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Parking troubles Freemansburg

By David P. Anderson
Correspondent

The Freemansburg Borough Council and residents of the Lincoln Street cul de sac have been battling over parking since the beginning of summer.

Residents of the cul de sac stood out in the rain last week just before the council's September meeting as Council President Donald Lasso, Fire Chief Michael Micholochick, and members of the fire company demonstrated how a fire truck can maneuver in the cul de sac only when cars are not parked there.

The cul de sac was turned into a no parking zone by a

seven to nothing council motion on June 5, and residents have been confused and enraged about the decision ever since.

For many residents, the choice could not come at a more inopportune time. The 18-year-old development has many children of almost the same age, and that means many new drivers and cars that need to be parked somewhere.

They may need to park a block away. Many residents began parking their cars perpendicular to the street within the cul de sac in an attempt to create more parking.

In June, Councilman Matthew Marr suggested banning only the troublesome head-

in parking, but with the fire department's advice, all parking in the cul de sac was prohibited.

The decision to restrict only the Lincoln Street cul de sac,

"We don't wait for something to happen, we plan before it happens."

- Donald Lassi, council president

one of six in Freemansburg, came because the cul de sac is smaller than the others. Lasso said that Lincoln Street is an older development and was "not designed for off-street parking."

Only two residents of Lincoln Street attended the September meeting, five-year resident Dave Bond and 18-year

resident Linda Nasatka. Both residents have lived in their houses since they were built and have always parked on the street without issue.

The borough is currently investigating giving back two sections of street, estimated to be 38 and 44 feet long, towards the mouth of the cul de sac that will generate approximately five parking spaces.

Bond said that the Council's solution "doesn't directly address the issue" but "four to

five is certainly better than nothing."

Nasatka, along with other residents, said that one of the biggest problems they have is that "the borough didn't contact the neighbors." The residents woke up one morning to find "no parking beyond this point" signs at the edges of the cul de sac, and soon after found the entire curb painted yellow.

Lasso confirmed the residents were not notified, but said that the township went through all the proper channels to make the decision.

Lasso said the parking restriction is simply a preventive safety issue, "we don't wait for something to happen, we

plan before it happens."

Council will continue to discuss the problem and the proposed solution at their next workshop meeting scheduled for Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.

Lasso stressed that the council will pay attention to what the community members are saying, but only as long as they keep things civil.

"This borough council is willing to listen, but I'm not going to have people screaming and hollering at us," he said.

David P. Anderson serves as a freelance writer for The Lehigh Valley News Group. Reach him via editor@bethlehem-news.com.

OBSERVING SEPTEMBER 11



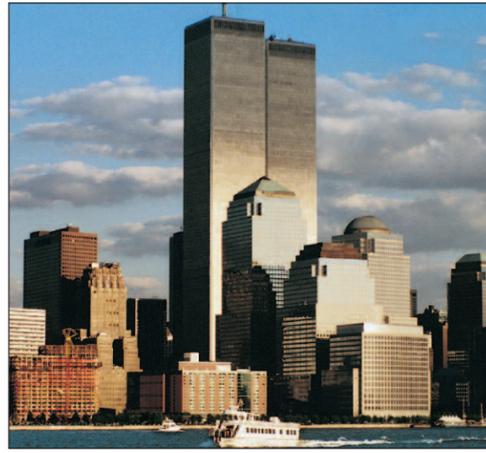
Photos by Angel R. Ackerman
World music performer Daria, left, performed at the Bethlehem Area Public Library Monday. During her concert, children, like Emrick Lesho, 15 months, experimented with musical instruments. Emrick is shown with his mother, Kelly, of Bethlehem. Daria also performed at The Banana Factory on the Southside.



Photos by Gayle Hendricks
The American Legion Band hosted a patriotic concert and candlelight vigil Sunday night at the Rose Garden. Above, clarinetist Jen Dolan hands the flame to her mother, Marie. Below, Air Force veteran Gerry Still, of Bethlehem, participates in the ceremony.



Photo by Gayle F. Hendricks
A patriotic banners hangs from a home on Bethlehem's Eighth Avenue, across from the Rose Garden.



FIVE YEARS LATER

Southside library to host bilingual stories

By Angel R. Ackerman
Managing editor

The Southside branch of the Bethlehem Area Public Library will launch a new family program on Sept. 28 and Oct. 9, a bilingual story time supported by a grant from Air Products.

Sign ups for the program begin Sept. 18.

Maria Delgrosso, a staff member at the library and native Mexican, will lead the children in stories both in English and Spanish, Latin music and a special craft. The evening will include several picture books, a finger play, a video and an intro-

duction to Spanish words for the children not familiar with the language.

It's a jam-packed 45 minutes, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. The library will welcome any age level, from preschool through school-aged, for this family-oriented event. The library expects a good turn out, since "families know the quality of our programs," said Brenda Grow, manager of the Southside branch.

Several mothers have approached her to express their excitement. Three moms who already attend our story times are looking forward to the bilin-

gual night since they have children who attend Lehigh Valley Academy. At that school, children start foreign languages while still in the elementary grades. These moms felt the program would serve as a great introduction to Spanish.

While this may be an introduction for some of the children involved, the Southside branch has a long history and a strong collection of Spanish-language materials. They carry fiction and non-fiction for adults and children. They carry Spanish photostories, which have proven very popular with the older generation, said Grow.

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Photo by Angel R. Ackerman
The Southside branch of the Bethlehem Area Public Library will host a bilingual story time later this month. The evening will feature a craft like the banner pictured above.

At least 250 people attended. The service opened with the ringing of a Tibetan bell followed by classical music.

Forty different people read essays. Contributors from a wide range of faith-based and secular humanitarian organizations contributed essays.

"We asked participating organizations to ask their constituents three questions: what did they lose that day, how did they change, and how did they discover hope," Huey said.

Rev. Stephanie Barnett, a St. Luke's staff chaplain, talked briefly about the universal tradition of lighting candles before having the ushers assist atten-

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Check out this week's

Winter Bridal Guide

