

EDITORIALS

## In Dallas Twp., a chance to make your voice heard

Okay, property owners in Dallas Township, here's your chance. A public hearing of the zoning board is scheduled for May 11 at 7 p.m. at the township building to hear a request to allow construction of an office building in a residential zone at E. Center Hill Rd. and Rt. 309. Professional offices are allowed in residential zones if specifically approved by the zoning board. Unlike home occupations, which are allowed in residential zones, offices aren't restricted to only one employee in addition to the family that occupies the dwelling. Once approved, an office in a residential area is governed by the same regulations that apply in a commercial zone, including parking area.

The special exception is a device by which uses can be mixed in a zone. The alternative - to change the lot to commercial - is considered spot zoning, which is not allowed under county codes.

Dallas Township has been host to several planning and zoning confrontations in the last couple of years; disputes about a cellular phone tower near the township building, complaints about the new fire hall, and the current but hopefully soon-to-be-resolved battle over new sports fields at the high school. The public has been mostly absent from these discussions, at least in the early stages when their influence would have been the greatest. Even when people show up, it's usually only the ones who live next door to the site at issue, as though a change on Upper Demunds Rd. has no effect on property values or quality of life across town. That is a dangerous apathy, because, for example, increased traffic congestion in one place may cause people to take a different route to home or work, creating congestion elsewhere.

Of more immediate concern in this case is the effect an office in a residential zone might have on neighboring properties. Given the need for parking and access, even an attractive office is not exactly like a home. That may not matter, or it may, but if citizens don't turn out to voice their opinion, the zoning board will feel no pressure to maintain the present zoning designation.

So, residents of Dallas Township, the ball is in your court. Whether you approve of this requested action or not, you owe it to yourself and to your community to make your views known on this, and other important matters that come before the officials you helped put in office.

## Publisher's notebook

Ron Bartizek



So, how many of you out there agree the driving age should be reduced to 10? Count me in. Our once serene life has disappeared since the kids started doing more than playing with friends in the back yard, and Charlotte and I often wish we had clones available, or that the Star Trek transporter had become a reality by now. If you have active children, you know what we mean. Between choir practice, music lessons, soccer, basketball, softball and shopping for Beanie Babies, there's precious little time left to just ... do nothing.

Fortunately, Katie didn't get interested in sports until a year or two ago, or we would now be half a decade into dementia. Problem is, once she got into it, she *really* got into it, or should I say them.

Then there's the schedule, especially for sports. It gets really interesting when they both have a game or practice at the same time on the same day, especially if there's something else we should be doing, like earning a living. I'm thinking of starting my day at about 5 a.m. so I can stay ahead of the work and still make it to a 5 p.m. game.

At least we haven't succumbed to the "be with the kids every moment" syndrome. Actually, even if we wanted to, they implore us to leave so they won't feel self-conscious booting a grounder in front of the folks. Sometimes, I try to make myself believe this really isn't so - they're just using reverse psychology, being too embarrassed to say they still can't get by without the old man around. Funny, though, they never beg me to come back.

Anyway, I'm beginning to think if the driving age was 10, or maybe 12, the kids could transport themselves to practices, games, lessons and the Hallmark store. After all, they're already doing more than I did at 16, and they're really responsible. Besides, I'm getting tired.

## Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish opinions on a variety of topics in many forms. Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



Off 42nd Street, Dallas Township. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

## Library news



Nancy Kozemchak

The new children's wing at the Back Mountain Memorial Library has many unique and exciting innovations. One very special area is the story hour section with a couch, chairs and rockers for special programs.

Laura Slocum, a resident of Dallas, expressed a desire to paint a mural on the wall in the area in

## Artist dedicates mural to beloved friend

memory of her dear friend and mentor, Donna Lehman. After presenting her portfolio of art and stencils, Laura and Mrs. Rudolph decided on the design and location for the mural.

The mural of teddy bears, rabbits and lambs enhances a wall in the story hour area for the youngest patrons. It is a delightful addition and the children and their parents have been admiring it each day.

**New books at the library:** "N is for Noose" by Sue Grafton is a novel in which Kinsey Millhone becomes the target and an entire town seems in for the kill. She should have done something else, she should have turned the car in the direction of home; instead,

she was about to put herself in the gravest jeopardy of her career. She had no idea there was any jeopardy waiting.

"The Ballad of Frankie Silver" by Sharyn McCrumb is a legend that has been told through the generations, a story rooted in a lonely churchyard in the shadow of three uncarved tombstones...in a secret buried deep in the white silence of the winter of 1832, and deeper still in the heart of a poor mountain girl accused of a terrible crime. It becomes a race against time to save a life.

"The Target" by Catherine Coulter is a riveting new contemporary suspense novel about a man and a woman thrown together into a diabolical conspiracy

and the little girl at its center.

The story plunges the main characters into a labyrinth where the unthinkable happens and the unimaginable becomes real. Ramsey Hunt retreats into the solitude of a cabin high in the Rockies.

