

OUR OPINION

Roundabout first, 'big box' store later

One way or another, it is looking more certain that the five-way intersection at the center of Dallas Borough will be home to a traffic circle arrangement that will eliminate the confusing array of signals that now control traffic there. If supporters of this layout have their way, the circle — or perhaps oval — will become a focal point for the Back Mountain, incorporating attractive landscaping and monuments and acting as a catalyst for the replacement of ugly, dangling wires with underground utilities. That's the good news.

Less positive is the prospect that before this innovative and long-overdue upgrade is in place, a "big box" store could be up and running in Dallas Township on the former Yalick farm property at the intersection of Routes 415 and 118. That could happen if the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) grants a highway occupancy permit to the developer simply on the basis that Dallas Borough officials have reached a consensus that the traffic circle — or roundabout as PennDOT prefers to call it — is suitable and desirable and is thus added to PennDOT's 12-year plan. Indications are that construction could begin within three or four years, but that could still be a year or more after the retail complex is operating. If that were to happen, traffic tie-ups and slowdowns would grow beyond the present barely tolerable level before and during the road work.

The retail store is not the only proposed development putting pressure on the highway. Two townhome complexes at Harveys Lake, an assisted-living facility that straddles the Lehman and Dallas Township lines and a rumored residential subdivision in Dallas Borough will all contribute to a steadily-growing flow of traffic at all times of the day and night, and something must be done to accommodate it. So it would seem the roundabout should be more than a gleam in the collective eyes of present-day officials before the store and other developments, which would generate thousands of cars and trucks a day in shoppers, commuters and suppliers, are allowed to proceed.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

One of the most frequently heard knocks on northeastern Pennsylvanians is that they don't appreciate and support institutions and events that contribute to a higher quality of life, unless they take place right in their own back yard. If my perceptions as a volunteer at the Northeast Pennsylvania Classic golf tournament are any example, the critics may be right.

Two aspects of this experience stand out — that not enough people attend this noteworthy event, and despite its region-wide appeal, it attracts far more volunteers from Lackawanna County than Luzerne, I assume because it happens to take place a few miles over the border. Both impressions are disheartening for people who understand the important role this kind of national exposure can play in our future.



RON BARTIZEK

To my mind, this tournament offers as much potential to lure new industry and employment as a dozen concerts at the First Union Arena or Montage Mountain amphitheater, which, while providing new entertainment opportunities, also serve to drain people's wallets at an alarming rate. This year's tournament was particularly noteworthy, as a spate of PGA Tour winners were in the field, presenting a wonderful opportunity to expose possible employers to a first-class event held at a top-flight facility, supported by eager volunteers.

Admittedly, the weather was uncooperative, but even when the sun was shining, attendance was sparse. As for my fellow volunteers, you couldn't ask for a more dedicated, appreciative bunch, and the prospect of serving with them again will bring me back next year.

Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post publishes opinions on a variety of topics in many forms.

Editorials, which are the opinion of the management of The Post, appear on the editorial page and are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated. Any artwork represents the opinion of the cartoonist, and columns are the opinion of the author.

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.

In addition to letters, we welcome longer pieces that may run as columns. The author or subject's relevance to the Back Mountain will be the prime consideration when selecting material for publication.



Provence, or Dallas? Photo by Ron Bartizek.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Class of 2003 says thanks for a great, safe party

Editor,
As one of my last official acts representing my fellow classmates as Secretary of the Dallas High School Class of 2003, I would like to publicly thank all the individuals responsible for the amazing night at the Dallas High School Lock-In. Our gratitude goes to Dr. Gil Griffiths, Mr. Frank Galicki, Mr. Jim McGovern and the other members of the administration. Our sincere appreciation to all our teachers and sponsors, the businesses that donated and supported the various committees, the chaperones, our parents, and most of all the Grad Lock-In 2003 committee mem-

bers.
After experiencing such a magnificent night, we realized how very hard everyone worked to put such an enormous event together. A special thank you to Kathleen Savage, who was the fundraising chairperson. Without her efforts we would not have had half the events. The games, decorations, food, prizes, video, etc. made a perfect graduation even better.

I hope that all my fellow class members give a verbal thanks to anyone they know that was involved. I personally know how hard everyone worked since my mom, Debbie Cooper, and Trudy Matley co-chaired

the Lock-In. Life can now get back to normal in our households!

Good luck to the Class of 2004. May I suggest that you as a class involve yourselves by selling the various fundraising items and wash those cars. Do whatever else you can to help your lock-in and the parents running your event to be as successful as ours was.

Once again, thanks for the most extraordinary night that we will always remember.

Lacey Cooper
Secretary
Dallas High School Class of 2003

70 Years Ago - June 23, 1933

TAXPAYERS TO OPEN FIRE ON LIST OF FIFTY DEADBEATS

Plans of Dallas Borough Taxpayers Association to bring pressure on property-owners who have repeatedly evaded payment of borough taxes moved forward as officials of the organization prepared for drastic legal action against a selected list of fifty local property-owners.



ONLY YESTERDAY

Some of the items at the American stores Co were: sugar corn, 3 cans 25¢; mayonnaise 16-oz. jar 15¢; coffee, 1 lb. 21¢; Lipton's Tea 1/4 lb. pkg. 19¢.

