

BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

# PennDOT study will guide locals to increase traffic safety

By Eileen Godin  
Dallas Post Correspondent

A PennDOT study on busy Route 309 through the Back Mountain is meant to act as a guide for the municipalities to increase efficient traffic flow and safety, said Sandy Koza, a project manager from PennDOT.

During a recent meeting of the Back Mountain Community Partnership, comprised of representatives of six Back Mountain municipalities, Koza and Peter O'Halloran, also a PennDOT project manager, gave a brief overview of the findings of their study.

The area of focus is Route 309

North starting at the intersection of Hillside Road and extending to the intersection with Route 118. This corridor through the Back Mountain is heavily traveled and contains about 12 traffic light intersections.

Koza gave the committee short term and long-term recommendations to improve traffic flow and promote safety.

Short-term recommendations are changes that could be made within five to seven years and would not include any major structural changes.

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Long-term recommendations include relocation of some roads, some re-alignments which will affect some bridge structures, Koza said.

For example, the recommenda-

tion to widen the bridge at the intersection of Carverton Road, Church Street and Route 309 would carry a larger price tag because a bridge would be involved. This would be a long-term project to allow time to gain funding for the project, she said.

Kingston Township supervisor

Jeff Box asked if local municipalities will have an opportunity to add their input on the recommendations suggested for areas within their communities.

Koza said the Back Mountain committees will receive a courtesy copy of the 100-page study on a CD. The study needs revisions in areas, which are scheduled to be completed by the end of July and the study will be completely wrapped up by year's end.

"A major project, such as widening the bridge at the intersection of Carverton Road and Church Street, usually means major dollars to the community," said James Reino, BMCP committee member and chairman of Kingston Township. "What is it

going to cost us and potentially when?"

Koza said project estimates are one of many things that will be added to the report before it is completed.

"We are actually revising some of the layout, including the intersection with Route 415 because of issues of how we had it aligned," Koza said.

She advised the municipalities to use the study as a planning tool to prioritize projects, obtain grants and funding from the state.

Koza added municipalities should try and get the larger projects on the state's Metropolitan

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BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission volunteer biologist Stan Boder of Wellsboro, left, shows a timber rattlesnake to Christine Geist, of Dallas, and Melanie Aberant, of Wilkes-Barre.

## Snakes on a weekend

Snakes – all kinds of them – made their way to the Noxen Fire Company grounds for the annual Noxen Rattlesnake Roundup. A parade and fireworks, along with music all weekend, were just part of the celebration. Snakes were displayed all day Saturday and Sunday and a craft show was held all four days of the event.



Ainsley Webby, 6, of Mountain Top, is 'introduced' to a Texas rat snake at the Noxen Rattlesnake Roundup.



A few of the rattlesnakes on display at the Noxen Rattlesnake Roundup.



Eleven-year-old Jacob Henninger, of Larksville, describes the Texas rat snake at the Noxen Rattlesnake Roundup.

## PSU-WB accepts registration for Women in Sciences program

Penn State Wilkes-Barre is currently accepting registrations for its third Women in the Sciences and Engineering (WISE) program.

Underwritten by Procter and

Gamble's Live, Learn and Thrive grant, Penn State Wilkes-Barre is accepting 20 women into the program at no cost. Applicants are asked to get a teacher's recommendation.

During this three-day program middle school girls will gain an understanding of robotics.

For more information or to register, contact Teri Pace at 675-9219.



Andrew Duda took this photo of a pond located at the proposed wildlife sanctuary Woodland Springs on Pineview Road in Dallas Borough.

## Lots acquired for sanctuary; zoning requirements an issue

Maryland man hopes to create wildlife sanctuary on late brother's property.

By SARAH HITE  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to volunteer with the sanctuary group, contact Andrew Duda by phone at 757-350-1245 or by e-mail at mdipboye@verizon.net.

Volunteers hoping to create a wildlife sanctuary in Dallas Borough held a meeting to discuss zoning and other issues at the Back Mountain Memorial Library on June 23.

Andrew Duda, of Maryland, began his efforts to create a wildlife sanctuary from his late brother's property on Pineview Road in March.

Duda told the group of about five volunteers that all 17 lots have been acquired for the proposed site, which has been named Woodland Springs, but zoning requirements may be an issue.

A letter written by borough manager and zoning officer Tracey Carr said the property is located within residential zoning districts, where bird sanctuaries are not permitted.

She wrote Duda may need to apply for a special exception or variance, which would be deter-

mined through a hearing of the zoning hearing board once more information is provided to the borough.

Duda plans to consult an attorney and proceed with zoning hearings, but feels the group should still move forward with plans despite needing the borough's approval.

"We could make it a private sanctuary if they don't approve it," said Duda. "But I want it to be a community place."

The land is a wooded area with a pond and wetlands. Duda said the group hopes to keep much of the property the same but create a walking path and add a gazebo for patrons.

Volunteer Margaret Bakker, an architect who has experience with the Anthracite Scenic Trails Association and the North Branch Land Trust, created a conceptual drawing of the site for the group.

She said a borough official told

her zoning concerns include parking, access and security.

Bakker included parking on the map, but the group determined that minimal parking will be needed because it is a place designed with the environment in mind, meaning patrons should bike or walk to the site.

Duda said a property on Maplewood Avenue would be the best spot to act as the entrance and exit of the sanctuary. He said the land is mostly wetlands, and the best use of the property is what the group is proposing.

Duda also announced the group plans to hold an open house at the site in August to introduce the community to the project. Members of the group also said the project could be advertised during the Dallas Harvest Festival in September.

He said the group is looking for more volunteers with varied skills, from accounting to website design.

## New books make their way to shelves at the Back Mountain Memorial Library

The following new books have been added to the shelves of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas for the month of June 2012:

EXPRESS

"The Third Gate" by Lincoln Child, "XO" by Jeffery Deaver, "Mission to Paris" by Alan Furst

"Let Love Find You" by Johanna Lindsey, "Wicked Business" by Janet Evanovich, "A Conspiracy of Friends" by Alexander McCall Smith

FICTION

"The Third Gate" by Lincoln Child, "XO" by Jeffery Deaver, "Mission to Paris" by Alan Furst, "The Winter Palace" by Eva Stachniak, "Wicked Business" by Janet Evanovich, "A Conspiracy of Friends" by Alexander McCall Smith, "The Long Earth" by Terry Pratchett, "The Risk Agent" by Ridley Pearson, "The Lost Ones" by Ace Atkins, "Strindberg's Star" by Jan Wallebtin

NONFICTION

"The Underground Church" by Robin R. Meyers, "Food Grown Right in Your Back-

yard" by Colin McCrate and Brad Halm, "Mrs. Kennedy and Me" by Clint Hill

LARGE PRINT

FICTION "Summer Days" by Susan Mallery, "The Storm" by Clive Cussler, "Spring Fever" by Mary Kay Andrews

REFERENCE

"World Book 2012 Yearbook"

YOUNG ADULT

"Stunning: A Pretty Little Liar's Novel" by Sara Shepard, "Alice on Board" by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor