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Where Williamsport Begins

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER FOR WILLIAMSPORT'S WEST END



## 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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### insideNewberry

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## City To Replace Trees In Newberry

Attention to all living on West 4th Street in Newberry! The Williamsport City Council has voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 42 trees for streetscapes at their regular meeting, which was held on September 15th. A good number of the trees will be used on West 4th Street from Diamond Street to Oliver Avenue near Roosevelt Middle School. Twenty-one Hackberry trees and 21 Zelkova trees (the variety of those trees that were planted in the 1970's along 4th Street's Millionaire's Row) are the species that will



*Hackberry tree*

be acquired. The bare root trees, to be planted in early November, will be purchased from Schichtel's Nursery, Inc. of New York. Mr Scott Livermore presented this information to Council. He works with direction from Chad Eckert, our city forester. What hasn't been discussed is the placement of the trees along these blocks.

Until March 2019 there was an odd assortment of trees along West 4th Street here in Newberry. Some were very large, tall, old



*Zelkova tree*

trees showing their age. Some trees had been planted more recently, but not properly taken care of or were not a good tree for the place where it had been planted. But the street did have shade, tree roots to absorb runoff from the rain, and a more settled look. That spring all the trees in the tree lawn were removed in preparation for PennDot to upgrade the utilities under

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# City To Replace Trees In Newberry

*(Continued from page 1)*

the street and on the surface along our end of 4th Street. Only the 8 of the 10 trees between the two blocks from Moore Ave (the closest to the on/off ramps from US15) and Race St were replaced. Those trees were replaced as stipulated in the original grant when they were first planted.

There are questions about where these newly approved trees will be planted. In the tree lawn, the area of grass between the street and sidewalk, which is the owner's responsibility, but considered city property, would benefit the look of the street as a whole. Or the trees may be placed in the front lawn of the residents in those blocks. In the front lawns the trees become the decision of where to be planted and the responsibility of the property owner. ~ Submitted by Margaret Tupper



**WILLIAMSPORT BUREAU OF FIRE**

## Tips To Avoid Tragedy This Holiday Season

Did you know that half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February? Everyone should be aware of fire hazards that occur during this time.

- Plug only one space heater at a time into an electrical outlet and NEVER USE AN EXTENSION CORD
- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet from any heat source
- Inspect every strand of lights for exposed, worn, and frayed wiring each year
- Read the manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect
- Keep candles, Menorahs, and Kinaras are not within three-feet from anything that can burn, including curtains and are extinguished before going to bed
- If you use a fresh-cut Christmas tree, be sure to keep it watered
- Stoves & ovens should never be used to as an alternative heating source
- Use clips, not nails or staples, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged

If you have any questions regarding fire safety, please call the Williamsport Bureau of Fire Headquarters @ 570-327-1602. ~ Submitted by Chief Sam Aungst, Williamsport Bureau of Fire

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#### CALENDER OF EVENTS

SETBACK TOURNAMENT .....First Thursday of the Month  
• Pre-registration

BINGO .....Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 12:30 PM

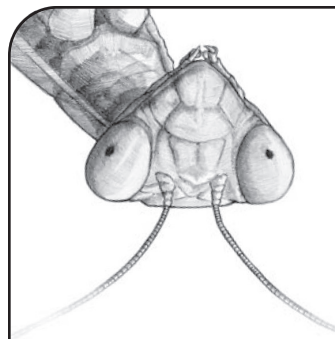
HEALTHY STEPS IN MOTION EXERCISE  
FOR MATURE ADULTS ..... Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am  
Bible Study w/Local Clergy .....Wednesdays 12:15 PM

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

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Level 1..... 5 PM Tuesdays & 10:30 AM Thursdays

KNITTING GROUP ..... Tuesdays 11 AM

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



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# Heartache & Hope As West Branch Closes Down, Transitions Property

After 51 years, West Branch School is shutting down, but its board hopes to keep the West Branch spirit and philosophy alive through the property transition to another non-profit. “It’s a bittersweet time,” said Steve Hulslander, one of the early teachers at West Branch along with his wife, Julie. Teachers and alumni are sad to see the school close, but Steve said they are “excited that there’s been so much interest in the property from organizations that would be a definite benefit to the community.”

