

Foundation aims to offer long-term local assistance

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

COLLEGE MISERICORDIA - Benjamin Franklin is still having an impact on his adopted state, more than 200 years after he helped found the nation.

Daylene Burnside, executive director of The Luzerne Foundation, told members of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association (BMBPA) how the Founding Father's foresight helped the local organization get started.

In the late 1700's, Franklin put 1000 lb. sterling into a trust for the City of Philadelphia, and a like amount for Boston, with the requirement that it be kept fully invested for 100 years. Then, after another century, his instructions were to break the trusts and give the leftover money to the people of each state. The money came from Franklin's salary as a public official, for which he didn't believe in accepting payment.

When the money became available, it was distributed among community foundations throughout Pennsylvania. The Luzerne Foundation received \$22,000, but if it hadn't existed, none of the money would have reached this area.

Burnside was the speaker for the April meeting of BMBPA. She said the foundation, started in 1994, was a vehicle by which people of all means could help the region. "It allows people who don't have a lot of wealth to be philanthropists," she said, since donations start at \$5.

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Daylene Burnside
Executive director,
The Luzerne Foundation

The foundation accepts directed and unrestricted contributions, and there are nearly 20 different funds under its umbrella. For example, the Maslow family of Dallas has donated money that is used to support the visual arts.

The foundation has a little over \$2 million at this time, Burnside said, and she expects it to surpass \$3 million by the end of 1998. It needs to get to \$5 million to have a substantial impact, she said. Long-established community foundations have larger reserves, such as Erie with \$60 million, from which about \$4 million is dispersed each year.

"We are building a reserve of charitable capital" for use in the future, Burnside said, a resource organizations can come to when other sources of funding are insufficient. The foundation makes grants to a wide range of non-profit groups, including human services providers, the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust and the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association.

Contributions to The Luzerne Foundation are tax-deductible, and funds are used only in the local area. More information can be obtained by calling 822-5420.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Ashley Felkman, 16, with some of the bicycles she has collected, which will be donated to families that can't afford to buy their own.

Teen revives program to give needy kids some summer fun

SHAVERTOWN - Sixteen-year-old Ashley Feldmen of Shavertown knows that kids like to ride bikes. So, she's doing everything she can to make sure that's exactly what they get to do.

Ashley has rejuvenated Bikes For Tikes, a small program that she and her two older sisters started about eight years ago. They collected used bikes, cleaned them up and donated them to various service organizations. "The idea came out of an old bike that I had tried to give away," explained Ashley, who attends Wyoming Seminary.

Although her two sisters are now out of college, Ashley thought it was a worthwhile project to

start up again. She believes that bikes have a positive impact on kids.

"I think biking is a healthy thing. It's something they can do with friends in spring, summer and fall. People who get the bikes never had a bike before. It could become a lifetime habit. I just think bikes bring happiness (for kids)," said Ashley.

Anyone interested in donating a bike can drop it off at the Kingston Municipal Warehouse at 455 Third Ave. in Kingston on Sat. April 25. The bikes will go to the Children Service Center, United Way and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

-Kylie Shafferkoetter

Denial of Roushey St. access raises highway safety issue

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. - Joanne Parrish of Shavertown is concerned that her neighbor's actions have created an unsafe situation. At the regular Board of Supervisors meeting April 8, Parrish told the board that her neighbor has blocked off an entrance/exit that she and other people use frequently to access Rt. 309.

Ben Gorey, zoning officer, said he was made aware of Parrish's concerns a couple of months ago. "Kenneth Lembke does not want people to use part of his property to get out on to Rt. 309," he explained.

Parrish used the entrance/exit to get out onto Roushey St. and then to Rt. 309. She said now, with only one way to get in and out of the property, it is becoming a hazard. She said that many times she must come to a complete stop on Rt. 309 to make the sharp turn into her property.

In addition to the Parrish property, there is an apartment and house that use the one entrance/

exit. "My son was pulling in the other day and someone was pulling out. He had to stop on Rt. 309, and the person was nice enough back up and let him through first," said Parrish. The board said it would look into the situation within a week or so.

In other business, the board approved a preliminary plan for the Terrace Avenue subdivision. The nine lots will be approximately 100 ft. by 150 ft. Eight of the lots are for building, the ninth is made up of wetlands. Gerry Fisher is the developer.

Also, the board approved township police participation in a Criminal Intelligence Support Unit operated by the Luzerne County Sheriff's Office. The police department can now apply for a grant for a complete computer database.

The system would interlink all Luzerne County police agencies. "The office of the county sheriff wants to establish the system for optimizing criminal information exchange," said James Balavage, police chief.

The board will next meet May 13 at 8 p.m.

Clarification

A headline and opening paragraph in last week's issue gave the incorrect impression that police believe two daily newspaper carriers engaged in a fight March 27. Police charged only John Zubkoff, a Citizens' Voice carrier, with harassment after a confrontation with Nicholas Zapoticky, a Times Leader carrier.

Police said only Zapoticky showed signs of injury, and Zubkoff's account of the incident, which took place about 4:30 a.m. on Green Rd. in Shavertown, was inconsistent. Zapoticky was not charged.

Program for summer fun to be held April 21

All kids are looking for fun things to do in the summer. Various organizations and agencies from our area will be at Dallas Elementary School April 21 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. for a program called "Summer Fun for Kids" to show you what they have to offer for kids to do from preschool age and up. Come and look at the displays to get some ideas and pick up registration forms. Get a jump on finding fun programs for your child this summer. The program is sponsored by Dallas Elementary PTO.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of April 3 - 9:

Harry J. Dougherty, Jr., et ux, to James J. Austin, et ux, Colonial Road, Dallas Borough, \$208,000.

Thomas W. Dombroski, Sr., trustee, to Crista A. Schineller, Lot 134 Elmcrest Woods, Dallas Borough, \$39,000.

George F. Maculloch, to Charles V. Gordon, 2 parcels, Dallas Twp., \$105,000.

Michael R. Goldsmith, et ux, to James W. Dougherty, Carpenter Road, Harveys Lake Bor., \$34,000.

Richard A. Garman, estate et al, to Louise Gowran, 56 Beverly Dr., Kingston Twp., \$112,000.

Philip S. Smith, et ux, to Susan E. Fielding Johnson, Lot 89 Oak Hill, Lehman Twp., \$84,900.

Poetry at Hayfield to be held April 18

Poetry at Hayfield will be held at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman on April 18. Call 675-9228 for more information.

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