

Crime

(continued from page 1)

we were making quite a large impact," said Balavage. "Unfortunately, in December 2002, the funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development ended and since then the amount of activity we've had to deal with, as it relates to other offenses, has increased."

The three suspects, John Gas, Ebony Smith and Jeffrey Stevens, were arrested, Sunday, for fitting descriptions of individuals who attempted to rob the Turkey Hill on Rutter Avenue in Kingston. Witness accounts also placed a gold Jeep Grand Cherokee, belonging to Carey Bartoo, an occupant of 16 Meadowcrest, at the crime scene. Bartoo and another 16 Meadowcrest occupant, Gregory Pockevich, were also arrested.

Balavage said 16 Meadowcrest, where three of the five arrests were made, has gained a reputation especially since January when the additional policing ended.

Balavage said while searching for the gun used in the attempted robbery, officers discovered "fruits of other crimes," on which he would not elaborate.

He also said for months residents have complained about suspicious activities consistent with drug activity and that police have been out to the residence numerous times in the past for noise disturbances, vandalism and other offenses. Until now, citations had been issued, but no arrests had been made.

Asked whether calls to the house increased when the community policing program ended in December, Balavage responded, "Oh God yeah."

Rose Yarmel of the Luzerne County Housing Authority said the program, which was cut completely by the Bush administration in 2001, has further im-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A policeman guarded the front of 16 Meadowcrest Sunday, where suspects in an attempted robbery in Kingston were holed up. After an hour-long standoff, police arrested three suspects inside.

plications than just within the boundaries of the development.

"I think it was very beneficial for the residents and the municipalities," she said.

She said the program's guidelines stipulated the money be used "to help combat drug problems in and around public housing and (be used for) related issues."

Consequently, money went to provide additional police protection to contiguous neighborhoods possibly affected by crime at the development.

"We realize that public housing exists in a community, that problems could be leaking out to other areas," she said.

Balavage said the grant money allowed the department to make significant changes in the development. "We were generally able to reduce the problems there," he said. Over the five-year period, the department helped to evict as many as 15 tenants failing to abide by the law and or the development's regulations. He said officers were also able to make inroads with some of the

kids. "We had a good working relationship with the communi-

Showtimes effective Friday 5/30/03

Disney • PIXAR
FINDING NEMO
Daily 7:00 • Fri/Sat 9:00 • Sat/Sun 3:00
Sat/Sun/Wed 1:00 • Sat/Sun/Fri 5:00

MATRIX RELOADED
Daily 6:45 • Fri/Sat 9:05
Sat/Sun/Wed 1:15 • Sat/Sun 4:00

THE **Dietrich** THEATER
Tunkhannock
"MORE THAN THE MOVIES"
836-1022 www.dietrichtheater.com

ty," he said. Kingston Township had been receiving the money annually since 1997. Yarmel said the last block of money arrived at the state level in 2001. She said because the money is spent over a two-year period, it lasted until the end of 2002.

Yarmel has been following the grant situation at the federal level. "One of the people in Congress did submit some legislation to reinstate it," she said.

But, she said, "I don't know that there's been any serious look by the administration to reinstate it."



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

A police officer escorted one of the suspects at 16 Meadowcrest from the home Sunday night.

Appeal

(continued from page 1)

tennis courts and a 30-bed assisted living facility. George Huntzinger, owner of a neighboring property on West 42nd Street, Dallas, is appealing the action, citing that the change in zoning constitutes spot zoning, illegal in the state of Pennsylvania.

Protests have been voiced by other residents concerning the change. Chairman Dave Sutton

JCC Day Camp offers summer programs for kids

The Jewish Community Center of Wyoming Valley Day Camp will open for boys and girls, ages 2-15 on Monday, June 16. The program will run through Friday, August 8.

Open House for campers and parents to meet with staff will be held on Thursday, June 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the campsite in Dallas.

The JCC Camp is a member of the United Way of Wyoming Valley and offers programs in swimming, tennis, archery, arts & crafts, nature, music, dance, drama, computers, cooking, ropes course, biking, canoeing, kayaking, golf, hockey, basketball, volleyball, newcomb, t-ball, gymnastics, cheerleading, multimedia plus day and overnight trips.

For information call 824-4646.

Early dismissals at Lake-Lehman

Schools in the Lake-Lehman School District will dismiss early on the following dates:

Friday, June 13: 12 noon dismissal at the high school, middle level, Lehman-Jackson Elementary and Lake-Noxen Elementary.
12:45 dismissal at Ross Elementary.

Monday, June 16: 10 a.m. dismissal at the high school, middle level, Lehman-Jackson Elementary and Lake-Noxen Elementary.
10:45 dismissal at Ross Elementary.

Tell our advertisers you saw them in *The Dallas Post*. They'll appreciate it, and so will we.

said not long after the rezoning, a neighbor found a 1929 deed for the property restricting the type of development that could be built there.

"Back in 1929 someone put a restriction on it. Whether it still

applies or not, it becomes now someone has to do a real thorough title search," said Sutton.

The Lehman Township Zoning Hearing Board will hold a public meeting June 3 at 7 p.m. to hear the Huntzinger appeal.

MOUNTAIN MULCH

SUPER SALE This Week

ONE GALLON
Periwinkles-Fillcoides-Holly-Jumpers
Boxwoods-Leucothoe-Microbiota
Norway Spruce
Scarlet Ohars **\$3.99**

ONLY

ALL COLORED MULCH ... **\$13.00/5000P**
HARDWOOD MULCH **\$11.00/5000P**
WHITE STONE **\$10.00/5000P**
PLAYGROUND CHIPS **\$10.00/5000P**

CALL 826-7001 SCRANTON - HAMLIN
WILKES-BARRE

WE REALLY DELIVER! More Mulch, Less Money!
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED **1-800-DO-MULCH**

Looks like it came from your trip to Cape Cod, but you picked it up here for just a few clams.

Sophisticated, Affordable Gifts for All Occasions

Cards • Candles • Boyd's Bears
Lee Middleton Dolls • Executive Gifts
Bridal • Baby • Home Decor
Gourmet Accessories • Specialty Toiletries
Jewelry • And More

(570) 696-2801

Monday - Friday: 9:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.
Saturday 9:00A.M. - 5:00P.M. • Sunday - CLOSED

Now Open next to the Grange Bank
165 South Memorial Highway • Pen Dragon Square • Shavertown

We're a Community Bank.

That's why we always try to approach things from a community minded point of view. When something is in the best interest of the community we serve, it's good for us as well. *We're community minded, just like you.*

LUZERNE NATIONAL BANK
A Proud Past, A Promising Tomorrow

Community Minded.
Just like you

LUZERNE • SWOYERSVILLE • DALLAS • PLAINS TWP. • WILKES-BARRE • WYOMING
288-4511 287-1141 674-5442 829-3900 822-4211 613-0966

MEMBER F.D.I.C. www.luzernenational.com EQUAL HOUSING LENDER