

Three BMCP members receive \$239,000 grant

By REBECCA BRIA
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Representatives of the Back Mountain Community Partnership learned Nov. 19 during their monthly meeting at Misericordia University that three member municipalities were approved for a \$239,000 grant.

The Back Mountain Community Partnership is an inter-municipal group composed of Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman Townships and Dallas Borough.

According to Katie Feissner of NEPA Alliance, Kingston and Lehman Townships and Dallas Borough were approved for the full \$239,000 they applied for from the Department of Environmental Protection Energy Conservation Grant.

The funds will be used for energy-efficiency improvements in the municipalities' buildings, in-

cluding lighting, heating and door retrofits and door replacements.

"I think it's a great partnership for all of us that we're working together to see results," said Al Fox, BMCP president.

Kingston and Jackson Townships and Dallas Borough applied separately for money for solar panels through the grant but were not approved for funding.

Dallas Borough and Kingston Township were also notified they will receive \$494,400 through an NEPA Alliance project for upgrading traffic signals with LED bulbs.

Operational costs

Partnership representatives engaged in a lengthy debate over how to handle operational costs.

Phil Walter, of Dallas Township, suggested each municipal-

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ity contribute \$250 but Dallas Borough Mayor Tim Carroll felt the amount should be more than \$250.

Partnership Vice President James Reino agreed that the municipal contributions should be kept to a minimum, but believes the partnership needs an operating budget before the municipalities can put in any money.

Fox said the group has a proposed \$35,000 budget; however, Reino wants a line-item operational budget.

The group approved a motion for Reino to create a line-item operational budget with the help

of NEPA Alliance for the next meeting. In a separate motion, the partnership also approved each municipality, upon approval from their board of supervisors or council, to contribute \$250 to an operating budget.

"All we're trying to do is pay the postage stamps, pay the stationery and the legal ads that we're going to incur together," Fox said.

The program is no longer being funded by the state and Kingston Township agreed to take on the cost of about \$10,428.89 for the present school year.

Last month the township proposed to share the cost of the program, based on population, for the 2010-2011 school year as follows: 25 percent each from Dallas School District, Dallas Township and Kingston Township; 15 percent from Dallas Borough; and five percent each from Franklin Township and Gate of Heaven School.

No official action on the mat-

ter has been taken.

Addressing project

Fred Rosencrans, director of Luzerne County 911, spoke to the partnership about the countywide E911 addressing project.

In June, Luzerne County commissioners approved the E911 addressing project, which will provide standards for the naming of streets and establish a street numbering system throughout the county.

Rosencrans is asking every municipality in the county to pass a resolution or an ordinance to recognize the project. Dallas Borough and Dallas Township had already done so at their November meetings.

The project is finished in Franklin Township, according to Rosencrans. In addition, he says there will be about 50 new street names in Dallas Township when it is completed there.

LAKE TOWNSHIP

Planning Commission will help with nuisance property

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

The Luzerne Planning Commission has stepped in to help Lake Township residents troubled by a nuisance property owner.

At Wednesday night's meeting, Supervisor Amy Salansky said a letter sent to the Luzerne Planning Commission regarding illegal dumping and burning practices of William Harrison resulted in a property inspection and possibly more fines.

Harrison has been illegally disposing of solid waste for many years on his property. A letter, dated November 6, from Adrian F. Merolli, executive director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission, stated an inspection of Harrison's Tulip Road property revealed he has a "junkyard with vehicles, debris and trash without zoning permission."

This is in violation of permitted use of an agricultural zoned property. To avoid legal action and possible fines of \$500 per day, Harrison must apply for a permit to run a junkyard.

Township Attorney Mark McNealis advised supervisors and residents in attendance that the Planning Commission can be very strict and, if Harrison does apply for a junkyard permit, a public hearing will be set.

"If residents show resistance to the application, chances are it will be denied," McNealis

Harrison has a long history of hauling in construction debris to dump or burn on his property. After several out-of-control fires, residents began to complain to supervisors and to the Department of Environmental Protection.

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In August, DEP inspected Harrison's property, found it in violation of the Solid Waste Management Act and issued a citation giving Harrison 45 days to clean up three dump truck size piles of construction debris.

DEP returned in late September and found that piles remained and evidence of recent burning. On October 28, DEP registered two charges of unlawful disposal of solid waste with Magistrate Judge James Tupper.

