

OUR OPINION

Townships must support master plan to direct our future

The pace of development around the Back Mountain is gaining steam at a remarkable clip, and it's clear that local government needs to pick up its pace in order to meet the challenges posed by surging housing and retail growth.

Articles published in recent months have detailed more than 300 new housing units either under construction or on the drawing table at locations around the region, as well as a potential "big box" retail store in Dallas Township. Now there are indications that a commercial plaza will be built in Dallas Borough near the intersection of Routes 309 and 415.

There are many positive aspects to growth, but there are drawbacks as well, not least of which are the effect on established neighborhoods and the traffic that will be added to an already overburdened road system. For example, 24-hour convenience stores, which are becoming more common, create noise and lighting that are unwelcome in nearby homes that have stood for decades. That's not to mention the lines of vehicles in one town that could result from a high-traffic commercial plaza in another, where the increased tax revenue looks mighty enticing and the consequences fall on someone else's shoulders.

The new Back Mountain Council of Governments (COG) can provide a logical framework within which this spurt of popularity can be directed, but it had better act quickly or there will be nothing left to protect. These circumstances make it imperative that the Kingston Township Supervisors allot funding for a regional master plan in next year's budget. Township officials took a pass when asked to support the plan earlier this year, citing uncertainty about the township's fiscal condition. Fortunately, the other members of the COG have pressed on, anticipating that Kingston Township will ultimately join them. Budget meetings are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, and the supervisors shouldn't hesitate to put in a line for this project.

It would be helpful if every municipality in the Back Mountain joined in this effort to take control of our destiny before it is decided for us by real estate developers and chain stores. We shouldn't reject prosperity, but we have every right to take steps that will bring out the most benefit while blunting the detriments.

'Old Shoe' is a grand tradition .. and lots of fun

How many communities are lucky enough to have two traditions that span more than half a century? Not many, we would guess, but you can count the Back Mountain among them.

In July, thousands of us turn out for the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, which this year took place for the 57th time. Next weekend, the Dallas and Lake-Lehman high school football teams will take the field to contest the 56th Old Shoe game, and cheering fans will fill the stands at Lehman's Edward Edwards Stadium.

The Old Shoe game's longevity has surprised even its founders. In 1997, on the game's 50th anniversary, Bob Dolbear, who was a coach at the Dallas Township High School, said, "It was just an idea to recognize the best football team in the Back Mountain. We didn't realize that it would continue for 50 years." Make that 56 years, and counting.

Things have changed a lot over that span, of course. No longer do teams from Dallas, Lehman, Westmoreland and Kingston Township high schools meet on the field. Consolidation made it a two-school game starting in 1961, which allowed for a Thanksgiving weekend showdown in many of the years between 1967 and 1987. The requirements of a state playoff system moved the season back after that, but the schools were always able to schedule each other for the last regular-season game, adding an extra dose of excitement. Even that scenario was threatened by an ill-advised league re-arrangement that thankfully was abandoned after two seasons.

This year's game will add yet another new twist, since it will be played Friday night under the lights and on the artificial turf of the renovated stadium. Even if you aren't a football fan, it's worth the modest ticket price to share an evening of family fun and young persons' achievement, whether on the field, playing in the band or cheering on the sidelines.

Letters, columns and editorials

The Dallas Post attempts to publish 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.



The grizzled colors of fall. Photo by Charlotte Bartizek.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library offers classes on basic computer skills



CAROL KING

The Back Mountain Memorial Library will hold a second Introductory Computer class on Saturday, November 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. There will also be a class on Internet Skills on Wednesday, November 5, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Space is limited, so sign up early. There is no charge.

An announcement has been

made of the "Letters About Literature" contest for children in grades 4 through 12. The program is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores and the Weekly Reader Corporation. Children are invited to write a letter to the author of a book that has inspired them, telling him or her how the books they chose have made a difference in their lives in some way. The nationwide contest has attracted thousands of entries every year. Entry forms are available at the library, or may be downloaded on the computer at www.loc.gov/letters. The sub-

mission deadline is December 6.

To encourage youngsters to participate in the contest, Catherine Gourley, a resident of Dallas, and the National Director of the LAL program, has volunteered to hold a Reading/Writing Workshop to introduce the contest theme and present some writing activities to help them start writing their letters. The workshop, limited to the younger children in grades 4 through 8, will be held on Wednesday, November 12, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the children's room at the library. Call the library, 675-1182, to regis-

ter for the workshop. Older children may consult the website for hints and sample letters from past winners.

The Slightly Read Bookstore on the library's lower level continues its sale of paperback books at \$1 a bag. The Red Box Special offers fiction and non-fiction hardcover books at 25 cents each, or 5 for \$1. Manager Fred Krohle also announces that there are special rates on paperbacks for organizations. Volunteers are needed for late afternoons on Mondays and Wednesdays, and on Saturdays. Call the library to volunteer.

