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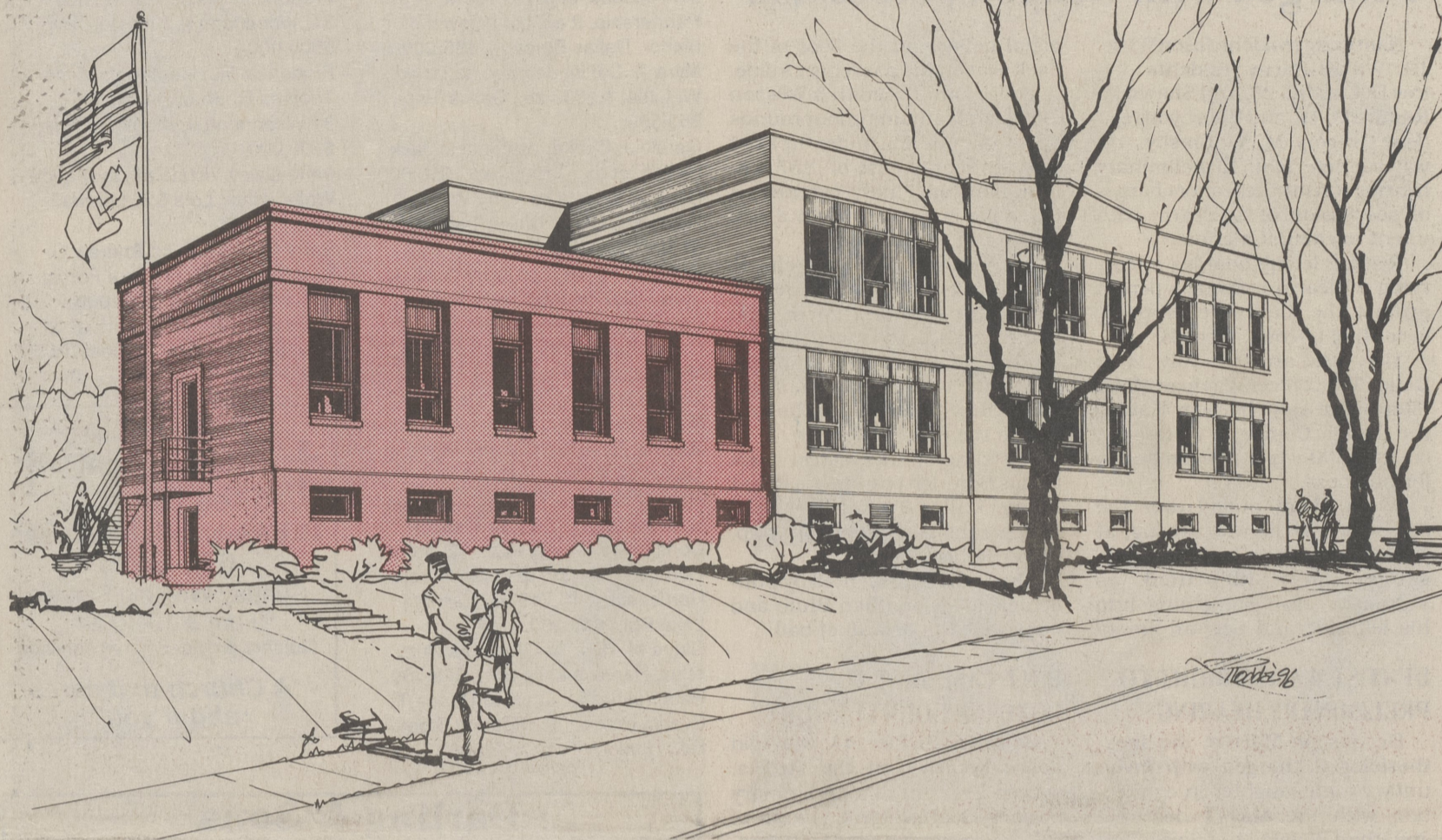
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## Children's wing fund drive ready to take flight

Architect Paul Rodda drew this rendering of the new children's wing, which will be added to the Back Mountain Memorial Library. The new section is shaded.



**Children's area is target for \$500,000 drive**

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Even as the Back Mountain Memorial Library moved into its present building, the former Dallas Borough High School, in 1985, staff members knew the children's area would outgrow its quarters.

Now, everyone who cares about the library is being invited to a "Kick-Off Gala" Sept. 20, to formally open a campaign to enlarge and modernize the children's area.

With 12,000 books, display cases filled with all sorts of fascinating items, stuffed wild animals and many other materials, the 720 square foot former classroom can seem formidable to a little one who can't reach books stored on high shelves and can't see the neat things in the show-cases.

The room is often closed for Story Hour and other programs, because there simply isn't enough room for the participants and kids who want to come in and browse. The lack of space has also limited program enrollment.

"The children's room is the same size as the one we had in our old

*"The children's room is the same size as the one we had in our old building on Main Street."*

Marilyn Rudolph  
Children's Librarian

building on Main Street," said children's librarian Marilyn Rudolph. "It's more convenient than the old area was because we're very close to the area used by parents, but it's still cramped."

The library board of directors and administration hope to change that with a new wing added to the front of the library that will triple the size of the children's room, and make the area more user-friendly, according to architect Paul Rodda of Shavertown.

"This isn't an architect's ego trip - we're playing this very conservatively and using the library's money as efficiently as possible," Rodda said. "In addition to making the exterior of the new wing conform to the original architecture, I have divided the children's wing into three areas. Roughly a third will be used for Story Hour and children's programs, a third for audio-visual and electronic resources and a third for the books and an area for browsing."

