

Water co.

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because of its deplorable condition, said Dave Newcomer of PUC, in March. Hemlock St. shows evidence of past repairs. The Hoyson family has a large mound of dirt on their front yard after a Nov. 12, 1996 visit from NUI to fix a water leak. The Hoysons say they have had about 35 main breaks in 12 years.

NUI was also ordered by the PUC to maintain its property by cutting the grass and removing debris. Pagoda refers to the pile of wood, concrete and rock mixed with tall weeds directly across from his house as a "pig pen."

Pagoda said the PUC has not enforced these orders. "This is worse than last year," he said.

According to many Oak Hill residents, NUI has been causing them problems for 12 years. Such hassles as frequent outages and low pressure, frequent boil-water advisories, water with unpleasant taste and odor, excessive lead levels, sediment and high chlorine content have been reported

by residents over the years.

The water company was fined \$2,000 Nov. 8, 1996 as a result of an informal complaint filed by Pagoda in April 1995. On Nov. 21 NUI's request for a 49 percent rate increase was denied.

The PUC filed a \$5 million complaint against NUI for 40 violations of water service statutes and regulations, including violating Department of Environmental Protection codes.

Newcomer said NUI has followed all the proper steps concerning the faulty pipes. "I wouldn't expect piping these days to have any problems. It was unforeseen. It just happens," he said, of the piping that came from a manufacturer in Kentucky.

"They would've had it done in a timely fashion if it wasn't for the piping," said Newcomer. "The new main on Hemlock St. will be completed by winter. The customers will have service within the time allotted by the OSA."



Waste material is piled along the roadside in the Oak Hill development, as National Utilities has begun but not finished a water main replacement.

As for the messy lot across the street from Pagoda's property, Newcomer said NUI used the area to store its equipment and will eventually level it off and "readress it in a timely manner."

"This is worse than last year."

Joseph Pagoda
Oak Hill

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Aug. 8 - 14:

Leon J. Rutkoski, et ux, to Dennis R. Eckels, et ux, Lot 29 Doe Dr., Dear Mdw. Dallas Borough, \$365,000.

Sheriff of Luzerne County to Harry A. Alexandria, partner al, Dallas Twp., \$13,962.

Virginia Pieczynski, to Gerald L. Maunce, et ux, Dallas Twp., \$96,000.

Charles Harris, to John Qualls, et ux, Crestview, Dallas Twp., \$6,500.

Thomas J. Reed, et ux, to Donald W. Miller, et ux, Lot 30 College Manor, Dallas Twp., \$142,000.

Bank of New York, trustee to Florence Boyle, Lot 48 Barnum Plot, Harveys Lake Bor.,

\$13,000.

Jeffrey A. Norris, et ux, to Carl J. Peterlin, et ux, Harveys Lake Bor., \$138,000.

Bruce D. Barre, et ux, to Century 21 Ruth K. Smith, R.E., Lot 7 Sutton Hills, Jackson Twp., \$125,960.

Thomas Balutis, et ux, to Roxanne Opalicki, Eileen Rd., Kingston Twp., \$223,000.

Gerald R. Fisher, to Suzanne Dante, et ux, 130, 31 Meadowcrest, Kingston Twp., \$16,000.

Carolyn J. Sheerer, to Robert F. Montgomery, et ux, Youngblood Ave., Kingston Twp., \$90,000.

James J. Heintz, et ux, to James G. Blaum et ux, Lot 54 Meadowcrest Dr., Kingston Twp., \$22,000.

June Seeley to John Hartman, et ux, 1.062 ac. Lot 2, Ross Twp., \$1,700.

Drugs

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about drugs equals acceptance in a child's mind. "If you don't say anything, the kids don't know what is bad," she said.

After last year's two deaths, one of a 34-year-old Shavertown man and the other a 17-year-old from Dallas, Wolownik looked up the number of heroin addicts in the Wyoming Valley Drug and Alcohol Program's case load. In June 1995 there were 13 people seeking treatment for heroin addiction. By September 1996, less than 18 months later, there were 40 people receiving treatment. "Most addicts don't come in for treatment, especially younger ones," said Wolownik, who has been involved with drug and alcohol treatment for 13 years.

