

\$30,000 grant will aid in Comm Center relocation

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The Back Mountain Communications Center will receive a \$30,000 grant for relocating its facility from the Dallas Township Municipal Building, according to state Sen. Charles Lemmond's office.

Cynthia Thurston, of Lemmond's Harrisburg office, said that money has been set aside in the state's Department of Community Affairs budget. The paperwork for the grant will be mailed at the end of this month, Thurston said.

The Comm Center was planning in the fall of 1991 to move the dispatching center from the Dallas Township building to Nesbitt Hospital's Back Mountain Medical Center. The cost of the planned

move was approximately \$30,000.

Those plans were put on hold after Harveys Lake Borough announced in November that it would withdraw from the center and use the Luzerne County Communications Center instead. Harveys Lake's withdrawal, effective May 1992, meant that the center lost \$10,755 of Harveys Lake's \$25,811 yearly contribution.

Because the center had a bank balance of between \$30,000 and \$35,000, Kingston Township manager Jeffrey Box was able to prepare a new budget in November, cutting only a capital improvement fund from \$5,000 to \$3,444.

The chairman of the Communications Center Board, Kingston Township police chief, Paul Sabol, said the center would go ahead with the planned move once the grant is received.



Don't get these ducks near water

Students in first through fifth grade at Westmoreland Elementary School will carve soap ducks as part of the school's cultural enrichment program sponsored by the PTO. Carver Terry Rutter will be at the school from January 6 to 10 to give lectures and teach groups how to carve using soap and wooden popsicle sticks. Four of Rutter's carvings have been accepted by the Smithsonian Institute for a folk art display. Shown are, top photo, Stefanie Simoncavage of Dallas; above left, Nicole Yuknavage of Shavertown (front) and Katie Russ of Wyoming; above right, Rachel Hiller. (Post Photos/Eric Foster)

Embroiderers' Guild will hold slide show

The regular meeting of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc. will feature a slide show titled "Knotted Stitches". The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre. Guests are welcome to attend. For more information, call Vicki Kapral, 825-6097; Chris Folmar, 477-2486; Helen Rhode, 256-3595.

Boice takes the reins at Harveys Lake

Richard Boice was elected president of the Harveys Lake Borough Council at the council's reorganization meeting Monday, January 6.

Edward Kelly was chosen vice president and David Abod first vice president.

The following committee heads were appointed by Boice: Abod, environmental advisory council, grants, civil service; Kelly, police; William Wilson, roads; Thomas Kehler, recreation and growth, garbage; Joseph Miscavage, finance, planning; Martin Noon, recreation center.

William Mann was appointed to the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority Board.

The borough is still requesting residents who were sent questionnaires to return them to the borough so it will be eligible to apply for grants.

DAMA will begin recycling used batteries on Jan. 13

In a continuing effort to encourage and promote recycling in the Back Mountain, DAMA in cooperation with Interstate Batteries, Inc. will begin a battery recycling program on January 13. The program will be directed primarily at the recycling of automotive batteries, but will also accept the Gel filled type batteries found on electric wheelchairs, etc.

The lead filled battery, commonly found in automobiles creates a multitude of disposal problems. Landfilling presents the risk of groundwater contamination while incineration risks toxic air

emissions. Given present day disposal options recycling is a safe solution. The DAMA battery recycling program not only helps conserve natural resources and energy, the program reduces hazards to the health and environment of Back Mountain residents.

Used batteries may be recycled by contacting DAMA and dropping the batteries off at the designated drop off site located at the DAMA Wastewater Treatment Plant, 530 South Memorial Highway, Trucksville.

For more information contact Larry Spaciano at 696-1134.

Franklin Township taxes will stay the same in 1992

Franklin Township residents will not have a tax increase this year. At a special meeting called December 30 to finish the year's business, the township supervisors unanimously passed a budget of \$182,317.74, which will not require any additional revenue.

This figure is actually \$50,000 lower than 1991's budget because the township had received a grant from Luzerne County last year to pave Coon Road.

Franklin Township's real estate tax remains at 8 mills, while other taxes including the 1% earned income, \$5 per capita, 1% real estate transfer and \$10 occupational privilege taxes also are unchanged. A 3.7% cost of living increase for township employees was the only increase in township expenditures.

The supervisors also unani-

mously approved the 1992 pay schedule. Salary positions include the zoning officer, who will receive \$1,400 per year and 40% of the zoning permit fees, township secretary \$5,750 per year, and planning secretary, \$600 per year.

Hourly positions include roadmaster Andy Prebola, who will receive \$9.45 per hour, while foreman Art Owen will receive \$8.30 per hour. Two casual positions of equipment operator and laborer will pay \$6.80 and \$6.00 per hour, respectively.

In other business, the supervisors appointed Fred Croop as township CPA, at a yearly salary of \$840, plus expenses. Jan Brace, Donna Owen and Ruth Gramps were reappointed auditors, to be paid \$25 apiece for their one yearly meeting.

Franklin Twp. reorganizes

Franklin Township Supervisors scheduled all 1992 planning and supervisors' meetings and appointed municipal officers at its reorganization meeting Monday, January 6.

All supervisors' meetings will be the first Monday of every month at 8 p.m., except for September, when the supervisors will meet the first Tuesday due to the Labor Day holiday. The Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. the same evening as the supervisors.

