

Library

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the Back Mountain library has held steady.

That could change, however. Although fortunate thus far, the library is still trying to make up a \$32,000 deficit and is facing the possibility of having to reduce its hours.

"We're going to have to work extra hard to try to make up that difference with fundraising," said Butler.

This week the Friends of the Library steering committee, which works on fundraising activities, is sending a mass mailing to Back Mountain residents that is more than three times the size it has been in past years. The letters requesting donations went out to 10,000 homes.

"With the budget cuts, we had to come up with a new idea of how to expand it," said Jill Kryston, Friends president.

After seeking mailing lists from several sources, they came up with the idea to buy a list of registered voters from Luzerne County. For the \$2.50 cost of a CD-ROM, they had a starting point. After weeding out records that seemed to be old and making other adjustments, they had a final list.

"We'll continue to fine tune it," Kryston said, but this list is a great start.

The mailing should arrive this week at homes in the region's nine municipalities: Lake, Ross, Jackson, Franklin, Dallas, Kingston, Lehman townships, Dallas and Harveys Lake boroughs.

"We have confidence in our community that they will help us make up this difference by supporting our fundraisers. I'm confident we can do this, but

"We've been fortunate not to have to cut back hours."

Martha Butler
Library Director

we need their help," Butler said.

Aside from expanding the mailing, this year's appeal includes a list of suggested donation amounts, and what they will pay for.

For example, a donation of \$10 covers the cost of supplies for one pre-school story time session. At the other end of the giving spectrum, \$500 pays for three months of computer maintenance.

The steering committee has come up with other fundraisers, including last fall's successful Haunted Library, a Giving Tree during the Christmas season, and most recently, the sale of reading glasses.

Plans are also in the works to expand its largest and most important fundraising effort, the annual auction.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the library can send a donation to the Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas PA 18612.

Want to help?

Mail your donations to the library to:

Back Mt. Memorial Library
96 Huntsville Rd.
Dallas, PA 18612
If you have any questions, call 675-1182



FOR THE POST/DON CAREY

Seabee Ross honored

Christopher Ross, a Navy construction electrician, received a commendation medal recently from Rear Adm. Charles R. Kubic at the Naval Reserve Center in Pittston Township. Ross, Kingston Township, suffered burns on 60 percent of his skin during an electrical accident while working in Iraq last summer.

Help The Post tell service stories

The Post would like to know how Back Mountain residents are responding to the war in Iraq. We would like to publish articles that cover a wide variety of subjects, including profiles of military and civilian personnel who are in Iraq.

E-mail your stories about local servicemen and women, as well as how your group or organization is responding, to thepost@leader.net, or call 675-5211.



POST PHOTO/ ERIN YOUNGMAN

This block of Tioga Street in Tunkhannock will see a \$500,000 facelift come summer. It is one of four downtown blocks slated for a makeover.

COG gets down to business on plan

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — Overwhelming traffic, accidents and dwindling open space topped the list of concerns as members of the Back Mountain Area Council of Governments kicked off work on the region's first multi-municipal master plan last week.

According to the COG's grant coordinator, Joe Moskowitz, preliminary approval of a \$100,000 Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program grant meant Philadelphia planners, Kise, Straw and Kolodner, and two other subcontracting firms, could start work on creating the plan.

The firms will assess a list of municipal concerns, then create a blueprint of how the region can continue to develop, but more gracefully.

"We're looking to integrate how development in each municipality affects the others," Moskowitz said.

Representatives from the three firms met with COG members to outline the upcoming year of work.

Moskovitz also announced that a recently applied for \$37,500 PennDOT grant has been given preliminary approval.

The grant was sought to reduce what municipalities have to pay for the creation of the plan. However, it appears, Moskowitz said, that the date the money will be received will preclude using it in that way. Instead, it will be used to expand the scope of the project.

At the March 23 meeting, municipal representatives outlined the largest issues facing their municipalities.

Frank Wagner of Dallas Township said development and traffic are of primary concern in his municipality.

"We have five major developments right now going to start in the near future," he said. "Believe me, it's developing so fast, you can't stay with it."

Moskovitz said Dallas Borough's population has not changed in several years. Although the borough is not looking for high growth, some is needed to pay for fixed costs, he said.

Carl Goodwin said in Kingston Township, preservation of green space, the state Route 309 corridor and assessing water supply topped the list.

Doug Ide of Lehman Township said keeping the rural character of the township is important, as well as looking at increased traffic on state Routes 29, 118 and Old Route 115.

Moskovitz voiced a concern that the amount of money the group has amassed so far is not substantial enough to create an

adequate master plan.

"The level of detail we can drill down into it (the plan) is limited with that amount of funding," admitted Stan Niemczak, of Edwards and Kelcey, the subcontracted firm that will do the traffic component of the plan. "We will try to identify additional funding sources," he added.

Chris Lankenou of Kise Straw and Kolodner outlined the project's tentative schedule. Phase I, Background Analysis, will consist of map preparations, site visits, municipal interviews and a public open house.

In Phase II, the plan will be prepared. In the final phase, it will be distributed to municipal representatives and the public.

The entire process should take about a year, although, Moskowitz said, the project should be seen as a "living document" that can be expanded on in the future.

Downtowns

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first substantial grant — a \$232,000 Transportation Enhancement grant — was received last year.

Mead said the downtown project has really been a community-wide effort that saw local businesses raise money that has been used to match grants.

"A lot of areas have lost their historic downtowns, so we want to maintain ours."

Judy Mead
Tunkhannock
streetscape committee

"Finally we can see light. It's wonderful. I hope it will help with the economic development of the county."

The project should go out for bid in a few months and hopefully begin in the summer. "We've definitely waited long enough. I'd like to see a street light before I die," Mead joked.

Downtown store owners are waiting for the work to be completed before they begin planned facade improvements. PennDOT also has plans to mill and resurface the road at around the same time.

An additional \$250,000 Transportation Enhancement grant, recently applied for, would bring the total available to nearly \$750,000, and allow expansion of projects beyond those already in the works.

Birding trip

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society will be leading a field trip to the Montour Preserve on Saturday, April 3. Two birding blinds have been reserved to provide the best chance to observe wildlife.

Call Sandy Goodwin at 639-5785 or Bob Wasilewski at 542-5948 for information.

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society includes Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

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