

Flood

(continued from page 1)

"Most of our problems were blocked storm drains," Miers said. Jackson Township had the most closed roads: Hillside, Har-disky, Mizdale and Route 29 at Chase Road.

Hillside Road was closed for a short time Friday at noon when blocked storm drains caused runoff to flood the road, according to assistant police chief Jerry Leedock. Huntsville Creek wasn't in any danger of overflowing its banks, Leedock said.

Hardisky Road, a dirt road through a swamp which serves as a shortcut between Gates and Chase roads, was still closed Monday, Leedock said.

Route 29 at Chase Road was closed due to flooding from the Susquehanna River further south in West Nanticoke, while the highway was closed to tractor-trailers at the intersection with Route 118 as a precaution, Leedock said.

Water from rapidly rising creeks at Harveys Lake inundated the

parking lot behind Grotto Pizza and other low-lying areas near the inlet in the Shawanese section.

The tops of picnic tables, chairs and sliding boards on flooded docks poked eerily out of the water, which crept into the first floors of boathouses. Nearby, a muskrat took an afternoon swim at Pole 175.

Harveys Creek at the outlet backed up at the stone arch bridge on Lakeside Drive, covering the four-foot high stone dam.

Amid the confusion, Rich Koval, a bird watcher at Harveys Lake was exultant: he had sighted a horned grebe, a pair of coot and an oldsquaw, birds which usually don't venture so far north this early in the spring.

As the waters receded late Saturday and Sunday, residents breathed a collective sigh of relief. For the third time in 20 years since Hurricane Agnes, Mother Nature had once again spared the area.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

FLOODED PARKING LOT - The parking lot and marina behind Grotto Pizza were inundated by rising water at Harveys Lake's Inlet section Friday, April 2, from heavy rain and snowmelt.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

UNDER WATER - This driveway off of Lower Demunds Road in Dallas Township spent a good part of last week under water when Trout Brook went over its banks because of snowmelt and rain.

Highway

(continued from page 1)

• **Carverton Road:** Addition of bus pull-offs on both sides of the highway, a barrier to prevent left turns from the northbound lanes of Route 309 onto Knob Hill and possible addition of a right-turn lane to the bridge over Toby's Creek from Carverton Road to Route 309 northbound.

• **Route 309 between Harris Hill Road and Center Street:** either install a barrier to prevent cross-turns into businesses along this stretch or create a center turn lane for vehicles entering these businesses.

• **Franklin Street:** addition of a right turn lane from Route 309 northbound.

• **Main Road at Offset Paperback:** addition of right turn lanes for both northbound and southbound traffic and concrete islands to direct traffic turning onto the highway.

• **Center Hill/Upper Demunds/Hildebrandt Roads:** addition of right turn lanes for both northbound and southbound traffic on the highway; additional traffic signals at the Upper Demunds/Hildebrandt Road intersection to accommodate school bus traffic.

• **Dallas Corners:** addition of right turn lanes on Route 415 north in front of the Dallas Post Office and on Main Street in front of the borough building, with the existing traffic signal to be upgraded.

• **Center Hill Road at Pickett's Charge:** addition of a right turn lane onto Route 415 north.

• **Routes 415 and 118:** addition of right turn lanes on Route 415 southbound, concrete islands to direct traffic flow and barriers to prevent cross-turns from Route 415 into the convenience stores' parking lots.

• **Two loops of synchronized traffic lights:** on Route 309 between Hillside and Harris Hill Roads and on Route 415 between the Route 309/415 intersection and Center Hill Road.

Teachers

(continued from page 1)

School directors James Richardson, John Cleary, Ellen Nagy, Richard Coslett, Clarence Michael, Tom Stitzer and Thomas Landon voted for the pact. John George and Ernest Ashbridge opposed it.

"We were both looking for stability," Wagner said, pointing out that many teachers had suffered last year. "There are still people who won't talk to each other," as a result, he said.

Wagner said this negotiation was evidence that Act 195 and Act 88, two state regulations regarding public employee bargaining, can lead to successful outcomes. If the two sides hadn't reached agreement on their own, the regulations would have required arbitration. In fact, a mediator was present at one earlier meeting, but the board and union decided to move ahead on their own, and in the end no outside influence was needed to seal the agreement. If the two sides hadn't reached agreement on their own, the regulations would have required arbitration. In fact, a mediator was present at one earlier meeting, but the board and union decided to move ahead on their own, and in the end no outside influence was needed to seal the agreement.

The district hopes to recover a substantial portion of the salary increase as older teachers retire and are replaced by lower-paid new hires, but there's no guarantee that will happen. The school board approved four retirements Monday evening, two of which used up \$55,000 of the \$65,000 early retirement incentive fund the district established last year, leaving little to attract early retirements.

John George, one of two school directors to vote against the agreement, said he opposed it because \$46,000 that the district expected to save by reducing payments to tax collectors was instead added to the teachers' salary budget. "It's not that I didn't think it was such a good deal," he said. George said he was for the pact until the savings was added to the contract offer.

Joe Kunec, president of the Dallas Taxpayer's Forum and a candidate for school board in the May primary election, was ada-

mant in his opposition.

"We of the Dallas Taxpayers' Forum don't agree with the raise. We think it's excessive in a recessionary economy," Kunec said. "If they're going to get any raise, at most it should be a cost-of-living increase of 2 to 3 percent like senior citizens get on Social Security." While board members were quoted as saying that the teachers do a good job, Kunec disagrees. He said that some of them deserve raises, but they should be based on merit.

Unlike the last pact between the district and its teachers, this one was hammered out in virtual silence. Negotiations began on January 19, and the board made its offer March 11. Wycallis said the quick acceptance by the teachers was unexpected.

In contrast, the board and teachers last reached agreement March 11, 1992 after a year of widely-reported wrangling. As the negotiations dragged on, the Dallas Taxpayers' Forum was formed by people opposed to large salary increases, and the battle became the subject of radio talk shows around the region. School board meetings drew huge crowds, and the contention split the community. To their credit, the teachers did not strike and no classroom or extracurricular activities were affected.

The teachers' union had originally asked for a five-year contract with nearly 10 percent raises each year. The two sides finally agreed on a three-year contract that included salary increases of about 5 percent for each of the first two years. That agreement was retroactive to September 1, 1991, so the second year expires at the end of the present school year.

There will be no change in benefits in the next two years, Wycallis said. In addition to their salaries, full-time teachers in the Dallas School District receive fully paid family Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance with a lifetime benefit of \$1 million, life insurance of \$43,000, dental insurance coverage, 10 paid holidays, sick days which if not used can accumulate into a "sick leave bank," and payment for graduate credits at 70% reimbursement.

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