

BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

# Lake Township may be next community to join organization

By SARAH HITE  
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Lake Township may be the next municipality to join the Back Mountain Community Partnership.

Partnership Vice Chairman John Wilkes Jr., of Jackson Township, announced at a meeting Dec. 15 that supervisors from Lake Township have expressed interest in joining the partnership.

The partnership currently includes Dallas Borough and Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships.

Partnership Chairman James Reino Jr. said municipalities must be located within the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts to join.

The only municipalities not included in the partnership are Harveys Lake Borough, Lake Township, Noxen Township, which is in Wyoming County but is part of the Lake-Lehman School District, and Ross Township.

The interested municipality must pass a resolution to join and must then receive a unanimous vote from the partnership to be included in the organization.

Representatives from Harveys Lake Borough attended a meeting last year to gather information about joining the group, but Wilkes said the partnership hasn't heard anything more from the borough on that matter.

He said Lake Township was in talks to join the group in late summer, but the township became focused on recovering

from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, which pushed plans to the back burner.

Lake Township is already part of the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency, which also includes Dallas Borough and Jackson and Lehman townships.

Wilkes said a representative from the township may attend the January meeting to get more information but Dallas Borough Mayor Tim Carroll suggested officials contact the group's solicitor to get the ball rolling.

The board also honored Dallas Township Supervisor Glenn Howell, one of the partnership's founding members, who will step down from his post in January. The longtime supervisor was defeated by Liz Martin in the November general election.

The partnership also discussed preparations for a gaming fund grant application due at the end of the month.

The grant funds would benefit the construction of a centrally-located emergency facility within the Back Mountain.

Reino said if the group does not receive funding, the plans will be put on the back burner because the municipalities involved do not have extra money to spare for the project.

The board also adopted a budget for 2012, which includes a \$275 payment from each member municipality and expenditures for legal services, use of Misericordia University for meetings and general government administration.

The next Back Mountain Community Partnership meeting will be held at 3 p.m. Jan. 19 at Misericordia University.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Ross Elementary School students, from left, Jules Quare, Jayden Berry, Mason Pritchard and Julianna Conte jingle their bells and entertain their families during the school's annual kindergarten holiday program.



Ross Elementary School students Michael Matysik, of Sweet Valley, enjoys his uncle's Adam Patla's attention.



Tommy Kravitz, of Sweet Valley, tries to get his grandfather Joe Kravitz into the Christmas spirit.



## Christmas at Ross

Kindergarten students at Ross Elementary School in Sweet Valley performed for their friends and family members during the school's annual holiday musical presentation on Dec. 20.

RIGHT PHOTO: Sarah Crawford, of Sweet Valley, a kindergartener at Ross Elementary School, finds the perfect cookie and calls to her friends.

## Sarley named 'Amazon Ball' king

Scott Sarley was recently chosen as King of the "Amazon Ball" which was held in a hotel ballroom in Bethlehem.

A former Back Mountain resident, Sarley has resided at Good Shepherd Home-Bethlehem for the past year. His interests include outings, bowling, horticulture and NASCAR racing with his favorite driver being Kyle Busch.

He also enjoys his many new friends, will celebrate his 33rd birthday on January 8, 2012 and loves to receive cards.

Sarley is a graduate of Wyoming Area High School and was under the jurisdiction of the Dallas School District.

He is affiliated with the Trucks-

ville United Methodist Church and is a member of the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company where he used to assist with the annual children's Christmas party, parades and other functions.

He is the son of Jo-Ann (Norrie) Sarley and the late William C. Sarley, who passed away unexpectedly on December 14, 2009. He is the grandson of the late Thelma (Bulford) and Ernest Norrie and the late Emma (Hutchins) and William R. Sarley.

Sarley has two older brothers, William, a professional firefighters in Virginia; and Robert, a manager of Autoparts International; two sisters-in-law and nieces.



