

## Developer

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For the residents at the bottom of the hill, the erosion problem created by the new subdivision has been costly in more ways than one.

Aggie Walton Zeiler's home has suffered the most damage from the water runoff problem. She lives on Hemlock Drive and has found her basement acting as a catch basin for rain water and silt from the new homes being built.

"We never had a water problem until he stripped the land of all the vegetation and changed the flow of the water," Zeiler said.

Since that time she has sustained almost \$6,000 in damages to her property. Another neighbor, John Stepanik, had \$275 worth of damages from a rain storm which occurred on August 13.

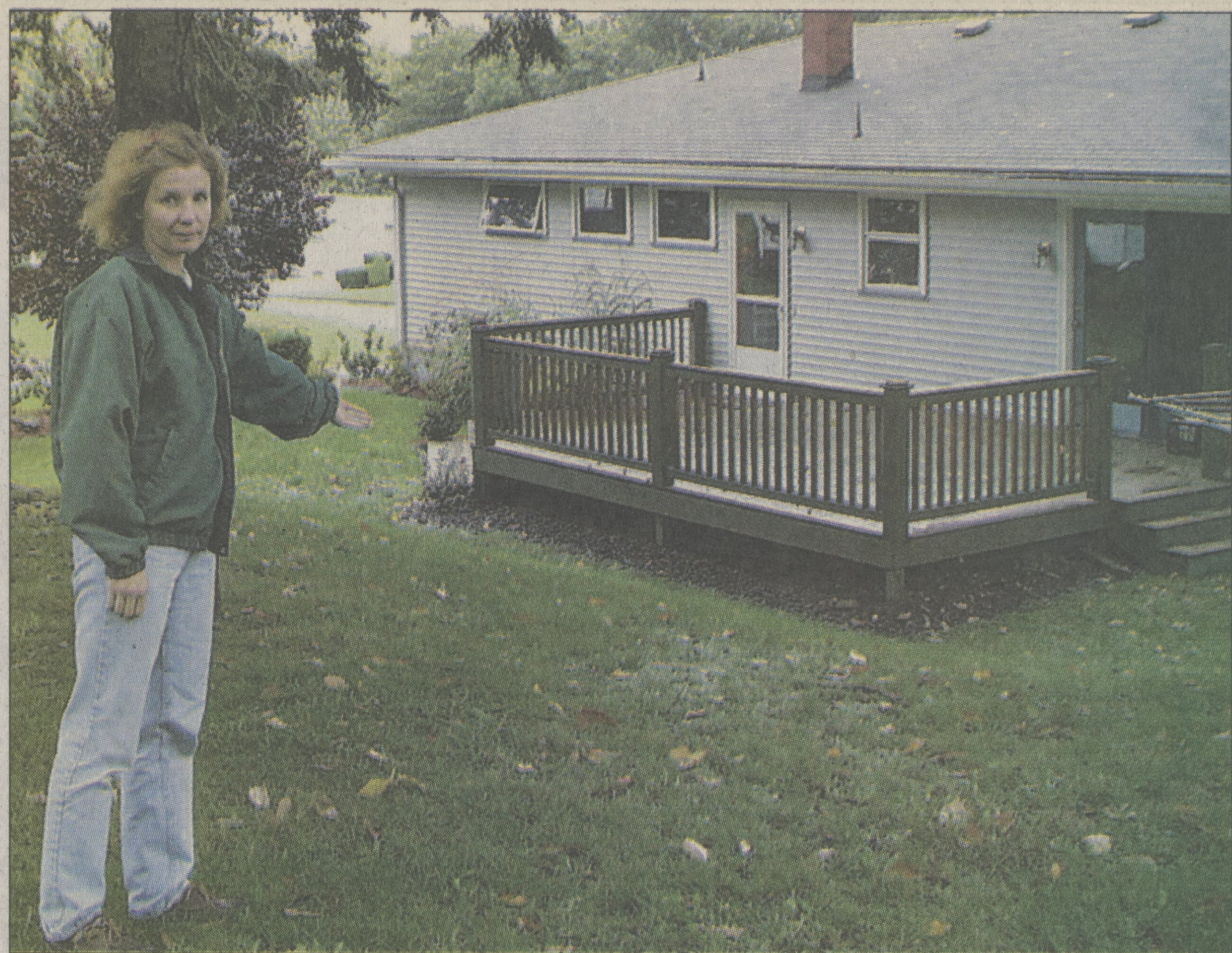
*"We never had a water problem until he stripped the land of all the vegetation and changed the flow of the water."*

Aggie Walton Zeiler  
Oak Hill

Stepanik, who has lived in Oak Hill for over 35 years, said there had never been a water problem in the neighborhood until this year. For Zeiler, the problems started in June with silt draining into her yard. She said Stepanik had brought that problem to Schraeder's attention, but it was ignored.

On July 1 after a heavy rain storm, Zeiler said the water poured into her basement and ruined the carpeting and a number of other items. She said D.J. Fitch, a subcontractor of Schraeder's, had filed an insurance claim for \$1,948 for her damages. She did not accept the insurance payment for the items because it did not include compensation for four days of work she took off to deal with the flooding.

