

# Sprinkler systems would put guest homes out of business

By JOHN F. KILDUFF  
Staff Writer

"I think sprinkler systems can save lives and I think they are a very, very good idea."

That is how Sweet Valley Fire Chief Robert Walsh responded when asked if he thought a sprinkler system could have saved the eight lives taken in the July 23 blaze at the Thomas Guest Home.

"I realize the cost of a sprinkler system might hurt some boarding home operators," Walsh said. "But they (sprinklers) could very well save lives in the future."

Walsh and five boarding home owners from the Back Mountain area were surveyed last week by The Dallas Post on the question of a possible need for sprinkler systems in Personal Care Boarding Homes. Walsh estimates a cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a sprinkler system, depending on the size and floor plan of each individual boarding home.

"I feel after the Agnes flood, the government stepped in and helped the Wyoming Valley get back on its feet," Walsh said. "Why can't we do something like that for the boarding home owners. Maybe secure low-interest government loans to help finance the systems."

Walsh continued by saying, "We have to take care of the people in our own country. We (federal government) give money to everyone else, why not help our own people?"

"I think it is ridiculous," said Alberta Cross, owner of Cross's Mountain View Guest Home, Sweet Valley. "Financially, it would hurt me very bad. We would have to raise the rate we charge residents."

Cross said that sprinkler systems are not needed in

boarding homes because they would only help "bed-ridden" residents, which boarding homes are not allowed to care for anyway.

"I can't see any reason for sprinkler systems," said Cross. "I can see it for bed-ridden patients, but not for boarding homes."

Cross suggested that if a regulation was passed which made sprinklers mandatory in boarding homes, she would close herself down.

"I would put myself out of business because I could not afford sprinklers right now," said Cross. "These residents cannot afford an increase in their room and board," said Cross. "Where would they (residents) go? They are not nursing home candidates."

Herb Flyte, owner of Flyte's Guest Home near Huntsville Dam, Dallas, said, "needless to say sprinkler systems are a good idea but it would cost a lot of money in rural areas."

Flyte said that for rural area boarding homes, a "holding tank" would be needed to keep a supply of water available for the a sprinkler system.

"It really would be good if the state would help out in picking up the tab," Flyte said. "You just hate to put the financial burden on the resident. Most of them are on social security insurance only. It would be bad to put the burden on them," Flyte said.

Flyte also said that installing a sprinkler system would "require major renovation for some buildings."

"It would be terrible because we do not charge that much," said Flagstone Guest Home owner, Margie Angelicola. "Right now it would be bad because we have many other expenses."

Angelicola said the added cost "would have to be added to the residents' room and board." The added cost would be very difficult for the residents, Angelicola said.



## Reunion held

The recent 30th reunion of Lake-Noxen High School, class of 1955 included classmates and spouses. From left, seated: Richard London, Mrs. Barbara London, Hunlock Creek; Mary Ann Ladamus Lozier, North Port, Fla.; Frederick Mahle, Wilma Titus Mahle, Dallas; Margaret Belles Edwards, Dallas; Richard Garey, Mrs. Philena Garey, Phoenix, Md.; Miss Loretta Laskowski, guest; Russell Newell, Kingston. Standing: George Van Campen, Mrs. Judy Van Campen, Canandigua, NY; Mrs. Isabelle Butler, Leroy Butler, Noxen, guest, Mr. John Zaleskas, principal of Lake-Lehman High School; Melvin Sweeney, Danville; Mrs. Gisela Christ, Richard Christ, Rockville, Md.; Mrs. Judy Scouten, Richard Scouten, Levittown, Pa.

## Fire

(Continued from page 1)

plete fire alarm system along with "pull boxes" are also required.

These requirements, said Public Information Officer Richard Harpster of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, are part of the Rooming and Boarding Home Act 1979 which was spawned after a series of fatal boarding home fires in the late 1970's.

"We use to have fires like that (Thomas) in N.J. until we created more strict fire codes," Harpster said. "Our boarding home regulations came about because of a few Rooming and Boarding home fires on the N.J. shore. Between 10 and 20 people were killed in those fires," Harpster said.

Harpster said his department recently received a study on N.J. fire regulations which indicates that many lives have been saved since they were adopted.

"We have experienced fires this year," Harpster explained, "where because of our stricter fire safety regulations people were able to get out of the building in time."