West Branch was started in 1971 by a small and underfunded group of parents who wanted to provide children – theirs and others’ – a different kind of education. Students were encouraged to explore, question, and create, and West Branch students were always guided into ways to give back to their community, most recently in the welcome banners that adorn the 4th street lamps in Newberry.

Alumnus Nick Humphrey, whose last year at West Branch was 1986, credits West Branch with his lifelong love of maps and his lack of fear in public speaking. “In every subject, we had to give oral reports on what we were doing or had learned,” he said, citing the benefit both to his time as a minister and to his current work as a Geographic Information Systems Analyst near Houston, Texas.

“Nobody told us we couldn’t start a school with ten thousand dollars, but we were young and naïve enough that we did it anyway,” commented Robbie Cross, one of the West Branch founders and the current owner of Equinox. Now the issues being addressed by the board and a wide network of alumni are two: first, how can the property be

maintained until the transition, and, second, which non-profit organization should be entrusted with the property to continue community-building work? Regarding property maintenance, Hulslander pointed out that the school had to close in the first place because of declining enrollment, partly thanks to the pandemic. “We have basically zero funds, and we do still have some bills,” he said. “It takes a lot to open a school, but we’re finding that it also takes a lot to close a school!”

To help meet those financial needs to cover taxes, utilities, maintenance, and transition attorney costs, a network of alumni are stepping forward to organize a GoFundMe page, spear-headed by Humphrey and Julia DeSisto. DeSisto is the organizer of the fundraiser and subcommittee, while Humphrey is creating the alumni database and heading community outreach. Other West Branch Governance Committee members are Lili Crum, the treasurer and GoFundMe financial manager, and Chris Tsai, who is lending her expertise with fundraising and networking.

Humphrey received the box of printed spreadsheets of contact information for alumni, former teachers, and former parents, and he has started a snowball method of networking. “I contact some of the alumni and families that I know and have information for and tell them what’s going on, and they contact others that I might not know, and so forth.” Through the GoFundMe page, this network of former “West Branch family” can give back to the school they love.

When asked why he was putting this volunteer effort in for his elementary school, Humphrey

*(Continued on page 4)*



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# Heartache & Hope As West Branch Closes Down, Transitions Property

(Continued from page 3)

emphasized the feeling of family. “There was such a sense of family, of belonging, there at West Branch, for me and I’m sure for most alumni. Aside from my own father, Steve [Hulslander] was probably the biggest male influence in my life.” DeSisto agreed, saying, “Sandy Elion and Steve [Hulslander], to me, were the heart and soul of West Branch and they poured everything they had into that school, the kids, and the community. As an alumna, I see this as an incredible opportunity to give back to the school to invest in its vision, just as my mentors and so many others did before me.”

As a 501c3 non-profit, neither the West Branch School Association nor its board members will profit from any monies received through the GoFundMe, nor from any sale of the property to another entity. For anyone in the Newberry community interested in helping out, the GoFundMe can be found at <https://gofund.me/156e3faa>

(scan QR code).

The second question, about which non-profit should get the property, has been both difficult and cheering. “We have been contacted weekly by very good organizations about possibly using the facility,” Hulslander said, “but there are about three larger groups” that are strong contenders. The board has been meeting regularly, most recently Sept. 21, to narrow the field and discuss options. “Several of these possible groups are ones we have had a close working relationship with for many years,” Hulslander said, noting that many of them are educational or art-focused non-profits. Humphrey was also optimistic, saying that “We need to keep that energy going – the spirit of West Branch – in some form or fashion because it’s still needed in Williamsport.”

In an early meeting on this subject, the board had decided unanimously to sell, rent, or give the facility to a non-profit with a mission that fit with the philosophy of West Branch. “That was our biggest dilemma,” Hulslander said, “how to transition the property but keep the philosophy of West Branch alive.”

