



Getting to work
Athletic Director Brian Geyer settles in at PT.
Page C1

The Almanac

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLEADER

ZONE 1

Valuable lessons
Children gain self-esteem through art.
Page B1



VOL. 45 NO. 25

The Advertiser Founded 1965

www.thealmanac.net

THE ALMANAC Founded 1967

June 22, 2011

Group interested in former Consol property near South Hills Village USC panel recommends amendment

By Terri T. Johnson
Almanac staff writer
tjohnson@thealmanac.net

The developers of a large parcel of land along Washington Road in Upper St. Clair contend the township tax base will increase by more than \$1.5 million annually once the mixed-use project is

complete.

Some neighbors believe the figure is too high and the main increase, they believe, will be in traffic and congestion.

For about four hours June 16, representatives of the developer, 1800 Washington Road Associates, outlined a tentative plan for the 28-acre site of the

former Consol Energy property across from South Hills Village at, appropriately enough, 1800 Washington Road.

Nothing is final. The plan is conceptual and a series of previous, lengthy meetings culminated June 16 with a vote by the township's Planning Commission to recommend a text amendment to the township Commissioners.

That is only the first step. Next, the commissioners will hold at least two public meetings before voting at a future meeting.

The process is complicated. The proposed text amendment is the result of an application filed by the developer for a conditional use in the special business district. Wording of the text

amendment is important as to not constitute spot zoning, which could be challenged in court. The 15-page amendment defines certain terms and lists permitted residential and non-residential uses. Some permitted residential uses include single-family attached

SEE USC PAGE A5

South Fayette to set oil, gas rules

By Deana Carpenter
For The Almanac
writer@thealmanac.net

Commissioners in South Fayette Township voted, 3-0, Monday to advertise an ordinance establishing rules, regulations and guidelines for natural gas compressor stations and processing plants.

Commissioner Sue Caffrey abstained from the vote and Commissioner Greg Curl was absent.

The regulations, which were also discussed at a meeting last week, will be to the regulations for oil and gas processing plants and compressor stations, like the size of the parcel of land and the noise levels allowed. The ordinance will be discussed again at the commissioners' July workshop meeting and should be voted upon at the July 18 meeting.

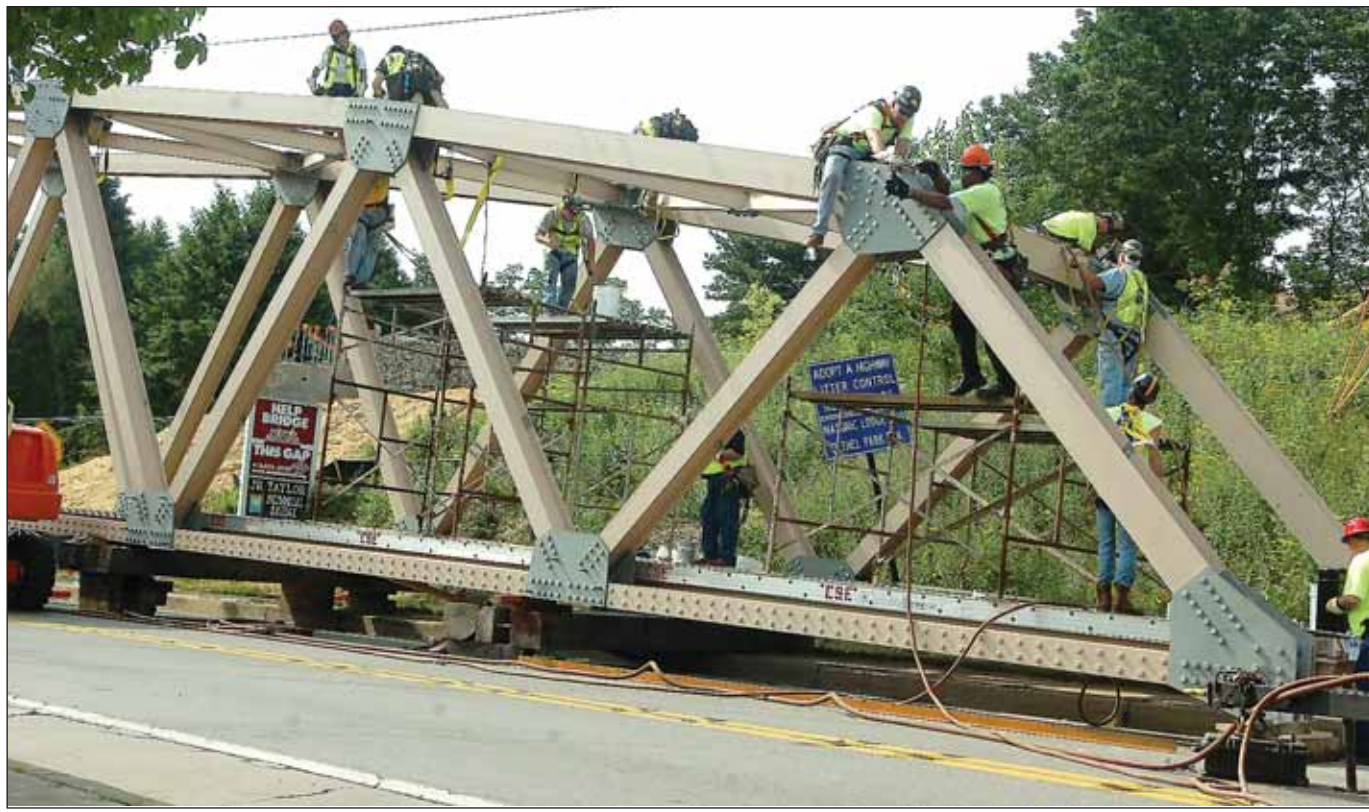
Before the vote, Bill Belitskus, who owns property in the township, told commissioners that ambient air monitoring is needed prior to allowing a processing plant or compressor station to be built. He said there needs to be a

SEE SF PAGE A6



Inside

Fans of classic cars will have their fill when the Trolley Museum hosts a show Sunday, June 26.
Page A2



ELEANOR BAILEY / STAFF

Ironworkers, representing Local Union No. 3 of Pittsburgh, donated their time and skills this past Saturday to help erect and set the steel for the J.R. Taylor Memorial Bridge. The span was to be hoisted into place by a huge crane around noon, June 22. The bridge, which will formally be dedicated in September, will complete the 2.7-mile Bethel Park branch of the Montour Trail, which stretches from Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township to Irishtown and Logan roads in Bethel Park.

Labor of love

Ironworkers set steel for J.R. Taylor Memorial Bridge

By Eleanor Bailey
Almanac staff writer
ebailey@thealmanac.net

As Ironworkers from Local Union No. 3 of Pittsburgh pounded rivets and hoisted beams into place for the J.R. Taylor Memorial Bridge, Donn Taylor proudly watched from a grassy knoll opposite the project along Clifton Road in Bethel Park.

Not only were many of the ironworkers employed at Century Steel Erectors (CSE), a company Taylor founded, they were friends of his deceased son, Jon Richard, for whom the span is named.

"This makes me want to cry," said Taylor, who lost his son in 2004.

The Ironworkers touched Taylor by their actions. They donated their time and skills as they erected and set the steel for the span, which will enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross over Clifton Road without leaving the Montour Trail.



ELEANOR BAILEY / STAFF

Mark Welsch and Jimmy Blosl work together to firm up one of the connections in the J.R. Taylor Memorial Bridge.

"These men, many of whom worked with my brother, were eager to be part of this bridge," said Debi Taylor. "This project has truly been a way for my family to

work through our grief in the loss of our only brother."

Mr. Taylor added, "This shows you how well liked J.R. was.

