

June 26 is D-Day for tax hike

A large number of taxpayers attended Monday night's meeting of the Dallas School Board, many of whom protested the proposed 12 mill increase in the 1978-79 budget.

A spokesman for the Midway Manor Association, representing 125 families, said that members of the association wanted an opportunity to evaluate the budget before its final adoption. He said that the officers of the group had requested an audience with Dr. Richard Shipe, the district's superintendent, and had an appointment to meet with him on Wednesday, June 14.

The spokesman requested that the final adoption of the budget be delayed until the property owners had reviewed it. Board chairman Harry Swepston, Jr. said that there would be no delay and that the final adoption of the new budget would be on June 26 with the possibility of some revisions.

Dr. F. Budd Schooley, president of the Back Mountain Taxpayers Association, stated that he had been in contact with numerous taxpayers in the district who indicated that they were opposed to an increase in millage. Schooley's statement was in contradiction to those taxpayers at a previous board meeting, who indicated that they favored an increase in millage rather than a cut in program.

He also stated that the association's solicitor, Atty. David Saba, was exploring the possibility and legality of placing the tax issue on a ballot, as Saba believes a state referendum would place school finance responsibility on the state legislature.

Dr. Raymond Russin made the statement that he believed that real estate taxes are dependent upon the individual's political productivity. Russin explained that he obtained

real estate assessments from the courthouse on seven of the board members' properties as well as property owned by the district's tax collectors.

Russin also spoke out in opposition to replacing the assistant vice principals. He stated that since the last meeting he had questioned the responsibilities of the assistant principals but that in his judgment no one could give him a satisfactory explanation of their duties.

Jane Carey asked why the district paid the bond for the tax collectors. School solicitor, Atty. Ben Jones, III, said that he believed the Public School Code required that the district pay the bond.

Atty. Basil Russin, board member, stated that as he recalled, it is an option of the board. Russin reminded the audience that he has been opposed to tax collectors' salaries and com-

missions since taking office.

Rev. Lynn Rothrock addressed the board and the audience and said that he didn't appreciate paying high taxes. "But", he said, "when you're talking taxes, you are talking about my daughter and her education. I'd rather pay increased taxes if it gets to the point where my daughter would receive a second-rate education."

He asked the board to use their best judgment in deciding on the final budget for the 1978-79 year. He also said that he appreciates the position of senior citizens on fixed incomes; that he doesn't believe that the present tax structure is fair to them.

In other business the board passed the motion to provide revenue for the district by imposing a tax on individuals for the privilege of engaging in an occupation within the boundaries of Dallas School District, consisting of Dallas Borough, Dallas,

Kingston and Franklin Townships. Said tax will be in the amount of \$10 for general revenue purposes and will be effective Sept. 1, 1978.

The district will enter into a contract with Don Wilkinson Agency for the collection of the Occupational Privilege Tax.

The board also approved the appointment of Jay Pope and Kenneth

Payer as 1978-79 baseball coaches; Joseph Sallitt and Samuel Jayne, track coaches; Mrs. Donna Trebilcox, girls volleyball and softball coach; in the junior high, William Roberts, Patrick O'Brien, baseball; Patrick O'Brien, basketball; William Straitiff, Michael Wayman, track; Mrs. Becky Shuster, girls track.

'Don't stow thrones'...P.4
Diskin the Hypnotist...P.7
Noxen News...P. 16
Congratulations Grads...Sec. II

Only
20
Cents

THE DALLAS POST

Only
20
Cents

VOL. 88 NO. 21

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1978

DALLAS, PA.

Class of '78

Lehman to graduate 129

In its 20th annual commencement, Lake-Lehman High School will graduate 129 students. Commencement and baccalaureate ceremonies will take place on the high school campus at 6 p.m., June 17. The baccalaureate address will be given by the Rev. Charles D. Sherrer, CSC, Th.D., president of King's College.

Greetings and welcome will be extended by Donna Bonham, senior class president, followed by honor orations by

valectorian, Ann Marie Mark, and salutatorian, Sheryl Whitesell. Other speakers will include Valerie Stefanowicz, president of student council, Dr. David Preston, assistant superintendent and James Nicholas, high school principal. Senior awards will be presented by John Oliver, assistant high school principal.

Robert Belles, superintendent, will present the class of '78. Gilbert Tough, president of the board of directors, will present diplomas while John

Zaleskas, assistant high school principal, will call the senior roll. The invocation will be given by the Rev. James W. Pall, chaplain of Wyoming Seminary, and the benediction will be offered by the Rev. Jack Cooper, pastor of Bloomingdale Bible Church. The Lake-Lehman Band, under the direction of John Miliauskas, will provide the prelude and recessional while the Lake-Lehman Chorus, under the direction of Miss Jane Morris, will also participate in the ceremonies.

263 graduate from Dallas

In the 17th annual commencement of Dallas Senior High School, Wednesday, June 14, 162 girls and 101 boys were graduated in ceremonies at the high school campus.

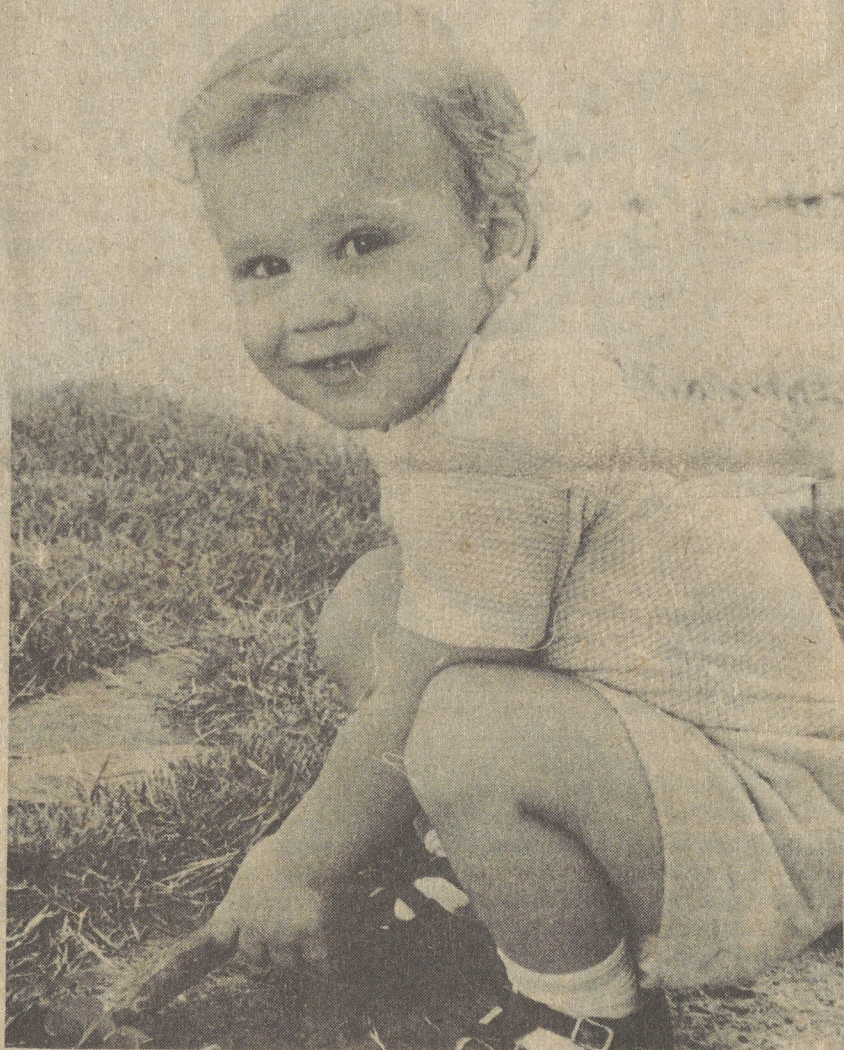
Invocation was offered by the Rev. Lynn H. Rothrock, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church followed by remarks by the senior class president,

Joseph A. Gorko, Jr. introduced by Edgar W. Hughes, Jr., assistant principal.

The Dallas mixed chorus, directed by Mrs. Florence Sherwood, presented the selection "We've Only Just Begun."

Charles Preece, president of Dallas Education Association,

introduced by Dr. Richard A. Shipe, superintendent, spoke on "Our Greatest Investment." Robert Dolbear, high school presented members of the senior class to Harry D. Swepston, Jr., president of the school board who awarded the diplomas. Benediction was delivered by Rev. Rothrock.



I'LL FIX IT-Need anything fixed? I'll fix it, says Ryan Harry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Harry, Carpenter Road, Harveys Lake, as he picks up a hammer at the Idetown Firemen's Fair last weekend. (Photo by Steward Calkins)

HL favors Gamma over Telecable

It was a split decision but Harveys Lake borough council voted Thursday night to award that community's cable television franchise to a new firm, Gamma Corp., despite a strong bid by Back Mountain Telecable.

The vote favoring Gamma was four to three with Mayor Alvin Zim casting the tiebreaker after considering an abstention. The voting included Council Members Guy J. Giordano, Becky Casterline and Andrew Morgus voting 'yes' and Council Members Margaret Purcell, Jack McManus and Bob DeRemer abstaining.

An abstention counts the same as a 'no' vote under council rules. The abstaining council members indicated that they had unanswered questions about Gamma and the technical arrangements being considered.

It was previously reported that the new corporation, represented before council by former Back Mountain Telecable Manager Murph Hislop, was offering the borough a \$2,000 'goodwill' fee plus up to five percent of the gross receipts from the system, if permitted by the Federal Communications Commission.

In addition, Gamma reportedly was offering to add Home Box Office service to the channels available at Harveys Lake.

Yet to be resolved is the new company's relationship with the old, Back Mountain Telecable. Telecable

owner Robert Barni told council members at a previous meeting that there was no such thing as an exclusive contract.

At that time, an executive from Phoenix Corp., Russell Brong, indicated that his was the firm negotiating to buy Back Mountain and that his company would defend its rights in the municipality.

An informed source indicated that Back Mountain Telecable draws a sizable amount of its business volume from service to Harveys Lake.

Council members also noted that a borough garbage collection contract was awarded to Galka-Bean, Noxen, at a post-recess session during the last meeting.

Galka-Bean bid \$9,100 for six months service. One councilman reported that a four-mill tax increase would likely appear on the November ballot to permit the borough to express its wishes on garbage collection. Harveys Lake borough has been one of the few area municipalities to provide garbage collection as a borough service.

The council also reported its appointment of Harveys Lake Democrat Chairman William Shersnas, a former council member, to the borough's zoning hearing board to replace Harveys Lake Republican Chairman Andrew Denmon Jr., who resigned. The council presently consists of six Republicans and only one Democrat.

L-L board delays tax hike

Lake-Lehman School Board directors declined to adopt the 1978-79 budget at Tuesday night's meeting despite earlier indications that they would do so.

Angelo DeCesaris, finance committee chairman, expressed reluctance to adopt a final budget and noted that action at the state level will determine Lake-Lehman's final budget allocations.

According to DeCesaris, Gov. Milton Shapp vetoed allocations of \$50 million for subsidies to local school districts. The legislature has threatened to override the veto, DeCesaris stated, in which case Lake-Lehman stands to receive a substantial subsidy.

The amount of the subsidy, according to DeCesaris, represents either a six mill increase in taxes or a reduction in programs.

"In order that present programs may be continued," he observed, "this money is of major importance."

Lake-Lehman school directors are considering the adoption of a \$4,250,000 budget which includes a 12-mill increase.

Tuesday's meeting was recessed until June 19, 8 p.m., at which time the Board will review the state situation and consider again, a budget for the 1978-79 school year.

HL planners delay okay for Garrity

Harveys Lake's newly organized planning commission agreed Thursday night to take another couple of weeks before approving a subdivision request of some lakeside land as mandated by the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

The ownership of land which Luzerne County Assessor and Lake realtor Thomas Garrity seeks to subdivide is disputed by other Lake property-owners and a previous commission had denied Garrity approval on subdividing. He appealed to the court which ruled that the Garrity interest was sufficient right to subdivide since such a right can even be accessible to a tenant.

The court then ordered the new planning commission to approve the subdivision.

However, Attorney Blythe Evans, representing parties contesting Garrity's ownership of the land, requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the planners and their action Thursday was to oblige Evans.

A special June 20th session was scheduled to permit Evans an opportunity to speak on the matter. Evans will be advised of the opportunity and the decision of the

(Continued on P.4)

Dallas Township Park may open partially by July 4

Dallas Township Board of Supervisors heard Leonard Ziolkowski, representative of the Back Mountain Recreation Commission report that it is hoped the Dallas-Town Mini Park will be partially open for business by July 4th.

Ziolkowski stated that he had talked with Assessor Ted McGuire about getting assessments on the three properties which will complete the proposed park. After the assessments are obtained it will be necessary to apply for money to pay for the properties.

A grant of \$27,000 has already been approved for Dallas Township for recreational purposes and a primary survey has been made by a formal engineering firm.

Ziolkowski noted that if the township can level the ground for the ballfield and help clean up the pond area, volunteers will come and get the park in order for public use. It was hoped that it could be done before school was

out but because of the wet spring it was not feasible.

Chairman Phil Walter said that the supervisors would cooperate as much as possible so that the park could be ready for use this summer. It was proposed last summer but work had been delayed for various reasons.

Dallas Township Supervisors received a letter from the Recreation Board commending them on their cooperation with this project.

Harry Goeringer Jr. was also present at the regular supervisors meeting to present a plot plan of a proposed mini-development which is to be located on the Wyoming Road behind the East Dallas Methodist Church. Walter said that the plan would have to be presented to the Zoning Commission for their approval and then the supervisors would give it their ok. There will be nine homes to begin the project and then more as the development grows.

Residents of Windsor Drive were also present at the meeting to request help in correcting a water problem on their street. Walter and Supervisor Frank Wagner agreed to meet with the residents at the site on Thursday evening to see what could be done.

Elmer Daley, Fern Street, Fernbrook was also present to seek aid in correcting a water problem and to see what could be done about neighbors burning offensive material. Walter said that the road department would check on the road and also said that the police would check on the burning problem.

Residents of Gypsy Lane Road asked that their road be taken over by the township. They were told to have a list of the property owners made up and presented to the supervisors. It is also necessary for the property owners to sign off the right of way to the township in order for the road to be accepted.