As pointed out by a former Penn College professor, a teacher truly knows his or her impact on the students years later, when no tests or degrees are hanging over the students’ heads. Students who come back of their own accord to support and thank their teachers are the real proof that the education had a continuing impact. The impact that West Branch has had for 53 years can be seen in its network of supporters and alumni, through whom it will continue to impact the world. And though it is closing, it hopes to live on in its service to the community. ~ Submitted by Joshua Hill

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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# End Of An Era - Newberry Woman To Retire From Williamsport Bureau of Police

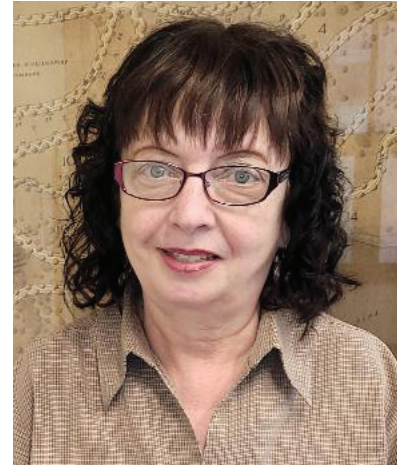
When you've been doing a job for so long that social convention requires your title be changed to reflect an awareness of your value and the importance of your role, you deserve respect. When you don't take a week off from that job for more than 35 years, that respect is multiplied. If you're looking for an example of a person with that much dedication to her profession, look no further than Donna Bower.

Donna started out as a Secretary for Williamsport Mayor Steven Lucasi on December 27th, 1983, and she's been working for the city ever since. At the advice of Mayor Lucasi, she gradually worked her way onto the staff of police administration, doing two jobs until Mayor Lucasi lost the post of Mayor, then transitioning to full-time police administration. She then became Office Manager/Administrative Secretary for the Williamsport Bureau of Police, a position she's held since January of 1987. She'll retire on January 6th of 2023, after 39 years of service to our city and the police department.

Donna's service to our community has spanned the administrations of eight mayors and 12 police chiefs. Although the people changed over the years, it was the people who made Donna want to come to work everyday. She told me the people she worked with provided the motivation to be there, as she always got along with the others around her. For the record, in addition to the eight mayors and 12 police chiefs, she also saw more than a hundred different police officers come and go. Just three of the officers who were on the force when she began are still on the staff. When I asked her if she ever had to pull rank on a new recruit, some


brash officer fresh to the squad, she was quick to point out that she'd never had to do so. She's a valuable source of information on protocol and standard operating procedures within the police department, so it was wise for a new officer to take advantage of her experience. Plus, she does the payroll. You don't want to mess with the person who does the payroll! The payroll is just one of the responsibilities Donna has acquired over the years, and the payroll can get complicated if a police officer does work for another entity, such as the Sheriff's Department or a federal agency. Keeping track of the vacation time officers have is something else for which she is responsible.

While her day-to-day tasks have changed over the years, she's been primarily responsible for ordering and maintaining supplies, keeping track of clothing allowances, billing to the police department, keeping purchases within budget, maintaining files of proper paperwork, and justifying purchases. In between all of that, another part of her job was dealing with the public. As the face of the police department, Donna was the first person a visitor to the office would see if they had a concern or complaint. Until a year and a half or so ago, the police were stationed at City Hall, and



Donna Bower near her office at the Trade and Transit Center

*(Continued on page 6)*



**\*CURB SIDE PICKUP**

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# End Of An Era - Newberry Woman To Retire From Williamsport Bureau of Police *(Continued from page 5)*

Donna was on the front line. She says that while most of her encounters with the public were peaceful and productive, there were a few who got carried away with insults and threats. In those cases, there were plenty of police officers nearby to come to her defense. The holding cell was within earshot of her office in the City Hall building as well, providing Donna with plenty of vulgarities and profanities from those protesting being held there, however temporary their stay may have been. Much like an episode of the old TV show "Night Court," she never knew who would show up next or who would be brought in by the officers and investigators of the Bureau.

Time has brought many changes to Donna's responsibilities and the ways in which procedures are done. There was a time when she collected fines for parking tickets and issued gun permits. Those jobs have since been moved to other departments. Technology has certainly changed over the last 39 years, and so has the way Donna employs it. When she started, forms were completed using a typewriter. Donna had no training on how to use a typewriter. When Mayor Lucasi suggested she become his secretary, she told him as much. He simply told her to tell the Human Resources person that she didn't know how to type. She did. She got the job anyway, and set upon teaching herself how to use a typewriter. She's become pretty good at it since then, and has also adapted well to the technology the police department uses.

