

Jackson

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anonymous opinions, comments and views on new industrial, residential and commercial growth, open space and agricultural land, positive and negative aspects on residing in Jackson Township, road conditions, dangerous intersections, water and sewage conditions, recreation facilities and emergency services and their willingness to pay for upgrades to these services. The planning commission and the board of supervisors urge all residents to make their opinion count and return their surveys. A public hearing will be held after surveys are returned.

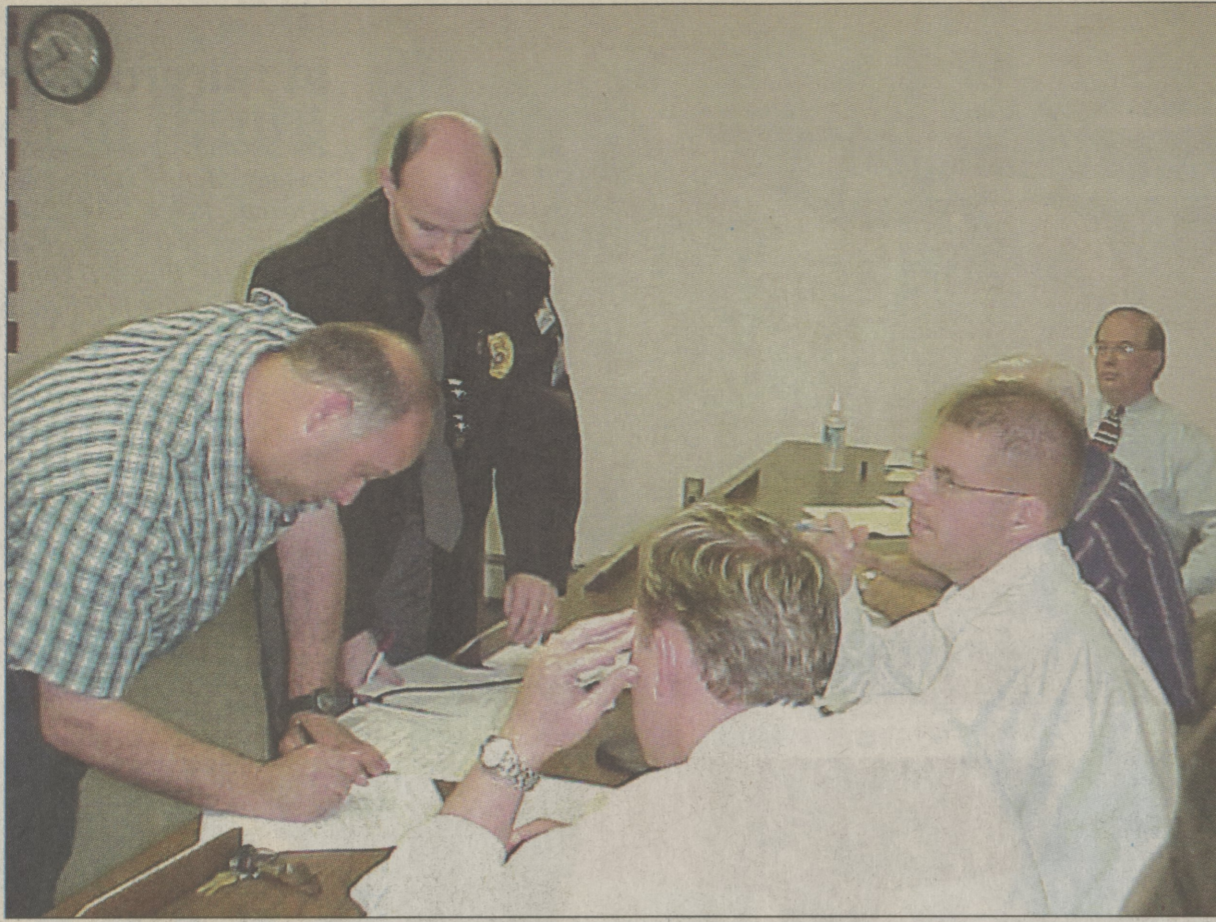
The planning commission is asking for volunteers to serve on future committees and projects in association with the new comprehensive plan. Anyone interested may call 674-4554.

In other business:

- A letter was received from the Department of Environmental Protection concerning action the DEP has taken on two major waste tire sites in the township. The properties are estimated to contain over 16,000 tires combined. The DEP said they would proceed with further actions against the property owners, Raymond Malak and Francis Manzoni, after receiving no response from either since the initial citation in February.

- The zoning officer, Andrew Sholtis, in an effort to address the backlog of violations, has issued three written warnings to property owners in the township. Names and locations have been withheld until the owners have received the notices, but Sholtis said all three warnings fell under the new junk ordinance passed last month.

