

**EDITORIALS**

# Kingston Township has lost two men of worth

Kingston Township has lost important contributors to its prosperity and quality of life with the death of long-time supervisors Herbert Hill and William Tippett. Both men died last week, leaving a void in township government, made even larger by the resignation a few days earlier of Randy Glidden.

Hill and Tippett served 27 and 16 years respectively, through what might be considered the township's golden age. During their tenure, Kingston Township faced substantial pressure from developers who wanted to take advantage of the township's popularity with people who worked elsewhere, but wanted to raise their families in an attractive, suburban community. Contractors sometimes complained about the township's stringent zoning and building regulations, but the consistent enforcement of reasonable restrictions served to maintain high living standards. By virtue of its home-rule status, Kingston Township also was able to eliminate property tax, albeit by charging a higher local income tax — just the shift advocated by advocates of tax fairness.

Herb Hill and Bill Tippett were far more than just government officials; they were a link between Kingston Township's rural past and suburban present, between the private institutions that serve neighbors and public ones that look out for the interests of every resident. No matter what your politics, there's no denying that they will be hard to replace, and those who follow them in public service can't go wrong in starting where they left off.

## Is it a food fight at Lake-Lehman?

Questions are being raised about the efficiency of the food service vendor for the Lake-Lehman School District, in part because it doesn't appear students are buying enough lunches. Now, concerns about teenage dining preferences need to take into account the nature of the beast, in this case tastes that often raise corn chips at the top of the food pyramid, and an eating timetable that defies adult logic.

One option is for the district to take over the food service program using its own employees. That may seem attractive on the surface, but the job is very complicated, particularly in a district with three elementary schools in disparate locations, state regulations to meet and personnel matters that inevitably arise.

This is likely a case in which persuading a vendor to hike quality and selection makes more sense than taking on the mealtime desires of more than 2,000 children and dozens of faculty members.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## Susquehanna at flood is a danger to health and safety

Editor,  
At a time when drought conditions are front and center, discussions about flooding and the Susquehanna River Basin flood forecast and warning system may seem an unlikely, if not untimely, topic. Quite the opposite is true.

Following the tragic events of September 11, we knew immediately our country would be changed in many ways. Today, the federal government, during this time of war, is faced with untold challenges in an attempt to balance important and competing budget demands. Securing and protecting our nation's citizens within our borders and abroad must take the highest priority. Understandably, President Bush has had to make many tough budget decisions.

Given this current landscape, we realized that funding approvals would not be status quo. But to learn that the President's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year contained "zero" dollars for the Susquehanna River Basin flood forecast and warning system was, to say the least, disappointing.

The Susquehanna River Basin is, undeniably, none of the most flood-prone watersheds in the entire nation. In 1993 dollars, the basin experiences an average of \$113 million in flood damages each year. That number rises dramatically in years when major, devastating floods like Tropical Storm Agnes (1972) and the ice jam floods of January 1996 strike the basin. Sixteen lives were lost in the basin in 1996 alone from flood events.

People up and down the basin from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland can attest to the vital importance of the

basin-wide flood warning system. It saves lives and greatly reduces flood damage costs by providing for early warnings that allow people and businesses to secure their property and to get themselves out of harm's way before flood waters strike. For every dollar the federal government spends on this program, the government saves up to \$13 through reduced damages — minimizing damages equates to reduced payouts from the federal flood insurance program.

As I've stressed in the past, let's not be penny wise and pound foolish over a system that protects public health and safety. Saving lives during times of floods, which are inevitable in this basin, certainly is a matter of homeland security and warrants funding.

In the past, we have relied on key congressmen from the Susquehanna basin to restore funds for the flood warning system. We will once again call upon our members to help, most notably Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum from Pennsylvania and the five co-chairs of the Congressional bi-partisan Susquehanna Task Force; Congressmen George Gekas and Paul Kanjorski from Pennsylvania; Sherwood Boehlert and Maurice Hinchey from New York and Wayne Gilchrest from Maryland.

