

Watershed activity

• Continued from Page 1

Mayor Edward Sullivan establishing penalties for prohibited activities within the watershed—off-road vehicle use, which creates erosion and therefore silting in and around the town's back-up reservoir—is one of them).

The incident with the Chevy SUV isn't unusual—and as the weather warms, walkers, birders, hikers, Water Division workers and police can expect more such intrusions. In recent weeks, there have been reports of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles and pick-up trucks and SUVs in Bear Hole.

Those reports, often fielded by the West Springfield Environmental Committee, which keeps a close eye on Bear Hole and Mittineague Park, include a woman being harassed by a driver of a truck operating erratically and fish-tailing down Millville Road, which, like Great Plains Road, where the white SUV was encountered, is closed to vehicle traffic. The Millville Road truck, like the SUV, had navigated around gates installed to block such trespassing.

Partying at Lost Pond, a body of water located not far from Millville Road, has picked up in recent weeks, committee members say.

And, closer to Bear Hole reservoir, a dog walker has encountered jeeps being driven around the edge of the water and last fall, saw two men firing rifles not far from the reservoir.

The issues in Bear Hole had members of the Conservation Commission talking last week. They noted their desire to see more activities such as organized walks and runs. They felt that such activities, which have been held over the past several years, help keep off-roaders out. And of course, increased police presence was another suggestion.

Indeed, every West Springfield mayor has been forced to place Bear Hole on his radar due to its popularity as a semi-wilderness area, and the fact that the reservoir there must be kept stable and secure in the event its water supply is needed (the town currently draws most of its supply from its wellfields in Southwick). Mayor Will Reichelt says his administration will be no different than that of his predecessors in this regard.

"Right now we have police [patrol] district cars driving through when they can," he said. "As the weather warms up and the ground gets better, we will get off-duty officers going in on mountain bikes. They also have a four-wheeler that they use for patrols."

He said there are no plans to increase patrols. But the mayor said the steep fines that can be incurred are helpful, as well as regular police patrols.

"We will have the same amount of officers on patrol this summer as we had last year," Mr. Reichelt said. "It was effective last year. When we show a consistent presence of officers the negative action starts to die off. Those who are caught in the act can get a fine of up to \$300."



An SUV is towed from the Bear Hole watershed on March 8 after the driver crashed it into a fence meant to prohibit such off-road use in the wooded area. Recreational all-terrain usage has picked up again in the watershed, although it is prohibited by town ordinance. The owner of this vehicle incurred heavy fines. The incident was reported by a couple walking in Bear Hole.

Todd Steglinski, the public safety liaison for the Environmental Committee, credited police Sgt. Brian Pomeroy, who heads the community police unit, for starting mountain bike and ATV patrols of the watershed last spring.

"They hit all the issues hard and made a big difference," he said, but added that off-roaders can get into Bear Hole year-round. While there are gates blocking access points, trucks and ATVs are now going around the gates.

"Bear Hole is a place that needs consistency," Mr. Steglinski said. "Policing the watershed seasonally will not work. Our mild winter that just ended didn't help either. All the activity that usually goes dormant, remained steady."

Mr. Steglinski said that the entrance to Millville Road is gated, but off-roaders are still getting through. He said that more barriers, such as large rocks, need to be put in place. The Department of Public Works has taken some steps, but not all that is necessary, he said.

"If done correctly, I think we should be in pretty good shape and off-roaders kept at bay," Mr. Steglinski said.

"ATVs and dirt bikes will probably always be an issue. They're small enough where they can blaze around obstacles."

Police Chief Ron Campurciani says police patrols on bikes or by ATV do help but notes that the installation of gates at access points might not have been as beneficial as had been hoped; the gates keep police cruisers out.

"The only people they've kept out by blocking [Bear Hole] up is us," the chief said, adding that at one time, the formerly open roads through Bear Hole were included in regular daily town patrol routes.

Mr. Steglinski says that residents should report issues to the police (263-3210 or 911) and contact the mayor's office with their Bear Hole concerns. The Environmental Committee also welcomes public reports, he says. Those reports are in turn shared with the Police Department and the Department of Public Works.

The Environmental Committee's website is located at wsenvironmentalcommittee.org.

By Jack Farrell with Paul Burdziakowski

Classified Advertising

SERVICES

DAY & EVENING APPLIANCE SERVICE. Schedule tight? We work at night. Daytime service also available. Appliances installation available. W.S. 736-7427.