60 Years Ago - June 18, 1943

THREE SLOT MACHINES CONFISCATED AT LAKE

Acting on complaints received in the District Attorney's office, County detectives Henry Hones and John Loughney, assisted by Harvey's Lake Police, came down on twelve Harveys Lake business places in the early morning in search of slot machines. Three machines were confiscated.

Canteen workers of the Shavertown Unit got some valuable experience when they served luncheons at cost to volunteer workers at the Red Cross Chapter House in Wilkes-Barre. Between 30 and 60 workers were served each day.

A new York manufacturer of women's dresses is making a survey of the Back Mountain area to determine whether there are between 100 and 200 women here who would be available to work in

such a plant if he should decide to establish his business in Dallas.

50 Years Ago - June 19, 1953

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE CORPS IS OUT OF DEBT

With expenditures of more than \$5,000 since its organization some months ago, Kingston Township Ambulance Association board at the meeting in Shavertown Fire Hall that its total current indebtedness is now less than \$30.

In recognition of his services, Dr. H.A. Brown Back Mountain's Hordse and Buggy Doctor, was given the coveted fifty-year award, at Luzerne County Medical Society at Twin Lakes.

Darrel Major of Trucksville, received both of the Senior Agriculture awards presented at Commencement exercises of Lehman-Jackson Joint school.

40 Years Ago - June 20, 1963

CONTRACTOR HOPES TO PAVE HIGHWAY BY SUMMER'S END

With ideal weather prevailing initial operations for new Dallas-Luzerne Highway were slated by H. J. Williams engineers. First among operations were excavations for widening the "big bend" to six degree curve and digging for relocation of the railroad.

The 402nd Military Police Prisoner of War Camp announced the promotion of Robert D. Richardson.

Some of the car sales you could get at Luzerne Motor Co. were: '59 Ford \$995; '60 Ford \$1,275; '59 Chrysler \$1,395; '58 Buick \$1,185.

30 Years Ago - June 21, 1973

HARVEYS LAKE SEWER HOOKUP NOW GOVERNED BY ORDINANCE

Harveys Lake Borough now has a

mandatory hook-up ordinance for the proposed sewer system. passage of the ordinance came about during the regular meeting of council, at which a letter of resignation from council chairman Thomas Cadwalader was read after he had excused himself late in the meeting.

Sister Ann Horgan, RSM, dean of students at College Misericordia, was named chairman of the Luzerne County dean's Association for 1973-74. It is the first time in the organization's two-year history that woman has held an executive position.

A formal charge of murder was lodged against two inmates at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas after District Magistrate Leonard Harvey handed down a decision that a prima facie case had been established against Freddy Butler and Glenn Jordan in the stabbing death of Thomas M. Wilson, also a SCID inmate.

20 Years Ago - June 22, 1983

IRATE LAKE-LEHMAN TAXPAYERS PROTEST MILLAGE HIKE

Several hundred irate taxpayers attended the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting to protest the proposed tax increase announced by the board in May. The increase by the board at that time was 18 mills over the present 98 mills paid by the district taxpayers.

Sr. Therese Marie Marques, RSM, of Dallas, a Sister of Mercy from the Province of Scranton, received a \$7,000 grant from MIVA, the Missionary Vehicle Association. The MIVA grant will be used for a car that will be reliable transportation for Sr. Therese and her colleagues in Georgetown, Guyana, South America.

Jennifer Lynn Reno, Harveys Lake, was crowned the 1983 Little Miss Harveys Lake during ceremonies held at the Harveys Lake Pub. Jennifer, age 5, topped a list of 12 candidates for the title.

Dallas Borough will formally restrict use of driveway July 1

Dallas Borough council is notifying the community that as of July 1, public access to the private driveway located between the Dallas Borough Building at 25 Main Street and the property located at 27 Main Street that presently houses Gem Therapeutics and residential apartments will be limited.

The action is being taken to protect the clients and residents of 27 Main Street, Dallas Borough personnel and con-

stituents that visit the Borough Building. Despite the fact that the driveway is a private driveway, over the years there has been an increasing amount of traffic and vehicles are presently exceeding safe speed limits when they utilize the driveway.

Borough Council has agreed to utilize the existing gates at the Borough Public Works compound and the gates will now routinely be locked after office hours at

the Borough. A dusk to dawn light will be installed and flashers will temporarily be installed during the first month of the new traffic configuration.

The Borough apologizes for any inconvenience to drivers that routinely utilize the driveway but reminds drivers that the driveway is not a public street. Public cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Kingston Twp. composting site open to residents for disposal of brush, grass clippings

The Kingston Township Board of Supervisors announce that the composting site at the Public Works Facility will be open on Wednesday evenings until 8 p.m. from through September 30.

The composting site hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The site is open for brush, grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste only.

For any questions call the Township Office at 696-3809.

THE DALLAS POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, TX 75201 • 570-675-5211

dallaspost@leader.net

Ronald Bartizek
EDITOR/GENERAL MANAGER

Kari L. Wachtel
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Erin Youngman
REPORTER

Darlene E. Sorber
OFFICE MANAGER

Claudia Blank
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER