

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Proposed project illustrates need for better planning

Problems with a proposal to build houses and townhouses on property in three municipalities - Lehman and Dallas townships, and Harveys Lake - illustrate the need to reform how the Back Mountain handles development requests.

The plan calls for a construction of a road that crosses municipal boundaries. Each community has its own rules governing roadbuilding specifications and in this case they don't match. So the developer has shown a roadway going from 50 to 30 foot width at the boundary line. That is perhaps the most graphic example of the need for coordinated zoning ordinances in Back Mountain communities.

More than that, a combined approach to planning and zoning would make the best use of the land that is available for development, benefiting residents and developers alike. Now, if a project crosses a boundary line, each side must be considered as a separate entity.

And finally, the number of meetings and personnel that are needed to screen proposed projects could be lowered dramatically if a regional group first passed judgement on proposals.

Developing and implementing a regional plan will no doubt come at some expense, but it needn't all be placed on the shoulders of taxpayers. Those who wish to profit by developing the Back Mountain should be asked to contribute more to footing the bill. There are costs involved in each step of the approval process, and the applicants can be charged enough to pay them.

A good starting point would be to raise the filing fee to a level that will cover the costs inherent in reviewing proposals. Higher fees would also be a deterrent to would-be developers who submit plans in the hope they will gain preliminary approval with little commitment on their part.

A filing fee of several hundred dollars would discourage that kind of fishing expedition, while the money raised could be used to pay for any special investigation that must be done.

The Back Mountain is one of the most attractive areas in Northeastern Pennsylvania to builders of residential and commercial property. There's no reason why we shouldn't take measures to see that it is developed properly.



Slow ice-covered turn in Lehman

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Cop shooter should not be given furlough

If it weren't so serious, the idea of furloughing a man who tried less than four years ago to kill two police officers would be laughable. But there is no humor in the prospect of an early release in this case.

There is a serious weakness in a judicial system that allows plea bargaining for so serious a charge, and then considers allowing the criminal to enjoy some benefits of freedom before his sentence is up.

Donald Kelly may have reformed his behavior - we certainly hope so. Even if corrections officials believe he has, he should not be allowed out of prison, even on furlough, until his term is served.

Kelly was sentenced to two concurrent terms of 5-10 years for shooting officers Wayman Miers and James Tupper in June of 1986. For all we know, only the officers quick action prevented an even greater tragedy. Given the circumstances and the fact that Kelly had been known to attack policemen before, a minimum of five years in jail seems a light enough sentence.

Perhaps even worse, the only person outside the corrections department who has any real say in whether or not Kelly receives a furlough is the sentencing judge. Police and victims just have to accept the department's decision.

We hope that whenever Donald Kelly is released from jail it will be as a better person. But allowing him out even one day ahead of schedule will be a travesty of justice and an insult to the police officers who were his victims.

Letters invited

The Dallas Post encourages readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters for publication must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify their authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Letters received by Noon on Monday may be included in that week's issue.

Library news

Volunteers fill in until new librarian found

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has been without a head librarian for the past two months at a very busy time of the year. The present staff members have been working extra long hours and extra hard to keep ahead of the many daily duties along with completing some of the ongoing special projects.

The library circulated 4,642 books during the month of December, added 137 new books to the collection and had 69 new borrowers join the library.

The library is again busy with students working on special school papers and children borrowing their books from the children's room. We have a super group of volunteers who help the staff with shelving, alphabetizing and slipping books at the front desk.

A very sincere thank you to our dedicated staff members and also our volunteers who have kept the library going during a busy time with a short staff. Our volunteers are a very important part of our every day existence.

The personnel search committee is continuing interviews for the position of head librarian for the library and it is hoped that it will not be too long before a decision will be reached and we will have a new librarian.

Our Book Store in the basement of the library is an on-going sale area for books donated to the li-

brary through the year, over and above the books donated for the library auction, and this Book Store room will be open any time the library is open with books for sale at the prices marked in the individual books.

A special bargain basement room has been set up with other books which are selling for \$1.00 per bag. This special room will be open for this sale until February 10. There are many bargains to be found in this room.

As one of our new book store browsers told us, "You could build a small library of your own at a small cost with the books purchased at the library book store". Come in and look for treasures.

Two new books were recently donated to the Children's Room by the Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, of which Mrs. Priscilla

Allison is President. The books are Lois Lowry's "Number The Stars", the 1989 Newberry Award Winner and Bruce McMillan's "Super, Super, Super Words". These books were given in memory of the chapter's deceased members.

New books at the library: "Black Cherry Blues" by James Lee Burke is a masterful novel and a first-class adventure. It combines muscular, dynamic prose, top-notch plotting, and a mastery of dialogue and characterization. A tough and suspenseful detective adventure.

"Lair of the Fox" by Daniel Pollock is the story of KGB officer Felix Ilyinski and his job of recovering stolen canisters of poison gas before they fall into the hands of western intelligence. A story of terrorist squads and Turkish police and an American frigate.

