



*inside*Newberry

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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*inside*Newberry

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All submissions subject to editing.



PennDOT (Pennsylvania Department of Tree Removal)

So all the trees along Fourth Street in Newberry are gone. But will they be replaced? That's the big question among residents, some of whom want the trees to be back, while others are fine with them not being replaced. The general consensus is that most residents along Fourth Street want the trees to be replaced, and quite frankly, wonder why they had to be destroyed in the first place. Some of the Fourth Street residents are relieved that they no longer have the responsibility of maintaining the trees or raking the leaves every autumn. The whole PennDOT plan to improve the thoroughfare will certainly cause a lot of inconvenience to the residents of Newberry as a whole, and those who live on West Fourth Street in particular. The whole street will be dug up, along with the sidewalks. The new sidewalks will be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



At a public meeting held by the Newberry Community Partnership, and moderated by yours truly, all of the interested entities, including representatives from PennDOT, the city, and the Water Authority, were brought together to explain the project, and how it would look when all is said and done. The problem is, the plan doesn't call for the replacement of any of the trees that have been removed. As it was explained to those in attendance, the ADA requires that sidewalks be five feet wide. That's a federal requirement. However, the city of Williamsport requires a green space that is at least two-and-a-half feet or greater in order to plant trees. With the sidewalk being made wider, there's not enough room to meet the standard of the ADA, and have enough room left to meet the city requirement to plant trees. Since the homes on the street can't be moved back, that means either the ADA requirements are not met, or we don't get the trees replaced because the green space won't be wide enough to meet the city's requirement. According to the plan, it's six inches short of the width necessary to do both.

Sensing the displeasure of most of those in attendance, Adam Winder of the city's Streets and Parks department told the crowd of about 50 that he would personally ask every resident along the street whether or not they would want the tree in front of their property replaced. Where possible, once the project is completed, there would be an effort to replace trees. However,

Continued on page 2

Pennsylvania Department of Tree... *Continued from page 1*

what would happen if, once the project is complete, there is simply no room for trees?

Both the city requirements for green space and the federal standard for ADA compliance make it seem like everybody's hands are tied. PennDOT says they have to make the paved part of the sidewalk five feet wide, and the city says they're six inches short of the width requirement to plant trees after the project is complete. So what's the solution? A little research.

As it turns out, five feet is not the minimum width of an ADA compliant sidewalk. It's three feet, as long as there are "passing lanes" of at least five feet wide every 200 feet along the route, according to the Legal Beagle website. So why are the residents of Newberry being told they can't get their trees back? Is it poor planning? Are we being misled by PennDOT? Clearly there is enough room to replant trees along West Fourth Street if the ADA requirement is three feet instead of five feet. Clearly PennDOT is not in the business of landscaping, but it seems that we've been given a cookie-cutter solution to what they consider to be a problem entering the city from the west.

It was clear at the meeting that most of the Fourth Street residents want trees to be a part of the final plan. It will be at least two years before they can be planted. In the meantime, PennDOT should re-design the plan to accommodate the wishes of the residents who have an investment in Newberry. It was also clear at the meeting that the West Fourth Street residents don't want to live along a "highway", but along a residential street, like they always have, for decades. And for decades to come.

Since the public meeting held by the Newberry Community Partnership, there have been public works meetings at City Hall. Several members of the Newberry community have attended the meetings, but so far, no solid plans or information related to the trees has been forthcoming. In fact, even more questions have been brought up. What's going to happen to the utility poles? Will the cables and electric service be moved

underground? There's still a lot we don't know, and that's part of the frustration Newberry residents have with the whole project. As for now, the trees are gone, and the project is starting up. Time will tell if the trees are replaced. In the meantime, the best we can do is let our city and state leaders know how we feel. ~ Bob Woodley

Go Plant a Tree by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*God, what a joy it is to plant a tree,
And from the fallow earth to watch it rise,
Lifting its emerald branches to the skies
In silent adoration; and to see
Its strength and glory waxing with each spring.
Yes, 'tis a goodly, and a gladsome thing
To plant a tree.*