Adapting to changes has become more of a challenge recently. Since City Hall was closed, and police administration has been moved to another building, standard operating procedures have become more complicated. The police department itself is in another building, requiring Donna to log more miles than when operations were more centralized. But perhaps the biggest change in her day-to-day routine, if you can call it that, is that whenever she completes a certain task, it may be the last time. Some of her duties may come but once or twice a year, and she says she tries to make a mental note of remembering to tell her replacement about the task. No

replacement has been named. There is no one yet being trained to do the job.

So, what does Donna have planned after retirement? Other than spending more time with her husband Steve, to whom she's been married for 41 years, nothing! No plans and no aspirations at the moment. But, if you know Donna, you know that she won't sit still for long. Her leadership qualities and love of people will certainly be a valuable asset to whatever hobby, group or business she eventually decides to dedicate her soon-to-be abundance of free time. Good Luck, Donna! Enjoy your retirement, and thank you for your decades of service to our city and community.  
~ Bob Woodley



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# Watching Time Fly on Sundials

I don't know if you have ever seen a decorative sundial in someone's yard and wondered how it "works," but that's a question that I got interested in a few years ago. Since then, I've built some of my own sundials and given several presentations about them. Here, I share the basics about this ancient technology in three parts, and I wouldn't be surprised to see more of them casting their shadows on the lawns of Newberry.

**Number 1:** The sun, of course! It all starts with the sun. When the sun shines on something like a tree, or a pole, or a person, it creates a shadow. Sundials tell time by measuring the shadows they cast as the sun moves across the sky. As we know, the sun only appears to be moving; it is the earth that is moving. But it is much easier to tell how a sundial works by explaining it in terms of the sun moving across the sky.

**Number 2:** There are two ways that sundials measure the shadows that they cast. They either measure the movement of a shadow or the length of a shadow. As the sun moves from east to west, it creates shadows that move from west to east. Sundials that measure this movement are called *azimuth* sundials.

As the sun moves from dawn to dusk, it climbs upward in the sky until it reaches its peak height at midday, and then it begins to go downward. The shadows created by the sun in the morning are long. As the morning continues, they grow shorter and shorter until they are their shortest at midday. Then they begin to grow longer and longer during the afternoon. Sundials that measure the changing length of shadow are called *altitude* sundials.

**Number 3:** There are 3 basic parts to every sundial: The sun, a shadow-casting object called the **gnomon**, and a **dial** that is marked to measure the shadow cast by the gnomon. The markings on the dial are called hour marks. The marks are often numbered. Wherever the shadow of the gnomon falls on the dial, that's what time it is.

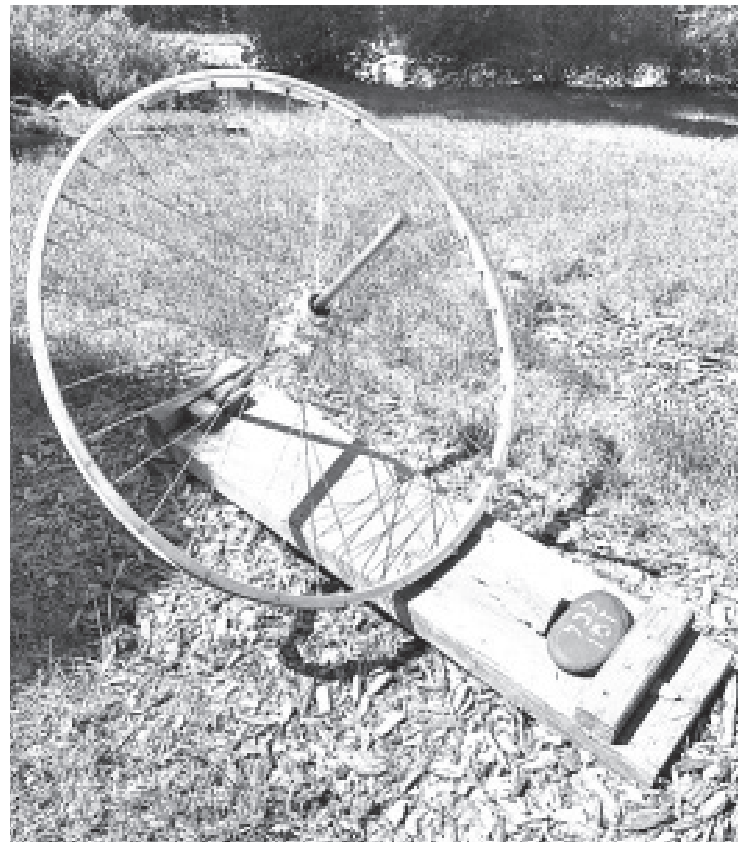
What is pictured in the right hand column is a sundial that was made out of a bicycle wheel. The

