



THE DALLAS POST

Vol. 100 No. 8 "A Centennial Edition"

Dallas, PA Wednesday, March 1, 1989

25 Cents

Fewer accidents on 309, say police

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post staff

According to two local police chiefs, the reconstruction on Route 309 in Kingston and Dallas townships has made that road safer for drivers.

Chiefs Paul Sabol of Kingston Township and Carl Miers of Dallas Township cited the addition of a turning lane as one of the most important factors in the improvement in safety. "There is a definite decrease (in accidents), especially in rear end collisions," said Miers when interviewed Friday. "There are probably fewer accidents as a result of people turning, also," he added.

Kingston Township's Sabol, contacted earlier, provided statistics for a three month period before and after the roadwork. According to those figures, there were 38 accidents on the highway in the

Both chiefs said the addition of a turning lane had been the biggest improvement

period from November, 1987 through January, 1988, prior to construction. In the comparable period of 1988 and 1989, there were 29 accidents. However, the number of accidents in the rest of the township also declined - from 40 to 37.

In addition to the new turning lane, Sabol credited much of the improvement to the redesigned intersection at Center Street and route 309. Previously, northbound cars had been able to cross the highway to enter the Burger King restaurant and southbound ones

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Beauty of the lake

Harveys Lake offers scenic beauty and recreation for many. The Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Council is working to clean

up and maintain the lake for future generations.

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Dallas Borough hires new full time policeman

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas Borough Council named William Norris, a member of the Jackson Township Police Department, as a tentative full time police officer in the Borough at the council meeting last Tuesday, by a 3-2 vote. Norris will fill the position left vacant by the resignation of police officer Robert Jolley, full time borough officer. Jolley resigned from the borough police department to accept a full time position as a member of the Dallas Township police department effective March 5.

In Dallas Township, Jolley replaces officer Jeremy Torr who resigned from the township police force to operate his own business.

Norris was named tentatively to fill the position pending Jackson Township's agreement to accept reasonable reimbursement from the borough for costs of the Act 120 police schooling completed by Norris.

Councilman Jerry Machell recommended that the matter of cost reimbursement to Jackson Township be resolved prior to voting on the appointment. Council president Don Shaffer explained that if council did not name a full time officer, the vacancy would have to be filled with part time officers. Councilman Harold Brobst abstained from voting saying that he did not know Norris. Shaffer, Craig

Tupper and Russell Eyet voted in favor of the tentative appointment. Councilmen Bill Berti and Tim Carroll were absent from the meeting.

Mary Ann Dureggi, a resident of Dallas Borough, asked the council if it could ban burning of fossil fuel. She said that two of her neighbors have been burning material outdoors and smoke sometimes fills her house and hot embers also land on her roof.

Shaffer explained that the borough ordinance prohibits burning on Monday, Thursday and Sunday, that burning can be done only in daylight using a mesh covered burner and with the fire under control. Councilman Brobst said that because landfill space has been sharply curtailed, more people are burning their newspapers, and until the landfill situation is resolved, burning will increase as a way to keep garbage costs down. It was pointed out in the first part of the meeting that there is a problem in recycling programs because it is very difficult to get rid of newspapers.

In response to a letter from the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency, Borough Manager Gary Allabaugh recommended that the council appoint Dallas fire chief Ted Wright and police chief John Fowler as contact persons for the emergency management

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Citizens' Council seeks uniform zoning laws

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Planning and zoning issues were high on the list of priorities discussed by members of the Back Mountain Citizens' Council at their meeting last Wednesday.

Solid wastes, municipal services, open space and green areas were also examined by the recently formed committees of the council at the meeting at Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus.

Facilitators reported on the progress made during meetings of the individual committees over the past weeks.

The talk on planning issues included a suggestion to establish training courses and seminars.

Murray Miller said that his committee met in early February and outlined a work program of examining, assessing and recommending action through communication and education.

"It is necessary to collect, study and analyze the actions pertaining to growth of the Back Mountain municipalities, and to do this we should ask officials for copies of their ordinances to review them,"

Committees presented ideas on open space, solid wastes and planning

Miller said, "It would be helpful if all municipalities could adopt modern ordinance techniques that could be of general benefit to the entire Back Mountain area," he added.

Liz Lloyd of Dallas said members of the open space and green area committee set short term and long term goals. Lloyd explained that Gerald Reisinger talked with the committee about the connection of Huntsville Reservoir to the Chesapeake Bay and made available pamphlets of information which Lloyd had brought with her to distribute to persons interested.

Among the short term goals she mentioned were gathering information and facts about railroad

See CITIZENS', pg 2

Environmental Council works to save lake

By SCOTT CRISPELL
Post Correspondent

There is a small group of people who are extremely concerned about the condition of Harveys Lake and they are doing everything in their power to make it better.

This group is the Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Council (EVAC), which consists of seven Harveys Lake residents. Borough Councilmen David Abod and Richard Boice serve as co-chairmen for EVAC, which also includes Linda Wilson, Phillip Conrad, Bruce Hanson, Georgine Petroskas and Mike Shisko.