The first charge is dumping solid waste without a "valid permit from the department" with a fine of \$633.50. The second charge is burning solid waste without a valid permit from DEP and a fine of \$510 has been charged.

Mark Carmon of DEP said at this time a hearing has not been scheduled as Harrison has 10 days to respond to the charges. If Harrison fails to do so, a hearing date will be set, Carmon reported.

In other news, B and J Paving of Dallas was awarded the bid

for road work to Bear Hollow Road and Wesley Road. B and J Paving's bid totaled \$119,909.03.

The bid was awarded based on requirements set forth by the Stimulus Grant, Salansky said.

Other bids were received from: Linde Enterprises, Wilkes-Barre, \$172,891; Pikes Creek Site Contractors, Sweet Valley, \$137,709; Wexcon Incorporated, Mohrsville, \$146,525; Stell Enterprises, Plains, \$152,211; Shea Industries, Clark Summit, \$91,935; B and J Paving, Dallas, \$119,909.03.

The sealed bids were opened during last month's meeting. Supervisors held two special meetings to review the bid application and grant requirements.

Supervisors also received notification of the township's liquid fuels allocation from the state. Secretary Carlene Price said the township will receive \$78,660.04 for 2010, compared to \$81,876 received this year.

Price said when she inquired about the difference, she was told gas prices decreased and the township will not need as much.

Money from the liquid fuels fund goes toward road maintenance, vehicles' fuel and payroll for the road crew.

BRINGING SANTA CLAUS TO DOWNTOWN



Nicole Clemson, left, of Dallas, 2009 PA State Fair Queen and Kennedy Wood, of Shavertown, 2009 Luzerne County Fair Princess take a moment to pose with a variety of parade characters during the 2009 Wilkes-Barre City Christmas Parade.

HARVEYS LAKE

Council reveals proposed budget

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Harveys Lake Borough Council revealed the proposed 2010 budget, appointed members to the Zoning Board and passed a Land Development Ordinance at its Tuesday night meeting.

Figures in the \$1,003,650 proposed budget are comparable to this year's figures Secretary Susan Sutton said the budget proposal contains "no major changes" from this year and confirmed, at this point, that council members have no major projects or purchases planned for 2010.

The mill rate of .604 remains the same along with a one percent per capita tax, real estate tax and earned income tax. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed tax value.

Council President Lawrence Lucarino said the proposed

budget will be available for public review from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the municipal building.

Sutton said council is scheduled to vote on the budget proposal during its regular monthly meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the municipal building.

Also preparing for the end of the year, council reappointed Sutton as Zoning Board secretary and Attorney Mark McNealis as Zoning Board solicitor.

Looking toward future betterment of the lake community, council members unanimously approved a Land Development Ordinance, giving gives the approval process for land development and subdivision to the borough's Zoning Board.

Previously, the Luzerne County Planning Commission authorized any applications for land subdivisions while the borough Zoning Board and Zoning

Officer handled building permits.

"Land development was governed by the county for about 5 to 6 years," said Jack Varaly, planning consultant for the borough. "It just made sense for the borough to control it."

Varaly said when the new zoning manual was adopted this summer, council wanted to regain control over land developments and subdivisions.

In other news, council members approved a request by Police Chief Dan Evancho for the purchase of police department software called Metro Tech software which software will aid police officers in filing reports and preparing for hearings.

The software package, including training, will cost \$8,470. Council member also approved Evancho's request to purchase a computer at an estimated cost of \$800.



Mark Pall will offer an organ Advent/Christmas concert at 3 p.m. today, Nov. 29, at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 420 Main St., Dallas.

12-year-old organist offers holiday concert today

Mark Pall will offer an organ Advent/Christmas concert at 3 p.m. today, Nov. 29, at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 420 Main St., Dallas.

A seventh-grade student at the Dallas Middle School, Pall is just 12 years old. This is his third Advent/Christmas organ concert.

Since he was 5 years old, Pall has shown talent for playing keyboard instruments "by ear"

and a passion for the pipe organ.

In the past, Pall has been invited to play for special services at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Dallas, Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston, the Tunkhannock United Methodist Church and at Dallas United Methodist Church.

He is a regular service musician at the Orange United

Methodist Church and the Huntsville United Methodist Church, his family's church.

Pall is a student of Ed Loch, organist and choir director at St. Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre.

A free will offering will be received at the concert to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Eastern Pennsylvania. Refreshments will be served following the concert.