gnomon is the wooden rod that is poking through the hub of the wheel. The dial is the rim of the wheel. There are dots on the rim that mark the hours. The shadow of the gnomon falls halfway between the 10 o'clock and the 11 o'clock dots. This picture was taken at 10:30 am.

Often sundials have a fourth part. Many of them display a wise saying, usually written in Latin. A common one is *Tempus Fugit* which means time flies. The saying on the sundial in the photo is written in Hebrew and it means to everything there is a season.

So, as long as the sun shines, sundials quietly remind us of the passing of time. They do so differently than our cell phones and wrist watches, which hurry us on our way. Sundials invite us to pause on a sunny day in our lawn, mark the location of a shadow on a dial, and reflect on the stretching of time and the quiet rhythms of the seasons.

Interested in learning more about sundials? Check out the website of the North American Sundial Society: <https://sundials.org> ~ Submitted by Donald Hess



## Regular Meetings of Civic & Other Groups in Newberry

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)** ..... 570-323-6297  
 Meets Wednesdays & Saturdays • 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  
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 Open to boys age 11 or older*

**CUB SCOUT PACK 14** ..... 570-326-5569  
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*Open to boys in Grades 1-5 or ages 7-11*

**NEWBERRY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP** ..... 570-651-0634  
 Check our FaceBook page (@ncpcommunity) or email for information on meeting dates  
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*If you would like to present an idea or have a neighborhood concern, please call or email  
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 to be placed on agenda.*

**NEWBERRY LIONS** ..... 570-974-3858  
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 Brad Hillman, Secretary • John Confer, Treasurer  
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**NOTE:** These are active groups that welcome new members, let them know you'd like to attend. To be listed, contact the Editor, *insideNewberry*, 913 Diamond Street, Newberry, PA 17701 or [insideNewberry@yahoo.com](mailto:insideNewberry@yahoo.com).

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**Newberry Community Partnership would like to thank the Polish Club for their continued support of our organization and all the good things they do for the residents of Newberry, Jaysburg, and the City of Williamsport.**



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# Father And Son Renew Garden Plot

After noticing that the little plot of land on the corner of Third and Arch Streets needed a little more tender, loving care, Ray D. Smith Sr. of Duboistown and his son, Ray P. Smith of Waterville took it upon themselves to get the job done. They started by removing foreign substances from the soil, like a layer of plastic that was preventing plants' roots from spreading, and then balancing out the existing landscape with flowering plants. Having grown up around plant nurseries and flower shops, Ray knew exactly what to do, and had the tools to do it. Investing his own money to buy the supplies from a local greenhouse, he also supplied all the water and fertilizer to feed and nurture the plants. He hauled that water and fertilizer mixture from his home in

a large tank, and using a special nozzle, injected the nutrients directly onto the roots of the plants for better feeding and less evaporation. Unless it rained, Ray would water the garden about every other day. When it did rain, he still kept the weeds pulled and the area looking tidy. Although Ray has a passion for his work, his health has limited his abilities. What he would like to see is perhaps a local scout troop or other type of youth organization take control of the area, perhaps as part of a continuing agricultural lesson. Ray said, "I'm from Newberry and I care about it. I didn't see a lot happening there, so I thought I'd do it." Well, you did it, Ray. On behalf of the Newberry Community Partnership, thank you. ~ Bob Woodley



Ray D. Smith, Sr. and Ray P. Smith work on the restoring the Newberry Garden



Newberry Garden



Newberry Garden



Newberry Garden



# Newberry CHURCH of CHRIST

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We will be hosting a community meal for local veterans of our country's military on Sunday, Nov 6 at 4pm. Please invite any veterans in your life so that they can be honored for their service.

