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# TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 | [TRICOUNTYINDEPENDENT.COM](http://TRICOUNTYINDEPENDENT.COM)

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## 2 Elk Lake houses destroyed in fire



Two homes on Sensentine Road near Elk Lake in Clinton Township are leveled on June 11, after an explosion and related blaze that damaged several other houses. PETER BECKER/TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT

### Neighboring houses also damaged in multi-alarm inferno

**Peter Becker**  
Tri-County Independent  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two houses were burned to the ground, another was badly damaged and neighboring houses were damaged in a multiple-alarm inferno involving a suspected propane explosion at Elk Lake in Clinton Township on the morning of June 11.

Three people in the house where the explosion occurred were taken to Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton for treatment.

Residents witnessed a catastrophic explosion which sent a series of fireballs and a pillar of black smoke high in the air from a house on Sensentine Road. Fire departments were called out around 10:30 a.m. Concussions from the explosion shook houses and broke win-

dows.

Two hours later, firefighters were dousing hot spots. Only rubble remained of the two leveled houses. On the lot to the left as seen from the road, 39 Sensentine Road, only the fireplace and chimney still stood. The explosion occurred at the lot on the right, 41 Sensentine Road, where the occupants

See FIRE, Page 2A

### CLINTON TOWNSHIP

## Data center application is found to be lacking

Planning board turns down project proposal

**Peter Becker**  
Tri-County Independent  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Clinton Township Planning Commission turned down the initial application for the proposed data center near Browndale for incompleteness on June 3. The project, encompassing 20 data storage hall buildings and two proposed natural gas generating centers, has triggered an increasingly organized public response to stop it and leave the wooded tract alone.

The rejection came after a lawyer and engineer for the applicant defended their view that the submission was complete, and the township attorney and residents commented on how they felt it was not. The commission then scheduled an emergency meeting for June 8 following a review of the ordinances they found. The list will be included in a letter from the acting solicitor, Ronald Bugaj, to be sent to the applicant.

Bugaj said that the applicant, Linde Corporation, can then resubmit the application answering the deficiencies. He said that the 90-day clock begins as soon as an application is accepted by the township. Within that time frame, the township must approve or deny the project, or else it is automatically deemed approved.

In a phone interview on June 9, Planning Commission Secretary Joseph Franceski Jr. said that the attorney for the applicant, Michael Mey, argued at the emergency meeting that details may change later in the process.

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## See two Big Boys side-by-side at Steamtown National Historic Site

**Kathryne Rubright**  
Pocono Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The biggest operating steam locomotive in the world will be on display for two weeks this June in Scranton.

Union Pacific's Big Boy No. 4014 can be seen at Steamtown National Historic Site from June 15 to 30, alongside Big

Boy No. 4012.

The Big Boy's East Coast tour is part of the celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

### What are the Big Boys?

Union Pacific commissioned 25 Big Boys to haul heavy equipment during World War II. The locomotives are 133

feet long and weigh 1.2 million pounds, according to Union Pacific's website.

No. 4014 completed 1,031,205 miles before it was retired in 1961. It was restored ahead of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the nation's first transcontinental railroad, celebrated in 2019.

There are eight Big Boys remaining today. No. 4012 is displayed at Steam-

town, and six others are displayed in St. Louis, Missouri; Dallas, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; Denver, Colorado; Green Bay, Wisconsin; and Cheyenne, Wyoming, according to Union Pacific.

Steamtown bills the June reunion as the only opportunity to see two Big Boys together.

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Volume 7 | No. 107  
Contact Us 570-253-3055  
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