*Nature has many marvels; but a tree
Seems more than marvellous. It is divine.
So generous, so tender, so benign.
Not garrulous like the rivers; and yet free
In pleasant converse with the winds and birds;
Oh! privilege beyond explaining words,
To plant a tree.*

*Rocks are majestic; but, unlike a tree,
They stand aloof, and silent. In the roar
Of ocean billows breaking on the shore
There sounds the voice of turmoil. But a tree
Speaks ever of companionship and rest.
Yea, of all righteous acts, this, this is best,
To plant a tree.*

*There is an oak (oh! how I love that tree)
Which has been thriving for a hundred years;
Each day I send my blessing through the spheres
To one who gave this triple boon to me,
Of growing beauty, singing birds, and shade.
Wouldst thou win laurels that shall never fade?*



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*Contact any Lions member to learn
more about Newberry Lions
or to become a member.*

Jim Way, President; Jack Coleman, Secretary; John Confer, Treasurer

Pennsylvania Department of Tree... *Continued from page 2*

The Tree by Anne Kingsmill Finch

*Fair tree! for thy delightful shade
'Tis just that some return be made;
Sure some return is due from me
To thy cool shadows, and to thee.
When thou to birds dost shelter give,
Thou music dost from them receive;
If travellers beneath thee stay
Till storms have worn themselves away,
That time in praising thee they spend
And thy protecting pow'r commend.
The shepherd here, from scorching freed,
Tunes to thy dancing leaves his reed;
Whilst his lov'd nymph, in thanks, bestows
Her flow'ry chaplets on thy boughs.
Shall I then only silent be,
And no return be made by me?
No; let this wish upon thee wait,
And still to flourish be thy fate.
To future ages may'st thou stand
Untouch'd by the rash workman's hand,
Till that large stock of sap is spent,
Which gives thy summer's ornament;
Till the fierce winds, that vainly strive
To shock thy greatness whilst alive,
Shall on thy lifeless hour attend,
Prevent the axe, and grace thy end;
Their scatter'd strength together call
And to the clouds proclaim thy fall;
Who then their ev'ning dews may spare
When thou no longer art their care,
But shalt, like ancient heroes, burn,
And some bright hearth be made thy urn.*

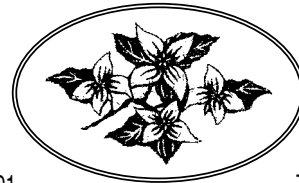
Trees by Neil Peart

*There is unrest in the Forest
There is trouble with the trees
For the Maples want more sunlight
And the Oaks ignore their pleas.
The trouble with the Maples
(And they're quite convinced they're right)
They say the Oaks are just too lofty
And they grab up all the light
But the Oaks can't help their feelings
If they like the way they're made
And they wonder why the Maples
Can't be happy in their shade?
There is trouble in the Forest
And the creatures all have fled
As the Maples scream 'Oppression!'*

*And the Oaks just shake their heads
So the Maples formed a Union
And demanded equal rights
'The Oaks are just too greedy
We will make them give us light'
Now there's no more Oak oppression
For they passed a noble law
And the trees are all kept equal
By hatchet, axe, and saw...*

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Dogs Wanted!

The Lycoming County SPCA is hosting its next Paws Run this spring! Last year, 118 dogs and 318 humans participated in the event, and a good time was had by both two-legged and four-legged walkers and runners. The event is a 2.5 or 5-mile walk or run. All ages of canines and homosapiens are welcome to take part in the event, which will happen on Saturday, April 13th and begin at the South Williamsport Community Park.



