

## Playground

(continued from page 1)

sent monetary donations and those names will eventually be listed on a plaque at the new playground.

"It just feels so good to see it all come together like this," said Kocher. Donations are still being accepted and a special Playground Fund is set up to purchase additional items such as benches and basketball hoops. Checks, payable to Lake-Noxen PTO, can be mailed to the school.

*"It just feels so good to see it all come together like this."*

**Mary Lou Kocher**  
Playground committee chairman

Members of the three kindergarten classes at Lake-Noxen Elementary School pose in front of their new playground equipment. From left are: Matthew Durling, Morgan Coburn, Madison Miles, Bowman Butler, Chelsea Witter, and Miranda Pace.

POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN



## Plan

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Sutton said two issues Lehman is facing would be addressed in the plan, water supply and increased traffic. "Almost all of Lehman homes are on private wells," said Sutton.

And then there's the increased traffic. He said ever since a series of lights were added to Route 309 in other Back Mountain municipalities, Old Route 115 in Lehman has become increasingly busy. "Everybody's figured out that it's a shortcut," he said.

Such a situation could be addressed by a regional traffic study, he suggested.

Eddie O'Neill, Kingston

*"With so many communities so close together, what one does so affects the others."*

**Kathy Kupstas**  
President, Dallas Borough Council

Township Manager, said the main issue there is the highways. "They're over-trafficked and over-utilized — but that's just the start. Anytime you have growth like there is now, you have to plan for the future," he said.

Kathy Kupstas, President of Dallas Borough Council, agreed with the consensus, call-

ing the plan a "great idea." She cited the example of how Dallas Township's move to clear the way for a possible "big box" retail development has dramatically impacted the borough. "With so many communities so close together, what one does so affects the others."

Kupstas said in the wake of Dallas Township's decision,

"the borough was left holding the bag" to figure out how to accommodate traffic projected to move through the borough to the development.

Such a conflict could possibly be avoided by creating a master plan. In the land use portion of the plan, municipalities could cooperatively designate which areas of the Back Mountain region would remain rural, be single family homes, or be commercially developed.

Sutton and other local government officials are struggling, though, with the cost of the plan.

"That (\$8,000-\$15,000) could

be difficult for us at this point in time," he said. Due to budget constraints, Lehman was forced to resort to State Police coverage of much of their shifts.

Carl Goodwin, a supervisor in Kingston Township, said regardless of the cost to create a master plan, it is important to do so.

"This is a unique opportunity for the township, so I'm sure we'll find the money."

If the municipalities get the financial go ahead from their respective boards, the consultant will be appointed at the next COG meeting.

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# Franklin Township expected to join COG

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**FRANKLIN TWP.** — Franklin Township, whose officials have been on the fence about whether to join the Back Mountain Council of Governments (COG) is ready to join by the end of the year.

Michael Prokopchak, Franklin Township Supervisor, said after sitting in on COG meetings, he is convinced the move is the right thing for his township to do.

Franklin Township will be the fifth area municipality to join the council, which strives to work together to pool re-

sources, plan on a regional level and carries more clout on grant applications. Dallas Borough and Dallas, Kingston, and Lehman townships formed the COG last year.

"Cooperation amongst our communities, for funding and the ability to capitalize on better deals," are some of the reasons Prokopchak gave for the decision.

Prokopchak said township solicitor Ben Jones had already prepared the needed ordinance to make the move official. A voting date has not been set. "But," Prokopchak said, "we'll definitely join by the end of the year."

The township's discussions about joining come at the same time members of the COG are voting on whether to commit money to regional master planning. The planning will evaluate three primary areas: aquifer capacity, traffic and land use. Members will report their municipalities' decisions at the next meeting at which point a planning firm will be appointed.

If Franklin doesn't join until the end of the year, Carl Goodwin, Vice Chairman of the COG, said the township will still have the option to participate in the planning. "They could sign on and we would re-

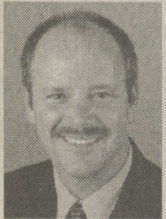
use the plan," he said.

Franklin's membership in the COG will add more strength to grant applications filed by the council, for anything from road equipment to planning.

Frank Wagner, the Dallas Township Supervisor who is acting as this year's COG president, said population is the number one thing an entity looks at when evaluating such applications. "So the greater the number, the better," he said.

The COG meets the last Tuesday of every month at the Dallas Borough Building. Meetings are open to the public.

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