



## 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.



## MESSAGE FROM THE NEWBERRY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

*YOUR neighborhood organization since 2006.*

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

2014 begins the 8th year of insideNewberry's presence in the neighborhood. In addition to publishing the newsletter, in 2013 the Newberry Community Partnership's (NCP) activities included:

- *Annual spring & fall Neighborhood Clean and Green Days led by Julie Hulslander and the Safe, Clean & Green Team*
- *Participated in West End Heritage Day in Newberry Park*
- *Promoted and participated in National Night Out in August*
- *Held successful fundraisers; A Cruise on the Hiawatha with the Flipside Band and basket raffles at various events throughout the city – Thanks to Laura Lambert*
- *Hosted a public service meeting to address the Howard Street Rail Road Crossing issue – see article on page 7*
- *Funded the purchase of new West 4th Street Christmas Street Lights through the Elm Street Program*
- *Coordinated and co-sponsored the 4th Newberry/Jaysburg Christmas tree lighting*

**In 2014 new Elm Street Façade Improvement projects will begin.** The target area is the commercial corridor properties on Arch Street from West Fourth to Newberry Streets.

The Newberry Community Partnership is very grateful for your support in 2013 and we need your help if we are to continue to play a vital role in revitalizing and reinvigorating our proud and historic neighborhood. If you are passionate about making our community a more attractive, safer, more interesting place to live and work, consider offering your time and talents to the Newberry Community Partnership. We are seeking board and committee members as well as ideas and financial support as we work toward making the West End the "Best End". Please join us.

For more information contact Alannah Gabriel, Elm Street Manager, by mail at 913 Diamond Street, Williamsport, PA 17701; Phone 570-601-0298 or email **agabrielnep@yahoo.com**.

## 2 ROUND HILL ROAD

### *Newberry Home featured in Preservation Williamsport's 15th Annual Victorian Christmas Tour – Buon Natale*



The Youngman estate with its 24-room brick Italian Villa style mansion, located at #2 Round Hill Road, was built as a summer home in 1867 for George Washington Youngman, his wife and nine children.

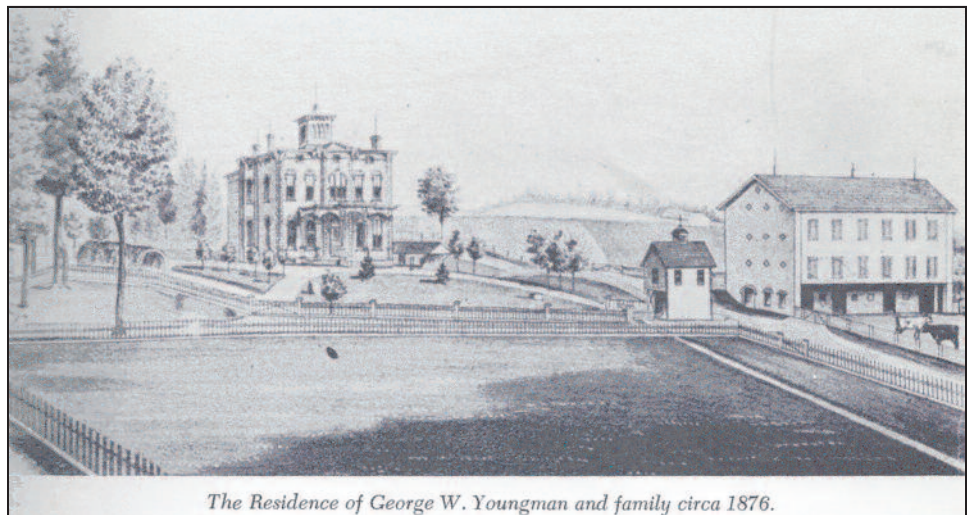
The family had been living on Pine Street in Williamsport during the Civil War. It was during that period the young Will, at the age of nine ran off to the war as an orderly. It was two years before the family could find him and get him to return home. Perhaps for that reason the elder Youngman preferred living where it was a bit easier keeping track of his children.

The most common form of architecture in America, this four bedroom villa was constructed from bricks manufactured from the clay soil excavated while digging out the basement. Characteristic of the Italian Villa style is the overhanging roof, bracketed eaves and quoin corners as well as the ornate moldings above the windows. The porch is original and is one of the few remaining in Williamsport which exemplifies the Italian Villa style. The front door leads into a center hall with large, high ceilinged rooms and interior folding shutters protecting the windows.

The Youngman family turned the house into two apartments during the Depression. Later a third apartment was created. Much of the first floor remains as built except for the insertion of two bedrooms and a bath into what had been the drawing room to the other side of the now closed up hall wall. Another change was the removal of the cupola. This often happened.

Joan Eskra purchased the home from the Youngman family in 1987 and has maintained the property. The barn had been torn down before the change in ownership. She is told vestiges of the original ice house still remain beneath the garage. The original summer kitchen still remains in the basement. She has also chosen to retain much of the decoration the Youngman's had done to their home by Samuel Dornsife in the 1960's.

Mr. Dornsife was one of the premier art and architectural historians in America, responsible for work in such notable places as the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Using some of the first Victorian reproduction wallpapers ever available in America, he helped recreate a period feel in the parlor and dining room. "Paneled" wall arrangements were the height of fashion when the home was built. Still remaining are the plaster ceiling medallions and marbled mantels. The home remarkably retains much of its original character since 1867 when it was built.



*The Residence of George W. Youngman and family circa 1876.*

# REMEMBERING HAROLD “SKIP” HUNSINGER

*July 19, 1939 – November 2, 2013*

A native son of Newberry, Skip grew up on Funston Ave. and didn't have to look far to find the love of his life and partner Helen (Mincemoyer) also living on Funston Ave. a few doors up the street. They were married in 1962 and resided in Newberry for 26 years before moving to Loyalsock Township. Even though he no longer lived in the neighborhood, Skip did not become a stranger, he continued to be active in the life of the Newberry community.



He was a faithful member of St. John's Newberry UMC where he served on many committees and was a choir member for over 65 years. Some of his favorite church activities were the old time Ice Cream Socials hosted by the choir. As a committeeman for Boy Scout Troop 14 he enjoyed flipping pancakes at their Annual Pancake Supper. He served as coach and board member of the John H. Bower Sunday School Basketball League; Served on the board of the School of the Arts and organized monthly senior luncheons. He will gratefully be remembered by the congregation for the challenging and miserable yearly task of changing the light bulbs in the sanctuary as well as a lot of painting done over the years.

Beyond the neighborhood, for over 60 years he could be seen all over the county painting or hanging wall paper with Hunsinger Painting, a business that began with his father in 1928 and continues with his



*Skip on the job, circa 1982*

son Harold "Butch" Hunsinger to this day. For the past 12 years Skip volunteered at the Community Arts Center (CAC) where patrons were always warmly greeted with a big smile. During his time at CAC he helped with many raffles and revived the old time Children's Christmas Spectacular.

Among all of Skip's interests and activities one of his favorites was spending time at Central Oak Heights and drinking Pepsi with his friends.

Skip's life embodied the essence of community by his generous spirit in service to so many. He will be lovingly remembered and sorely missed.

Go to [www.mccarthythomas.com](http://www.mccarthythomas.com) to read more about Skip's life, tributes by family and friends or to share your memories of Skip.

## ***A BIG THANK YOU***

### ***to the following for their help with the Christmas tree lighting:***

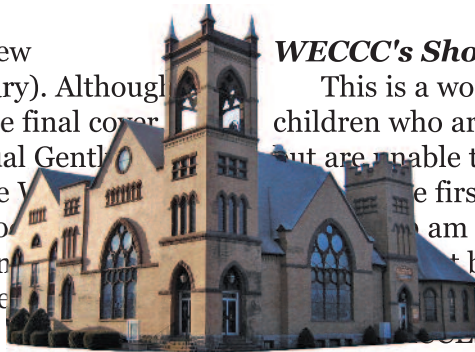
- Rick Dill, Karen Hostrander and the Brodart staff for hosting Santa & Mrs. Claus and treating us to hot chocolate;
- Joe & Trina Rinker of Harvest Moon Plaza for cookies and coffee;
- Sanders Mortuary for tree lights and star;
- Steve Hulslander and West Branch School students for leading us in song
- Skip Smith of Smith Radio for providing a sound system so we could all be heard
- Lamar Advertising for electric to light the tree;
- And last but not least, Mayor Campana and the great guys from the City Streets & Parks Department

*~ Newberry Community Partnership*

# WEST END CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

## Community Room Update

We are making progress with our new community room (formerly the sanctuary). Although the floor is now leveled and awaiting the final cover, we were able to use it for our 2nd Annual Gentle Toy Sale and to distribute food from the West End Food Bank. Many thanks to Jim Craddock and the volunteers who have given many, many long hours of their time to construct this room for use by the community.



## WECCC's Soup Kitchen

Our Soup Kitchen invited the community at large to join us for two special holiday meals. In November, 324 individuals enjoyed the hospitality of our staff and volunteers as they shared a delicious, healthy traditional Thanksgiving meal. A special thank you to the staff of Weichert Realtor Premier for volunteering their time to assist us in the kitchen. They did a fabulous job! We're grateful for their dedicated compassion for the community. We celebrated the Christmas season on December 23rd with a luncheon featuring baked ham and roast turkey with all the trimmings, ending our year on a fulfilling happy note. Soup Kitchen Manager Claire Smith and her assistant Tinee and a host of hard working folks are responsible for the nutritional meals served throughout the year. Thank you for your devotion to help feed our community.