Property tax/rent rebate applications now available

Rep. Scott Dieterick said recently that 1989 property tax/rent rebate applications are available at his district office.

The forms apply to total income received and property taxes or rent paid in 1989.

Eligible for the rebate program are persons age 65 or older, widows and widowers age 50 or older

and permanently disabled persons age 18 and older. A participant's annual income from all sources cannot exceed \$15,000.

Only one person per household is eligible for the program, which is funded by proceeds from the state lottery.

Dieterick's office is at 1265 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA 18704. The telephone is 288-3990.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Jan. 31, 1930  
ICE HARVEST DELAYED BY MILD WEATHER

State inspector visits local schools this Friday, finds conditions much improved over previous years.

Ice harvest is delayed by mild winter weather.

Jack Roberts All Stars win one, lose one, defeating Gulf Refining Company and losing to Keystone A.C.

Open House observed at Shavertown Methodist Church last Thursday.

Wed - Rose Allabaugh Hart and Alex Silic.

50 Years Ago - Feb. 2, 1940  
'SKIP DAY' STUDENTS ROUNDED UP

State Rep. Don Wilkinson announces he will seek reelection as representative.

A plot to hold a 'Senior Skip Day' Monday afternoon at Dallas Borough High School crumbled by Supervising Principal T. A. Williams who detected the unusual number of absences and with the help of the truant officer brought the students back to school.

Zero weather is stubborn enemy of local water company causing sleepless nights for manager Leslie Warhola.

Richard Disque becomes mortician here.

Engaged - Jean Weaver and Russell Johnson.

40 Years Ago - Feb. 3, 1950

DALLAS TOWNSHIP LOWERS TAX RATE

Harry Ohlman, Red Cross Back Mountain blood chairman appeals for 900 more blood donors.

Dallas Township supervisors cut tax millage from 7 1/2 to 7 mills and retains the two mill levy for sinking fund making a total of nine mills instead of 9 1/2 mills.

Engaged - Elda Jean Murray and Milton R. Lomax; Goldie Gray and George S. Switras; Elizabeth Jane Smith and Clinton Smith.

Wed - Doris Mae Kemmerer and William Laity.

Harveys Lake United Sportsmen meet at Herman Kern's Inn.

30 Years Ago - Feb. 4, 1960  
LUIGI'S PIZZA OPENS AT 309-415 INTERSECTION

George E. Taylor, once supervising principal of Lake-Noxen Schools has accepted appointment as superintendent of Council Rocks in Bucks County.

Harveys Lake Lions Club presented a \$500 check to the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company.

Back Mountain Memorial Library elects Robert Bachman as president.

Luigi's Pizzeria holds grand opening at its new location at the "Y", Routes 309 and 415.

Wed - Judith Roberts and John Roushey, Jr.

20 Years Ago - Feb. 5, 1970  
NATONA MILLS UNION FIGHT GOING STRONG

A union dispute remains active at Natona Mills as a petition is introduced seeking the ouster of one union in favor of another.

WVIA-TV, Channel 44 faces a slim, bleak future of program and staff cutbacks if funds are not provided to the station or its connecting network.

Dallas Mountaineers took the first half title of the B Division in WyomingValley basketball by downing the Lake-Lehman Knights 79-70 in overtime.

Engaged - Noreen E. Becker and Carl J. Gladey; Sharon Strzelczyk and George Robinson, Jr.; Rebecca Mendoza and Edward E. Edwards.

The Post asks: Should more languages be taught in high school?



Rose Ragnacci  
Math teacher  
Pittston

"Yes, Latin because it is the basis for English, Spanish because of the large population of Hispanics in the U.S.A. and Russian."



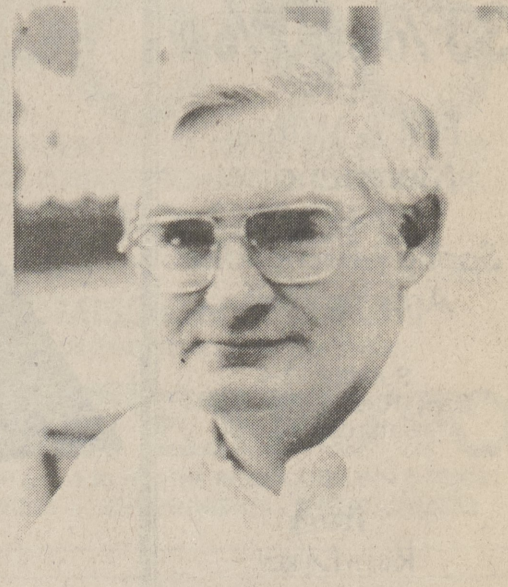
Lonny Stella  
Aide  
Shavertown

"I believe German, French and Spanish for today's society although Latin could be added for students interested in certain career fields."



Candy Fyke  
Teacher  
Dallas

"Yes, I believe more languages should be offered as it becomes obvious students need them for entering the business world."



John Chapple  
Teacher  
Shavertown

"I believe Latin should definitely be in the curriculum. It is the basis for English grammar."