



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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New Owners Improving 4th and Arch Newberry Properties

Frank Dyer did not anticipate becoming a full-time property manager, but when one thing led to another and he found himself owning 85 rental units consisting of residential, commercial, and student housing properties, he wanted to do things right. Dyer recently acquired the set of properties at West 4th and Arch in Newberry between 4th and Riepstine's Pub, and he is remodeling and renovating to add value to the properties and the community.

Employed by UGI for many years, Dyer became interested in Real Estate acquisition, but just as a sideline. Now, that sideline is Dyer Enterprises LLC. Understandably, considering the demands of real estate on his time, he left his job at UGI to become a full-time property manager. He first came to NCP's attention in 2023 when he bought this mix of commercial and residential buildings on the northwest corner of Newberry's Monument Circle, and he stopped by the NCP office recently to talk about his plans for the complex.

The complex includes the properties of the former Newberry News Diner, the Variety Wholesale Shack, Hills Garage, Billtown Clothing, Thrift & Skateboard Shop, and eight residential apartments. Dyer said he is planning basic exterior improvements such as painting, better signage for the business occupants and improved exterior lighting, but is focusing on completing interior improvements first. He

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Fred Dyer has already started remodeling the interiors of the residential apartments at 4th and Arch. This bathroom is a sign of good things to come.

New Owners Improving... *(Continued from page 1)*

has an in-depth knowledge of the required codes and a good relationship with the codes office, and he has been doing renovations of his properties right for several years now. We were impressed with his apparent commitment to the community.

Bart and Tess Rieppel, the owners of Riepstine's Pub, are also hopeful that Dyer's work with these properties will boost the whole block. Dyer confirmed that he hopes his work will do just that: "I want this to benefit my tenants and the Newberry area in general."

Almost immediately upon acquisition, Dyer began a complete renovation of three apartments on the second floor of the Arch Street property. These units will be finished soon, and some are already being occupied. In addition, three residential apartment units on Funston are also being gutted in preparation for complete renovation next year, and the remaining units will follow thereafter. As the pictures show, Dyer doesn't just "paint and rent," but creates living spaces that people like to call home.

As for the commercial sites, Dyer is maintaining tenants, moving tenants to better spaces, and seeking new business tenants. For the former Newberry News Diner, Dyer hopes to host a bakery or another food establishment, but will make renovations as needed to work with a new tenant. Two current tenants are staying put, and we paid them a visit. Billtown Clothing, Thrift &

Skateboard Shop is run by Frank Gair and has a wide selection of used items, including skateboards, toys, guitars, clothing, furniture, and much more. Hill's Garage is on the corner, facing the Lady Liberty monument. Hill's, which opened in 2017, offers State Inspections, general automotive repairs, tires, and vehicle maintenance services. Look for the Hill's Garage ad in this paper.

The Variety Wholesale Shack has just moved from the Arch street side to the West 4th side. Owner Scott Barger said they have a varied and constantly changing stock that includes electric and pedal bikes, electronics, toys, candy, and household goods. I really liked the electric bike with leather saddle bags! Barger said they never know ahead of time what overstock items may come in, so check back often.

So, keep an eye on this corner of Newberry. The improvements have started on the inside, but Dyer's mission to improve the properties inside and out will be a boon to the whole community. If you drive over to take a look, park on Arch or in designated lots at the back of the complex, but please avoid parking in Riepstine's lot (unless you hope to stop in there for some great food and beer!). Where possible, shop small and support local businesses. When you shop at a small business, you support your neighbors' livelihoods and promote development of your community. You also can be sure your patronage will be appreciated! ~
Submitted by Mary Rucinski and Alannah Gabriel



The interior living room of a new Dyer property before and after remodeling.

A Word from the WECCC

First, I would like to thank all of you who helped to make 2023 a record year for the WECCC. Thanks to the volunteers, patrons, and financial supporters, we were able to assist more people this past year than at any other time in the life of the WECCC. Your continued prayerful support in 2024 is vital as we charge into the new year.

As some examples, here are just a handful of our 2023 statistics: SK Cafe served 18,647 meals (up 3,000 from 2022), the Shoe Express provided 410 pairs of sneakers and distributed their 5,000th pair since its start, 82,000 meals were distributed through the FOCUSED program to children in the WASD, we had over 3,200 people pass through our Welcome Wagon beverage area, the Community Cupboard emergency food pantry served over 1,400 people in need of food, and, finally, the Clothes Closet/thrift shop served 12,000 customers and their Christmas sale had a banner year.

