

Crumbling cottage can be taken down, replacement is more problematic

By VICKI KEIPER
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — It probably was once a nice house. The two-story Dutch Colonial located on a wooded lot had an enclosed front porch and a basement garage. But over time, the walls and ceilings of the Lake Silkworth cottage crumbled to reveal studs and ceiling joists. A spot of the roof has caved in because of a break in the roof support. And the floor of a second-story bathroom barely keeps its contents from falling to the ground.

"The only thing holding the toilet up there is the plumbing," said Zoning Officer Charles Bartlett, pointing to photos taken after the front porch collapsed early on the morning of May 12.

At the May 17 Board of Supervisors meeting, owners Raymond and Arlene Krukowski of Nanticoke asked if they needed to obtain a demolition permit before removing the dilapidated Lakeside Drive cottage. Bartlett said that he doesn't recall ever issuing one before and hasn't found record of any in the past.

Krukowski claimed that his lawyer said that written permission on township letterhead would suffice in lieu of a permit. Supervisor Douglas Ide suggested that Krukowski's lawyer contact township Solicitor Peter Savage to work out the details.

As for rebuilding on the lot, Bartlett said the Krukowskis would need to go through the normal zoning process for a new building permit. Krukowski, who owns three connecting lots, each with a structure, said the new building would be the same size as the old cottage. But, lot size requirements have changed since the original

structure was built, Bartlett said.

"Most lots there (in Lake Silkworth) are 25 to 40 feet wide," he said, noting residents need at least half an acre in order to build.

While a perc test for the septic system isn't necessary, the system would need to be inspected by the township sewer officer to determine if the old system can support a new house, Bartlett said.

After dealing with the deteriorating cottage, the board turned its attention to a question about a cottage industry.

Neighbors Ron Ritts and Jim Mould of Idetown Road asked if zoning variances transfer when a property gets new owners. Ritts and Mould live near a house that has a woodworking shop set up in the garage and the property is now for sale, Ritts said.

Planning Commission Solicitor M. John Haley explained that home occupancy permits pertain to properties only.

"They regulate the property, not the person," he said. For example if a doctor sells a property with an operational medical office to another doctor, the residential building can still be used as a doctor's office, Haley said. But, any change in land use would nullify the zoning exception, he said.

If residents experience problems with any home business, such as excessive noise or industrial waste, they should contact the zoning officer, who would then investigate and cite violations, Haley said.

"We have to depend on the neighbors," said Chairman David Sutton, noting that the township has only a part-time zoning officer and few police personnel available to follow up on variances.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK

Jen Walton, Laura deWitt, Chaley Shaver and Amanda Pizano approached the start/finish line of the 1/8 mile course at Dallas Elementary.

Fit kids

(continued from page 1)

grade classes. Children picked up their cards, then stopped briefly after completing each lap to have them marked.

Chris Reinard had 30 laps checked off when he stopped so he could spend some time on the playground equipment. "It keeps me busy at recess," he said of the running, and there is still time to play kickball with his friends.

Rome is pleasantly surprised at the reception among the children. Of 575 students in grades 1-5 at the school, 407 have participated.

"The kids actually look forward to the days that we are there and ask if we can do this every day," she said. Even older children, who she thought might be reluctant to join in,

"The kids actually look forward to the days that we are there and ask if we can do this every day."

Amy Rome
Running program organizer

have responded. "It's kind of the thing to do" for them.

The exercise program takes place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 2 p.m. and 3-3:30 p.m. Volunteers, made up mostly of other parents, supervise. Anyone interested in helping out either this year or next can call Rome at 675-1335.

Send your news to The Post by e-mail.

thepost@leader.net

Digital photos welcome, too!

Road repairs will wait on funds

By VICKI KEIPER
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — Dallas Borough council heard concerns over crumbling roads at its May 19 meeting.

Ken Greenwood of Fawn Drive said that last year's cold patches failed to fix sinkholes that developed on many roads in Deer Meadows Estates and asked the council when road repairs were to begin.

Borough Manager Joe Moskowitz said available money will determine what roads will be fixed and when. Although Fawn Drive is on the borough's paving list, council would decide next month which roads to be paved.

"The costs of materials are at their highest," Moskowitz said. Also, the lack of surplus in the borough's liquid fuel funds affects the number of projects the

road department can take on, he said. But, he agreed with Greenwood that the roads in that neighborhood need re-paving.

"That area has issues because of the topography," Moskowitz said. The borough needs a comprehensive plan, that would permanently fix the problems, such as installing sidewalks. The borough does have plans to replace a collapsed drainage pipe by the corner of Powderhorn and Fawn Drives this summer, Moskowitz said.

Council approved personnel for the summer recreation program.

Russell Eyet will serve as program director at the salary of \$2,200 while the following program counselors were hired at \$6 per hour: Elizabeth Cusma, Kristen Allardyce, Kevin Arnaud, Michael Yenason, Laura Fauerbach, and Jared Besecker.



FOR THE POST/AIMEE DILGER

Michael Healey was named Lake-Lehman's superintendent during Tuesday night's School Board meeting. He will begin the position on July 1.

Lake-Lehman taps Trail principal as superintendent

LEHMAN TWP. — School Board members unanimously approved Michael Healey as the School District's new superintendent May 18. An Abington Heights graduate, Healey has been principal of Lackawanna Trail Jr./Sr. High School for 10 years. He will make \$95,000 annually at Lake-Lehman and pay a 10 percent co-pay towards his health insurance.

The \$95,000 is \$10,000 more than Lake-Noxen Elementary School Principal Dave McLaughlin-Smith was willing to accept when the board initially offered him the position. That offer was rescinded when

McLaughlin-Smith refused the proposed contract because it did not guarantee him another administrative position if he did not work out as superintendent.

Healey will also receive more than acting-Superintendent Robert Roberts' salary of approximately \$88,000.

Healey will begin the job on July 1, around the same time the School Board will approve its final budget.

School Board members will further discuss the budget at 5:30 p.m. June 1 in the music room of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary.

Storm damage claims being accepted

TUNKHANNOCK — Residents whose homes or businesses sustained damage due to severe weather on May 12 are asked to contact the Emergency Management Agency at 836-3399 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please supply the following information: name, address, telephone number, assessed value of the structure that was damaged, list of contents damaged, and the estimated dollar amount of loss/damage. Residents also will be asked for insurance information.

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