Registration is open now, and will remain that way until April 10th. Simply go to www.pawsrn.com to get started. There you'll find all the information you'll need, including the registration fee and a course map. You can also register in person the morning of the event. Registration starts at 7:30 and the race starts at 9:00. Winners will get prizes. Questions? Contact Christa Watson at cwatson@lycomingspca.org. We hope to see you and your K-9 friend at the event! - ~ Submitted by Christa Watson

Keeping Newberry Clean

Twice a year the Newberry Community Partnership's Safe, Clean, and Green Committee sponsors litter clean ups. One occurs in September and the other in April, coinciding with Earth Day and The Great Pennsylvania Clean Up. The upcoming clean up will be Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. until noon. We will meet at The West End Christian Community Center (at the corner of Fourth and Diamond Streets). Gloves, bags, vests, snacks, and pizza at the end will be provided.



HOWEVER, this year not only Newberry residents, but everyone is encouraged to join in during the week of Monday, April 22 (Earth Day) through Sunday, April 28, 2019 for a city wide clean up. What is envisioned are many different groups and individuals taking initiative for various areas of the city. Scouts, student groups, churches, businesses, neighborhoods, and caring individuals are encouraged to start thinking of how they can be involved. Details will be available closer to the event, but it is not too early to mark your calendars.

Remember: "Reduce, reuse, recycle." "Don't be a litterbug!!" "Keep Williamsport clean." "Pick up trash." Please contact Julie Hulslander for more details at jhulslander@yahoo.com or by phone at 570-322-6828. ~ Submitted by Julie Hulslander

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Updates from Newberry's Schools

West Branch School

MARCH IS PLAY SEASON AT WEST BRANCH SCHOOL

Every March, students at West Branch School perform plays for their families and the local community. The plays are part of the curriculum, and much learning takes place throughout the process.

This year, the Upstairs students (grades 3-6) performed Peter Pan and Wendy based on the novel by J. M. Barrie and adapted by Doug Rand. As part of a longstanding tradition, the play was held at the Community Theatre League in Williamsport on March 8-10. This venue provides students with an opportunity to learn about the technical aspects of theatre, including light and sound design as well as set, prop, and costume creation. Students also explored the literary aspects of the play by analyzing the use of language throughout the script. After their analysis, the students selected a brief moment from the play and described it from a specific character's perspective. These descriptions were included in the Education section of the Williamsport Sun-Gazette.

The Downstairs students (grades K-2) performed Coyote Steals the Summer by Ron Fink and John Heath on March 12-13. This Native American tale was an extension of what students had been learning about Native Americans in social studies. The students loved portraying foxes, rabbits, eagles, oak trees, tipi people, and of course, a coyote. The students performed on the




school's stage for local preschools as well as family and friends. The play was filled with music and engaging dialogue. The young students were able to practice stage presence and speaking in front of others. The students will also take a field trip to the Taber Museum in Williamsport at the end of the month to tour the Native American exhibits as well as the rest of the museum. This trip will be a culminating activity for the students' in-depth study of Native Americans.

Play season is one of many events that provides opportunities for collaboration between students, teachers, and families at West Branch School. It is truly a team effort and a unique experience for everyone involved. For more info about West Branch School, find us on Facebook or visit www.westbranchschool.org.
~ Submitted by Katie Brass



West Branch School students performed "Peter Pan and Wendy" in March at the CTL. Photo credit: Laura Hensler



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West End Christian Community Center (WECCC)

As I'm sitting in my office looking at the freshly fallen and shoveled snow this March 1st morning, with the anticipation of 1-3 tonight, I am soo ready for Spring! Praise God,



I know it's coming and should be here when you are reading these words. Winter's ice has been bad for many of us, with way too many injuries from falls this year. I hope you were spared. Everyone this day is looking forward to watching things green up.

Unfortunately, due to the tremendous improvements we are getting to 4th Street and the sidewalks, that greening won't happen between the curb and sidewalk. We had to lose 51 trees. It does look and feel different. We lost 4 trees from our place. My desire for 4th Street, after all of the work is done and we are enjoying our brand-new road and sidewalks, is for twice that many trees be replaced, so we can regain the neighborhood feel so many of us want. How the tree issue ends remains to be seen, but I have measured the area in front of our building and will be requesting to have 4 new trees get a good start there. Keep good thoughts about this issue, and a little prayer wouldn't hurt either. The Spring primary elections are coming on May 21st. Our Community Room here at 901 Diamond Street is the polling place for both the 6th and 7th wards of Williamsport. Please remember to vote, taking care of your right and responsibility.

