

Special meeting called on burn ban

By VICKI KEIPER
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. — After hearing more residents' comments about the proposed ban on open burning, the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors decided to call a special meeting for August 28 on the controversial topic.

Before the board opened the floor to public discussion at the August 13 regular meeting, Supervisor Vice-Chairman J. Carl Goodwin said most phone calls to him are "about smoke and speeding traffic" and considered burning three times per week excessive.

Bunker Hill Road resident Peter J. Blazes expressed concern that the ban will affect his 29-year practice of burning brush on his 4 1/2 acre property. Blazes said that while he has professionals remove larger trees, he and his wife always get permits to burn the smaller debris only twice a year during the winter and that they put out the fires by the end of the evening. "We've been doing this

forever," he said.

Jim Reino, who lives on Lincoln Street, gave out packets containing a study on contaminants and a fact sheet from Washington state regarding that state's burning bans. Reino included a court case in which a federal court ruled that compromises are not good enough because even one day of burning could still affect the health of asthma sufferers.

But Rosaria Shaver said "You're going to make a lot of people unhappy" if the township doesn't offer any compromise. She pointed out that some people are unable to hire professionals for yard waste removal and that no other township in the surrounding areas has burning bans.

When asked by Township Manager Eddie O'Neill if she would support the ban if curbside collection of yard waste were available, Shaver said that she would have to think about it.

Kingston Township Police Chief James Balavage said he has been attempting to enforce

existing burning ordinances for 20 years. He said the township has three ordinances that focus on preventing recyclable waste from being burned but don't give the code enforcement officer effective ways to ensure that residents follow the rules. He suggested that the board repeal the current open burning ordinance and give the police department better enforcement capabilities.

An hour after the discussion began, Goodwin moved to revisit the topic at the special meeting on August 28.

In other business, the board agreed to have O'Neill send a written notice dropping the Don Wilkinson Agency as a tax collection agency and to get written proposals from the J.H. Harris and Berkheimer agencies before making a choice.

While Goodwin said he was "greatly impressed" with Berkheimer, Supervisor Allen still wanted two proposals in order to "protect the interest of the township."

Investigation turns into drug bust

By LANE FILLER
For The Dallas Post

HARVEYS LAKE — In arresting Charles W. Spencer early the morning of August 11, Harveys Lake Borough Police Department officer Charles Musial was observant, cautious and professional.

He also was lucky, which doesn't hurt.

Musial was actually working on an investigation into the break-in of his own home and theft of a gun when he spied a car sitting in the lot of Jones' Potato Pancakes, closed at that hour.

"I approached the vehicle and asked the driver if there was a problem," Musial said. "He replied that he was just waiting to meet a juvenile to go up to the Woodlands. The person he was waiting for was someone I wanted to talk to in connection with the break-in at my house, so I said I would wait with him."

According to police reports, when the juvenile in question pulled up in a green Acura, Musial got out of his vehicle to go

speak with him.

"I walked up on the passenger side, and saw a passenger (the interior dome light was on) fumbling with a whole bunch of small bags with a white substance in them," Musial said. "Before he even saw me, he opened his door a little, and when I said 'What's in the bags?' he looked at me and responded 'crack cocaine.'"

As it turned out, 91 bags of crack cocaine. A search of the car after it was impounded and sniffed by a drug dog also turned up 84 bags of a heroin-like substance and 4 pounds of what appeared to be marijuana.

The passenger, Spencer, 18, of 807 N. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, has been charged with 91 counts of possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and 92 counts of possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia, according to the report.

Musial said that more charges will be brought against Spencer if lab tests show that the other substances are heroin and marijuana.

According to the report, Spencer told police that he and

the juvenile driver went to Philadelphia to buy the crack, that he bought 97 bags (he smoked six on the ride back) for personal use, and that the juvenile driver was not involved.

However, Musial said the juvenile driver of the car will face charges leveled by the Dallas Township Police Department, who were in attendance when the impounded Acura was searched at Martin's Mobil on Route 309.

"He'll at least be charged with criminal conspiracy, I would guess," Musial said. "You can't claim no responsibility for driving a car with 91 bags of crack in it."

