



## Library news

### Chefs and Artists still available at library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library staff and members of the Board of Directors wish everyone a very Happy New Year and a hope that 1993 is filled with peace, love and happiness.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library cookbook, "Chefs and Artists" is still available for purchase at the library. The cookbook sells for \$12.95 and features many delicious recipes for kinds of main dishes, vegetables and breads. Included also are chapters on Tid-Bits, The Salad Bar, Sweets and Treats, the Cookie Tray and Pot-pourri.

The center of today's family life is most often the kitchen. Realizing this, we have gathered the best from the chefs and the artists of our area, as well as from our Back Mountain neighbors. Each recipe reflects love—love of cooking, love of sharing, love for each other. Some special recipes include: Lemon Bars by Barbara Rush;

Governor Casey's Chocolate Cake by Ellen Casey; Scallops Beaumoniaie by Wolfgang Puck of San Francisco and Oyster Stew Ol' Bay Head by Bay Head Yacht Club of New Jersey. These cookbooks are available for purchase at the information desk at the library and would make a special gift for someone you know.

Another book available for purchase at the library is "The Flood That Came To Grandma's House" written by Linda Stallone and illustrated by Joan Schooley. This is a unique book for anyone who knows about the flood or would be interested in learning about it. A percentage of the sale of these books will benefit the library. The book sells for \$10.55.

The Book Club of the library held its Christmas Party on Monday, the 21st of December and enjoyed a very exciting program of music presented by Ernest Wolfe as played with bones. This talent is an unusual treat and created much interest after the program with

questions and answers about the music. The group enjoyed Christmas carols and singing and shared refreshments and conversation. The Book Club does not meet in January or February and will meet again on Monday, March 15, 1993.

New books at the library: "A Dubious Legacy" by Mary Wesley begins on a midsummer weekend in 1954 when James and Matthew, two rather priggish young Englishmen take their girls, Barbara and Antonia, on a short holiday in order to propose marriage. The charming country house of their friend and the extravagant dinner party he has promoted has promised them seem the ideal surroundings. However, none of the guests is prepared for the romantic drama that is about to unfold about them—and that will spin itself out over the next four decades. Before the drama is over, both men will discover their young women are not as unworldly as they appear.

## Jackson

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\$179,787.54, or \$42,452.30 over last year's expenses.

Failure to follow road maintenance guidelines compiled 19 years ago, when paving materials were a third of their present cost, has left large sections of the township's 26 miles of roads in poor condition, according to supervisor Joe Stager.

Other expenditures include a four percent cost-of-living increase for road department employees, who didn't receive a raise in 1992,

and approximately \$19,000 for a new police cruiser.

Even if the township had not been faced with a \$300,000 bill to clean up six leaking oil tanks and many tons of contaminated soil unexpectedly found in front of the new municipal building, taxes still would have had to go up to pay for road repairs, Stager said.

"There is no way that Jackson Township could have continued to operate on 3.5 mills," he said. "I said that I would try not to raise

taxes during my term, but reality hits. It's tough to stretch the penny. Everyone must begin to pay their fair share."

With property taxes at 13 mills, one mill will generate approximately \$7,000 of income, Stager said.

With an average assessed valuation of \$2,500, the average homeowner will pay \$32.50 in property taxes instead of the \$9 that he paid out when it was 3.5 mills, he said.

## Lehman

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to double to \$800. Lehman Township has only two or three active liquor licenses.

Cash on hand at the beginning of the year is anticipated to be \$15,000, a decrease of \$10,000 from last year.

General expenses have tripled, from last year's \$1,500 to \$4,500, due to the state grant which will pay for a computer for the township, while local tax collection expenses have increased 19 percent, or \$800, to \$5,000.

Cragle expects premiums for

workmen's compensation insurance to drastically increase, by as much as 70 percent for road workers and ambulance drivers, 18.4 percent for volunteer firefighters and 45 percent for policemen, as insurance policies are renewed in 1993.

In other business, the supervisors agreed to post additional "Watch for Children" signs on Pine Drive in the Oak Hill section, after John and Cathy Harrington presented a petition with 24 signatures of Oak Hill

residents requesting speed bumps to help slow down traffic.

The supervisors said that speed bumps would interfere with snowplows in winter and asked drivers traveling through Oak Hill to drive slower and be alert for children.

The supervisors accepted the resignation of emergency management coordinator Al Babetski, appointing Gail Ide to succeed him. Mrs. Ide formerly served as deputy coordinator with Babetski.

## The economic viewpoint

### How to improve local government services

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

In a book which should be read by every local governmental official across the nation, David Osborne and Ted Gaebler have transformed staid and traditional government to the entrepreneurial spirit. The book is titled "Re-inventing Government" and includes 405 pages of exciting and innovative ideas suggestions and recommendations as to how government can compete in the 21st century. Their theme is that government should steer and not row. In other words, government should set a thematic charter, should adopt performance management, should adopt total quality management, and should take an outcomes approach rather than approach which says how many people they serve or other so-called measurements of that nature.

