

EDITORIALS

Before protest goes too far, Franklin Twp. parties should talk

The zoning battle that won't end continues to fester in Franklin Township, with property owners now suing the township over revisions that raised the minimum lot size in agricultural areas. The argument is basically this: by increasing the minimum lot in agricultural zones from two to three acres, the township has infringed on property owners' ability to make the best use of their land, and, absent a compelling reason to do so, the change is unjust and unwarranted. Common sense would also lead one to believe property owners would feel the change has decreased their lands' value.

The arguments might have some validity. The owner of 50 acres could subdivide the property into only 16 lots under the new zoning, instead of 25 under the old. While larger lots usually attract a higher price, the difference might not make up for the fewer number available for sale. That is not a certainty, since a given parcel of land could be better suited to larger lots or could offer attractions that would command a high price.

Township officials have said larger lots are needed to avert ground water contamination by septic systems, since there are no sanitary sewers to tap into. They say contamination has been a problem before, and could be again. There's also a political dimension to the tussle, since the zoning revisions were put in place by a new board of supervisors which swept into office last November.

We don't like to see a small town torn by dissension, nor is it useful to drain government coffers in a court case. The proponents of the larger lot sizes say they are supported overwhelmingly by the citizens of Franklin Township, and can point to the election results as proof. Opponents claim the size was changed for no good reason, other than to prevent more people from moving to the township.

It would be unfortunate if it turns out this is a political fight, and not one of real principle. Before either side spends a fortune on legal fees, the township supervisors and land owners should sit down together to find common ground, if there is any, and the public should be privy to each side's arguments. If that fails, a court may be the proper place to settle the dispute.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



There is a fundamental disconnect between some political rhetoric and the facts of American economic life in the 1990s. One of the tenets of conservatism is reduced government interference, particularly regulation and oversight of business. The result, they say, will be a vibrant market economy that will "lift all boats." But it doesn't always work that way. Left unchecked, some large businesses, rather than compete on a level playing field, will do their utmost to drive competitors out of the market. They can use "synergy," drawing on various divisions to support one another's activities, and often do so to hammer a weaker competitor into submission. And when they do, employment declines, prices rise, and choices diminish.

Once they hold sway, large organizations can pool talent, share resources and eliminate whole groups of employees in search of greater efficiency. There's nothing wrong with efficiency, or synergy, of course. It's how they are used that has become a problem, and not just for small businesses that must compete with large ones. It's a problem for the entire economy, because as industries become more compressed, they won't need to compete so hard, and will seek ways to employ fewer people.

One now virtually ignored area of regulation is anti-competitive and anti-trust oversight. Once upon a time, the government not only watched big business closely, it broke up oligopolies which threatened to dominate industries to the point that consumers and workers were made subservient to the will of the corporation. Not any more; government could be better described as a timid servant of big business, afraid to be accused of shackling the Free Enterprise machine and ultimately harming the economy.

But they might have it backwards. You need only read the statistics on job creation — which show most new jobs develop in small businesses — to realize that making economic life safe for huge companies can do more harm than good.

It's not just a big-picture issue. When large chain stores move into an area, as several have come to Northeastern Pennsylvania in recent years, they can use profits earned elsewhere to subsidize the new stores until competition thins out. And the large chains don't usually deal with local banks or suppliers, so if they drive out smaller competitors — who do their business here — the injury sinks down, instead of the boats rising up.

Not all large companies operate this way, of course. But some do, seeking to dominate a market at virtually any cost, so they can reap the rewards of near-monopoly status later on. That's the kind of behavior that is more harmful than helpful overall.



Fishing on a calm day at Harveys Lake. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LETTERS

Mr. Z's makes life easier for senior citizens

Editor:
It is with great pleasure that we want to thank the manager Tom Mertz from Mr. Z's Food Mart for giving two carts to the Meadows

Apartments, 220 Lake St. His generosity has eased a burden to the residents when the van picks them up to shop at Mr. Z's, so they can wheel their food to their apart-

ments.
Many, many thanks. God Bless you.
Residents of Meadows Apts. Dallas

Many people made memorial service success

Editor:
The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company, were proud to present our annual memorial service in honoring all those who gave their lives in service to their country and community.

This year was particularly successful due to the many special people who gave up their personal time to participate in our Ceremony.

We give a special thank-you to Rev. Ronald Cease, for his inspiring messages and prayers, from the Valley View Union Chapel Church. Also to coordinator of Battery B-109th, SFC Steven Stempien and N.C.O.I.C. SSG. Brian McMichael and the members of the Firing Squad of the Battery B109th Field Artillery of Naticoke National Guard. And with special thanks to O.I.C. Captain Kevin Miller, Kingston Army.

The Military Ceremony started off beautifully with bugler Dusty Rhodes - a 10th grader from Lake-

Lehman High School. He is a member of the award-winning Lake-Lehman Band, Honors Band, Honors Orchestra and is active in sports. Thank you Dusty.

Special thanks to Lt. Col. Keith Martin, PA Army National Guard Commanding the 3rd BN, 103rd Armor Division, who gave wonderful remarks on "Honor the Dead", Thank the Living."

Also remarks from M. Sgt. Neno Sartini, USAF Ret. Post 2 Kingston of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, spoke on POW's/MIA's. Thank you for being with us.

The wreath from Mary's Flower Garden, donated by the Ladies' Auxiliary was placed by the Dallas Boy Scout Troop 232, with Scoutmaster Bob Neher and the Jackson Township Brownie Troop 640, with troop leader Stephanie Yavorchak.

