

TO THE EDITOR

Flooding of 2006 leaves hard lessons

Editor:

The recent flooding of 2006 left behind some valuable lessons for those who wish to learn them. As rain fell and creeks swelled, a copy of the Back Mountain COG Master Plan sat on my desk, along with news articles on its fate. As a member of the Kingston Township Zoning Board, I was given the opportunity to review the plan, but the importance of this document was never so clear as it was today.

In everyone's defense that has been involved in its conception, it is full of good ideas but lacks substance in other areas. However, the section of limiting development and construction of new infrastructure to support present and future homes is probably the most important.

Known to many as the "Green Area" section, this part of the plan seeks to limit, not restrict development in areas of the Back Mountain. It was my pleasure to be active in the development of the updated Kingston Township Green Space Ordinance passed several years ago. This was the blueprint for a safer, more environmentally safe and secure development plan for Kingston Township, meant to protect property and life from acts of God like the recent flooding.

As we have become more commercialized in the Back Mountain, we have poured many more concrete, laid more asphalt, added more rainpouts and cut down more trees in the past 30 years since Agnes, than maybe was prudent. This week's flooding was a direct result of our short sightedness and a hard reminder. Runoff, from the hard surfaces not in existence in the Back Mountain flood plain during Agnes in 1972, feed the creeks and storm sewers like gasoline on a fire, causing mass destruction in its wake. Something must be done, and done now. The opportunity is here for every citizen of the Back Mountain community to do something about it.

As several of the local governments from Dallas, Dallas Township, Jackson Township, Kingston Township, and Harveys Lake look to take action on the plan, I urge every citizen to send a letter, fax, or e-mail to your local government. Encourage them to not just abandon the Master Plan, but rather to have it modified, to implement those parts of the plan essential for the survival of the Back Mountain and its citizens. Don't wait, don't let the short sightedness of the past continue. Do it today and get involved in the future of your hometown and the Back Mountain area.

James Reino
Shavertown

STRANGE BUT TRUE

The History Channel

- In China, anyone who attends a wedding is honor-bound to give a substantial gift of money to the happy couple. This is such an important custom, in fact, that in one region of the country, the Wenzhou Province, residents spend more than 10 percent of their annual income on these wedding gifts.

- We recently celebrated Father's Day here in the United States, but some may feel that Americans shortchange our dads. In Norway, for example, all of November is designated as Father's Month.

- Those who study such things claim that because of the way their knees are shaped, cows are able to travel up stairs but not down them.

- The bird known as the English sparrow is neither a sparrow nor English; it's actually an African finch.

- Danny McGoorty, a well-known billiards player of the mid-20th century, was something of an expert on the subject of competition. It was he who said, "Try to hate your opponent. Even if you are playing your grandmother, try to beat her 50 to nothing. If she already has three, try to beat her 50 to three."

- It was famed poet T.S. Eliot who observed, "Some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers."

- The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing the practice of slavery, was ratified on Dec. 6, 1865. Not all the state legislatures at the time approved the Amendment, however; only two-thirds of the states were needed to change the Constitution, and some legislatures refused to formally ratify the 13th Amendment. In fact, it wasn't until 1995 that the state of Mississippi got around to doing so.

Thought for the Day: "When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; now I'm beginning to believe it." - Clarence Darrow

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MOMENTS IN TIME

- On July 12, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signs into law a measure calling for the awarding of a U.S. Army Medal of Honor. In 1863, the Medal of Honor was made a permanent military decoration available to all members of the U.S. armed forces.

- On July 11, 1938, the "Mercury Theater on the Air" radio drama featuring Orson Welles debuts. The show is best remembered for its 1938 broadcast of "The War of the Worlds," a fictional drama about a Martian invasion in Groves Mill, N.J.

- On July 13, 1943, the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history, ends as the Soviets repulse a German offensive at heavy cost. Some 6,000 tanks, 2 million men and 5,000 aircraft were involved in the fighting.

- On July 14, 1955, Volkswagen introduces the Karmann-Ghia. The car's sleek lines and hand craftsmanship attracted the attention Volkswagen had hoped for. Nevertheless, the Ghia's power suffered from its 36 horsepower, flat-four engine. The car was last produced in 1974.

- On July 15, 1965, the unmanned spacecraft Mariner 4 passes over Mars at an altitude of 6,000 feet and sends back to Earth the first close-up images of the red planet. The pictures revealed a vast, barren wasteland of craters and rust-colored sand, dismissing 19th-century suspicions that an advanced civilization might exist on the planet.

- On July 10, 1989, Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck, dies from complications of heart disease. Other character voices that Blanc created included the Road Runner, Sylvester, Tweety Bird and Woody Woodpecker's signature laugh.

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Audacious dabs of cerulean, brilliant luminescent shapes, trails of emerald arcing across shadow. Get close enough to the garden and you can see nature through an intangible palette, as if Georgia O'Keefe stopped by for a visit.

Books added to library shelves

The Back Mountain Memorial Library announces the following new additions to the library's collection. For more information, call the library at 675-1182 or visit the library at 96 Huntsville Road in Dallas.

EXPRESS(1 week)

"Twelve Sharp" by Janet Eganovitch

"The Highly Effective Detective" by Richard Yancey

"The Lambs of London" by Peter Ackroyd

FICTION

"A Secret Splendor" by Sandra Brown

"Lady Thief" by Kay Hooper

"In the Shadow of the Law" by Kermit Roosevelt

"Leeway Cottage" by Beth

Gutcheon

"Twelve Sharp" by Janet Eganovitch

"The Lambs of London" by Peter Ackroyd

"Dark Tort" by Diane Mott Davidson

"Triangle" by Katharine Weber

"Across a Hundred Mountains" by Reyna Grande

NONFICTION

"Real Food: what to eat and why" by Nina Planck

MYSTERY

"The Highly Effective Detective" by Richard Yancey

LARGE PRINTFICTION

"At Risk" by Patricia Daniels Cornwell

"Dead Watch" by John Sandford

"The Doctor's Daughter" by Hilma Wolitzer

"Dark Light" by Randy Wayne White

"Susannah's Garden" by Debbie Macomber

"The Rapture" by Tim F. Lahaie

"Arthur and George" by Julian Barnes

"The Prey" by Allison Brennan

"The Sea" by John Banville

BOOKS ON CD

"Q is for Quarry" by Sue Grafton

"Hour Game" by David Baldacci

"Last Man Standing" by David Baldacci

"Cane River" by Lalita Tademy

"Big Bad Wolf" by James Patterson

"London Bridge" by James Patterson

"Double Homicide" by Jonathan and Faye Kellerman

"Shadow Divers" by Robert Kurson

"Lost City" by Clive Cussler

YOUNG ADULT

"Heat" by Mike Lupica

"Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You" by Hanna Jansen

"Alice in the Know" by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

"The Pluto Project" by Melissa Glenn Haber

"Here Lies the Librarian" by Richard Peck

70 Years Ago
July 3, 1936

BATTLE OF WYOMING REMEMBERED IN POST

The thrilling story of what happened nine miles away from Dallas on July 3, 1778 never grows old. It was shortly after noon - 158 years ago - that a little army of 300 men marched bravely out of Fort, hard by the Susquehanna River and up The Great Road, now Wyoming Avenue. Flags waving and drums beating, fifers played a lively tune - a valiant band headed toward bloody but brave defeat.

For a time, the outnumbered Americans, three to one, maintained order and returned fire. Then the wild yelps of the savage warriors, the cool strategy of the enemy and its obvious strength began to affect the morale of the men who had been trained for farming, not soldering.

The line broke and the battle wound up lasting 30 minutes. However, the orgy of murder and cruelty continued all night. The blood-curdling war whoops of the Indians echoed through the Valley as the savages hunted down fugitives and subjected them to the most horrible and revolting cruelties.

The hopes and love of his mother, Mrs. W. L. Tracy of Pioneer Road, Shavertown, will ride with her famous son, Lee Tracy, moving picture star, when he steers the nose of his 63-foot yacht, Adore, out of Santa Monica, Cal., harbor tomorrow into the setting sun. It will be the start of the race with twenty-one

other boats to Honolulu, Hawaii, 2,000 miles away and for Lee it will be the realization of a life-long dream.

60 Years Ago
July 5, 1946

EXPLOSION INJURES GARAGE EMPLOYEE

The explosion of an alcohol drum Friday afternoon at Oliver's Garage shook Dallas and seriously burned Richard Westerman, an employee, who was cutting the empty sheet metal tank with an acetylene blowtorch. Westerman was treated by Dr. Sherman Schooley of Shavertown and is in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital suffering from shock and second degree burns to the abdomen, chest, face and arms.

An average increase of 2.7 cents per dozen eggs during May offset skyrocketing prices for poultry feed and save Pennsylvania poultrymen from what otherwise would have been heavy losses, the State Department said today. Poultry feed prices went to an all time high, a federal-state survey revealed. The average price received for May eggs was 38.7 cents per dozen, compared with 36 cents in April and 39.3 in May 1945.

"The Story of Wyoming," a simple, understandable and concise history of the early years of Wyoming Valley, written by the late Louis Frank, will be published in The Dallas Post in serial form beginning this week.

50 Years Ago
July 6, 1956

DALLAS LEGION LOSES FIRST GAME

The Hanover White Sox in a hard-fought battle lasting 11 innings downed Dallas Legion, un-

defeated in six starts. Martin went the route for the Legion and pitched ball good enough to win but Milliman, Hanover ace, was tight in the clutches and held Dallas to six runs while his mates collected eight off Martin.

Hanover scored a single tally in the first and two more in the fifth but Dallas tied the score in the sixth when they pushed three runs across. Hanover made it 4-3 in the seventh but Dallas pulled ahead in the eighth when Hendershot bounced a long drive over the right field wall for a ground rule double, scoring two mates ahead of him. Hanover tied it up in the ninth and then came up with the three in the 11th to ice the game. Hendershot homered over the left field wall in the Dallas half of the 11th to make the score 8-6.

Jack Heidig, chairman of the Idetown Civic Association announces Open House at the new playground on the Gilbert Ide property, adjacent to Oak Hill, on Saturday, July 14th, starting at 4 p.m. Bagged lunches are to be brought by each person.

40 Years Ago
July 7, 1966

HUGE CROWD ATTENDS HORSE SHOW PARADE

The Lake-Lehman Horse Show Parade drew a throng of spectators on July 4. Horses stamped their feet restlessly Monday morning, waiting for the starting whistle. Fire apparatus were parked in the parking lot. The Lake Lehman band, spic and span in white shirts and black pants, or skirts, lined up on the crossroads. Huge cattle van, a pair of ponies, a car of candidates, and the queen of the horse show followed. Sirens went off and the parade ended in success.

Daniel C. Roberts Fire Company on the Newell Wood property fought a stubborn blaze. The first call went out at 2 p.m. on Saturday and then two hours later the fire was thought to be out. At 6 p.m. firemen were recalled along with state forest fire crews until 3 a.m. State foresters brought in a bulldozer on Sunday to combat the underground blaze.

30 Years Ago
July 8, 1976

LAKE-LEHMAN ADOPTS \$3.5 MILLION BUDGET

The Lake-Lehman school board adopted a \$3,497,227 budget by a slim 5-4 margin June 29 which may require "furloughing" an infinite number of teachers. The \$3.5-million budget reflected an increase of seven million over last year's 60-million budget but as Finance Committee Chairperson Gilbert Tough pointed out, had been pared down from the 10-million increase proposed last month in the tentative budget.

A resolution to furlough two guidance counselors and the one elementary teacher died for the lack of a five-vote majority despite the presence of all nine of Lake-Lehman's school directors at a special meeting Tuesday night. The measure had been considered necessary to balance the district's \$3.5 million budget.

The Kunkle Fire Co. is planning its first annual Fireman's Festival to be held at the fire company grounds on July 22, 23 and 24. Chairman for the fireman's festival is Fire Chief Jack Dodson. The co-chairmen are Andy Roan Jr., Wayman Mier and William Jones. There will be lots of games, food, beverages and fun for all ages.

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