the programs and services offered at WECCC, Call 570-323-6297. The center is located at 901 Diamond Street. Hours 9:00 AM–3:00 PM Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Wednesday 9:00 AM–Noon. Closed Friday.

Our SOUP KITCHEN is open for lunch Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please come join us.

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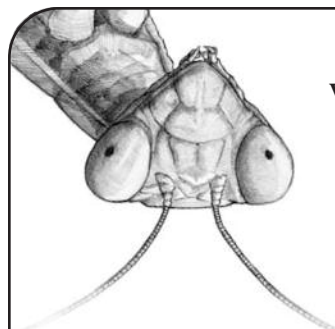
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Food Giveaway Scheduled

The Newberry Christian Center at 2100 Linn Street has scheduled five Food Give Away's from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on the following days:

January 15 • February 5 & 19 • March 5 & 19

The only requirement is that you fill out a brief form and bring your own shopping bag or container. The food is given out first come first served. Free clothing will also be available. If you have any questions please call 570-326-0731.

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INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS...Reports from Newberry's Schools

Jackson Primary School



Midyear at Jackson

The midway point of the year is near making this is a perfect time to reflect and plan ahead. It is also a time to be thankful and look for opportunities to celebrate and give back.

At the beginning of each year we spend much time assessing and learning what our students need for academic success. Each day our efforts are geared to impact student, family and community learning. It is important to quickly assess in schools what our children know and then make sure we work with the student and their home to grow all students towards their end of year academic goals.

In October we found a way to give back by making a contribution to our local Ronald McDonald House charity. Students took pledges for a walkathon and collected can tabs. All proceeds realized were donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Danville. We will be collecting can tabs all year long so if you are looking for a place to donate please feel free to drop them off at the school. We ended October with a Harvest Celebration coordinated by a team of teachers and parents.

In November we conducted parent teacher conferences and our first set of report cards were provided to parents. Parent and school collaboration is paramount to contributing to the success of the next generation. We also conducted a canned food drive for our local food bank.

In December we organized supplies collected to support troops. Donations were collected throughout the month of November and organized by our teachers and librarian.



Jackson students organizing supplies that have been collected to support our troops.

School Wide Positive Behavior System (PBS) is a constant effort at the school. We are constantly working at and finding ways to recognize all of the positive efforts by our students and staff. All staff carry Millionaire Buck Tokens and are constantly looking for opportunities to catch students Making Awesome Great Incredible Choices (MAGIC). Students also carry coupons and can recognize staff for being positive influences too. Students can use their tokens for prizes like eating lunch with their teacher, special seating at lunch or even wearing the Principal's tie. All students who earn tokens have their name entered into drawings. If they are lucky enough to have their name drawn they become a Principals 100 Club Members for a day and get to pick a prize from our prize boxes. If you would like to make a contribution to our MAGIC making efforts please call (570-323-1992) or stop by the school. We are always looking for financial donations for prizes. If you own a business or restaurant we draw names often for gift cards for families and staff. Again, please give us a call if you would like to contribute to our inspirational efforts.



This student used his Millionaire Buck Tokens to wear the Principal's tie!

Jackson truly is a community school with parent and staff leaders working together to provide an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome. The sense of pride in the school and neighborhood can be witnessed daily. If you would like to follow us and learn of additional ways you can support what is going on in our school, like us on Facebook or visit our website at www.wasd.org, choose schools/Jackson. Have a blessed and Happy New Year!!!

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West Branch School Field Trips

Field trips are a major part of our hands-on approach to learning at West Branch School. Visiting a farm, touring a museum, hiking, and theatrical

INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS... *(Continued from Page 5)*

performances are just some of the field trips that the students at WBS are frequently treated to. It is a tradition for the 3rd through 6th grade-age students to take an annual City Trip. Each year, parents and teachers work together to choose a large city within about 3-4 hours driving distance of Williamsport. City Trips in the past have included Baltimore, MD, and New York City. This year, Harrisburg was chosen.

