

HARVEYS LAKE

Borough will install storm basin

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Borough council discussed the installation of a new stormwater basin and strengthening the zoning ordinance to address gas drilling at its meeting Tuesday night.

A nutrient-separating baffle box will be installed on Wood Street in September. The baffle box is designed to filter sediment and phosphorus from rain run-off before it enters the lake.

The \$73,969 cost of the box and its installation will be covered by a 319 grant the borough received in 2008 under the Clean Water Act, said Fred Lubnow, director of Aquatic Programs at Princeton Hydro.

The Wood Street site is one of 23 chosen to reduce sediment and phosphorus around the lake.

Princeton Hydro has been handling the borough's grant funding to implement a storm water plan to limit the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering the lake. Lubnow said the long-term goal is to reduce 230 pounds of phosphorus entering the lake.

He explained one pound of phosphorus has the potential to produce up to 1,100 pounds of cotton candy-like algae.

"I like saying we are putting the lake on a diet," he said. "We are half way there."

Lubnow said baffle boxes efficiently remove phosphorus and sediment and are easy to maintain.

Council will be inviting proposals from different insurance companies for a liability insurance policy. Chairman Francis Kopko said the council is satisfied with the current provider, but wants to see what other packages and prices are available.

A change from Sprint to Verizon for cell phone coverage was approved. Kopko said the change was something the council wanted to do for better coverage. He said costs between the two companies are about the same.

In other news, council announced the hearing board on gas drilling received a draft of changes to the zoning ordinance addressing the natural gas drilling industry. Kopko said the draft includes items such as buffer zones and road use to protect citizens in the event of natural gas activities in the borough.

The draft was just received earlier this week, he said. It should be ready for public review by next month.

Also, due to rain, homecoming festivities scheduled for Aug. 7 have been rescheduled for Sept. 4 at the former Hanson's Amusement Park area.

Mayor Clarence Hogan announced a memorial marking the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks is being planned. Details will soon be released.

Council is seeking any residents with construction or engineering experience to serve on a board of appeals. The board of appeals would hear disputed cases of residents who don't accept the decision of Pasonick Engineering, the borough's third party engineer inspector.

Interested residents should call the borough office at 639-2113.

DALLAS BOROUGH

Council approves law updates

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

UP NEXT

The next Dallas Borough Council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in the municipal building.

Dallas Borough Council approved two ordinance updates Wednesday night in an effort to keep borough code up to date.

One ordinance updates language to increase enforcement for a stop sign at the corner of Elizabeth and Sunset streets that has been there for years.

Another will tweak the legal language in an open burning ban ordinance to establish limitations on the exceptions, change penalties and enforcement provisions and repeal conflicting ordinances.

Borough Manager Tracey Carr said there haven't been issues in the borough that would spur these changes but over the past few years council has been working to update all laws within the borough.

Council approved a switch of companies handling the borough's plan review and uniform construction code enforcement services from Building Inspection Underwriters to Barry Isett & Associates Inc. Building Inspection Underwriters had served the borough since 2004.

Carr said council looks to change

various service providers every few years to find the best rates and services for residents. Last year the borough switched engineers and a few years ago council hired a new solicitor.

"We just try to get the best benefits for the taxpayers," Carr said.

Carr was authorized to prepare a questionnaire to give to residents concerning storm water drainage issues and road improvement needs. The borough will be eligible for a 2012 housing and urban development grant from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development.

"We know those are two issues in the borough, so that's what we want to spend the money on," said Carr.

Council approved the inclusion of Lake Township in the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency and appointed Dennis Barney Dobinick as assistant regional emergency management director in the group.

The Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency currently

serves Dallas Borough, Jackson Township and Lehman Township.

Council agreed to pay Verdin \$590 to provide two maintenance visits to the Dallas Borough clock during 2012.

Don Wilkinson Agency/CENTAX was appointed as the borough's tax collector starting on Jan. 1, 2012, pending final solicitor approval.

In other news, council...

- Approved and recognized the financial requirement and minimum municipal obligation budget for 2012 for both the uniformed and non-uniformed plans in the amounts of \$25,861 and \$8,447 respectively in compliance with Act 205 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- Accepted receipt of the Jan. 1, 2011 Act 205 actuarial valuation reports for the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans as prepared by Beyer Barber Co. through Thomas J. Anderson & Associates and authorized the following payments: \$2,700 for preparation of each actuarial valuation report and \$300 for each initial fee to generate bi-annual participant statements.

- Approved and authorized the appropriate borough official to execute material quotations with American Asphalt Paving Co. to purchase various asphalt materials under the state cooperative purchasing program.

HARPIN' ON THINGS

HARP HEFFERNAN

Nothing goes untracked in today's world



Strolling through the Philadelphia airport recently, I saw what looked like a large, lighted display stuck in a corner by itself. It turned out to be an eight foot square mini store complete with an automated robotic arm for retrieving purchased items, credit card swipe slot, a personality about the same as most checkout employees and that eye-level square which surely held a mini camera.

Best Buy in a box!

The "store" was filled with camera memory cards, flash drives, cameras, noise-cancelling headphones, iPods and other assorted electronic goodies. Swipe your card, grab your purchase and let the credit card company and everyone it shares information with know exactly where you are and what you're doing.

Visions of George Orwell's "1984" flashed through my head, a book I read so long ago in an English class at Seminary with either Mr. Cabot, of "Jaws" fame, or Mr. Carver. Unfortunately, my brain is not recalling the exact details of the class but I do remember it has to do with lead character Winston Smith and Big Brother being omnipresent and completely running everyone's life.

Let's take a moment and dissect a trip you took in 1976 compared to a trip you would take today.