## Holiday Support for Families & Children

This year the need was greater than ever. We helped as many families as possible with the resources available. Each family received food for a complete Christmas dinner, extra food items and toys for the children. A heartfelt thank you to the "Special Treasures of the Cedar Chest" Red Hat Ladies Group. These wonderful ladies donated toys, clothing and money to buy additional items for our Christmas families. The holidays remind us how blessed we are and that it is in giving to those in need that we receive our most fulfilling reward - love for one another. So thank you, ladies, for opening your hearts to the less fortunate of our community and creating wonderful memories for our children. Speaking of wonderful memories. Although it snowed the day of our Children's Christmas Party, it did not deter the youngsters from coming. Approximately 40 kids had lots of fun decorating their own cupcakes and doing craft activities. No Christmas party would be complete without a visit from Santa. After meeting Santa, each child got to choose a stuffed animal to adopt.

Many thanks to Irenay Weaver and Debbie Bisbee for planning such a terrific event for the children.

## WECCC's Shoe Express

This is a wonderful program for children who are in need of new sneakers and socks but are unable to afford them. The Shoe Express is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00 am to Noon in our library. To be eligible, children must be under 18 years of age, have a parent or legal guardian, have a valid ID card, a Blue CHIP card or a letter of referral by an agency regarding your family situation. You can stop in and inquire about the program on the Saturdays the Shoe Express is open. Rick and Nancy Jacobs and the thoughtful ladies that assist them will be happy to help you and your child to select a pair of sneakers.

As with any program, it takes money to replenish our supply of sneakers. Please consider pledging \$10 a Month to sponsor this very worthy cause.



## A Note from the Director's Desk

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! The West End Christian Community Center exists to help fill the many needs of our community. All of my staff and volunteers thank you for supporting our ministry and hope you enjoy the 14 programs and services we proudly offer here at the WECCC. Stop in and visit with us. We will be very happy to show you around. God has richly blessed us and we want to pass those blessing on to you!!

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~ Marge Thompson, Executive Director

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



Select students enjoy their lunch at the "Jackson Diner"

## Jackson Primary School A K-3 School



Jackson Elementary is now Jackson Primary School. Our school houses nearly 500 students within the grade spans. As a primary school we understand the importance of staying connected to families. Our communication has expanded with the use of Facebook. Each day messages and pictures are posted about our celebrations of students' successes. From pictures of students eating at the "Jackson Diner" (specialized seating in the cafeteria due to good behavior) to students donating to the soldiers' packages in the month of November - we keep our community informed. This medium has helped our parents remember deadlines, special events and upcoming holiday breaks. We recognize or post our daily attendance rate to impress the importance of coming to school each day if you are not sick.

We were proud of student Kaylianna Coleman, the Winter Holiday Essay Contest winner from Jackson, who was selected by a review board from the Williamsport Educational Foundation to join the 25 elementary school winners to ride on the Polar Express. Staying informed and closely connected to your child's school is good for everyone. Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jackson-Primary-School>



~ By John J. Killian, Principal

## Lycoming Nursery School

### Annual Yard Sale

Lycoming Nursery School (LNS) will be having their annual yard sale on Saturday, March 22, 2014. Please stop by and shop to benefit this unique preschool. The school is located at 825 Arch Street in the Lycoming Presbyterian Church across from Dunkin Donuts. Although the school is located at Lycoming Presbyterian Church it is non-sectarian, which means any faith/religion is welcome and encouraged to attend.



Lycoming Nursery School is non-profit pre-school certified by the PA Department of Education. Their goals are to teach and develop the basic readiness skills and concepts needed to master the subject matter taught in succeeding school years. They develop these skills through art, music, creative play, physical activities and social interaction. Ages encouraged are 3, 4 & 5. Preschool provides a place where your child can gain a sense of self, explore, play with his/her peers, and build confidence. Registration for the 2014/2015 school year will begin at our March Open House, for more details please stay tuned. Space is limited, but we would love to have your child attend this fall. To find out more, please like us on Facebook, visit our website [www.lycomingnurseryschool.com](http://www.lycomingnurseryschool.com) or call the registrar, Lisa, at 570- 772-3982.

## West Branch School

### What's Happening at West Branch School?



The start of 2014 is a busy time for students, teachers and parents at West Branch School. Every spring, the students at West Branch School put on a play. On February 14, 15, and 16, the 3rd - 6th grade-aged (upstairs) students will perform Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, with a West Branch twist, at the Community Theater League. Parents and teachers have been working closely together to not only help the students rehearse their roles, but also to assist with everything that goes into staging a professional production. The K - 2nd grade-aged (downstairs) students will also perform a play in February on a slightly smaller scale. Don't let the smaller scale fool you though; the play will be complete with costumes, make up, and plenty of determination. Preschool

(Continued on Page 6)

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



*West Branch School students rehearse for annual spring play.*

students in the Williamsport area are invited every year to be a part of the audience.