The scholars started out the day with a guided tour of the Capitol Building. Upon entering the Capitol Building, they were instantly enchanted by the sight of the Capitol Rotunda fully decorated for the holidays. The tour proceeded through the Senate Chamber, where Pennsylvania's 50 state Senators meet and vote. The tour then moved to the House Chamber. In addition to learning the business that goes on in the room, the group was interested to learn about the priceless artwork that adorns the walls, as well as the six crystal chandeliers used to light the House. (There are over 1,000 light bulbs!) Pennsylvania's Supreme Court Chamber was the final stop on the tour.

Following the tour of the Capitol Building was a much anticipated visit to the Whitaker Science Center. Upon arriving at the center, students were immediately immersed in the iMax film, Forces of Nature. They got to ride with the flow of lava as it erupted out of a volcano and got to see what it's like to be in a tornado! After the film, students were then able to explore the



West Branch School students visit the Capitol Building during a field trip to Harrisburg, PA.

many hands-on science exhibits on the three floors of the science center. "I liked the flood table where you could build a dam to help save the houses when a flood was coming. You had to figure out how to build it so no water would come in!" says 4th grade student Phaedra Bower. The Hurricane Chamber, Animation Station, and Carnival of Health were also among the students' favorites.

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A NEW CONGREGATION IS BEING ESTABLISHED

Welcome Newberry Neighbor!

The **Newberry Church of Christ** and **The Christian Church at Cogan Station** have joined together to establish a new congregation right here in Newberry. It will be known as **The Christian Church** on Diamond Street. This new congregation will be meeting in the former worship center of the Newberry Church of Christ at 822 Diamond Street. Their first worship service was held on Sunday, January 4, 2015. Brother Belton Mobley, ordained as an evangelist by the Christian Church at Cogan Station, will be the pastor. The people of our community are invited to attend any one of these three congregations in order to worship. For more information call 570-244-1344.



Belton & Monique Mobley

COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

Reaching Out to the Community

WXPI Community Radio is continuing to reach out to the community with our PULSE OF THE PORT local programming and THE DIVERSITY OUTREACH PROGRAM which is designed to teach and train the citizens of Lycoming and Clinton counties in broadcast training media.

Williamsport Independent Media keeps on growing by mentoring, having hands on training and giving instructions to those that want to create their own media in a professional environment with equipment and software for media production and distribution. Our purpose is to allow them to share interests, passions, and concerns while giving a voice to the underserved in our community.

Have you ever wanted to be on the radio? Perhaps even have your own show? Our volunteer meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month in our office at the Pajama Factory, 1307 Park Ave in Williamsport. Come visit us and let's see how we can help each other!

Our email is wxfpiradio@gmail.com. Our website is www.wxfpiradio.org. You can also visit us on Facebook or call us at 570 505 1396.



A WINTER TO REMEMBER

One winter when I was in the 9th grade we had several deep snowfalls one after another. In fact, we had so much snow that the City of Williamsport had trouble finding places to put all the snow. One place that they brought the snow was to the field next to Old Jackson Playground where the Newberry Lions held their June carnivals. The big dump trucks made numerous trips bringing giant mounds of snow forming an instant winter wonderland for us kids.

A complex of tunnels was soon dug throughout the field. Different areas were claimed by rival groups as snow balls filled the air. Smaller kids brought cardboard and snow saucers to slide down the man-made slopes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK SHERIN

Laughter and cheerful shouts echoed in the night. We couldn't believe our good fortune as the winter wore on and "The Mounds" as they became known, remained.

This was also the winter that my friend Gail and I checked out the soundtrack album of the *Sound of Music* from the Newberry Branch of the James V. Brown Library. Gail had a wonderful voice and I enjoyed singing too. We learned all the songs but especially liked "Do-Re-Mi". Sometimes when all the other kids had gone home for supper Gail and I would stay behind on "The Mounds", climb up on a high one to simulate the Alps in the *Sound of Music* and practice the different tunes from the album. Maybe it was the wintry air or maybe it was the snow all around us but our voices seemed so clear and perfect, filling the night sky with our youthful spirits.

As Frank L. Baum says in the *Wizard of Oz* "Everything has to come to an end, sometime." Eventually spring did arrive, gradually melting the snow, leaving behind small piles of black soot and debris. And leaving behind memories of one magical winter when voices rang out in the night.

