

Proposed Lake Twp. market gets OK

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The major roadblock to Joseph and Norma Mazaikas' year-long quest to build a supermarket in Lake Township has finally been overcome.

The Luzerne County Commissioners voted to approve the Mazaikas' request for a zoning change at their meeting March 18.

"We were hopeful, but we were surprised," said Norma Mazaika, of Tamaqua.

Mazaika was surprised because on March 12 the Luzerne County Planning Commission voted 3 to 1 with one member abstaining to recommend against the Tamaqua couple's request for the zoning change.

The change is to a 3.9 acre plot at the intersection of Route 118 and Boston Road from agricultural (A-1) to business (B-2).

"Hopefully within a year it should be well under way or completed if everything goes as planned," said Norma Mazaika. "There are some intermediate steps like financing."

When completed, Mazaika said the 18,000 square-foot store will create about 50 jobs, mostly part-time, but also some full-time.

This is the second time the Mazaikas have requested a zoning change along Route 118 to build a supermarket. On October 16 the Commissioners rejected a similar request for a zoning change for a plot of land at the intersection of Route 118 and Macri Road on the advice of the Planning Commission.

One of the major reasons the initial request for rezoning was denied was the Planning Commission's concern that a hill crest would limit visibility and cause accidents at the previous site near Macri Road. Architect Stan Sowa of Smith Miller Associates said that the new site has better visibility, and even though it would not be required, the Mazaikas would install a deceleration lane at the intersection.

In support of the supermarket the Mazaikas presented a petition with 465 signatures and a letter from the Lake Township supervisors.

"I knew it was the right thing and we went about it the right way," said Norma Mazaika. "We feel we took every precaution as far as safety is concerned. We feel it's much safer than down by the corner (of Route 29 and 118)."

Twenty-one people from the area signed a petition opposing the supermarket.



MIDDLE SCHOOL HELPS - Dallas Middle School Student Council members who helped take orders for "Daffodil Days" included, first row from left: Allison Cutter, Kenny Hoover, Danielle Shanaberger, Trapper Smith, Keith Rondinella and advisor Miss Norine Amesbury; second row from left: Lis Barrett, Leigh Robinson, Ann Bishop, Amanda Andere, Shannon Kane, Julie Haas and Mark Shanaberger; back row from left: Beth Wagner, Ted Jackson, Matt Sowcik, Kevin McDonald, Scott Townsend, Mary Ann Selenski and Joe Tarity. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Daffodils to fight cancer arrive this week

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Sunny yellow daffodils will brighten the Back Mountain as Wyoming Valley Cancer Society volunteers deliver bunches of the cheerful flowers for "Daffodil Days," March 25-27.

Seven area merchants will also have daffodils for sale Friday, March 27, for people who weren't able to place advance orders two weeks ago. Each bunch of 10 flowers costs \$4.

According to Louise Kondracki, sales co-chairman for the Back Mountain, daffodil orders have increased over last year, despite the present economic conditions. "Daffodil Days" is a major fundraiser for the Cancer Society.

"The Back Mountain has been a great help," Ms. Kondracki said. "An anonymous area donor sent us a generous gift with the request that we send flowers to someone who normally wouldn't receive them. Another donor ordered a whole case (50 bunches) of daffodils, to be delivered to patients at a Back Mountain nursing home."

Assisted by Kim Koehl, Ms. Kondracki has coordinated orders from the Back Mountain for more than 3,000 bunches of daffodils.

Where to buy daffodils

For those of us who missed the order deadline for "Daffodil Days" and still want to help the Wyoming Valley Cancer Society by purchasing flowers, seven area businesses will have them available for sale from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 27, at these locations:

- Merchants Bank, Route 309, Shavertown
 - United Penn Bank, Main Street, Dallas
 - First Eastern Bank, Routes 309 and 415, Dallas
 - Northeastern Bank, Route 309, Dallas Township
 - Franklin First Federal, Dallas Shopping Center
 - Daring's Market, Route 415, Dallas Township
 - The Stretch Out, Main Street, Shavertown
- Each bunch of 10 daffodils costs \$4.00; the Cancer Society keeps 80% of all funds raised by the sale.

The Cancer Society keeps 80% of every \$1.00 raised through daffodil sales, Kondracki said.

She added that student council members from the Dallas Middle School were a great help in taking daffodil orders.

Scouts from Cadette/Senior Girl Scout Troop 622, led by Jamie Kozemko and Marlene Miller, assisted by Boy Scout Troop 155, led by Ray Metzger, Pack 155 Webelos Den 2 led by Jack Kozemko and Rich Sabatura and Webelos Den 154, led by John Menta, joined

other volunteers March 24 to wrap the bunches of flowers for delivery.

Mrs. Kozemko said that her Girl Scout troop has participated in "Daffodil Days" for three years. "The girls are always glad to work on service projects to help their community," she said. "They know how important the Cancer Society is."

The American Cancer Society calls the daffodil the flower of hope because it is the first flower of spring.

Mundy offers help on traffic lights

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Referring to the Back Mountain end of the Cross-Valley Expressway as a "mini-interstate," Representative Phyllis Mundy recently contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation on behalf of local municipalities for help in obtaining funding for traffic control.

In a letter written to Transportation Secretary Howard Yarusalim Ms. Mundy detailed the traffic problems aggravated by the sudden influx of non-local traffic and the increased need for traffic lights at the Route 309/Main Street and Route 415/Center Hill Road intersections since the expressway's opening five months ago.

