

**Police**

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All of the communities are conscious of what they can afford to pay for professional police protection.

"The police department is a big chunk of our budget," said Dallas Borough councilman Bill Peiffer. "We have an outstanding police department and want to keep that same caliber of service in our community."

Like its neighbors, Dallas Borough pays its officers what it can afford.

Unlike its more rural neighbors, Dallas has little room for further development, either residential or commercial, which means that its property tax revenues won't drastically increase in the future.

"The borough is unique," Peiffer said. "Most of our available open land is in the conservation zone, where it's limited to one home for every two acres."

Harveys Lake mayor Richard Boice, whose main role is supervision of the police department, thinks that police consolidation is "a great idea."

"We want to give the people the best police protection that we can for their money," he said. "Some of the smaller communities have trouble affording a good police department. A regional force would help everyone, especially in covering sick days, emergencies and vacations. You could have more than one officer on duty per shift and many more available if needed."

Calling regionalized services "the wave of the future in local governments in Pennsylvania," Kingston Township manager Jeff

Box said the Back Mountain already has one prime example of local municipalities working together - the Back Mountain Communications Center.

"It works well in other areas, but you have to consider the long-range implications of these moves," he cautioned. "The feasibility study will give the township

*"We tried it with Kingston Township (in 1971) and it didn't work out. There were too many people in charge."*

**Frank Wagner**  
Dallas Township supervisor

supervisors a better basis to use in deciding whether or not to join, if a regional police force is recommended."

"The bottom line for us will be how much it costs and the quality of services that we'll get for our money," said Jackson Township supervisor Walter Glogowski.

The state official is more enthusiastic.

"It's a win-win situation," said Department of Community Affairs representative Dick Martin. "Every community gets full-time, round-the-clock police services with more than one officer on duty for every shift. You can pull in extra officers for special projects or problems. No present police officer will lose his job. Not all of the chiefs will remain chiefs, but there will be jobs for all of them."

A consolidated police force was unsuccessfully attempted on a smaller scale in the Back Mountain during the early 1970's, according to Dallas Township su-

pervisor Frank Wagner and retired Kingston Township police chief Paul Sabol.

"It's a good idea for the smaller municipalities, but we're not interested," Wagner said. "We tried it with Kingston Township and it didn't work out. There were too many people in charge."

Sabol, a Kingston Township

patrolman at the time, said that the consolidated force existed for only about five or six months in 1971.

"Each township had five officers," he said. "Of course the officers preferred working in their own towns, but they worked well together. Our officers tend to identify themselves with the towns which they serve. It might have worked if we had worked together and waited a bit longer."

Sabol blamed the regional department's breakup on arbitrators who separated the officers by township during police contract negotiations.

"They split us up and we never got back together," he said.

Wagner still doubts that a larger force could work in the Back Mountain.

"We already have a good working agreement with the other municipalities," he said. "Let them start it up and then we'll see what it costs."

**Regional police no longer a novelty**

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

If several Back Mountain departments consolidate, it will be the 23rd regional police commission formed in the state and the first in Luzerne County, home to more than 60 local departments.

Representatives of five area municipalities met with representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs August 4 to take the first steps in a nonbinding feasibility study of possible police consolidation.

"Back Mountain police departments spent a total of \$666,449 for police services last year," said DCA representative Dick Martin.

"In Pennsylvania it's almost a miracle for local municipal police departments to work together on consolidation, but faced with the economy and cuts in governmental revenue sharing, some are now considering it."

To combat increasing salaries and benefits, many smaller municipalities make do with one officer per shift - or none, choosing instead to rely the Pennsylvania State Police for protection.

Keeping the same full-time officers, a regional police force would be similar, with these changes,

- One chief or commander would supervise as many police officers as needed and be responsible to a police commission consisting of representatives from each participating municipality.

The regional police commission would appoint and evaluate the chief, set police policies and adopt

the budget.

- Several officers would be on duty for each shift, with extra personnel available to coordinate services and cover sick days, vacations and emergencies.

- Small municipalities which presently rely on the State Police for all or part of their police protection would have the same round-the-clock services as their larger neighbors.

- One larger jurisdiction would replace several smaller ones, making law enforcement easier.

- All officers would receive the same salaries and benefits, instead of each municipality setting salaries based on how much it can afford.

- All officers would follow the same regulations and operating procedures, receive identical training and have the same uniforms, badges, identification and equipment.

- Each member municipality would have one vote on the commission and would pay a portion of the operating costs.

