



POST PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Keyboard artistry

Parents, friends and 13 piano and organ students of Mrs. Jean Purcell gathered June 7 at Lehman United Methodist Church for a piano and organ recital. The students were, John Jogodzinski II and his son, John III, organists, and piano students Sara Simms, Andrea Simms, Ryan Morgan, Kelly Kester, Sasha Allen,

Simone Allen, Katie Young, Lindsay Young, Katie Bartizek, Ellen Williams and Katie Williams.

Shown in photos, clockwise from lower left; Andrea and Sara Simms performed together; John Jogodzinski III at the organ; Mrs. Jean Purcell watched over her charges; John Jogodzinski II.



Roads

(continued from page 1)

"The roads are still in our name," acknowledges JoAnn Ruckno Jones, of the Ruckno Construction Company. But she said the company's attorney, John Gill, suggests lot owners may be responsible for repairs. "The way the deeds read, it looks like they were decided to the center of the roads," she said.

"We were told by our attorney the responsibility for maintenance belongs with the people who use them," Jones said.

"It is our position that the owners have to maintain these roads," said Paul Grimes, Resource Conservationist with the Luzerne Conservation District. Since Ruckno Construction never transferred the roads to the homeowners, it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain them, Grimes said.

Grimes is trying to force repairs because in their present condition the roads release large amounts of sediment into Harveys Lake in heavy rains.

"We are left with no alternative but to file charges," says Grimes. State law requires landowners to prevent accelerated erosion and sedimentation from running into the Commonwealth's waterways. Grimes will ask a magistrate for \$40,000 in fines against Ruckno Construction, and if he has to refile after an appeal, he will ask



Hemlock Gardens storm drains send sediment to Harveys Lake.

"What we would like the public to know is that we would like to solve this problem but we can't do it without the homeowners and the council," adds Jones.

"We've tried on numerous occasions to try to sit down with the council," Jones said, "but we can't seem to get a response on this."

"They did call me," says Martin Noon, president of the Harveys Lake Borough Council.

The borough is not ignoring the Rucknos, Noon said. According to the borough, Ruckno Construction created this problem, the development is private, and the council needs Ruckno to present a plan to them.

"They are trying to make deals," counters Noon. According to the borough, Ruckno would need to present a written plan to the solicitor first. The council can only act on a prepared plan. "They seem like they want to bypass the solicitor," says Noon. "They're trying to bypass the system."

Jones says Ruckno Construction got letters in the past from the borough saying they would take over the roads. Current homeowners had also been told that was a possibility. Noon, however, says the roads would have to be brought up to a high standard before the borough would even consider ownership.

Ruckno Construction is prepared to debate the accusation that they alone must repair the roads. "The citation was for earth moving, and the last person to do that was the sewer authority," argues Jones.

Floyd Milbrodt, of Lehman, was the contractor who put sewers in Hemlock Gardens. "The roads were better after I got done with them," says Milbrodt. "It was nothing more than a logging road. I can't tell you how many loads of composite I brought in there."

"At the time it was done it was put back the same way," argues Richard Boice, the mayor and

"We'd love to come up with a way to solve this problem."

JoAnn Ruckno Jones
Ruckno Construction

executive director of the General Sewer Authority of Harveys Lake. Recent winters have been severe, and bulldozers were used to clear the roads, says Boice. The damage to the roads is not from the sewers, he believes.

Several residents disagree on the source of road damage. "Whoever put in the sewers didn't adequately repair the roads," says John Pike. Tom Blight says, "The company that dug the roads up for the sewers buried the drainage system on top."

The sewer installation has also led to profits for Ruckno Construction. The Hemlock Gardens subdivision originally was planned as a site for summer cottages, and lots sold for \$500. After the sewers were laid, lots were selling for \$9,000 to \$11,000. Currently there are 25 homes, and all the lots are sold.

"We'd love to come up with a way to solve this problem," says JoAnn Ruckno Jones.

Pump & Plug Program assists underground tank owners

State Sen. Charles Lemmond (R-10) recently said applications are available for a new program that help owners of underground storage tanks clean and plug unused tanks.

The Pump and Plug Program, created under Act 13 of 1998, established a fund of \$1 million per year to assist owners of six or fewer underground tanks perform the following activities:

- pumping product from regulated storage tanks and disposing of it;
- cleaning out the insides of the tanks;
- grouting fill pipes of tanks to render them inoperable.

A maximum total of \$6,000 per tank is available, and applications will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, said Lemmond.

"Unused underground storage tanks are a potential environmental hazard," said Lemmond.

"I encourage tank owners who qualify to apply for this program and prevent spills or leaks."

To qualify for reimbursement, the approved work must be completed in the fiscal year that the grant is awarded, the senator said.

The grant funds cannot be used for the permanent closure or removal of tanks.

However, Lemmond noted that the state Department of Environmental

Protection urges owners to consider taking such permanent action on their own at the time of tank cleanup.

For more information and grant application packages, please call 1-800-42TANKS (1-800-428-2657).

BACK MOUNTAIN BRIEFS

Shavertown UM changing schedule

Shavertown United Methodist Church will be having a change in their summer worship schedule. Saturday evening services at 5:30 p.m. will be downstairs in the Social Hall. Dress is casual. On Sunday we will go to one service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The schedule will be in effect from July 4 through Sept. 6. All are welcome.

Kingston Township building closed July 3

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors hereby announce that the Township Administrative Office, located at 180 East Center Street, Shavertown, will be closed in recognition of the 4th of July Holiday on Friday, July 3.

LL Taxpayers will not meet in July

The Lake-Lehman School District Taxpayers Association will not meet during the month of July. The next meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 6, at the Lehman Township Municipal Building located on Old Route #115. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

Post 672 now taking donations for VA

Ladies Aux. of Dallas American Legion Post 672, will have a donation box in the lobby of the legion's main entrance through the month of July. Members, Associate members and friends are asked to donate used paperback novels, magazines, video tapes. All donations will be taken to the VA Hospital Library for our veterans.

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