These are just numbers on a page until you see the lives they represent. The people that pass through our doors, be they volunteers or patrons, are absolutely amazing with incredible stories – stories that we are invited to be a part of.

We live by the scripture, “They will know you are my disciples by the way that you love one another.” This guides all that we do at the WECCC. Please stop by the office and allow me or other staff to show you around and see how you might possibly be called to join our team. We have some exciting fundraisers coming this year, so keep up to date on our social media pages to learn more or call the office.

Until I get to see you face to face, know that we love you! But God loves you more!

~ Submitted by Calvin Phillips,
Executive Director



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Newberry Lions Club Fair Ready to Kick off Summer!

It is once again time for the food, music, and fun of the annual Newberry Lions Club Fair. It doesn't get much better than the smell of funnel cakes and the laughter of kids twirling around in the Fireball ride on a warm early summer night. If you have been before, you can imagine it. If you haven't been, we invite you to come join the fun with your Newberry neighbors!

This year, the Fair will be held from April 30 to May 4, 2024, at Historic Bowman Field. The Fair hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 6 to 10 pm with food vendors closing at approximately 9 pm. On Saturday, May 4, the hours will be 12 Noon to 10 pm.

The Newberry Lions will be serving up their famous French fries, and several other food options will be available along with family-friendly games and rides provided by Penn Valley Shows. If your stomach no longer enjoys such rides, watching your friends or children laugh and scream their way through a ride is amusing in itself!

If your organization or business would like to participate in this annual event, or for future updates about the Newberry Lions Fair, please visit the Newberry Lions Facebook Page or contact Bill K. at 570-220-4572 or Bill G. at 570-279-6647 in order to make arrangements.

The Newberry Lions thank you in advance for your help in supporting our annual fair. If you would like to volunteer your time with the Newberry Lions Club or become a member, please give us a call. We are most grateful for your support of this popular, longstanding Newberry tradition. Money raised through the fair is used for Lions Club service projects.

The Lions Club is the largest service club organization in the world with over 1.4 million members worldwide and over 46,000 local clubs. Each club serves primarily its local community by funding vision medical services, youth projects and scholarships, and other community projects as needed.

Any donation towards the event is, as always, greatly appreciated, and donations are tax deductible. For donations, please make your check payable to Newberry Lions Club and mail it to P.O. Box 4051, Williamsport, PA 17701.

~ By Bill Keiser



OUR HOME PAGE... www.insidenewberry.org

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Local Branch of 109-Year-Old Non-Profit Clothes Williamsport Youth



The members of the Newberry Branch of National Giving Alliance (NGA) are in the clothing business, but even more, NGA is in the people business. NGA is a national 501©3 nonprofit that was founded in Philadelphia in 1885. The Newberry Branch was founded in 1914 by a group of women living in the West End of Williamsport and is still going strong! Since its beginning, Newberry NGA has been providing new clothing, shoes, coats, linens, and personal care products to people in need, primarily children, first in the Newberry area but then throughout the Greater Williamsport Area.

Newberry Branch president Becky Miller Pryor states that their mission is to always provide new items of clothing, shoes, linens, and personal care items to people in need. One Saturday, Pryor was chatting with a friend at a yard sale in Newberry about her work with NGA. A grandparent overheard the conversation and inquired if Pryor was the “sweat suit lady.” Pryor responded that she was involved with the sweat suit program. The grandmother thanked Pryor for providing her grandchild and other children with new clothing that made them look like all the other children in the child’s classroom. Providing children with new clothing, Pryor says, is one of the best ways to boost self-esteem and give a child a feeling of well-being.

NGA member Marcie Klingler states that NGA partners with the Williamsport Area School District, Loyalsock Township School District, STEP Head Start, and the United Churches of Lycoming County. Each fall hundreds of requests are received from NGA’s partners for a new, complete outfit or a coat with a hat and gloves. Newberry Branch of NGA takes pride in always being able to say “yes” to these many requests.

Before the pandemic, Newberry NGA was distributing new outfits or coats to over 600 individually named persons, primarily children, through school counselors and nurses. Their work

with the many programs under the umbrella of the United Churches of Lycoming County (UCLC) was secondary to the individual requests. UCLC needs were being met through bulk distributions of requested items. However, the pandemic, with its school and agency closings, changed how NGA decided to fulfill its mission. NGA quickly brainstormed a plan to continue its outreach while the schools were closed. Its solution was to look at all the programs under the umbrella of UCLC, contact several of them, and then provide quarterly outreach of requested items. This plan worked and worked well in that NGA never closed during the pandemic or said “no” to a request.