The driver of the first vehicle waiting in the parking lot allowed a search of his car and himself and nothing illegal was found, according to Musial. "He answered our questions and let us search, and we found no reason not to let him go."

As for the burgling of Musial's home, it has been solved, and the juvenile driving the alleged drugmobile was not involved.

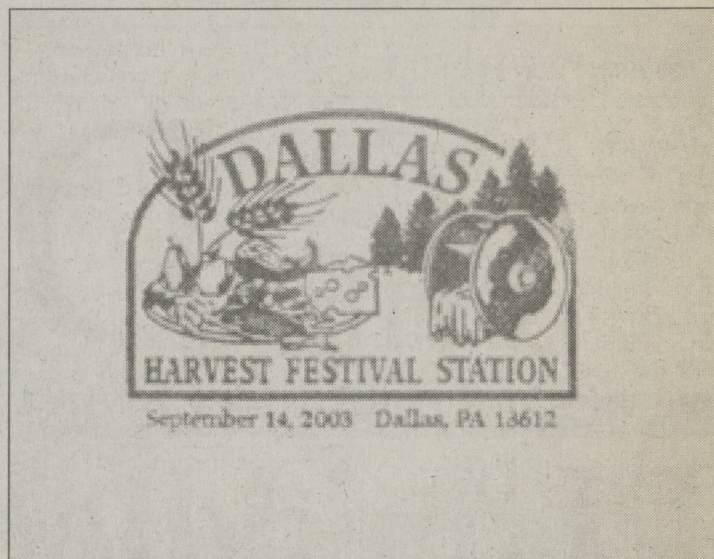
Stamp

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additional 30 days after the festival. Special letter-size cards will be available at the festival for five cents plus the usual 37 cents postage for those who want to get their keepsake piece of mail that day. For 30 days after the festival, customers may send letters to themselves, and we will cancel the stamps at the post office and deliver them to their homes. They may also send cards and letters out of town to family members and friends who may want to have their own little piece of history."

For the convenience of their customers, they will also be selling books of 37-cent stamps for regular use at a later date.

"Dallas is a wonderful place to raise a family," said Tucker, "and the post office has a special treat for the children. We will have free coloring books and crayons for the little ones who stop by with their fami-



Above, the Dallas Harvest Festival stamp logo that will be used to cancel stamps at the Dallas Post Office.

lies." customers will stop by to see them. This is a relatively new venture for the post office, and they hope that many of their

Fire Dept.

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he does not want to compromise the safety of his men.

"If our officers get a call and feel uncomfortable to allow a member to enter due to the risk of injury, you shouldn't go in; you are not liable," said Chairman David H. Sutton.

Hagenbaugh was also concerned with calls to clear roads of debris. The fire police were called recently to remove a downed tree from a storm, a service not required of them.

"We (the township) don't respond to those calls, and neither should the fire police, especially on state highways," Sutton said.

Problems surround the elimination of the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift Sundays through Thursdays.

"This was eliminated due to affordability," Sutton said. "By the code of a second class township, we are required to provide road maintenance. We are not

required by law to have police service, but we have what we can afford."

In other matters: The board is waiting for the township association to compile an ordinance regarding cell phone towers. Once a model is drafted, the board will address the issue.

Dallas Area Fall Fair Inc. will hold the annual Luzerne County Fair Sept. 3-7.

Wells

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yards," she said.

Three residents whose properties are near the project told council their wells have been polluted since the developer did illegal excavating. One resident who did not identify himself said after the digging, every time it would rain his water would turn brown. Testing found the water unfit for drinking.

"So now I am retired and I have to put in a \$600 to \$700 filter system because he was illegally digging? Can't you make

him fill it back in?"

McCormick said the water issue should be taken up with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Borough zoning officer Milton Lutsey said, after the meeting, he had found the developer William Dauksis had excavated beyond the permitted area.

"When I gave him the permit (to build the home) it was with the agreement that he wouldn't disturb more than 5,000 square feet."

Although Lutsey said he

could not comment on the connection between the excavation and the polluted wells, he issued a stop work order and the conservation district got involved.

Lutsey said he would visit the site again.

Kelly told council the group had drafted a letter to the regional director of DEP requesting his personal attention on the issue. She said they were also consulting an attorney and considering litigation.

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