They, and all our basin congressional members, understand the power of the Susquehanna at flood stage and know firsthand the suffering their constituents and communities from past flooding.

Paul O. Swartz  
Executive Director  
Susquehanna River Basin  
Commission



Necessity is the mother of invention. Lower Demunds Road, Dallas. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



This edition of "What's on the Horizon?" comes from the national Land Trust Alliance as well as the North Branch Land Trust. Please contact us at 696-5545 or see our website [www.nblt.org](http://www.nblt.org) for more information.

April 15 doesn't have to be painful again next year. Instead, it can be a day you celebrate both your tax savings and the satisfaction of permanently conserving important open spaces.

The nation's 1,200-plus land trusts - nonprofit organizations that are independent of government and work hand-in-hand with landowners who choose to conserve their lands - offer a variety of ways that you can permanently protect your open space lands and perhaps shave your tax bill:

\* Donate it to a nonprofit land trust;



70 Years Ago - March 18, 1932

**APPOINT VIEWERS FOR SCHOOL SITE**

On petition of the board of school directors of Kingston township asking the right to condemn six and three-fourth acres of land in the township, owned by John Kaschenbach of Wilkes-Barre for school purposes. The premises were examined by Attorney James McCabe, Charles E. Rowe and Daniel Sakowski.

The Post Office Department issued a new two cent stamp on April 22 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Arbor Day.

At A&P Markets some of the items you could get: flour, 24 1/2 lb bag, 53¢; spinach, 2 lge cans, 25¢; Palmolive Soap, 4 cakes, 29¢; rolled oats, pkg, 5¢; sugar, 10 lbs., 45¢.

60 Years Ago - March 20, 1942

**NUMBERS OF 780 LOCAL MEN DRAWN**

The order numbers of 780 local men from the Dallas Area, who registered with either Local Board No. 1 at Wyoming or Board No. 5 at Shickshinny, were drawn at Washington in

## Don't let another tax year pass without conserving your land

\* Donate a conservation easement, which permanently limits the type and scope of development; or

\* Sell the land to a land trust in a "bargain sale" for below fair market price.

Income Tax reductions are one way you can benefit. Under the Internal Revenue Code, for most gifts of appreciated land or conservation easements, a taxpayer can deduct up to 30 percent of his adjusted gross income in the year of the donation. If the value of the gift exceeds that deduction the taxpayer can carry forward the balance for up to five additional years.

For example, if Mrs. Landowner has an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 and makes a gift of a conservation easement worth \$80,000, her deduction in the first year would be \$15,000. The balance can then be carried forward for each of five years until she has deducted the full \$80,000 value of her gift.

Estate Taxes are another good way to save. Because development pressures in most parts of the country dramatically increased property values during the past 20 years, many people

are forced to sell lands that have been in the family for generations in order to pay estate taxes.

Consider the Triple Bar Ranch, a fictional working ranch, but a true-to-life financial example. The family patriarch bought the ranch in the 1960s, when land was far less expensive. Today, it is worth \$1,250,000. Mrs. Landowner is a widow, and the ranch comprises nearly her whole estate. She and her husband accumulated just \$250,000 in other assets. Therefore, her total estate is worth \$1.5 million. In nearly every state, the combined state and federal estate taxes would be around \$200,000 - more than the surviving Landowner children could afford to pay, even though they want to see the ranch remain as open space.

The solution may be the voluntary donation of a conservation easement, which legally limits the amount and type of development that can take place on land. An easement can be tailored to a landowner's desires.

The easement may, for example, permit construction of just two more large-lot homes but

protect the land from construction of a subdivision. As a result, Mrs. Landowner may reduce the land's market value to \$750,000, down from its current \$1,250,000 value. Her estate, including \$250,000 in other assets, would then be worth \$1 million, and no estate taxes would be due.