According to Harpster, boarding home operators have complained about added safety requirements but said, "they are beginning to understand that they (regulation) are really for the good of everyone."

Said Harpster, "You are dealing with old people who easily become frightened and disoriented in emergency situations. In this type of atmosphere, you need all the added safety requirements you can get."

New York State Bureau of Social Services spokesman Terrance McGrath, said boarding homes with 25 or more residents are required to install automatic sprinkler systems.

In addition, all New York boarding homes are required to install smoke detectors in all rooms; smoke and fire barrier walls in hallways and stairwells and a fire alarm system with pull boxes on each floor of the home.

McGrath said the boarding home owners are required to have special state training in evacuation and fire drills.

Said McGrath, "All these requirements, and perhaps a few more, are needed to insure the safety of boarding home residents."

Currently, Pennsylvania does not require sprinkler systems in any type of Personal Care Boarding Home. Fire alarms, smoke detectors and qualified staff members are required. Also monthly fire drills must be held and boarding home owners must keep an up-to-date list of times and dates of such drills.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare regulations say that during the evening and early morning hours a staff member must be "physically present and available in the building where residents are not independently mobile."

The regulation does not require the staff member to be awake, as long as the staff member lives in the boarding home. Boarding homes without live-in staff members must have at least one person awake and alert all evening and during the morning hours.



## Committee meets

Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's Cancer Committee is planning for its Second Annual Cancer Conference. Entitled "State-of-the-Art Diagnostics and Therapeutics," the cancer symposium will be held at the Woodlands on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The "State-of-the-Art Diagnostic and Therapeutics" conference will begin with registration from 8 to 9 a.m. Advance registration is advised. For more information and to register for the program, contact Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's Tumor Registrar at 829-8111 extension 2406. Pictured above are members of General Hospital's Cancer Committee who are participating in planning the Second Annual Conference. From left: Carol Demko, L.P.N., C.T.R., tumor registrar (Kingston); Mary Beth Komnath, R.N., administrative officer (Wilkes-Barre); Norman Schulman, M.D., medical director, Radiation Oncology Department and program chairman (Kingston); Margaret Kropiewnicki, administrative director, Radiation Oncology Department (Back Mountain); and Melanie Roguls, R.N., oncology clinical specialist (Wilkes-Barre).



## 'Pinkie' visits

Pediatric patients, staff and auxiliary member at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital recently gathered to celebrate the 30th birthday of Pinkie the Puppet. Ice cream, cake and balloons were given to the children and staff members of the pediatrics department by the auxiliary. Handmade by the Shavertown Branch of the hospital auxiliary, more than 20,000 puppets have been given to pediatric patients free of charge over the past 30 years. Mrs. Vincent McGuire is chairman of the puppet project and Mrs. William Clewell serves as co-chairman. The idea for Pinkie originated at the American Hospital Association Convention in Atlantic City in 1955. Mrs. Harold Shappelle, auxiliary president that year, brought the idea back from the convention and has been involved in making the puppets ever since. Pinkie the Puppet is given to young children in an effort to help them adapt to their stay in the hospital. Because of his popularity among the children, Pinkie is also featured in the pediatrics department's new murals which adorn the halls. Shown at the party, from left, are Mrs. Harold Shappelle, Forty Fort; Andrea Kuscavage, Kingston, holding Lyndsey Ann Capral, West Nanticoke; Mrs. Vincent McGuire and Mrs. William Clewell, both of Trucksville.

## Discipline must be taught

Discipline is something that concerns everyone who cares for children.

Discipline is more than punishment for misbehavior, according to Growing Child, the monthly child development newsletter. Discipline is also the means through which adults teach children good conduct now and for the future. Every mistake a child makes is an opportunity for learning.

Children need to know right from wrong and how to stand up for their rights, needs, and convictions without interfering with the rights of others. They need to learn inner controls rather than rely on someone else to tell them how to behave. Here are 10 tips to help adults provide children with this kind of discipline.

Teach by example: Teach by example. Try to act in ways you'd be proud to see the child copy, now and when she's grown. For instance, if a child hears you tell a lie to others, she will learn to tell lies even if you punish her for lying to you.

