

911
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Any calls coming in for departments that are not members of the Communication Center will be handled the same as they are now, according to Dodson. "If we receive a call for them we will contact that department as we already are doing," he said.

If state monies are made available later on, the system will be updated to comply with a county mandate.

Dodson is very happy with the way things look for the system. "We've got a good situation here," he said. "We can be one of the first in the county to go 911."

Another person pleased with the proposal is Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol, who is also chairman of the Back Mountain Control Board.

"Instead of seven digits to remember, people will now only have to remember three digits in case of an emergency," said Sabol. "This is going to help out everyone."

Sabol said that the target date for July or August is one that can be met. He said that the Control Board will be meeting again this week to work on the contingency plan and get it to the county as soon as possible.

Sabol also noted that the "911" system, once it is put into effect, should only be used for emergencies. "We will still have numbers to call when you need to talk to the police in non-emergency cases," said Sabol.

Lehman

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trict may not be aware of the problem. "But they need to be made aware of it," he said.

In other business at the supervisor's meeting:

The board took no action on a request of the J.R. Davis Fire Company for a zoning change. No action was taken because no one from the fire company was in attendance at a scheduled hearing on the matter.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS - Richard and Betty Duda are the owners of Betty's Diner located on Route 309 in Kingston Township. The Duda's took over the former Bill's Diner six months ago and they say that things are going well for the new business. Shown above from left are: Richard Duda, Betty Duda and Charles Emil, the kitchen supervisor at the diner. (Photo by Rich Johnson)

New diner owners pleased with success

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

For those people driving on Route 309 in Kingston Township, a new sight is there to catch people's eyes. A sign saying "Betty's Diner" is standing high and proud at the business, which has recently come under new ownership.

Richard and Betty Duda of Wyoming purchased the former Bill's Diner about six months ago. Betty had worked as a waitress at the business for more than 10 years before pursuing other interests. About two years

ago, she returned to the diner and continued working as a waitress until the owner became ill.

Betty started running the place in his absence, and when he decided to retire she and her husband took the opportunity to buy the business. Since then, things have been going well, she said last week.

"Things are good," said Betty last week. "There is a lot about running the business that I didn't know, but now things are going well."

When the Dudas took over, some remodeling was done and

they put up a new sign to let people know that the diner is open.

"The sign has helped a lot," said Betty. "Things have really picked up since we put up the sign."

She says that being a waitress for 16 years helped her as an owner. "I had an inkling when I came in as what people want. I am very happy I made the move to management."

The diner is open six days a week, from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The diner is closed on Sundays.

Kingston Twp. supervisors oppose water rate hike

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Kingston Township Supervisors have gone on record opposing a proposed rate hike increase of the Shavertown Water Company.

At their monthly meeting last week, the supervisors were told that the Water company is seeking a 7.8 percent rate increase to pay for interest and principle on a PennVest loan.

The supervisors voted to protest the \$30,000 increase and will ask the state Public Utility Commission (PUC) to deny it. The PUC must give its approval before any price increase is permitted.

In other action at the meeting, the board passed a resolution indicating the Township's readiness to begin a 911 Emergency Phone System in the Back Mountain. A letter will be sent to the Luzerne County Commissioners

saying that the township is willing to be part of the 911 system that is planned for the Back Mountain Communication center.

At a special meeting of the board on May 2, the supervisors decided on a proposed subdivision plan in the township. Final approval for the subdivision plan at the Maplecrest subdivision was given by the board.

This subdivision was delayed at the April meeting of the board after a question was brought up about surface water running from the property onto an adjacent property.

The supervisors say that a detention basin agreement was worked out between the township manager, solicitor, zoning officer and the owner of the property and it is in compliance with the township ordinance.

Back Center Comm. Center sticking with dispatch policy

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Back Mountain Communication Center is sticking with its current policy of not dispatching paramedics along with an ambulance, unless there is a request to do so.

Recently there have been questions about the policy and at a meeting last week the Back Mountain Control Board addressed the situation.

"Our policy is set," said Back Mountain Communication Center President and Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol. "Our responsibility ends at dispatching. If you want a simultaneous dispatching it is up to the ambulance and MIC (Medical Intensive Care) Unit," he added.

The current dispatch policy is that an ambulance will be sent out first and then a MIC Unit will be sent if there is a need for the paramedics. A MIC unit will also be sent if it is requested by a caller.

Some paramedics, ambulance crews and Back Mountain citizens have questioned the policy, saying that there are times when the paramedics and the ambulance crews should be dispatched together.

The Control Board has received letters asking that the policy be changed. These letters, which were not signed, mentioned an incident in which the writer said simultaneous dispatching should have occurred.

Jack Dodson, president of the Back Mountain Ambulance Association, said that these letters are making more of the incident than should be. "The incident occurred and got blown out of proportion," said Dodson. "The policy has been set and things have worked well so far."

Dodson also said that the communication center will be successful only if there is cooperation between its members. "The only way to get 911 to work in the Back Mountain is if everyone works together," said Dodson.

Sabol agreed with this saying, "We are working on a shoestring budget. We are going to make it as easy on everyone and still give the best service possible. We are going to do it one way for everyone."

He added, "We are strictly here to dispatch. We won't get involved in problems between companies."

Some paramedics from the MIC Unit were at the meeting and said that simultaneous dispatching is possible and that there are talks between the paramedics and the ambulance crews to set up a possible solution.

Supervisors of the MIC unit and authorities at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital where not available to comment on the situation.

Sabol said that before any change is made with the Communication Center's policy an agreement must come from the MIC Units and the ambulance crews.

Correction

In a story on campaign finances of candidates in the race for the Republican nomination for state representative from the 120th District, The Post incorrectly stated that most of the contributions to Scott Dieterick's campaign came from political action committees (PACs) and other organizations.

In fact, most of the donations listed on Dieterick's filing at the Luzerne County Courthouse were from individuals. Less than 20 percent was from PACs and organizations.



A century of brides

Tina Shonk, left and Cathy Berkey, Committee Members for the Centennial Wedding Fashion Show of Yester-year prepare final touches on the bridal bouquets for the bride models who will ascend the aisle of the Shavertown United Methodist Church in celebration of its 100 years. The very unique and lovely show featuring wedding dresses from 1880 through 1990 promises to be a highlight of the year-long celebration. It will take place at 3 p.m. at the church on Sunday, May 20. Tickets will be available at the door and everyone is welcome.

Residence

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decision came after a member of the public questioned the policy and the salary being paid to the police officers.

"The supervisors are understanding about the policy," said township Manager, Jeffrey Box. "We have never lost an officer because of the policy," he said.

Box said the policy has been in effect for about 15 years and pertains to all employees of the township.

He said that the policy is a good one for the township. "It helps the individual be a better employee because he or she now has a personal stake in the matter."

Box said that it is felt that if the taxpayers are paying a person's salary then that person should live in the township.

However, Moravec contends that the real issue is money. "If one of our police officers went to a bank

and asked for a \$70,000 loan for a home and said that he made \$16,000, he would get laughed right out of the bank," said Moravec.

One police officer who asked to remain anonymous said that the policy could cause one of the three officers to leave the force. He added that keeping the job as a police officer does not always outweigh the problems affiliated with finding a residence and moving into the township.

Dallas Township also has a residency policy but does not seem to have problems associated with the policy.

Other Back Mountain communities do not have official ordinances dealing with residency of its officers but officials report that many of the officers leave in the municipality where they work.

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