



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

They're off

Lee Eckert drove the patriotic lawn tractor and John McCarthy provided musical accompaniment as the Deer Meadows July 4th parade began, with decorated bicycles and even roller bladers riding through the neighborhood.

Water

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problem was finally resolved, and it wasn't until workers from Philadelphia Suburban Corporation's Consumer Pennsylvania Division, the company which purchased NUI last week, came to her home that the leak was repaired.

"There is no love lost here with (National Utilities Inc.)," said Burgess. "They were always saying the problem was underground springs or runoff every time they couldn't find the problem."

National Utilities was ordered out of the water business almost three years ago by the state Public Utilities Commission. Philadelphia Suburban Corp., which has operations throughout the southeastern part of the state, expanded into the north about a year and a half ago, according to a June 29 article in the Times Leader.

Burgess said she noticed large amounts of water forming in her side yard June 20, and immediately called NUI to get a repair crew to her home to fix the problem.

She said someone at NUI took her information that night, but

no one came to her home.

"My neighbor called (NUI again on) June 21, and spoke to the president of the company, and he said he would send a guy out to run some tests" Burgess said. "My dog was a mess. The water was running into my back yard and along the fence, and every time the dog went outside, he was coming back in all muddy."

Later that day, a repairman came to Burgess's home, ran a chlorine test on the line and used a leak detecting device to listen for an underground leak, but Burgess said he told her no chlorine could be found in the water, and the problem was accumulating rainwater runoff.

The water build-up only worsened over the next few days, as Burgess and a neighbor continued to contact NUI.

Burgess provided this time line:

- A neighbor called NUI June 22, and was told the problem would be fixed before Philadelphia Suburban took over.
- NUI president Gary Nawrocki told Burgess on June 23 the leak would be fixed before the water service changed hands.
- She was told that repair

crews were taking care of a major leak somewhere else, and would not be able to get to her that day on June 24.

- On June 25, Burgess again called NUI, and she was told that she was on the schedule to be fixed, but it would take a week or two, and would be done by Philadelphia Suburban. Burgess then contacted Kingston Township Manager Ed O'Neill, who in turn contacted NUI. Burgess was told that a repair person would be out to check the problem again.

- Burgess's neighbor again called NUI on June 27, and was given the phone number for Philadelphia Suburban, who had taken over ownership of the water company June 26. Her neighbor called Philadelphia Suburban's Consumers of Pennsylvania division, who was in charge of NUI's former customers, who told the neighbor they were unaware of the problem, but would be out to look into the leak the next day.

- A repair crew from Consumers of Pa. came to Burgess's home on June 28, and returned at 6:30 a.m. June 29, found the problem and repaired an approxi-

mately foot long crack in the line.

"It was pretty obvious to us that there was a leak," said Dave Quinn, manager of the White Haven Division. "We're in the middle of a drought, and there was a lot of water in the yard, and there was a high rate of water coming out of the pump house."

"It seems like that is all we have been doing (since taking over NUI) is repairing leaks in the water lines."

Quinn said approximately 150,000 to 200,000 gallons of water was lost in the 10 days it took to fix the foot-long leak in the bottom of the pipe.

Nawrocki refused an attempt for a phone interview with The Dallas Post.

"I thought it was pretty rotten that (NUI) never told the new company that there was a leak," Burgess said. "If (NUI) would have told me they weren't going to do anything, I would have called (Philadelphia Suburban) earlier. If not for this leak, we never would have known that we were changing water companies."

Burgess did say Consumers of Pa. sent a letter to customers on

Jackson

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ment Act (SWMA), said solicitor Malak. Raymond Malak's refusal to comply with the SWMA has the DEP considering an injunction against him in Commonwealth court in Harrisburg.

Solicitor Malak also cautioned the supervisors that property owners covered by the Agricultural Security Act, as Manzoni is, might use it to avoid enforcement of the township's junk nuisance ordinance which covers waste tire piles, making enforcement difficult.

Oral argument was heard June 13 in Philadelphia in the Jackson Township vs. Malak zoning case. A decision should be reached within a few weeks, said solicitor Malak. The township continues to receive complaints on the increasing amount of junk on Raymond Malak's property on Pinetree Road.

A pre-trial conference hearing is scheduled for July 12 at 12 p.m. before Master Dick Hughes in Kingston concerning the American Asphalt zoning dispute. Attorney Hughes will set the schedule and decide if testimony will be heard and will then make a decision on the matter.

After Master Hughes has made his decision, any of the parties named in the suit, American Asphalt, Rolling Meadows or Jackson Township, can file a brief in support or opposition. The case then goes back before a judge at which point it will probably go to appellate court in Harrisburg.

"We were hopefully talking about getting this done in a month or two, but that might be optimistic," said solicitor Malak. The zoning appeal was first heard in 1979.

Last month, township residents Kathleen London and Ronalee Schall requested a traffic study be done on Route 29 between segments 170 and 210. London and Schall said excessive speed and noise from cars and trucks were causing dangerous conditions. They cited several incidents with trucks headed for Pikes Creek Sand and Gravel, Inc. Wilkes said PennDOT is in the process of conducting the study now. He expects Penn DOT to recommend a 10 mile-per-hour speed reduction from the present 40 mile per hour speed limit.

In other business:

- Supervisor Al Fox donated \$1000 of his unused recycling salary budget towards the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for the Jackson Township Ambulance Association.

- John Harkins made a presentation to the supervisors and township residents requesting support and approval for the Harkins Pond Dam project on Pine Cone Road and the establishment of an emergency action plan.

- Part-time police officer Don Gavigan has successfully completed his probationary period.



POST PHOTO/TIMOTHY J. RAUB

Cathy Burgess pointed to an area of her yard where water leaking from a line overflowed, into her dog's run.

July 2 notifying them of the change of ownership, but it wasn't until after the leak was fixed.

Quinn said his crews still have to complete the finish work on the project, and will repair the grading on the land and plant grass as soon as the ground settles. He said it is Philadelphia Suburban's policy to repair prob-

lems within a day or two of a complaint.

Burgess seems pleased with the new ownership.

"The new company is supposed to be putting in new pipes," said Burgess. "You don't mind paying more if you're getting good service."

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