### Community Thanksgiving Day Meal

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★ ★ ★ **SPECIAL VOTER SECTION** ★ ★ ★  
**2022 GENERAL ELECTION • Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

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

The **2022 General Election** is **Tuesday, November 8**. All 81 precincts will be open for in-person voting on Election Day from 7:00am until 8:00pm. Federal and state offices will appear on the ballot.

The federal offices that will appear on the ballot in Lycoming County are United States Senator and Representative in Congress (9th District and 15th District). The 2022 congressional maps place all of the City of Williamsport in the 9th Congressional District, with the exception of a portion of the city's 5th Ward that is located in the 15th Congressional District. Voters of the 5th Ward will be identified in the poll books as belonging to the 9th District or 15th District when they go to vote.

The state offices that will appear on the ballot in Lycoming County are Governor and Representative in the General Assembly. The 2022 legislative maps place all of the City of Williamsport in the 83rd Legislative District.

**Friday, October 7** sample ballots for all precincts will be available at the Office of Voter Services and on the Voter Services website at [www.lyco.org/vote](http://www.lyco.org/vote).

**Monday, October 24** is the last day to register to vote or make changes to your registration before the election.

**Tuesday, November 1** is the last day to apply to vote by mail. Applications must be received by Voter Services before 5:00 pm. Faxed or emailed applications cannot be accepted. Postmarks do not count. Voters who will be out of their municipality for work or school or have an illness or disability must apply for an absentee ballot. Voters who are not eligible for an absentee ballot but still wish to vote by mail must apply for a mail-in ballot.

**Tuesday, November 8 at 8:00 pm** is the deadline

**Polls are open Election Day continuously 7 AM until 8 PM**

for Voter Services to receive voted absentee and mail-in ballots. Ballots received after 8:00 pm cannot be counted.

**A voter who receives an absentee or mail-in ballot and appears at a polling place to vote in person on Election Day may only vote by provisional ballot, unless the voter surrenders the official ballot and official return envelope to the Judge of Elections at the polling place to be spoiled in order to vote a regular ballot.**

**Voters who experience an emergency after 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 1 may be eligible to apply for an emergency absentee ballot.** Contact 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 Voter Services for more information.

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

You may register to vote or apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot by the following methods:

- Register to vote online or apply online to vote by mail at <http://votespa.com>.
- Download an application from the Voter Services website at [www.lyco.org/vote](http://www.lyco.org/vote).
- Visit Voter Services on the first floor of Third Street Plaza, 33 West 3rd St, Williamsport.
- Call Voter Services at 570-327-2267 to request that an application be mailed to you.

*~ Submitted by Forrest K. Lehman, Director of Elections and Registration*



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER 2022

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 10** – Columbus Day  
(Federal & State Holiday - Banks Closed)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15** – Coat Giveaway,  
9 AM, Newberry Church of Christ (See Page 9)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31** – Halloween

## NOVEMBER 2022

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6** – Community Meals  
for Veterans, 4 PM, Newberry Church of Christ  
(See Page 9)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6** – Daylight Savings  
Ends (Set Your Clocks BACK One Hour)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8** – Election Day, Polls  
Open 7 AM to 8 PM

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11** – Veteran's Day  
(Federal & State Holiday - Banks Closed)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24** – Thanksgiving  
Day (Federal & State Holiday - Banks Closed)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24** – Community  
Thanksgiving Day Meal, 11 AM to 2 PM,  
Newberry Church of Christ (See Page 9)

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25** – Black Friday

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28** – Cyber Monday

## DECEMBER 2022

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7** – Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance Day

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7** – Newberry  
Christmas Tree Lighting at the Flower Garden  
(next to Brodart)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19** – First Day of  
Chanukah/Hanukahh (Jewish Observance)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25** – Christmas Day  
(Christian Observance, Federal & State Holiday  
- Banks Closed)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26** – Last Day of  
Chanukah/Hanukahh (Jewish Observance)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26** – First Day of  
Kwanzaa (African-American Observance)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31** – New Year's Eve

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