

People

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Other residents expressed concern over elderly neighbors who don't have much garbage. Frank Dugan of Shavertown said he knows of many elderly residents who don't have a bag of garbage per month and was concerned about the cost of hauling for them. "It doesn't seem right that these people have to pay these costs when they were paying next to nothing with the private haulers," said Dugan.

Concerns such as this were expressed to Dallas Borough and Dallas Township officials at meetings on July 16. Officials said they were

looking into the situation to help residents on fixed incomes who generate small amounts of garbage.

None of the residents interviewed said they would defy DAMA's program and use a private hauler, but all spoke out against the procedure used to set up the program.

"They should have given the individual haulers more consideration," said Diane Martin of Dallas.

Neighbor Jody Smith agreed. "It is now up to the township to worry about the garbage. They have taken it out of our hands."

Protests

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of the same ones with the same questions."

Bagley also said just as the garbage haulers complain now, then the septic tank haulers, whose livelihood was cleaning out tanks were complaining that they were being put out of business.

"We have had some threats because of the new collection program but not as many as we did at the time of the sewers. There was no office to call so protestors would call board members and harass them or threaten some of them. They also complained to some of the contractors and threatened them.

"At the meetings people would complain about the fees and ask where they would get the money and what would happen if they didn't pay the sewer bill. They would ask about septic tanks and who would pay those bills. The board members and representatives of the contractors answered their questions no matter how many times they were asked," Bagley explained.

Bagley also explained that the sewers were a new program for the Back Mountain. It was originally proposed in 1965 but was turned aside until 1969 when it passed but it was two times the cost then than it was in 1965.

When the sewer lines were installed in 1971, the cost was \$8.00 for a foot for frontage so a 100-foot frontage was \$800 plus \$100 connection fee, then a plumber had to be paid to connect the house line to the sewer line.

Twenty years ago, the annual sewer fee was \$129, now it is \$188 per year an increase of only \$29 per year over a period of 20 years.

R. Spencer Martin, chairman of the DAMA Board agreed with Bagley that the situation was much worse in 1971 when the sewers were approved.

"It was mandated by the government and it had to be done," said Martin. "The trouble was much worse than today, we had all kinds of threats and calls. The same type of hue and cry. The septic haulers cried we were putting them out of business. Today some of those same haulers have bigger and better businesses than ever. They accepted the challenge and sought other types of work to do which for many years has been more lucrative.

"Board members' families were threatened, employees harassed but after the sewers were in the people began to realize how beneficial the sewers were and the complaints stopped," Martin said.

Just as the sewers have been beneficial, Martin said the communities will benefit from one municipal hauler.

"Community areas will be free of trash six days out of seven. Legally covered garbage trucks picking up the garbage, less wear and tear on the roads."

"What commodity today will be the same price 30 months from now as it is today?" Martin added. "One municipal hauler is a legitimate municipal act and in the long run will benefit the people."

"At the end of 30 months, DAMA can reopen for bids, there is no

guarantee the same hauler will continue unless he is the lowest," Martin concluded.

Bagley also explained that when the municipalities mandate the authority to carry out a program, it is up to the authority to do so.

"The recycling and garbage collection is more work for us. We are about to begin a \$5,000,000 project to Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority. We will still have to maintain the Back Mountain sewer system and do the billing. We will continue to do all the work we have been with the exception of the treatment plant. That is because with the addition of other municipalities in the Back Mountain to the treatment plant it is not large enough," Bagley said.

"We are now getting many calls from residents but the majority of those calls are from residents who want information. I am certain the problems coming up because of the new municipal garbage and recycling program will be resolved in the near future. Once the program is off the ground, residents will begin to appreciate its benefits," added Bagley.

"Last fall we contacted about 10 garbage haulers to discuss recycling with them. Not one of them was interested in recycling," said Martin. "Since we were mandated as the agent for Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township, we put out specifications for haulers to bid on the program. We had only four haulers interested enough to submit bids. We did everything legally-advertised our meetings, advertised the bid requests and opened the bids in a regular public meeting."

Township will take over Hickory Hills road

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

At their July 16 meeting, the Dallas Township supervisors approved the home owners petition to take over the road into Hickory Hills pending their engineer's confirmation that proper repairs have been completed on the entrance of the road. Lee Isaacs, head of the association, will be contacted for complete information.

ship. Fitch & Sons was awarded the bid which for a total of \$33,000. Bradaric Excavating, Bunker Hill Road, Wyoming, submitted a bid of \$50,000.

The bids were turned over to township engineer Thomas Doughton Jr., for tabulation and recommendation and also to Atty. Townend for approval of the bonds accompanying the bids.

The supervisors also spent considerable time listening to questions posed by residents concerning the new trash and recyclable collection operated by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA). Most residents' concerns centered on the expense for those who generate little trash but will be billed the same flat rate (\$11.25 monthly) as larger households.

Dallas Twp. bans open burning

Due to the extreme dry weather conditions and recent fires in the township and no immediate relief expected in the near future, the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors have announced an immediate ban on all outdoor burning. Recent brush fires have shown that the ground is so dry from the lack of rain that the fires are going underground into the root systems of trees and plants. Therefore effective immediately all outdoor burning of any type is prohibited for all residents of the township of Dallas until further notice. Persons found burning will be directed to comply with the directive or face possible prosecution.

Since all residents of Dallas Township and the Back Mountain area depend on a drinking water supply of either private or public

drilled wells the supervisors also caution residents to comply with voluntary reduction of water usage. Residents should take all steps possible to reduce their water usage.

Residents with even household numbers or box numbers should only water their lawns on even numbered days, and odd numbered residents on odd numbered days. Any lawn watering should only be done in the evening or very early morning hours and for short duration. Repair any leaking faucets or plumbing fixtures, do not hose down driveways or sidewalks (sweep them), use water saving shower heads, run clothes washers with only full loads, and use water only in the amounts necessary to the the job or chore.

Group home owner appeals township suit

Zoning officer Leonard Kozick reported to the supervisors that the owners of the group home on Church Street had filed an application to appeal the township's charges filed by Township solicitor Atty. Frank Townend that the home was a boarding house as defined by the township ordinance rather than a group home.

R.N. Fitch & Sons of 185 Huntsville Road, Dallas, was low bidder on the equipment rental for Stredney Road, 1991 Community Development Project of the town-

Little Theatre slates auditions

Auditions for the Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre's production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" have been set for Sunday, July 28 and Monday July 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lobby of the theatre at 537 N. Main St. Wilkes-Barre.

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Roushey family reunion set for July 27

The Peter J. Roushey Family Reunion will be held Saturday, July 27 at Frances Slocum State Park Pavilion No. 1. Dinner will be at 12 noon. Short business will be held followed by an auction. Adults, gift \$3.50, children \$1.00 and up (bring one of each), followed by games and bingo.

Cookbooks available

The Back Mountain Library has announced that the cookbooks are in and ready to be picked up at the library.

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