Be fair: Try to be fair in your discipline. Give the child a fair hearing and make the punishment fit the crime. For example, if a child breaks one of her own toys, the loss of the toy is punishment enough. She doesn't

need a spanking or to be told she's careless or clumsy. If you point out that this is why you sometimes remind her to be careful, she'll learn the lesson more readily than if you make her feel bad.

Remember the Golden Rule: Next time you reprimand or punish a child, think about how you would feel if you were in her shoes. Would you feel hurt, misunderstood, or angry if someone treated you the way you are treating her?

Discipline with kindness and respect:

When a child makes a mistake, let her know you don't like what she did without making her feel she's a bad person for doing it. For example, if she hits her baby brother, explain that you won't allow her to hit him even though you understand how mad she gets when he takes her toys or interrupts her games. Listen to her side of the story and try to work out a solution together.

Accent the positive:

Let your child know you appreciate her doing things that are important to you. For example, thank her for helping you keep the house neat by picking up her toys.

Minimize the negative:

Pay more attention to the things your child does well than to her mistakes. Children tend to repeat behaviors that get the most attention. For example, the more you ask a child to stop playing with her food, the more she may do it. Try ignoring it instead. Then, when you notice her eating neatly, compliment her. It won't take her long before you see a change.

"Styles That Are In Style" for Juniors, Misses and Half Sizes

Cindy's

481 Church St. Swoyersville, Pa. 18704

Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 11:00 - 5:00 Phone (717) 288-7888  
Tue. and Thur. 11:00 - 8:00  
Saturday 11:00 - 4:00

**MUMS THE WORD**

## Zoning

(Continued from page 1)

case has still not been heard by Brominski and that prompted Kingston Township to file for an injunction against Brdaric in order to keep him from allegedly dumping Class 1 and Class 2 demolition materials while waiting for the zoning court case.

Potzer told The Dallas Post that the township is "a little nervous" about the possibility of Brdaric operating a commercial Class 1 Demolition Landfill within the township. Township fears stem from the fact that Luzerne County has only one landfill currently operating, the West Side Landfill on Larksville Mountain.

According to Potzer, if Brdaric was allowed to operate a Class 1 Landfill, he (Brdaric) would undoubtedly attract many dumping customers due to the fact that solid waste dumping locations are quickly filling up throughout the

state as well as around the country.

Class 1 Demolition Landfilling is classified as the dumping of concrete, brick, dirt or stone. Class 2 and 3 permits, issued by DER, allow dumping of wood, plaster, steel and other non-toxic demolition materials.

In Luzerne County Court last week, prosecution witnesses stated that they had recently seen dumping material classified as Class 1, 2 and 3 located on Brdaric's property.

When asked if Kingston Township plans to change its position on Brdaric's zoning, Potzer said, "I really doubt if the supervisors would allow it at this time."

Potzer said the legal battle will continue when the Township appeals the DER's issuance of a Class 1 permit to Brdaric. Township officials will meet with the Environmental Hearing Board in mid-September.

**Mattby** DRUG STORE  
326 Hughes Street, Swoyersville  
287-7724

"We Care About Your Health"

<b>PENCIL PACK</b> 10-Count	<b>\$1</b>	<b>SPIRAL NOTE BOOK</b> 8x10 - 70-Sheets	<b>2 for \$1</b>
<b>SPIRAL 3-SUBJECT NOTE BOOK</b> 8x10 - 120-Sheets	<b>79¢</b>	<b>SPIRAL 5-SUBJECT NOTE BOOK</b> 8x10 - 200-Sheets	<b>\$1.29</b>
<b>6x9 WRITING TABLETS</b>	<b>59¢</b>	<b>2-POCKET REPORT COVERS</b>	<b>5 for \$1</b>
<b>MEAD TRAPPER COVER</b>	<b>\$4.69</b>	<b>10-PACK BIC PENS</b>	<b>99¢</b>

• Free Pick-up & Delivery      • U.S. Post Office Branch  
 • UGI Collection Agent          • All Prescription Plans Accepted

**24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

OPEN MONDAY to FRIDAY 8 A.M. to 9 P.M.  
 SATURDAY 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. - SUNDAY 8 A.M. to NOON

*THE DALLAS POST*

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
**MONDAY 11 a.m.**

**Call 675-5211**

or mail to:

**The Dallas Post**  
**P.O. Box 366**  
**309-415 Plaza**  
**Dallas, Pa. 18612**