

EDITORIAL

## Addressing issue is symptom of county 911 weaknesses

Francis Kopko's letter on this page raises perplexing questions about how well the countywide 911 emergency response system is serving the Back Mountain and other communities. His point that adherence to the "Colorado" system of addressing doesn't make the most sense when applied to Lakeside Drive is a good one. Addresses around the lake have been by pole number for decades, and that system has become the familiar standard for fire, police and ambulance personnel. It is perfectly accurate, and Kopko says has been given approval by the post office. Replacing it with addresses such as 000 Lakeside Drive would seem to be a needless inconvenience at best, and a danger at worst.

This disagreement raises the issue of whether or not we have received what we've paid for since Luzerne County ramrodded the county system through. The answer is obvious to anyone who listens to emergency calls that initially send the wrong department, which wastes precious time as someone from the local squad calls back in to correct the error. Then there's the issue of all the goodies local communities were promised by the county, such as transmission towers to clear up garbled signals and advanced communications equipment for emergency vehicles. We have received precious little of what was presented as a bundle of carrots to authorize this bureaucracy, but we're still paying top dollar, and more than people in more responsible counties that have delivered on their commitments to public safety.

In the end, common sense wins out, and dispatchers continue to use pole numbers when giving directions to a Lakeside Drive emergency. If only the rest of this system, which holds so many potential benefits, worked as well as that.

## Time is right to help others

The holidays are approaching, and with them reminders that America's bounty is not spread evenly through the population. This is the time of year when the Back Mountain Food Pantry steps up efforts to collect items for distribution to families who must choose between paying the fuel bill or buying fixings for holiday meals, a question that never comes up for most of us, but is all too real for some of our neighbors.

The food bank is a joint effort of the congregations of the Back Mountain Ministerium, and is operated out of the Trucksville United Methodist Church. Your donations provided a decent Thanksgiving meal to more than 120 families last year, and the number who could use a hand is likely to increase this fall. Many of those families must return for supplemental items throughout the winter, particularly if it is a cold one, as this has started out to be.

In an effort to make donating more convenient, food bank volunteers have persuaded several local businesses and churches to provide space for collection boxes at their facilities. Please make it a point over the next few weeks to drop off non-perishable food items, or if you prefer, send a cash donation to: Back Mountain Food Pantry, c/o Trucksville United Methodist Church, 40 Knob Hill, Trucksville, PA 18708.

### Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



My computer died over the weekend. It wasn't one of those annoying temporary episodes in which the hard drive won't boot up, or the monitor goes black. No, this time it was stone cold dead, and not only that, it happened while it was on. You see, I left it alone for just a few minutes, and when I came back into the room it had expired, gone kaput, given up the ghost. (If computers have ghosts, that is. We all know they have gremlins.) I'm left with survivor guilt, and a deadline to meet.

You wouldn't think this would be such a problem as it turned out to be. But, you see, I live in a fast-disappearing world, that of the Mac. Despite having a superior operating system and better reliability (usually), machines with the tiny apple insignia for a distinct minority of computers in use, and given the slap on Microsoft's wrist meted out last week by a federal judge, the share is likely to shrink even further. My company is hopping on the PC bandwagon, and with a new system on order, hasn't been replacing Macs as they retire to that Silicon Valley in the sky, leaving our backups, well, nonexistent. Or almost so. We did manage to scrounge up a model that was the toast of the lab 15 years ago, and it's holding down the fort until a more suitable replacement can be found. It may be old, but I'll bet it crashes less often than a Pentium 4 running Windows 2000.

### Letters are welcome

Letters to the editor are welcome and will be published, subject to the following guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- No writer may have more than one letter published during a 30-day period, except as a reply to another letter.
- Letters must be signed and include the writer's home town and a telephone number for verification.
- Names will be withheld only if there exists a clear threat to the writer.
- The Post retains the right to accept or reject any letter, and to edit letters for grammar and spelling, as well as to eliminate any libel, slander or objectionable wording.

## The Dallas Post

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The Outlet at Harveys Lake, resplendent in seasonal color.

### LETTERS

## Pole numbers still best for Lakeside Drive addressing

Editor,  
In 1996 Harveys Lake became involved with the Luzerne County 911 Emergency Response Agency to establish an effective addressing system to locate residents who needed emergency service.

Since the goal was to have the same address for emergency response (fire, ambulance, and police) and for mail delivery, the District Postmaster for our area was contacted and permission was granted to use the existing telephone pole numbers as an address along Lakeside Drive. The 911 Agency also agreed to use the pole numbers.

Shortly thereafter, the blue and white reflective numbered plaques were attached to the utility poles for identification of locations on Lakeside Drive.

Then, about two years ago, Harveys Lake Council was informed that representatives from 911 were assigning the Colorado system of addressing to residences and structures along Lakeside Drive instead of using pole numbers.

The 911 officials who were assigning the addresses indicated that it was easier for them to assign the Colorado addressing

system than to assign the pole numbers with dashes for the individual structures. Imagine that — doing what is easier for them and compromising speed and accuracy for the safety of the residents on Lakeside Drive.

Have you or a member of your family called an emergency service as a Lakeside Drive resident and/or property owner? You were probably asked what pole number you were located. For many years the pole numbers have proven their accuracy for emergency response time after time, on Lakeside Drive.

The arguments Council members use against using pole numbers are as follows: 1, there is more than one structure represented by a particular pole; 2, using pole numbers is not standard as the house numbering in other communities; 3, emergency responders from adjacent communities would be confused with pole numbers and they would not be able to find a specific location; 4, there are five utility poles that do not have numbers at the Outlet Section of Harveys Lake. What do you do there?

