

Fertilizer

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nominal fee from the borough. Shisko admits the committee has little say in what will actually be decided. "We're only an advisory committee," he said.

Many people are in favor of the ban. "Anthony Young, a 10-year lake resident said. "Anything that's going to help." Diane Salak said that although she doesn't know much about the fertilizer controversy, if phosphates would harm the lake, she would abide by the ban. Don Marx also said he would be in favor of a ban, but questioned how council would be able to enforce it.

Not all Harveys Lake residents feel the ban is necessary. "As long as it's okay with EPA and there's no risk to children, I don't see why it has to be banned," Sean Dougherty said. "I don't think they need a ban. I just think they need to monitor the use of it." Several other residents felt the ban was a waste of time because many of the seasonal cottages still have septic tanks, which pollute the lake.

The proposed ban of fertilizers containing phosphates came out of a lake study completed two years ago. Phosphates in fertilizers help the development of root systems in plants, but when phosphates build up in the watershed, these nutrients can prove very harmful to the lake. Phosphates in the lake cause algae growth. Excessive amounts of phosphorus has created enough algae in the past to close the lake.

Lawn fertilizers are not the only source of phosphates in the lake. Phosphates occur in nature in

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Sean Dougherty
Harveys Lake

leaves, dirt, and rock. These materials break down naturally in the lake. Many environmentalists feel the phosphorus that occurs in nature makes additional phosphorus in lawn fertilizers unnecessary for healthy plants and lawns.

Phosphorus buildup also occurs as a result of sewage. Homes that use a septic system instead of the borough's sewage system contribute to the phosphorus problems. Faulty connections to the borough's system cause problems as well. Although a ban on fertilizers containing phosphates would not eliminate phosphates altogether, EVAC officials feel every little bit helps.

Regardless of the arguments against the ban, Shisko will continue to work for the it. "There are zero phosphate fertilizers out there," he said. "They won't give you a golf course lawn, but there are alternatives. If you go past my lawn, you'll see lots of clover." Shisko, who has lived at the lake for the past 20 years, summed up his feelings by saying, "As long as my lawn is green and the lake isn't, I'm happy."

Harveys Lake

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Municipal authority gets teeth

During the meeting, council voted unanimously to grant the municipal authority power to enforce their own ordinances. Rick Boice from the municipal authority explained this mainly applies to an ordinance that says residents must be hooked up to the municipal sewer if the sewer connection is near their property.

Boice said although there are not many properties that are not connected, "on occasion we do find a property." Boice also explained, "When push comes to shove and we have to file a complaint with the magistrate, council must enforce it."

Complaint against trailer park

Michael Evelock, who lives in the Blue Jay Trailer Park, asked the council for assistance in dealing with problems in the park. Evelock put in a new modular home about three months ago. He said when he signed his lease, he did not know there was a road running through his yard. He also said he was unaware of the park's many other problems. Evelock said the roads are not maintained, there are plumbing and water problems, and many of the trailers stand abandoned and could prove a fire hazard.

Evelock has already filed a for-

mal complaint against his landlord and is holding his rent in escrow. He said many of the residents fear their landlord and will not come forward to issue a complaint. "People are afraid of being thrown out," he said. "He doesn't care about anybody in the park. He seems to have no conscience."

Evelock fears that if there is a fire, he will have to stand with firefighters and watch the park burn because of the poor condition of the roads and the water problems. "I don't know what to do," Evelock said. "I'm asking the borough if they can do something about this land."

McCormick responded to Evelock's concerns but feels there is little the borough can do. "We may have no jurisdiction. It's private property," he explained. "I understand your concerns and they are valid concerns. We will try to run through our options, but they are not numerous."

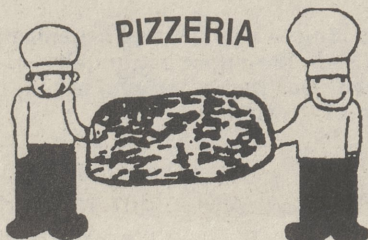
Also during the meeting, council president Francis Kopko asked newcomer Dennis Hogan to replace George Gwilliam in seeking out available grants for the borough. The council voted unanimously to appoint John Martinson to fill a vacancy on the civil service board. Council also voted to donate \$50 to the Junior Miss Pageant Scholarship Fund.

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Water

(continued from page 1)

unions in the school districts, people would resist at first, but be satisfied with the end result.

"No one wanted a sewage system, but all of a sudden they don't have leaky septic tanks and raw sewage in their backyards," she said. "I've lived here 45 years and raised my kids here. I've seen that community efforts can make a better situation for everyone," said Rodda, who believes the all of the smaller water systems should be interconnected. "I can't help to think a water authority would do the same thing."

Both Rodda and Ward think people need to pay more attention to such a vital commodity. "Until we have major development or private wells go dry, no one will take it seriously," said Rodda. "Water comes through a series of rock aquifers. No one knows how much water there is. We need to use it prudently."

Agriculture is also getting hard hit with the lack of rain. Larry

Brace of Brace's Orchard, said their fruit has stopped growing. "(The drought) sure is hurting us. We haven't had any rain in July," said Brace. "The rain hits North of us and South of us. We need rain in a hurry, we needed it yesterday," he said. If the fruit is not a certain size, it is unsellable. For Brace, the memories of the 1995 drought are still fresh. It was the driest year the orchard every experience in its six generations. "It will be that bad if it doesn't rain soon."

Sally Bair of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture said agriculture across the state is being affected. "Corn growth has been stunted. If it doesn't rain in the next seven days, it will be quite serious," she said. Also, hay-cutting is light, which will cause serious repercussions for long-term cattle feed, she said.

Ward, who predicts water will become a more expensive commodity in the future, suggests that everyone "pray for rain."

Jeremy Mayer enlists in Air Force

Jeremy M. Mayer, son of Edward and Roberta Higgins, of Shavertown, enlisted in the Air Force recently, according to Tech. Sgt. John McEntee, the local Air Force recruiter.

Upon graduation from a six-week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Texas, Mayer is scheduled to receive technical training as a electric power production apprentice.

Mayer, a 1997 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, will be earning credits toward an associate degree in applied sciences through the Community College of the air Force while attending basic and technical training schools.

James E. Fritsch completes training

Navy Lt. j.g. James E. Fritsch, whose wife, Christine, is the daughter of Thomas and Carol Yezilski of Ransom Road, Dallas, recently completed a four-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay.

Fritsch was one of more than 350 Sailors aboard the cruiser who returned to their home port of Yokosuka, Japan. Fritsch's ship was part of the USS Independence Battle Group, which consisted of five surface combatants and two submarines.

The 1987 graduate of Parsippany High School of Parsippany, NJ, joined the Navy in May 1993. Fritsch is a 1993 graduate of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD with a BS degree.

Martin arrives for duty as recruiter

Army Staff Sgt. Jesse W. Martin has arrived for duty at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station, Middletown, NY.

Martin, a recruiter, is the son of Jane E. Martin of Sunset Drive, Dallas.

He is a 1984 graduate of Upper Perkiomen High School, Pennsburg.

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Sarah Casaday cooled off in the children's pool at Newberry Estate last week.

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