

Bloomsburg could change gathering rules

By **PETER KENDRON**
Press Enterprise Writer

BLOOMSBURG — The town may change its rules for outdoor drinking parties to make sure students can exercise their right to assemble for political or religious purposes.

And **Mayor Dan Knorr** hopes it will quell concerns brought up this spring by the American Civil Liberties Union, which threatened to sue Bloomsburg over its rules.

The town's "Social Gathering Ordinance" covers gatherings of more than 150 people that are hosted by students.

As currently worded, the ordinance requires permits for "an outdoor congregation of persons for social interaction where alcoholic beverages are being served or consumed."

The change being considered would add the word "primarily" before "for social interaction."

That would allow students to gather to support a political candidate or for a Mass.

But it would prevent parties from throwing up a political sign to camouflage what would otherwise be a drinking party, said Knorr.

"Our police would have to convince a judge" with videos, photographs and other evidence that students were there to party, not express themselves politically, religiously or otherwise, he said.

Police Chief Leo Sokolowski doesn't believe the wording change will prevent his officers from breaking up unauthorized parties, Knorr said.

Got stricter last year

The town began requiring permits for large outdoor parties where alcohol was being served seven years ago to control the annual student-

hosted Block Party.

But last year, the town tightened permit rules. Only Bloomsburg University students have to apply for one, and they are required to provide Dumpsters, portable toilets, security and cleanup at outdoor parties they host. It also allows the town to deny students a permit for past alcohol violations.

The **ACLU** said the new rules had the potential to prevent students from gathering outdoors for religious services or political rallies if alcohol was served.

Timing

The town took six months to address the ACLU's complaint because it didn't want to change the ordinance when students were away for summer, Knorr said.

He also didn't want to schedule a rule change with a student party looming.

"Now there's no time crunch," he said.

When the rules were tightened last spring, students complained they hadn't been warned, and they crowded council chambers to complain.

"We certainly could have communicated a little better," Knorr said.

This time around, he said he gave copies of the wording change to university officials as well as the student newspaper, *The Voice*.

Discussion today

Council plans to discuss the ordinance at a committee meeting this morning at 8.

It could vote to advertise the change at its Nov. 8 meeting, then pass the change in December.

Contact Peter Kendron at 387-1234, ext. 1312, or at kendron@pressenterprise.net.



KNORR

Young people get philanthropic



About 30 high school students from Benton, Berwick, Central Columbia and Northwest exchange ideas recently during the kickoff of this school year's Youth in Philanthropy project at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation in Berwick. The group is a youth-based version of the foundation's grant-making task force. It is funded by the Berwick Health & Wellness Fund and the Central Columbia Educational Foundation.



Ethan Thomas, Berwick, above, left, explains his group's idea about a school recycling project during a discussion at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation.



Betsy Rubio, Central Columbia High School, above right, adds to a list of ideas during a discussion.



Cathy Davenport, above right, Berwick, adds to the discussion at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. Listening at left is **Anne Kropiewnicki**, Central Columbia.

Mike Goorhouse, above left, with the Council of Michigan Foundations, leads the high school students as they develop philanthropy ideas. The project is organized by **Kara Seesholtz** of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation.

Berwick High School student **Arielle Malatesta**, left, talks about a school recycling project that she and her group were developing during the session at the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. Behind her is **Olivia Rupp**, also from Berwick.

PHOTOS BY BILL HUGHES

UGI to help customers apply for heating grants

READING — UGI Utilities Inc. is helping eligible gas and electric customers apply for federal energy assistance to keep their homes warm this winter, a press release says.

Grants from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, help customers with limited or fixed incomes pay their heating bills, repair or replace a heater and avoid service shutoffs.

Last winter, customers of UGI received cash grants from LIHEAP totaling more than \$19 million, the release notes.

Funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information: 1-800-UGI-WARM (1-800-844-9276).