Reappointed to one-year terms were chairman Robert Redmond, vice chairman Andy Prebola, secretary-treasurer and secretary to the planning commission Sandy Race and zoning officer Art Owen.

New appointees included sewage enforcement officer Frank Zeske and alternate enforcement officer Of Patton.

Roadmaster Andy Prebola, supervisors' solicitor Charles Gelso and zoning hearing solicitor Joe Vullo were also reappointed. Michael J. Pasonick, Jr. was reappointed township engineer, while Glenn Johnson was appointed township surveyor.

Ed Dorrance was reappointed to the planning commission, Fred Lohman to the zoning hearing board and Jim Jury to the recreation board.

First Eastern Bank and PLGIT were retained as depository for township funds.

MacDonald Gallery slates spring shows

The MacDonald Art Gallery at College Misericordia will feature a variety of exhibits throughout the winter and spring seasons.

The sculptures of Edna Ceola Kishbaugh will be on display January 12 through January 26.

Following the Kishbaugh exhibit, the Gallery will present its 14th Annual "Sharing Our Art" Members Show, Sunday, Feb. 9 through Saturday, Feb. 29. This unique exhibit features works created and collected by MacDonald Art Gallery Members.

The 11th Annual Suzanne Maria Rossetti Memorial Juried Art Exhibition will be held Sunday, March 8 through Sunday, March 22.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; Friday, 12-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 674-6250.

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DAMA suit languishes while lawyers argue

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

Four months after a lawsuit was filed against the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) and three municipalities for entering into an exclusive garbage hauling pact, the suit still awaits a decision by a judge.

"This is going to take a long, long time to resolve," said Attorney Benjamin Jones III, solicitor for DAMA. It named Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township as well as DAMA.

The suit was filed on September 9, 1991, by C&K Sanitation, Seales Sanitation, and Daves Sanitation.

Jones filed a preliminary objection to the suit on September 27.

After several extensions, Attorney Phil Medico, representing Seales and C&K responded to the preliminary objections.

"I intend to file a reply brief within the next ten days to rebut some issues raised by him," said Jones of Medico's response.

In the meantime, Daves Sanitation dropped its suit in November. The hauler's attorney, Al Flora Jr. said that the suit was dropped for "personal reasons unrelated to the merits of the litigation."

The three municipalities passed ordinances in mid-1991 which gave DAMA responsibility for handling

solid waste collection for them. DAMA in turn made a contract with Danella Environmental Technologies of Taylor that made it illegal for any other hauler to collect waste in the municipalities.

The suit alleges that DAMA's contract allowing only one firm to collect trash and recyclables in Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township is unconstitutional because it interferes with the haulers' right to make and keep contracts, and because it effectively takes property from the haulers, in the form of business, without the due process of law.

Jones argues that the Legislature has given municipalities the power to make exclusive contracts.

The lawsuit has five counts, each asking for compensatory damages in excess of \$20,000. Suits which ask for less than \$20,000 are not eligible to go to trial, but go through arbitration instead.

A judge will be given the briefs from both sides, and may decide that the lawsuit should be dropped. If the judge decides that the lawsuit should continue, DAMA will have to file an answer, which admits or denies the allegations made in the suit and explains its defense. If the suit makes it to a jury, the jury will decide any actual damage awards.

Hasay's bill would have prisoners help pick up litter

Attorney General Ernie Preate has endorsed Rep. George C. Hasay's legislation which would encourage the Department of Corrections to let certain non-violent state prisoners pick up litter.

The two-bill package is targeted at individuals in the motivational boot camp and pre-release programs and at minimum-risk inmates.

The measures have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

"There is nothing in the law which specifically authorizes a litter project by prisoners," Hasay said. "The purpose of these bills is to add to the law litter pick-up as means of encouraging corrections

officials to include it in the list of public projects that these prisoners can do."

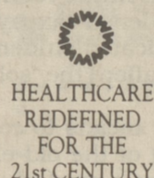
Hasay said that motivational boot camps are designed for individuals who "have a chance to turn things around for themselves."

"In addition to rigorous physical activity, intensive regimentation and discipline, the inmates are expected to work on public projects as part of their intensive rehabilitation program."

House Bill 2132 specifically adds the removal of litter from highways as part of the boot camp program. The bill calls for litter pick-up by inmates participating in pre-release plans and those needing minimum security.

Lake-Lehman School Board will meet Jan. 14

The January regular meeting of the Lake-Lehman School Board of Directors will be held Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. in the library of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary Building, Lehman.



WELL-WISHERS WELCOME!

The visits of friends and loved ones are significant to the recovery of Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's patients. But rest is also a key component of patient care. Because of this, we ask your cooperation during these visiting hours:

General Medical-Surgical Units Noon to 2 PM and 4 to 8 PM daily.

Visitors limited to two adults per bedside. Children under twelve may not visit, nor may they be left without adult supervision.

Critical Care Units

(Coronary Care, Medical-Surgical Intensive Care, Respiratory Intensive Care and Cardiothoracic Intensive Care.)

11 AM to 11:30 AM
1 PM to 1:30 PM
5 PM to 5:30 PM
7 PM to 7:30 PM

Bedside visitors limited to two adults of the immediate family. Children under twelve are **not** permitted in Critical Care areas.

Obstetrics:

Visiting is at the discretion of the mother.

Pediatrics:

In addition to regular visiting hours, parents, grandparents and siblings have unlimited visiting. Children under twelve must be accompanied by an adult, and may not visit where isolation is in effect.



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