The West End Christian Community Center is trying to create a database of people interested in the happenings here. Very often people aren't aware of sales, fundraisers, or other events going on here. It is our hope that we will be able to reach out to the community, patrons, donors and simply interested people through email. If you would like to be on our Patron List email us at weccadmin@comcast.net. It's as simple as that.

Finally, once again we are looking forward to serving the community's families by having children in the building this summer through the YMCA Summer Day Camp. If you have any questions about that program please call the River Valley YMCA.

Happy Spring. Here's to warm breezes, bright sunshine, and the smell of freshly-mowed grass. ~ *Todd Penman, Executive Director*



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CALENDER OF EVENTS

SETBACK TOURNAMENTFirst Thursday of the Month
• Pre-registration

BINGOMondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 12:30 PM

HEALTHY STEPS IN MOTION EXERCISE
FOR MATURE ADULTSTuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am

Bible Study w/Local ClergyWednesdays 12:15 PM

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

TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS
Level 15 PM Tuesdays & 10:30 AM Thursdays

KNITTING GROUP Tuesdays 11 AM

ZUMBA GOLD.....Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 PM

Don't Forget The Cheese

Just as the last issue of *insideNewberry* was hitting the streets, a team of wrestlers from Wisconsin was pulling into town. Having endured a bus ride that was interrupted by snowfall and lasted twenty-two hours, the wrestlers arrived in good spirits. In less than 48 hours, they would be grappling at Lycoming College, but they had another purpose while they were here.

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire wrestling coach Tim Fader says he wants his team to know how fortunate they are, so when they go on a trip for a wrestling tournament, they also volunteer to pitch in and help a local charity. On this trip to Williamsport, the Wrestling Athletics from Wisconsin helped pack food into boxes at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Newberry. "It's always a memorable experience. The athletes love the trips, and they benefit from it," says Coach Fader. A total of 25 wrestlers plus one coach and two kids made the trip, and the goal at the food bank was to fill 700 boxes of food to be distributed to local families in need. "It's hard work keeping up," says Kyle Eberle, a Junior who wrestles at 141 pounds. "Once you do it, you feel good about yourself." Kyle

is on his third team trip. Coach Fader says the wrestling program has been growing since he started the trips, and the volunteering. Junior Jake Olsen (197lbs) is on his second trip, and says volunteering is a fun and cool thing to do as a team. "It's different when you know where it's going," he says. "It makes you feel great."

~ Bob Woodley



University of Wisconsin Eau Claire wrestling team

Regular Meetings of Civic & Other Groups in Newberry

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) 570-323-6297

Meets Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:00 PM • WECCC

If attending, use side entrance off gravel parking lot.

The support group welcomes new members.

For additional information, call the

WECCC office at the number listed above.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 14 570-326 5569

Every Monday • 7:30 pm

St. John's-Newberry UMC • 2101 Newberry Street

John Andreacci, Scoutmaster

Open to boys age 11 or older

CUB SCOUT PACK 14 570-326-5569

Every Monday • 7:00 pm • St. John's-Newberry UMC

Open to boys in Grades 1-5 or ages 7-11

LYCOMING COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

2nd Wednesday of Month through December (Excluding July)

5:00 to 7:00 pm • Lycoming College • Wendle Hall • Room B 307

Enter Wendle Hall, 3rd floor, down long hallway as you exit stairwell or elevator. Elevator is to the left, through the glass doors as soon as you enter building from the parking lot.