Regionalization would mean a lower overall cost than operating individual departments, improved and more coordinated police services, more officers available for duty, improved training and efficiency and more opportunities for the officers' job advancement.

According to a booklet on police regionalization published by the DCA, disadvantages to police consolidation include officers' concerns that they could lose their

jobs, opportunities for advancement and identities as local police officers, and residents' concerns of losing the standard of police services which they are accustomed to, their small-town relationship with their police officers and local control over police department operations and policies.

"Our officers identify very strongly with the community which they serve - it's part of their pride in their role and their work," said retired Kingston Township police chief Paul Sabol, now director of the Back Mountain Communications Center.

"They're very caring men who see themselves as 'people helpers' as well as enforcers of the law. They're very proud to be policemen and enjoy working with one another."

In the old days, officers voluntarily worked overtime without pay, he added. It was their job.

"In a regional police force, you'll have one administrator who calls the shots," said Dallas Township supervisor Frank Wagner. "Its board has one vote per municipality and each community pays an equal share, no matter how large its population."

The two closest regional police departments, established January 1, 1991 and May 1, 1991, are in Berks County.

The state's largest regional department, Northern York County, was also the state's first, set up in November, 1972.

York County also boasts two other regional departments, established in 1983 and 1992.

**Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?  
A: Only in The Dallas Post**

**Kids will kick cancer**

Fourteen kids ranging in age from 7 to 14 will be kicking the day away to raise money for the American Cancer Society. They have pledged to kick up to 3,000 kicks before they finish and hopefully raise more than \$1,000 for local programs to benefit people with cancer.

The event will take place on Saturday, August 13 starting at 12 noon next to Campus Pizza. The event has been organized by Gary Barnes, owner and chief instructor. "The kids have become very excited about this," Barnes said. "They are learning a very important lesson about community involvement and how to give something back. We are very proud of these kids," he said.

Anyone who would like to get involved or make a donation on behalf of the kickers can call the American Cancer Society at 825-7763 or Barnes Kenpo Karate System at 675-5611.

**'Y' fall swim classes to begin Sept. 6**

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA will begin its fall session for progressive swim lessons for Preschool through high school on September 6.

For more information and registration call the Wilkes-Barre YMCA at 823-2191.

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Basic Principles of Accounting II Principles of Management Real Estate Fundamentals Financial Management Intermediate COBOL Programming * Writing for Mass Communications Japanese Culture New Testament	* Foundations of Education * Education of Exceptional Children Money and Banking Health Care Management Policies & Issues Organizational Communication Introduction to Paralegalism Pleadings Principles of Marketing	Intermediate Accounting I Auditing Management of Non-Profit Organizations Production Operations Management Computer Systems & Information Flow I Applied Software Development Project Mass Communications Law History and Theory of Film	Women in American Society Children's Literature The Romantics Legal Issues Affecting the Elderly Personnel Training & Development Real Estate Eastern Christianity
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\* Indicates classes begin at 6 p.m.

NOTE: Classes meet one night per week 6:30-9:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated. Classes Begin Monday, August 29

**ACCELERATED COURSE OFFERINGS**  
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**First Accelerated Session, August 27 - October 20**

Literature & the Arts	Mon/Wed 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
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Business Law I	Sat 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Catholic Perspectives	Sat 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Business Communications	Sat 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Second Accelerated Session, October 22 - December 15**

Historical Perspectives in Literature	Mon/Wed 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
The 20th Century: A Global Perspective	Tues/Thurs 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Business Law II	Sat 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Faith, Morality & the Person	Sat 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Theatre Experience	Sat 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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**For more information, call 826-5991**

The William G. McGowan School of Business at King's College offers Master of Science degrees in Accounting, Finance, Health Care Administration, and Taxation.

**FALL 1994 GRADUATE SCHEDULE**

All classes begin the week of Monday, August 29, and meet once a week.

Financial Management	Mon 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Financial Accounting	Tues 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
International Finance	Tues 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Quantitative Business Methods	Wed 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Financial Markets	Thurs 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Corporate Taxation I	Sat 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**FIRST ACCELERATED GRADUATE SESSION AUGUST 27 - OCTOBER 15**

Health Policy	Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
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**SECOND ACCELERATED GRADUATE SESSION OCTOBER 22 - DECEMBER 10**

Behavioral Medicine	Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Human Resources Management	Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

(course held at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, PA)

**In-Person Registration**

**Dates:** July 25 - August 25  
**Time:** Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** Center for Lifelong Learning  
King's College, 826-5865  
Administration Building  
1st Floor, Room 108  
133 North River St.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711