WBS students are also working on their projects for the annual WBS Science Fair. Upstairs students will display projects that focus on scientific method, experimentation, and data collection. Downstairs students will present research projects on animals. Students will be excitingly researching, preparing a hypothesis, doing test runs, writing up conclusions and presenting their material. The community is invited to attend the Science Fair on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30pm. Please stop by and take a look. You might learn something new!

In addition to play rehearsals and Science Fair project research, students are also gearing up for the spring open houses. Open houses are scheduled for Wednesday, January 29 from 9 AM-12 PM and 6-8 PM, Friday, February 21 from 9 AM-12 PM, Saturday, March 22 from 10 AM-2 PM, Monday, March 24 from 9am-12pm, Saturday, April 5 from 10am-2pm and Tuesday, April 22 from 9am-12pm. Please stop in, tour the school and find out what sets West Branch School apart from the rest!

## **Williamsport Area School District *Harlem Wizards Coming to Put on Show at Magic Dome on February 5th***

The Harlem Wizards are coming to the Williamsport Area High School Magic Dome. The Wizards are scheduled to take the court at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, February 5, in a fundraiser benefit for the Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation.

From crazy slam-dunks to three-man alley-oops, the New Jersey-based organization promises a night of spontaneous humor and excitement in “basketball wizardry on the hardwood.”

For more than 50 years, the Wizards have dazzled fans with amazing basketball talent combined with comedy, tricks, fancy teamwork and ball handling.

The WASD Education Foundation is in the midst of coordinating all aspects of the event and is in the process of selecting a team that will be comprised of high school students, teachers and administrators from across the district who will go up against the Wizards in a performance game that’s sure to entertain the crowd.

“We’re excited to bring a community event that’s family-friendly and sort of speaks to the heritage of the high school, and one that also ultimately benefits our students through our foundation,” said Greg Hayes, executive director of the WASD Education Foundation.

Tickets will be sold at \$5 for students and \$8 for general admission in advance; \$6 for students and \$10 for general admission at the gate.

Tickets are available at the following locations: Williamsport Area High School, 2990 West Fourth Street; the District Service Center, 2780 West Fourth Street; and the Genetti Hotel, 200 West Fourth Street, which is sponsoring rooms for the Wizards the evening of the event.

The WASD Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, is a collaborative effort among individuals committed to providing financial support for WASD schools. Since 2004, the foundation has supported students and faculty across the district by promoting, sponsoring and encouraging educational activities through private funding.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.wasd.org/foundation](http://www.wasd.org/foundation).



# HOWARD STREET GRADE CROSSING

## Noise Relief Options

Railroaders are fond of saying that the only time the general public interacts with the railroad is at grade crossings, particularly when motorists are delayed while allowing the train to pass. A long train is desirable for a railroad as it means more business. The motorist generally does not share such a buoyant attitude while tapping on the steering wheel.

Of course, from a safety standpoint a railroad wants to alert cars, trucks and those on foot that a train is coming. Being struck by a train is something we all want to avoid for obvious reasons. To ensure that every railroad operation adheres to a standard, the Federal government has passed laws which mandate that every time a train is operated over a grade crossing that the locomotive blow its horn. That rule promotes safety, and most motorists appreciate hearing that warning. If you happen to live near a grade crossing on a busy railroad, however, the frequent blowing of a locomotive horn can be bothersome.

Such is the case with the Howard Street grade crossing. This crossing sits at the critical east end of the Newberry Yard. This rail yard is the largest one between Harrisburg and Buffalo. It is part of the regional shortline railroad system owned by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority (JRA), which is an eight-county municipal authority that owns the tracks and real estate comprising the railroad. Rail operations are provided under agreement by a private company, the Lycoming Valley Railroad (LVRR).

The JRA purchased the lines in the Williamsport area in 1996. It has always been a busy railroad, and the JRA's largest in terms of railroad traffic. Since



2009, though, traffic has increased principally due to new business related to the Marcellus Shale natural gas development. The increased rail business and the proximity of the Howard Street grade crossing straddling two tracks of the LVRR make for a difficult situation. The railroad's switching operations require frequent moves back and forth over Howard Street. Each time the train approaches the crossing the engineer must sound the horn to the consternation of the nearby residents.

This concern is not a new one. Meetings between the LVRR, JRA, local residents and Mayor Campana have been going on for a few months. After extended discussion, it appeared that a solution to the problem emerged: close Howard Street. It sounded rather simple. Howard Street is impacted most by switching moves, as opposed to Depot and Arch Streets which lie further east and usually have one-time directional moves rather than the back-and-forth seen at Howard Street.

A public meeting was hosted by the Newberry Community Partnership on October 8, 2013. The community meeting was well attended and the discussion was ably chaired by Councilman N. Clifford "Skip" Smith. Mayor Campana and other council members were also in attendance. A variety of interests spoke at the meeting, such as local residents, STEP, Inc., Brodart and the City's Bureau of Fire. The meeting was striking in that despite some emotions in the air, all those providing comments dealt with the issues and expressed legitimate concerns. It was apparent after about 30 minutes of discussion that the crossing should remain open for the public safety and efficient neighborhood circulation.