Parking available off Mulberry Street

Map available at <https://www.lycoming.edu/admissions/ourcampus/campusmap.aspx>

NEWBERRY COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIP 570-651-0634

3rd Wednesday of the Month • 5:30 pm • WECCC

If you would like to present an idea or have a neighborhood concern, please call or email

insideNewberry@yahoo.com to be placed on agenda.

NCP SAFE, CLEAN

& GREEN TEAM 570-651-0634

2nd Tuesday of the Month • 5:30 pm • Kast Hotel

We welcome visitors and new members.

NEWBERRY LIONESS 570-322-8302

1st Tuesday • 6:30 pm Dinner followed by Meeting

St. Matthew Lutheran Church • Linn Street

NEWBERRY LIONS 570-326-0259, 570-323-7769

2nd & 4th Tuesday • 6:30 pm • Lions Building • Newberry Park

SONS OF ITALY LODGE 138 570-326-9222

2nd Monday • 7:00 pm

NOTE: These are active groups that welcome new members, let them know you'd like to attend. To be listed, the contact Editor, *insideNewberry*, 913 Diamond Street, Newberry, PA 17701 or insideNewberry@yahoo.com.

★ ★ ★ **SPECIAL VOTER SECTION** ★ ★
2019 PRIMARY ELECTION • Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Neither the NCP nor *insideNewberry* endorses any political party or candidate

**Polls are open on Election Day
continuously from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM**

LOCAL JUDICIAL OFFICES ON THE BALLOT:

- Judge of the Superior Court (statewide)
- Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
(29th Judicial District)
- Magisterial District Judge (29-1-02)

COUNTY OFFICES ON THE BALLOT:

- County Commissioner
- County Controller
- Coroner
- District Attorney
- Prothonotary
- Register and Recorder
- County Treasurer

**SCHOOL DIRECTOR OFFICES ON THE BALLOT
IN EVERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The offices and terms will vary by school district.
In Williamsport Area School District, candidates will be
nominated to fill five open seats
(four 4-year terms and one 2-year term).

CITY OFFICES ON THE BALLOT:

- Mayor
- City Council (4 at-large seats),
- City Treasurer
- City Controller

**BOROUGH & TOWNSHIP OFFICES
(Mayor, Council, Supervisor, Auditor, Tax Collector)
ON THE BALLOT IN ALL COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES**

The offices and terms will vary by municipality.

In addition to the primary ballot, a Special Election to fill
a vacancy for Representative in Congress in the 12th
Congressional District will be held concurrently with the
May 21, 2019 Municipal Primary in all 86 precincts in
Lycoming County.

Consequently, all registered voters in Lycoming County
will be eligible to cast a ballot on May 21 regardless of
their party affiliation on their voter registration record.

Voters who are registered with the Democratic or
Republican parties will be eligible to vote on their
respective party primary ballots to select party
nominees to appear on the November ballot. They will
also be eligible to vote in the special election to elect a
Representative in Congress.

Voters who are registered with all other political parties
(Green, Independent, Libertarian, etc.) will be eligible to
vote in the special election to elect a Representative in
Congress.

Monday, April 22 is the last day to register to vote or
make changes to your registration before the
election.

Monday, April 22 sample ballots for all precincts
will be available upon request at the Office of
Voter Services or at our website, [www.lyco.org/
Departments/VoterServices.aspx](http://www.lyco.org/Departments/VoterServices.aspx).

Tuesday, May 14 is the last day to apply for a
civilian absentee ballot. Applications must be
received in the Office of Voter Services before
5:00pm in order to be processed. Faxed or emailed
applications cannot be accepted. Postmarks do not
count. When submitting an application by mail, allow
at least 2 days for delivery of local mail and 3-5 days
for mail originating from outside the county.

Friday, May 17 is the last day to return a voted
civilian absentee ballot. Voted absentee ballots
must be received in the Office of Voter Services
before 5:00pm in order for the ballot to be counted.
Postmarks do not count. When submitting a voted
absentee ballot by mail, allow at least 2 days for
delivery of local mail and 3-5 days for mail originating
from outside the county. Due to the weight and
thickness of absentee ballot cardstock, additional
postage may be required.