In 2023, NGA received requests equaling pre-pandemic numbers with the quarterly distributions continuing, totaling a large increase in NGA’s outreach. NGA provided a new outfit or coat to 652 individually named persons and distributed over 9,000 new items through bulk distributions to other small nonprofits. Klingler states, “I have personally seen the needs increasing in our community and have seen the positive effect our new clothing, coats, and other

(Continued on page 6)

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Local Branch of 109-Year-Old Non-Profit... (Continued from page 5)

items have had on the agencies, individuals, and families we serve.”

Newberry NGA is a very small nonprofit that currently has thirteen members and a dedicated group of volunteers. The group’s activities include fundraising. NGA must earn all the money it uses to purchase thousands of new items each year. NGA’s largest fundraiser is FCFP’s Raise the Region. This year NGA received its largest amount to date and won three prizes. NGA also hosts three yard sales. One is at a member’s garage; another is at St. John’s-Newberry UMC, and a third is NGA’s popular “Everything Christmas” sale at Redeemer Lutheran Church. NGA is extremely grateful for the community’s financial support.

Pryor stated that it can be difficult to find all the clothing that is needed each year with the limited shopping venues in our area, but shopping trips to stores outside our area and online shopping have provided what is needed. Other sources are folks who support NGA’s outreach by donating new clothing. Pryor tells of a friend who purchased two pink coats each year. The friend stated, “I had so much fun donating the pink coats because I have two boys and never get to buy coats like that.”

This dedicated group of volunteers works year-round to earn the money to purchase new clothing

and other items for hundreds of people, primarily children, in our community. Their collaboration with ten programs under the umbrella of UCLC to provide requested items each quarter also covers important needs. Pryor said, “I know it is a cliché, but it’s true—our future is our children.”

The Newberry Branch of NGA provides more than the tangible clothing and other items they distribute year-round. Their outreach provides a sense of well-being, improved self-esteem, better school attendance, and hope for a brighter future. With 110 years in the Greater Williamsport Area, the Newberry Branch of NGA still strives to provide “New Clothes for New Tomorrows.”

For more info about the national organization, visit <https://www.nationalgivingalliance.org>. For more information on how you can assist the Newberry Branch of NGA, email Becky Miller Pryor at beckypryor72@gmail.com.



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Regular Meetings of Civic & Other Groups in Newberry

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The support group welcomes new members.

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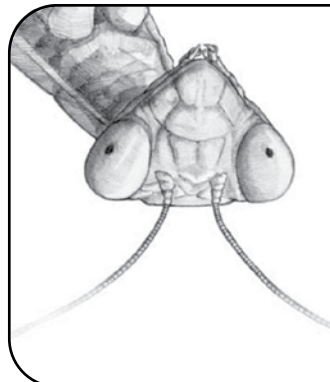
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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2024

FRIDAY, 4/1 – April Fool's Day (Observance)
MONDAY, 4/15 – Tax Day
MONDAY, 4/22 – Passover Eve (Jewish)
TUESDAY, 4/23 – First Day of Passover (Jewish)
WEDNESDAY, 4/24 – Administrative Professionals Day (Observance)
FRIDAY, April 26 – Arbor Day (Observance)
MONDAY, 4/30 – Newberry Fair Begins at Bowman Field, runs through May 4

MAY 2024

THURSDAY, 5/1 – National Day of Prayer (Observance)
SATURDAY, 5/4 – Kentucky Derby (Sporting Event)
SUNDAY, 5/5 – Orthodox Easter (Orthodox)
SUNDAY, 5/5 – Cinco de Mayo (Observance)
THURSDAY, 5/9 – Ascension (Christian)
SUNDAY, 5/12 – Mother's Day (Observance)
SATURDAY, 5/18 – Preakness (Sporting Event)

JUNE 2024

THURSDAY, 6/6 – D-Day (Observance)
SATURDAY, 6/8 – Belmont Stakes (Sporting Event)
FRIDAY, 6/14 – Flag Day (Observance)
SUNDAY, 6/16 – Father's Day (Observance)
WEDNESDAY, 6/19 – Juneteenth (Federal Holiday, Banks Closed)

JULY 2024

THURSDAY, 7/4 – Independence Day (Federal Holiday, Banks Closed)

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 Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) 913 Diamond Street • Williamsport, PA 17701 For information, message us on Facebook.