

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Ordinance will strengthen gas zoning regulations

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Borough Council has approved an ordinance to strengthen the borough's zoning regulations on the natural gas drilling industry.

The ordinance amending the zoning ordinance will allow mineral extraction, including gas and oil drilling, ancillary facilities, hydraulic fracturing water treatment and withdrawal facilities and a water reuse storage facility to the borough's

manufacturing district.

Oil and gas pipelines will be permitted in residential districts, the highway commercial district, neighborhood commercial district, the recreational commercial district and the manufacturing district.

Under the ordinance, an environmental impact statement will need to be completed, outlining possible environmental consequences from the industry.

For over a year, residents have pushed the council to adopt a proposal from the Community Legal Environmental

Defense Team. Fears of violating the Pennsylvania Gas and Oil Act prohibited council members from accepting the proposal.

Instead, designated members of the council and the Environmental Advisory Committee and borough engineer Jack Varaly, of Michael J. Pasonick Jr. and Associates, formed a gas

committed to develop a legal ordinance.

In other news ...

Council member Rich Williams III announced the road department has been cleaning out debris from catch basins and storm drains throughout the borough. He requested that residents inform him of drainage problems and areas where the

road has been "undermined" due to erosion.

Bringing concerns to the council, resident Jay Niskey said he noticed the lake has had a green look to it and was wondering if bacteria from nearby farms may have washed into the lake.

Niskey also asked council if it would be possible to clean out the area in front and behind the dam to get rid of some of the vegetation which may hinder the water flow.

A spaghetti dinner is planned from 2 to 6 p.m. on

Sunday, Nov. 13 in the Kunkle Community Hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 year of age and under and free for children 2 years of age and under. All proceeds will benefit volunteer firefighter Mike Avery who lost his home due to damages from Hurricane Irene. Williams said while Avery was helping others, a tree fell on his own house, making it uninhabitable.

The next Harveys Lake Borough Council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15 in the municipal building.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Five positions are open

By SARAH HITE
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Several personnel actions taken by the Lake-Lehman School Board on Monday evening resulted in the opening of five positions within the school district.

The resignations of Mallory Griggs, secondary mathematics teacher; Michelle Russo, elementary special education teacher; and James Spencer, head girls' basketball, were all approved by the board.

All three positions will be advertised, and Superintendent James McGovern hopes to have a permanent secondary mathematics teacher in place by next month's meeting.

Two support staff members were dismissed from employment. Barbara Lamoreaux, part-time custodian, was released from her duties due to abandonment of employment. Esther Liuzzi, elementary health assistant, was also dismissed, but McGovern could not reveal any more details. Both positions will be advertised.

Other personnel issues included approval of leaves of absence for Corin Frey, Ross elementary teacher, effective November 16 through March 16; and for Jennifer Loftus, Lehman-Jackson Elementary teacher, effective November 7 through January 27.

The board appointed Gina Major-Ackerman as senior play advisor and Brian Pipech as mentor for Jeffrey Shook, recently hired home and school visitor for the district.

The following substitute teachers were appointed: Amanda Belfore of Wilkes-Barre in the math department, Lauren Dembowski of Shickshinny in the elementary department, Kelly Vunnacombe of Dallas in the English department and Melinda Meeker of Hunlock Creek with emergency certification.

The following athletic coaches were appointed for the 2011-12 school year: Erin Cooper as assistant swim coach for diving, Kevin Koziol as assistant girls' volleyball coach and Adrienne Differnbacher as volunteer assistant field hockey coach.

Walter Sorber, of Dallas, and Adam Harry, of Harveys Lake, were approved as volunteer wrestling coaches.

Julie Vitak, of Harveys Lake, was approved as a substitute custodian. Glen Hooper, of Harveys Lake, was appointed as a part-time custodian at Ross Elementary at a rate of \$10 an hour.

The following individuals were appointed as substitute support staff: Kimberly McGuire, of Harveys Lake, in the areas of food service, teacher associate and clerical; Kathy McDade, of Dallas, in



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Kris Moss, right, from the Shavertown Fire Department, shows first-graders at Wycallis Elementary School the dangers lurking in a safe smoke-filled house during a fire prevention program.

Young students learn to stay safe in fire situation

By SARAH HITE
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Keeping a group of first-graders calm in a room that quickly filled up with smoke could have been a challenge, but Kris Moss of the Shavertown Fire Department knew what she was doing.

"Don't worry, that's just like the fog in a haunted house," Moss told the group at a fire prevention program at Wycallis Elementary on Oct. 12.

Students had the opportunity to visit a mobile smokehouse and get up close and personal with a fire truck during a program held October 12 and 13 to commemorate Fire Prevention Month.

The youngsters piled into the smokehouse, a trailer designed to become a "classroom on wheels" in the name of fire prevention. It features a model kitchen and fireplace,

The trailer, purchased in October 2010, is owned by the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department. The purchase was made possible by grant money and a donation from the Back Mountain Policemen's Association. It is available to local fire departments as a tool for fire prevention education.

as well as a tiered area.

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First-graders at Wycallis Elementary School experienced a range of emotions inside a safe smoke-filled house and fire prevention program presented by the Shavertown Fire Department.

Moss set up several fire safety notions in the trailer and asked the children to point them out. They included placing paper towels near a stove burner, candles near curtains, matches on the counter and putting out a small fire with paper.

Children gasped as Moss hurriedly tried to put out a "fire" that started in a cooking pot with a rolled up newspaper.

"Is this how we put out a fire?" she asked the youngsters.

A resounding "No!" filled the smoky room.

After playing the quick game of I-Spy, students crawled through a doorway as a way to practice how to get out of a smoky situation.

"I learned that the lower you get, the more air you get," said 7-year-old Tom Doran, of Dallas, about avoiding the rising smoke in the event of a fire.

Students were also given the chance to meet a firefighter dressed in full gear and ask questions after the smokehouse presentation.

"This adds a reality-based experience for the kids," said Karen Ar-

naud, health and physical education teacher at Wycallis, who started the program years ago.

Arnaud said letting students see people in their community are there to help them in difficult times is an important part of the program, as well as knowing what to do in sticky situations.

"Seeing a firefighter in full gear with the breathing apparatus could be scary to some kids," she continued. "This way, they can avoid being scared if it ever actually happens, which we hope it doesn't."

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

Oak Hill stormwater drainage problems are addressed

By SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

Resident Brian Dorn asked township supervisors on Monday night about stormwater drainage problems in the Oak Hill section, wanting to know if everything had been done to prevent more flood damage from the swale that

lies behind the homes on Oak Drive.

"Is the swale defined enough? Can it be upsized to allow more water?" he asked supervisors.

Supervisor Doug Ide said the swale should be sufficient but that he knew it needed cleaning out. He said the township cannot clean out the swale because it lies completely on private property

belonging to Aqua Pennsylvania, a Back Mountain water company.

"This swale is a very convenient trash bin," he said, reporting that he is aware that people use it to dispose of clippings and leaves.

After discussion, the supervisors decided that the next step would be to approach Aqua Pennsylvania for permission to clean

out the swale to allow better drainage.

"We have 55 miles of problems. We're not caught up from the first storm," Chairman Dave Sutton reminded Dorn.

In another matter, Treasurer Alvin Cragle asked for a resolution allowing the township to contract for insurance through Benecon. He said that Blue

Cross/Blue Shield of Northeast Pennsylvania was going to require a 38 percent increase in premiums due to large claims last year.

By joining a consortium through Benecon, the township would retain the same coverage with Blue Cross/Blue Shield