Our condolences to the families and friends of our beloved deceased ones. Thank you for attending our memorial service.

Thank you again to our Volunteer Firemen and Ambulance personnel, also to Chief Donald Jones,

and all the other police officers, and to all of the special guests who attended our Memorial Service.

Thanks to Karen Richards and Charles Kasko for the wonderful programs they made and donated.

Thank you for the new POW/MIA, flag and all the American flags given to the Boy Scouts, Brownies and all the children in attendance, donated by Andrew Kasko.

Chairpersons Desiree Evans, SFC. Steven Stempien, Charles Kasko, Karen Richards and Irene Kasko Preslipski, would like to extend our gratitude for the beautiful Honor Site.

We want to give a special thank you to all the officers of the Auxiliary for a job well done, each year, president, Bernice Manzoni; vice president, Grace Fielding; secretary, Anna Manzoni and treasurer, Desiree Evans.

Irene Kasko Preslipski
Desiree Evans
Ladies' Auxiliary
Jackson Twp Vol. Fire Co.

Dallas High School needs a swimming pool

Editor:
Dallas has grown tremendously in the past 20 years. It is not the same small community it was when the high school was built in 1961. The area is in need of

change. It's time to give something back to the community.

Swimming is not just a sport. It is a recreation for all ages. A school swimming pool is a great asset to any community. A pool is something the Back Mountain

would be proud of.

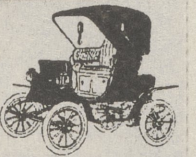
We should grow as a community. We are in full support of a Dallas school swimming pool.

Bob and Mary Ellen Duris
Shavertown

Your news is welcome

The Dallas Post welcomes submissions about Back Mountain people and events. In order to plan each issue, we must adhere to self-imposed deadlines, as well as those of our printer. To have the greatest likelihood of publication, items should be received at our office by 4 p.m. the Friday prior to each issue. Items will be accepted until 4 p.m. Mondays, although much of the paper is already assembled by that time. Send or bring items to: The Dallas Post, 45 Main Road, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Our normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. A deposit box is located at the front of the building for after-hours submissions.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - June 19, 1936 HARVEYS LAKE TOPS IN AREA QUOIT LEAGUE

Possibility of an appeal by Norman Dinger from Judge William S. McLean's decision invalidating his three year contract with Dallas Borough School District arose this week as parties involved awaited the results of an effort to have the Luzerne County Court en banc to re-open Mr. Dinger's suit.

Harveys Lake quoit team has taken an early lead in the Rural Quoit League with 50 wins, and 14 defeats. Skytop and Fernbrook are tied for second.

50 Years Ago - June 21, 1946 RENT CONTROLS HIT AREA LANDLORDS

One thousand six hundred landlords in the Back Mountain area are expected to register their housing projects, with the Office of Price Administration at Dallas Borough High School, June 27-28, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. All landlords except those who rent their properties only part of the year, such as Harveys Lake cottages and summer residences, must have their properties registered by July 15 to be in compliance with the Federal Rent Control program. Local registration will be for landlords living in Dallas Borough, Kingston, Dallas, Lehman, Lake and Jackson Townships.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin K. Elston, will celebrate their 50th anniversary June 23 with an open house. They are the parents of six children, have 18 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

40 Years Ago - June 15, 1956 SCHOOLS STONEWALL SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL

Dallas, Franklin and Monroe Twp. School boards presented a stone wall of resistance to election of James Martin as supervising principal of the newly formed Dallas Area Schools Jointure at Tuesday night's meeting until a retirement age of 65 was fixed. Retirement age varies in districts throughout Luzerne County, but is mandatory at 70, and varies from 62 to the ceiling limit.

Three seniors from Lake-Noxen class of 1956 ran neck and neck for high honors, Jeanette Ide and Judy Searfoss tying for first place, Charlotte Kocher, placing a close second. Charlotte, who would normally have given the Salutatory, introduced the speaker, Herbert Dushak, while Judy gave the Welcome and Jeanette the Valedictory.

30 Years Ago - June 16, 1966 BORO BUYS LOT FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

With an eye to the future Dallas Borough Council has purchased a corner lot on Pinecrest Avenue and Huntsville Road. A new municipal building or voting place are possibilities. The large lot was purchased from a California resident for \$1500.

Nine boys from this area serving in Vietnam are receiving *The Dallas Post*. It was announced some time ago Mrs. Howard Risley would follow the pattern set by her husband at the time of World War II sending *Posts* to these boys as a gift.

20 Years Ago - June 17, 1976 L-L CONSIDERS BUYING MODULAR CLASSROOMS

Faced with problems of maintaining two aged school buildings and overcrowding in still another facility, Lake-Lehman's School Board reviewed the possibility of purchasing modular classroom units during the course of its monthly meeting. Director Angelo DeCesaris stated that he is "reluctant to spend money to replace fixtures in antiquated buildings" and suggested that the 40-year guarantee offered on modular units indicates that the structures can be regarded as permanent buildings.

Dallas Borough Council asked Police Chief Ray Titus to establish a number of new "speed traps" in the borough. The council mentioned Lake Street, Main Street, and the Davenport and Sterling thoroughfares as possible sites for the traps.

Anthony Bonomo requested information from council concerning his proposed project to build a roller skating rink in the area.

The Dallas Post

Published Weekly By Bartsen Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
717-675-5211

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