

Fires gut 2 homes

The Dallas Fire Company responded to a fire which gutted the interior of a home owned by Gerald and Gail Keen on Jackson Street in Dallas Township February 17 at 9:15 a.m.

According to fire chief Brett Slocum, the house was filled with heavy smoke by the time that firefighters arrived on the scene.

Firefighters had to dig through a thick layer of snow on the roof in order to ventilate the home, Slocum said. Pending a final report from the fire marshal, the cause has been determined to be accidental electrical, Slocum said.

Dallas was assisted by the Kunkle and Shavertown fire companies.

The same morning, the Lake Silkworth Fire Company responded to a fire which destroyed a small wood-frame cottage owned by Sandra Scott on Cease Terrace at 9:30 a.m.

According to fire chief Sev Newberry, a worker had been remodeling the cottage when a gas heater exploded. The worker was unable to extinguish the fire.

By the time that firefighters arrived on the scene, the house was completely involved.

Lake Silkworth was assisted by Lehman Fire Company.



SMOKY FIRE - A smoky fire gutted the interior of a home on Jackson Street in Dallas Township last Thursday morning. Firefighters from Dallas, Kunkle and Shavertown responded and had to dig through a thick layer of snow on the roof to ventilate the blaze. POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

CMC seeks area nurse graduates

Nursing alumni from Community Medical Center, Hahnemann and West Side Hospitals' Schools of Nursing are being sought to participate in the closing recognition activities of Community Medical Center's School of Nursing, the last hospital-based school of nursing in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Closing activities will include a Alumni Dinner Dance on April 30, 6 p.m. at Genetti's Manor, Dickson City, and an Ecumenical Service on May 15 at St. Luke's.

Alumni current addresses may be sent to Trudy Jackson, CMC School of Nursing secretary, 1800 Mulberry St., Scranton, PA 18510, or by calling 969-8950, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Archives, artifacts and stories are also being sought for commemorative displays and program.

For more information, please contact Trudy Jackson at 969-8950.

Boy Scouts begin annual food drive

The Northeastern Council of the Boy Scouts of America will hold its Scouting for Food drive February 26 and March 5.

Since 1991, the annual drive has distributed over 100,000 food items each year to more than 30 food pantries in our area.

Boys Scouts, Cub Scouts and Explorers will go door-to-door in their communities leaving food collection bags. They will return the following Saturday, March 5, to pick up the filled bags, which Scouts are asking residents to place outside their doors by 9 a.m.

Collected food will then be donated to the local food banks for local distribution.

The greatest need is for nutritional canned food items such as vegetables, soups, baby formula, fish, meats and chili.

For more information on the Scouting for Food Drive, call the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Scout Office at (717) 451-0350.

Kingston Township zoning battle lingers on

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Neighbors say that John Shatrowskas's snowplowing operation is devaluing their properties and is a business operating illegally in their residential area of Kingston Township.

Shatrowskas owns two properties on opposite sides of Valley View Drive, off Mount Olivet Road. His home occupies one lot, while a garage and several pieces of construction equipment are stored on the other.

Ron Ostrowski, Bob Popeck and Leonard Wisniewski complained to the supervisors at their February 9 meeting that the township hadn't done anything to stop the operation.

"We're getting an eyesore and the township is getting an eyesore," Ostrowski said.

"It's a nice neighborhood, but it's going downhill on a daily basis,"

Popeck said. He has lived in the neighborhood for the past 21 years.

"The township is harrassing me, one thing after another," Shatrowskas said. "We went to court and proved that we had been grandfathered in when the zoning code was adopted."

He said that when he first moved in to the neighborhood, it had been zoned agricultural. It was rezoned residential when Kingston Township adopted its zoning code.

"We went to the magistrate twice," he said. "He found us not guilty but told us not to park the two plow trucks there. I have no other place to park them. If I have a pile of planks or bricks on my lot, I get arrested, while the guy four houses up the road has a bigger pile of bricks in his yard and he gets off the hook."

Shatrowskas said that he has a written court order allowing him

to keep his trucks on his lot.

"This has been an ongoing controversy for about 20 years that I know of," said township zoning officer Ben Gorey. "The area was designated residential between 30 and 35 years ago, before the present zoning ordinance was adopted in 1961."

Gorey said that three years ago the township had taken Shatrowskas to district court, which had ruled in favor of the township.

Shatrowskas then appealed to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas, where the matter has "linguished" since 1992, Gorey said.

According to the Luzerne County Clerk of Court's office, no action has been scheduled on the case. Action - for example a hearing or judicial decision - is taken only when the attorneys move for it.

This isn't the first time that Kingston Township has taken Shatrowskas to court over his snowplowing operation.

Attorney Erik Dingle handled a similar case against him for the township in the early 1980's.

Shatrowskas had been cited April 7, 1981, for parking trucks, a flatbed and a tar buggy on his lot, where there was also an accumulation of tires, Dingle said.

District Magistrate Earl Gregory found him guilty of violating the zoning ordinance, but didn't fine him. Gregory told him to move the trucks away from the road, Dingle said.

Shatrowskas was cited again in mid- or late 1981 and found guilty in magistrate's court. This case was appealed to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and heard before Judge Michael Podcasy, Dingle said.

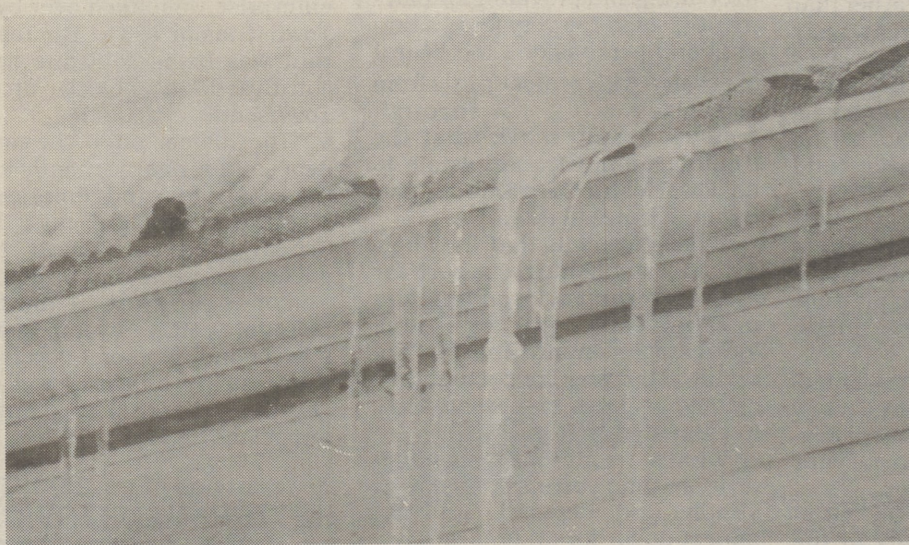
Although Podcasy decided in Shatrowskas' favor and directed that he be reimbursed for the fines and costs which he had paid to magistrate's court, Podcasy told him to park his trucks away from the road.

"Both judges (Gregory and Podcasy) found him not guilty but asked him to be neighborly and move his trucks," Dingle said. "If two judges tell you to stop doing something because it's a zoning violation and is dangerous, it isn't license for you to continue doing it."

"This is just sitting there dead in the water," said township solicitor Ben Jones, III. "There's a tremendous backlog of cases in miscellaneous court. Because the appeal is still pending, we can't do anything more."

WARNING

Meteorologists Predict the Harsh Winter or 1993/94 is Just the Beginning of a 10 Year Weather Cycle



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