

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Gas drilling, Megan's Law ordinances approved

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

With residents' safety and well-being in mind, Jackson Township supervisors authorized development of zoning ordinance amendments regulating natural gas drilling and approved a Megan's Law ordinance at their meeting on Monday night.

The drilling industry has moved into nearby municipalities and supervisors want to be

proactive. They authorized township attorney Jeffery Malak to research amendments to the zoning ordinance to restrict the industry to the mining district.

Malak is hoping to "push the envelope" and include an amendment to regulate hours of operation and possibly require a fence around any drilling site.

"Through the zoning ordinance is the only way a municipality can regulate the gas industry," he said.

Currently, there is no pro-

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Jeff Malak
Jackson Township solicitor

posed drilling site in the township but, with 100 percent of the township's water supply coming from wells, chairman John Wilkes Jr. does not want to take any chances.

"We would also require regu-

lar water testing," he said.

Malak plans to use recent drilling situations as examples to back up the amendments.

Before the amendments can be voted on, a public hearing will be scheduled. Malak hopes

to have the amendments ready for review by the end of the year.

Since getting the word out last month about a sex offender moving into the township, Malak was authorized by supervisors to prepare a Megan's Law ordinance to work in conjunction with the Pennsylvania state law.

Supervisors unanimously passed the ordinance which requires sex offenders to stay at least 500 feet from schools, day-care facilities, parks, play-

grounds, the fire hall during social events and other gathering spots.

Malak said the ordinance contains a map of these areas and an outline of penalties and fines for any violations.

Malak added that fines are no more than \$1,000 plus the costs for attorney fees and court fees associated with prosecution.

The next meeting of the Jackson Township supervisors will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 4, at the municipal building.

DALLAS BOROUGH

Water main project closes borough road

By SARAH HITE
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East Center Hill Road in Dallas will be closed this week due to ongoing construction to replace a water main.

Dallas Borough Council approved the closure of the road from the intersection at Lake Street to the entrances of Meadows Nursing Home and Leggio's Restaurant at its meeting on Wednesday.

Bob Frankelli of Franchelli Enterprises, the contractor designated to the water main replacement project, wrote a letter to Borough Manager Tracey Carr requesting the closure. Due to the company's excavator and dump trucks using the narrow road, Frankelli expressed concern over traffic backups.

The road was closed on Thursday, and council estimates the construction on East Center Hill Road will last a week. Franchelli Enterprises' work hours are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, so the road will be open in the evening and on weekends.

Motorists who work or need to access the Misericordia University facilities building as well as emergency service vehicles are allowed to pass through the construction.

The water main replacement project is set to continue onto West Center Hill Road between Gerald Avenue and Route 415 and should last two weeks.

In other news...

- Council appointed Quad Tree Group Inc. to the position of consulting engineer for the borough, replacing Michael J. Pasonick Consulting Engineers. Council President Lee Eckert said this is standard procedure and every three years the borough asks for bids on various services.
- Council also voted to approve amended State Liquid Fuels Fund

projects for 2010 as the following: East Center Hill Road from Route 415 to Lake Street with materials to be reimbursed from United Water as part of the water main replacement project, West Center Hill Road from Route 415 to approximately Gerald Avenue with materials to be reimbursed from United Water as part of the water main replacement project, Spring Street from Lehman Avenue to Norton Avenue and from Norton Avenue to Machell Avenue, Split Rail Lane from Machell Avenue for approximately 425 feet and Huyley Avenue from Highland Boulevard for approximately 350 feet.

- A bid was awarded to T. Brennan Heavy Equipment for the replacement of a catch water basin and reconnection of storm water piping near the Dallas Auto Parts building at 688 Memorial Hwy. in the amount of \$2,875.

- Council authorized the repair and calibration of the police department's breathalyzer machine for an amount not to exceed \$1,500.

- Officials approved and authorized the hiring of the following borough employees: Karen Fiorello to the part-time position of administrative assistant at a rate of \$10 per hour and Carl M. Alber to the part-time position of code enforcement officer and assistant zoning officer at a rate of \$12 per hour. Both employees must undergo state background checks and a six-month probationary period.

- Council authorized to appoint officials for the following actions: to write a letter of intent to Warnock Fleet for the purchase of a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor Cruiser under Pa. Co-Stars 13 for the state contracted price of \$23,321 with an additional police equipment outfitting cost of \$11,147.71 and to apply for the Pennsylvania State Agency for Federal Surplus Property.



Dakota Sioux Peter Black Wolf, of Dunmore, center, tries to coax Tanner Thomas, of Noxen, to dance as Tanner's dad Kenny looks on at the Lakeside Nursing Center's 10th Annual Pow-Wow.

Pow-Wow celebrates elderly at Lakeside Home

It was a day to celebrate grandparents, the elderly and life in general on Sept. 12 when the 10th annual Pow-Wow was held at the Lakeside Nursing Home on Old Lake Road in Harveys Lake.