So what are the options to alleviate a real problem now that closing the crossing does not seem feasible? At the community meeting the LVRR and JRA representatives briefed the gathering about two options. The first is "Quiet Zones". This is where

*(Continued on Page 8)*



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# HOWARD STREET

(Continued from Page 7)

special crossing protection is provided through additional gates and median barriers to ensure that vehicles cannot proceed while the crossing protection is activated. Costly remedial improvement would have to be installed at Howard, Depot and Arch Streets. Estimates for this work range up to a half of a million dollars. The Federal Highway Administration has a grant program called Section 130. These dollars are given to railroads to install flashing light protection at grade crossings. Nationally in the last 25 years, thousands of crossings have been upgraded from simple crossbuck signs to flashing lights. In some locations gates are installed too. The program has been a wonderful success, if an underreported one. There has been a steady decline in fatalities over the decades. Last year, a little over 200 persons were killed at grade crossings in the U. S. This less than 10% of those killed in 1925! Yes, there were probably more trains running at that time, but there is far more vehicle traffic today. In regard to Quiet Zones, though, Section 130 dollars cannot be used for those improvements. Quiet Zones are considered a luxury and it is up to the locality to provide the dollars to make them a reality. It is a very hard and involved process to implement a Quiet Zone. In Pennsylvania there are NO quiet zones, and very few across the country.

There is one other option that is less costly than Quiet Zones, but one that may provide, at least, some relief to the Jaysburg residents. That is a grade crossing device called a "wayside horn". This device is mounted near the signal mast and would sound when the locomotive trips the track circuit that turns on the flashing lights. The cost is a more manageable \$75,000. Instead of the locomotive blowing the horn to alert approaching motorists, the wayside horn focuses its sound beam to the area of the street in front of the grade crossing. In military terms, it would be like a surgical strike as opposed to carpet bombing. Wayside horns are not common, but the LVRR and JRA are actively investigating their use at Howard Street. As the railroad moves forward in its work, the Newberry community will be kept informed.

~ J. K. Stover – Executive Director  
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority  
December, 2013

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Plans to actively explore wayside horns are underway. Look for an update in the spring issue.**

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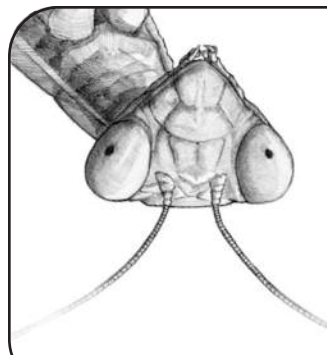
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# NEWBERRY SUB SHOP EXPANDS

## *Despite Rumors, Sub Shop Not Sold*

Hello Newberry!

Just wanted to let you know that Newberry Sub Shop was not sold. Actually, my husband Craig and I recently purchased the building, where we've been fortunate to run our business for the past 33 years, and took over the empty store next door.

The rumor started when neighbors saw furnishings being moved out on Labor Day weekend. My daughter Dawn Flexer, who also manages the shop, and Craig decided it was time for a new look for Newberry Subs. After much kicking and screaming I finally agreed. Oh boy, I didn't know what we were in for! Lucky for me my husband is a contractor who could do some of the work himself.



In the last week of August, with heat rising to the 90's, Craig began tearing apart layer upon layer of walls, ceilings and floors. A temporary wall was installed between the sub-shop and the soon to be addition. Over Labor Day weekend we closed the sub-shop. Everything from the shop was moved to a covered truck thanks to Dan Flexer.

The race was on! I never realized how filthy, hot, tired and grumpy we could be and I still haven't



figured out why they put 1000's of nails down when laying a floor.

Progress: New walls freshly painted, awesome floor, a beautiful timber-frame opening built by my talented husband. Labor Day could not have been more appropriately named. Dan, Tim and Adam we give you a giant thank you! Rain and Sean – you guys are awesome.

Needless to say two days were not enough to complete the work. After three more days, we were almost there. Dan had all the furniture put together; new lights were up, along with the beautiful ceiling.

I was determined to open by 10 AM on Friday September 6th. The phone was ringing as my girls and family were getting the finishing touches completed. Grill ON, pizza oven ready, lots of smiles –ready, set, go, and open!

Happy customers! Thank you everyone. You are appreciated and loved. We are Newberry Proud and glad to be part of the Newberry community.

Am I happy? Oh yes, Happy! Happy! Happy!

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*~ Sherry Strayer, Owner*



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# UP THE HILL

## *A Boyhood Memory of Winter Time in Newberry Seventy Years Ago*

As I recall, we had plenty of snow during December of 1943. This allowed for really great sledding on certain hill streets of Newberry. One was Poplar Street to W. Fourth Street. The City street workers would spread a lot of cinders at the bottom of the hill, before the STOP light at 4th Street to make sure the fast sleds stopped!! Autos were not allowed on the streets that were guarded. People of all ages came to the hill, as this area was called, to watch all the fun.

