

Shavertown Fire Auxiliary donates funds for equipment

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN - "The primary purpose of our organization is to support the men and women who volunteer to protect our community every day," said Holly Joyce, a member of the Shavertown Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. "When they need equipment, we try to raise the money to buy it by having bake sales, raffles, Welch cookie sales, etc."

This year the auxiliary raised \$1,000 which paid for a circular chain saw, a 24-foot aluminum extension ladder, and other tools needed by the department. They are an all-volunteer group which has been in existence since 1961. It has 15 active members.

"We need the equipment," said Fire Chief Gary Beisel. "If they didn't raise the money for it, we wouldn't have what we need to fight the fires. They are one of the few active auxiliaries left, and they work very hard to support us."

Firefighters and police officers have been viewed in a new light



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Auxiliary members and fire fighters pose with recently purchased equipment. From left, kneeling: Mary Jane Konek, auxiliary president and Capt. Jeff Beisel. Standing: Florence Stella, life member; Holly Joyce; Betsy Joyce, vice president; Ann Marie Konek, secretary; Chief Gary Beisel.

since September 11. Chief Beisel relayed a story that happened recently when some of his crew were out of town attending a fire school. "The men and women

had their Shavertown Fire Company t-shirts on when they went to dinner. A man, who was a total stranger, walked over to their table just to say 'thank you.' Mo-

ments like that make all of us proud to be firefighters and thankful that we enjoy the support from the auxiliary and the community."

Lake-Lehman tax

(continued from page 1)

takes revenue from the school district."

The largest financial drains come from the reduction in assessments of businesses such as the Woodlands. PNC bank recently received a property assessment reduction at several of its branches. A gas station affected by a gasoline leak a few years ago is reportedly paying \$1 per year in taxes as it was valued as useless land, said Ed Chesnovitch, a resident of Jackson Township. When these high value property assessments are reduced, the dollar amount lost can be substantial, resulting in pressure to raise millage rates.

Properties in Luzerne County have not been assessed for nearly 40 years and for an obvious reason. Elected officials pushing for assessments could become very unpopular to voting owners of older properties assessed at lower values who do not wish to see their taxes rise. On the other hand, young couples just buying a new home aren't so happy with the inequity in assessment values.

"If you own a home that was last assessed in 1960, you are paying taxes on that 1960 assessment which might be \$30,000," Roberts explained. "If you were to build the same house now, at \$120,000, you can see how your taxes would go up."

Many Pennsylvania school boards have been fighting these appeals in court, resulting in more costs to the school districts. Additionally, during last week's board meeting Savage said, "The county is now, and I believe for the first time, saying to the school district and municipalities that they will not procure a certified appraiser to handle all these assessment appeals."

The county is suggesting the school district carry the majority of the cost burden of hiring an appraiser for testimony and appraisal purposes, with local municipalities sharing a smaller portion. "I can't remember a request like this in the past," Savage added. "The county always handled it."

Savage recommended the board adopt a wait-and-see approach to learn if any of the local municipalities received the same request and if they are going to contribute to the appraiser's fees. "If not, then the whole scheme is kind of jaded," Savage said.

A number of residents at the meeting cautioned the board to take preparatory measures. Angelo DeCesaris, Sr. summed it up. "I think the board had better start preparing, because the next few years there's going to have to be something done."

Sutliff's BACK MOUNTAIN FURNITURE CHRISTMAS

Savings Sale



Route 118, DALLAS • 674-7858
(In the Former Little Lumber Building)
Mon., Tues., Wed. 10a.m.-6p.m.;
Thurs., Fri. 10a.m.-8p.m.; Sat. 10a.m.-6p.m.; CLOSED Sun.

The Best Resolution You Can Make

Rejuven-Essence

This Holiday Season and the rest of the year take care of yourself and the ones you love. Stop in and check out our unique variety of affordable LIFE ENHANCING SERVICES.

Featuring

Repêchage Body Wraps • Hot Stone Massage • Rejuven-Essence Massage
Oxygen Enriched Aromatherapy • Light and Sound Therapy

GREAT GIFTS - GIFT BASKETS (5 price ranges) - GIFT CERTIFICATES

20 Laurel Street, Pittston PA • 602-6600

Better water for your family is just a house call away.

Just say "Hey Culligan Man!" for a no cost, no obligation water analysis.



Remember House Calls? Your local Culligan Man still makes them... and they're "On The House." One easy call schedules a free in-home water analysis performed by an expert who knows about the water where you live. Your Culligan Man also knows all about water softeners, whole-house filters, delivered bottled water service and drinking water systems. And right now, he's got a great introductory rental offer—just \$3 dollars a month for the first three months. It's never been easier to get better water for your family.



\$3/mo. for 3 Months
Certain restrictions apply. Expires 12-31-01.

Serving Northeast PA for over 65 Years
1-800-836-1354
570-562-9771 • 570-455-4971

Culligan
culligan.com

*Offer is subject to credit approval. Is valid only for residential products and services at participating dealerships, is not valid with any other offers, does not include the cost of salt. Is only for new customers or existing customers requesting an additional service and does not include the cost of installation which can be substantial in some areas. Please call your local dealer for a specific quote. Offer expires 12-31-01.



Hometown values.
Hometown service.
That's First Liberty Bank & Trust

Happy Holidays!

Seranton Offices:
Keyser Ave. 343-1211
Minoaka 341-5555
Spruce St. 558-3660
Wyoming Ave. 961-2402

Local Branches:
Carbondale 282-9390
Clarks Summit 587-0575
Daleville 842-5715
Dickson City 307-7500
Jermyn 876-6500
Jessup 489-4736
Kingston 331-0412
Olyphant 489-4721
Pittston: 655-7750

ATMs at all locations, Riccardi's in Danmore & LJC

At holiday time – and all through the year – you can expect friendly hometown service every day from the local people of First Liberty Bank & Trust. Personal attention and fast, local decision-making set us apart from the big out-of-town banks. But you can also take advantage of all our modern services, from internet banking and electronic bill payment to traditional checking, savings, homeowner loans and CDs. Stop by soon, so we can wish you "Happy Holidays" our favorite way: in person.

First Liberty Bank & Trust

a division of COMMUNITY BANK, N.A.

Bank and trust in us.

Visit us at the branch nearest you, or on the web at www.firstlibertybank.com