The nation's private, nonprofit land trusts have been tremendously successful at land protection. Grassroots land trusts had protected permanently more than 6.2 million acres by the end of 2001. Of that, approximately 2.6 million acres had been protected by conservation easements, according to the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). The amount of acreage protected by conservation easements increased more than fivefold since 1990.

The North Branch Land Trust is one of a handful of small conservancies doing this work in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We would be happy to discuss protection of your individual property with you at any time. Please call the number given above or e-mail us at [info@nblt.org](mailto:info@nblt.org).

the first wartime draft lottery since 1917.

Only the ultra-modern typesetting equipment of The Dallas Post made it possible for this small suburban newspaper to publish the complete draft statistics for the 522 local men registered with Board No. 1.

A "Salvage for Victory" campaign designed to help overcome the national metal shortage and also speed the construction of the local Community House was launched. This was sponsored by the Dallas Area Women's Unit, and it took the form of a clean-up week, seeking odd bits of useless scrap metal and sold to the Construction Workers Union of Wilkes-Barre and proceeds will be turned over to help finance the Dallas Community House.

50 Years Ago - March 21, 1952

**DALLAS ROTARY TO OBSERVE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**

Dallas Rotary Club will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding at its meeting at Irem Temple Country Club. Dallas Rotary was organized in 1927. The officers are: David Jenkins, president; Daniel Robinhold, vice president; Harold Titman, treasurer and Edward Keller, secretary.

A collection of warm clothing for Korea will be collected by members of the Youth Council of Wyoming Valley Council of Churches. All main roads in the Back Mountain Area will be covered.

At ACME Supermarkets some

items you could buy: margarine 5 lbs \$1; apple butter 5 28 oz. jar, \$1; Alaska Salmon, 1 lb. can, 39¢; sauerkraut, 2 lge cans, 25¢; orange juice, 5 46 oz. cans, 95¢.

40 Years Ago - March 22, 1962

**SPORTS CAR CLUB ALPINE RALLY WILL START FROM BACK MT. SHOPPING CENTER**

Northeastern Pennsylvania Region, Sports Car Club of America will stage the "Little Alpine Rally" from the Back Mountain Shopping Center in Shavertown. The Rally-masters are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hillyer of Dallas.

College Misericordia's Varsity basketball team has enjoyed one of its most successful seasons, scoring eight victories against two losses.

Army Pfc. Mark A. Wnek, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Wnek, Harveys Lake, participated with other members of the 25th Division's 1st Battle Group, 35th Infantry, in three weeks of annual Army Training tests at the Pohakulo Training Area on the Island of Hawaii.

30 Years Ago - March 30, 1972

**PUC ASKED TO HEAR UGI RATE ARGUMENTS**

Atty. James Lenahan Brown filed a motion for argument before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, in Harrisburg on legal questions in the interests of several local complainants who oppose the 17 percent rate increase granted to Luzerne Electric Division of UGI

Corp. The Dallas High School gym was jammed with nearly 1,000 children and their parents for the annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Dallas Junior Woman's Club.

At a board meeting of the Back Mountain Memorial Library Association, Atty. Merton Jones announced that a piece of property adjacent to the library grounds on Main Street, Dallas, had been purchased by the Library Association.

20 Years Ago - March 17, 1982

**BALLFIELD SITE SELECTED**

The newly formed Youth Baseball organization, Inc. hopes to name the site of the recreational complex it intends to construct by the end of the month. Joseph Kelly, chairman of the land-search committee, says his organization is waiting word from the owner of the land before any definite plans are released.

Sixteen varsity men of the Dallas Senior High school baseball team left for Leonardtown, Md., to play four pre-season games. The trip marks the first time a Dallas team traveled outside the state to compete in pre-season play. The players raised \$1100 for their trip through a T-shirt sale.

The first Assembly of Elections of the Scranton Province of the Sisters of Mercy met in Dallas to elect a new Province Administrative Group. This group of Sisters is given the responsibility to direct the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Province.

# The Dallas Post

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

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