"Daughter of My People" by James Kilgo is an extraordinary debut novel, in which the essayist has woven a richly textured and complex tale from the threads of actual events. Set in rural South Carolina in the early 20th century, it is the story of the ties of land, blood and honor that bind and threaten to destroy two families and two brothers, Hart and Tison Bonner.

## ONLY YESTERDAY



### 60 Years Ago - May 13, 1938 LUZERNE BYPASS MAY BE DELAYED A MONTH

The long-awaited by-pass at Luzerne may be delayed another month because the Pennsylvania Power and Resources Board has refused to approve the plan for the bridge which is to cross Toby's Creek from Union St. to the street car right-of-way. Engineers of the State Highway Department are re-vamping plans for the bridge according to Norman Johnson, secretary of the Wyoming Valley Motor Club which has been pressing for prompt construction of the improvements.

You could get - Gold Seal Flour, 24-lb. bag 79¢; Blue Rose rice, 6 lbs., 25¢; Asco coffee, 2 lbs., 35¢; bananas, 5¢ lb.; Waldorf Tissue, 6 rolls, 25¢.

### 50 Years Ago - May 14, 1948 DALLAS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL TO GET SHOWERS

Dallas Township School Board has formally adopted the new School Budget for 1948-49. Provision was made for construction of a cafeteria-dining room and for boys' and girls' shower rooms. Actual work on these projects will not, however, start unless construction estimates are well within the sum set aside in the budget.

All parents and patrons will be the guests of Lake Township students and teachers in the High School auditorium May 21. G.E. Taylor, Supervising Principal will speak concerning formation of a Parent Teacher Association. These plans have been under way for some time and are nearing completion.

### 40 Years Ago - May 9, 1958 BMT LIBRARY TO HOLD TWO-DAY AUCTION

"It will be a two-day library auction period," said Charles Frantz at a meeting of chairmen, Monday evening at his home. Donald D. Smith co-chairman proved conclusively by figure com-

parison of results, that an intense two-day auction nets about the same amount as an auction with added nights of sale, "Depending on the weather," he added.

Dr. Lester E. Jordan is the first Rotarian in this area to be accorded the honor of nomination for the office of District Governor of Rotary 471. He was nominated at the conference last weekend at Pocono Manor Inn and will be voted into office at the June meeting of Rotary International in Dallas, TX.

### 30 Years Ago - May 16, 1968 NOXEN RESIDENTS TO GET KINDERGARTEN CLASS

When directors of Lake-Lehman Schools met Tuesday evening in the administration office, Noxen residents got their wish for a kindergarten, a tentative budget was presented and the idea of construction of a utility building at the high school athletic field was side tracked for the present. Visitors from Noxen went home jubilant with the promise that a kindergarten would be established in the Noxen Elementary Building where a room is available. In-

involved are 19-21 children who would otherwise be deprived of the pre-school education.

Due to numerous calls received from residents of the new Lake Borough and with no agreement from council to haul away refuse, William Casterline gave notice Monday evening that he would be taking care of only his regular customers. He said he has to pay to dump and that residents had expected him to take care of all hauling at a loss.

### 20 Years Ago - May 11, 1978 120TH DISTRICT VOTERS APATHETIC

A "straw poll" conducted by The Dallas Post the end of last week indicated considerable voter apathy regarding the race for the Republican nomination for the state representative seat in the 120th Legislative District. Nearly half of the residents polled did not know who the candidates were battling for the nomination.

In a move which deflected much of what promised to be an angry debate over a proposed 12 mill tax increase, the Lake-Lehman School Board adopted a tentative budget of \$4,252,591 on Tuesday night.

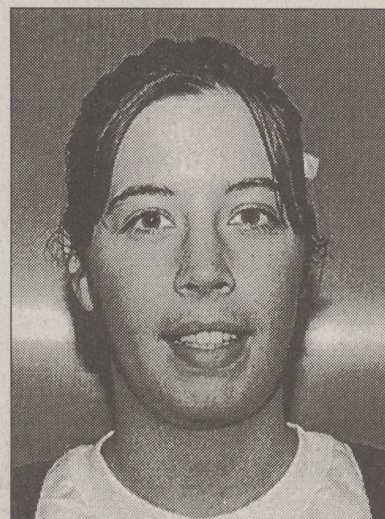
## WORD ON THE STREET

Q: If you could be anyone for one day, who would it be and why?  
Where asked: College Misericordia



COLLEEN CHANDLER  
student, Wilkes-Barre

"I would be Tori Amos. I'd want to know what it would be like to be so talented."



JEN GEIST

student, New Jersey  
"Joe Clark, the tough inner city teacher who stood up for what he believed in."



CATHERINE FORSLUND

prof. of history, Shavertown  
"An archeologist on a day when a major discovery was made."



CAROLE FISHER

ALP coordinator, Harveys Lake  
"Marine biologist. It's be nice to know I was trying to keep the earth going."

## The Dallas Post

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