On August 13, the rains came again and so did the silt and water damage. Zeiler said it was



Aggie Walton Zeiler points to her backyard, which she says has been affected by runoff from new home construction nearby.

mostly yard waste. Fitch's insurance company, Donegal Companies, paid a claim for \$500 in that instance.

Stepanik contacted DEP when there seemed to be no relief in sight for him or Zeiler. "Up until that time we had no satisfaction in regards to this problem at all," said Stepanik.

Zeiler said she doesn't sleep when it rains heavily. "I am up all night long running that shop vac and still the water comes in," she said.

The rains came again September 24, and again Zeiler's basement was flooded. This last rain caused the most damage. The water has damaged two walls and more carpeting, all of which will have to be replaced. She is still in the process of getting quotes on the work which will need to be done to her house.

"It's ridiculous how I have to live," Zeiler said. As a single mother with three children, the basement flooding has not only cost her financially. She said she has used much of her leave time from work dealing with this

*"It's not a case of willful neglect. If things have transpired, it has been by accident."*

Gerald J. Schraeder  
Lifestyle Builders

matter. She said she would have used that time with her children when they have early dismissals from school or snow days.

Contacted Sept. 25, Schraeder denied that his work is the source of the water problems.

"Everything is being done to correct that problem," Schraeder said. "We are working with DEP and following their guidelines to the T."

Lifestyle Builders has been in business for 13 years, according to the Northeast Better Business Bureau and has a satisfactory record with no complaints to the bureau in the last three years.

Schraeder admitted that there has been construction going on

at the site since the township revoked his permits. But he said part of the work has been to address the erosion problems and try to meet the DEP guidelines. As for the fines which maybe levied against him, he said, "I have not heard anything on that."

"Aggie Zeiler has a real drainage problem," Schraeder said, but he doesn't feel his construction is the main cause of it.

"My bottom line is that if there was a willful disregard, I would be guilty," said Schraeder. "It's not a case of willful neglect. If things have transpired, it has been by accident."

This is not the first problem the township has had with Schraeder. Bartlett said the township has refused to take ownership of the cul de sac on the Hemlock Street extension in Phase 1 of the new Oak Hill subdivision.

"It does not meet township requirements," said Bartlett. The road has inadequate drainage, which turns it into one big bird bath, he said.

## Agreement reached on hedges

By HEATHER B. JONES  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN TWP.** - An agreement has been reached regarding the hedges at the corner of Hilltop Drive and Oak Drive in the township.

Lehman Township Supervisors spent most of their September meeting in discussion with resident Mark Hozlock about his hedges which are obstructing drivers' sight at the intersection.

The hedges are in the right-of-way and are causing a very serious safety problem, said Sutton. He had received a number of complaints from residents, he said.

"We have a right to keep the right-of-way clear or even paved. It's a dangerous condition," said Savage.

Hozlock said the reason he planted the hedges at the corner

was because of the stop sign which was once at his corner. The hedges made people stop for the sign, he said. The stop sign Hozlock spoke of has been removed by Lehman Township in the past year.

Hozlock wants the stop sign put back at the intersection of Hilltop Drive and Oak Drive. He said he had no problem moving the hedges, but he wants the stop sign back.

"The problem with any of the speed limit or stop signs is enforcement," said Raymond Iwanowski, supervisor. He admitted it is very difficult for the police to catch violators in that area.

"We'll investigate it, and we'll take it under advisement," said Douglas Ide, roadmaster, regarding the stop sign.

Hozlock has 30 days to move or take down the hedges.

## Blessing of animals Oct. 4

St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, will hold its annual Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Thurs., Oct. 4, at 5:30 p.m. In honor of the feast of St. Francis, families are invited to bring their pets of every species, shape, color and size to be blessed in the upper parking lot.

## Correction

The Lehman-Jackson Elementary School students in the front page photo of the September 20 issue were misidentified. The caption should have read: William Hillman and Morgan Decker worked on a project during "Red, White and Blue Day," last Friday.

## Fire

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home and saw the glow from the fire, prompting her to call 911. The King home is uninhabitable due to fire damage. The family is being put up by the American Red Cross, said Davis.

A vacant home owned by Angelo Concert was also damaged by the fire. Shingles were melted and a window was broken because of the intense heat, Davis said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Pennsylvania

State Police Fire Marshall and the Harveys Lake Police Department, Davis said, but does not appear suspicious.

Responding fire companies included Harveys Lake, Kunkle, Lehman, Noxen, Northmoreland, Jackson, Trucksville, Dallas and Shavertown.

A fund has been set up to help the Bell family. Donations may be sent to: Bell Fire Fund, c/o Luzerne National Bank, 509 Main Street, Dallas, PA 18612.

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Forms must be returned by October 22. For more information, call 831-7329 or e-mail Stephanie Bombay at sbombay@leader.net or Kalen Churcher at kchurcher@leader.net.

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