A.R. APPLIANCE SERVICE Same day service on all Whirlpool, GE, Frigidaire, etc. refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, dishwashers, ranges and stoves. Guaranteed work. Call 788-0850.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE - Electrical trouble calls, remodeling, construction, in your home, office and business. Serving West Side, Agawam and surrounding communities. Call West Springfield (413) 205-8204.

WINDOW/GUTTER/POWER - Window washing... Gutter cleaning... Powerwashing. Call My Window Butler 413-244-8425 for a free estimate of see MyWindowButler.com for details.

SERVICES

R. HUDSON PAINTING - interior and exterior. Small jobs welcome. Windows, trim, window glazing, gutter cleaning or entire house painting. Insured. Free estimates. Call anytime 788-0481.

QUALITY PAINTING - at low rates. Senior discount 25 years experience. Interior and exterior. Free estimate. Prompt service. Call Ed at 413-330-5950.

JIMMO CONTRACTING - Your source for home improvement. Kitchen, baths, additions, roofs, siding, decks. Fully licensed and insured. Free estimates. Call (1-413) 467-3745.

RUBBISH REMOVAL - Courteous man will clean your cellars, attics and garages. Will remove your deck, garage, shed, etc. Demolition Bobcat. 30 years experience. Fully insured, proper disposal. Senior citizen discount. Call Bob (413)-530-3203.

SERVICES

CEILING DOCTOR - Are your ceilings cracked, droopy or just plain ugly? Call now for new looking ceilings and walls. Fully insured and reasonable. 413-786-9883.

BOWLEN'S CARPENTRY - Quality remodeling since 1992. Baths, porches, basements, kitchens, garages, decks, additions, roofing, siding and windows. Licensed and Insured. A local resident. Call 733-0934.

G.M. ELECTRICAL - Residential, Commercial, Industrial. Master License #A12128. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call Gary Martineau at 732-3399.

HANDY MAN - All types of home repairs. Concrete jobs. Small tree removal. Trash removal. Help moving. Call 519-4074.

A+INTERIOR PAINTING - Call for free estimate. Fully insured. Call (413) 977-8931.

SERVICES

WESTSIDE BULK REMOVAL - Senior citizen discount. Fully insured. Please call Robert at 530-3203.

HOUSE CLEANING

HOUSE CLEANING - tailored to your needs. 23 years experience. References. Call Terry at 737-4457.

YARD /HOUSE

AMERICAN LANDSCAPING - Accepting new accounts for lawn mowing. Senior discount, low rates, dependable service. 20 years experience. Call today Phil (413) 737-7109.

C.R. LANDSCAPING - Weekly or bi-weekly mowing, dethatching, fertilizing, spring clean-ups. free estimates. Call 348 7637.

FOR RENT

WEST HARWICH - Charming Cape house in West Harwich. Renovated. 2 bedroom sleeps 4-5. Close to Pleasant Road Beach, restaurants, shops, mini-golf. \$1200/wk. Book now! (508)776-5431.

PRE-SCHOOL

MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS - is registering for the 2016-2017 school year. Call 734-8979 for information. Accepting children 2.9 - 5 years of age.

PET CARE

CAT ADOPTIONS - Westfield Homeless Cat Projects. Cat and kitten adoptions every Thursday 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Visit at 1124 East Mountain Road, Westfield. Looking for good temporary foster homes. For more information email denisesinico@hotmail.com.

CRITTER SITTEZ - Hectic lifestyle? Vacationing? Call today and have your pet's needs met with a caring and reliable individual. Adrienne Sutton at 413-330-9405.

HELP WANTED

DRIVERS: - Local experienced Yard Hostler evening openings! Great pay and benefits! CDL-A, 1 year experience required Estenson Logistics apply: www.goelc.com 1-855-416-8511.

DRIVERS: - Quality home time! Earn over \$1250+per week+monthly bonuses! Excellent benefits. No-touch! CDL-A 1 year experience 888-406-9046.

HAIRDRESSER - Is it time for a change? Booth rental available in West Springfield. Call Linda at 413-427-1183.

FOR SALE

25' CAMPER - for sale. In good condition. Asking \$4,000.00 Please call Cheryl at 736-3878.

HOME/DAY CARE

HOME CARE SPECIALIST - Certified nurse's aid with medical assistant background looking for new clients in West Springfield, Agawam and Westfield area. Friendly, dependable. Call Kathy at 413-204-6555

The Record
for local news
and information

Our email address is
wsrecord@comcast.net