

Drugs/crime

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life preservers and we had another case where an intruder was spotted in the home of an elderly couple."

Kathy Moretti's Jeep was one of the vehicles broken into at Harveys Lake. "My son and I got home about 5 p.m. Wednesday night," said Moretti. "I had bags of groceries to carry in the house and without thinking I left my purse in the Jeep. When I went out the next morning someone had broken in my car and stolen my purse and some coins my son had in a ziploc bag in the glove compartment."

The burglars took cash, credit cards and Moretti's peace of mind. "I'm scared to death and at the same time I'm angry as hell," she said. "I feel so violated - how dare they - these people came onto my property and now I have to sit here and feel like a victim in my own house."

While reporting the break-in to Harveys Lake police, Moretti became even more alarmed. "Chief Butler told me this was not an isolated incident. He said we have drug users living at the lake who do this kind of thing for money to support their habits," said Moretti. "I have been living here for 15 years and this is the first time anyone has told me about this problem."

The lack of public information about the recent burglaries and the problems related to drug traffic in general is a concern to Moretti. "Why haven't we had a town meeting about this? Why hasn't the borough sent fliers through the mail or put a message in the newsletter?" she asked. "I'm sure the person who did this was watching my house. I don't think it was random; I think they are picking their victims."

Moretti, who is a single mother, worries that others who are as unsuspecting as she will be victims as well. "We have a lot of summer people here and elderly

"Just because we're up here on our big hill doesn't mean we don't have the same problems they have everywhere."

Darcy Brodmerkel
Misericordia counselor

people living at the lake," she said. "This problem is only going to get worse and before you know it someone is going to get hurt."

Borough police officers are busy trying to track down the perpetrators, but they have little to go on at this point. "We are still investigating," said Butler. "We don't have a suspect right now but we're working on some leads."

Harveys Lake has been particularly hard hit, but other Back Mountain neighborhoods are experiencing similar problems. "It's not only here," said Butler. "I know they have been having a lot of burglaries over in Lake Township, too. It's going on all over the place."

Chief Fowler, who works undercover for the Luzerne County Drug Task Force, said drug activity is not a new issue. "It's a real problem and it has been for a long time," he said. "The Back Mountain is a wealthy community and drug dealers from outside the area see it as a good market."

Slowing the supply of narcotics from big cities like Philadelphia and New York is a formidable task. "Drug investigations are very lengthy and very dangerous," said Fowler. "It takes time to establish a relationship with a source and gain their confidence."

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program attempts to foster trusting bonds between police officers, communities, educators, parents and students in order to stem the de-

mand for drugs. "We know that the traditional tools available to police, like arrest, don't cut it," said Frank Ziegler, Kingston Township D.A.R.E. Officer. "It's going to take a cooperative effort from everyone. I can stand in front of the class and talk until I'm blue, but if the kids aren't getting the right message at home, it's not going to matter."

Ziegler has been working with fifth and eighth graders at Gate of Heaven Elementary School and in the Dallas School District for five years and he thinks resistance education is making a difference. "Unfortunately, we don't have any statistics that tell us if this program is successful, but I'm confident that it is," he said. "It's like that great teacher that literally changes your life - we don't know how many kids are influenced by something said in the D.A.R.E. program - it's not the kind of thing that can be quantified."

While definitive numbers are not available, long-term programs like the one Ziegler coordinates offer a drug prevention experts an opportunity to observe the changing attitudes of children as they mature and modify techniques as necessary. "The eighth grade program is more sophisticated than the core curriculum presented to fifth graders," said Ziegler. "We focus on the decision making process, peer pressure awareness, resistance techniques and self-esteem. The bottom line is we have to offer positive alternatives. If you say no to drugs, you have to say yes to something - it could be school, sports or music - anything."

Darcy Brodmerkel, a Substance Abuse Counselor at College Misericordia, believes providing options to college students is just as important. "We have outdoor adventure activities and a Midnight Madness Program on campus when the gym stays open later so the kids can play games

and have fun without chemicals," she said. "You can't scare them; you have to give them choices."

School sponsored activities like these help break the myth that drugs and alcohol are a part of the college experience. "I think there is an attitude that this is some rite of passage," said Brodmerkel. "With this generation of students it's especially difficult because a lot of their parents grew up when smoking pot was very acceptable so they think it's just a phase their kids will outgrow."

