

Catch up on all the youth baseball action

Page 7



THE POST

50¢

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

Plant noise protestors will get their say

Township ordinances are way out-of-date, say residents

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Residents of Ondish Hills, Orchard View Terrace, Lower Demunds Road and other neighborhoods that have been affected by the constant thumping and pounding sounds coming from Pulverman Enterprises will finally have their day in court.

A zoning hearing is scheduled for Monday July 12 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building.

A recent sound study indicated that the sheet metal plant is in violation of the noise ordinance. A cease and desist order was sent

Dallas Township Zoning Hearing Monday, July 12, 7 p.m.

At the township building, Rt. 309 To hear an appeal by Pulverman Enterprises of a notice of violation of the noise ordinance. A second night will be added to hear more testimony.

to plant's owner, Randy Mark, in May informing him that if he didn't reduce the noise level to within the limits of the noise ordinance by June 8 the next step would be court action. Mark filed an appeal to the enforcement order.

Township Solicitor Michael Melnick informed a large number of residents at the July 6 Board of Supervisors meeting that he

and Pulverman's attorney, Patrick Aregood, agreed to a two-night hearing to allow enough time for each side to present its case.

The township's case will be heard on July 12 and Pulverman's case will be heard on another night to be determined by the zoning board at the hearing.

"I think it makes sense because we're going to have to contact a lot of people," Melnick said of the two-night schedule. He wants to meet with residents one by one who plan on attending the hearing, prior to July 12 to prepare individual testimonies.

Melnick said that a group testimony is not advisable because Aregood could argue that the residents collectively met and conspired

See NOISE, pg 2



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Lending lots of hands

Volunteers turned out in droves last week to help set up the grounds for the 58th annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction. People of all ages carried books and odds and ends from the library basement to tents, while others set up booths, bleachers and the auction block. The event wraps up tonight, with booths opening at 4 p.m. and the block starting at 6 p.m.

Above, Kim Litz, Andrew Duffy, and Nick Hetro from Trucksville troop # 155 helped transfer goods from the library basement to the auction tents.

New building code comes with price tag

But, say officials, property owners will get what they've been paying for

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN — In the old days, before July 1, someone building a typical new home in Dallas Borough plunked down a \$450 permit fee, then went about their business. It won't be that way any longer, anywhere in Pennsylvania.

"That's not the way it was designed," said Dallas Borough Manager Joe Moskovitz of the old permit system. The fee was meant at least in part to assure the quality of construction by paying the cost of periodic inspections. But in reality, even though the borough had a building code on its books, no inspections were mandated or made.

Municipalities had until July 9 to "opt in" or "opt out" of a new, statewide Uniform Construction Code that includes a specified regimen of inspections. Nearly all Back Mountain townships and boroughs opted in.

"We're fortunate not to have had problems like in the Poconos," Moskovitz said. There, shoddy construction has prompted a flurry of complaints, lawsuits and investigations.

Moskovitz has no doubt that the new code and inspection regimen will be more costly. He estimates the charge for that "typical" home will now be \$1,000, plus 20 percent added to offset the borough's greater administration costs. "I believe that's a ballpark figure," he said.

See CODE, pg 3

Bugs can be good for your garden

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

The more bugs in your garden the better. That's the word from Mary Pat Appel, master gardener and coordinator at the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Luzerne.

"The more diverse and numerous the insect species in your garden are the better. Naturally you want don't want all one thing, like a bunch of aphids, but the more diverse the insects are the healthier the garden will be, because one bug will often eat the others," says Appel.

Appel suggests an integrated pest management system in the garden. Although that sounds complicated, it really is just common sense, timing and a little knowledge, that will keep a garden healthy while maintaining an insect population.

"First is timing," she says. Insecticides need to be applied at the right time — that is, when the insect population is low, and when the insect is most vulnerable in its life cycle. "This way you're not wasting chemicals."

See BUGS, pg 3



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Hay there

Glenn Harvey took advantage of some good weather last week to mow fields along Hildebrandt Road in Dallas Township. A damp spring and pleasant summer should mean good yields this year.

Inside The Post



Lake-Lehman Jazz Band makes music while on deck

Page 2

12 Pages, 1 Section

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Calendar | 12 |
| Church | 11 |
| Crossword | 8 |
| Editorials | 4 |
| Obituaries | 5 |
| School | 10 |
| Sports | 7-9 |

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Audit finally done, maybe auditor, too

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

JACKSON TWP. — The township has automated its bookkeeping system with a more current one, has completed a professional audit that can be used as a baseline in future years, but needs to outsource its payroll and checking system to minimize expense in payroll and health benefits. These were the recommendations made to the township by the Board of Auditors at the July 6 meeting of supervisors.

The auditors also suggested redefining the roles of the board, the auditing firm, and the supervisors because communication between them was difficult during this last year's audit and deadlines were hard to meet. They suggested reevaluating using the auditing firm, the Gattuso Group, again.

Attempts to reach the firm for comment were unsuccessful. The published phone number had been disconnected, and a cellular number obtained from another source rang busy through several calls.

The supervisors also voted to appoint an inspection firm to comply with the new state-mandated building codes.

Secretary Joy Bird reports that two white plastic swans placed in the pond next to the municipal

See JACKSON, pg 3



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Plastic swans placed in the pond next to the Jackson Township municipal building have drawn the eye of photographers, but have not deterred Canada geese from landing. Township Secretary Joy Bird said it took the geese only a couple of days to figure out the deception.