

NGSTON TOWNSHIP

# Carfax agreement will streamline accident reports

By SARAH HITE  
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The board of supervisors voted to approve a cooperative agreement between the police department and Carfax Inc., a vehicular information company, to streamline vehicular accident reports at a special meeting Monday.

Tyrone Parker, a Carfax spokesperson, told supervisors Carfax would handle the reports through a website at no cost to the township, which would make them available to the pub-

lic and insurance companies at any time and would cut down on administrative work for police officers.

Parker also said officers would have access to investigative tools through the website to learn more about stolen vehicles and other common vehicular crimes.

He said the reason Carfax wanted to work with law enforcement officers on the municipal level is because the company currently only receives crash information from the state, and the added reports would benefit the company's vehicular history data.

Currently, it costs \$15 to obtain a police report. Parker said the police department would still receive \$15 from each report purchased on the website, and Carfax would charge \$5 per report as a convenience fee. Citizens would still have the option to purchase an accident report in person.

Police Chief James Balavage felt the removal of administrative work in the police department would increase the amount of time officers would be available to patrol.

Currently, it costs \$15 to obtain a police report. Parker said the police department would

still receive \$15 from each report purchased on the website, and Carfax would charge \$5 per report as a convenience fee. Citizens would still have the option to purchase an accident report in person.

Supervisors awarded a bid to Brdaric Excavating of Swoyers-

ville to stabilize a stretch of Toby Creek along Carverton Road.

Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said the streambed behind a building owned by the township on Carverton Road has eroded so much through the years that the walls are cracking and part of the creek flows underneath the building.

She said the Luzerne County Conservation District offered the township a grant from leftover federal monies to complete the project.

"That was one of the areas I suggested because we're losing our building," said Sebastian.

The bid was awarded to Brdaric Excavating in the amount of \$61,424. Though the conservation district only offered the township \$47,500, Sebastian announced at the meeting that the organization would provide the rest of the money for the project.

The lowest monetary bidder was Napcon Inc. of Wilkes-Barre in the amount of \$41,260, but Sebastian said Brdaric was the "lowest responsible bidder" in accordance with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Luzerne County

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# Bridge work finished early

By SARAH HITE  
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The state Department of Transportation completed repairs on the Overbrook Road overpass earlier than initially expected.

James May, a PennDOT spokesperson, said concrete covering beams underneath the 72-year-old bridge fell on Route 309 last Sunday and the agency had planned to close a portion of Route 309 at night for two weeks to conduct the repairs.

Crews began work at 7 p.m. Wednesday and concluded at 5 a.m. Thursday, May said. He said all the loosened concrete was removed from underneath the bridge.

He said the concrete in question was primarily in place for aesthetic purposes, and the falling debris does not pose any structural problems for the bridge, built in 1940.

"This is one of our bridges that is not structurally deficient," said May.

Dallas Township Supervisor Liz Martin saw the rubble on the side of the road last Sunday evening, but didn't realize it had come from the bridge until Monday afternoon.

"It looked like flat stone. At first, I thought it was field stone or flagstone, because there was a small pile of it in one of the lanes," she said. "My main concern was that somebody could get hurt or killed. Remembering what it looked like, if it had fallen on a car or a windshield, someone could have been at least hurt by it."

May said inspectors were sent to the location on Monday to determine if any more loosened concrete posed a threat to motorists. Though concrete falls did not appear to be imminent, May said the agency decided to pursue the repairs.

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

PennDOT crews completed work on the Overbrook Road bridge that spans Route 309 in Shavertown. The aesthetically-placed concrete underneath the structure had been crumbling and falling debris threatened heavy traffic beneath the bridge.

## SPORTS PAGE OPENS TOMORROW



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Sports Page hairstylist Tracey Roche, of West Pittston, and salon owner Stephen Salvaggio, of Forty Fort, have set up their newest shop in the Back Mountain located in the Twin Stacks Complex. The shop will open Monday, March 5 and offer haircuts from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Bill Gartrell, left, explains to Kathy Zawatski, secretary of the Wycallis Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization, how to update her club's website during a computer clinic held every Wednesday afternoon at Dallas High School. The program is free to Back Mountain residents.

# Techies offering expertise

By SARAH HITE  
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Those technologically-challenged residents living within the Dallas School District can now take solace in the fact that help is available to them.

The Dallas School District Technology Department began its "Tech Guru Infoshare" program at the high school to aid those who want to learn more about computers.

"Most of the time it's the simplest questions, but people were afraid to ask," said Bill Gartrell, the district's technology director.

He and others from the technology department, including students, teach the class from 3:30 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the high school.

A registration form for the class is available online, and Gartrell asks that potential patrons of this free service let his staff know what they want to learn before coming to class.

"I wanted to give something back to the community," said Gartrell. "With my stuff - computers - you can never stop learning."

The program takes its name from Gartrell's class at the high school in which students are taught how to fix computers and eventually



Charles Didgeon, right, a Dallas School District employee is assisted by instructor Dan Nestorick, of Hunlock Creek, during a free computer help program held every Wednesday afternoon at Dallas High School.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the "Tech Guru Infoshare" program at Dallas High School, visit [www.dallasisd.com](http://www.dallasisd.com) or call 675-5201.

become part of the technology department.

Gartrell said students are trained and are allowed to answer calls from all over the campus, including the middle and elementary schools.

"They're treated like adults, and they fix things on their own," said Gartrell.

Some of the students in Gartrell's class have advanced in certain areas on their own and can provide specialty instruction at the

Infoshare classes.

For example, one of his students is a whiz with Macintosh computers and graphic design and another is adept at software writing and plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology.

"Everyone's got a computer problem," said Gartrell. "But this will not be an advanced Photoshop class. It's more about the basics."

Gartrell also said those

who attend the class can bring in their own computers for free virus and spyware removal. Previously, this service was available only to district employees and their families.

It's also a useful program, said Gartrell, because it allows young people to get experience teaching and interacting with older students.

"When it comes to computers, the generation gap goes away," he said.