"For many of these men, he was their boss. He grew up with a lot of them. To him, they were all brothers."

Though he and his wife, Pat, had five daughters, including Darlaine, who is vice president of the family business, as well as Debi, Dawn, Diann and Dana, J.R. was Taylor's only son. However, the late superintendent of CSE did have many friends with whom he worked since he graduated from Bethel Park High School in the late 1970's.

Bill Tritschler and Don House were two of the ironworkers that volunteered for Saturday's assignment.

A 1978 BPHS graduate, Tritschler has worked as an ironworker for 33 years and at CSE "his whole life." His proximity to the Montour Trail has also enabled

SEE BRIDGE PAGE A3

Area schools among nation's elite

By Deana Carpenter
For The Almanac
writer@thealmanac.net

Three South Hills area schools were recently ranked among the top high schools in the country by the Washington Post's High School Challenge. Upper St. Clair, Mt. Lebanon and South Fayette high schools were all included in the ranking this year. The challenge ranks the top high schools in the country by measuring how effectively a school prepares students for college.

According to the Washington Post's website, the formula for determining the rankings is to divide the number of advanced placement or other college-level tests a school gave in 2010 by the number of graduating seniors. The Washington Post's Web site states, "While not a measure of the overall quality of the school, the rating can reveal the level of a high school's commitment to preparing average students for college."

The rankings also note the percentage of a school's students who qualify for federally subsidized lunches and also those who apply for the program, which is a rough indicator of the school's poverty level.

Of the 1904 high schools ranked, Upper St. Clair came in at No. 364 nationally and No. 3 in Pennsylvania. About five percent of the school's students receive subsidized lunch, according to the Washington Post and 99.4 percent of students graduate in four years. About 88 percent of graduates from Upper St. Clair go on to a four-year college.

"Our ranking is another indication of our students' academic success. We are fortunate to have high performing students—the result of effective

SEE ELITE PAGE A5

County unveils sustainability plan for South Park

By Nick Lewandowski
For The Almanac
writer@thealmanac.net

Allegheny County officials recently disclosed the details of a \$16 million sustainability plan for the South Park Fairgrounds. The presentation made June 16 marked the end of a lengthy assessment process by the Parks Department and GAI Consulting.

Final recommendations envision a three-stage sustainability plan that will improve existing facilities, ease the burden on dwindling maintenance staff and increase pedestrian access across the park.

County Sustainability Manager Jeaneen Zappa opened by assuring the public the current plan is far from final. "This is a planning process," she said. "We're not going to have a bulldozer here tomorrow."

The project focuses on just 77 acres of the park's 2,000 acre area, particularly the space around the oval track. In order to determine the places most in need of attention GAI and the Parks Department collected statistical data, conducted an online survey and ran focus groups broken out into different demographics: parks officials, government officials, public planners

and private citizens. Sixty-one percent of those surveyed indicated they use the park at least once a week, with a further 24 percent saying they use it on a daily basis.

"I think that's astounding," Zappa said. "I think that's a comment about how important this asset is to the region."

Ultimately the data, survey and focus groups identified several common threads.

Topping the list is the need to improve the condition of existing facilities. Performing proper maintenance has become increasingly difficult over the past few decades as budgets have shrunk. South Park still bears the weight of tens of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance.

Hence, Zappa explained, one of the key goals is to renovate in

SEE PARK PAGE A3

Index

- Across South HillsA3
- Arts & Entertainment ..B4-6
- ClassifiedsD1-6
- DeathsA2
- Deed TransfersC7
- OpinionA4
- Religious EventsB2,3
- SportsC1-3
- TogetherB1

www.thealmanac.net




MEADOWCROFT
ROCKSHELTER AND
HISTORIC VILLAGE
Avella, Pa.
www.heinzhistorycenter.org | 724-587-3412

16,000 YEARS. ALL IN ONE DAY.

Media sponsor:
Observer-Reporter