VOTE

Civilians who experience an emergency after 5:00pm on Tuesday, May 14 may be eligible to apply for an emergency civilian absentee ballot. Contact the Office of Voter Services for more information.

Uniformed military and their dependents and overseas civilians apply for and submit absentee ballots in accordance with different requirements and deadlines. Contact the Office of Voter Services for more information.

If you are uncertain of where to vote on Election Day, contact the Office of Voter Services.

You may register to vote and/or apply for an absentee ballot by the following methods:

Register to vote online at
<http://register.votespa.com>

Download an application to print, complete, and submit from our website at www.lyco.org/Departments/VoterServices.aspx

Visit the Office of Voter Services,
1st Floor of Third Street Plaza,
33 West 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

Call the Office of Voter Services
to request that an application be mailed to you.

Voter Services can be reached at 570-327-2267 with any questions. We are open 8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday, and we are open all of Election Day.
~ Submitted by Forest K. Lehman, Director of Elections and Registration

NEWBERRY POLL LOCATIONS

6th & 7th Wards

West End Christian Community Center
Corner of Fourth and Diamond Streets

8th Ward

Lycoming Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
825 Arch Street
Use Funston Avenue Entrance

Williamsport is facing serious financial problems.




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MAY 21ST. VOTE NICOLE

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Treasurer: Chevonne Groves

ELECT COUNCILMAN

DEREK SLAUGHTER

WILLIAMSPORT MAYOR

- born and raised in Williamsport
- graduated Williamsport Area High School in 1999.
- graduated from the Pennsylvania State University 2003 - B.S. Information Sciences and Technology, minor in Spanish
- earned his Master of Education degree from the University of Maryland, 2005.
- taught in the Williamsport Area School District since 2006
- head coach for the Williamsport High School girls' varsity basketball team for ten seasons.
- adjunct math instructor at The Pennsylvania College of Technology
- boardmember of the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity
- boardmember of the Lycoming County United Way.



Derek Slaughter resides in the City with his wife, Vanessa, a Registered Nurse Supervisor at UPMC Susquehanna. The couple has two children, Jayden, 7 and Chloe, 5.

SLAUGHTER
MAYOR

TRANSPARENCY • EFFICIENCY • ACCOUNTABILITY

Paid for by Bipartisan Committee to Elect Slaughter for Williamsport. Lauri Moon, Treasurer

DAVE BANKS

FOR CITY COUNCIL

TRANSPARENCY • ENGAGEMENT • COMMUNITY

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dave Banks

The Lycoming County Democratic Committee proudly introduces the candidates for the May 21st Primary and Special Election.



STANDING: Tiasha Machuga (Williamsport City Council), Star Poole (Williamsport School Director), Elliott Weiss (Lycoming County Commissioner), Derek Slaughter (Williamsport Mayor), Richard Mirabito (Lycoming County Commissioner), David Banks (Williamsport City Council), Milissa Augustine (City Controller)

SEATED: Jeni Nash-Harvey (Lycoming County Prothonotary), Laurel Green (Montgomery Borough Council), Barbara Reeves (Williamsport School Director), Jon Mackey (Williamsport City Council)

Paid for by the Lycoming County Democratic Committee.

LYCOMING COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



www.lycodemocrats.org
Standing for Democracy
Fighting for Rural PA

NOTICE: May 21st is the special election for the PA-12th Congressional seat.

ALL registered voters are eligible to vote in this special election.

It's time to vote for a better choice.



MARC FRIEDENBERG
FOR CONGRESS



Tuesday, May 21st,

Vote ^{Adam} Yoder City Council

Leadership • Vision • Action

Adam believes the citizens of Williamsport are looking for outside change to drive city government forward. His belief is rooted in their votes cast at the ballot box, voting to explore their options for a new form of government in 2017 and overwhelmingly voting to keep the current form of government in 2018.



Paid for by the People for Adam Yoder • Chairperson, Carol Sides • Treasurer, Ann Kaufman

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“This Old House” Prompts Whirlwind Tour

“I thought it was a hoax.” said Kerry Widmayer of Newberry.

“It was real.”

As it turned out, Kerry was chosen to get two passes to attend a livestream of an episode of **This Old House** because he’s an “Insider.” He got an e-mail telling him he and a guest are invited to Brookline, Massachusetts. He didn’t believe it at first. The more he studied the e-mail, the more he believed it.

“I heard him running up the steps.” said his girlfriend, Kathy Orso.

“We had a four-day notice. He wasn’t sure we could pull it off. He was on call at work that day.”

It didn’t take Kathy long to make up her mind.

“It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity,” she told him.

“We’re going.”

And thus the journey began. They decided to fly instead of taking the five-hour drive. It would begin with an overnight stay near the airport in State College. The flight took off at 6am, and they were there at 4.

“We were the only ones there,” said Kerry.

“We watched the employees come in.”

So from State College to Philadelphia, and then on to Boston for a visit to the Brookline House. The folks at **This Old House** call it the first “Insider” event of 2019. Kerry is an Insider, and Kathy is a fan of the show, too. So the Newberry couple got to meet and party with the cast and crew of **This Old House**. Kerry was one of 20 winners who were invited. Host Kevin O’Connor gave the Insiders a tour of the house, including a slide-show of what the house looked like prior to the renovation. They also met the contractor, and the executive producer of the show. Kerry says he was surprised by the hospitality and feel of the whole experience.

“It was a lot less structured than I thought it would be.” he said.

“The handrails were 2x4’s,” added Kathy.

“It was a construction zone.”

The owners of the home were there, too, and Kerry and Kathy got to talk to everyone. All of the Insiders and their guests were then led to a “media room” where they were able to watch the livestream on video monitors. The episodes began airing on television on February 16th. The “media room” will eventually become the “Mother-in-law suite” of the home. Before everything wrapped up, Kerry, Kathy and other Insiders got to participate in a promotional video with host Kevin O’Connor. After all the work was done, the cast and crew attended a food and drink reception with all of the Insider winners.

But the whirlwind journey didn’t end there. With a bit of time to spare, Kerry and Kathy made their way into Boston Proper, and visited the bar made famous by the television show **Cheers**. They had dinner, got some souvenir glasses, then called it a night. The next day, they would catch a flight back to Pennsylvania and end the whirlwind journey.

“It was a really good experience,” Kerry says.

“Kevin (O’Connor) is really down to earth. Really friendly.”

Kathy sums it up: “I can’t believe we were in Boston and now we’re back again.” ~ *Bob Woodley*



Kathy (left) and Kerry(right) got to meet the whole crew, including Plumbing and HVAC expert Richard Trethewey (center).



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and **KIESER MONUMENTS**

Polish Club Men Set the Bar for Beauty and Grace

But not very high. I could end the article right there, and it would be accurate and thorough enough. Whatever you might imagine is probably equally horrifying to what actually occurred. More than a dozen men changed their outward gender identity to the feminine side, and paraded their choice of attire to the adoring crowd. And what a crowd it was! Probably the largest audience at the Newberry Independent Club since Elvis performed there (Elvis never performed there) witnessed one very handsome man and many more below-average looking men transform themselves into desirable maidens. As with many events at the Polish Club, it was a fundraiser. This one to benefit cancer victims, and organized by Connie Hakes, and pulled off by a team of volunteers. At a dollar a vote, the event raised more than \$800. It's safe to say the Polish Club had never seen an event like this one.

