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# The Almanac

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLEADER

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## Zoning ruling puts school project on hold

By Terri T. Johnson  
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One of the major steps needed to begin renovations and an addition to the Mt. Lebanon High School was blocked March 11 when the municipality's zoning hearing board denied the district's request for two variances.

The requested variances involved the number of parking spaces and lot coverage. The three-member zoning hearing board voted unanimously to deny the requests.

Ed Kubit, school board president, said he is "disappointed" with the decision.

As for the board's next step, Kubit said, "We don't know just yet. We're still waiting on the written opinion from the zoning board and after that, we could, really I don't know and I hesitate to give an answer. We could appeal or change the design, that depends on legal counsel. We thought we had a very good case for requesting the variances."

Superintendent Tim Steinhauer echoed Kubit's sentiments.

"I was surprised at the ruling," Steinhauer said. "We fully expected to be granted the variances. We've been working with the municipality for a year or so talking about the issues we have."

He said the aging high school is landlocked. "Until we receive a written statement, a finding of fact, I don't expect the board to take any action," Steinhauer said.

Some taxpayers are voicing opposition to any appeals as the costs will be shared by the property owners.

"That's a valid point," Kubit said. "Whatever we decide to do will have a cost to it, it will cost to appeal or cost to not appeal."

Redesigning the project to meet zoning requirements will also have a cost.

"This is a very big project in our community and it deserves a lot of discussion," Kubit said. Steinhauer said the entire project is in a "holding pattern" until the written decision is received.

During a board meeting March 15, Kubit said he read a statement expressing his disappointment, but there was no public discussion.

Elaine Gillen of Mt. Lebanon, who said she is not opposed to the renovation or addition, but who is against the current cost, sent a letter to the school board expressing her opposition to appealing the decision in court.

"After listening to the zoning board, a panel of experts, deny your requests for variances, I heard Sue Rose (board vice president) say, 'Back to court.'"

I hope you do not waste my tax dollars fighting the municipality's decision. I will be paying for both sides of a legal battle, defending and opposing a bad plan," she wrote in part.

Gillen is part of a local group that is currently circulating a petition asking the board to reconsider the scope of the plan that the group contends is overly expensive.

Charlotte Stephenson is also a member of the same group.

"I would say it's hard to understand how the board would go to this point in design in violation of the zoning regulations," Stephenson said. "It's hard to understand that they would design a building or structure in violation of our current zoning regulations."

She was unable to attend the zoning hearing board meeting.

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ALLISON DURATZ / STAFF

## 'Meet the Breed'

The Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association invited the community to "Meet the Breed" at Burton's Total Pet in Bridgeville on March 13. Approximately seven dogs of various sizes and breeds were on hand to greet visitors and to encourage them to come to the Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association Dog Show March 27-28 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. More than 1,000 dogs are entered in the show, representing 136 different breeds. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$9. Taylor Yothers, 8, of Munhall pets Deoreo's Rising Phoenix (a.k.a. Phoenix), a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel owned by Judith Colbert (pictured) and Deana Miller.

## Mini golf course planned for Scott

By Terry Kish  
For The Almanac  
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Scott commissioners are set to vote on a proposed 18-hole miniature golf course at their March 23 regular meeting.

Developers Paul and Jerry Fitzgerald plan to build the golf course at 2070 Greentree Road on land above Rita's Italian Ice as an accessory use of their property. Easements and leases with Dr. Alan Mann, a neighboring veterinarian, would be required to access the driveway and parking.

Hours of operation would be scheduled from noon to 10 p.m.

During the commissioners' March 9 agenda meeting, Commissioner Tom Castello said he spoke with his neighbors in the 5th Ward about the planned course. "We all think it's a great idea," said Castello.

At least one commissioner had safety concerns, both for players and about keeping stray golf balls off of Greentree Road. Commissioner Bill Wells suggested a fence be built around

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## It's the story... USC family identifies with Brady Bunch

By Terri T. Johnson  
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When Joe Froetschel and Pat Richardson, both widowed, fell in love more than 40 years ago, not only their worlds changed but so did the lives of their seven children.

