

EDITORIALS

Home owners come first in zoning matters

Land use is one of the most important issues in communities like the Back Mountain. Many property owners have the bulk of their savings invested in a home or business property, and they are wise to be vigilant about nearby buildings and land, and the impact the condition and use of them will have on their own property. That is the case in Dallas Borough, where a large turnout is expected for a hearing to consider a request to change the zoning on the former Dallas Family Practice building at the top of Machell Avenue.

Neighbors have been concerned about what would happen to the building ever since the office moved to larger quarters in Dallas Township. What began as a small, one doctor office had grown on Machell over the years to house four physicians and a support staff. The office was busy — so busy it needed more room than was available in the old building, which is set in a residential area but had been granted a special exception as a professional office. That exception is now in question, with the owners asking for a change to "offices, including professional, commercial and business." They are also asking for a variance to install an exterior stairway and a modest sign.

While some nearby home owners may wish the building would simply be converted to a single-family home, most are more pragmatic, wanting it restricted to the type of office that is least disruptive to its surroundings. Certainly there are many uses that would attract less traffic than the busy doctors' office it once was. The challenge for the borough council is to rewrite the special exception in such a way that it protects nearby property owners.

While we are sympathetic to the owners of the building, we don't think their interests supersede those of the people who make their homes in the area. If council can't come up with language that leaves no doubt the quality of life for nearby home owners is not compromised, they should either leave the present stricture in place, or allow the property to revert to the one or two family residential status that surrounds it.



Spillway at rush hour. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

Congratulations to Lake-Lehman field hockey

Whether they won or lost Tuesday night, the Lake-Lehman field hockey team deserves hearty congratulations for an outstanding season. They began the year in perhaps the least enviable spot possible, listed first in the state in their division. The butterflies that ranking caused were apparent in an early loss, but after getting that out of their system the girls went on to finish the season with only that mark on their record. Then they dispatched Lackawanna Trail to move to the district title game, where they scored a hardfought 1-0 victory over Wyoming Seminary for the crown.

Most teams have stars who carry them to the top of their game, and there surely is no shortage of talent on the field for the Black Knights. But perhaps the most appealing trait of coach Jean Lipski's charges is the clearly evident emphasis on team play, with a number of players coming up big when the chips are down. "The girls are really team-oriented and they all have a super work ethic," Lipski says, and the results speak for themselves.

And it's worth noting that many of the same names will appear on the honor roll, indicating they do more than play hockey in their spare time.

Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



I hope tempers will cool now that the Dallas School Board has voted to put to rest action against Brian Brady, the assistant football coach accused of meting out too harsh discipline to a player. The 8-1 vote sent a pretty clear message on this particular incident, which was in the end characterized as within the bounds of the football program. But director Reese Finn raises an interesting question when he asks if the same behavior that is accepted in football would be tolerated in another sport, say girls' soccer. I know there are differences in sports, but does that justify the use of language and other means that wouldn't be brooked at home, work or in the classroom? This incident may be finished business, but there's no reason to think the program won't continue to get extra scrutiny, which is appropriate until everyone's satisfied it is run consistent with all the standards of the school.

Do you agree? Disagree?

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A Case for conservation



Alene N. Case

The little ghouls and goblins of Halloween have once again come and gone. There is, I think, a profound sadness associated with the modern celebration of this ancient holiday. This sadness began in the 60's when some people with twisted minds began to randomly distribute LSD-laced candy to the trick or treaters who innocently knocked on their doors. No longer could children or their parents enjoy the mildly scary traditions of Halloween. No longer were automobiles and imagined objects of the night the only things of which children must beware.

It is rather ironic that just at the time that modern science could help us all to be less afraid of the dark by explaining the habits of nocturnal creatures we have become prey to the dark activities of some humans. This is true all year round. The two things I fear most at night are drunk or speeding drivers and the violence of the drug culture. If it were not for the insistence and companionship of our dog, I might never venture out alone after dark.

It is time for civilized, honest people to take back the night. If we continue to hide behind our security systems and our night

Let's take back the night and all its beauty

lights, how will our children ever experience that half of our environment that is dark? If we continue to close our parks at sunset, where can one go to stargaze? No, we must leave our secure homes and move about in the dark so that those who are intent on doing evil things will know that they are not alone and that they will not likely get away without being noticed. If enough of us are out in our backyards making midnight snow sculptures with our children, the crooks should get the message.

"I dream of you walking at night along the streams of the country of my birth, warm blooms and the night songs of birds opening around you as you walk." Thus begins "The Country of Marriage" by Wendell Berry. Do you think such beautiful imagery could ever be created by a mind that had not experienced the night? If you aren't sure, consider these lines from Mary Oliver: "I thought the earth remembered me, she took me back so tenderly, arranging her dark skirts, her pockets full of lichens and seeds."

I appreciate the warmth and security of home as much as anyone else. I also know that we are doing ourselves and our children no favors if we perpetuate the superstitions and fears associated with the night. One of my favorite tapes is "A Guide to Night Sounds" by Lang Elliott. In a

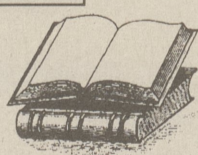
most relaxing manner, Mr. Elliott introduces the listener to the incredible variety of sounds made by insects, birds, alligators, frogs, toads and mammals. From the calls of the common loon to the cries of baby beavers, the tape demystifies many noises that might otherwise be frightening or unsettling.

Let's learn all we can about bats—those flying mammals that eat mosquitoes and fruits—so that no one takes seriously the scary vampires of the movies. Let's listen to our feet shuffle through the dry leaves so that no one takes seriously the myth of ghosts. Let's learn the calls of rails and owls, the fighting sounds of raccoons and porcupines, the distress signals of deer and beaver, and the mating choruses of frogs so that we are less spooked by the natural sounds around us after dark.