According to Abod, the long range goal of the group is to find a permanent cure for the pollution problem in the lake. "We don't want to see the lake die," said

Abod. "Dousing the lake with copper sulfate is a quick fix. But, it isn't a permanent answer. The copper sulfate will eventually kill the lake."

EVAC hopes to raise enough money to perform a Phase One Diagnostic/Feasibility Study on the lake itself. "This study will allow us to come up with a permanent cure."

Such a study will cost a great deal of money and Abod is hoping that the government will aid EVAC with the cost. "We hope to receive \$35,000 from the federal government and \$15,000 from the state," Abod said.

However, EVAC is also conducting a fundraiser of its own via various recycling projects. EVAC has been collecting newspapers,

glass, plastics and aluminum in an effort to raise money for the study.

Abod said, "The market has fallen out from under us. We're trying to be creative and come up with new ideas. The price of aluminum and plastics are going back up."

However, the market for newspapers remains slow, and Abod added, "Please don't bring newspapers to the Borough Hall until further notice. Right now, we don't have anything to do with all the paper."

When Abod was elected to council in January of 1988, EVAC was non-existent. "I thought we needed this council," he said. "So, I went out and recruited members. It wasn't hard because we all care about the lake."

Abod is very active with environmental issues throughout the area and was recently honored by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He received a certificate of merit for his distinguished voluntary service toward the improvement of recycling programs.

For Abod, the award makes all the hard work seem worthwhile. "I was very honored," he said. "That was very nice of them."

Abod also extended an invitation to any interested people to attend the EVAC meetings which are held the day after the monthly Harveys Lake Council meeting.

Abod also announced that EVAC will hold its regular roadside clean up project the first Saturday after the opening of trout season.

May primary vote will decide fate of Sunset Beach

By SCOTT CRISPELL
Post Correspondent

Sunset Beach will remain closed to the public unless Harveys Lake Borough builds a facility which provides swimmers with restrooms, showers, drinking water and a changing room. That announcement was made at last Tuesday's council meeting after council received a letter signed by Senator Charles Lemmond informing them of the requirements.

"Basically, the letter told us, either the bathrooms go up, or the beach stays closed," said councilman Richard Boice.

In the past, swimmers at the beach were able to use the restroom facilities at Joe's Grotto, but since that establishment burned down several months ago, that will not be the case this year.

Boice said, "It doesn't appear that the Grotto will be rebuilt in time for the beach to open."

A referendum will be placed on the ballot for the upcoming primary election in May in order to learn how Harveys Lake residents feel about the beach project.

"We'll ask the residents of Harveys Lake if they would mind if some of their tax money was allotted to help the beach project," said Boice.

Should the voters indicate that they would support such a project, council will then seek additional funding through government grants.

"There are recreational grants available," said Boice. "But, we've found that you stand a better chance of receiving a grant if you have some money up front. The referendum will tell us if the people of Harveys Lake want to do that."

Boice said that it will probably take between \$5,000 and \$7,000 up front to get a grant for the amount needed to finish the project.

However, he isn't sure what to expect from the primary election. "We took a survey last summer and found that only 20 of the 600 swimmers that we talked to were from Harveys Lake," Boice said. "We aren't sure if people are going to be willing to fund this beach."

In other action, Ronald Spock was hired as a full-time police officer, although there was considerable discussion concerning the financial aspects of the hiring.

The borough employed two full-time officers and three part-time officers prior to the meeting. "I wonder if we can afford to hire another full-time officer," said councilman Joseph Sgarlat.

When asked his opinion by Sgarlat, Attorney Charles McCormick, borough solicitor, replied, "I think it will cost more money in the long run," although he didn't advise against the hiring.

Councilman David Abod was in favor of promoting Spock, who had been working as a part-time officer.

"We took a survey last summer and found that only 20 of the 600 swimmers were from Harveys Lake"

Richard Boice
Harveys Lake Councilman

"A guy is out there on the street with a gun," said Abod. "He is risking his tail. I think we need to at least give him health insurance. I think it will be money well spent."

Boice echoed Abod's comments. "I've been thinking about this for five years," said Boice. "I know we

can afford to hire one new officer." Spock received the highest score of the seven applicants who took the state civil service examination, according to Boice.

Council also voted to hire David Weher as a part-time police officer to fill in on vacant shifts.

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Coming up:

BACK MOUNTAIN WATER COMMISSION - Thursday, Mar. 1, 8 PM, Kingston Township Municipal Bldg.
DALLAS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS - Tues., Mar. 7, 8 PM, Dallas Township Bldg.
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION - Mon., Mar. 6, 6:30 PM
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS - Mon., Mar. 6, 8 PM
JACKSON TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING - To discuss the sewer project. Thur., Mar. 2, 7 PM, Jackson Township Fire Hall.
JACKSON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS - Mon., Mar. 6, 7:30 PM, Jackson Township Fire Hall
KINGSTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS - Wed., Mar. 8, 8 PM, Kingston Township Municipal Bldg.