During the summer and fall a number of parents and friends spent time constructing homemade bob sleds. As I recall, the sleds were constructed as follows: A plank 2'x 8' or 6' was the seat where the riders were positioned one behind the other in single file. At the front, a steering wheel from a junked auto was attached to a set of front sled runners. The rear runners were attached further back along the seating area. Some of the sleds even had foot rests for the riders and carpeted seating. For the most part these sleds were really "cool", no pun intended. I remember five sleds that were real works of art!

There seemed to be a kind of competition, although there were no prizes, just neighborhood friendly stuff, sort of like soap box derby racers. Dads, uncles and some granddads, tried their skills at design for rider fun and comfort.



When we had a good snow pack that promised a really fast ride down Newberry Hill from Hillside Ave to the Stop light at 4th Street and beyond, the challenge went out for the evening. Which bob sled could go the longest distance?

To do this safely, a few parents were asked to help by removing the barricades at 4th Street and guard the intersection so autos would be aware of bob sleds coming down hill. With the barricades gone and some great steering by the sled driver, it was possible to get past the cinders and sail across 4th Street and sometimes go as far as West 3rd Street. A wonderful ride and a long cold walk back, UP THE HILL!

*~ By Lou Feist*



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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HELPS CHANGE LOCAL MOTHER'S LIFE

~ By Barbara Cioffi, Habitat Volunteer

"It's not about me now," says single mother Dee Booth, future owner of a Habitat home on Diamond Street in the Newberry section of the city as the family looked forward to the October 17th ground breaking for their new two-story house. "It's about my daughter."

It's been a long road home. Booth admits she spent a good many years living only for herself. However, 6 years ago, an unplanned pregnancy at age 30 resulted in the birth of her daughter. From that moment on, she was changed for the better.

"The place where I was living was not suitable to raise a child. It was a negative neighborhood with a lot of negative things going on. The people I hung around with were negative as well." she said. "Before I had my daughter, I had a lot of bills that I blew off. I really didn't care. I didn't live for the future." Thinking about her own childhood as a "military brat" whose needs were well-met, Booth realized that she didn't want her daughter to grow up in the lifestyle she was currently living for herself. "What parent doesn't want something better for their child?" she asked.

Reaching out for help to provide a safe, healthy environment for her daughter, Booth first found what she needed through the Salvation Army. She took advantage of Project Break Through, a program that "works to improve both the self-sufficiency and family stability of participants, encouraging growth through goal-setting and offering classes in financial planning, job skills, self-esteem, parenting and responsible home ownership.

She worked hard for three years to save \$2,000 in an AFI (Assets for Independence) checking account. For each dollar she contributed, Project Break Through contributed \$2 for an ultimate nest egg of \$6,000 that could be used in one of three ways: further her education, open a small business, or achieve home ownership. A friend mentioned Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, which works with area families to help provide decent, affordable housing for those who might not otherwise be able to afford a home.

But Booth's dream of home ownership almost ended before it started. Her application to Habitat was denied because of her poor credit scores. "Habitat is careful to approve only applicants who are both employed and able to be approved for a thirty-year, no-interest mortgage," said Kristine Combs, Director of Affiliate Operations.

For some people that would be the end of the dream. Booth's response? "What do I have to do?" she asked Combs.

Combs replied with a list of things that needed to be fixed. Booth met those goals "and then some," she related. More than a year after the rejection, Booth was back at Habitat to re-apply. This time she was approved.

"I'm the kind of person if I want something I'm going to go for it," she said. "I don't take no easily! If there's something I can fix or something's going to better myself, why not do it? The worst they can tell me is no. I'm always going to try to improve my life." Booth lives by those words. True to her ambition to improve herself, she enrolled in nursing school and is now working as a nurse's aide in Jersey Shore. What she likes about that job is the potential for a career in health care. Her next goal is to be certified as a licensed practical nurse in a program that starts in August through Career Link.



While waiting for the groundbreaking on Diamond Street, Booth kept busy meeting the requirements expected of all Habitat homeowners. 250 hours of "sweat equity" must be provided by each adult in the household, with 100 hours spent directly working on the house itself. Booth has already provided 200 hours

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY...

(Continued on Page 11)

in the Habitat office and in ReStore, the arm of Habitat that accepts donated items for resale to support the Habitat mission in the local area.

ReStore is where Booth began to really dream about what her new home could look like. "I learned a lot by working in the store," she said. "I even started watching HGTV regularly." She added, "I'm definitely looking forward to putting in hours towards our new home."

Booth will be using part of her AFI money for a down payment and hopes that she can do other home improvements with the balance of the money. At some point, she would love to have a finished basement for her daughter's play room and is hoping to fence in the yard for the child's safety. Those are projects she will need to accomplish on her own.