New books added to Back Mountain Library shelves

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, announces the addition of the following books to their collection:

EXPRESS LOAN
 "Split Second" by David Baldacci
 "Avenger" by Frederick Forsyth
 "South Beach Diet" by Arthur Agoston, M.D.
 "Bleachers" by John Grisham
 "Hello Darkness" by Sandra Brown
 "Last Lessons of Summer" by

Margaret Maron

FICTION

"Split Second" by David Baldacci
 "Avenger" by Frederick Forsyth
 "Blacklist" by Sara Paretsky
 "A Perfect Day" by Richard Paul Evans
 "The Bishop Goes to the University" by Andrew Greeley
 "Stone Cold" by Robert B. Parker
 "The Way the Crow Flies" by Ann-Marie MacDonald
 "Our Lady of the Forest" by David Guterson

"No Angel" by Penny Vincenzi
 "Daughter" by Asha Bandele
 "Blue Horizon" by Wilbur Smith
 "Ascension" by Steven Galloway
 "The Dictionary of Maqiao" by Shaogong Han
 "The Unknown World" by Edward P. Jones
 "Winner of the National Book Award" by Jincy Willett

NONFICTION

"Treason" by Ann H. Coulter
 "The Ultimate Weight Solution" by Dr. Phil McGraw

"They Marched into Sunlight" by David Maraniss
 "Living a Year of Kaddish" by Ari L. Goldman
 "The Way the Crow Flies" by Ann-Marie MacDonald
 "Smoke Screen" by Kyle Mills
 "Hello Darkness" by Sandra Brown
 "The Pleasure of My Company" by Steve Martin
 "Dead Famous" by Carol O'Connell
 "The Calligrapher" by Edward

See BOOKS, pg 7

70 Years Ago —
October 27, 1933

DALLAS GETS LOWER STREETCAR FARE; NO CHANGE IN SHAVERTOWN

In response to efforts made by groups from this section to have Wilkes-Barre Railway Corp. reduce its street car rates on the Dallas line, J.B. Potter, general manager of the transportation company this week reported the willingness of the utility to reduce the fare from Wilkes-Barre to Dallas from 32 cents to 24 cents and to cooperate in placing tickets for sale at convenient stores.

Three carloads of automobiles were received this week by James Oliver, local Dodge and Plymouth dealer. These shipments make 43 carloads of automobiles Mr. Oliver has received this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Anderson of Harveys Lake have been exhibiting some unusually large varieties of pumpkins grown on their farm at the lake. The pumpkins which are as large as 160 pounds, have found a ready market in the Wyoming Valley where they are used extensively in fall window displays of the larger stores.

60 Years Ago —
October 29, 1943

JUNGLE SOLDIER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SCOUT KNIFE FOR CHRISTMAS

Stationed at a jungle outpost in the Far Pacific theater of war, there is just one thing Alan Kistler, former Dallas Post printer, would like to have above any other — an official Boy Scout knife.

For the first time in many years, out of state buyers are scouring local orchards in an effort to buy entire crops including drops and below standard fruit.

Some items that could be purchased at Acme Markets: coffee, one pound bag for 24 cents; apple sauce, 11 cents a can; bread, two loaves for 17 cents.

50 Years Ago
October 30, 1953

SWEET VALLEY NOXEN TO HAVE OWN EXCHANGE

Commonwealth Telephone company on Monday will place in operation a new dial exchange at Sweet Valley which is now served from the Dallas office.

There are 50 spring lambs this fall at Hillside Farms, Inc., born in the fall to Dorset Ewes.

A dandelion and violet in full bloom from Ralph Wood, a report of Myrtle in flower from Howard Risley and a branch of apple blossoms, pink and fragrant, from Harry Martin, completed the local picture of May in October.

40 Years Ago
October 24, 1963

POLIO VACCINATIONS

Get your Sabin Oral Vaccine Sunday, same time, same place as on September 15 when the area responded with 75 percent of its residents, men women and children.

Construction on Memorial Highway is proceeding at such a pace as to amaze both interested citizens and engineers alike. Yesterday's cavernous trenches are tomorrow's smooth concrete.

The first and only street light in Dallas Township has just been put up at the crossing on the Tunkhannock Highway by the New Goss Manor Association.

30 Years Ago
October 25, 1973

CONFUSION SURROUNDS BOROUGH APPOINTMENT

Dallas Borough police chief Ray Titus and officer Sev Newberry are working 12-hour

shifts and Pete Arnaud, newly-appointed borough councilman, has resigned from another borough position because of a mistake in appointments.

Dedication for the Dallas Intermediate Building were held on October 21. Congressman Daniel J. Flood was present to discuss how the new school came about.

More than 100 Penn State officials, Wilkes-Barre Campus Advisory board members, area and state government officials and others attended the dedication of the 1.5 million laboratory at the campus in Lehman last Tuesday.

20 Years Ago
October 26, 1983

\$100 FEE FOR POLITICAL SIGNS IN KINGSTON TWP.

It will cost \$100 for any political candidates who wish to hang their campaign posters in Kingston Township. The township enacted a political sign ordinance after growing complaints that long after elections were over political residue left the area looking like a billboard.

A fire in a dumpster at the Dallas High Senior High School early Sunday morning resulted in a small explosion, it was reported by Bob Besecker, assistant fire chief of the Dallas Fire Company.



THE POST

TIMES•LEADER Community Newspaper Group

15 N. MAIN ST., WILKES-BARRE PA 18711 • 570-675-5211
dallaspost@leader.net

Patrick McHugh
PUBLISHER

Ronald Bartizek
EDITOR

Justin Wisnosky
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Erin Youngman
REPORTER

Greg Stauffer
AD PRODUCTION MANAGER