SARLEY

LAKE TOWNSHIP

## Budget passes, taxes hold steady

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Lake Township supervisors passed a \$496,274 budget for 2012, marking the 37th consecutive year the township tax rate has held steady.

The new budget is \$18,786 more than what was budgeted for 2011 but supervisors will keep the mill rate at .322, the per capita tax at \$5 and both the real estate transfer tax and the earned income tax at a half percent. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed tax value.

Breaking the numbers down, about 10 percent of the budget is for general governmental administration, five percent for public safety, three percent for health services, 65 percent for road repairs and maintenance and 17 percent for insurance, bonding, employee benefits and payroll withholdings.

The budget includes a \$20,658 anticipated expenditure for the non-uniformed employee pension plan and a truck loan of \$20,000 for a new one-ton Dodge dump truck purchased in 2011.

Township secretary and treasurer Carlene Price anticipates revenue of \$81,530.26 in liquid fuels money from the state. Liquid fuels funding is given by the state based on the mileage of roads and population within the municipality.

Due to numerous winter storms, the township exhausted its supply of road salt/anti-skid. Under the proposed budget, \$14,000 is planned for snow and ice removal. This is an increase of \$5,462.

"There is an increase in the cost of trucking the material to us and our stock pile was used up due to the winter storms last year," Price said.

In other news ...

Supervisors applied to FEMA for reimbursement for money spent on cleaning up after

Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Supervisor Amy Salsansky said the total dollar amount of the reimbursement will not be known until March.

Department of Environmental Protection issued a citation for illegal burning of construction materials off Route 29, said Lonnie Piatt, supervisor chairman. DEP is working with the land owner to resolve the situation, he said.

Supervisors accepted a quote from Pikes Creek through the Pennsylvania COSTARS program to purchase cold patch at a cost of \$101 per ton. COSTARS is a cooperative purchasing program for municipalities.

The next meeting, the township's annual re-organizational meeting, will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012 in the municipal building.

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

## Township garage will soon be occupied but roof problems occur

By SUSAN DENNEY  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Board of Supervisors President David Sutton said Monday night that the township garage is close to being occupied but problems have been encountered with the roof installation and the shingles.

Sutton said both are unsatisfactory. A roofing subcontractor applied shingles over loose nails and didn't install the proper fascia and gutters, he said. The shingles themselves, manufactured by GAF, are discolored.

Because two different parties are involved, Sutton said the problem will likely have to go to arbitration and, with winter coming, the chance of getting the building properly roofed is small.

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The board voted to pay Yonkoski \$1,737 for the installation of 210 feet of gutter.

Sutton said the new building will be a vast improvement over the present garage, which is not waterproof. Only one truck can be parked out of the weather right now. The new garage will have four bays, allowing four trucks to be loaded and ready to go when a winter storm hits.

The new structure will also have a break room, bathroom facilities and energy-efficient features such as radiant heat installed in the concrete floor.

In other business, the council approved a final budget with no changes from the one proposed last month. There will be no tax increase and the total budget will be \$1,355,588. Millage remains at 1.25. A mill is a \$1 tax on every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The reorganizational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3 with the regular meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

## Bridge project finally put out for bid

Manager Kathleen Sebastian announced on Dec. 14 the Center Street Bridge project is "out to bid."

Sebastian said the anticipated start date of the project is April 16, 2012 and the project will be required to be finished by Sept. 16, 2012.

"Christmas has indeed come early," said Sebastian in regard to the project. Members of the board also agreed that this was a good start in maintaining township roads.

In the spirit of the season,

"Christmas has indeed come early."

Kathleen Sebastian  
Kingston Township manager

it was announced that the Recreation Commission of the Township sponsored a Holiday House Contest for Kingston Township residents.

Robert Hivish, assistant township manager, said the contest was an opportunity

for the township to celebrate community and family during the season and encouraged residents to participate.

Supervisor John Solinsky was honored with a plaque for his service to the township. Solinsky did not run for a seat on the board for the upcoming year.

The next meeting of the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 11 in the municipal building.

Geri Gibbons