Then, perhaps we can dare to leave our windows open in the summer and listen to the hypnotic calls of katydids and crickets. Perhaps we will waken our children to see the winter display of the aurora borealis or to share in the excitement of a meteor shower. Perhaps we will turn off the lights and the TV occasionally and sit before a crackling fire and share stories and songs. Perhaps we will learn to live in tune with nature whether or not it is dark.

Yes, it is time to take back the night.

LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will be publishing a children's cookbook as a fundraiser in conjunction with the Children's Wing Expansion Capital Campaign. We will be collecting recipes—favorite, old or new—and cooking tips for children and other party ideas. The recipes must be tried and true and appropriate for children (up to age 12) to make. Adult supervision can be a requirement. Official recipe forms are available for pick up at the library. The deadline to submit recipes is November 30. A reservation list for the cookbook orders will be available at the front

Children's cookbook benefits new wing

desk in the library. All proceeds from the cookbook sales will benefit the new children's wing at the library.

New large print books at the library: "Timeless Healing: The Power and Biology of Belief" by Herbert Benson, MD with Marg Stark weaves a fascinating web of personal anecdotes, scientific research, social commentary, and spiritual wisdom to create a powerful life-transforming and society-changing blueprint for health. A concept that may revolutionize health care in the world.

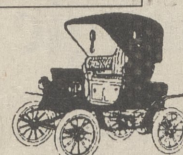
"Beauty" by Susan Wilson is a modern tale of Beauty and the Beast. Alix Miller is commissioned to paint the portrait of Leland Crompton. Leland, however, is hideously deformed by a rare genetic disorder and tells Alix the portrait will never be hung. As they spend long hours together, Leland learns to love himself and

to love Alix with the passion of one man for one woman.

"Floaters" by Joseph Wambaugh is the story of Mickey Fortney and his partner Leeds who run a patrol boat on San Diego's Mission Bay. Their tough jobs are eye-balling beauties on pleasure crafts, rescuing party-boaters who have run aground or hauling in an occasional floater who washed up on shore. America's Cup has brought a new group of crazies to town.

"Mourn Not Your Dead" by Deborah Crombie begins when Alastair Gilbert, a commander in the London Metropolitan Police, is found bludgeoned to death in the kitchen of his suburban home by his wife and 17-year-old stepdaughter. There is no sign of forced entry. Either he was taken by surprise, or the killer was someone he had trusted. Gilbert did not always follow rules.

ONLY YESTERDAY



60 Years Ago - Nov. 13, 1936 LEHMAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

The Lehman Methodist Episcopal Church which traces its origin back more than 100 years will celebrate its 80th anniversary dedication of its present church at special services which will begin Sunday evening.

The holdings of Sen. A.J. Sordoni at Harveys Lake were increased to 3,000 acres with the purchase this week of 1,200 acres on Hickory Knob, overlooking Harveys Lake formerly owned by the late Albert Lewis. The purchase is reported to be \$15,000. It was the third sizable chunk of Harveys Lake real estate acquired by the Senator within the last six months.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 15, 1946 HONEYWELL APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF

Special Officer Russell Honeywell has been appointed Chief of Police of Dallas Borough to fill temporarily the position left vacant last week by the resignation of Chief Walter Covert who has served the Borough, both as a special officer and Chief of Police for the past 14 years. Covert explained that matters of health had caused him to make the decision.

\$1,700 worth of band instruments purchased by the Kingston Township School Board for the new Kingston Township High School Band will be on display in the high school auditorium when Kingston Township Band Boosters present their second benefit community square dance Nov. 23.

You could get - Sirloin steak, 48¢ lb.; center cut pork chops, 59¢ lb.; Maine potatoes, 50-lb. bag, \$1.35; apples, 3 lbs., 29¢; sweet potatoes, 3 lbs., 25¢.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1956 DALLAS HIGH GETS ITS START IN A NEW BUILDING

State approval of one of the four sites prepared for construction of the new Dallas Area High School building was announced by James Hutchison, chairman of Building & Grounds at the Monday evening meeting of Dallas Borough-Kingston Township school boards. A full report will be made at next Tuesday night's meeting of the Dallas Area School Board. In the meantime he said he could not divulge the exact location of the favored site.

Heavy blasting at the site of the State Institution for Mental Delinquents in Jackson Township frequently rattles windows and shakes glassware off shelves in home throughout the Back Mountain area.

Moby Dick, starring, Gregory Peck and Richard Basehart, now playing at Himmler Theatre.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 10, 1966 REPUBLICANS STAY STRONG IN BACK MOUNTAIN

The Republican Party retained its strength in the Back Mountain area as revealed in final returns from Tuesday's election. Gov.-Elect Ray Schafer was a popular favorite and carried his running mates with him in this sector. T. Newell Wood won over his opponent Harold Coslett. Undefeatable Congressman Daniel J. Flood was the only Democrat to run in the Back Mountain.

The Dallas Mounts closed out their season Saturday afternoon by trouncing neighboring Lake-Lehman 35-14 on the winners gridiron.

Vandalism continued in the sector mentioned in last week's Dallas Post. A 1957 Dodge owned by Mrs. Betty Lore, Old Lake Hwy., Lake Township was extensively damaged Monday evening. Mrs. Lore reports that the Halloween vandalism has not let up.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 11, 1976 HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH LOOKS FOR HOME

A reconciliation move was agreed upon by factions within Harveys Lake Borough Council at the regular council meeting last week and a public meeting Thursday may further ease the differing opinion on the site of the proposed borough building. Leaders of both council factions, a minority which favored Sandy Beach for a location for the building and a majority which backs a proposed Sunset area location agreed to invite public participation.