

Quarry

(continued from page 1)

blasting and mining stone straight ahead of you," Chesnovich said. "That area is in the agricultural zone on American Asphalt's land. It looks as if the company has gone outside the mining zone into the agricultural land."

"You can see all kinds of big stone which has been blasted, and piles of stockpiled crushed stone in that area," Lukas added.

Filip and Lukas agreed with Chesnovich's observations, but Krupa said the area which has been blasted and mined isn't where they pointed it out. It's off to the right of Filip's fence line, well within the mining zone, he said.

Lukas believes the perimeter around the mining area may only be 10 feet wide, not the 25 feet

required by Department of Environmental Protection surface mining regulations.

"If they're maintaining a 25-foot buffer zone, it's a very short 25 feet," he said.

He added that he also saw two pits full of water, one containing a small rock drill, along the border of the agricultural zone. "How can he have water in two ponds during a drought?" he asked. "I wonder if that water came from my old well."

Lukas blames blasting at the quarry for his well losing all its water over the past five years.

He is the third owner of the 30-year-old home, whose first well was more than 300 feet deep. Shortly after Lukas moved in 10 years ago, the pump broke. The

plumbing contractor who replaced it tested the well with sonar and told him it contained more than 200 feet of standing water.

Five years later when the well gave him problems again, the plumber ran another sonar test, which indicated the well's water level had dropped to 75 feet.

"We changed our schedules to give the well time to recharge, taking our showers in the morning and washing the laundry at night," he said.

This summer the well acted up again. Another sonar test showed the water level had dropped to 30 feet - not enough for his family to use. The only solution was to drill a second well.

"We drilled to 585 feet and only got about two gallons a minute,"

he said. "At 700 feet we quit drilling. We found enough water - 635 feet of it standing in the well - but because it recharges very slowly we still must stick to the morning shower and evening laundry routine."

Lukas also blames the blasting for causing his home, a raised ranch built on a concrete slab, to settle.

Recently cracks have begun to develop in his walls and the bottom of the baseboard in the downstairs rec room is now two inches above the concrete slab.

"The whole neighborhood shakes whenever they blast at the quarry," he said. "The settling and the well problems have only started in the past five years. They never happened before. How else

can you account for it?"

The section of American Asphalt's land on Hillside Road which is zoned agricultural was purchased in 1977 from Pennsylvania Gas and Water and was originally zoned C-1 (conservation.)

Chesnovich believes it is the section which quarry owner Bernard Banks unsuccessfully attempted to have rezoned for mining several years ago.

American Asphalt's owner, Bernard Banks, didn't return numerous telephone calls placed to his office during the past two weeks.

The quarry has been the sub-

ject of controversy before. In August, 1992, zoning officer Robert Culp told the supervisors the company was violating the zoning ordinance by mining too close to property lines and neglecting a three-foot high turkey wire fence separating the quarry from adjoining properties.

The zoning ordinance requires the company to surround the quarry with a six-foot chain link fence and to maintain a 25-foot buffer zone of unmined land around its perimeter. At that time Culp measured the width of the quarry's buffer zone, which he said was an average of 10 feet wide.

Candidates

(continued from page 1)

governments.

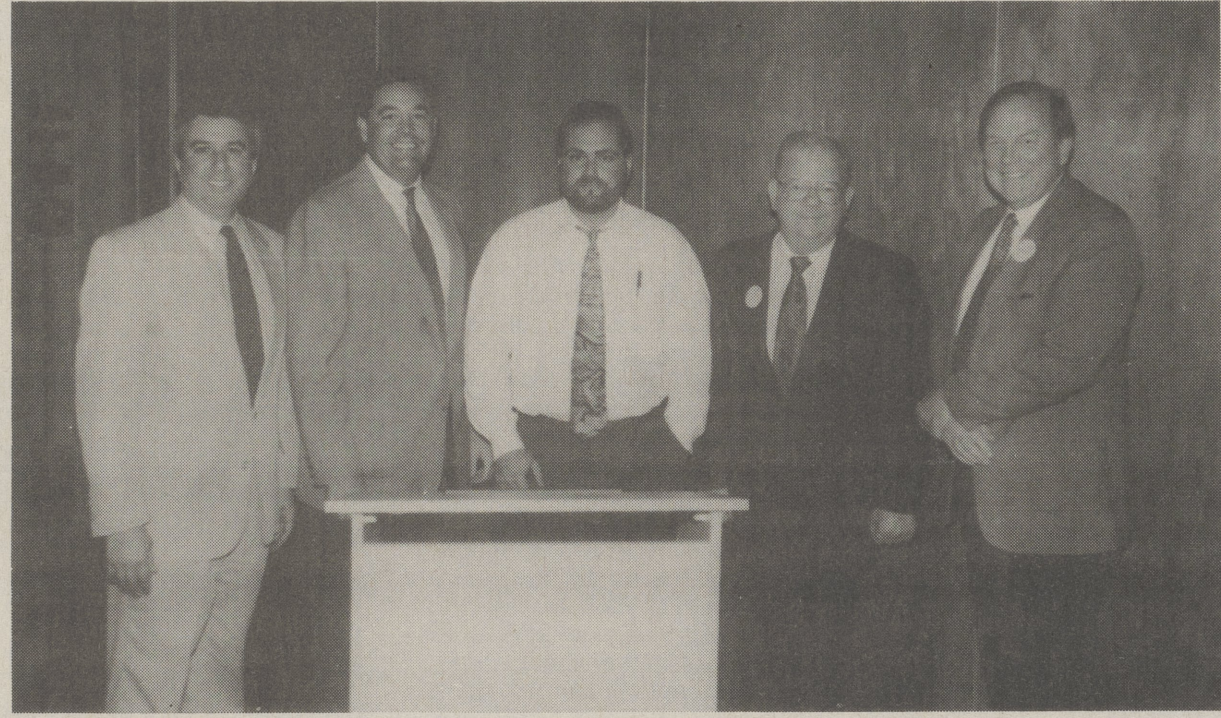
Makowski has been a solicitor for several municipalities and school districts, but pledged to resign those jobs to devote full time to the county office if elected.

