## Chief -

(continued from page 1)

being almost all the way through the intersection she had to see it,' said Wright. "I'm no lawyer and maybe it is for the legal system to decide who is at fault, but when you take all factors into consideration, they (the firemen) did everything according to the book.

Another question that has come up since the accident is the use of a button that changes the traffic signals at the intersection. Reports say that the button was not pushed by the firemen before leaving the station.

Wright says that it is not mandatory that the button be pushed. "We do not use it all the time," said Wright. He added that the button is used to clear traffic that could be backed up in front of the fire house.

He said that changing the light, causing all other streets except Main Street to get a red light, slowed down the response time for many firemen coming to the station or to the scene. "By making the light red my volunteers couldn't respond in a timely manner," said Wright.

Two other fire companies in the Back Mountain also have a button to control the lights. Both the Shavertown and Trucksville Fire Companies say they use the button everytime the trucks respond to an incident. "It gets pushed every time," says Trucksville Fire Chief Gerald Kapral. "It is a shame that the accident occurred, but because of it I think that other buttons will

# Water -

(continued from page 1)

been mandated." He also reported "Nothing has changed since that that the Public Utilities Commission has issued recommendations to all companies on water-saving into working condition. After a devices and asked customers to second well was put in the addiinstall such devices.

of developers cutting back on pri- ship supervisors by saying the vate wells, they are increasing the second well would be used only in number. He pointed out that an emergency. Now although there Crane's Landing, Maplecrest, has been no more costs involved Cedar Lane, Sunrise Estates in Kingston Township, and the crease the rate to the consumers Maples in Dallas have all put in on the first well." private wells.

Ward also told the other members that the Sunrise Estates Water Grimes moved to send correspon-Service a system of private wells, has filed a request with the PUC to increase its annual rate by \$5,700 effective October 1 of this year. Ward said that the increase if approved would amount to a 38% increase per customer, from about would try to get the information. \$249 to \$374 per each of the 55 customers.

"The last general increase Tamanini was allowed was in 1988 for approximately 26%," Ward said. been invited.

be pushed now," he added.

Rapral said that an accident like this affects all firemen. "You keep it in the back of your mind that something could happen," he said. "I know it has opened the eyes of some guys."

Wright also responded to ques-tions about the Dallas department's policy of a fire truck responding to an accident with an ambulance. "We have a standard operating procedure that outlines the fire company's tasks at the scene," said Wright.

"There are a lot of reasons, other than a fire, for the company to respond," he added. According to the standard operating procedure, the fire company at an accident will: Handle fires; take care of hazardous material spills; help the ambulance crews with first aid assistance if there are multiple victims; do all rescue work if there is entrapment or entanglement; stabilize vehicles; help with additional lighting and as well as other duties.

Wright said that most fire companies in the county respond with ambulances to accidents.

Wright also said that even though many policies have been questioned, the company is going to stick with the policies. "Saying we have been under fire is an understatement, but we are going to continue with our procedures,' he said.

(continued from page 1)

Aftermath

he would express the company's sympathy to the Dunaj family. He said he would and also offered to come out and talk with our members which I think is great of him," Wright said. Wright said he doesn't believe

that there will be charges filed against the driver of the fire truck, Alvin Shaffer-that it will be ruled as an accident.

"He followed all the proper procedure just as he always has for the past 49 1/2 yers. He and his wife are a fire company family. When the fire siren button was up on Mill Street, Edie would answer the fire phone and while Al was getting dressed, Edie would come up to the corner and blow the siren.

"I have known him since I was about six years old. He was the most cautious man in the organization. He never hesitated to tell any of the men if they were wrong, even the chief.

"In all the years I have known him he never drove fast or carelessly. He has also done 80% of the company's maintenance and you didn't have to tell him if something was wrong, he knew before you could tell him," Wright continued.

"I first met Al when I was a kid and he and Jim Wertman were working on the truck. When they finished they went to fill the tank with water and Al lifted me

up and took me with them." Wright said the support of the general public has been a big help to the members and

especially to Shaffer. The men also go over to visit him. Last Wednesday night was a training night and men said "Let's go over to visit Al," so they all went over and talked with him, Wright said.

"We are 100% behind him and people ask about him all the time. The other fire companies have also been a big help. Kunkle Fire Chief Jack Dodson called from South Carolina to see if Al and the other men were all right, and Gary Beisel came in and talked with all of us and put his arm around us," Wright said. "We're all in this together and that's the way we want it."

Edie Shaffer, Al's wife, said We are just taking it day by day. The fire company has been Al's life. He has been a member since he was 16 years of age. He was a firefighter for two years, then drove the truck and ran the pumping equipment. He is in his 50th year as a member of the company."

"If there is any question about Al's being careful, I would vouch for him anytime," Wright said. "There is no more cautious driver in the area than Al Shaffer. He knows every rule and regulation in the book."

# **Dallas Township adds** cop, businessman says they need even more

#### **By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer**

Dallas Township supervisors approved the appointment of Truman Brandt of Trucksville to a fulltime position as a police officer on the township police force at their regular meeting last Tuesday night at the municipal building.

Brandt, who has been a parttime officer for the township since last August will begin his full-time work Sunday. He will receive \$15,575 annually as a first year full-time employee of the department.

James Smith, owner of Elston and Gould, Memorial Highway, Dallas, told the supervisors he



believed that the police depart-ment is understaffed. "In my opinion the township needs more police on staff," Smith told the supervisors. Smith has been a victim of several thefts of items in cars or cars at his place of business during the past several months.

Supervisor Frank Wagner, who coordinated most of the gypsy moth spraying in the township and surrounding area said he believed it to be successful.

The supervisors also stated that their new cruiser, a Chevrolet Caprice should arrive sometime this month. The cruiser is being purchased through the state program.

## Adopt-a-pet

A neutered male gray, black and white domestic shorthair cat, four to fivae years of age is at the Luzerne County SPCA waiting for someone to adopt him and give him a good home with lots of attention. He is gentle and lovable and is housebroken. He also had his shots but, unfortunately, no one knows his name. For a pet who is not much trouble and would be a lot of company, stop in at the SPCA and take this well-trained cat home with you. The address is 524 E. Main St., Fox Hill, Wilkes-Barre.



time. Meters were put in the homes for three years, but were not put tional development, Tamanini won Ward also reported that instead in a protest by the Kingston Townthe developer is planning to in-

> Commission member Joseph dence to Tamanini requesting information to justify his rate increase and giving him a deadline to reply, then consider submitting an objection to the PUC. The motion was approved and Ward said he

> The next meeting will be held July 12, 7 p.m., at the Kingston Township Municipal Building, to which all municipal officials have

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