"Once we're established in our home, I want to give back to the community. When I can, I volunteer at the Y and at the park at Bethune Douglass. I try to help my friends who have kids. I try to tell them my story," she said.

Booth acknowledges that sometimes she faces negativity from some people who just don't understand her ambition and drive to live a better life. "Why pursue that? Just go on welfare. Get public housing," she hears.

"I want more for my daughter," she replies. "I'm going to provide a nice life for her. Without her, I don't know where I'd be right now.

"I'm SO blessed," she concluded. "I just want to thank all the people who helped me. Life is great!"

**Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity is located at 540 Lycoming Street, Williamsport, PA 17701. Call 570-322-2515 or visit the website at [www.lycominghabitat.org](http://www.lycominghabitat.org). We can also be found on Facebook.**

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## LINCOLN SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

STEP Building  
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Morning Coffee Klatch with Friends

### 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  
Please call for details.

TAI CHI INSTRUCTION  
Tuesdays 5 to 6 PM

ZUMBA GOLD  
Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 PM

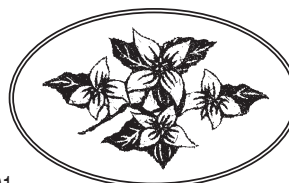


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## **STEP Partners Again with AARP to Offer Tax Assistance to Seniors**

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide in partnership with the IRS and in conjunction with the Office of Aging of STEP will offer free assistance on filling taxes. The program is designed to help low-to-moderate income taxpayers especially those 60 and over. 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 spouse.

Tax aide volunteers in the program 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 prepared as needed. All returns are prepared using approved tax software.

Appointments for tax preparation will be begin being accepted starting January 20, 2014 by calling the STEP Office of Aging at 570-323-3096. Actual tax preparation appointments will begin the first week in February and end the second week of April. Tax preparation will take place at the STEP Building (lower level) located at 2138 Lincoln Street, Williamsport, PA.

### **TAX PREPARATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** ***Are you a retired accountant or have interest in or experience with tax preparation?***

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

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

*Phil Landers, Tax Aide, assists a couple with filling their 2012 taxes.*



## **REGULAR MEETINGS OF CIVIC & OTHER GROUPS IN NEWBERRY**

These active groups welcome new members, just call to let them know you'd like to attend. To be listed, contact Editor, **insideNewberry**, 913 Diamond Street, Newberry, PA 17701 or [insideNewberry@yahoo.com](mailto:insideNewberry@yahoo.com).

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 14**.....326-5569

Every Monday • 7:30 PM  
St. John's–Newberry UMC • 2101 Newberry Street  
Rob Beiter, Scoutmaster  
Open to boys age 11 or older

### **CUB SCOUT PACK 14** .....326-5569

Every Wednesday • 7:00 PM  
St. John's–Newberry UMC • 2101 Newberry Street  
Open to boys in Grades 1-5 or ages 7-11

### **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) & ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)** .....323-6297

Narcotics Anonymous Meets  
Sundays Noon-2 PM • WECCC

Alcoholics Anonymous Meets  
Wednesdays & Saturdays at 7:00 PM • WECCC

If attending, use side entrance off gravel parking lot.

These support groups welcome new members.

For additional information, call the WECCC office at the number listed above.

### **NEWBERRY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP** .....601-0298

2nd Thursday of the Month • 6:00 PM • WECCC

*If you would like to present an idea or have a neighborhood concern, please call to be placed on the agenda.*

### **NEWBERRY LIONESS**.....322-8302

1st Tuesday • 6:30 PM Dinner followed by Meeting  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church • Linn Street

### **NEWBERRY LIONS**.....326-0259, 323-9825

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

### **ORIGINAL SONS OF ITALY – LODGE 138** .....326-9222

2nd Monday • 7:00 PM

### **SENIOR CITIZENS OF NEWBERRY** .....326-5569

2nd Monday beginning March to June • Noon  
Saint John's–Newberry UMC • 2101 Newberry Street.

The first time you come is free and after that is \$5.  
We serve a delicious meal that includes main course, vegetables, salad and dessert.

If you would like to come, call the church office at 326-5569.

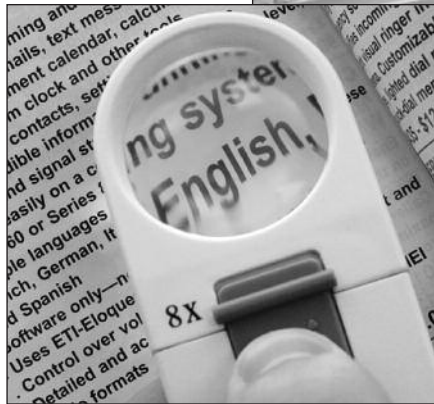
# NORTH CENTRAL SIGHT SERVICES, INC.

