

# The DALLAS POST

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## Building in the Back Mountain? Some rules may be different

By SARAH HITE  
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A state-mandated storm water management plan must be passed by all municipalities by April 3, and Back Mountain community leaders are concerned about costs and enforcement of the new plan.

The updated storm water management plan keeps previous programs in place for local watersheds, including Bowman's

Creek and Toby Creek, but will have more effect on residents looking to build in the Back Mountain.

Storm water management was once just an issue for large-scale construction projects – those with an earth disturbance of more than 5,000 square feet, according to Dallas Township Engineer Thomas Doughton. Developers needed to apply for subdivision and land development permits, which would entail how storm water should be handled

### FOR MORE INFO

If you are planning to build a home within any Back Mountain or neighboring municipality, contact your local zoning officer, council members or supervisors for more information about proposed storm water management ordinances. Note: The ordinances only affect new construction, not existing houses.

on the property.

The ordinances being passed in Back Mountain municipalities and others across the state greatly reduce the size of building areas that need to follow storm wa-

ter regulation plans. Those building any structure with an earth disturbance of 1,000 square feet or more need to comply with the new plan, which will determine how storm water

will be dispersed throughout one's property.

Resident rain water management was once a simple procedure – gutters would deposit the water into the street, where it would then drain into a catch basin and into a detention pond. The water would then be slowly released back into the watershed.

Here's where the plan gets muddy. Instead of having rain gutters that drain water into streets, the plan requires resi-

dents to recharge rain water into their own property. This means gutters will need to flow water into lawns and vegetation in order for the water to be reabsorbed into the land.

"If you go to the older section of the town, this is the way it was done many years ago," said Kingston Township Zoning Officer Bill Eck. "No one ran leaders out to the curbing - everybody has their downspouts running

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## This event makes history come alive

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### HISTORY DAY

For more information about National History Day, which will take place at the University of Maryland at College Park June 12-16, visit [www.nationalhistoryday.org](http://www.nationalhistoryday.org).

The annual History Day competition was held Feb. 22-28 at the Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School.

Forty-one freshmen and sophomore students completed 26 projects to be judged by a panel of three teachers, hoping to earn a spot in the regional competition. This year's theme was "Diplomacy and Debate in History."

Michael Novrocki, humanities teacher and coordinator of the event, said students are given a chance to enhance research skills and analyze historical events through this yearly project, in which they can design exhibits, create documentaries or perform reenactments.

"In many cases, this type of project is rare," he said. "In the midst of all the high-stakes testing, there's not a lot of time to do projects like these."

Novrocki, who has been the coordinator for the last eight years, was involved in the event when he was a high school senior at Wyoming Valley West in 1988. He created a documentary about Father Joseph Murgas, a local priest who pioneered advances in radio technology and wireless transmissions. Novrocki placed first in regional, state and national History Day competitions.

"Documentaries have become a favorite category with the advancements in technology and the ease of documentary software," he said.

History Day veterans Tommy

and Kristen Boyle and Sarah Bedford chose what they thought would be a more difficult category for their Prohibition-themed project – exhibits. The three students worked together to create a 6-foot high, three-panel demonstration of how the Prohibition topic fit in with this year's theme.

The students presented their topic in three parts: the first panel featured photos, quotes and newspaper clippings about the groups that pushed for Prohibition to become law; the second featured the same sources explaining how the amendment was passed into law; and the third used the sources to display how the amendment was eventually repealed.

Passing up on topics such as Frederick Douglas and Camp David, they thought Prohibition would fit into the debate aspect of this year's theme, as well as provide inspiration for the visuals they would portray on their exhibit.

"I think we all really liked the artsy idea of it," said Tommy Boyle, 16, of Shavertown.

His sister Kristen, 17, said the students made frequent trips to Michael's craft store in Wilkes-Barre to gather materials for their 1920s-era project.

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## READ ACROSS AMERICA



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Families gathered at the Dallas Elementary School Wednesday evening to participate in a Read Across America program. Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. One part of the project is National Read Across America Day, an observance in the United States held on March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer and cartoonist most widely known for his children's books written under the pen names Dr. Seuss, Theo LeSieg and, in one case, Rosetta Stone. He published 44 children's books, which were often characterized by imaginative characters, rhyme and frequent use of trisyllabic meter. His most celebrated books include the best-selling "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Cat in the Hat," "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish," "Horton Hatches the Egg," "Horton Hears a Who!" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Numerous adaptations of his work have been created, including 11 television specials, three feature films and a Broadway musical.

## Glenn Johnson is the best at what he does

By SARAH HITE  
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"I'm humbled because I know almost every one of the 42 people who won the award before I did. Some of them personally mentored me."

Glenn Johnson  
Surveyor of the Year

As a land surveyor, Glenn Johnson does pretty well for himself. The 64-year-old Lehman resident enjoys being in nature every day, peering into the past with historical documents and working on his own terms as the owner of a small business.

And he must be doing something right. Johnson was recently named Surveyor of the Year by the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors.

"I'm humbled because I know almost every one of the 42 people who won the award before I did," he said. "Some of them personally mentored me."

Johnson has been in the business of land surveying for more than 40 years. He was inspired to enter into the profession by two men more famous for their other pursuits.

"My two heroes – Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson – were both surveyors," he said.

Johnson received his associates' degree from Penn State Wilkes-Barre and worked for various engineering firms early in his career. When expansive traveling began to take its toll on his family life, he decided to start his own business to be closer to his growing brood.

"To tell your boss not to write you a check anymore, that's a scary thing," he said.

He bought Lazy Acres Farm, which previously belonged to his parents, and utilized a small building behind his home as an office. Now, with a three-person staff including himself and his daughter, Kassie Saxe, Johnson has kept his business going strong from his Meeker Road location for 18 years.

"When I first started, I didn't

have a clue," he said. "I had a lot of misconceptions about the profession. It was a different world when I got out there."

Johnson didn't realize what the profession completely entailed until he spent time in the field. He's been involved in situations from helping clients with permitting processes to testifying in court as an expert witness in a drug case.

"I had to testify how close this person was to a school in terms of sentencing," he said.

Johnson's love of nature was not always reciprocated – it was during a surveying project for Founders Hall at the Milton Hershey School in Hershey when Johnson realized he was a true professional.

"The temperatures were sub-zero," he said. "I said to myself, 'Why did I get into this?'"

As that scene exhibits, Johnson is right when he often says being a land surveyor is more than numbers and maps.

"All good surveyors are outside people and they're curious people," he said.

As technology changes the professional landscape for surveyors, Johnson believes the important aspects of the business haven't changed in the more than 40 years he's worked as a land surveyor.

"Though the equipment used to take data has changed, the basics remain the same," he said. "You need experience, knowledge, tenacity and unquestionable ethics to be a surveyor."



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Glenn Johnson, holds a trophy and plaque presented to him in honor of his surveying work.

