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THE BACK MOUNTAIN

Dallas, PA Wednesday, October 23, 1991

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Lig...., lanes and barriers suggested for Route 309

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

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Talk of traffic lights and turning lanes was as thick as 5 o' clock traffic at the 309/Carverton Road intersection when a dozen Back Mountain community leaders met with officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation October 16 to discuss trate problems along Route 309.

The first meeting of the Back Mountain Transportation Management Association at Penn State Wilkes-Barre also heard more regional concerns voiced about how to eliminate problems by reducing the traffic that has to use Route 309.

"We are concerned with Route 309," said Charles Mattei, Luzerne County District Engineer for the

PennDOT, local leaders talk safety

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). "We are concerned with some of the roads that run parallel to Route 309. We have identified the 309 corridor as a high priority.'

Mattei was joined by PennDOT representatives Stephen Shimko, Maintenance Service Engineer and Ron Bonacci, District Traffic Engineer.

Because the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have passed Transportation Acts calling for two different levels of fundings, Mattei said that PennDOT is unsure of how much money will be budgeted for the region.

"PennDOT is hoping for about \$30 million dollars worth of work in the area. The traffic on the Dallas Highway will be within that because it is within the top two or three highways traffic-wise," Mattei assured the community members.

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol started the meeting off with a list of suggestions, several of which focused on improving alternative roads so fewer people would have to be funnelled through the rock cut on Route 309.

Those roads included Route 29 to the Nanticoke I-81 connection, Bunker Hill Road, and the Larksville Mountain Road.

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

Sabol also suggested a park and ride lot at St. Theresa's Church, so people would not have to drive to Wilkes-Barre, but could use a bus instead.

Other more specific suggestions by Sabol were: • Removing sidewalks and adding a right turning lane to the bridge at the intersection of Carverton and Route 309.

• Adding a right turn lane to 309 North at the intersection of Carverton Road.

• Staggering business openings, such as at hospitals and factories, to alleviate rush-hour traffic.

• Continuing the center turning lane southbound from the Back Mountain Shopping Center to Carver-

See ROUTE 309, pg 3

Water plant neighbors weren't told of chlorine gas leak

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

Neighbors of the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company treatment plant on Hillside Road in Kingston Township think they should have been told about a leak of chlorine gas October 17.

Frma Stark watched the whole this from her porch across from the little cinder block building where the leak occurred.

I won't say I was worried. There we guys with gas masks and the tanks and there were guys walking around without them on," said Stark. "I've lived here for 16 years and this has never happened before." "I think I should have been notified," Stark said, "because if it was serious I should have the right to decide to stay or not.' "We don't know what happened," said a concerned Russ Major, owner of Major's Sales nearby on Hillsde Road. "I'm amazed that the happened and they didn't tell us.



Herring, argued that the furloughs were in violation of the state's School Code because they were done for budgetary, rather than educational reasons.

Five teachers were furloughed at the Dallas School Board's July 8 meeting: Catherine Wega, Mary Ann Storz, teacher of the in-school uspension program: Carol Harding, a part-time elementary teacher; Margaret Schuler, a physical education and health teacher; and Paul Brown, a physical educa- loughs were made because of tion and health teacher, as well as changes in the district's curricubasketball coach.

Harding withdrew her request

The Dallas School Board will decide in upcoming weeks whether or not to uphold furloughing five teachers.

for a hearing, to be replaced by Nancy Ferko, who was demoted from full, to part-time status. Brown and Storz were called back to work over the summer to fill in positions of teachers who are on leave. Schuler and Wega are both on sabbatical.

"I think you have a great opportunity to correct a wrong," Herring told the school board and audience at the hearing.

After chlorine vapor leaked from the plant, northbound traffic on Route 309 was blocked for an hour at the Luzerne entrance ramp backing cars up for a mile or more. Hillside Avenue was also closed during the incident, and southbound traffic was diverted across Carverton Road to Eighth Street.

The chlorine gas leaked at about 3:30 p.m. as a one-ton tank of liquid chlorine was being changed, according to Juneann Greco, spokesperson for PG&W. The chlorine is used at the plant to trat drinking water.

See GAS LEAK, pg 2

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Community **Events**

GAME PARTY - Thurs., Oct. 24, 7:30 PM, Shavertown Fire Hall. Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary. Refreshements, public welcome. CRAFT SHOW - Sat., Oct. 26, Fire Hall, Main Street, Sweet Valley

HAM DINNER - Sat., Oct. 26, Trucksville Fire Hall, Carverton Road. Adults, \$5.50, children under 12 \$3.00. Tickets available at the door.

