

Another chapter in the great Back Mountain rivalry

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THE POST

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



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Wood planking cut to look like stone decorates the The Gunn house in Lehman.

Historic homes show styles of their times

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

Like many busy parents, Carl Handman, a Wilkes-Barre architect, drives through the Back Mountain to and from his son's soccer games. On the way, wearing his "architect glasses" he has found some unique treasures.

Most of the homes built in the Back Mountain prior to 1900 were carpenter-builder homes or homes built from a pattern. "The builders would see or order a blueprint and build the home," explains Handman.

But his particular interest is homes that were built by local architects and the architects themselves.

His latest focus is on Back Mountain houses built from 1875 to 1920, when he said there really wasn't much going on architecturally outside of the metropolitan areas of the country. But he did find some here that were interesting.

"The most unique houses I have come across are in Lehman," says Handman. A group of houses there used a style of design that made wood planks look like stone. "No one seemed to know what or why this was, but I had seen this before at Washington's home in Mount Vernon and

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Proposed lake speed limit tied up in review

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — The plan to impose a 45 mile per hour daytime speed limit on the lake has been stalled by a bureaucratic snag about the use of radar to enforce it.

"Our proposal has made it all the way through to final resolution," said Richard Squiteri, who gathered support from organizations around the lake last year for the plan and has been shepherding it through the approval process.

Squiteri said at the Oct. 19 meeting of the borough council that the holdup now is because the Fish and Boat Commission wants to study whether its officers can use radar, or if its use is restricted to the state police. Local police are not permitted to use radar to measure speed on roads.

"They've tied up our 45 mile per hour petition" for 90 days while they look into

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Developer, neighbors spar over plan for 100 lots

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Developer John Halbing tried his best at Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting to reassure neighbors of his proposed new 100-lot development that his plans will not harm their property.

The entrance to the proposed development will be across from Ondish Hills on Ondish Road. A secondary, emergency exit is required, and will utilize Gypsy Lane, a private

dirt road.

Bob Mitchell's home is off of Gypsy Lane. He expressed concern about a large section of wetlands on the proposed site. "The swamps are bulging with water. I've lived there for 10 years, and hunted there for 18 years. It's never been as wet as it is now, since they built Sleepy Hollow (a nearby development). Every drop of water runs from Sleepy Hollow into that swamp."

Halbing told Mitchell that runoff will be contained. "As a developer,

I've been through very stringent requirements with the county, the state, DEP and the township as far as how we impact the wetlands," he said.

"The retention basin that we've used will hold back storm water and release it slowly so that it doesn't negatively impact those wetlands. There are engineers and biologists who determine what we can do and can't do. I follow the law."

Mitchell argued, "Every drop of water from the new development,

whether you release it an eyedropper at a time is going to go into that swamp."

Halbing pointed out that the runoff is coming from other neighborhoods in the area as well, not just Sleepy Hollow. "Wetlands do that. They retain water," he said.

Residents also cited concerns about increased traffic, danger to wildlife and loss of trees. Part of the 75-acre parcel is zoned agricultural,

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St. Therese's Church looks ahead



FOR THE POST/SANDY PEOPLES

Msgr. J. Peter Crynes surveys the construction from the back yard of the rectory. A parking lot and handicap access will occupy the space below when the first phase of a renovation project is completed at St. Therese's Church.

Expanding parish embarks on parking, handicap access and other improvements, but strives to maintain consistency with historic structure

By SANDY PEOPLES
Post Correspondent

While many churches find themselves limited by declining attendance, the expanding 4,400 member congregation at St. Therese's Church in Shavertown has outgrown its existing facilities and is renovating its facilities to keep up with the needs of the parish.

The pastor of St. Therese's Church for the past 10 years, Msgr. J. Peter Crynes, is looking forward to meeting the changing needs of the congregation with a plan for renovated facilities and other changes for convenience and accommodation.

"More than 150 parishioners from five major committees have con-

tributed to the master plan," said Crynes. "We also sent out surveys to everyone in the parish and made lists of priorities. The top priority was to maintain the architectural beauty of the original sanctuary, which was constructed in 1928 using stone from area farms of our own parishioners. The next level of priorities had to do with meeting the changing needs of our growing families."

The renovation and expansion project will be done in two phases, each costing about \$1.7 million. St. Therese's has received diocesan approval to launch a capital campaign to finance the project.

Phase I includes a new 24-space parking area with an extensive underground storm water pipe system to

control the flow of runoff water going into Toby's Creek, handicap parking, a two-stop elevator from the southwest corner parking area to the church level, a new front entry and plaza deck to restore the original entrance to the sanctuary.

Air conditioning and other infrastructure upgrades, and renovations to Father Sammons Hall will provide more meeting space and a larger kitchen facility.

Phase II will include a new rectory to be used as a residence for pastoral staff and private meeting rooms, a new 60-space upper parking area, and a 9,900 square foot parish center with classrooms, meeting rooms and parish

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Three-community recycling program earns a hefty grant

By PAUL LAZAR
For The Post

Three communities' recycling efforts have earned a grant of \$53,820 from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The grant, called a 904 Recycling Performance Grant, is based on total tons recycled and the overall recy-

cling rate for the fiscal year 2002. The municipalities recycled 1,508 residential tons of commingled material and paper and 1,321 tons from businesses.

"The more recycling in tons to the population, the more money you receive," said Larry Spaciano, executive director of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, which operates

the program that serves Dallas Borough and Dallas and Kingston townships.

Although DAMA has received other grants in the past, this is the largest ever.

Spaciano said the municipalities will each receive \$5,000 from the funds, which they will use to offset the expense of their annual spring

cleanups.

"Some of the money will be used to develop a newsletter and a calendar," said Spaciano. "The rest of it will go back into the different facets of the recycling program."

The compost program will benefit and more recycling bins will be purchased. Leftover funds will be used

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