

Elementary action at Lehman

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THE POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Water service better, but customers say more needed

Public hearing on water rate increases

Thur., Feb. 26, 7 p.m.
Kingston Township municipal building
180 E. Center St., Shavertown

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Six years ago, Lee Jones was pumping water from the basement of his Midway Manor home while waiting for National Utilities Inc. to repair a leak in its lines. His experience was not unusual; the state Public Utility Commission eventually forced the company

out of business. Now Pennsylvania Suburban Water Company, which took over in 2002, is asking Jones to pay 42 percent more for his water. He has seen upgrades that might justify a higher price, but would like to see more.

"Nobody likes to see a rate hike," Jones said last week. "But I have seen some improvement."

Jones, who works for another water utility, said an important advance was installation of a generator at the pumping station that serves his development.

"That's a big thing," he said. Before the generator was put in, if power went out, so did water service.

Response to problems is better, too. Jones said last summer the

company came out on a Saturday to repair a leak. National Utilities could take days to respond to a complaint, and then frequently denied anything was their fault, such as when they told Jones and his neighbors that a leak was caused by a hidden spring.

Nothing has been done about low water pressure, though, and Jones said he's still waiting for

the promised installation of a storage tank. A tank, he says, would improve pressure and add capacity that could be vitally important in fighting a fire.

The Sleepy Hollow development, which uses the same water system, has hydrants, but Jones believes there is insufficient pres-

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Planners get head start on '04 festival

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — With ice and snow still on the ground it may seem early to begin planning this year's Dallas Harvest Festival. But committee members who last year planned the event in 77 days aren't wasting any time getting started.

They got together last week to toss around what went well at last year's event, what didn't and what they would like to see at the next festival, already scheduled for Sunday, September 19.

Last September, thousands of people flocked to the area's first-ever festival, created to celebrate the region's small-town atmosphere and farming heritage.

"Now that we know the festival can be what we pictured it to be, adjustments can be made," said com-

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Family, friends search for missing woman

By KALEN CHURCHER
For The Post

LAKE TWP. — By foot, on all-terrain vehicles and on horseback, friends and relatives of Phylcia Albina Thomas continued searching for the missing woman last week.

"I've just got to keep in my heart that she's OK," said Phylcia's mother, Pauline Bailey on Feb. 19. "I know, I know somebody has her. She would never not call."

Wednesday afternoon, about 50 people combed land in Lake Township, Noxen and as far west as Ricketts Glen State Park.

As the group searches for the 22-year-old Lake Township woman, if they find something that could be evidence, volunteers rope off the area with brightly colored rope and contact state police.

State police also have searched the area, but there was no new information on Thomas' whereabouts Wednesday afternoon. She was last seen Feb. 11, when she returned to

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Phylcia Thomas

Age: 22
Height: 5 feet 6 inches
Weight: 110-115 pounds
Thomas was last seen on Feb. 11 on Route 118 in the Sweet Valley area. She was wearing a blue Pump-N-Pantry shirt, white pants, rust-colored wool sweater and Nike sneakers. Anyone with information is urged to call state police at 697-2000.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Super collection

Children will be fascinated with the collection of 198 superballs on display at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. So is their collector, 11-year-old McKenzie Kelly. She knows how many of each size and color there are in the collection, and something unique about each one, says her mother, Yvonne Kelly of Shavertown.

"I know which one is the oldest, it's the really soft one that grandma gave me," says McKenzie. The fifth grader at Wycallis Elementary School started collecting them when she was 3 years old. She keeps the balls in pretzel jars and sometimes adds to her collection with discards from her 6-year-old brother. "He doesn't care about them," she says. Her next collection? Pressed and flattened pennies. The superballs will be on display through February.



Grudgingly, township plans for new building code

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — The Board of Supervisors planned for the inevitable — though not very popular — state-mandated building enforcement codes at its Feb. 16 meeting.

The township may join Dallas Township, and Dallas Borough to hire or contract as a group a building code inspector or company to enforce the

state construction codes for new buildings and renovations. The three municipalities are members of the Back Mountain Council of Governments.

At least five inspections will be required for all residential and commercial properties as part of Act 45 of 1999, The Uniform Construction Code.

"If we opt out we'll lose control of

the process but by opting in it will get us the best and quickest inspection service," noted supervisor Ray Iwanowski.

Opting in means either employing a qualified town building inspector, as Kingston Township does, or hiring an outside contractor or company to do inspections.

Opting out means the state will do the inspections. Dave Sutton, the

board's chairman, said that could be time-consuming and inconvenient for the public because the state Department of Labor and Industry will not have enough inspectors to go around.

"All this will cost the home owner and builder more money. People will have to get permits and inspections for each phase of construction," said Sutton. "Things we used to do our-

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Sign goes missing, again

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — The Druid Hills development includes people who have lived there for 20, 30, or even 40 years, so it wasn't surprising they would come together to help resident Bill Runner create an attractive sign for the neighborhood's entrance.

Ed Kraft donated the wood; Boike Matus (now deceased) trimmed it down; Bob Williams donated the gold paint; John Fladd carved out the lettering; Runner came up with much of the design and local artist Sue Hand consulted on the project. Others donated money.

After about a month of work, the dark green sign with gold Celtic lettering was hung proudly at the development's entrance.

In early February, though, just five months

after being installed, the sign disappeared. It is the second time a Druid Hills sign has been stolen; the last theft occurred 20 years ago.

"It's a damn shame," was Runner's immediate reaction to the loss. "It's probably in some college dorm room somewhere."

Residents believe the theft took place around February 2. How it was taken is a bit of a mystery, however. Runner said the four-foot-wide sign weighed about 20 pounds and faced busy Pioneer Avenue. At 5 feet, 11 inches tall, Runner needed a ladder to install it.

"They went up there in the ice and snow. It had to take 10 minutes to get it down — where'd they put their vehicle?"

"It had to be done in the dead of night," he

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Bill Runner posed proudly with the sign that is now missing from the entrance to his neighborhood.

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