Council

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important, even though the municipalities decided it wasn't in their best interests to proceed, she added.

The studies grew from a concern that the tremendous development boom in the nearby Pocono Mountains during the 1980's could spread here, Eckert said.

"Explosive development quickly overloaded all municipal services, the health care system and the schools in the Poconos," she said. "We wanted to take a broader approach in in case it spread here."

"Before the Dallas Area Municipal Authority took over recycling, we had a recycling committee," Eckert said. The organization also discussed forming a 911 system with Commonwealth Telephone before Luzerne County was interested in the idea. Commonwealth implemented 911 in the Back Mountain on its own in 1990.

The Citizens' Council also produced a map of the region showing its many municipal zoning districts, held a public forum on wetlands and worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to form

a Traffic Management Association.

Concerned with highway safety along the Route 309/415/118 traffic corridor after the opening of the Cross-Valley Expressway in late 1991, the TMA worked closely with area legislators and PennDOT to obtain or upgrade traffic signals at seven off the area's 10 most heavily used intersections

One of the Citizens' Council's spinoff organizations is the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association (BMBPA), whose membership is open to anyone who lives or works in the Back Mountain.

Formed in 1992, the registered non-profit organization provides a voice on issues which affect area businesses, coordinates special events and sales, helps members become acquainted with one another and their respective products and services and encourages members to do business with one another.

Each year the association produces and distributes a directory of members and keeps students at the area's two colleges informed

"Before the Dallas Area Municipal Authority took over recycling, we had a recycling committee."

Nancy Eckert First BMCC president

of about the range of products and services available in the Back Mountain. It also donated an annual scholarship to one student each at Dallas, Lake-Lehman, College Misericordia and the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.

The BMBPA donated the first resources of the CD-ROM collection to the Back Mountain Memorial Library, sponsored an Easter egg hunt last spring at Penn State and has begun a beautification and maintenance project in the triangular grassy area at the intersection of routes 309 and 415.

"It's important for the business people to get acquainted," said founder and first president Bartt Slocum. "The Back Mountain's business district is so spread out that many people in business didn't know one another. The size of the area can make it difficult to coordinate events.

He said the Back Mountain Citizens' Council was "a big help" in getting the association off the ground.

In return, the community has given the BMBPA an excellent response, Slocum added.

"We have many great people out here who have many great ideas," he said. "The key is participation by as many members as possible.

Present president Dr. John Alaimo said the association has about 100 members, who pay annual dues of \$75.

We help man the food booth at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction and had hordes of kids attend our first Easer egg hunt this spring," he said. "We

also plan to help the Kiwanis with its annual Halloween parade and party this fall.'

He said being president of the BMBPA is "something I'm really into doing," crediting assistant secretary Mary Ellen Gianuzzi with doing much of the legwork. "I rely on her a lot," he said.

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, the Citizens' Council's second spinoff organization, was formed in March, 1994, by a group of 14 people interested in finding a balance between development and preserving places of significant historical, ecological, aesthetic or agricultural importance.

According to administrator Linda Thoma, the Land Trust recently acquired its first conservation easement, a 43-acre property near Shickshinny.

Conservation easements, which can be as creative as their owners wish, are perpetual, unrevokeable contracts specifying the type of development allowed on a person's property, which may be kept in the family, sold or rented.

For the past three years the Land Trust has set up a booth at the Luzerne County Fair. New on

Kingston Twp.

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its agenda is a booth at the Wyoming County Fair, slated for La-Day weekend bor in Tunkhannock.

"There's increased community interest, especially in Wyoming County, where there's a great agricultural industry," said founding member Will Conyngham.

The Citizens' Council's dissolution will help the Back Mountain Memorial Library and the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, which will split the Council's remaining \$4,152 treasury. The funds will honor the memory of former Dallas school board member Anne Vernon and Citizens' Council co-founder Larry Law, who owned a buffalo farm in Sweet Valley.

"Our bylaws require that remaining money be donated to nonprofit organizations," said Ray Boyle, current and last president of the group.

"It's remarkable that such a group decides to disband and move on after accomplishing its goals," said library representative Dr. Wallace Stettler. "I salute you for that."

Women's group

(continued from page 1)

information. It covers elected positions almost all the way up to president," she said. "We also refer women and children needing help to the appropriate social agencies and suggest names of qualified women to the Luzerne County commissioners when vacancies occur in decision-making roles in the county."

She serves on the committee which has composed a data bank of names and qualifications of women interested in serving in such roles and which makes this information available to the county commissioners.

"We have a good working relationship with them," she said. "The present county board of commissioners has been very open to us."

