HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Council redefines boat house, avoids fracking issue

By EILEEN GODIN **Dallas Post Correspondent**

The Harveys Lake Borough Council unanimously approved a redefined Boat House Ordinance, was approached with an anti-fracking ordinance and awarded a garbage and recycling bid at its regular monthly meeting Tuesday night.

Council diligently worked with the borough's planning and zoning boards and the public to redesign the controversial Boat to prohibited people from living House Ordinance.

lated equipment."

The definition was designed

INTERESTED?

The Harveys Lake Environmental Advisory Council has an opening for a resident of Harveys Lake Borough.

EAC consists of seven council members who advise the Harveys Lake Borough council on all environmental issues that encompass Harveys Lake Borough.

Interested residents should contact EAC secretary Denise Sult at 639-1042 for more information.

over the water but also eliminat-In May 2009, the ordinance ed amenities such as bathrooms was adopted along with a new and kitchens. Many lakeside zoning manual. At that time, the property owners have voiced term boat house was simply de- their displeasure with the ordifined as a "structure constructed" nance and worked with the councompletely over a body of water, cil, the zoning and planning designed and used exclusively to commissions to redefine the tershelter water craft or marine-re- minology and other aspects of the ordinance.

has direct access to a body of navigable water and is used only for the storage of vessels and asage disposal and water supply can be provided in the S-1 lakeside district. Boat houses with living quarters will be allowed, district." but only "one dwelling unit shall be permitted upon a lot within the S-1 district."

Other changes include a mark. clause stating that any development of Environmental Protec- al. tion, plus a soil erosion study Country Conservation District.

The new ordinance defines a to 12 feet above the high water for everyone.

boat house as "a structure which
The new ordinance defines a boat house as "a structure which has direct access to a body of navigable water and is used only for the storage of vessels and associated equipment." But sewsociated equipment." But sew- age disposal and water supply can be provided in the S-1 lakeside district. Boat houses with living quarters will be allowed, but only one dwelling unit shall be permitted upon a lot within the S-1

ment of properties within the S-1 happy with the boat house district which extend into the changes, others left disgruntled water will require approval of the due to council's lack of action to Water Encroachment Permit un- arrange for a public hearing to der the Pennsylvania Depart- address an anti-fracking propos-

The Community Environmenand approval by the Luzerne tal Legal Defense Fund, of Sum-extract natural gas within the mit Hill, prepared the Harveys Borough attorney Charles Lake Community Water Rights McCormick said the height of and Local Self Government Ordithe boat house has been changed nance and had copies available

The proposal states "water is While many residents were essential for the life, prosperity and sustainability and health of the lake community and damage to the natural water sources imposes a great tangible loss to the people, natural communities and ecosystem of Harveys Lake."

borough but also states it is unlawful to use water from any source within the borough for extraction of natural gas. It also holds corporations involved in See FRACKING, Page 11

neighboring municipalities responsible for pollution caused to water sources and the environment within the borough.

In a standing room crowd, many residents calmly expressed their desire to have council consider this proposal and asked for a public meeting to

"The protective association is for this," said John Halbing, president of the Harveys Lake Protective Association. "The lake should be protected."

Resident Neil Turner asked, "What can we do? Contact our state and local legislature, control it through local zoning and with local rights and self govern-It prohibits any corporation to ment. Or do nothing and accept the consequences?"

While Rich and Peggy Cronin thought council would have set a time and date for a public hear-

PANDORA

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

Both sides of gas drilling meet head-on

By CAMILLE FIOTI **Dallas Post Correspondent**

Residents from both sides of the gas drilling issue packed the board of supervisors meeting Monday.

Last month, the board denied a request from the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition, a local grassroots organization opposed to drilling in the township and surrounding communities, to advertise an ordinance it had drafted to ban any corporation from drilling in the township or extracting water for drilling in the

Supervisor Dave Sutton said

cal This Holiday Season" con-

Retail purchases made in

during the 2010 holiday season jewelry and more.

Wyoming County from Novem-

test.

"I think it's healthy to have an open discussion. I'm proposed ordinance and admitnot against drilling but I'm for a moratorium and getting the rules and regulations in place."

> Jack Hanish Lehman Township resident

Local Self-Government Ordinance," contains provisions in direct violation with the municipal planning code and would be challenged in the courts if adopted.

Many residents asked the board why they weren't allowed to discuss the gas drilling issue for longer periods of time.

Supervisor Ray Iwanoski the proposal, dubbed "Lehman pointed out that more than seven

Wyoming Co. Chamber launches annual shopping contest

The Wyoming County Cham- will qualify shoppers for entry

Community Water Rights and and a half hours had been devoted to discussing the issue at the last several meetings, including and the other residents to report an hour and a half at Monday's

> "I think it's healthy to have an Jack Hanish. "I'm not against drilling but I'm for a moratorium said. He said residents can call tions in place."

Hanish said he has read the ing.

Plus, purchases made at

Here" logo on retail store doors. For more information, con-

Chamber office at 836-7755.

ted it is "far from perfect" but suggested it could be modified to suit the needs of the township.

Resident Tony Rutchauskas told the board he has witnessed numerous trucks from the gas companies in the area taking different routes other than the roads that are on the approved traffic plan. Sutton told Rutchauskas any violations in the traffic plan as soon as they witness them.

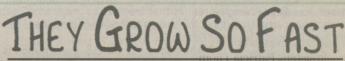
"If you see something going open discussion," said resident on, let us know and we'll nip it in the bud," Supervisor Doug Ide and getting the rules and regulahim at (570) 899-1060 if there is no answer at the township build-

In other matters,

• The board passed the first reading of the 2011 budget. There will be no tax increases in the \$2,122,379 spending plan.

The board plans to adopt the ber of Commerce is launching to win a \$500 grand prize. Qual- Wyoming County Chamber budget Dec. 20.





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