That mode of thinking can have dangerous consequences. "Many college students, about 30 percent nationwide, are seasoned drinkers by time they arrive on our campuses, so often those kids are turning to other drugs because alcohol doesn't provide the effect they're looking for anymore," said Brodmerkel. "Another thing parents don't realize is the quality and quantity of the stuff out there is different than it was back in the 1960's. Before heroin was 90 percent cut and 10 percent pure, now its 90 percent pure and 10 percent cut."

Drug dealers strategically market such highly potent drugs. "Dealers are really smart," said Brodmerkel. "Like a car dealer who is going to try to get you in the best car possible, a drug dealer wants to sell the best stuff because it keeps the customer coming back. Whenever there is an overdose, addicts want that stuff because they think it's the best out there and the person who died just didn't know what he was doing."

While most people may be inclined to think such horrors are not likely to affect their own family, those closest to the situation caution otherwise. "Just because we're up here on our big hill doesn't mean we don't have the same problems they have everywhere," said Brodmerkel. "This disease is not selective."

always say, I'm good Jim. How the heaven are you?"

Maslow honored for years of service

At the September meeting of the Board of Trustees, Wyoming Seminary honored Dallas resident, Marilyn Moore Maslow for years of service.

In a citation read by Sem's president H. Jeremy Packard, Maslow was recognized as an active parent volunteer, as a board member for 24 years and as board secretary for 17 years. One of her most

significant contributions came in the early 1980s when Maslow became a national chair of a capital fund raising campaign resulting in a new gymnasium at the Lower School.

Packard presented a commemorative Wyoming Seminary mirror to Maslow in recognition of her many years of outstanding service.

Sem students named Commended Scholars

President H. Jeremy Packard of Wyoming Seminary announced Ashley Feldman of Shavertown and Jaclyn Walkowiak of Dallas have been named Commended Students in the year 2000 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) which conducts the program, will be presented to these talented seniors.

Some 34,000 Commended Stu-

dents throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Although they will not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards to be offered next spring, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2000 Merit Program by taking the 1998 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Halloween

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area come here to trick or treat, we've found that there are a lot of kids and cars on the roads," said Kane. "When you consider that most areas do not have formal sidewalks and many spots are not well lit, it becomes a safety concern."

Dallas Township officials think the idea is a good one. "We talked about it at our last meeting and the supervisors decided Saturday afternoons are much more conducive to this kind of thing," said Len Kozick, Dallas Township Secretary.

The Kingston Township supervisors will consider the matter at their next meeting, but Jeff Box, Township Manager, is not sold on the idea. "They want to do away with a 100 years of tradition by legislating Halloween?" he asked. "Put us down for a maybe because you never know, the supervisors might think this is a good idea."

Those interested in participating in the great pumpkin debate should attend the next meeting in their area. In Dallas Borough,

"Our goal is to keep the spirit of the season alive while having safety in mind."

Charles Kane
Dallas Borough Council

meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.; in Dallas Township the supervisors gather on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. and in Kingston Township meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Kane said the Dallas Borough Council is still open to any suggestions on the subject. "We're not opposed to another remedy. The option of having it on a weekend night is certainly a possibility," he said. "Our goal is to keep the spirit of the season alive while having safety in mind."

Georgetti

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of Georgetti for more than 17 years. "To do what he did for all those years, takes something special and Larry had it."

He also had two sons who were clearly his pride and joy. "He was the consummate family man," said Charlene Cook, who lives across the street from the Georgettis. "He was always out in the yard playing baseball, football or soccer with the boys."

As his children grew, Georgetti volunteered to coach their youth league teams. "He followed the boys up through the ranks of Little League," said Jack Snyder. "He was always involved either as a coach or an umpire and the kids just loved him."

Fellow coaches expressed their admiration for Georgetti's skills as a mentor and his generosity of spirit. "I've only come to know him

in the last year or so, but I was impressed by him. He gave a lot of his time to these kids," said Tom Kinter, who is a Back Mountain Youth Soccer Division Leader.

Georgetti had a positive outlook both children and adults found contagious. "I don't think he had a negative thought in his mind," said Welby. "I'd see him every morning and I'd say, 'Larry, how the hell are ya?' and he'd

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