Republican Joseph "Red" Jones had spoken first, and made the point that he and running mate Jim Phillips would devote all their time and energy to the county jobs. "I believe very strongly that your workers act like your leaders," Jones said, suggesting that county employees take their jobs less seriously when elected officials set less than a full time standard.

For his part, Phillips said that he has been a full time commissioner, and would continue to do so. He presented a strong pro-business argument, and praised Republican governor Tom Ridge's moves to make the state more accommodating to business and industry. "You can count on Red and me to be pro business," Phillips told the audience of about 50.

Jones proposes a county economic development commission composed of county, state and national officials and representatives from business and education. The group would meet monthly to share ideas that might stimulate the county economy. "I think public officials should at least communicate with each other," he said.

Phillips complained that the lines of communication aren't open now. He said he has repeatedly offered to accompany Chamber of Commerce teams that visit businesses considering the area, but has never been invited along. He also said the county was in the dark about the recent commitment by Harris Semiconductor to build a computer chip plant in Mountaintop, until it was time for the company to ask for tax breaks



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

The four candidates for county commissioner spoke at the Oct. 15 meeting of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association. From left, Tom Makowski and Frank Crossin, Democrats; BMBPA president John Alaimo; Joseph "Red" Jones and Jim Phillips, Republicans.

for locating here.

Crossin said later that the nature of government is to be reactive, and told how at the last minute the commissioners hammered out \$850,000 in tax relief for Harris to seal the deal. He pointed out county programs that offer low-interest loans and other incentives for business, which Phillips also said he supported.

Makowski said he hopes to see construction of Exit 46 off I-81 whether or not an arena is built. He cited the commercial development that has already taken place in that area, and said there is a great deal of room for more.

During a question and answer period after each candidate made a short speech, Phillips and Crossin were asked if other counties favor the move to an income or sales tax to replace much of the revenue generated by property taxes. Crossin said the county

commissioners' organization strongly favors such a change, but that every proposal has become bogged down in partisan politics in Harrisburg, with Democrats shooting down Republican proposals, and vice versa.

Dr. David Evans asked what would happen to real estate taxes if the county implemented an income or sales tax. There was no clear answer, only that some combination of income, sales and/or property taxes would be worked out to meet budget needs.

When Bart Slocum asked if there was any chance for tax reform this year, Crossin and Phillips responded there was almost none.

Crossin said the county's finances are in excellent shape with a surplus of \$4 to \$5 million. But several large projects lie ahead, including raising the dikes along the Susquehanna River.

He and Phillips also pointed out other county financial commitments, including health care of prisoners. The county has an agreement to pay for local care on a per-person basis, but must bear the full cost of special care that can't be provided here. In a recent case, the county was billed \$648,000 for a prisoner who had to be treated for 48 days at Hahnemann Hospital for a brain aneurysm. The charges were negotiated down to about \$300,000, which the county paid, but which was not in the budget.

The general election will take place November 7. Three of the four candidates will be elected. Democrat Rose Tucker decided not to run for another term, and Makowski was chosen along with Crossin in the Democratic primary in May, with Jones and Phillips the top Republican vote getters.

Bus

(continued from page 1)

ell Ave., which nobody maintains," Walton said. "There's a large sink hole there. They gave the school board a worst-case scenario by describing a ride on a section we don't even use."

She has asked the district to consider rerouting a van which picks up a special needs student on Huntsville Road. The van could drive up Center Hill to Reservoir, pick up the children, then turn down Machell and take either Pine Crest or Crescent Ave. to Huntsville Road to pick up the special needs student, Walton suggested.

Farr said the district has asked its van contractor, Russ Bus Service, to give them a price quote to drive on Reservoir Road. Russ

wanted \$50 per day, or \$9,000 per year, Farr said.

"We asked other contractors, but no one else would do it for a reasonable amount," she added.

Walton contends that a simple question has been blown out of proportion. "The bottom line is that community services are being provided to everyone else," she said. "Full-size garbage packers, construction equipment and flatbed tractor-trailers have traveled on this road. If a school bus can't, why doesn't the district send a minibus or a van? My children will be going to the Dallas schools for the next 17 years. If it takes that long, I'll get transportation back here."

Lehman's gain

(continued from page 1)

ing and authorized Ide to purchase coveralls for the road crew, to protect their clothing when they are working with tar to seal cracks in the road.

The supervisors will hold a public hearing on a request to rezone six acres owned by Francis Cornell from A-1 (agricultural) to

B-2 (business) at 8:30 p.m. October 23, to be followed by a special meeting to act on it.

Cornell wants to build a miniature golf course and go-car track featuring small replicas of Winston Cup race cars on the parcel, which is bounded by Route 118 and Trojan and Cornell roads.

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