

# Back Mountain Citizens' Council forms committees, sets agenda

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Eight committees were organized at Wednesday night's meeting of the Back Mountain Citizens' Council at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus, each to focus on an area of concern to residents in the nine area municipalities.

Nancy Eckert, newly-elected president of the Citizens Council, told the committees, "Now that we have organized let's not talk things into the ground, let's do something."

Committees formed were: planning and zoning; community education and social concerns; transportation; solid waste and recycling; water supply and clean streams; municipal services; open space and recreation, and communications.

Facilitators were named to work with each committee, and after a 30-minute discussion within the groups, committee leaders gave reports to inform the entire meeting of each committee's direction.

Proposed work included gathering more information on local recycling programs, finding solutions to the region's increasing problems with water and evaluating the effect of the Back Mountain's growth on low income families. Other topics included organizing a speakers bureau to disseminate information to Back Mountain organizations, inventorying existing open space and planning for added parklands, better identifying streets and roads, insuring that highways are adequate for future development, helping to foster more genuine interest in the workings of local government, and developing a regional attitude toward planning.

There was a consensus that liaison between the Citizens' Council and municipal governments be encouraged as well as liaison between the council and the general population.

Howard Grossman, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, told the attendees that the Pennsylvania Department

of Community Affairs was scheduling six to eight training courses on municipal planning for officials and residents starting in April.

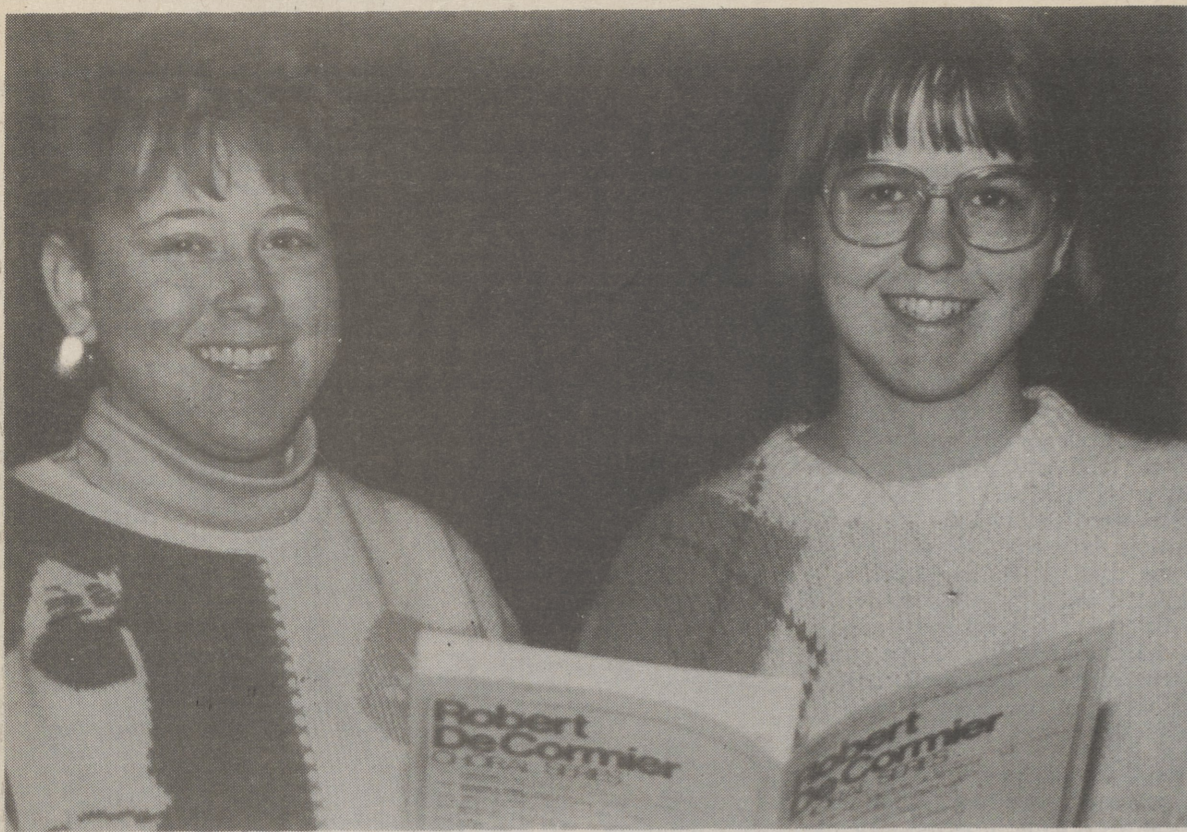
Grossman said the training sessions would be held on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus, and conducted by an attorney, a professional planner and a professor from University Park.

