

Water

(continued from page 1)

should pay more attention to. "People think if they drill a well and get so many gallons per minute, they're in gravy," she said. "They don't know about well maintenance, testing and water quality standards. We should study our water supplies and systems and work in improvements before we have another drought."

With so many smaller water companies popping up all over the area, the former Back Mountain Regional Water Commission had suggested several years ago that area municipalities adopt uniform ordinances to standardize water lines, and asked the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) to consider taking them over, she added.

Organized in 1989, the water commission had unsuccessfully tried to survey wells and water supplies to form a database, but disbanded due to lack of money, power and computer access, according to chairman Jim Ward, who will moderate the forum.

"Our main accomplishment was an agreement which we worked out with the former Dallas Water Company, that they would not supply any new customers before their old customers had a reliable water supply," he said.

General Waterworks bought the Dallas Water Company and several other small local water companies shortly after the agreement with the water commission was set up, Ward said.

No local municipality has enacted a well ordinance, although since 1976, Kingston Township has required homeowners within 150 feet of a public water system to use it instead of drilling wells.

"People think if they drill a well and get so many gallons per minute, they're in gravy."

Ellie Rodda

Organizer of meeting about water

Since 1993, developers of subdivisions must either tie into an existing water system or drill a well for the residents, according to township manager Jeff Box.

These small independent water suppliers must also provide at least a day's storage capacity in case of a broken line or pump failure.

"The storage capacity is calculated on the number of homes in the development," he said. "So far only one new development falls into this category, but others eventually will."

Water suppliers are now also required to provide water to fire hydrants in the developments and to maintain a specific minimum flow and water pressure in the hydrants, Box said.

"The residents may not realize that there are very few fire hydrants around here, which contributes to higher home insurance rates," he said.

Ward contended that some smaller water companies may not have provided the mandatory reserve stored in a tank.

"They count the standing water in the system and people's pipes as the reserve," he said.

Kingston Township has nine

small stand-alone water companies.

"Economically it doesn't make sense to have so many small companies in one area," Box said. "They're operating without making any capital improvements back into the system. This year, two water companies have cut the pavement in three of our streets to fix leaks in mains that should have been replaced years ago."

Like Rodda, Ward also wants local residents and elected officials to understand the Back Mountain's water supply and delivery systems before another drought precipitates yet another crisis.

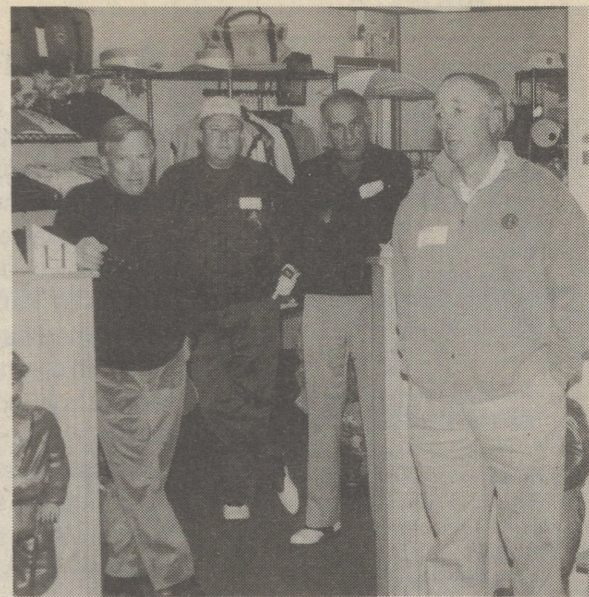
Droughts in 1988, 1990 and 1993 caused some area wells to go dry and gave many others cause for concern.

"The local municipalities have the responsibility to generate some control over our water," Rodda said.

Ward added that residents should also learn more about their water suppliers and the quality of their water, whether it comes from a public system or a private well.

"Water is like electricity—people automatically assume that it's always available and they can hook up to it whenever they want to," he said.

Only one local municipality requires new homes to hook up to public water



POST PHOTOS/IRON BARTIZEK

HUNTSVILLE GOLF CLUB 'COMES OUT' - Among those attending media day at Huntsville Golf Club were, in left photo, from left, Dave Anderson, golf writer and sports columnist for *The New York Times*, and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize; Bob Hooper, club member, and Harry Anderson, former Philadelphia Phillies outfielder. In right photo, Rees Jones, designer of the course, talked about its construction as, from left Richard Maslow, general partner, Tom McGrath, member, and Richard Caputo, golf chairman, looked on.

Huntsville Golf Club 'comes out'

The Huntsville Golf Club had a 'coming out' of sorts Monday, when it played host to members of the media. Writers from *Golf Digest*, *Golf* magazine, *The New York Times* and other publications were invited to try their hand on the championship course.

Rees Jones, designer, pointed out that Huntsville is unique among modern courses, having been built strictly as a golf club, with no consideration for real estate development or tourism trade.

Jones thanked Richard Maslow, president, for his commitment to the project, which began when

Jones first visited the area in 1988 to scout prospective sites. Unlike other courses, Huntsville was not designed to fit a parcel of land; instead, the land was acquired after it was seen to fit the goals of the course.

Maslow said some land remains undeveloped, and an additional nine or 18 holes could be added in the future.

Tim Foran, director of golf, said the course may seek to become a tournament site, if a significant event becomes available.

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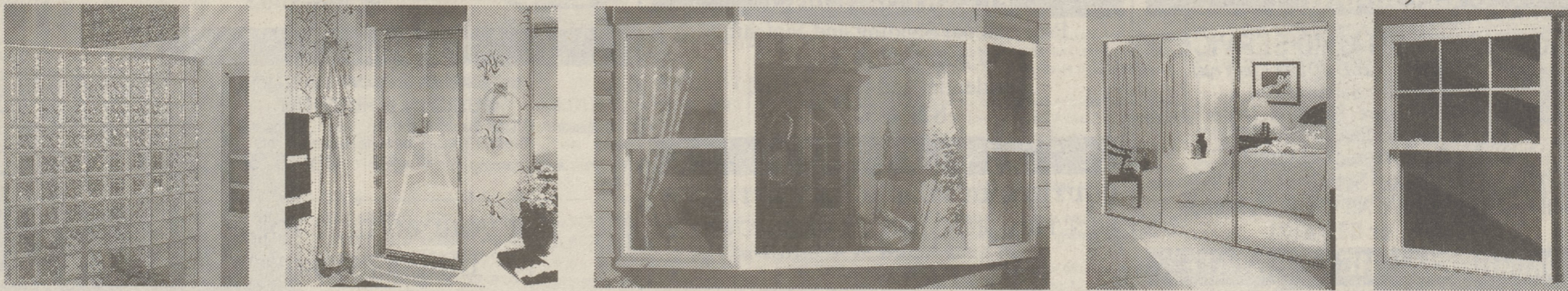
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