DANVILLE PARADE WINNERS

DANVILLE — Here are winners from the Danville Halloween Parade:

BEST OVERALL: Bucky Cutchall float

LARGE FLOATS

•First Place — Raup Family and Friends

•Second Place — First Baptist Church

•Third Place — Knoebels Park

•Fourth Place — Rock Band Zach Whapham

•Fifth Place — Columbia County Red Roses

SMALL FLOATS

•First Place — Pine Street Lutheran Church

•Second Place — Under the Sea Larry Heck

•Third Place — Danville High School Drama Club

•Fourth Place — St. Joseph Cub Pack 39

•Fifth Place — Hope Enterprises

GIRL SCOUTS

•First Place — Brownie Troop 91

•Second Place — Girl Scout Troop 60449

•Third Place — Brownie Troop 408 and Girl Scout Troop 1476

BOY SCOUTS

•First Place — Cub Pack 33

•Second Place — Cub Pack 30

•Third Place — Cub Scout Pack 37 and Boy Scout Troop 37

•Fourth Place — Cub Scout Pack 47

NOVELTY

•First Place — Little Imagination Daycare

•Second Place — Cole's Antique Truck

•Third Place — T-Railers

•Fourth Place — Pam Stetler Decorated Car

•Fifth Place — Leroy Long and Tractors

COSTUMES

•First Place — Phoenix Rehab

•Second Place — Holiday Hair

•Third Place — Backwoodsman 4-H Club

•Fourth Place — Mountain Bike Edward Kovaschatz

JUDGES' AWARDS

•Giant Food Market

•Columbia-Montour SWAT Team

•Danville Child Development Center

•Reichard Baseball Team

•ASPC with dogs

•Monster Mash

•Little League team

•Danville Subway

•Danville Pharmacy

•Expert Home Builders

•Danville FFA

•Midway Bowling Lanes



Press Enterprise/Bill Hughes
MATTHEW SNYDER, Wolyniec Construction of Williamsport, breaks up blocks of sidewalk along East Main Street in Bloomsburg on Monday. The project will replace the old cobra-head street lights and blocks of sidewalk close to the curb.

Bloom sidewalk work to end by Thanksgiving

BLOOMSBURG — Crews hope to have the Main Street sidewalk excavation that began this week complete by Thanksgiving.

On Tuesday, the work created a backup for traffic headed toward Berwick; vehicles stretched from East Street to Market Street.

Lines of traffic also developed on Iron and Center streets where they feed into Main Street.

Crews are tearing up sidewalks from Iron to East streets, and they will be doing other work to prepare to erect new streetlights, said Public Works head **John Barton**.

Barton said that once they finish the south side of the street, they will dig up the north side.

All the preparatory work

should be complete by Nov. 25, Barton said.

It will take about four months for the decorative streetlights to arrive, he noted.

Assault alleged at Danville hospital

MAHONING TWP. — A Danville State Hospital patient tried to stab an aide with pencils and threatened a nurse, police said.

About 8:30 p.m. Oct. 29, **David C. Gann** of Harrisburg allegedly tried to stab psychiatric aide **Michael Gregerson** with a handful of sharpened pencils.

Staff attempted to restrain Gann. But he resisted and caused an injury to Gregerson's knee, charges state. The aide later sought treatment at Geisinger, according

to authorities.

About the same time, **Gann**, 47, asked Registered Nurse **Barbara J. McHenry** if he could smoke, said police.

When she refused his request, he allegedly asked if one cigarette was worth her life.

"I may not get you today, tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, but I will get you, you can count on it," he is accused of saying. **Gann** also spit in **McHenry's** face, police said, and she feared for her life.

Gann is charged with felony aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, simple assault, making terroristic threats and two counts of harassment.

A preliminary hearing is set for 3:30 p.m. Monday before **District Judge Marvin Shrawder**.

Benton's Class of '44 meets today

SOUTH CENTRE TWP. — Benton High School's Class of 1944 will meet for a luncheon today at 11:30 a.m. at Morris Family Restaurant here along Route 11.