"The idea," said Grossman, "is to get everybody to participate in the trying and learn about the new planning code."

Al Skala of the Penn State Extension said he also could lead informational meetings on zoning and water quality. Skala said he would arrange the meetings as requested.

The nine municipalities represented in the Back Mountain Council are Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, Franklin Township, Harveys Lake Borough, Jackson Township, Kingston Township, Lake Township, Lehman Township and Ross Township.

Members of committees will be notified as the time and place is set for their meetings.



## Choral Festival participants

Three students from Dallas Senior High School will compete in the District 9 Choral Festival and Competition in Honesdale February 25-27. Shown are Megan Hardisky, Dallas, a junior Alto II, left, and Lisa Davenport, a junior Alto I. Not present for the photo was Victor Matthews, a senior Bass II. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

## Machell Avenue sewers may be built this year

Properties on the lower part of Machell Avenue in Dallas Borough may be connected to new sewers by the fall. Tom Bagley, plant superintendent of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, said last week that work on the project to extend the sewer line will begin as soon as bids are accepted. That could be as early as this spring, with completion taking two to three months.

The extension has been in DAMA's plans since 1973, and is part of Dallas Borough's wastewater management plan. Bagley said that lower Machell Avenue is the only area of the Borough that is not served by the DAMA system.

The extension will include relocating a pumping station from the end of the paved portion of Powderhorn Drive to the side of Machell across from its intersection with

Powderhorn. In total, 1600' of gravity line and 800' of forced main will be added. When completed, the system will pump sewage up to the existing line on Sterling Avenue.

Any property that fronts on Machell Avenue where the new line runs must connect to the system. Charges will not be set until the final construction cost is determined. Property owners will pay a two-part fee to hook up: First, a connection fee that is now \$1000, then a charge per front foot of property. Bagley couldn't say how much that charge would be, but cited as examples Sutton Farms, which was \$15.00 per foot and Elmcrest Woods, which was \$20.00. The connection fee is paid in one lump sum, while the front

footage assessment can be paid in installments over five years.

One part of the Borough that will apparently not be connected is the Kabeschat Country Complex and the Split Rail Lane and Birch Hill Road area. Those roads have remained privately owned, and DAMA has no authority to put sewer lines in. Bagley said, however, that in most cases, homeowners and developers welcome the municipal system because it saves them the trouble of installing and maintaining a private septic system.

When asked if he had received any objections to the project from residents of Machell Avenue, Bagley said he had not. "We're in big demand," he said. "Everyone seems to want sewers."



## Lake-Lehman Builders' Club visits Kiwanis

Members of the Lake-Lehman High School Builders' Club attended a recent breakfast meeting of the Back Mountain Kiwanis Club at Pickett's Charge Restaurant, Dallas. Shown in the photo are; seated, from left, Fedor Welebob, Tiffany Cary, Barbara Campbell, Christina Conrad. Standing, from left, Clem Norman, Kiwanis 2nd vice president, Rita Welebob, Kiwanis 1st vice president and Builders' Club advisor, Ron Mosca, Kiwanis president, Barbara Schulde, faculty advisor, John Rogers, Kiwanis secretary.

## School menus

### DALLAS SCHOOLS

Jan. 30 - Feb. 1

**MONDAY** - Chili con carní, crispy potato wedge, buttered mixed vegetables, chilled pears, choice of milk.

**TUESDAY** - Beef noodle soup, bbq chicken, glazed sweet potatoes, golden corn, apple juice, milk.

**WEDNESDAY** - Italian hoagie w/lettuce-tomato, crunchy potato chips, crisp deli pickle spear, sliced peaches and raisins, creamy chocolate pudding, choice of milk.

### WEST SIDE TECH

Jan. 30 - 31

Breakfast

**MONDAY** - Pastry, chilled orange wedge or juice, variety of cereal, milk.

**TUESDAY** - Cookies, assorted cereal, apple juice, milk.

Lunch

**MONDAY** - Titan burger w/lettuce-tomato-cheese, crisp hash browns, peanut butter cookies, milk.

**TUESDAY** - Grilled cheese or

peanut butter-jelly, vegetable soup-crackers, chilled pears, chips, strawberry creamsicle cake, milk.

### LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOLS

Jan. 30 - Feb. 1

**MONDAY** - Chopped ham-sliced cheese on wheat bread, minestrone soup-crackers, peaches n' pears, milk.

**TUESDAY** - Tacos w/trimmings, buttered corn, ice cream, milk.

**WEDNESDAY** - Sloppy Joe on bun, oval hash browns, peas-carrots, pears, milk.

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