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Queen for a day

Tami Landon was crowned Dallas High School Homecoming Queen October 19. Above, she receives her crown from last year's queen, Lisa McCafferty. The homecoming court included Jamie Maniskas, Wendy Cave, Sara Harris, Susan Richardson, Amy Shelley and Megan Moran.

Roller risk? Lake wants to ban roller blades

By ERIC FOSTER Post Staff

The Harveys Lake Borough Council authorized solicitor Charles McCormick to draft an ordinance banning roller blades and at its meeting October 15.

Councilman Richard Boice said that complaints from residents ordinance setting speed limits and were the reason the council took the action.

"I've seen them go around this lake side by side and not move until you're right on them," said Boice.

"I think it's a great idea," said Assistant Police Chief Ronald Spock. "We've got a lot of complaints. Those people with the roller skates, they don't have enough sense to pull over like the bicy-

clers."

"It started in June," said Spock. them and they take up the whole lane.

"God forbid if they get on the road and a car is coming around being processed. skate boards from Lakeside Drive and they get hurt," said councilman Edward Kelly.

prohibiting parking on certain and paving the parking lot. streets in the borough. The ordinance will take effect November 15

miles per hour on 2nd Street and Old Lake Road. Parking will only be allowed on one side of First Street and High Street. "No Parking Here to Corner" signs will be posted on Park Street, and no parking signs will be posted on

Lakeside Drive south of the Marina Cafe.

Councilman Joseph Sgarlat You get a group of ten to fifteen of announced that he has been told that the check for a \$10,000 recreation grant from the state Department of Community Affairs is

The \$10,000 would be used to improve the borough's recreation The council also passed an center by installing a new heating system, remodeling the kitchen,

"We have a heating system, but "We have a heating system, but it's inadequate so we have to up-The speed limit was set at 35 date it," said Sgarlat. On October 17, Sgarlat was notified by state Rep. George Hasay that the check would be presented at the Recrea-

tion Center October 24. Sgarlat has also been looking

See ROLLERS, pg 2

The school distric Benjamin Jones, argued through the testimony of Wycallis, the district's only witness, that the fur-

See LAYOFFS, pg 3

Dallas residents ask for lights to stop vandalism

cent Lane brought two residents to Donald Cooper said that the borthe Dallas Borough Council meeting October 15, asking that street lights be installed in the presently unlighted area.

Donald and Karen Berlew, who they have sustained \$3,000 damage in the past few years from the attacks on their property.

"We've had cars virtually destroyed in our driveway," Donald Berlew explained. Cars being stolen, tires slashed and property vandalized have been common in the neighborhood, he said. "There have been at least five or six homes hit," said Karen Berlew.

The Berlews and their neighbors sent a petition to the council asking that street lights be in-

Vandalism in the area of Cres- stalled, and council president ough will try to address the problem in its upcoming budget. There are now no light poles on the lane.

Police chief Jack Fowler said that a juvenile had been arrested live on Lehman Avenue, said that and charged with recent acts of vandalism, but no restitution had yet been offered.

In other business, the council heard a request from Michael Coyle, vice president of the Dallas-Shavertown Water Company, to install a water main on Machell Avenue. The company wants to replace the existing 30-year-old four inch main with an eight inch line.

"These water companies have not been without their problems,"

See VANDALISM, pg 3

Solicitor, two others quit Borough posts

John S. Fine, Jr., the solicitor for Dallas Borough the past eight years, resigned his position at the borough council's meeting October 15. The council immediately voted unanimously to appoint Theodore Krohn as solicitor.

Fine had been under pressure in recent years for his perceived inaction on the demolition of the former Hearthstone Pub on Main Street. Some council members had castigated him for allegedly misleading the council on what action he had been taken on that matter.

Council president Donald Cooper recommended Krohn, a Dallas Township resident who Cooper said had well served other area organizations, as a replacement. "He's going to be thrilled when he sees all this legal stuff we have waiting for him," Cooper remarked.

The council also accepted resignations from Drew Fitch as zoning officer and Robert N. Opel, II, solicitor to the Zoning Hearing Board. Fitch's resignation is effective November 19; Opel's takes effect November 30.

The three latest resignations bring to eight the number of Dallas Borough officials who have resigned in recent weeks.

Cooper said the council would schedule an executive session to consider replacements for Fitch, Opel and Joseph Dwinchick, who is also resigning from the zoning board.