

What's on the Horizon?



Margaret Bakker

The weather's recent flirtation with summer was delightful but a little disconcerting, too. Evidence of global warming is becoming increasingly hard to dispute. The World Meteorological Organization announced in December that the 1990s were, globally, the warmest decade since record keeping began in

1860. And the 1900s were, by far, the warmest century of the last millennium. 1999 was the 21st consecutive year with an above normal global surface temperature.

The effects of global warming are numerous: increased spread of infectious disease, more frequent and severe heat waves, storms, drought, floods, rising sea level, damage to ecosystems, social and economic disruptions. It is time to change our act, individually and as a society. In general terms, we need to take steps to clean up dirty power plants, increase fuel efficiency of vehicles (especially sport utility vehicles and light trucks), expand the use

Building a better future

of clean, renewable energy and encourage energy efficiency.

One major area where energy efficiency can and should be improved is in the building industry. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimated that buildings consume 40% of the nation's annual energy bill, including 4% for the energy used for construction and demolition. Buildings consume 66% of the electricity nationwide and are responsible for 35% of US carbon emissions (from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas), 47% of sulfur dioxide, and 22% of nitrogen oxides. The major proportion of raw materials flow into the construction of buildings.

There are many simple strategies for saving energy and money in construction. Not all energy-saving building features cost more. Let's start with some common sense, low-cost ideas, some of which are passive solar design features (those that use a building's structure to capture sunlight and store heat).

- Reuse or Recycle - Renovate older buildings; it saves significant quantities of materials and embodied energy. Use salvaged or recycled materials. Employ durable materials that won't wear out prematurely.

- Create Smaller Buildings - Fewer resources are required to construct space-efficient buildings and they disturb less land.

- Optimize Building Orienta-

tion - Orient the long face of the building to within 30° of true south; within 15° is optimal.

- Solar Orientation and Natural Ventilation - Locate the most lived-in spaces on the South side of a house with storage and garage on the North and West sides. Position windows to capture breezes for cross-ventilation.

- Energy Efficiency - Use the highest level of insulation in walls, ceilings and floors, air-tight construction, high-performance windows and doors, and high-efficiency fluorescent light fixtures. Fluorescent lights can now provide the same color quality as incandescent lamps with much less heat build-up. These combined measures may permit downsizing of heating and cooling equipment.

- Windows - Always use windows with double-glazing and a high-efficiency, low-E coating. It's worth the small extra cost. Place the highest percentage of windows facing South (between 7% and 12% of the house's total floor area) to absorb solar heat into building materials. Fewer windows facing east or west minimize cooling loads in summer.

- Provide Open Layout - Open room layouts allow passive distribution of natural daylight and ventilation and reduce material consumption.

- Daylighting - Use light-colored finishes to reflect light deeper

into rooms and reduce the dependence on electric lighting.

- Cluster Buildings - Cluster buildings to preserve more open space and reduce the cost of roads, sewer and other utilities and protect ecosystems.

- Minimize Pavement - Cut road and driveway width and length to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces. This reduces downstream flooding and saves water to recharge the water table.

- Protect Existing Vegetation - Saving shade trees can reduce the need to air-condition, boost property values, and reduce the need for additional landscaping.

- Consider the following higher-cost energy-saving strategies: install Solar Water Heaters or Pre-heaters; consider Ground Source Heat Pumps; use photovoltaic arrays or wind turbines for power generation; consider rainwater collection and composting toilets.

Even if we were each to implement only one of the conserving options listed above in our homes or office buildings, collectively these small actions would pay huge dividends in keeping our natural environment cleaner and our built environment sustainable into the next millennium.

Margaret Bakker is an architect who lives in Jackson Township and is a long-time member of the Land Trust.

Library news



Carol King

In preparing this article, I was once again struck by the close relationship between the Back Mountain Memorial Library and the community at large, and how much staff members contribute to the community.

Librarian's report: In the month of February Martha Butler, the librarian, attended meetings at the Osterhout Library to discuss updating the District Library plan and the resolution of problems arising from automation. Marilyn Rudolph, the

Library staff active in community

children's librarian, reported that waiting lists for the toddler and pre-school story hours have been absorbed and the programs are functioning well.

Tricia Considine and the children from the "I'm Big Now" nursery school toured the library and listened to stories. Ruth Tetschner and Marilyn Rudolph were "Read Across America" readers at the Evans Falls Elementary School. Ruth selected books from the Book Store to give to each student, and also provided brochures with the store hours and a \$1 gift certificate for each child.