His plans also call for opening

See LIBRARY, pg 8

## Township is stymied on 'eyesore' cleanups

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**KINGSTON TOWNSHIP** - Rice Ave. in Trucksville is a quiet neighborhood of neat homes on well-kept lots, whose owners are proud of their properties. The street ends in the woods, where kids have built a tree house.

Residents of the dead-end street have been trying since 1989 to get the township to help get two lots cleaned up, a home with peeling paint and junk in the front, back and side yards, and an abandoned mobile home set up on rickety pilings and two 4 x 4's.

Paint has peeled down to the bare wood on the white bungalow at 83 Rice Ave., whose owner of record is Donald Cool, according to zoning officer Ben Gorey. Cool's stepson, Douglas Vankeuren, Jr., 34, died in the home August 8 of a suspected heroin overdose.

A child's inflatable pool full of water, two lawn mowers under a small blue tarp and a black car sit near the front porch, which tilts

*"It's definitely a nuisance structure which we're trying to eradicate."*

Jeff Box  
Kingston Township Manager

precariously at one corner and is supported by two shaky-looking columns. In the narrow side yard, a pile of lumber topped with an old toboggan lean against the house.

The back porch, accessible by a rickety set of stairs, is crowded with trash cans, tires, a roll of wire, at least six lawn chairs and other junk. Below it, the remnants of a rusty old swing set, a bicycle frame, several garden tools and other unidentifiable items sit next to the cellar door, which has a broken glass pane. A dark blue van with no back window has sat in the back yard for several years, neighbors say.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

The rear porch and yard of this home at 83 Rice Ave. are cluttered with old tires, lawn chairs, a rusty swing set and other items. Neighbors have asked township officials to make the owner clean it up.

Neighbors say the home has suffered two fires within the past 10 years.

While standing on the front porch of a home diagonally across the street from the Cool home, a reporter visiting the neighborhood Sept. 7 could plainly hear a man's

voice utter a stream of expletives.

Owned by either William or Colette Heck, the mobile home at 81 Rice Ave. is set up on several cinder block pillars which lean crazily, with two unstable looking

See EYESORES, pg. 8

## Supervisors end ban on new permits in Crown Hill

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP** - The supervisors unanimously voted to end the ban on issuing building permits in Crown Hill Village at their regular Sept. 3 meeting.

The ban was enacted several years ago after several homeowners' wells were found to be contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria. Each of the 30 lots has its own well and on-site septic unit.

The supervisors also cited a long-standing dispute over ownership of the development's three roads - narrow, rutted dirt tracks barely wide enough for a car to pass through - as another reason to limit building in Crown Hill.

The developer had originally listed Crown, Hill and Farmview drives as "certain lots in Crown Hill," then allowed them to go for the sheriff's tax sale. No one

bought the roads, which then were transferred to the county's repository list, a sort of legal limbo which doesn't define who actually owns them - the county or the township.

For the past two years the county and the township have attempted to hammer out an agreement for one or the other to take the roads over.

According to zoning officer Art Owen, the township has found out that the county owns the roads. "Before anyone can get a building permit from us, they must first get a driveway permit from the county," he said.

"As far as we're concerned, both issues - the wells and the roads - have been resolved and we don't want to get into litigation by continuing to limit building permits there," said chairman Bill Miller.

"If we refuse to issue building

See FRANKLIN TWP. pg 8

## Board members surprised property survey lacking

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - School board members were aghast to learn that the district doesn't have a complete survey of the 100-acre plot of land housing the Dallas Elementary, middle and high schools.

Paul DiGillio of Quad Three Groups, who is completing the studies for a proposed new elementary school, reported the lack of a survey at the board's regular Sept. 9 work session. Only 25 percent of the campus has been surveyed, he said.

"You mean we have more than \$60 million in equity up there on the campus and no survey? This is disgraceful!" said board member Joe Kunec.

"The district didn't have to have

it done in the past, so why should we have spent the money?" John Litz fired back.

"This should have been done a long time ago," said solicitor Ben Jones, noting that the district's newest building is the Dallas Elementary School, which was originally a modular building set up in 1973.

A boundary survey and topographical study will cost the district approximately \$15,400, DiGillio said. "This is a tough time of year to find a surveyor," he added. "They're all tied up on other projects."

He noted the district doesn't need the survey immediately. Quad Three can complete the state-mandated paperwork (Plan-Con A and B) leading up to selection of a building site and design

*"You mean we have more than \$60 million in equity up there on the campus and no survey?"*

Joe Kunec  
School board member

of a new school. Quad Three will earn \$28,000 for completing Plan-Con A and B.

If the district builds a new school with Quad Three as architect, the company will earn six percent of the total cost of the project, which has been estimated at \$6-7 million

He asked the board to appoint

a committee to help with the Plan-Con study of the district's grade structure and curriculum, suggesting that it be composed of two Westmoreland teachers, one Dallas Elementary teacher, one member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, three members of the community, two representatives of the Westmoreland PTO and one representative of the Dallas Elementary PTO.

Wycallis said he would contact the building principals for names of possible committee members.

The board also discussed investing any municipal bond money which it receives for the building project into a bond fund, which can generate up to \$500,000 in interest. Members will meet with

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### Redemption!

Mountaineers bounce back to shut out Meyers, look ahead to Nanticoke. Pg 9.

### Fairest at fair

Luzerne County Fair queen chosen from 10 hopefuls. Pg 11.

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