AT RIGHT: Dishing out pierogi under the food tent at the Lakeside Nursing Center's 10th Annual Pow-Wow are, from left, Kelsey Coole, of Noxen, Sam Sorber, of Harveys Lake, Jennifer Evans, of Harveys Lake and Karli Coole, of Noxen.



HARPIN' ON THINGS

Sweet corn, fresh squash and a sincere apology to the Mrs.

Fall is fast approaching and it has always been a special time of year.

Sweet corn is on the table every night because you know it will not be available much longer.

Fresh squash, radishes and apples (not the ones chemically treated to hold their color) can be purchased at the local stands in the Back Mountain. Our area can't be beat for its fresh produce.

Taking a drive around the area last week, I stopped at several local vendors to see what was on the menu. This drive was nice compared to the ones the Mrs. and I used to take from the Keys on our annual pilgrimage north in the fall. (I was told by my favorite critic last week that the spelling 'missus' in reference to my wife was awful and should be changed. This one's for you,

Mom).

Our trip would start mid-morning, not at 5 a.m., to beat the Miami traffic, although it really didn't matter what time you drove through Miami; it was always congested. Once you hit Homestead, the race was on and it felt like Talladega with 10 laps remaining. Don't look at the speedometer, ignore the speed limit signs and stay glued to the back end of that Toyota because the Honda Civic behind was so close only the roof was visible.

Dale Jr. would be right at home since bump drafting was encouraged and you'd better hope your speed pass had money on it for the tolls because no one rolled out of the throttle. The auto companies could save a lot of money by not installing turn signals for any car sold south of Boca Raton because no one used them. At least the road signs had English first; otherwise, we were in trouble because I don't "habla."

The journey with the Mrs. would take two days to cover the 1400 miles due to frequent stops to eat (at sit-down restaurants)

and sleep (in hotels). What happened to the good old days when it would take Jim Hunter and me 24 hours to make it to Art Stock's Playpen South in Fort Lauderdale? All we needed was a bucket of KFC, a case of Mountain Dew, a bottle of No Doze and extra gas money since the old Charger with the 440 Six Pack and 4:11 gears had a hard time passing a gas station.

Now, back to the story. In the Lehman area, I found two old friends - Marion from the Farm Basket and Hoss at his Garden Hut. Marion's sweet corn was always taken back to the Keys in a cooler and a few early pumpkins and gourds from Hoss would be displayed for our southern neighbors.

Heading out of Dallas, I stopped by Darling's near the Dallas High School where Norman Sr. was at the register. Mary, Norman Jr. and Joseph were all busy attending to customers. Continuing on, I thought I remembered a few places near Centermoreland and, after going through the same intersection twice and turn-

ing into someone's driveway which I thought was the road, I found Dymond's. Their stand had a plethora (that one's for Jonathon Balester and our BNI meetings) of freshly-picked goodies. Be sure to ask Josh, Marge or Marion for their advice on the makings of a great salad.

A little further down the road, a sweet smell came in the window from Brace's Orchard. A tractor pulled a large trailer filled to the brim with apples and the fragrance was wonderful. LuAnn, Sheila and Larry keep the store in order when the others are at the market.

On the way home, there were signs for the Wyoming County Fair which was a reminder to me that the Luzerne County Fair was quickly approaching. I wasn't sure about the schedule but with my evening curfew fast approaching, it would have to wait for morning. An agreement has been hammered out over the years with the Mrs. concerning the issue of a curfew and it is understood (at least by me) that there is an allowable three-hour win-

dow between the stated ETA and actual arrival. The cat and I enjoy many late, cold dinners.

Now, if you want to know what's going on within a 20-mile radius of Lehman, you have to go to Cook's Store. On any given morning, you will find several scholarly-looking gentlemen holding court on the front steps. As I got within earshot of Alvin Cragle, Bill Hardisky and Bob Margellina, I could hear them dispensing their wisdom about a nutritional breakfast to get the day started to a bewildered-looking student who just wanted his morning can of Monster energy drink and a bag of chips.

The flyer for the fair that was on the door gave me the needed information and, not wanting to be included in a debate on the pros and cons of gas drilling, I beat a hasty retreat to the car and off to work.

At the Luzerne County Fair, the local 4-H group needs to be commended for the effort and energy it puts forth for the local youth. Dr. Evans, Susan Lee and many others volunteer their time

to help out our kids between the raising of animals and the horse and pony shows. Mary Hosey, who has always been involved with horses, was there to take photographs and we spent a long time chatting about the differences between film and digital photography.

The advent of the digital age, in both lettering and photography, has made changes in the world of advertising as I saw by the signs all over the fair. A few were hand-lettered but most were digitally produced, including ones with photographs and they were made here in Lehman.

The quality of workmanship is outstanding and this week an "Atta Girl" goes to Rose Hoover and an "Atta Boy" to Damien Hoover for running a top shelf business.

Harp Heffernan was the associate publisher, outdoor editor and chief photographer of the Sunday Independent, a newspaper that was in his family for 87 years in Wilkes-Barre. His column appears every other week in The Dallas Post.