

Hanson's

(Continued from page 1)

"I want to take this eyesore (Hanson's) and make it something beautiful, so it will be an asset to the people and to the lake."

Moving ahead with the 30-acre Waterwood — as Williams named it — appeared it would be smooth sailing. Council seemed thrilled with the idea and Williams said the villas generated a lot of interest from home buyers.

But at the same time Williams was finishing plans for the project, the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority was hit with complaints from home owners about overflowing sanitary sewer lines in the same part of the lake.

The Department of Environmental Protection has gotten involved and the borough has retained an engineering firm that is looking into the problem. In addition, the municipal authority has just placed a moratorium on all new sewer hook-ups at least until a sewer review is complete.

Williams said he wants his project to be one residents welcome and he is concerned that the recent turn of events may have shifted public perception about his proposed development.

At least 50 residents concerned about the sewer problem showed up at the recent monthly Municipal Authority

meeting.

"I don't want to make any enemies. I want to make it as friendly a project as I can," he said.

Williams has said no matter what the problems with the sewer are, he is more than willing to work toward solving them even to the extent of upgrading the pumping stations if necessary.

"I don't want people to be afraid of my project because of the sewer problem," he said last week. "I don't want people to view me as a contractor coming in and raping the property. This is my lake and I love the lake," he added.

Williams grew up in Dallas and graduated from Dallas Township High School. He has also lived in Florida, Virginia and now Columbia Maryland. He said he has developed other villa communities, like Waterwood, using the same type of structures, but prefers to not be called a "developer."

Williams said for 35 years he owned part of a wholesale paper distribution company and on the side raised Black Angus cattle on a farm he owned in Maryland. He recently sold the farm in anticipation of moving to this area. At \$350,000 per villa, Williams said his development would be an asset to the borough, not only aesthetically, but also financially. Through



Ken Williams, who hopes to build villas on the former Hanson's Amusement Park property, provided this photo that he said depicts a similar development he has constructed.

"I don't want people to be afraid of my project because of the sewer problem."

Ken Williams

Hopes to develop the former Hanson's

his calculations, the development would bring \$70,000 in tax revenue to the borough annually, and over \$500,000 in school tax revenue a year.

He said his plan aims to incorporate aspects of Hanson's early years. A complete restoration of the historic Dodgem (bumper car) building is planned.

Williams said he has also gone to great lengths to plan the community as "environmentally friendly" and fitting into the theme of the lake. The

"park-like" setting is planned to include sidewalks, meanderings, and "beautiful landscaping."

A pool is planned, but he says the focal point of the community would be the restored Dodgem building that would serve as a pavilion overlooking the lake. Restoration of the beach area next to the boat-house was planned, as well as a restoration of the boathouse itself. A stone wall with a gate-house would front the property

Moratorium placed on new sewer permits

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — In response to public concern, the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority has instituted a moratorium on all new sewer hook-ups, sort of.

At the June 4 Municipal Authority meeting, the Authority board unanimously voted for the moratorium that could halt further development until a problem with sewer overflows is corrected.

At least 50 people attended the meeting to voice their concern about the condition that has been dumping raw sewage onto Lakeside Drive and into the lake for years.

The decision came just days before the Department of Environmental Protection sent the borough and Authority a letter, called a Notice of Violation (NOV), outlining the community's violations of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law.

Although a moratorium in name, Richard Boice, Authority Manager and Harveys Lake Mayor, said sewer permits can still be issued, if approved by the borough's engineering company, Borton-Lawson.

In the past, the Authority's manager granted the permits and only large developments required approval from the borough's engineer.

Now all applications — no matter what size the property — will go through Borton-Lawson.

"The residents were asking for it," said Boice about why the board voted for the moratorium. "They're the ones that brought it to the board."

In its recent letter, DEP said if the lake was found to not be making progress toward solving its overflow problems, DEP reserved the right to impose its

own moratorium on development.

Ken Williams, the developer of Waterwood, a villa community slated to begin construction in the fall, had expected to apply for a sewer permit in the near future. Asked whether he would approve a project of that scale Doug Smith, the borough's engineer replied, "It is in that section that is having the trouble. I won't rule it out, but I certainly won't rule it in either."

