

Early mentor delights in Matt Dragon's success.

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

Flood study makes modest recommendations

Only two of eight scenarios meet a benefit/cost standard.

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

A study of flooding in the Toby's Creek watershed lays out modest goals for protection of homes and businesses that might be affected by high water.

Out of eight possible projects — from building levees to rerouting the channel — only two achieve a benefit

to cost ratio greater than 1, implying that they are economically justified according to the study parameters. Those are enlarging the bridge over at Fernbrook and removing a historic stone-arch bridge near Pizza Perfect in Trucksville.

The easiest and most economical recommendation is that the three affected municipalities — Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township — enforce existing limits on construction in the flood

plain, keep stream beds clear of overgrowth and debris, remove obstructions at culverts and bridges and repair and maintain stream banks to prevent erosion.

The "flood protection feasibility study" was conducted by Gannett Fleming Inc., from mid-2003 to Dec. 2004. The state Legislature authorized an outlay of \$150,000 for a study in 1988, but the money wasn't released until 2002.

The firm's analysis projects that 115

buildings would suffer some damage during a 500-year flood — that is one with the probability of occurring once in a 500-year period. The remediation measures outlined in the study report are focused on those areas.

Costly and extensive projects, such as building levees or flood walls, or rerouting the creek below Dallas Borough, failed to provide benefits equal to their annual expense. For

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FLOODING STUDY PRESENTATION

A representative of Gannett Fleming Inc., the firm that conducted a study of flooding along Toby's Creek and its tributaries, will explain the findings and answer questions at a public meeting Wednesday, March 23, at the Kingston Township Municipal Bldg., 180 E. Center St., Shavertown, starting at 7 p.m. Representatives of DEP and the state Department of General Services are also expected to attend.

At last, relief may be coming to Meadowcrest

Bids will soon be solicited for work to end flooding in the development.

By GAVIN ROBB
Post Intern

TRUCKSVILLE — The wait may be over for residents of Meadowcrest who have been plagued by storm water runoff from a nearby development.

For years, they have had to fend for themselves with makeshift walls and trenches while waiting for the township to permanently eliminate the flows, which have flooded basements and created dangerous sinkholes in back yards.

According to Township Manager Eddie O'Neill, plans to reroute the runoff are finally underway following a March 9 meeting in which the township supervisors authorized an additional length of piping and the solicitation of bids from contractors to do the work.

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Could we see some real ones, please?

Barbara Kirschner, Sweet Valley, paints and sells these wooden tulips hand sawed by her husband. She was one of the vendors at the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors craft show last weekend. More photos on page 2.

Lake tries again to get approval for new hookups

Meters, tiny cameras being used to pinpoint improper inflows into the sewer sanitary system.

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — The Municipal Authority is making progress in efforts to eliminate sewage overflows during heavy rainfalls.

Portable meters are being used to measure fluctuations in the flow in main lines around the lake, said Richard Boice, executive director. They are placed in problem areas and produce a picture of the flow rates over a 24-hour period.

"These things can graph the flow out," Boice said, giving a good indication if there are leaks or output from illegal sump pumps. A good portion of the excess flow has been blamed on pumps that send water from basements into the sanitary sewer lines.

The meters are used at manholes, which can be several hundred feet apart. Once a problem is detected, miniature cameras are dropped into the line, and they can be maneuvered to the exact point of the inflow.

Last month, the authority resubmit-

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Grant funds in question should arrive by April

With \$120,000, the township will address flooding in Kunkle and rewrite zoning rules.

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Township Engineer Thomas Doughton announced at the March 15 supervisors meeting that money from a federal grant, which will be used to finance

two eagerly awaited projects, should arrive in April.

At the March 1 meeting, Doughton said the grant, administered by the Luzerne County Office of Community Development, was in jeopardy if President Bush's proposed 2006 budget is passed. The budget would consolidate 18 programs, including community development grants, that received approximately \$16 billion in funding in 2005 and replace them with a \$3.7 billion "Strengthening America's

Communities" program.

The township was approved for \$120,000, of which \$80,000 would be used in flood control efforts in the area of the Kunkle fire station, and \$40,000 to rewrite the township's 40-year-old zoning ordinances.

Communities were able to apply for the grant every three years, and the amount awarded depends on the income of residents in the area.

In a continuation of the debate over the proposed Saddle Ridge subdivi-

sion, the supervisors agreed to draft a proposed ordinance revision requiring road grades to be 9 percent or less, with exceptional circumstances allowing up to 11 percent for no more than 200 feet. Doughton said that he reviewed ordinances from surrounding communities, and Dallas Township has the lowest grade restrictions, currently 7 percent.

Speaking on behalf of developer

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Township sees traffic signal in its future

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — At their March meeting, the supervisors agreed to take responsibility for maintaining a traffic light that PennDOT intends to install at the intersection of Carverton Road and Manor Drive.

But the bills won't be arriving soon. PennDOT officials told the township that bids for installation are scheduled to go out in fall 2006, with construction sometime in 2007.

The police department is operating at two officers less than full staffing, until a replacement is found for Benjamin Bigus, who left to attend the State Police Academy. His resignation letter was read at the March 9 meeting.

Bigus' last day was March 2. He had worked for the township about three years, said Chief James Balavage, and had been trying for some time to obtain an appointment to the academy. Officer Franklin Buckler has been inactive for just over a year, recovering from a stroke suffered while on duty. Balavage said it is uncertain if or when he will return.

The vacancies leave the department with eight full-time officers, including Balavage. To cover, Sergeant Michael Moravec has been working regular patrol shifts, as has officer Frank Ziegler, who is the D.A.R.E. officer. Other officers have been working overtime, Balavage

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Soaring science

Andy Judge admires his Division C cruiser that floated around the gymnasium at the Northeast Regional Science Olympiad, held March 10 at the Penn State Campus in Lehman. More photos and local results on page 9.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

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Some are just too big to keep.

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