Marilyn attended the first meeting of the Summer Reading Club, held February 28 at the Osterhout library. On March 15 she was a reader for the senior project of Rachael Harrison of Lake-Lehman High School at the Shavertown United Methodist Church.

The librarian reported the fol-

lowing figures for the month of February: total circulation, 7,473; books added, 255; new borrowers, 88; and active borrowers, 12,490.

Friends activities The Friends of the library will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 28, to prepare the mailing for the annual luncheon to be held on April 27 (full details will be given next week — save the date!). We invite anyone interested in supporting the library to join the group and become acquainted with its members and the variety of ways in which the Friends raise funds for the library's benefit. Our meetings are always enjoyable.

Book discussion groups Members of the Monday morning group are reminded that the next meeting will be held on March 27. We will discuss *Slaves in the Family*,

by Edward Ball.

The Monday evening group will also meet on March 27 and will discuss *The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*. Call Pam Oliveria, 674-9935, if you are interested in joining the group.

New display When a library staff member called to tell me about the new moose collection on display in the library, I was startled. Moose heads in that small case? Of course I was mistaken. It is a display of stuffed moose figures loaned by Sara Gregory of the Little People day-care center on the second floor of the library building. Sara said the first moose in her collection was one dressed up for Christmas, which she thought was cute. As collections do, hers has kept growing. She has received many figures as gifts. Take a look at the display — it will bring a smile to your face.

Inkjet cartridges to be collected, recycled

The PTO of Wycallis Elementary School in Dallas is sponsoring an empty computer inkjet cartridge recycling program in conjunction with Earth Day. LPT, Inc. will make a donation for each qualifying cartridge they receive. The money collected from this community-wide drive will be used as a "seed fund" for a new environmental committee at the school. Used inkjet cartridges will be collected at each of the Dallas Schools and at the Back Mountain Memorial Library during the period of April 25, through May 2.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

BACK MOUNTAIN HARVEST ASSEMBLY - 340 Carverton Rd., Trucksville. 696-1128. Pastor, Daniel S. Miller. Christian Education for all ages, 10:00 a.m. Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Wed., 7 p.m., "Genos" youth service. Midweek home groups; call for days and times. Weekday prayer 6:30-7:30 a.m. Visitors welcome.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. 675-0122. Rev. William D. Lewis, Pastor. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at 9 a.m.

PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 420 Main St., Dallas. 675-1723. The Rev. Robert A. Nagy, Rector. Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.; Sunday School pre-K thru high school 10 a.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist Tues. 7 p.m. & Thurs. 10 a.m. Both are healing services on the second Tuesday and Thursday of the month. Bible Study Tues. 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. 675-3616. Pastors: Rev. Douglas and Janet Bryant Clark. Music Dir., John Vaida. Saturday Services: 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Services: 9 a.m., Family oriented Service; 11 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary. Sunday Child Care Provided. Visitors expected. PHONE: A-PRAYER 675-4666.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown. Sat. Worship 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Phone 675-3859 or e-mail: stpaul@epix.net for more information. Everyone welcome! Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor.

Tanglefoot to perform at College Misericordia

The acoustic folk music group Tanglefoot, of Ontario, Canada, will perform a special benefit concert at College Misericordia on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. in Walsh Auditorium in support of the College's new Women With Children Program. The band is well known in Canada, England and the eastern United States for their energetic music and outstanding songwriting. Tickets are \$17.50 for reserved seating, \$12 for general seating, and \$8 for students with ID. Call 674-6333 for tickets and reservations.

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KITTY JONES as CINDERELLA

Back Mountain Library will present 'Cinderella's Storyland'

In celebration of National Library Week, the Back Mountain Memorial Library will present a program for children entitled "Cinderella's Storyland: an Interactive Show by Kit's Kaboodle," in which Cinderella is about to marry the Prince but is required by her Fairy Godmother to solve a riddle first.

Kitty Jones, a professional ac-

tress from New York City, plays Cinderella. Her show combines history, music, dance and improvisation by the children, who are asked to take part.

The program will be held on April 12 at 7 p.m. Children from 4 years old and up, and their families are welcome. Pre-registration is required. Call 675-1182.

Antique Appraisal Fair

Sat., March 25
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



to be held at
Mountainside Manor

sponsored by Mountainside Residents Council
Rt. 309, DALLAS, PA

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570-675-5108

For More Information Or Directions!

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