The authors talk about competitive government in which the array of options available to governments are extensively utilized in order to maximize service delivery to customers (citizens) and to be as cost effective as possible in light of declining revenue sources

and the complexities and difficulties facing higher levels of government. They suggest the entrepreneurial government is the government of the present and the future and that the examples where entrepreneurial government has already taken place is the way in which government will be processed in the future.

The book points to St. Paul, Minnesota, Indianapolis, Indiana and Lowell, Massachusetts as communities who developed a strategic vision and plan. For example, in Lowell, Massachusetts, an agreement was reached that every important business in town would do a major project to improve Lowell. They claim that "these efforts helped transform Lowell, in 10 years, from a city of 16% unemployment to a city of 3% unemployment".

In a ten page appendix, the authors outline alternative services options.

Two examples include the following:

Quasi-Public or Private Corporations. When entrepreneurial governments want to accomplish tasks that are economic in nature,

they often create private, nonprofit corporations, or the virtually identical quasi-public corporations. Baltimore pioneered the use of private, nonprofit development corporations to redevelop its Inner Harbor area. St. Paul created the Lowertown Development Corporation, the District Heating Development Corporation, and the Energy Resource Corporation, which performed energy audits and made loans to owners and landlords for investment in energy conservation. Phoenix created a nonprofit corporation to run a homeless shelter.

Tax Policy. State and local governments offer tax breaks to entire industries to move into or expand within their boundaries. Pennsylvania encourages firms to hire welfare recipients by offering them a tax credit. On the other hand, governments often tax activity they want to discourage. The most common examples are "sin taxes" on items such as cigarettes and alcohol.

Every governmental unit elected body should re-examine their current way of conducting business and discover new ways to carry out the public role through an entrepreneurial telescope.

## Water

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Noxen Water Company's customers will pay an additional 32 percent, bringing their average \$237 to \$313, while Shavertown Water Company's customers face only a six percent increase, from \$397 to \$419.

Pennsylvania Gas and Water's (PG&W) rates for customers of the company's five Back Mountain water companies average \$141.84 per year, or \$35.46 quarterly, for the typical customer using 5,000 gallons, according to PG&W spokesperson June Ann Greco.

PG&W owns Trucksville, Kingston Township, Hillcrest, Homesite and Shavertown water companies. (General Waterworks also owns a Shavertown Water Company.)

"Our water bills were the highest in the area anyway," said Marie Barbose, a customer of General Waterworks' Shavertown Water Company, whose old rate of \$397 increased six percent to \$419.

"We have a water filter to clean out the taste; the quality isn't too bad," she continued. "It's a lot, but we don't have a choice. We need it."

Although Gavigan figures that drilling a well to save money on water bills could pay for itself within three years, a Kingston township ordinance states that residents who live within a water company's service area and can be serviced must tie into it, according to zoning officer Ben Gorey.

Some of the newer subdivisions are serviced by their own private water companies, Gorey said.

He noted that certain areas of the township, particularly sections of Bunker Hill, aren't served by any water companies. Homeowners must follow all Department of Environmental Resources regulations when drilling their own wells, he said.

Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Harveys Lake Borough don't have similar well

ordinances, according to their respective zoning officers.

"Although I thought that the water rates here were low, the rate increase isn't good for people who can't afford it," said Lora Freifeld, who moved to the area from Philadelphia four years ago.

"But on the other hand, a water company must constantly test and monitor its water to make sure that it doesn't contain anything that could make people sick. You have to make an investment if you want good quality water."

Steve Werner, who has noticed a great disparity between the different companies' water rates, also considered both sides of the issue.

"They have made improvements in the water lines and the billing system, and improvements cost money," he said. "But I would like to study the PUC's ruling and the criteria that they used to determine the new rates."

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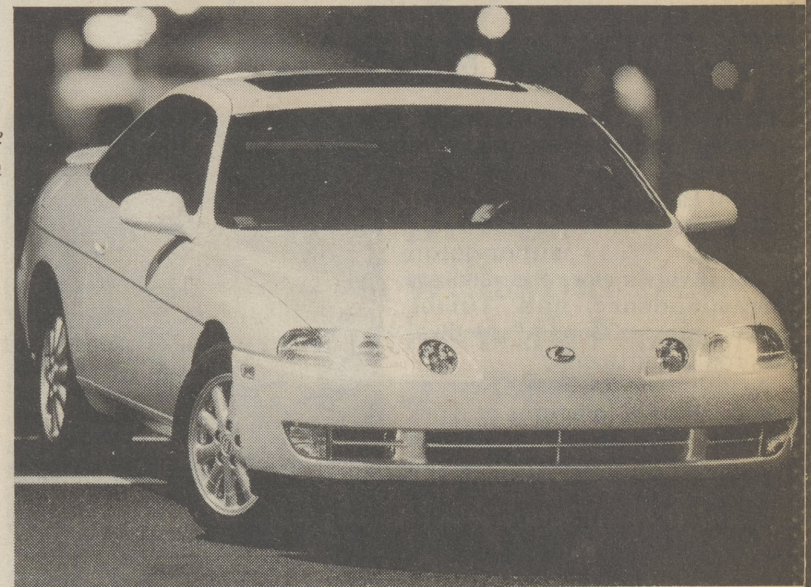
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