

## ZONING

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dent Jim DeMichele. He said it seemed like the process was "too easy" for the company to receive approval.

Planning Commission Chairman Jack Dodson said every project that comes through the commission eventually gets approval, and the goal of the group is not to cause snags in the process.

"All they've got to do is meet all the requirements," he said. "...At least going through the process, we know the pipelines are going to be put in properly. I think that means a lot to a lot of people."

In other news, the planning commission also granted conditional approval to Misericordia University for its construction project of an approximately 40,000 square foot dormitory and classroom facility on the campus.

George Anthony, of Borton Lawson, said the university recently changed its plans to not include a daycare facility on the first floor of the multi-use building. Instead, the project will include more classroom space and apartment-style housing for students, thus eliminating about nine parking spaces from the proposed site.

## LAKE TOWNSHIP

## Residents fear speeding trucks

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Township residents voiced concerns about living in fear of speeding trucks and aggressive drivers at the supervisors meeting Wednesday evening.

Supervisors listened as five residents told their stories of speeding dump trucks and gas tanker trucks traveling on state Route 29 through the township. Stories of drivers using Jake brakes during late night and early morning hours, shouting profanity at residents and speeding were told by residents. Jake brakes are a secondary braking system utilizing compression engine brakes commonly found on large trucks.

One man, who asked to remain unidentified, said he tried to follow a speeding truck to see its license plate. What he saw the driver do made him more concerned.

"He drove through a Y intersection without stopping at a stop sign," he said. "He was traveling 70 mph or better."

He added the offending trucks are not long-distance haulers but dump trucks from local compa-

nies and gas tankers.

Supervisor chairman Lonnie Piatt said he has gotten many phone calls from residents expressing their concern and fear over the situation.

Tax collector Susan Stefanowicz said the trucks are creating a dangerous situation for those living along the state road.

"It is hard to pull out of your driveway," she said. "It is dangerous."

Piatt said township officials will call PennDOT to see what can be done. Ideas of lowering the speed limit, prohibiting Jake brakes and stationing a state police officer in the area were discussed.

*In other news...*

- Supervisors approved a motion to raise the mileage reimbursement rate from 51 cents to 55.5 cents to be in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service requirement.

- Announced the bridge replacement project on Sorber Mountain Road is nearing completion. Piatt said Pickarski Construction has "dug out the area, getting it closer to install the new bridge."

The bridge was one of two

bridges in the township damaged due to flooding in June 2006. The second bridge on North Mountain Road was recently replaced last month.

- Secretary Carlene Price announced the annual Fall Clean Up will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the municipal building.

Proof of residency will be required at time of drop-off as well as a service charge of \$15 per pickup truck, \$20 for large pickups and \$6 per car load.

An additional \$6 fee will be applied for the following items: washers, dryers, carpets, overstuffed chairs, couches, dressers, televisions, hot water heaters, boilers, furnaces, stoves and large appliances.

The following items will not be accepted: tires, hazardous wastes, chemicals, brush, tree stumps, cinder blocks, animal or human waste, shingles, sheet rock or other building materials, leaves, grass, garbage, freezers, refrigerators containing Freon and air conditioners.

- Price also announced the secretary's office will be closed from August 16-18 for vacation.

## TAX

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storms and the situation has become dangerous to her family.

Reino said there is a lawsuit pending with a property owner in the area where a pipe has collapsed and causes drainage problems. He said there is not much the board can do until that lawsuit is settled, and the board has requested the court move forward with the lawsuit.

Beverly Moranski, of Trucksville, said a brand new catch basin near Bunker Hill Road does not collect water properly. She said the most recent storms are eroding her street and believes the issue lies in the hands of the township.

Reino said the township is doing all it can do to solve these issues, especially with such a tight budget.

*In other news, the board...*

- Approved a liquor license

transfer to Bali Enterprises Inc., which operates the Valero gas station on North Memorial Highway in Shavertown, pending approval from the liquor control board.

- Approved the planning commission's recommendation in favor of the Chapple minor subdivision on Longdale and Glenview avenues.

- Approved the planning commission's recommendation to accept the Bernice Hill minor subdivision.

