

PENNDOT CONSIDERING RECONFIGURATION

# Dangerous Dallas Twp. intersection claims life of Noxen woman

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

A motor vehicle crash in Dallas Township has claimed the life of a Noxen woman.

According to Dallas Township Police, a two-vehicle crash occurred at approximately 1:15 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28, at the intersection of Route 309 and Hildebrandt Road.

It was determined that Charles E. Weaver, 81, of Noxen, was operating a late model Ford Taurus and attempted to make a left turn from Route 309 onto Hildebrandt Road. His wife, Carolyn M. Weaver, also of Noxen, was sitting in the right front seat passenger seat in the Ford Taurus.

John E. Onufer, of Schwenksville, was operating a 2009 Dodge Ram 2500 and traveling north on Route 309.

Both the north and south travel lanes had the green light at the time of the crash. Several witnesses stated the driver of the Ford Taurus turned left directly into the path of the driver of the Dodge Ram.

Carolyn Weaver was transported by Kunkle Fire and Ambulance to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Trauma Center in Plains Township after she sustained severe traumatic injury from the impact. She died at the hospital.

Charles Weaver was transported by Dallas Fire and Ambulance to Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township where he was in stable condition following the accident.

The driver of the Dodge Ram was not injured and the truck was driven from the scene.

Dallas Borough Police and Kingston Township Police assisted at the crash. Dallas Township Police Officer Mark Liparela is continuing the investigation.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation presented traffic reconfiguration options for the downtown Dallas five-leg intersection and Route 309, Upper Demunds Road and Hildebrandt Road intersections at a public meeting last November at Dallas Middle School. The intersection projects are

currently in the preliminary engineering stage and the consultant is working on the design.

Design options for the Route 309, Upper Demunds Road and Hildebrandt Road include the following: a cul-de-sac of Hildebrandt Road that would create a new intersection with Upper Demunds Road further up the road; the relocation of Upper Demunds Road so that it intersects with Hildebrandt Road later on; changing Upper Demunds Road so it cuts between M&T Bank and the Country Club Shopping Center and meets Route 309, adding a traffic light and eliminating an intersection with Hildebrandt Road; and redesigning Upper Demunds Road so it runs behind Country Club Shopping Center and meets Route 309 at which there would be a traffic light and eliminates an intersection with Hildebrandt Road.

In May, the Dallas Township supervisors passed a resolution for a left-turn signal from Route 309 onto Hildebrandt Road as part of the new Dallas High School construction project.



Emergency workers remove one of two occupants from a car involved in a two-vehicle crash on Friday, Aug. 28 at the intersection of Route 309 and Hildebrandt Road in Dallas Township. The crash claimed the life of Carolyn M. Weaver, 78, of Noxen.

# New traffic pattern in effect for school construction

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

A new traffic pattern on the campus of Dallas School District went into effect at the start of the school year due to the high school construction project.

The pattern consists of a one-way loop that goes from the middle school, around the high school and back out to Conyngham Avenue. Traffic may enter the loop via Conyngham Avenue or Pear Tree Lane.

"It's not just during school time; it's all the time," said Dallas School District Superintendent Frank Galicki. "We've taken many precautions. We've got a lot of signage up."

There are two traffic lanes in front of the middle school. The right lane alongside the curb area is the bus drop off and pick up area. The left lane is for thru traffic and cars coming into the campus. Parent drop off occurs at the parking lot on the left side of the school off Pear Tree Lane.

Galicki says there will eventually be a turnabout off Pear Tree Lane and a uniform bus platform in between the middle school and the new high school to cut down on traffic.

At the high school, parents can drop off their children in the right lane alongside the school while the left lane is for thru traffic. Buses drop off and pick up students directly in front of the school.

Vehicles may exit the loop by im-

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Frank Galicki  
Dallas School District superintendent

mediately turning left before the faculty parking lot or by passing the bus lane and Mountaineer Stadium back onto Conyngham Avenue or by going partially back through the loop and exiting through Pear Tree Lane.

In addition, there is no parking allowed behind the high school. Cars and persons are also prohibited from entering the construction site access road to the left of Mountaineer Stadium.

The traffic pattern will be in effect for the duration of the new high school construction project. Galicki advises parents, students and faculty to practice patience and safety while traveling the district campus and to leave earlier in the morning.

"I think the students have been extremely patient," Galicki said. "We don't let the student drivers off campus until the buses are gone. I would hope the parents allow their children to go on the bus...it would be much easier with the traffic pattern if more parents allowed their students to ride on the bus."

School buses were a little slow the first few days of school while everyone adjusted to the new pattern,

Galicki says. Originally, the elementary school children got home at about 5 p.m. Now they are dropped off between 4:15 and 4:20 p.m. All buses must call into the district transportation at the end of the day to verify that they are unloaded and empty of children.

The school district maintenance staff assisted with the traffic flow during the first week of school to train people to follow the new patterns. The Dallas Township Police were also on campus several days as well.

According to Galicki, a new access road to the middle school and high school area will be created as part of the high school construction project. The road will start along the bottom of the hill at the base of Dallas Elementary School and loop to the left up the hill near Emmanuel Bus Lines. Construction on the new access road is set to begin the summer of 2010.

Galicki says the future access road is intended to be used by cars only while Conyngham Avenue will be reserved for buses and Wyccallis Elementary School and administration traffic.



A new road has been paved opposite Westminster Drive to handle traffic exiting the Dallas School District complex.

Traffic entering the Dallas School District complex from the Hildebrandt Road /Conyngham Avenue entrance is funneled past Dallas Middle School, causing many drivers to use the Pear Tree Lane entrance instead.



DALLAS TOWNSHIP

# Police department advancing in technology age with e-notifications

By REBECCA BRIA  
rbria@timesleader.com

Residents and the general public will soon be able to sign up for e-notifications from the township police department.

Chief of Police Robert Jolley announced Tuesday night at the board of supervisors meeting that in about two weeks, people will be able to receive road closures, crime alerts and accident information by e-mail and text message.

Users will have to create a free

account on a Web site called Nixle and submit their e-mail address and/or cell phone number. Township police officials will then enter information and it will be sent to the users.

Nixle is a free Web site and is available to the township police department at no cost. A link to Nixle will soon be added to the police department's Web site.

Jolley says that transmitting information electronically will instantly notify people to avoid certain intersections in township. It will also provide Amber

Alerts and missing senior alerts as well as crime incident information.

Jolley also said the township will be the first municipality in the county to participate in McLaughlin crime mapping. Jolley said McLaughlin, of which the township is a member, is an organized crime reporting network funded by the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Rice Drive paving project**

Township engineer Tom Doughton is waiting for contractor documents from Pikes Creek, which were due this past Thursday, for the Rice Drive paving project to begin.

Doughton says the project should start next week and will last for about two weeks. Rice Drive will be closed from the Pulverman driveway to Lower Demunds Road during the project.

Doughton also said that bids for the paving of Old Tunkhannock Highway at the next supervisors meeting.

**Illegal burning**

Supervisor Frank Wagner said about seven residents who live near Lower and Upper Demunds roads are burning illegally. Wagner says most of these residents are burning garbage, but two are burning construction materials. Wagner alleges he told the residents that burning is illegal in the township.

Township solicitor Thomas Brennan asked the township secretary to prepare letters to send to the residents, informing them they are violating the township burning ordinance.

**Nuisance property**

Marilyn Gregorski, of Westminster Drive, asked the supervisors for an update on an alleged nuisance property near her home. Gregorski has been attending many of the supervisors meetings in an attempt to have the property cleaned.

Last month, solicitor Thomas Brennan said activity occurred to clean the property and that the side and front grass was cut.

Gregorski said the grass in the back violates a township high-grass ordinance and produced photos to prove her point.

Township zoning officer Leonard Kozick agreed last month to send a certified letter to the property owner, informing her she has five days to cut the grass. At Tuesday's meeting, township officials confirmed the property owner never signed for the certified letter.

Brennan asked Kozick to hand-deliver a copy of the letter to the property owner on Wednesday morning and to also knock on the door and inform the resident that she has five days to cut the grass before legal action will be taken by the township.

**DAMA update**

Tom Doughton, the township's representative to the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA), said the authority is having significant delinquent collections problems. According to Doughton, some residents are delinquent by more than

\$700,000 while some businesses owe thousands of dollars.

"Some of them are significant," Doughton said. "It's the largest (delinquency) we've had since the beginning of DAMA."

**Minimal municipal obligation**

The supervisors presented a 2010 financial requirement and minimal municipal obligation, necessary to keep the pension funds, as required by law. The police pension plan will cost nothing as no money needs to go into it. The non-uniformed pension plan will cost \$78,214.

**Homecoming parade**

Approval was granted for the township to request permission from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Misericordia University to hold a homecoming parade at approximately 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3. The parade will assemble at the Back Mountain Little League fields on Church Street and proceed down Center Hill Road onto Lake Street to the university's entrance.

## ROAD

Continued from Page 2

and the Luzerne County Solid Waste Management Department.

The events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Butler Township Road Department in Drums and on Saturday,

Oct. 10, at the Hanover Area Junior Senior High School in Hanover Township.

Tires from automobiles, motorcycles, pickup trucks and SUVs must be removed from the rims, free of liquids and heavy mud. The tires cannot be cut. More information is available by calling 331-7049.

The next supervisors meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1, in the municipal building.