In 1976, you picked a location, looked in the phone book for the area code, called information, talked to an actual person and asked for the name and number of hotels in the area. Then, you called several hotels, talked to more live individuals, reserved your room with good faith that you would show up and inquired about where the person taking the reservation liked to eat and hang out.

Then you called your buddies and told them to be ready the next morning because the road trip was planned. Meet Big Joe Fuller, Bobby Coolbaugh, Jimmy Dimond, Greg, Stuart and a few new faces the next morning at Gorda's Sunoco station, ask for a free road map, fuel up the Charger with eight duffel bags in the back and leave after writing a note letting your family know you'd be back in a week.

Everything was done with cash. Fuel, hotel room (at \$19.95 a night split four ways plus a tip for the maid), tolls and meals. The only footprint we left on those trips (besides being thrown out of several establishments where we used the name of the guy from school whom everyone disliked) was at the hotel where we had to list a home address. But, we received a hand-written note, thanking us for our stay ...sometimes.

Now for today's trip. I Googled the Florida Keys on the laptop, which has installed Cookies to track every web page I visit. I read comments from someone I don't know, enter credit card and billing info and click submit.

Onto the airline website, where I look up rates and learn they now charge \$50 a bag. I could live for a week out of a small carry-on bag, but the airlines know the habits of women. Take the Mrs., for example. Three outfits a day with shoes to match, sweaters (it's 90-plus degrees there), more clothes and accessories, including that industrial strength hair dryer which drives Florida Flicker and Flame, aka Florida Power and Light, crazy.

Next, it's the rental car company and yet another credit card entry. The whole world now knows we're going away.

At the airport, you insert your credit card into a computer kiosk, boarding passes are printed and the only work the few airline employees do is put a tag on your luggage indicating you've paid the extra fee. There's no one at the rental car counter since all you have to do is find your name on the screen and go to the highlighted parking slot to pick up your vehicle. Maps are not provided but, if there's a GPS in the car, you're in luck.

Tolls in Florida are now completely automated. A camera takes a photo of your license plate and charges your credit card. How did they get that info if you didn't sign up for SunPass?

The hotel takes your credit card upon arrival. The restaurants take your credit card for meals. The stores take your credit card for sunscreen and food. No one wants cash (except the fishing guides who love Hamilton and Grant) and, if they do, the cash register had better tell the operator exactly how many quarters, dimes and nickels to give as change since the new math being taught doesn't touch on that subject.

Big Brother can tell where you went, what you bought, what you ate and how long you were there. Just about every place we visited had overhead cameras tracking our every move.

It makes you wonder just how much foresight George Orwell had back in 1949 when he wrote "1984." It also makes me wonder if the web camera on this laptop is really turned off.

Harp Heffernan was the associate publisher, out-door editor and chief photographer of the Sunday Independent, a newspaper that was in his family for 87 years in Wilkes-Barre. You can e-mail him at news@mydallaspost.com.



Tauna Thomas, Trucksville, washes cars for free during a customer appreciation day at Frontier Communications in Dallas.

Frontier gives back

Employees of Frontier Communications veered away from their everyday work duties on Aug. 4 and washed cars as part of the company's Frontier Community Appreciation Day. A variety of special events were hosted to mark the one-year anniversary of the company's acquisition of new community service areas, a transaction that resulted in Frontier tripling its size nationally.

More than 1,000 Frontier employees throughout Pennsylvania and New York, Frontier's Northeast region, held free activities for the community.

Customers, community members and local police and emergency responders were invited to have their vehicles cleaned up, courtesy of Frontier.



Wayne Devine has a special request to wash this customer's car at Frontier Communication's free car wash and appreciation day.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL BOARD

School board OKs slate of personnel hires and transitions

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

The Lake-Lehman School Board approved several hires, resignations and leaves of absence at its meeting Monday evening.

Mallory Griggs, of Factoryville, was hired as temporary mathematics teacher at the Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School with a salary of \$42,181, effective Aug. 24.

Griggs is a graduate of Lackawanna Trail High School and received her bachelor's degree in business from Penn State University. She received her teaching certificate from Keystone College.

Griggs is a former substitute teacher at Lakeland High School in Scott Town-

ship and this will be her first long-term teaching position.

The board also approved the following substitute teachers for the 2011-12 school year: Lesley Baltimore, of Shavertown, with certifications in elementary and special education; Amanda Boice, of Harveys Lake, with a certification in English; Paul Broody, of Edwardsville, with a certification in special education; Allison Connell, of Forty Fort, with certifications in elementary and special education; Nicole Height, of Wilkes-Barre, with a certification in secondary mathematics; Kimberly Leary, of Forty Fort, with a certification in secondary mathematics; Rachel Rost, of Jenkins Township, with a certification in elementary education; and Mark Umphred, of

Wilkes-Barre, with certifications in elementary and special education.

Esther Liuzzi, of Kingston, was appointed as a district health assistant at a rate of \$11 per hour for 186 days per year, effective Aug. 25.

The board accepted a letter of retirement from Irene Race, elementary music teacher, effective Aug. 1.

The board accepted letters of resignation from Maureen Devine, head swim coach, and Sandra Boyle, varsity assistant field hockey coach. The board voted to advertise for the position of head swim coach.

The board approved an unpaid leave of absence for Sandra Hoffman, secondary special education teacher, to begin at the start of the 2011-12 school year for a

period of 12 weeks.

Michelle Russo, elementary special education teacher, was approved for an unpaid leave of absence to begin at the start of the 2011-12 year and end on Nov. 1.

The board approved an extended unpaid medical leave of absence for Michelle Keiper, part-time custodian/food service worker to begin at the start of this school year and not to exceed 60 days.

A motion made at the board's March 21 meeting for a leave of absence for Kimberly Chopyak, Ross Elementary teacher, through Sept. 23 was rescinded. Superintendent Jim McGovern said Cho-