A Message from the NRPS President

Hello everyone,

Thank you for your continued support and involvement with NRPS. Our organization has an important mission in the Newport area. Much has been done in the past and there continue to be many opportunities to improve on what we have going into the future.

We have formed a partnership with the Newport Borough Council to revitalize the Veterans Memorial Park. This is an on-going project that started with the beautification of the entrance and then the improvements to the playground area.

The care of the Louise Beard Memorial is one of our responsibilities. We have made several repairs and improvements in the past year. As we look ahead to spring and summer, there is much anticipation about the improvements planned for the backyard.

Two NRPS events were held this year. Canal Day continues to grow in interest and participation. The reinstituting of the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was a great addition to the holiday season. Both events provided a great day of promoting community spirit.

All of these activities take a great deal of time and effort. If we all participate as we are able, it will make everyone’s job easier. Again, thank you for your efforts. We are looking forward to another fruitful year for NRPS.

Sincerely,
Frank Campbell

Veterans Memorial Park Project Update

The Veterans Memorial Playground Project Committee is making substantial progress towards an improved Park. Throughout 2011, the Committee, comprised of representatives from NRPS and Newport Borough Council, worked diligently. A parcel of land was purchased from the White family on the end of the Park bordering the Newport Water Authority property. Funds donated by Orrstown Bank in memory of Susan Connell were used for the acquisition. This parcel, vital to the revitalization and enhancement of the Park, will become a nature area dedicated to Susan. It will be connected to the Park through a series of walkways.

The Larson Design Group (LDG) created two proposed plans that were presented at a public meeting in September. LDG is creating a final plan that combines the high points of the proposals and input from the public. The Committee feels there is a good combination of recreational and nature facilities. The two ball fields are a big part of the Park and the resulting plan is expected to blend the facilities into a space that serves the entire community. A public meeting will be held when the final plan is received.

The Committee is fast approaching a major milepost—applying for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, a major funding source. Additional sources of funding will also be sought. Updates on the Park project will be emailed and posted on the NRPS website.
At our October meeting, Ruth Ann Linn recalled the Christmas celebrations of yesteryear held in the square of Newport. Within days, Linn recruited Shari Mattern and Linda O’Toole to revive the tradition. They reached out to many area churches, schools and community groups to produce a special event. On December 3rd, a mere 5 weeks later, approximately 300 residents gathered to kickoff the Christmas season.

Matthew O’Toole served as emcee. Mayor Mary Hetrick offered welcoming remarks. Linn provided a history of Christmas decorations and trees in the town. The new snowflake decorations were lit to oohs and aahs from the crowd. The ceremony included spirited musical numbers by the Newport Elementary Chorus, the Newport High School Jazz Band, Innovation and an adult chorus lead by Mary Kay Miller.

Throughout the event, children created gingerbread men at a craft area. Drawings by area children were displayed in the windows at Carpetbagger Collectibles. Hot chocolate and cookies were donated by Carol Rowe and area churches for all to enjoy. The Lions Club served hot dogs donated by the Weis Store.

The event culminated with the lighting of the towering tree, which was donated by Jeff Rayson. A fire engine from the Newport Fire Department served as a sleigh as Santa Claus rode into the square, which delighted both children and adults. Santa was lifted high above the crowd in the bucket, led a countdown and sprinkled his magical dust to turn on the lights. Linn declared it the most beautiful tree ever in the square of Newport.

Many thanks from NRPS to Linn, Mattern and O’Toole and also to everyone who attended and donated to the ceremony. In addition to those already mentioned, the following individuals and organizations were involved with the planning and implementation of the ceremony: Tami, Lynn and Brandon Halstead, Bob Flickinger, Frank Campbell, Mary Lou Dudley, Mark Campbell, Tony Oliveri, VL Latta, Perry County Council of the Arts, Newport Borough Council and employees, Newport Borough Police, Newport Fire Company Police, Lorri McNaughton, Newport Senior Center, Rob Campbell and The News Sun.
Snowflakes Line the Streets

After several years without decorations on the streetlights, the Borough decided it was time to purchase Christmas decorations to coincide with the tree lighting ceremony. In addition to funds earmarked for the decorations, the Borough reached out to the Lions Club and NRPS for donations to allow for the purchase of enough snowflakes to line Market Street and the square.