~ By Wilma Reeder

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SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING ARRIVES

Recycling Just Got Easier.

Recycling just got easier for a six-county region, as Lycoming County Resource Management Services (LCRMS) celebrated the grand opening of its \$5.3 million single-stream recycling facility and the subsequent launch of a new regional recycling program, "One For All."

According to Newberry native Jason Yorks, county recycling coordinator, the new single-stream process will allow residents and businesses to combine all their recyclable materials into a single bin, eliminating the need for separation or multiple bins, and also allow a wider range of recyclable materials to be picked up together. Additional materials may be accepted that were not before, including Nos. 1 through 7 plastics, and aseptic gable-top containers such as juice and soup cartons.

The 60,000-square-foot facility, located on Route 15 adjacent to the Lycoming County Landfill in Montgomery, utilizes the latest technology to collect, separate and bale up to 20 tons of comingled recyclables per hour.

"Single-stream shifts curbside pickup from the county to private business," Yorks said, "which we feel will be a much more efficient system. With this new facility and program in place, we'll now be able to preserve valuable landfill space, increase our capacity,



Bob Woodley and Margaret Tupper, Members of the Newberry Community Partnership Board and Safe, Clean and Green Team attended the Grand Opening and enjoyed an informative tour of the facility.

have a more cost-effective, convenient way to recycle, and hopefully, improve local recycling participation," Yorks said. "For residents, it's a more convenient way to recycle, and for haulers, it's an opportunity for business. We see it as a win-win."

Participating waste haulers will provide individual collection bins for homeowners, while Lycoming County's 27 recycling drop-off sites will also continue to operate. Those haulers will now pick up unsorted recyclable materials from residents' homes, and be paid by the county for recyclable materials.

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JUNK MAIL TIP

Why You Should Shred JUNK MAIL and ALL MAIL

An identity thief can learn many aspects of your life from simple junk mail you throw in the garbage: memberships you belong to, where you shop, where you bank, and much more! Securely shred unwanted mail that contains your name and address.

~ Courtesy of North Central Sight Services, Inc.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN girl scouts

It's never too late to join Girl Scouts whether you're a girl looking for a world of amazing opportunities or an adult looking to make a difference. Newberry currently has a brand new Daisy troop looking for girls in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Troops are also available for girls in 4th through 8th grades. While we do not currently have a Brownie troop in Newberry for girls in 2nd and 3rd grades, we do have Brownie troops available throughout Williamsport.

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania is always looking for volunteers to lead girls on this exciting adventure. Troop leaders have the flexibility to set their own meeting time, location, how often they meet, and how many girls will be in their troop. Leaders are provided with one-on-one training and staff support.

Anyone interested in joining Girl Scouts or learning more about volunteering can contact Jen Cullin at jcullin@gshpa.org or 570-266-0116.

IN MEMORIUM

We mark the recent passing of two remarkable Newberry women whose qualities, accomplishments and contributions through their service to family and community have set a high standard for all to emulate. We say thank you for all you have given.

BETTY SCHWOERER GEHRON

February 1, 1918 – November 20, 2014

Betty graduated from Williamsport High School, Class of 1935 and graduated from the Williamsport Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1939. She was a compassionate private duty nurse until her marriage in 1944 to Dr. William H. Gehron, Jr. who preceded her in death June 25, 2007 and by her sisters Jane Tupper and Barbara Fink.



Betty was a lifelong member of Lycoming Presbyterian Church where she was active on the board of deacons and in the Women of the Church. She and her two sisters also delivered Meals on Wheels for more than 35 years in the Newberry area. Betty was a life member and past president of the Lycoming County Medical Auxiliary, and served on the YWCA Board of Directors. Betty was also a proud supporter of the Lycoming County SPCA and all their programs.

She was a very gracious and generous woman whom never required accolades. She was giving to all those who surrounded her. Her groundedness was a testament to her faith and beliefs. She was a lifelong Newberry resident and was often visited by many adults she had contact with during their adolescent years! She was nothing short of a Class Act!

