

SERVING THE BACK MOUNTAIN



FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS

THE DALLAS POST

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25 Cents

Dallas school board recommends \$3.2 million spending plan

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

After rejecting Superintendent Gerald Wycallis' recommendation to add only two classrooms to the Senior High School, Dallas School Board directors voted to spend \$3,241,382 on a capital improvement program that will add five classrooms to the school at Monday night's meeting, raising the

prospect of a tax increase for the district's property owners.

The program approved will include the addition of four classrooms and an energy management system to the Dallas Elementary School. The Senior High School will get the five classrooms, a new home economics room, boiler replacement, asbestos removal, replacement of windows and skylights, a new band room ceiling,

upgraded labs, and other interior alterations. The classroom work is estimated to cost \$1.4 million and the interior improvements \$850,000.

Work at the elementary school is budgeted for \$650,000.

The addition of five classrooms to the high school was approved by all board members present except John George. James Richardson was absent.

George said that he approved of the addition to the elementary school, but the additional classrooms in the senior high school made no sense to him. He said since the senior high will accommodate more than 900 students and there are only 550 students in the building now, even moving up 150 ninth grade students in September would make a total of only 700 students.

"I don't want to see Dallas High School made into a private school," George said. "This program will mean another tax increase, and most of the Dallas taxpayers can't stand another increase. Why can't we try the high school program for another year or so," George asked, pointing out that residents have just learned that there will be a nearly 16 mill property tax increase from the county.

In answer to George's question about the tax increase, Wycallis said the bond issue would probably be about 7.7 mills but that the district was hopeful that the Pennsylvania Department of Education would cover about 50 percent of the renovation cost.

School board president Ernest Ashbridge told George that pre- See SCHOOL, pg 2

The Post begins 100th publishing year



This week's issue of The Dallas Post is the first in its 100th year of publication. That distinction makes The Post one of the oldest newspapers in the region and in all of Pennsylvania. A year-long series of events and special coverage are planned to celebrate this milestone.

The Dallas Post has been published by many individuals and in many locations in its first century of service to the Back Mountain communities. We are proud to be its stewards during this important time. Its history and that of the region are intertwined, and we hope to relate a bit of both to you during 1989.

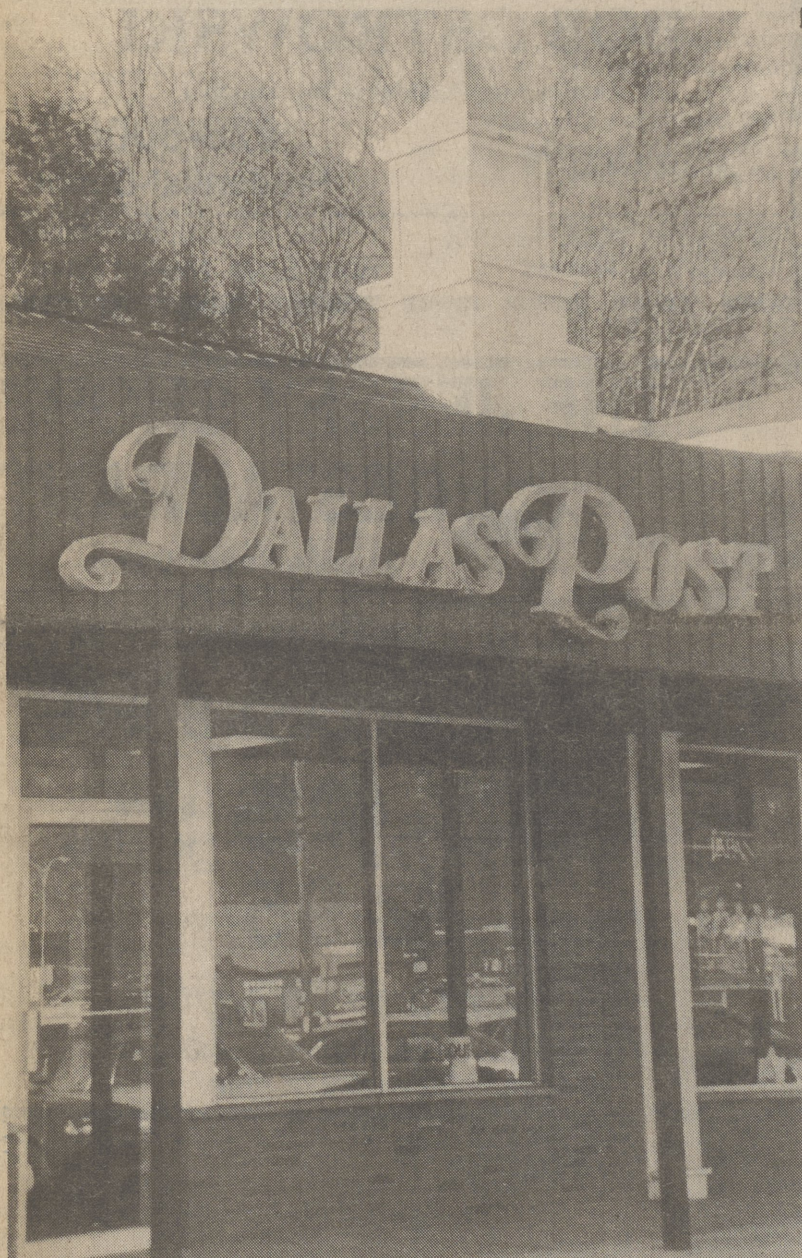
Unfortunately, The Post's files and records have not been kept up as they might have been, so we hope readers will join with us in filling in the many gaps in its story. For example, The Post began publishing in 1889, but the earliest copies of the newspaper that are readily available are from 1929. Those and each year since are in storage at the Back Mountain Memorial Library on Huntsville Road.

Readers can help by sharing with us any old copies of The Dallas Post that they may have in their possession. We would be delighted to add them to the newspaper's historical files, but if anyone has an issue from the years prior to 1929 we would like to at least see and perhaps photograph it. Similarly, we would like to publish stories and photos of the area through the years, so if you have an old photo or a recollection of historical note, please share it with us. We promise to be careful with all materials that are submitted.

These are some things we would most like to locate and share with our readers:

- A copy of the first issue of The Dallas Post. At this time we don't know exactly when the first issue was published, except that it was in the spring of 1889.
- Any issues between 1889 and 1929.
- Photos of Dallas and other Back Mountain communities. Age is not the only criterion for value. A photo of any building or person of historic significance is appropriate.
- Stories that convey a sense of the region in days gone by. If you have a particular recollection that you would like to share, call us and we'll arrange an interview.
- Photos or drawings of buildings in which The Post was located. The newspaper has had several different locations through the years, and we would like to catalogue as many as possible.

We hope our readers will participate in this celebration of The Post's and the area's history. We only get one chance to have a centennial, so let's make the most of it.



1989
The present day home of The Dallas Post is in the 309-415 Plaza on the Memorial Highway.



1898
In its early days The Post was published from this one-room building at the corner of Huntville Road and Norton Avenue.

A history of The Dallas Post's first 100 years
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144 units approved in past 2 years

Development pace heats up in Dallas Township

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas Township and Dallas Borough officials believe that approved developments in their municipalities present no problems and are under control.

Leonard Kozick, Dallas Township zoning officer, said that in the past two years, the township has approved approximately 144 homes to be constructed in developments.

"One hundred and forty four homes have been approved but in the past two years that many homes were not built by the developers who applied," Kozick said.

Kozick explained that in Orchardview Phase 2, 90 homes were approved but to date only 40 have been built. The Bluff Pointe development was approved for 35 townhouses but only nine have been built to date. In the Wedgewood Development along Country Club Road, approval was given for 12 homes but Kozick said only six homes have been built and the Clemson Development on Overbrook Road, designated as Green Brier, was approved for 13 one family homes which have been completed.

"In 1987 55 permits were issued for homes to be built but not all of these were in developments," Kozick said. "This total includes individual lot homes as well as sub-divisions. In the township we have our own planning commission and zoning board as well as an ordinance requiring capped sewers. Each application is thoroughly reviewed and a developer must adhere to all of the township ordinances. Roads, sewers, water lines—all of these are constructed at the developer's expense, not the township's," Kozick said.

"In 1988 75 permits were issued and again not all of these were for homes to be built in sub-divisions," Kozick explained. "No permits are issued until written guarantee is received by a developer that all services such as water, electricity and sewer disposal can be provided. A total of 130 permits for homes has been issued in the past two years, including those on individual lots as well as those in divisions," Kozick stated.

Only 10 units built in Dallas Borough

Chairman of Dallas Borough Council Donald Shaffer said that as far as he knew there is only one development in existence which is recently constructed.

"Village Green, the 10 houses in

the area opposite the Borough playground area is the only development which has been completed in the past two years. It was approved, however, before I came on council," Shaffer said. "It must have been about 1985, I'm not certain, but the homes were built in 1987. Dale & Dale were the developers and they couldn't build until they had satisfied all the requirements of the Luzerne County Planning Commission," Shaffer explained. "Jim Wisniewski did the Stone Hedge Development but that is years ago and although Council approved Edwrd Nelen's application for Deer Meadows to build 49 homes, there will be no building done there until everything is settled."

Sewer main will be moved to Machell Avenue

The sewer main that is now located on Powderhorn Drive in Dallas Borough will soon be moved to Machell Avenue, according to Tom Bagley, manager of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority plant.

"Whether or not the Deer Meadows development is settled, the main is being moved to its originally planned site and residents

Water commission may get state grant for survey

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

A new act which recently went into effect in Pennsylvania may make it possible for the Back Mountain Water Commission to receive a State Planning Assistance Grant, according to information chairman Jim Ward told members of the group at last Thursday's meeting.

Ward explained that the grant will be available from July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990, and will come under the Department of Community Affairs. It will be available for projects such as the commission's proposed survey to determine the quality and quantity of water in the Back Mountain communities. It is a financial assistance grant of 50 percent for participating municipalities which includes the water commission and Back Mountain Citizens' Council as participating groups.

Ward explained that the 50 percent of matching the grant could be in cash or services and the Community Affairs office will send the commission a revised application as soon as it is printed.

Ward also told the members that he had received a complaint from a Kingston Township resident in the Carverton area that the water in his well smelled and tasted like kerosene. The resident said that

he contacted the Department of Environmental Resources about it but they were not interested and Kirby Health Center officials told him that testing would be \$100, which the resident could not afford.

Ward said he referred the resident to the State Health Department.

Commission member Joseph Salla said that using an activated charcoal filter would absorb kerosene and purify the water.

John Molski, secretary of the commission, reported that the

Dallas Water Company's attorney and the Office of the Consumer Advocate's attorney were trying to work out an amicable agreement for handling expansions on the company's service. Molski said the Bluff Pointe development in Dallas Township is connected but there is no water service. A tentative agreement has been discussed that if the new well, tank and service pump that are under construction are on line and adequate water service maintained to present

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Coming up:

DALLAS BOROUGH COUNCIL - Tuesday, January 16, 8:00 p.m., Dallas Borough Building.
DALLAS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS - Tuesday, January 16, 8:00 p.m., Township building.
HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH COUNCIL - Tuesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.
HARVEYS LAKE PLANNING COMMISSION - Monday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.