All of the participants are regular patrons of the club. When the idea was first pitched, there was some initial hesitation by some, and reserved enthusiasm by others. Slowly, more and more of the men began to agree or, at least, resign to the idea of dressing up as a woman to raise money for a good cause. On February 10th, at about 2 PM, men began to assemble in the meeting room in the basement of the building. There was a staff there to assist, as well as wives, girlfriends

and volunteers to help the men look as presentable as could be. Some didn't need any help. Some of the men showed up in full regalia. Others walked in to the club as if it were another Saturday afternoon, only to transform themselves and emerge like a butterfly from the basement cocoon. In the weeks leading up to the event, the men who confirmed early-on that they would participate were tight-lipped about their plans. Other men were even more elusive, keeping their decision to participate or not close to the breast. Ultimately, there were fourteen in all, including one with a dress that had mechanical parts, two with parts that lit up, and even a man who had one eye painted on. Some had wigs, while others had all the hair they needed. Still others had too much hair, and in places where you don't normally see it on a woman. There were a great variety of styles, and it seemed like the only thing the participants had in common was their inability to sit like a lady, and being totally clueless about women's footwear.

At 3 PM, the time had come for the big reveal. As the men climbed the stairs and emerged into the crowd, it became apparent that the room was not the same as it was when they went down the same steps an hour ago. It was as if they had walked onto another planet, and the throngs of people with cameras and cell phones pointed at them were just as surprised as they were!

Continued on page 15



Polish Club beauty pageant contestants line up for the crowd

Polish Club Men... *Continued from page 14*

The men who emerged from the basement were a sight not seen at the Polish Club before, and the crowd there to witness it was overwhelming for the maidens-in-waiting.

As each was introduced by Walt Sarama, board member at the club, the crowd would cheer as the participant would display their charm. Some would wave, others were more bashful, while some of the men, reverting back to their base urges, were a little suggestive. It was easy to tell that each of the contestants wanted world peace and believed that the children are our future. The crowd loved every minute of it.

The parade lasted two trips around the perimeter of the gathering space so the assembled masses could take a good look at the prospects and cast their votes for the most beautiful of the contestants. The contestants, in turn, pretended they didn't care who won, while secretly hoping they would be judged the most attractive. Because men have ego's, too, and also worry about their hips.

Ultimately, the votes were cast and the results were in. Mike Confer, who had no need for a wig, as he was born with a full head of curly hair that most women would envy, received the most votes. His uncanny resemblance to the television character "Maude" put him over the top to the delight of many. His debt is to his "pit crew" of Shelly Logue-Britton and Tammy Britton. They did his make-up, hair and supplied the gown he wore. When I asked him what he would like to say to his adoring fans, he replied, "It was fun and it was for a good cause. And we weren't drunk....at first." ~ Bob Woodley



Mike Confer, winner of the Polish Club beauty pageant.

***Newberry Community
Partnership
would like to thank the
Polish Club
for their continued support
of our organization and
all the good things they
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and the
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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2019

MONDAY, APRIL 1 – April Fool's Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 – Paws Run

- Registration starts at 7:30 AM and the race starts at 9:00 AM
- South Williamsport Community Park
- See page 4 for more info

MONDAY, APRIL 15 – Tax Day

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 – Good Friday

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 – Easter Sunday

MONDAY, APRIL 22 – Earth Day

SATURDAY, April 27 – Keeping Newberry Clean

- 9:30 a.m. until Noon
- Meet at The West End Christian Community Center (at the corner of Fourth and Diamond Streets)
- Gloves, bags, vests, snacks, and pizza at the end will be provided
- See page 4 for more info

MAY 2019

SUNDAY, MAY 5 – Cinco de Mayo

SUNDAY, MAY 12 – Mother's Day

SATURDAY, MAY 18 – Armed Forces Day

MONDAY, MAY 27 – Memorial Day

TUESDAY, MAY 21 – Primary Election Day

- See page 8 for more info

JUNE 2019

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – Pentecost (Christian)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 – Flag Day

SUNDAY, JUNE 16 – Father's Day

JULY 2019

THURSDAY, JULY 4 – Independence Day

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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. Send contributions to NCP, 913 Diamond St., Williamsport, PA 17701. For information call 570-651-0634.