With the television show "The Brady Bunch" a popular household name at the time, the seven children in the combined Froetschel-Richardson family often compared their lives to the television family. There were a few exceptions, like the Brady



From photos taken at the 1969 wedding and today from left, front: Laurie Richardson Mitchell, Vinnie Richardson, Joyce

Bunch had only six children and one of the most important differences was there wasn't a housekeeper named Alice working in the Upper St. Clair Township Froetschel-Richardson household. Those duties fell to the children, Joe and especially Pat.

Following their Nov. 15, 1969,

wedding, Joe Froetschel's three children and Pat Richardson Froetschel's four moved to the newly constructed house in Upper St. Clair. All of the children, now grown and educated and many with children of their own, have moved to various parts of the country. Joe and Pat Froetschel remain in



Froetschel Malley and Mark Froetschel; back: Susan Froetschel, Dad Joe Froetschel, Mom Pat Richardson Froetschel, Terri Richardson Ballengee and Jeff Richardson.

the now too-quiet original home.

For the first time in 27 years, all seven of the children, and a majority of the grandchildren gathered the weekend of March 13 to celebrate Pat's 80th birthday on March 18 and Joe's 82 birthday on March 25.

The event was joyous and somewhat noisy. Over the years,

often six of the seven would

come together, but there was always at least one missing, and not always the same one, said Terri Richardson Ballengee, a dental hygienist from North Carolina. The children alternate holidays and family visits, but this time, all seven congregated for the celebration, including

one of the youngest, Joyce Malley, a fisherwoman and business manager for her family's company that catches and markets gourmet tuna in Seattle.

Eight years old at the time of her father's wedding to Pat Richardson, Malley said she

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## A prepared Carnegie spared from flooding

By Amy Philips-Haller  
For The Almanac  
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With memories of the flooding from Hurricane Ivan still fresh, Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek teamed up with Emergency Management Coordinator, Police Chief Jeff Harbin, to prepare for potential flooding in the borough this past weekend.

While the predicted flooding never materialized, Carnegie officials were prepared for the worst.

"First, I have to take my hat off to Bob Full and his people. The Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center was on top of their game," explained Harbin. "I went to a meeting on Friday (March 12) and they had everyone there, from the Army Corp of Engineers to the National Weather Service to FEMA."

While it was clear that the Mon Valley seemed to be the most vulnerable location for flooding, Carnegie officials believed it was important to prepare emergency services and citizens for possible overflow. "Ivan was only six years ago and

citizens have not forgotten. They were nervous, and we wanted them to know we were prepared," stated Harbin.

"One of the things I try to do is be proactive," explained Kobistek. The mayor met with Harbin in the third week of February. "I wanted to be ready in case we had a fast thaw."

"We teamed up with Fire Chief John Kandrac as well. We wanted to identify what the protocol would be." Through a series of meetings the men coordinated a game plan. "Together we came up with an evacuation strategy, defined the roles of both the fire and police department, determined where emergency resident centers could open, created flood preparation packages and distributed the information to business and citizens in the flood plain," explained the mayor.

Kobistek felt confident Carnegie was in good hands with both Harbin and Kandrac. "I can't stress enough how great these guys are. They both bring a great deal of experience to the table. When it comes to emergency management, these guys are the heroes. This town is in

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## Flood threat recalls Ivan's wrath

By Amy Philips-Haller  
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As forecasters predicted flood concerns over the weekend, citizens, businesses, and emergency personnel of Carnegie recalled the damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan that lashed out at them less than six years ago.

"I wasn't going to worry about it this time," stated Betty Salmon. "I mean, God wouldn't do this to me twice in 5 years!"

Salmon remained in her home the evening Ivan hit Carnegie. "I stood at my bedroom window and just watched the water rise." Safe on her second floor, occasionally she would walk down the steps to check on the rest of the house. "It was about 2 a.m., and I remember looking down into my living room. The water was as high as my kitchen table. I will never forget the sound of the telephone stand hitting the wall over and over again." That night, Salmon lost everything stored in her basement and first floor. Near retirement, she had just finished purchasing two new vehicles and carpeting. "I lost it all—the cars...every-



AMY PHILIPS-HALLER

Art Bedway remembers the days after Ivan destroyed Victory Security offices.

thing." Salmon paused for a moment, "I cried the most over losing my pictures."

Salmon lived with a relative as they cleaned up

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