Surviving are four children William H. Gehron III (Corinne), of Williamsport, Amelia R. Gehron, of Pittsburgh, Hope G. Ratke (Michael), of Camp Hill and Timothy M. Gehron (Vicki), of Palmyra; six grandchildren William Gehron, IV, Bob Geary, Carrie

Correa, Michael and Luke Ratke, and Whitney Stiger; 12 great-grandchildren, Colin, Colby, Isabella, Lydia, Savannah, McKenzie, J. Mac, Elaina, Ellis, Vivian, Breanna, and Zachary; and a great-great-grandson, Easton.

SOPHIA A. PAUCKE ROSS

January 19, 1930 – November 26, 2014

A lifelong resident of Newberry, Sophia married Stephen F. Ross, May 23, 1953. He preceded her in death on August 20, 2004. She was also preceded in death by a brother Michael Paucke.



Sophia was member of St. Joseph the Worker Parish and the former Ascension Church where she was a lector, member of Social Concerns Committee and the Samaritans.

Sophia was a 1947 graduate of Williamsport High School and a graduate of Williamsport Hospital School of Nursing. She worked in the operating and emergency rooms at the Williamsport Hospital and as an office nurse for Dr. Charles A. Lehman, Jr. and Dr. Pankaj Mehta.

She was a member and past president of both Andrew Jackson School P.T.A. and Roosevelt Jr. High School PTA; A member of the executive board of PTA at Williamsport Area High School. Sophia was a member and past president of Otzinachson Chapter of American Business Women and was elected woman of the year in 1989. She was a member and past president of Williamsport-Newberry Lioness Club, and was a Melvin Jones award recipient and received the Lions of the PA Fellows award.

Surviving are seven children Stephen, Michael, Frank, and Thomas Ross, Catherine Reissner and Christine Rall all of Williamsport, and Mary "Betsy" McCoy of Southgate, Michigan, 18 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and eight step-great grandchildren, two sisters Marie Vannucci and Joan Nevill both of Williamsport.

For complete obituaries and tributes to these remarkable women go to www.sandersmortuary.com.

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Ask the Lawyer



Answers are provided by Newberry resident, Christian Frey of Lepley, Engelman and Yaw. Attorney Frey has been practicing law in Pennsylvania since 2003.

Question: I am interested in buying a house but the seller seems vague when answering the questions I ask about the home. How can I be sure that I know what I am buying?

Answer: Buying a home is a huge financial undertaking. You must be sure that you know the condition of the house and can obtain clear title before you finalize your purchase. There are three very important aspects that your lawyer should help you with regarding your forthcoming purchase: (1) Agreement of Sale; (2) Title Search; and (3) obtaining a Seller's Disclosure.

Agreement of Sale: This is the document that sets forth the terms and conditions of the transaction. If you need a mortgage to buy the home, your lawyer will make sure that your sales agreement is properly conditioned upon financing and explain what the ramifications of breaking the contract would be.

Title Search: In addition to explaining what type of deed you'll be receiving, your lawyer will make sure that a title search is performed. Examination of a title will let you know if any liens or easements or other claims may affect the property that you want to buy.

Seller's Disclosure: The law requires sellers to disclose material defects with the property, of which they have actual knowledge. A material defect is a problem that has a significant adverse impact on the value of the property, or that involves unreasonable risk to people on the property. Your lawyer will ensure that the seller will complete a detailed disclosure form.

The "Answer" above is for general information only. Small variations in individual fact patterns often change the legal outcome or an attorney's conclusion. You should **not** solely rely on the information above. For complete and accurate legal advice you must seek and retain an attorney to represent you.

If you've missed an issue of *insideNewberry*, back issues are available. Send your request with a small donation to cover cost of mailing to *insideNewberry* 913 Diamond Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

LINCOLN SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

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Performed by Penn College Student Nurses
2nd Wednesday of the Month – call for details.

TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS
Level 1 – 5 PM Tuesdays & 10:30 AM Thursdays

KNITTING GROUP
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ZUMBA GOLD
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STEP To Offer Tax Assistance to Seniors

STEP Inc. will again be offering tax assistance to senior citizens this tax season. The STEP Office of Aging annually partners with local volunteers, the AARP Foundation, and the IRS to offer free assistance with completing tax returns.

