

# Something must be done to stop tragedies

## YOUR SAY

Garrett Bencker

Just recently southeast Pennsylvania lost another saint. Linda Budweg became the latest casualty, lost to a head-on collision on a quiet Sunday afternoon on Green Street in Hilltown.

This tireless mother, grandmother and community volunteer brought so much happiness to everyone she encountered.

I personally will never forget the joy she brought every Friday to my aged relatives in North Wales while serving their needs through the Meals on Wheels program.

Unfortunately she will not be the last to perish, but her untimely death should be a call to action for those who still remember the tranquil way of life so rapidly diminishing in Hilltown and the surrounding region.

Perhaps the quest for gold is too strong for the countless developers (and the all-too-accommodating landowners) to rethink their strategies.

While their customers move farther away from the daily routine that fuels their existence, the roadways of Hilltown have become their newest expressways.

Increased traffic and ever-increasing speed will leave its mark forever.

Speeding construction vehicles, delivery trucks, trash haulers and inattentive drivers have already made their presence felt, and yet none of this seems to matter to those who stand to profit from the growth.

While the Route 309 corridor continues to choke itself with constant expansion, more and more enterprising individuals seek refuge on the narrow roads throughout the township, roads that can be perilous with limited lighting and zero shoulder presence.

One of the most disturbing examples of this can be found in Silverdale.

Twenty years ago the Hilltown Water Authority purchased the water supplier formerly known as Seidel. While installing their connector pipes, practically every speed limit sign was removed from Baringer Avenue in Silverdale (also known as Route 152), resulting in speeds surpassing 60 miles per hour.

In recent years several individuals have perished on this highway, including a little girl in a cell

phone-related mishap and a middle-aged pedestrian via hit-and-run.

If you make a turn to a side road, the drivers behind you will cross double lines to go around you because braking is too inconvenient.

Silverdale Borough Council informs me it is a PennDOT issue (why do these people occupy council seats?).

After several calls to PennDOT, I was informed that the responsibility resides with the borough.

State Rep. Kathy Watson's office informs me that PennDOT might address the issue in six to eight months.

I suppose that if I wait another 20 years, and all of the trees and open space disappear, and the region resembles Montgomery Township, it won't matter how many have died because the only public safety issue will be to build a high-speed bypass.

Garrett Bencker is a resident of Silverdale.