- Sholtis or Joanne Wright,



POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Chief Jerry Leedock and Sgt. Scott Davis sign the new contract agreed upon by the police department and the Jackson Township supervisors at Monday's meeting, as Solicitor Jeffery Malak and Supervisor John J. Wilkes look on. A compensation increase of 5 percent was included in the contract but all agreed with Wilkes — the officers are "grossly underpaid," considering the jobs they do.

the zoning secretary and recording secretary for the planning commission, will be attending a software seminar given by Geographic Information System (GIS) at State College May 18 and 19. The DEP and the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. awarded the township with a GIS software grant for use in the new comprehensive plan. The grants are designed to increase public access to data for land-use planning, environmental education, envi-

ronmental protection and restoration.

- Solicitor Malak will be researching and acting to clear the title for the Weavertown Road property, acquired by the township in a treasurer's tax sale in the 1940s. Wilkes said there are no uses planned for the one-acre property, but storage or selling the land for township profit are possible options.

- The original proposal and suggested modifications to the Jackson Township Agricultural

Security Area Act will be forwarded by the supervisors to the planning commission for its recommendations. The act was last updated in the township in 1992 and is part of a statewide effort to preserve farmlands.

- Luzerne County 911 has chosen Jackson Township as a test area for its new 800-megahertz frequency system. The county will be providing the new radios at no cost to the township in June or July.

Nobel Prize winner to speak at Misericordia commencement

The Honorable David Trimble, 1998 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, will speak to 350 graduates and over 2,000 guests at College Misericordia's 76th annual Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 18 at 3 p.m. in the Anderson Sports and Health Center.

A baccalaureate mass will be held at 11 a.m. Trimble will be awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters degree along with The Most Rev. James C. Timlin, Bishop of Scranton, and Dr. Camille D'Arienzo, RSM, president of the Brooklyn Sisters of Mercy and leader of the anti-death penalty group "Cherish Life Circle."

Trimble earned the Peace Prize for his efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. As the leader of the traditionally predominant party in Northern Ireland, Trimble showed great political courage when, at a critical stage of the process, he advocated solutions that led to the peace agreement. The focus of Trimble's speech will be the peace process in the context of current world events.

This class will be the largest in Misericordia's 78-year history. Among the notable graduates will be the first from Misericordia's Women with Children Program, another who fled war-torn Kosovo as a refugee and the second group of Expressway graduates (accelerated degree program for adults).

Trimble was born in Bangor, Ireland on October 15, 1944. He entered politics in 1975 when elected to the Northern Ireland Constitutional Convention representing the Vanguard Unionist Party-part of a United Unionist Coalition with the mainstream

Ulster Unionist Party and the DUP. Trimble then joined the Ulster Unionist Party and in 1983-85 became vice-chairman of Lagan Valley Unionist Association and in 1985 became chairman. From 1990-1996 he was honorary secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council and from 1989-95 Chairman UUP Legal Committee. In 1985,

Trimble was the founder chairman of the Ulster Society for the promotion of Ulster British culture and heritage. He resigned as chairman in 1990 when he was elected MP for Upper Bann Constituency and still holds that seat today and later was elected leader of the Ulster Unionist Party on September 8, 1995. Immediately on becoming leader he began a series of talks with other parties, becoming the first Unionist leader to meet the Irish Government in Government Building in Dublin.

In his book about his work in Northern Ireland, Senator George Mitchell, made the following comments about Trimble's approach to the negotiations leading to the Belfast Agreement: "Every day of the nearly two years of the negotiations was for him a struggle to avoid being thrown off balance. Attacked daily by some unionist for selling out the Union, criticised often by some nationalist for recalcitrance, he threaded his way through a minefield of problems, guided by his intelligence, his sure grasp of the political situation and his determination to reach agreement. I believe that in the end, Trimble did the right thing for the right reason; he saw the opportunity to end the long and bitter conflict".

Festival

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Back Mountain.

The event is being held in place of the club's annual Easter Egg Hunt, which was cancelled this year. "Everyone is so busy at Easter time that if we feel this goes well we may switch to this type of event for the future," said Giannuzzi. Other committee

members working on the Children's Festival include Bobbie Steever, Jim Tupper and Anthony Macri, the association's current president.

Generally, children aged 1 to 10 participate in the Easter Egg Hunt and Saturday's event will be geared to that same age

group, with entire families welcome. The festivities will take place rain or shine and will be at the outdoor amphitheater located by Misericordia's new library and the Banks Student Center. A magician will begin his show at 1 p.m. to kick off the event. The Back Mountain Business

and Professional Association currently has nearly 100 members from various Back Mountain businesses. The group's main purpose is to enhance the quality of life and the economic development of the Back Mountain. The Association meets monthly at Stax & Co. and the

meetings feature a business speaker. The group sponsors an annual Business Fair and Card Exchange. They also support the high schools and colleges in the Back Mountain. New members are always welcome and you can call 675-9380 for more information.

"We've had a tremendous amount of support from Back Mountain merchants, both members and non-members, for the Children's Festival," said Giannuzzi. "We'd love to see lots of children attend. We have lots of prizes and surprises for everyone."

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