

Dallas Elementary to stage 'Clowns'

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas Elementary School will present the musical 'Clowns', Friday, April 27 at the Dallas Middle School at 7 p.m.

The musical is a young vocal presentation about a group of clowns who must discover the "secret of life" in order to become certified clowns. Fifth and sixth grade students and one second grade class are featured in the presentation.

Directors of the musical are Marry Ann Zezza and Marilyn O'Connell, faculty members, and choreographers are Dan Belotti and Joanne Smith.

A select group "The Peacemakers" will also participate in the program.

The public is invited.



CLOWNS - Featured in the Dallas Elementary "Clowns" musical are above, from left, 'Big Wheel' Scott Townsend; clowns Joey Lynn Walko, Dana Siglin, Amber Silveri; dancer Adrienne Camp; soloists Devin Michael, Kristen Faerber, Jason Campelli; chorus, Melody Dorli, Amanda Cooper putting on makeup; Christy Callahan and Lori Buzin. (Photo by Charlot M. Denmon)

Dallas 'mainstreaming' many special ed students

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

After years of isolating special education children in special schools to meet their needs, for the past several years the trend has been 'Mainstreaming'. That is, placing students with special needs into educational programs within the public schools.

"Dallas has several of these classes," explained Superintendent Gerald Wycallis last week. "Luzerne Intermediate Unit has urged districts to pick up some of these classes for the past several years."

"We have some of our special education children in a class at Dallas Elementary and we have an educable mentally retarded (EMR) group at the Intermediate. We try to get the mildly handicapped into the mainstream of the classes," Wycallis said.

"Mainstreaming means placing the emphasis on letting the handicapped students and the normal students together with certain exceptions," Wycallis explained. "The idea is to place the student where he is able to interact most of the time with his peers while still able to continue the special program he needs."

Wycallis said the district has to let the Department of Education know how much time the special education students will have in mainstream.

"The concept is not bad," he said. "It gives both the special child and the regular students an opportunity to understand each other. It sometimes helps them. In most cases, these students are in classes they can handle."

Wycallis also said that in some of the classes they have students who are physically handicapped but mentally alert. The district has

others spend less time in regular classes and more with the resource teacher. Some need special therapy to get them through during the day.

"Special Education is in debt in the state," Wycallis said. "If the districts would have to pick it up from the LIU's, they wouldn't get any more money than they do now, so all it would do would be to transfer to higher taxes in each district."

"Dallas is only a two percent district (two percent increase per year) and has been the only one for years despite the Constitution of Pennsylvania saying 50 percent."

"Taking over special education programs would cost the district more. If we did, the LIU would have to furlough their special instructors. We would have to have these special resource people and we would have to hire one of them; we wouldn't have any choice. I believe the district should have that choice but it doesn't," Wycallis concluded.

Wycallis favors the program now in effect in Dallas because every student is placed within the least restrictive environment according to his or her needs.

one EMR class and two LD (learning disabled) classes. There are some students who must have a special instructor and often in the school districts there may be only one or two, not enough to be able to employ a special teacher.

Usually, these students are grouped together in classes in various schools. Dallas, for instance, has some in Lake-Lehman, some in Pittston, in Wyoming Area, and in Wilkes-Barre. These classes are taught through the LIU.

In the school's mainstreaming, some of the students spend up to 85 percent in the regular program;

Lake sewers

(continued from page 1)

said that the pollutants mentioned in the letter were found along a roadway where the residents place their garbage. She also said that the pollutant level was not that high.

However, Sewer Manager Richard Boice says that there is a problem with some of the systems used by residents in Hemlock Gardens. "They do have a sewage problem up there," said Boice. "I'll grant you that some of the residents have working systems but there are some who have faulty systems."

There is a home in Hemlock Gardens which officials believe has no sewer system at all. According to the residents, that home belongs to a relative of a borough official. However, there is some question as to whether there is anyone residing at the residence.

WANTS A COMPROMISE

Even though the residents are opposed to connecting to the sewer line, they say they will but not at the price the borough is demanding. Currently, the landowners in Hemlock Gardens will share the cost of putting the system in.

The sewer authority has said that the landowners will have to pay a frontage fee, of \$14.75 per foot to have the system brought in. That adds up to big money for some residents.

Spera estimates his cost to be around \$3,000 by the time it is completed. "That is ridiculous," he said. "They can't guarantee that the price will stay at \$14.75, it could be higher," he added.

However, Boice said that the \$14.75 per foot is the highest that it can go. "The bid has been accepted and the contractor has to meet that agreement. We cannot exceed the cost of the project so the residence are paying what is needed," said Boice.

The residents are asking that some sort of agreement be worked out so that the cost isn't so high for each individual. "We will hook up, if the price is reasonable," said Spera. "But what they want is for us to pay for the system and then they collect the royalties off of it."

Despite the complaints of the citizens, both Wilson and Boice say they do not believe the cost is too high. "Their cost is what is needed to be charged for that project," said Boice.

Lake Little League to ready field

Coaches and parents in the Harveys Lake Little League are asked to attend a work session Saturday, with rakes in hand.

The work starts at 10 a.m. at the Little League field, and is meant to get the field in shape for the coming season.

BENEFITS THE DEVELOPERS?

One of the arguments from the landowners is that a local developer, who owns a number of parcels of land in Hemlock Gardens, will benefit the most from the sewer line.

The parcels are owned by George Ruckno, Inc. of Forty Fort. The road leading to Hemlock Gardens is also owned by Ruckno. According to some of the residents of that area, Ruckno does not maintain the road and they must walk their garbage to the end of the road because the borough will not go up to pick up the garbage.

Many of the residents feel that either Ruckno should pay for a large majority of the cost of the project or the borough should try to take over the road.

The residents also feel that with the sewer lines, Ruckno's parcels will be worth more and could then be subdivided.

Louis Ruckno, a spokesman for the developer, says that he is in favor of extending the system but also says that he had no say in the decision. "We are happy to see the line going in," said Ruckno. "But we just found out about it like everyone else. We did not urge the borough to make this decision."

Ruckno said he is in favor of the sewer line because some of the properties in Hemlock Gardens will not be able to use a standard septic system.

Ruckno says that the company will be paying the same price as

everyone else.

According to Boice, the borough received a release form from Ruckno for use of the road while the sewer line is being installed. Boice also said that it may benefit Ruckno and the rest of the residents to have the borough take over the road.

HANDLED IMPROPERLY

The residents also feel that the sewer authority and the council have not handled the situation professionally. "We are being railroaded," said Schierer. "They won't give us a chance to prove that our systems are functioning."

The residents also say that they were not even contacted about the plan. "I found out when I saw it in the paper," said Spera. "We wouldn't have known about it until they started to dig or we had to pay," he added.

Boice said that this is just another step in the borough's attempt to continue hooking residents to the system. "These people aren't going through anything that others haven't already gone through," he said. "We are looking at extending the system into other areas and those residents will have to connect as well."

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The residents of Hemlock Gardens have contacted an attorney in hopes of stopping the system from coming in, or at least bringing the cost down. Spera said that this was not the way the residents wanted to go with the incident but they were forced into it. "We don't

want to battle the authority, we want to work with it. But these people are giving us any choice in the matter. They say we have to have the sewer and we have to pay for it."

The borough will continue with the project. Boice said he does not know when the extension will be completed but he expects that the work will not take very long.

Wilson said that he hopes that more homes can eventually be put on the sewer line. "Eventually I would like to see every home in Harveys Lake connected," he said.

UNDER INVESTIGATION

The sewer authority is currently under investigation from the Luzerne County District Attorneys office and could face an investigation from the state.

The DA's investigation began after last month's trial of a former borough secretary who was acquitted of embezzling approximately \$37,000 from the municipal authority.

District Attorney Correale Stevens said that his office is looking into the operation of the authority after some testimony given at the trial.

Stevens also said that he has contacted the office of Auditor General Barbara Hafer about the situation. He said that he requested that the state come in and do an audit of the sewer authority. "The tax payers deserve to know what is going on there and what is happening to their money," said Stevens.

A spokesperson for Hafer said that the office has not responded one way or the other to the request. She said that the Auditor General's office mainly does audits where state funds are used.

Harveys Lake Hotel could become deluxe apartments

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Harveys Lake Hotel may be sporting a new look before long, at least if Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Angelicola get their way.

The Angelicola's, of Harveys Lake, are attempting to purchase the hotel and transform it into eight exclusive garden apartments.

Mr. Angelicola and his attorney appeared before the Harveys Lake planning commission Monday night to get preliminary approval for the plans to make the building into three-bedroom apartments.

According to borough ordinances, Angelicola must receive joint approval of the planning commission and the borough's

zoning hearing board before he can proceed with the plan.

Angelicola said that the plans to make the hotel into the apartments would be beneficial to the borough. Currently, the hotel is gutted in the upstairs portion and there is a bar in the lower level of the building.

Angelicola says the plans to turn the building into apartments complies with borough ordinances except in two areas where a variance may be needed. These however will be considered at a future time.

The planning commission gave preliminary approval and recommended that the zoning hearing board give its approval. The zoning hearing board will meet next week to consider the proposal.

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