- Accepted the 2012-2016 capital program.

- Authorized the township solicitor to draft an ordinance to allow the township manager to transfer up to \$100,000 from the capital improvements fund to the general fund should the need arise within the 2011 fiscal year.

- Approved a change order for the Terrace Avenue Storm Drainage Improvements project in the amount of \$6,851.09 for a 170 foot gutter, inlet box and piping to be paid from the remaining funds in the Luzerne County Office of Community Development grant.

## ATTORNEY

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pointed and I'm sure everyone else will be disappointed as well because I ensure the safety of my children to you all," said Tolomello. "And if something happens, I hope to God I'm not in that house, I hope my daughter's not in that house, I hope that she's not here and I'm at work. I just hope that you all say a good prayer before you all go to sleep at night."

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mark Kraynack also provided the board with an update on the new high school construction project.

The school is set to open on Sept. 12, and Kraynack said site work is being completed very quickly now that the end of the project is near. He said the demolition of the old school building should be finished by the end of the week and it is hoped that other curbing and drainage projects will be done by the formal dedication on Aug. 28.

Kraynack said there will be advertisements for three additional housekeepers and one custodian for the new high school.

Before asking if the board had any questions for him, Kraynack reassured the board and the public that the project would be completed on time.

"As long as we're going to make it, that sounds good to me," said Goeringer.

*In other news, the board...*

- Approved the college technology internship of Eric Goeringer of the Pennsylvania School of Technology effective July 11. Bruce Goeringer abstained from the vote, as Eric Goeringer is his son.

- Approved the following prices for lunch at all schools in the district: \$1.70 for elementary lunch, \$1.80 for middle school lunch, \$1.90 for high school lunch and \$.40 for reduced lunch.

- Approved an agreement to pay an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to settle and compromise all claims raised by the parents of an eligible student. Superintendent Frank Galicki would not elaborate further on the matter. Board member Dennis Gochoel Jr. voted against the measure.

- Accepted bids for shop equipment at the new high school in the amount of \$61,925. Galicki said the curriculum for the class is still being written. Board members Karen Kyle and Gochoel voted against

the item.

- Appointed the following teachers as elementary subject area coordinators, which aid in developing curriculum according to state standards, for the 2011-12 school year: Nicole Valkenburg in Science, Kerry Speziale in Mathematics, Kristi Taylor in Social Studies and Caitlin Cooper in Language Arts.

- Approved Mary Kratz as special education department chairperson for the 2011-12 year with a stipend of \$499 in addition to her salary.

- Approved the following teachers for tenure: Mark Adams, Diana Alichnie, Lynn Bull, Maria Bustin, Melissa Chrusch, Rachael Dunn, Sean Eagan, Rachael Hayes, Rebecca Hyduk, Karen Heltzel, Daniel Nestorik, Amy Pavia, Kylie Rosengrant, Jason Rushmer, Stephanie Schlude, Jennifer Swiderski, Susan Timlin, Allison Yourechko and Fred Weaver.

- Approved the following assistant coaches for the 2011-12 season with compensation in accordance with the collective bargaining unit agreement: Ashley Hules for high school girls' volleyball, Amanda Jez for high school field hockey and Gary Steir for middle school football.

- Approved the following volunteer assistant coaches for the 2011 fall season: Kenslie Kerestes for high school cross country and Chris Plaviak and Cody Friedel for high school football.

- Accepted a letter of resignation of Arie Vankuyk, diving coach.

- Appointed the following high school music directors and advisors: Mike Potoeski as marching band director with a stipend of \$4,343; Kevin Davenport as marching coordinator with a stipend of \$1,864; Jeff Kelly as rhythmic coordinator with a stipend of \$1,864 and Lorie Potoeski as brand front coordinator with a stipend of \$1,864.