She added that the local municipalities feel they are being unfairly asked to bear the financial burden of controlling non-local traffic.

Dallas Borough Council reviewed Ms. Mundy's letter at its regular meeting Tuesday, March 17.

A copy of another letter from

members of Dallas Borough Council to U.S. Representative Paul Kanjorski, Mundy, State Senator Charles Lemmond and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter was also presented at the meeting.

In other business, the borough council reviewed a speed survey of Huntsville Road, where the speed of 100 vehicles was clocked by police. The report noted that 30 vehicles were clocked at speeds in excess of 45 mph and 77 were clocked at speeds higher than 35 mph.

Huntsville Road's present speed limit is 35 mph, which the borough has asked Luzerne County to study the feasibility of lowering to 25 mph because of many complaints from local property owners.

In other business, council members discussed the impending hike in cable television rates by Tele-Media, from \$17.00 to \$18.50 per month for basic service. Council directed borough Manager Milt Lutsey to investigate whether or not this service can be obtained on the basis of a bid.

Recreation committee chairper-

son Marie Eyet announced that the borough's summer recreation program will run from June 15 through August 21, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Ms. Eyet reported that the committee hopes to replace badly worn board games and activities for the younger children, extend the fence along Luzerne Ave. between the basketball court and Susquehanna Ave. and build a two-row parking area on borough property on Susquehanna Ave.

Council also voted unanimously to:

- Purchase and spread gravel on a section of Reservoir Road.
- Rename Burndale Park in honor of Kenneth A. Young, who devoted many years to the Dallas Borough summer recreation program.
- Re-hire recreation staff members: director Jack Wolensky at \$2,000, assistant director Kathleen Farrell at \$5.25 per hour, Joan Kingsbury at \$5.25 per hour, and Amy Cutter and John McKeever at \$4.50 per hour. Melissa Pomrinke was newly hired at \$4.25 per hour.



Adopt-A-Pet

This male grey tiger cat is in need of a good home. The two-year-old cat is housebroken and has had his first distemper shot. If you're looking for a good pet, stop at the SPCA, 521 Fox Hill Road, Main Township, on weekdays from 11 to 3 p.m., or 5 to 7 p.m., or on weekends from 11 to 3 p.m. Call 825-4111 for more information.

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Library will close to protest funding cuts

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will be closed for one hour March 31 to protest cuts in state funding to public libraries.

The library will close from noon to 1 p.m. to coincide with a rally held by library supporters at the state capitol in Harrisburg.

Head librarian Susan Frey says that the library circulates 350 to 400 books every day.

"In a recession people tend to rely on librarians more because they're looking to improve their job skills, looking for a job, or instead of buying books, borrowing books," said Frey. "Our business is up."

According to Frey, the library was originally budgeted to receive about \$30,000 this year, which was later reduced to \$27,900. Last year the library expected to receive about \$30,000, and only received about \$26,000.

Frey said that the Back Mountain Library will be sending representatives to the Harrisburg rally, along with petitions supporting full-funding for the libraries. On Friday afternoon, March 20, about 300 people had already signed the

petition. The Back Mountain Library isn't alone in its budget woes. More than 400 libraries across the state are in the same boat.

The cuts in funding include governor Robert Casey's freeze on a \$1.5 million increase in regular library funding approved by the state legislature, dropping the funding from \$24.3 million to \$22.8 million. Though the money is technically only frozen, library officials doubt that the libraries will ever see it.

The governor also cut the \$5 million allocated to the Access Pennsylvania program to \$3 million, a 40% decrease. The Access Pennsylvania program reimburses libraries for visitors from outside their area.

For the 10 libraries which are part of the Luzerne County System, including the Back Mountain Library, that means a decrease from \$355,375 to \$348,858. Another \$300,000 cut in funding across the state will further reduce that amount.

The Osterhout and Hazleton libraries will be closed for all of March 31 for the protest.

St. Paul's will dedicate organ March 29

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Shavertown will hold a dedicatory organ recital for its newly refurbished organ on Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m. The recital will be presented by Jeffrey Baer, organist at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Salisbury, Maryland.

Mr. Baer is a graduate of Mansfield University, where he majored in voice. This summer he will complete his Master's degree at Florida State University.

Assisting in the recital will be Dr. Douglas Smith, an accomplished flutist. Dr. Smith is a professor in the music department at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Light refreshments will be served after the recital. Pastor Harold R. Baer and the people of St. Paul's invite the public to come join in this musical celebration.

Auction set for March 28 at Lehman UMC

Lehman, Idetown and Jackson United Methodist Churches will hold an auction to benefit the Parsonage Fund Saturday, March 28, at 5:30 p.m. It will be at the Lehman United Methodist Church on Mountain View Drive, Lehman. A food bar and new items donated by Back Mountain businesses will be featured. The public is invited.

New garden group seeks members

A garden group is forming, with a meeting Wednesday, March 25, 1 p.m. at the Trucksville Nursery School Building, Church Road.

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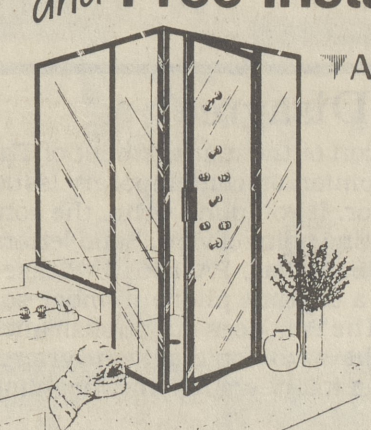

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