

Kingston Twp. adds two to police force

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - With help from a federal grant and the March 31 swearing-in of patrolmen Frank Buckler and James Ibbotson, the township has increased its police force to 10 officers.

Buckler, 38, has worked in law enforcement for 17 1/2 years and is a 10-year veteran of the Houston (TX) police force. He has also worked in Kennett Square, Exeter, Plains, Wyoming, Dupont and Jenkins Township and did a short hitch with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

"I was Houston's answer to Poncharella," he joked, referring to a motorcycle officer played by Erik Estrada on a popular TV show several years ago. In addition to solo motorcycle work, Buckler also worked on patrol, the radar task force, trained other officers and evaluated rookie offi-

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Frank Buckler
New Kingston Twp. police officer

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James Ibbotson
New Kingston Twp. police officer

cers' field performance while in Houston.

He holds an associate's degree from Luzerne County Community College, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Westchester State College and is a graduate of the Pennsylvania municipal police officer training course, the Houston police academy, radar instructor's course, and federal hazardous materials training. He has completed more than 1,000 hours of special studies.

"I went into law enforcement because I always wanted to help people and do something for the community," he said. "I wanted to

be either a professional baseball player or a police officer."

He got both wishes - when he's not out saving people's lives he coaches junior high baseball at Plains and is vice-president of the Plains Little League.

He said he applied to Kingston Township because "it's a good, professional department and one of the best in the valley."

Ibbotson, 30, is a former patrolman from Throop and a graduate of Lackawanna Junior College's municipal police officer training course.

"I know the Back Mountain from when I worked with Federal Express," he said. "I really like the area and the people."

He has had a lifelong interest in law enforcement and comes from

a family of police officers. His stepfather, uncle and brother-in-law are policemen in Philadelphia.

"Police work is the only thing I really wanted to do," he said.

Ibbotson's main interest is community police work, especially working with children and teens.

"You have to reach them at a very early age," he said. "The media, especially MTV, glorify crime and violence, making it more acceptable. Sometimes kids get into gangs and violence because of peer pressure. By focusing on the youth, we can head off many problems later."

Ibbotson and Buckler will train with another officer on all three shifts for at least the next six weeks, according to chief James Balavage.

Both officers will be required to move into the township within the next 18 months.

The township had budgeted for the hiring of one officer this year and received a federal grant funding 75 percent of the second officer's salary and benefits for three years.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE
NEW FACES ON THE FORCE - Kingston Township police chief James Balavage, center, recently swore in patrolmen James Ibbotson, left, and Frank Buckler, right.

Contractors working at lake will need permit

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Contractors working on the lakefront or in the lake bed will now be required to obtain a borough permit.

The council passed an encroachment ordinance requiring contractors to obtain permits before using pile drivers in the lake bed or building retaining walls along the lakefront at its regular April 18 meeting. No additional fees are required.

The original ordinance, rescinded at the January 17 meeting after several contractors protested it, had also required contractors using pile drivers to pay a yearly fee of \$100.

The council also voted to buy a lot belonging to Joseph Olenick at the end of Duffy's Road for \$3,000, to build a turnaround for borough road equipment. The borough owns and maintains Duffy's Road, but can't collect any Liquid Fuels money for it because it's a dead-end with no turnaround, according to Thomas Kehler.

"This will help Duffy's Road pay

for itself in two or three years," he said.

In other business, the council voted to:

- Hire two part-time police officers from the Civil Service list to replace part-time officer Justin Miller, who is on temporary leave, and assistant chief Ron Spock, who is out on disability leave.

- Permit the Irish Heritage Run to be held June 24 and the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon to be held August 13.

- Approve the Chollack subdivision.

At a special session held before the regular meeting, the council, solicitor Charles McCormick and concert promoter Thom Greco discussed Greco's plans for traffic control, security and noise for the amphitheater and its related businesses.

"We have a right to open and intend to abide by the laws, as we have done in the past," Greco said. "I'm trying to satisfy and placate some of the handful of people who complained about me. You'll always have complaints."

Property transfers

The following property deeds were filed in the Luzerne County Courthouse the week of April 7 - 13.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture FHA to Wesley B. Lewis, et ux, Dallas Heights, Dallas Borough, \$31,000.

Lydia P. Zimmerman, et al, to Shawn P. Casey, et ux, Lot 16 Sec. D. Freedman, Dallas Twp., \$2,250.

David J. Roarty, to Patricia A. Oleginski, 601 Meadows Newberry Est., Dallas Twp., \$75,000.

Michael J. Kester, Sr., et al, to John B. Magda, et ux, Shrine Acres, Dallas Twp., \$134,900.

Plymouth Capital Co. Inc., to Gregory Hlavac, 1 acre, Dallas Twp., \$52,000.

Anthony C. Vernacchio, et ux, to David J. Jones, et ux, 88C Walnut St., Harveys Lake Bor., \$17,500.

Betty June Erwine, to Catherine Perrillo, Pt. Lot 116 High St., Harveys Lake Bor., \$2,300.

Marie A. Hudson, et al, to Thomas J. Blight Jr., et al, Hemlock Gardens, Harveys Lake Bor., \$15,000.

Charles Dwayne Nafus, to Harry Lewis, Jr., et ux, 1.147 acres, Jackson Twp., \$78,500.

Leo J. Skoronski, et ux, to Augustus A. Diana, et ux, Harford Ave., Kingston Twp., \$119,900.

Lynda C. McDermott to Peter John Folds, et ux, 2.41 acres Hilltop Dr., Kingston Twp., \$210,000.

Arlis A. Wisniewski Estate to Jody Ike Brown, et ux, Cedar St., Lehman Twp., \$80,000.

Leo Mohen Estate to Donald Lulewicz, Oak Hill West Section, Lehman Twp., \$80,000.



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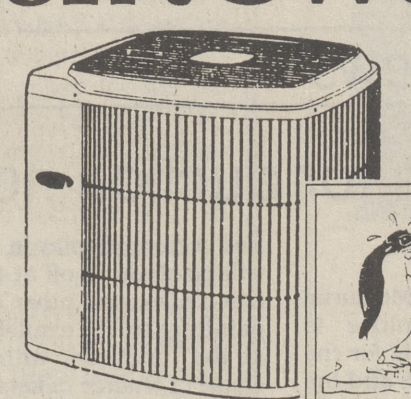
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