- Approved the following bus drivers for the 2011-12 school year: Jackie Backus, Robert Brown, Joyce Chapin, Greg Cobleigh, Angelo Concert Jr., Jeffrey Emanuel, Jeffrey Emanuel II, Sally Emanuel, Bruce Granahan, Joseph Granahan, James Gregory, Judith Hartman, Williams Hartman, Eileen Headman, Robb Henderson, Kenneth Hislop, Christopher Howell, Richard Huey, Eve Jones, Christine Manzella, Darleen McGeehan, Rachel Miers, James Monahan, David Rowett, Deborah Stredny, Heather Stoss, Thomas VanHorn, Michelle Vannoy, and Harry Weaver.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Shavertown United Methodist Church Praise Band provides entertainment and inspiration.



Dallas neighbors Brenden Ehret, left, and Maggie Michael team up to staff the ticket food booth.



Diane Thompson, left, and Sylvia Kropp arrange articles for sale.

## YOUTH

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based in Senegal, Africa, spoke to the tens of thousands of youth in the audience and Marquart definitely heard the message – and wanted to know more.

Vaughn's organization aids young girls in West Africa in

completing their education and learning entrepreneurial skills – no small feat for an area with staggeringly dismal education statistics.

According to Vaughn, out of every 60,000 girls who attend

first grade, just 4,500, will attend middle school and only 1,500 will attend high school. From the 1,500 who made it to high school, just 150 will attend college and only 15 will actually receive a diploma.

Marquart contacted Vaughn, received a scholarship from MIT to aid the construction of a computer lab at the Kaolack, Senegal center and went on to become the U.S. coordinator for the

10,000 Girls program.

"For me, it was an unbelievable experience," she said.

For those in attendance at the Summer Showcase, a morning of local entertainment, good food and bargain buys is a welcomed way to support the church youth.

"I love these kinds of events," said Cheryl Myers, of Dallas. "We love to do family things with stuff for the kids to do and the support the community."

## GAS

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weren't many problems reported. After spending time at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' conventions and attending workshops on his own and with his fellow supervisors, Wagner feels he has an arsenal of information to utilize when dealing with natural gas issues.

But he said one can never know too much. On this most recent trip, he said he had never seen a drilling rig up close be-

fore. He was impressed by the scarred mountains being prepped for pipelines.

"I never realized what was involved at a pad," he said. "I went up myself a couple times and each time I couldn't pass. We were at places that we couldn't go in but you could stand on the bank and look down on a drilling pad and what all is involved and the surrounding areas and how it affects them."

Another surprising element of the trip was a visit to the Vargson property in Towanda where property owners have a well pad, compressor station, metering station and pipeline surrounding their home. The developments

on the property were built by Chesapeake Energy.

"Beautiful farm, but (gas developments) affected her water and the windows are open in her house year-round because of gas," said Wagner. "They took a charcoal lighter, she turned on the faucet, she held it there and it catches fire right in the sink. She can't have curtains on the windows or nothing like that."

Wagner said Chesapeake gives the Vargsons just five gallons of fresh water a day to use for drinking and cleaning. Anything else beyond that amount, he said, comes out of their pockets.

He said the woman who lives

there can't even park in her driveway because of a right-of-way for a compressor engine.

"This is the fine print in between," said Wagner. "(The gas company) said there was nothing wrong with her water, but at the same time she drew a glass of water and out of the five (gas company representatives) that were there, nobody would drink the water. So what does that tell you?"

After seeing that experience firsthand, Wagner considers Dallas Township very lucky. He said he's proud of the zoning laws the township has in place and how the supervisors and other officials have been working to pro-

tect citizens.

"(The gas companies) struck a boulder here that they never anticipated," he said.

Wager says he's realistic about the situation in Dallas Township – legally the township cannot refuse a company from doing business in the community, and he believes the pipelines are going to be in the area.

He said he doesn't want to attempt to refuse the companies – otherwise, the courts will decide what will happen within the township.

But he said residents signing private right-of-ways should be careful, too.

"I don't know what it will be

in the end, but all in all, people should be more concerned when they get these right-of-ways for having pipelines on their properties," he said. "Read the fine print. Don't just get a lawyer – get a lawyer that knows what's involved with the environment and the rules and laws of Dallas Township."

One positive aspect of the natural gas industry Wagner viewed was the rebuilding of roads. He said townships are going to benefit from this work, because repaving is often the largest part of a township's budget.

"They're like superhighways in the middle of nowhere," he said.