Thanks to the perseverance of Dick Linn, Don Zeigler, Fred Wertz, Frank Campbell, Cody Harris, Ron McNaughton, Rick Miller, Tom Fitzpatrick and several others, the snowflakes were lit just in time for the ceremony.

Community Partnerships

The Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA) is in the planning stage of creating a mural that will grace the Market Street side of the PCCA Galley. The project is set to begin in the late spring. NRPS is proud to donate funds to this work of art, which will honor the history of our town. Find out more about PCCA at www.perrycountyarts.org.

Our membership in the Perry County Chamber of Commerce continues to be beneficial by highlighting our events to the community and creating connections with area businesses and nonprofit organizations. All NRPS members are also members of the Chamber! Learn more about the benefits of membership at www.perrycountychamber.org.

2011 Canal Day

Area residents and visitors know that the square will be bustling on the first Saturday in October. Despite rain showers that resulted in an early end of the day, last year’s Canal Day was another successful event.

The day started with students from Newport High School and a rousing pep rally. The marching band, cheerleaders and athletes showed Buffs pride. Over 50 vendors lined the square and sidewalks. Community organizations offered delicious food and local artisans and craftspeople sold their wares. Special Friends and Elvis braved the elements and wowed the crowd.

A benefit auction for Newport Celebrates 175 was held at noon. To get the bidders warmed up, Representative Mark Keller auctioned several prints and a pillow. The highlight of the auction was an original watercolor by Kathleen Howell, the first in a series. Over $2,500 was raised for the event, which will be held from July 19 to 25, 2015.

For the fourth year, we were able to provide gas/gift cards and gift baskets to ten attendees who entered our free drawing. Our thanks to the Weis Store, Giant, Amanda’s Pure and Simple, Super 7 Food Mart and the YWCA for their generous donations.

Thank you to all of the donors, volunteers, vendors, residents and visitors for coming out on a stormy day. We look forward to seeing everyone on October 6, 2012!
The Louise Beard Memorial

The Louise Beard Memorial, located at 129 North Second Street, is the NRPS headquarters. This grand home was built in the late 1890s by Horace and Katherine Beard. Mr. Beard worked at the tannery and Mrs. Beard was a teacher. Their daughter Louise studied abroad and, upon her return, volunteered for several community groups. The home was bequeathed to the residents of Newport in 1938 by Mrs. Beard as a memorial to Louise.

Today, the Louise Beard Memorial serves as a meeting place for several community groups. The Museum at the Louise Beard Memorial houses a wonderful collection of Newport memorabilia, including advertising from early merchants, clothing worn to gala social events and furniture and antiques used by our forbearers. The Museum is open on Canal Day and before and after our monthly meetings.

Growing a Garden

Honoring the tradition of a magnificent rose garden tended to by Mrs. Beard, Peg Simok is leading a project to brighten the backyard of the Louise Beard Memorial. Preliminary plans for the garden include roses, shrubs and perennial and annual flowers. In addition, fencing and garden furniture will allow the space to be utilized for gatherings.

A future mailing will detail sponsorship opportunities that will provide funds for this project.

Support Our Projects

Buy A Brick

Is your name part of history? The popular Buy A Brick program provides that opportunity. Standard size bricks with personalized messages line the sidewalks in the square and along Market Street. Funds from this program are used for various projects to beautify the square, including several mentioned in this newsletter.

Bricks are available for $50.00 each and the purchase is tax deductible. The engraved bricks have three lines available for text. Buyers can also request special locations for their bricks. For more information or to download a form, visit www.nrps.pa.net/buyabrick.html.

VMPP T-Shirts

Show your support of the Veterans Memorial Park Project by proudly wearing a t-shirt with this vibrant logo designed by Artistic Image!

T-shirts are $10 and available in a variety of sizes for children and adults. To purchase one or several, contact Laura Campbell, 567-6873, lcmbl@hotmail.com.