The AARP Tax-Aide program is designed to help low- to moderate-income taxpayers, and focuses on people age 60 and older. The program can help with tax provisions such as the taxable portion of retirement income, different standard deduction amounts, permissible health care deductions, treatment of capital gains, losses, dividends and interest, taxable treatment of social security benefits, and tax implications on death of a spouse.

Program volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure their knowledge of revisions to the U.S. tax code. Through the program, federal and state returns are electronically filed (e-filed) and local income tax and property tax/rent rebate forms are prepared as needed. All returns are prepared using approved tax software.

Last year, the Tax Aide program assisted more than 1,100 people in Lycoming and Clinton Counties with their tax returns.

Appointments for tax preparation will be accepted starting in late January 2015. Actual tax preparation appointments will begin in February and run through the second week of April. People should contact the STEP Office of Aging at 570-323-3096 to schedule an appointment. Tax preparation will take place at the STEP office (lower level) at 2138 Lincoln Street, Williamsport.

Tax Preparation Volunteers Needed

Are you a retired accountant or have interest in or experience with tax preparation?

The STEP Office of Aging is looking for volunteers to support its AARP Tax-Aide program, a tax preparation program for seniors.

- You can help us help senior citizens.
- Training provided for certification and usage of tax software.
- Volunteer as many or as few hours as best fits your schedule.

Call the STEP Office of Aging at 570-323-3096 for more information.

NCP HOSTS PUBLIC MEETING

Is a “Quiet Zone” the Solution for Loud Train Horns?

The Newberry Community Partnership hosted a public meeting in November to explore the establishment of a Quiet Zone between Arch and Howard Streets and closing the Depot Street railroad crossing.

The by-product of increased train activity is the frequency of loud train horns, day and night; very disturbing to many residents living near the tracks. However, some residents at the meeting said they don't have a problem with it. They even enjoy the sound.

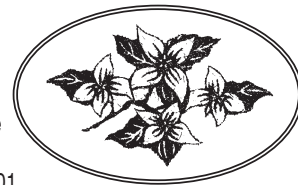
Residents met with city leaders, SEDA-COG representatives, rail line owners, and Lycoming Valley RR (train owners), to address possible solutions. SEDA-COG says it hopes to resolve the issue over coming months. The main solution on the table is to close the intersection of Depot Street to traffic and to create a quiet zone between Howard and Arch Streets. But since federal law requires trains to blow horns at intersections, the Arch and Howard Street intersections would need additional gates and lights to meet federal regulations.

“By improving the protection at the crossings and closing one of the less used crossings, we could have a so-called quiet zone, which means the trains go back and forth because of the increased protection without having to blow the horn at all,” said Jeff Stover with SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority. SEDA-COG estimates those safety measures could cost at least \$250,000.

More public meetings are planned to continue working on the horn issue.

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We welcome your tax deductible donations to support the continued efforts of the Newberry Community Partnership to bring quality of life improvements and community events to our neighborhood.

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For information call 570-601-0298



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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2015

Monday, January 19 – Martin Luther King Day

Saturday, January 24 – Belly Laugh Day

FEBRUARY 2015

Monday, February 2 – Groundhog Day

Saturday, February 14 – Valentine's Day

Monday, February 16 – President's Day

Tuesday, February 17 – Mardi Gras Carnival Begins

Saturday, February 28 – Family Style Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

- 4:30-6:30 PM, Lycoming Presbyterian Church, 825 Arch Street, Handicapped Accessible, Parking behind the church off Funston Avenue
- Pork, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce, Beverage, Rolls, Homemade Dessert
- Take-Outs 4:30 PM

MARCH 2015

Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Savings Starts – Set Clocks Ahead One Hour

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 20 – First Day of Spring

Saturday, March 28 – Spaghetti Dinner

- 4:30-6:30 PM, Lycoming Presbyterian Church, 825 Arch Street, Handicapped Accessible,
- Spaghetti, Sauce, 2 Large Meatballs, Salad, Rolls & Beverage, Homemade Desserts
- Take-Outs 4:30 PM

APRIL 2015

Wednesday, April 1 – April Fool's Day

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

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WILLIAMSPORT BUREAU OF POLICE
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