

Library

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the wall between the circulation area and the children's wing, redesigning the main circulation area, enclosing an office for the librarian, installing a glass wall between the reading room and the circulation area, adding air conditioning to the circulation area and children's room and installing computer stations for access to a resource file. He's even redesigned the restrooms and added a diaper changing station for parents with babies.

"Color, furnishings and light from a skylight will help define the areas in the children's wing," Rodda said. "There will also be a place for special displays and to hang flags or banners."

The new wing's lower level will eventually house a permanent used book store and restrooms to replace the Job Johnnies rented each year for the auction. Rodda has designed the new wing so it can support a second floor in the future, if necessary.

Groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for 1997.

To fund the new children's wing, the library board has planned a capital funds campaign Kick-Off

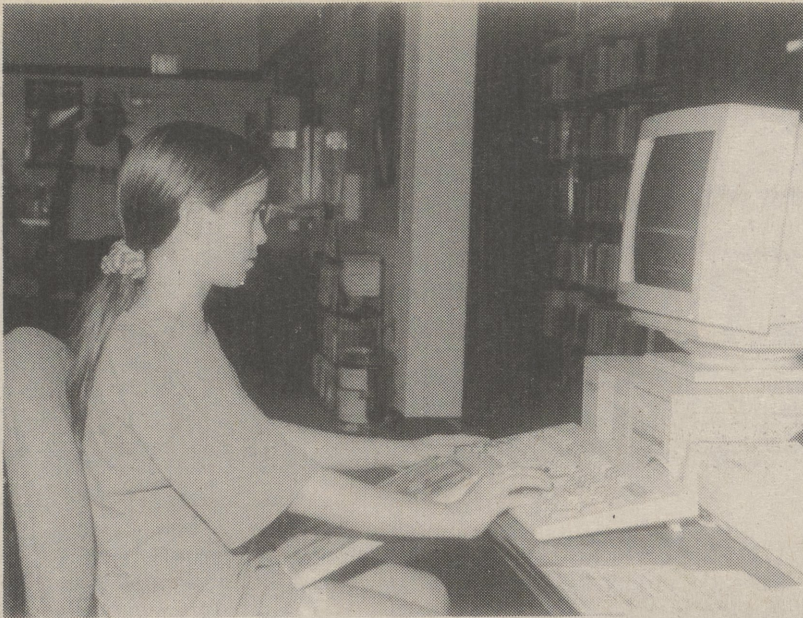
Gala Sept. 20 at 5 p.m., when board president Ruth Tetschner will present a brief program to the public.

Special guests will include students of the Major Performing Arts Center in Trucksville, who will perform a unique program, "Watch Ideas Soar!" A butterfly release will complement the theme.

Chaired by Dr. Wallace Stettler, the capital funds campaign committee has set a minimum goal of \$500,000 in donations. The library will also apply for a state matching grant, but must have its share committed before it can submit the grant application.

Assisted by Debbie Kirkwood, who is compiling the database, the capital funds campaign committee will contact as many members of the community as possible to solicit donations.

With more than 12,000 patrons, the Back Mountain Memorial Library has been serving the community for the past 50 years and is the county's fourth largest library. It circulates more than 90,000 items - books, periodicals, audio tapes, videotapes, compact digital discs and large print materials - each year. Its latest



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Holly Neiman, 11, of Franklin Township, looked up information on Jack London and *The Call of the Wild* on the computer at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

improvements include computerized CD-ROM resources, access to resources in any library in Luzerne County and a new community room available for meetings of nonprofit organizations.

Its special programs for kids include the popular Story Hour, programs for Children's Book

Week in November, a preschool program, a summer reading program for elementary school students, materials for literacy programs, nature videos and school class visits.

For more information on the capital funds campaign call 674-6003.

School board

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Donald McFadden of the Stevens and Lee law firm and representatives of PNC Bank before making a decision.

Board members also voted to enter into a supply purchasing consortium coordinated with West Side Tech and five schools on the West Side. For an initial \$3,500 the district can purchase general, maintenance, data processing and electrical supplies at a savings of 10 to 15 percent.

Bids through the consortium will go out in February for the 1997-98 school year, with supplies delivered directly to each

district, according to business manager Charlotte Williams.

During the regular meeting the board unanimously approved a list of substitute teachers, volunteers at the Westmoreland Elementary School, student teachers from Wilkes and College Misericordia, SAT exam coaches, volunteer football coaches and special needs aides.

Board members noted that Rep. Phyllis Mundy, chairman of the House Education Committee, will visit the Dallas Elementary School and the high school Sept. 23.

Franklin Twp.

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permits at Crown Hill, there will be lots of people bitching about it at the courthouse," added supervisor Robert Redmond.

Solicitor Susan Mazza noted that people who buy lots do so at their own risk. "If the land passes the percolation test (for septic units) you can't legally withhold a building permit," she said.

In other business the supervi-

sors unanimously voted to join the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' drug and alcohol awareness program, required by state law for all supervisory personnel.

The township can join the program for \$125, which Miller said is cheaper than sending each supervisor individually for the course.

