



Has respect
Mike Shisko of Harveys Lake shows his respect for his community. Last Saturday he and hundreds of others participated in the annual Harveys Lake Recycling Day. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Reader commentary

Expect respect - a motto that could improve our communities

By MARIE L. STOLARICK

Respect. When I was young, "respect" and "grown-ups" were synonymous. I was to respect people as I walked through my town, my neighbor by staying out of his yard, and my parents by returning from the store with their change instead of candy. Respect also kept me from breaking into a fit of cruel laughter at an ugly or retarded person. In that way, learning respect preserved my dignity long before I knew what a "fool" was.

As I grew, I was taught to respect fellow drivers, teachers, and people's behinds in front of my cart at the grocery store.

Some people provoked my respect by their uniforms or profession. Doctors startling white lab coats with oversized pockets stuffed with stethoscopes and lollypops, or a policeman's dark blue attire had a way of distinguishing themselves from the rest of the community. And then there were morticians to whom I gave my respect at a distance, a great distance.

When I caught up in age to the adult world, an abstract dimension of respect grew within me. Courage, love, kindness and beauty were now viewed with tender consideration.

As I drive a half hour to work each morning through the country, I respect the bountiful beauty of nature. How refreshing is the air chilled by the icy, fresh-water stream winding along the road beside me. If I were an artist, my imagination couldn't match the hundreds of different shades of green upturned on every kind of grass, weed, shrub, tree, and vegetable crop. The narrow shoulder of the road oscillates from rough, tapered overgrowth to a deliberate edge from careful yardwork and back again. Delicate wild daisies sway in the breeze giving away the wind's secret hiding places. Horses nibble and spotted cows graze just

inside the threaded wire fences. A pair of ducklings are regular around the small pond near the end of my ride. It's the best part of the day when my thoughts can rest in the Creator's garden of beauty made for us to behold.

Along with the ability to absorb a quiet respect from beauty is the ability to recognize its destruction.

Crumpled soda cans, liquor bottles of every sort, discarded paper cups, even soiled diapers were immobilized along the very roads I described. I could cry. Natural beauty turned into a dump by a careless toss, a lack of respect.

I try, but I fail to feel what a "tosser" feels, or doesn't feel as this trash is flung out the window.

For instance: "This ice-cream sundae was delicious!" — TOSS! Surely the floor of the car isn't so clean that it can't hold a sticky cup until arriving home.

"Yuk! What a stinky diaper!" — TOSS! Come on, this is unthinkable to do!

"Burp. Great beer party. OK, let's split." — TOSS! — SMASH! I guess they think it's cool to leave the empties behind or smash them against the rocks of a clear stream. Is this degrading act the only mark they can make on the world? It makes me wonder if they treat people the same way.

Ask yourself, are you above picking up a paper, a can, a bottle? Have your grown up from the days of "Ah, mom, I didn't throw the toys around, so I'm not picking them up," or would you still say, "It's not my responsibility. I didn't throw that trash."

It's not pleasant to pick up trash whether it be yours that the cats got into last night or someone else's, but it isn't hard either. And it shows respect. And it could teach respect. Get each of your children a pair of gloves and get them involved, too.

Start small. You don't have to assume responsibility for the entire world, or even your block. It helps if you just pick up in front of your house, or an especially dirty section of road that you pass by everyday. You'd be surprised how acutely aware of the garbage you'd become and how it hurts to have new trash thrown in the spot you had just cleaned.

But even the hurting can generate good. Who knows, you may inspire a neighbor or workmate to help you, and they in turn coax another. Soon your town is getting cleaned up, without taxes going up, and a new sense of community pride replaces the apathy you once felt.

Respect expects respect. Who would expect less?
Marie Stolarick lives in Dallas.

Candidates

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weeks, in a series of telephone calls between Wright and himself. When Wright asked for the conditions in writing, Daniels said he supplied them and asked that Wright call if there was any problem.

Asked if the preservation group had at any time thought having a member of their group as moderator was a problem, Daniels replied that they had discussed the possibility.

"We discussed it and we felt that if we were holding a debate, in which the moderator could control the questioning, it would be a problem," Daniels said. But since the questions were to be from the audience, and the moderator only a "timekeeper", they didn't anticipate any problem.

Daniels said he even offered to only introduce the candidates and describe the format, then not participate, if that would avoid any dispute.

Hiller said she thought arrangements were settled last week. She said the other candidates had asked for pre-selected questions rather than open questioning from the audience, but then agreed to a format with opening remarks, questions from the audience and rebuttal time for opposing viewpoints. Hiller said the moderator would only see that established time limits were not abused.

As chairman of his candidates' committee, Wright said he had been trying to negotiate the format of the meeting since early April. "We originally thought the town meeting concept was a good idea," he said. "The incumbents feel they have a good record to run on and it would give them an opportunity to answer questions in a public forum."

Wright said he had sent a letter to Daniels on April 3 with a series of requests for the format of the meeting. He claimed Monday that despite making weekly phone calls to inquire whether there was a problem with his suggestions, he received no reply until Monday, April 17.

Wright said he called Daniels then, assuming that the preservation group had not responded because they didn't like his suggestions. According to Wright, Daniels then offered to accept some of Wright's conditions. Wright

asked to receive a copy of the changes in writing by last Wednesday, but nothing arrived. Wright said that Wednesday night, while he was at a meeting, Daniels phoned his home to tell him that he could pick up the written changes the next day.

Wright said that was too little notice for him, and that the slant of the promotion flyers for the event was enough to convince him that the meeting was an ambush set for the incumbents.

Hiller said Monday the news of the boycott surprised her. "I am absolutely flabbergasted," she said Monday afternoon.

Both sides agree there are pressing problems in the borough. Wright listed financing, street paving and sewer installation as three top priorities of his group. The latter is a point of contention with one of the preservation group's candidates, Hugh King. King has stated publicly that he thinks sewer extensions in the Machell Avenue area are a mistake, and are being installed only to accommodate the Deer Meadows development. Wright said his group thinks every home in the borough that can be connected to sewers should be.

"There are problems in the borough," Hiller said. "You're not going to solve them by hiding from the questions." She went on to say that the issues listed on the flyer promoting the meeting had evolved from the concerns of residents. "These are the issues on everyone's list," she said. The flyer lists water quality, worn roads and increased traffic, disappearing open space and overdevelopment among other points.

Since all the candidates for borough council are Republicans, and no Democrat opposition is expected, the winning candidates in the May 16 primary will probably form the new council.

The preservation association was formed last year after the Dallas Borough Council passed an ordinance rezoning about 33 acres of land off Machell Avenue so that developer Edward Nelen could build 51 homes in the Deer Meadow subdivision. The land had been zoned conservation, which required a minimum of two acre lots.

During the hearings on that action, Hiller had presented a petition she said was signed by 339 borough residents opposed to the plan, but the council would not admit it to the record, saying it should have been presented earlier.

"There's so much more to Dallas Borough than Deer Meadows," Carroll said Monday.

Wright listed the borough's participation in the Back Mountain Communication Center, ongoing street paving and sewer installation and the purchase of a new police cruiser and town truck as accomplishments of the current council.

"Our whole thought is that the taxpayer deserves answers to questions so they can make an intelligent decision on who to vote for," Hiller said. "If they were so right in their positions, they will be welcoming this opportunity to get up in front of the community and present their positions."

"It's time to air it. Certainly both points of view were to be given equal time," Hiller concluded.

Dallas Borough schedules cleanup days for May 2-6

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

In a meeting of the Dallas Township supervisors held Tuesday, April 18, at the Dallas Township building, the supervisors accepted a bid from the Endless Mountain Disposables of Tunkhannock to supply dumpsters at a cost of \$535 each for the Township's Spring Cleanup in May. Other bids received were \$545 per container from Solomon Industries; \$600 per each container from DelVecchio,

Dunmore; and \$650 per each container from J.P. Muscaro, Dunmore.

The supervisors also approved amending Ordinance No. 965-2 to include printing plants in business districts.

Supervisor Frank Wagner reported that the youth of Kunkle United Methodist Church supervised by the women of the church were planning to clean up the highways between Kunkle to the Harveys Lake area, over the weekend.

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