

Plan

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would include provisions for wetland protection. Although the township has followed state laws regarding wetlands, the original plan didn't deal with that land type because the issue didn't exist then, Repotski said.

"The purpose of the hearing is to receive public opinion. So we can get it right."

Charles Repotski
Planning Commission Chairman

A copy of the plan, which was last updated in 1979, is available at the township building for review so that "people can see it and make any recommendations," Repotski said. The seven-year comprehensive plan deals with items such as air and water quality as well as traffic patterns.

The plan would be used as a guide for controlling development and for protecting resources and the quality of life within Jackson Township, Repotski said. "With the plan, we can help control development so you don't have 500 houses and no water," he said.

Repotski said the plan may be used by the zoning board when making decisions or by the planning commission when recommending zoning changes — for example, creating codes to conserve farmland. "We have nice farmland we're trying to protect," he said. "And we want to keep some open spaces."

Greg Supey of G. & Albert Consultants will present the updated plan at the hearing. The township hired the firm about a year ago to process surveys that were mailed to all township property owners, half of which responded, Repotski said. "We were pleased with the turnout," he said. "We got a sizable return."

Planning commission members used the information compiled by the consulting firm to create new aspects of the plan to be "blended in with how people felt about the old one." Although Repotski doesn't remember who initiated the update, he acknowledged that "it's something that had to be done."

"There's a lot of things on the old one that's out of date," he said. "The area changed since the flood."

Since the township received a grant for the state-required update project, "it didn't cost taxpayers anything," Repotski said.

DMS slates sports physicals

The Dallas Middle School spring sports physicals will be held on February 5 and February 12 at 8:30 a.m. Parent permission forms are available in the school office and must be completed and returned to the nurse prior to the examination. Any student who plans to play baseball, softball, or track and field in the spring is required to have a physical before attending the first day of practice.

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A fireplace and chimney is virtually all that remains Monday of 419 Summit Ave. at Lake Silkworth, Lehman Township. Police tape marks the scene of a fire that destroyed the single-story home Sunday, killing Hector Molina and leaving his wife, Lucille, with serious burns.

Fire claims man's life, burns wife

Staff report

LEHMAN TWP. — Hector Molina, the part-time college professor killed in a fire January 11, was fondly remembered Monday at the school and his church.

The fire at the 419 Summit Ave. home of Hector and Lucille Molina killed Molina and left his wife with burns on her face, hands and lungs. She was still listed in critical condition Thursday in the burn center at Lehigh Valley Medical Center in Allentown.

The fire was reported shortly before 3 a.m. Jan. 11, after Lucille Molina appeared at the door of a neighbor, Patricia Dorrance.

"Her hands were so burned she couldn't knock. She was just standing there," Dorrance said. "Her face was black."

A neighbor tried to get to the victim before Lake Silkworth Volunteer Fire Co. Chief Bill Lathrop arrived, Lathrop said.

"I tried," Lathrop said. "I got

within 15 feet of the structure and it was so hot I just got pushed back." Lathrop arrived at the fire six minutes after he was awakened by the call. "The fire was visible from my house across the lake."

When Lathrop arrived, flames were shooting 60 to 70 feet in the air from the single-story, year-round home. Later, when the fire was out, there were scorch marks and icicles from fire hose spray 50 feet up trees, he said.

Hector Molina had been teaching a class or two of Spanish each semester at Luzerne County Community College for more than a decade, said Sujamet Mason, chair of the Humanities Department.

"He was a very quiet, dignified gentleman," she said. "He always reminded me of an elderly Fred Astaire. He was dapper, always in a suit and tie."

A resume indicated Molina had taught in Spain, Nicaragua, El Salvador and at two schools in New York — Bishop DuBois

High School in New York City, which closed in 1976, and New Rochelle Academy. The native Guatemalan held college degrees in philosophy, psychology and education, and was certified by Columbia University's teachers college, Mason said.

Lori Raymond, parish secretary for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Lake Silkworth, said she was devastated by the news of Molina's death. "I only met Hector a few times, but I was touched by him," she said. Molina visited the church at least once a week. He was also known to write poems and prayers.

"He was just the kind of guy who melted your heart. I just wanted to pick him up and take him home," she said. "I fell in love with him just by talking to him."

Mason said Molina often reached those he met. "He probably touched a lot more people than you might think," she said.

L-L Kindergarten Readiness Program

The Lake-Lehman School District announces the third installment of the Kindergarten Readiness Program for parents and pre-school children. The program is scheduled for February 3, 4, and 5, and will feature "Nutrition and Health."

Faculty from each building will conduct the presentation. It will include an explanation of proper nutrition for children and will include the screening procedures for kindergarten registration in March. Separate activities are intended for the children. Parents and children are invited for lunch in the cafeteria following the presentation.

The schedule is as follows: Ross Elementary, Feb. 3, 10 a.m.; Lake-Noxen Elementary, Feb. 4, 9 a.m.; Lehman-Jackson Elementary, Feb. 7, 9 a.m.

Register by calling your neighboring elementary school offices at Ross Elementary, 477-5050 or 256-7897; Lake-Noxen Elementary, 639-1129; Lehman-Jackson Elementary, 675-2165.

This program is only for children who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2004, and are planning to enter kindergarten for the 2004-2005 school year. It is requested that younger brothers and sisters are not brought, if possible.

POLICE BLOTTER

Police say Harveys Lake man tried to sell stolen bracelet

KINGSTON — Thomas Blaine, 22, of Shawanese, Harveys Lake, was arrested Thursday on charges of selling a stolen gold bracelet and gold chain to Rainbow Jewelers of Kingston police said.

According to court papers: A burglary occurred at a residence on Bear Creek Boulevard between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 30. Many items were taken, including a 10-karat gold dolphin bracelet and a 14-karat gold thin box chain worth more than \$200.

Police said Blaine sold the bracelet and chain to Rainbow Jewelers at 10 a.m. Dec. 31.

State police interviewed the owners of the jewelry store Wednesday. State police showed the owners a picture of Blaine and the owners confirmed Blaine sold the jewelry.

Blaine was taken to the Luzerne County Correctional Facility for lack of \$100,000 bail.

State police said Blaine is under investigation for possible links to other burglaries in the area.

Police seek accident witnesses

FORTY FORT — State Police at Wyoming are seeking to speak to witnesses of a fatal crash Nov. 16 on state Route 309.

Esther Prevost, 76, of Tunkhannock, died from injuries suffered in the crash.

State police said a 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis driven by Judson Prevost, 56, of Tunkhannock, was northbound on Route 309 when the car drifted into the left lane and collided with a 1997 Isuzu Rodeo driven by Philip Jones, 17, of Kingston.

Judson Prevost's car then struck a guide rail before coming to rest against a cement barrier, state police said.

Anyone who witnessed the crash and has not spoken with state police is asked to call 697-2000 in reference to incident number P1-530752.

Proposed burning ban if off, on again

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Almost never was heard a discouraging word at the January 14 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, as one motion after another sailed through by unanimous 5-0 votes.

Still, the agenda, packed with items that had lingered as a 2004 budget was hammered out in the waning months of 2003, took some time to get through. A patient audience of only about a dozen residents offered opinions and advice as snow began to cover their cars outside.

One contentious item, a proposed ban on open burning, was addressed by instructing Solicitor Ben Jones III to stop work on amendments to the current ordinance. The issue will be taken up afresh at the February meeting.

A reversal of sorts also took place when it came time to settle on an outside auditor of township finances. It was understood that John A. Bonita, who last year had been engaged to sort out tax overpayments from the collecting agencies, had been appointed to the auditing position, but a vote at the January 5 meeting to that effect failed.

In a conversation before the January 14 meeting, Bonita told Jones that he did not consider there was an agreement, and asked only to be considered for future work. Supervisor Jeffrey Box then moved to appoint the J.H. Williams Co. as auditor of the 2003 books, and to seek proposals from at least six qualified firms for the next year. Only Paul Sabol, who has consistently credited Bonita with tracking down overlooked tax payments, opposed the appointment.

People who live or have businesses along Carverton Road between Route 309 and the Frangorma Drive area complained that clearing sidewalks is an unfair burden.

The state actually owns the sidewalks — the only ones in the township — which were in-

stalled 30 years ago when Carverton was widened, to give school children a safe place to walk. But property owners are required to keep the sidewalks clear, which is impossible in the winter because plow trucks constantly throw snow and cinders onto them.

The supervisors said they would consider giving a longer time frame than the present 24 hours for the sidewalks to be cleared.

A long discussion on the first change order for the Green Road paving project resulted in approval of a payment of \$26,640 for the removal of 65 trees — or 74 depending on how they are counted. At first, supervisors resisted approving an increase of \$3,600 to the bill, which township engineer Chris Borton said was due to nine trees having double trunks. The contract is written on a per unit basis of \$400 per tree, and a double trunk at chest height is considered two trees.

"There's going to be ups and downs all the way through the contract," Borton said, but he was confident the total would be at or below the bid price of \$331,000.

Removing line painting reduced the total by \$16,982. Township Manager Eddie O'Neill said that work could be added to existing contracts at a cost of less than \$400.

In other business: Christopher Concert notified the township that he fell and was injured at the yard waste dropoff site on December 30. Jones said the township's insurance carrier should be notified.

Developer Jerry Fisher agreed to complete road work on Terrace Avenue as soon as the spring 2004 paving season commences, and to complete the work within 30 days thereafter. The township has been asking Fisher to finish the work since 1999. "Just do it," was Jones' advice to Fisher.

Ben Gorey, former zoning enforcement officer, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the zoning hearing board.

Regional

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clear that regional initiatives will be supported ahead of those from individual communities. Walter worked with Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and various other public and private entities to secure a grant to study land use in those communities.

Supervisor Carl Goodwin, who has championed the COG plan from the beginning, reassured other supervisors that the charge for conducting the plan would not grow.

"The \$17,700 is the worst the township would have to pay," he said. It could be less if the expense is spread across two new member municipalities, or if the state raises its share above the standard 50 percent.

The COG is presently made up of Kingston Township, Dallas Township, Dallas Borough and Lehman Township. Franklin Township and Jackson

"I agree we need to plan, but I'm concerned with implementing the plan once it's produced."

Dave Jenkins
Kingston Twp. Supervisor

Township are expected to join soon.

As the state budget worked its way to passage, there had been concern that even if the study was approved, a grant to fund half the cost might not materialize. Goodwin said that is no longer an issue, and the grant application is ready to be signed as soon as the COG notifies the Department of Community Economic Development that local funding is secure.

Dallas Lions welcome new members

The Dallas Lions are looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact any club member or they can contact Frank Rollman at 675-4485.

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