## Not-For-Profit Agency Opens Low Vision Store

A not-for-profit agency based at 2121 Reach Road, Williamsport, North Central Sight Services, Inc. (NCSS) provides blindness prevention education, vision screenings, and services and employment to individuals who are blind or visually impaired in Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties. According to Lesley Larson, NCSS Marketing & Public Relations Manager, "by 2030, it is estimated that 50 percent of older adults will have a vision impairment. This creates a significant impact on our client population and ultimately led to our decision to open a **Low Vision Store** at our

facility." Products in the store include magnifiers of varying strengths and sizes, talking clocks and watches, large print check registers and playing cards, and many other unique products that encourage independence.

According to Lori Love, M.S., NCSS Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT), "our most



popular item is called a 20/20 pen, which writes bold like a sharpie but doesn't bleed through paper. It is amazing to see such a simple product be so useful to an individual." Many of the items sold in the **Low Vision Store** are also used in NCSS's monthly life skills education and kitchen classes. Favorite items include a knife guard, cut safe plastic knife, talking thermometer, low vision timer and a pot watcher that rattles when water is boiling. **The Low Vision Store: Tools for Everyday** is open Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. Ms. Love is available by appointment for in-store consultations. To schedule an appointment, please call (570) 323-9401 ext. 123.




**LOW VISION STORE Tools for Everyday**

**NORTH CENTRAL SIGHT SERVICES INC.**

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## SUPPORTING THE NCSS MISSION

### *Dining in the Dark*

This semi-formal event will be held in cooperation with The School of Hospitality at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Participants will be blindfolded upon entering the dining room for a full sensory experience. For more information, e-mail [events@ncsight.org](mailto:events@ncsight.org).

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**Le Jeune Chef**

**Pennsylvania College of Technology**

### *Sip For Sight™ Premium Coffee*

**Every Sip You Take Benefits the Visually Impaired in Your Community** – Our Premium Coffee is 100% Colombian coffee and processed without harsh chemicals. For a list of local retailers, visit [www.ncsight.org](http://www.ncsight.org).

### *Secure Document Shredding Service*

Residential document shredding can be dropped off at our facility Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Commercial shredding pick-up can be arranged by calling 570-323-9401 extension 138 or emailing [coryl@ncsight.org](mailto:coryl@ncsight.org).

### **CORRECTION:**

**The Salon Hours for Martino's Hair II were incorrect in the previous issue. They should have been listed as follows:  
Open Monday-Friday 9-7 • Saturday 9-4  
Closed Sunday • Phone 570-567-7086**

*Lifelong Williamsport native & Newberry resident*

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## Ask the Lawyer



Answers to questions  
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 an only child. Many years ago my father passed away. Recently my mother passed. At the time of her death, my mother owned a car and a small bank account. Do I need to open an estate to transfer the car title? How do I liquidate her bank account?

**Answer:** Generally, in order to handle a decedent's affairs, somebody needs to be appointed to represent the estate (if somebody is identified in a Last Will then that person is called an Executor; if there is no Last Will the person appointed is called an Administrator). However, Pennsylvania has enacted laws to allow beneficiaries of a small estate to obtain the property of the decedent either without the need for any probate, or with much shortened probate proceedings. Small estates can be administered with less time and cost. Also, small estate administration can be utilized whether there is a Last Will or not. Presently, under Pennsylvania statute, when an estate is less than twenty five thousand dollars, an interested party (such as an heir or beneficiary) may petition the requesting distribution of the decedent's property without the need for standard estate administration requirements, like advertising and certain notice obligations. In certain circumstance, the transfer of a vehicle title and liquidating a bank account that is less than \$3,500.00 will not require any need for raising a probate estate or the involvement of the court.

A good lawyer will always assess whether or not probate is necessary and if it is, whether the size of the estate qualifies for the small estate process.

*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.*

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\*\$12.75 Suggested Minimum



## UPCOMING NEWBERRY-RELATED EVENTS

### JANUARY 2014

Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther King Day

Friday, January 31 – Chinese New Year

### FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday, February 2 – Groundhog Day

Wednesday, February 5 – Harlem Wizards

• 6:30 PM, see page 6

Friday, February 14 – Valentine's Day

Monday, February 17 – President's Day

Saturday, February 22 – Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

• 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Lycoming Presbyterian Church, 825 Arch Street, Fellowship Hall, Handicapped Accessible

• Take-out available at 4:00 PM

• Pork, Hot Dogs, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce, Rolls, Beverage, Homemade Desserts

### MARCH 2014

Saturday, March 1 – First Dining in the Dark

• See page 15

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 9 – Daylight Savings Begins - Set Clocks AHEAD One Hour

Monday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 20 – First Day of Spring

• See page 15

Friday, March 28 – Spaghetti Dinner

• 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Lycoming Presbyterian Church, 825 Arch Street, Fellowship Hall, Handicapped Accessible

• Take-out available at 4:00 PM

• Spaghetti, Sauce, 2 Large Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Beverage, Homemade Desserts

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