The rebuttal to the aforementioned arguments include: 1, the

District Postmaster from Allentown will accept the use of dashes after the pole number for a mailing address, i.e. Pole 111-1, 111-2, 111-3 etc.

The County 911 also indicated that the use of pole numbers with dashes was acceptable to identify specific structures when the numbers are located on the specific structures when the numbers are located on the specific property; 2, our community is unique along Lakeside Drive—8.25 miles long with an established pole identity; 3, adjacent communities have been responding to emergencies along Lakeside Drive for years using pole numbers for locations; 4, between Pole 279 and Pole 280 there are five poles without numbers. The pole number and dash system may be used very accurately in this situation as well, i.e. 279-1, 279-2 etc.

A Council person told me that, although the residents along Lakeside Drive will have the Colorado Addressing System, the pole number would still come up on the 911 monitor when an emergency call came in. What irony! Luzerne County 911 assigns the Lakeside Drive residents a new address number,

but uses the pole number to identify the location for emergency responses.

As recently as four and a half months ago, the County 911 Coordinator indicated that the use of dashes with the pole numbers was doable. The District Postmaster in Allentown also indicated that the pole numbers with the dashes would be doable as a mailing address.

Twenty Lakeside Drive residents and/or property owners were polled and they expressed the effective and logical use of the pole numbers as opposed to the system supported by Council.

If you feel that as a Lakeside Drive resident and/or property owner that the continuing use of the pole numbers is important to you, then call the borough office (639-2113) after 4 p.m. and leave your message on the answering machine. Indicate your name and pole location. Calling after 4 p.m. will not compromise office time, and the secretary will be able to tally the calls when it is convenient.

Francis Kopko  
Harveys Lake



70 Years Ago - November 4, 1932

### KINGSTON TOWNSHIP MARKS OPENING OF NEW BUILDING

Kingston township school district's new high school building was dedicated formally at a program which attracted more than 1,000 persons.

Mrs. C. Roscoe had been appointed major for the district comprising Shavertown, Dalas, Trucksville, and vicinity for the annual Welfare Federation drive.

Some of the items you could get at the American Stores Co. were: spaghetti, doz. 55¢; 4 cans 19¢; string beans, 2 cans 13¢; tomatoes, 1 can 5¢, dozen 59¢; cherries, 6 cans 73¢; peaches, 6 cans 73¢

60 Years Ago - October 30, 1942

### MOTHER FINDS DALLAS MARINE SON'S PHOTOGRAPH IN LIFE MAGAZINE

Mrs. Russell Shaver picked up an issue of Life magazine and while glancing through ran across a picture of her son,

Willard Shaver, and nephew, Elwood Whitesell, making a practice landing on a beach with a group of United States marines.

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company purchased two Indian pumps to be used in fighting grass fires, incendiary bombs, and small confined fires. The pumps cost \$18.50 each.

A surprise blackout caught much of the Back Mountain not prepared and proved again the inadequacy of the present fire siren warning system and the inefficiency of the secondary air warden set-up. In Kingston Township, response to the warning was almost immediate. In Dallas Borough and Township the blackout was far from complete.

50 Years Ago - November 14, 1952

### LEHMAN EX-PRINCIPAL TRAINS TEACHERS TO IRAN

Dr. Clyde B. Myers, principal of Lehman High School in 1913 and 1914, before going to Pennsylvania State College to teach, has been selected to establish an educational system in Iran. He will train Iranian teachers in elementary schools.

Commonwealth Telephone Company has filed new tariffs with Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission increasing monthly charges for telephone service in all of its thirty-nine exchanges.

Harveys Lake ambulance was completely remodeled as a result of an appeal to year around residents and summer cottagers.

The ambulance was completely refitted, repainted, repaired and reconditioned.

40 Years Ago - November 8, 1962

### DALLAS SCHOOLS PETITION STATE TO CHANGE PLAN

Dallas School directors, at an adjourned meeting voted to petition the Sate Council of Education to change the proposed plan for merging of Back Mountain area schools with those of the Northwest Jointure in Shick-shinny.

For the first time in history, a Democratic candidate, Daniel Flood, incumbent Congressman, carried the seven municipalities of the Back Mountain. Even the tough Republican Middle District in Dallaas Township gave Flood a plurality.

Back Mountain residents registered an unsurprising heavy vote for the Republican party helping Governor-elect William Scranton to his victory over Democrat Richardson Dilworth.

30 Years Ago - November 2, 1972

### FLOOD RELIEF REFERENDUM ON BALLOT

Pennsylvania voters will do more than help decide the next President of the United States. They will also be given the opportunity to participate in a referendum on a Constitutional Amendment to determine whether the Commonwealth has the right to make direct grants to people who suffered financial

loss in the flood.

A consumer coalition of citizens groups placed their support for lower milk prices on the line with a poll of how 22 Lackawanna and Luzerne County candidates to the Pennsylvania General Assembly support a House bill to abolish retail milk price controls.

H.B. 1480 was recently approved by the state Senate and sent to the "governor" for his signature. H.B. 1480 provides busing for kindergarten and elementary school children, living within 1 1/2 miles of the school, where road and traffic conditions are hazardous to children

20 Years Ago - November 3, 1982

### LAKE-LEHMAN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PRAISED BY STATE AUDITORS

Lake-Lehman School District has emerged from a state audit with flying colors according to state Auditor General Al Benedict. No new violations or recommendations were noted in the report.

Some of the items you could get at Daring's store were: smoked franks 1lb., \$1.49; bottom rounds, 1lb., \$1.59; stirp sirloins 1lb., \$2.69; rump roast, 1lb., \$2.09; canadian bacon, 1lb., \$2.69.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library obtained \$5,000 to replace, update and expand the adult and children's reference collections and career information materials.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week? A: Only in The Dallas Post