Fellow LCCW member Margie Bryant is the commission's only blue-collar member. A resident of Loyalville, she delivers the mail in Noxen, which she says has given her a different perspective.

"Sometimes people on my route are waiting for their checks," she said

Margie, who attends LCCW meetings in jeans, added that she brings a touch of humor and a practical point of view to meetings, during which members can become "too tied up with con-

"I wish there was more help out there for women, mothers and the elderly." **Margie Bryant** Loyalville

number of women in top leadership and policy-making positions in government and the professions, and advocating for the rights of women and children in all areas and situations in the county.

It sponsors a speakers' bureau, a communications link with local legislators, a countywide newsletter and celebrates Women's History Month in March. The commission monitors all local boards and authorities and supplies them with names of qualified and interested women when vacancies occur. It also refers women to organizations seeking qualified women for management or executive positions.

Future plans include conducting hearings on women's issues in the county, expanding the speakers' bureau, promoting women's history throughout the year, continuing to participate in the Luzerne County Women's Conference and improving the gender balance in local and county government. Because of its mission, the commission considers every woman in the county to be a member. A 20-woman committee appointed by the county commissioners serves three-year terms on one of three standing committees - advocacy, women 's history and WILPOWR (Women in Leadership Promoting our Wealth of Resources). The county commissioners select members based on geographic representation, diversity in interests and diversity in backgrounds from a list of women who have completed a form, available in the Commission for Women's office on the ground floor of the courthouse.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Back Mountain Regional Land Trust administrator Linda Thoma, Back Mountain Citizens' Council past presidents Will Conyngham and Ray Boyle, Back Mountain Memorial Library representative Dr. Wallace Stettler and Back Mountain Citizens' council outgoing president Nancy Eckert attended the council's last official function, the presentation of checks to the library and the Land Trust.

on the Status of Women in Luzerne County, the LCCW identified eight areas of concern, including the need for more women to serve in decision-making positions, employment, public housing, life skills for those on low incomes, health care, child and adult adult day care and discrimination in clubs throughout the county.

In its 1989 Preliminary Report approximately 60¢ for every dollar earned by men, according to the report. Only ten percent of those serving on policy-making bodies and 25 percent serving on county boards and authorities are women.

> Located in the Luzerne County Courthouse, the LCCW office is

The township will also apply for a \$1,000 state grant for instructional materials and t-shirts for the DARE classes, which will resume in the fall in the fifth grades of the Dallas district.

Manager Jeff Box will advertise for bids for the new cruiser, but said he can't quote an exact price until he receives actual bids.

At their meeting Aug. 14, the supervisors unanimously voted to accept approximately 1 1/2 miles of Pioneer Ave. between Rte. 309 and Druid Hills as a township road and a payment of \$166,186 from the state department of transportation (PennDOT) to improve the roadway.

Although the state owned Pioneer Ave., many residents weren't pleased with the way PennDOT maintained it, especially during the winter, Box said. Two years ago the township agreed to do snow plowing on the road for the state.

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He added the township expects to receive \$6,250 in Liquid Fuels money, calculated on \$2,500 per lane per mile, from the state for the road.

After the meeting supervisor Herb Hill said Pioneer Ave. was one of the area's original roads to Harveys Lake. "You took either Pioneer Ave. or Main Road into Dallas, then Lake Street to the lake," he said. "My family moved up there with our business when it was still a dirt road."

In other business, the supervisors unanimously voted to reject a \$2,555 bid from Winner's Motors in Woodside, NY, on the 1992 Chevrolet Cruiser, to advertise for bids on the 1989 cruiser instead and to give re-elected or newly elected supervisors a 100 percent raise, from \$25 to \$50 for all advertised meetings. Supervisors whose terms haven't expired won't get the raise until they are reelected.

cepts

She sees the commission as a medium for social action as well as a political force.

"I'm oriented to results," she said. "I wish there was more help out there for women, mothers and the elderly. I became interested in the needs of the elderly after working in a personal care home. For example, there's no day care for babies in diapers and too little adult day care.

A LCCW member for the past five years, Margie became interested in it from conversations with her good friend, Jan Kelly, who told Margie her job and background would be an asset to the commission.

"I would really love to see women serving on county boards who have literally worked their way up from the bottom," she said.

The Luzerne County Commission for Women was created by a resolution of the county commissioners in March, 1988. It evolved from two major women's groups the Wyoming Valley Women's Network and the Women's Coalition of Greater Hazleton.

It is dedicated to increasing the

"We represent women from all walks of life, all occupations and situations." **Florence Harry** LCCW member

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Although women comprise

more than 45 percent of the county's workforce, women earn

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