Williams said Wednesday that he was postponing a formal application until the sewer issue was ironed out.

Doug Smith, the borough's engineer from Borton-Lawson, said in addition to the moratorium, the Authority and his firm have created an action plan aimed at stopping the overflow problem.

The plan includes three parts. The first will be to locate the sources of water suspected to be entering the system and causing the overflows.

Smith said last week the borough sent letters to every resident requesting to inspect homes in search of improper surface water hook-ups into sewer lines.

In addition, he said the letter requests help from residents in identifying any areas in which run-off water may be entering the lines. The letter asks residents to report any information they may have.

The second phase, Smith said, will be to evaluate system capacity, piping and existing pumps.

The third aspect of the plan is to get the borough's ordinances and the authority's regulations regarding sump pumps in agreement with each other. Smith said the action will give the municipality power of enforcement if needed.

Sewers

(continued from page 1)

The letter was detailed in a Notice of Violation (NOV) sent by certified mail to the borough and Municipal Authority offices.

The letter lists the different aspects of Harveys Lake's non-compliance with the Federal Clean Streams Law and states the next steps the borough and Authority must take to start resolving the situation.

The letter says that in 2000, DEP sent the Authority a letter explaining it was their responsibility,

as owner of a tributary sewer system feeding into the WVSA, "to provide essential information to WVSA concerning the condition of the Authority's sewer system." Reports for 2001 and 2002 have not been received.

Mark Carmon, spokesperson for DEP, said information disclosed in such an annual report, prepared by the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority, would include details on sewage flow amounts, any major new con-

nections to the sewer lines, maintenance items and more.

WVSA uses the information to submit its own accurate Wasteload Management Report to DEP each year.

DEP has requested the Authority submit the required information to the WVSA and DEP within 30 days upon receipt of the June 10 letter.

Also requested by DEP in the letter is an update on a 1999 Official Plan submitted by the borough and authority and ap-

proved by DEP. The Official Plan outlined four things the borough and authority were to do, one of which was to continue to work on eliminating sources of surface water infiltration into sanitary lines — the main suspected cause of the sewer overflows.

"The NOV is the first step in the enforcement ladder," said Carmon. "We have formally gone on record identifying these problems and setting in motion the corrective process."

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RESEARCH MATTERS

by Dr. David J. Madeira



Death By Laziness

According to the World Health Organization, about 1.9 million deaths each year are attributable to not doing much of anything. In developed countries, this makes lack of exercise the seventh leading cause of preventable death. The figures are rather rough estimates, according to the author of the study, but many experts think it is quite conservative. The ranking of inactivity worldwide falls to the 14th leading cause of preventable death, mostly because only a small portion of the world's population is in a socioeconomic position to be sedentary on a routine basis.

And it is expensive!

An analysis of health-care costs of 178,000 adults reports that you may be "worth your weight in gold" to your health-care provider. The heavier the patient, the more he or she paid out each year in health costs, with the heaviest forking over an additional \$1,500 on average — about 67 percent more than his or her leaner neighbors. Only 30 percent of U.S. citizens get an appropriate amount of exercise by government standards, a fact that takes a large share of blame for the epidemic of obesity in America.

So get up and get moving. Stop making excuses — it could kill you.

Source: www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm, World Health Report, Nov. 2002 & American Journal of Health Promotion, Jan./Feb. 2003.



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Dr. Bigus grew up in Dallas and attended Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre where he played basketball and soccer for four years. He received his undergraduate education at the University of Scranton majoring in pre-med/pre-dental. He is a recent graduate of the New York University College of Dentistry. He is the son of Marie Bigus of Dallas and the late Russell Bigus.

Dr. Boris established his office in Kingston in 1976 and has practiced comprehensive and cosmetic dentistry there ever since.

Dr. Boris is a master in the Academy of General Dentistry, a diplomate of the American Board of General Dentistry and is a member of the board of the American Board of General Dentistry. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and holds membership in the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and American Academy of Sports Dentistry.

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