Eyesores

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4 x 4's holding up one end. The front lawn is a tangle of high weeds with a pile of cinder blocks in one corner.

An electrical service wire has been disconnected from the trailer and is wrapped around a utility pole in the front yard. Two windows, one boarded up, are broken and the roof on one end is puckered where it joins the walls.

In the back yard, a tangle of very high weeds surrounds an old chimney.

A blue-gray Dodge pickup truck with expired tags and an inspection sticker dated 1995 sits on the road in front of the two structures.

"You walk up there and see it's not well-kept at all," said Jann Kriner. "It detracts from the street." She's concerned the trailer might harbor wild animals because her cat once brought home a rat, which she suspects had set up housekeeping in the trailer.

"When we moved here 43 years ago people kept their homes painted and their grass cut," said Bernie Jones, who described how a dog tied to a front porch pillar at 81 Rice Ave. pulled it loose and dragged it down the road one day. "In 1989 I circulated a petition asking the supervisors to make them clean the places up and 95 percent of the people on the street signed it."

Other neighbors who declined to identify themselves described the properties as "disgusting" and "a shame." They're afraid the two lot owners might try to retaliate against them or their children if they say too much. "They scare me," one woman said.

Since September, 1988, the township has filed several legal actions against William and/or Collette Heck - the true owner's identity is unclear - to get the Hecks to either remove the mobile home or bring it up to township standards.

"We have been back and forth with them in court for years," said zoning officer Ben Gorey. "Originally the property contained a small house, which William Heck told us he planned to renovate. We approved his request to bring in a trailer only for the duration of the work on the house."

Instead Heck demolished the home and informed the township he planned to live in the trailer, Gorey added. At the time, the township had a zoning ordinance restricting mobile homes to mobile home parks.

After a state court decision about five years ago declaring such restrictions illegal, the township amended its mobile home ordinance to allow house trailers in all residential areas as long as they are set up on masonry footers or a masonry basement.

The township ordered the Heck family to remove the trailer in April, 1989 and filed a complaint with the late District Justice Earl Gregory the following July, according to letters which township manager Jeff Box sent to Jones in reply to his questions.

The Hecks filed a variance for the trailer, which was denied, in October, 1989, then appealed it to Luzerne County court.

In 1993 the township filed a civil suit against Florida resident Collette Heck, who claims to be an

"When we moved here 43 years ago people kept their homes painted and their grass cut."
Bernie Jones
Rice Ave. resident

attorney representing herself in the matter, for violating its zoning and building codes.

"The owner has utilized every legal mechanism at her disposal to stall and delay all actions against her," Box wrote to Jones in March, 1993.

In November, 1994, Luzerne County judge Hugh Mundy signed a court order directing Heck to bring the property into full compliance with township codes within six months. If Heck didn't obey the court order she could be found in contempt of court and the township could correct her property's deficiencies itself, Box wrote to Jones in November, 1994.

But Heck threw the township another curve by attempting to transfer ownership of the property to her father, William Heck, the day before the hearing in Luzerne County court. William Heck recently died and Ms. Heck has not yet created an estate for him, according to township solicitor Ben Jones.

The supervisors have now instructed Jones to file contempt of court proceedings against the Heck family by the end of the month for failing to live up to the

original court order issued by Mundy.

"The township believes Ms. Heck is the real party in interest here, notwithstanding her attempt to convey the premises to another owner during court proceedings," Jones said.

"The property has a complicated legal history," said Box, who added that municipal officials regularly inspect the property every few months. "It's definitely a nuisance structure which we're trying to eradicate."

He added that municipal officials also plan to inspect the Cool home for health and safety violations by the end of the month.

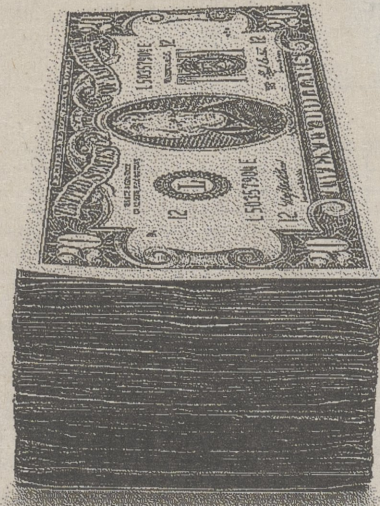
Business Association to meet

Ruth Hughes from the Wilkes University Small Business Development Center will be the speaker at the Sept. 12 meeting of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association. The meeting will begin at 11:45 a.m. at the Pine Brook Inn on Lower Demunds Rd. in Dallas, and will include lunch. A charge of \$6 will include the cost of the lunch. Please make reservations by calling 675-9380 and leaving a message. Prospective members are invited to attend.

Firefighters collect aluminum drink cans

The Shavertown Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank everyone in the community who has been donating their aluminum beverage cans during our Aluminum Drive. The fire company is still far from the goal and in need of the community's help. Please, remember to drop off aluminum cans in the drop off box. It's a great way to help without affecting the family budget.

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