Since heroin can now be sported, the HIV scare is taken out of it and more people are attracted to it than ever before, said Wolownik. It is also more pure. "In the 60's, 70's and 80's it was about four percent pure. Now it's 40 to 70 percent pure," she said. As heroin addicts use for a time and eventually look for something more potent, they turn to shooting it into their veins. "It is very pure and that's where we get our overdoses from. It's getting very addictive."

Fowler, who thinks some parents try to be seen as a pal in the eyes of their children and in the process give up some of their directed authority, said, "I think some parents are not realizing what is going on. Not to blame them, but it's time to look at the kids."

James Balavage, Kingston Twp. police chief, whose department runs the DARE program, encourages parents to get involved with the program. "Parents need to play a more extensive role in all areas," he said.

Drug-related burglaries and domestic disputes continue to be causes for concern for police.

"For all departments the majority of burglaries and thefts are drug related to support habits," said Carl Miers, Dallas Township chief, who said those numbers

have increased in the past four years. "In excess of 70 percent of burglaries are drug-related," he said. "Drugs are out here. No question."

Fowler agreed there are many burglaries and violent crimes related to drugs. He said drug arrests have gone up in the borough in the past year.

Although Lehman Township is not prone to burglaries, Howard Kocher, police chief, said he has noticed more domestic disputes where drugs turn up in the mix. "More and more domestic calls involve alcohol and drug abuse," he said. "It's causing problems in the family structure. In the last couple of years more families are breaking up."

Kocher said the main drugs he has observed in the area are cocaine, marijuana and "uppers."

"Most addicts don't come in for treatment, especially younger ones."

Stefanie Wolownik
Wyoming Valley Drug and Alcohol

In domestic situations, people tend to be between 25 and 35 years old, said Kocher.

In Jackson Twp., a lot of drugs are found on people traveling through the area. While marijuana is the most common, more cocaine and heroin is popping up in the township, said patrolman Scott Davis.

Balavage, who believes drug-related crimes have abated somewhat in the area, said marijuana

is the easiest to acquire.

Balavage said that although heroin is now easier to get, some people realize heroin, a harder and more addictive drug, is not the way to engage in drug use. "They perceive marijuana to be the least dangerous (and therefore okay)," said Balavage, who firmly opposes this view.

How are drugs accessible in the Back Mountain?

"We get a lot of people from New York and Philadelphia in the Back Mountain," said Fowler. "There is a lot of money back here. The dealers are not known here and they know the ins and outs of the business."

Miers said with better highway systems, it is easier for people from here to get to major market areas like New York and Philadelphia, and vice versa.

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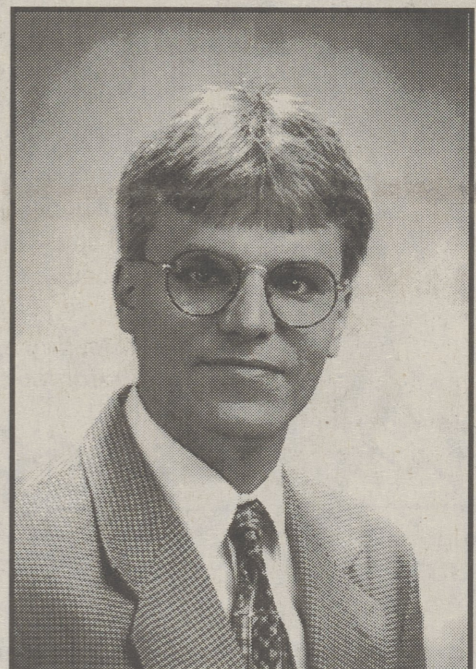
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Michael F. Sedlak, M.D.

Drs. Burns, Rumbaugh, Calise and Rittenberg are pleased to announce that Michael F. Sedlak, M.D. has joined them in the practice of urology.

A native of West Wyoming, Dr. Sedlak is the son of Mrs. Dolores Sedlak and the late Dr. Paul J. Sedlak. Dr. Sedlak graduated as class valedictorian from Bishop O'Reilly High School and summa cum laude from the University of Scranton. He subsequently earned his medical degree from the St. Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. Sedlak completed a residency in urology at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

In addition to practicing general adult and pediatric urology, he has special interest and expertise in the fields of female urinary incontinence and complex urologic oncology. He has experience in the placement of radioactive seed implants for the treatment of early stage prostate cancer.

Dr. Sedlak and his wife, the former Diane Moos of San Antonio, reside in Dallas.

Appointments can be made to see Dr. Sedlak by calling 288-3601.