



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Dr. John Rothschild called for bids and Bill Spurlin spotted during this year's auction.

## Auction expected to match last year, fall event planned

The perception of a slow economy didn't appear to harm the 57th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. While sales over the auction block during the four-day event were down about \$2,800, the booths, tents and vendors continued a recent trend of increases, and the net proceeds after expenses should match

last year's \$72,000. But with about 200 items left over, "I'm sure we're going to more than make up that shortfall," said Ernest Ashbridge, antiques committee chairman and perennial volunteer. He said a one-day auction is being planned to coordinate with the first Dallas Harvest Festival, scheduled for September 14.

## Blood supply critically low

The American Red Cross continues to ask for blood donations to respond to one of the worst blood shortages in recent memory.

American Red Cross, Northeastern, Pennsylvania Blood Services (NEPA), said Tuesday the blood emergency declared earlier this month has not lessened.

"The American Red Cross is very grateful to the public for their response to the emergency appeal for blood donors," said Donald R. Pippas, Chief Executive Officer, NEPA Blood Services Region. "However, people need to continue to respond. The blood supply has not yet reached a safe level. This situation is still very dangerous."

"Blood must be available every day. Patient's needs know no season, no holiday," Pippas said. "We are asking people to help their friends and neighbors by giving blood

now." Everyone who is at least 17 years old, who weighs at least 105 pounds, and is healthy can give blood. For more information on giving blood, or to locate a blood drive near you, call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE.

### Upcoming blood drives in the Back Mountain

**Tuesday, July 29, 1-6 p.m.,** Fellowship Free Evangelical Church, Hildebrandt Rd., Dallas.

**Thursday, Aug 14, 12 noon-5 p.m.,** Daddow-Isaacs American Legion, Memorial Highway, Dallas

**Friday, Aug 15, 1-7 p.m.,** Our Lady Of Victory Church, Lakeside Dr., Harveys Lake

## Tell the Post about service members

The Dallas Post would like to know how Back Mountain residents are responding to the war in Iraq. We would like to publish articles that cover a wide variety of subjects, including profiles of military and civilian personnel who are in Iraq.

E-mail your stories about local service men and women, as well as how your group or organization is responding, to [dallaspost@leader.net](mailto:dallaspost@leader.net).

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# Nearby neighborhood again at risk

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**JACKSON TOWNSHIP** — The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said gasoline from the American Asphalt gasoline leak is headed in the same direction of homes affected by another spill at the same plant in recent years.

The gasoline leak is turning out to be "significantly larger" than initially reported last week, said Jody Brogna, Environmental Clean-up Program Manager with DEP, this week and the main fear is that because the tanks are underground, the gasoline will enter the groundwater. If that happens, wells in the area will once again be contaminated.

*"The stuff is already underground. If it hits the groundwater, there's no way to stop it."*

Jody Brogna

DEP Environmental Clean-up Program Manager

"The stuff is already underground. If it hits the groundwater, there's no way to stop it," said Brogna.

That's what happened three years ago said Brogna. Mark Carmon, spokesperson for DEP, said because of consistent spilling of a cleaning solvent onto the ground at the American Asphalt plant, solvent eventually made its way through the ground and into nearby wells. According to Carmon,

American Asphalt has been providing bottled water to the home owners since.

Brogna said the solvent spills were noticed by DEP in the early 1990s. "It was not until about three years ago that those private wells were impacted," he said.

Brogna said the wells have been tested quarterly since the solvent showed up in them. He said the amount of solvent still in the water is now well below

the allowable limit.

"It's only common sense that if those homes were impacted by the solvent spill, that they may be impacted by this," said Brogna.

Brogna said DEP geologists mapped the hydro-geology of the area after the last spill. The maps show that, in fact, the groundwater is flowing in the home's direction. It's flowing toward the northeast along Chase Road and also southwest, almost in the opposite direction.

The wells were tested last week. Carmon said they will continue to be tested for some time.

You can reach the reporter at [eyoungman@leader.net](mailto:eyoungman@leader.net).

## Leak

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to be leaking. He said at the time it wasn't clear whether the leak was coming from the tanks or connected piping.

At DEP's instruction, American Asphalt hired a consultant to look into the problem. Carmon said Austin James and Associates, of Monroe County, was on site the following day.

He said immediately following the discovery of the leaking gas, a walk through of the surrounding area, including a nearby stream and some homes with private wells, didn't show any signs of contamination.

Estimates last Friday put the size of the leak at 2,000 gal-

lons, but that has been revised upward.

Tuesday, Jody Brogna, DEP Environmental Clean-up Program Manager, said, "From the original report to what we're seeing now, it's significantly larger."

Carmon said gas in nearby monitoring wells tipped off the company to the leak.

He said at this point DEP's main concern is to prevent gas from leaving American Asphalt property.

"Any gasoline loss is treated as serious. A gallon of gasoline can contaminate a lot of water," said Carmon.

By Friday, the remaining gal-

lons in the tanks had been pumped to an additional tank and testing of nearby private wells had begun.

Carmon said excavation of the area around the tanks is expected to help identify the location of the leak and how long it has been going on.

"We're basically in an investigation phase — (looking at) how much leaked out and what is the hydro-geology of the area," Carmon said. Knowing the geology of the area will allow DEP to understand how the gasoline would enter the water table and which directions it would flow.

Carmon said defining a time

line for cleanup is difficult. "For a groundwater contamination case, it could take weeks, months. We have cases that are into years," he said.

The leak is not the first hazardous occurrence at the company. Carmon said several years of recurring solvent spills there contaminated nearby private wells. He said small amounts of the solvent are still found in the water today. As a result, the company is still providing bottled water for those affected homes.

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## Sewer

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rected by the PA DEP to comply with published regulations I believe they, each member, has placed the lake and those who use it in extreme jeopardy due to continued contamination by untreated sewage from the Authority Sewer system."

"I think it is time to hold them as incompetent and replace each one with interested, honest, law-abiding citizens of the borough who will take their appointed duties of office they hold seriously."

A motion to accept the sentiment as the official association position was made. However, Sobock tabled the vote so a newsletter could be circulated to all members. The associa-

tion will vote on the position at the August 6 meeting.

Sobock said the goal of taking the position as an organization is to send a strong message. "We just want to make the board aware of how concerned we are about the problem and about how long it has gone on," he said.

Sobock said the sewer issue is of prime importance to the protective association for a couple of reasons. He said one reason is that the borough's children swim in the lake and an-

other is that "It's very important to the image and property values of the lake to have clean waters."

According to Sobock, the association was started some 70 years ago to protect the lake's seasonal homes during the off-season. Not unlike its origination, he said the organization now is primarily a vehicle for residents of the lake to take an active role in the protection of it's greatest asset, it's waters.

"The association is a way to give us a voice in situations like

what's going on now with the sewers," said Sobock.

Sobock said the overflow problem has been around for some time. He said the pattern has been that it gains attention during the rainy season and then is forgotten shortly after the rains end.

He said the association wants to make sure that this time the topic "doesn't fall by the wayside. We just want them to put their best efforts forth to stop the problem."

## Roundabout

(continued from page 1)

council meeting last week a "little confusing," Naparolo added that he understands Dallas Borough's hesitation.

"They want to make sure when it's done and over with, that it's been done the correct way," he said.

Naparolo said he'll wait. "I'm still going to develop it," he said.

*"We're getting closer and closer. Things take time."*

J. Naparolo

Retail site developer

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