

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

If group home is a business, should anything be done?

There seems little question that a Dallas Township group home in which five mentally retarded men live is essentially a boarding house. The owner of the property is paid a fee to house and care for the residents, and he surely earns a profit at it. The issue then becomes whether or not such group homes should be treated differently than businesses that cater to non-handicapped persons. The answer is likely to come from federal anti-discrimination statutes rather than the lawsuit filed against the home by township supervisors.

Should the rules that are applied to other individuals and institutions be modified to accommodate the handicapped? That is what must happen in order to justify a group home in many municipalities, and almost without exception the attempt to establish one has met with resistance from neighbors. The protests are always presented in economic terms as property owners claim that plunking a commercial venture in their neighborhood will lower values. But lurking in the shadows is the suspicion that unsubstantiated fear of those who are different plays a part in the opposition.

Some of the Dallas home's neighbors say that opposition to the home would have subsided if the owner had approached them and explained his intentions. That's possible, but unlikely because in fact the economic arguments against the home hold some merit. What must be decided is whether or not the humanitarian value of providing a homelike atmosphere for the retarded outweighs individual concerns about property value. Each of us should consider that question, since the answer says a lot about our society.

Time to heal wounds in Dallas Borough

The battle over rehiring the summer recreation director in Dallas Borough has been bruising at times, but now that it has been settled, we hope all parties can accept the outcome and move on to more constructive tasks.

Like protests against rumble strips that were installed on Route 309—and are soon to be filled—the confrontation began when citizens rose to protest what they saw as improper action on the part of borough officials. In both cases officials had moved quickly and without notice, perhaps in the belief that their fast action was the most efficient way to make decisions for the community.

But democratic government is not particularly efficient, nor is it meant to be. Our system is designed to give each citizen ample time and information to draw his or her own conclusions on issues, and to wield the power of the vote.

Credit should be given to Dallas Borough's council members, who responded to public concerns and in this case reversed an earlier decision. That's no easier for a public official to do than for anyone else, and it becomes much more public. Now it's time for residents and officials alike to bury the hatchet and move ahead. One constructive move would be for the borough to invite members of the public to sit in on committee meetings so that future misunderstandings are avoided.



Maginificent magnolias

(Post Photo/Charlotte Bartizek)

Letters

Woman says neighbors went too far in shooting her pets

Editor:
On Saturday, March 30, our 1 1/2 year old Welsh Corgi and 6 year old German Shepherd were shot and killed by a small farm owner. Our dogs were accused of killing 25 ducks and 4 rabbits.

Although we were not certain that they had indeed done all of this, we talked with the farm owner and made arrangements to compensate them \$200 for their animals as a show of good faith. They warned us that the dogs would be shot if they were on their property again.

Therefore, we bought a garage door opener to make certain the door was down, covered our kennel, bought a chain and collar for Woofie, the shepherd. I begged the farmers to refrain from shooting the Corgi since we could confine him and he was a valuable dog. Emotionally, they both were, but the Corgi was to breed another Corgi and he was not as much the villain as the shepherd.

We made every effort to confine the dogs and had had a man come in to give us an estimate for a fence for our yard. Since that was \$990.00, we were contemplating that possibility and had come to the conclusion that we needed to find a good home for Woofie to solve our problem.

That took about four days, but the girl wanted to wait for the weather to break before taking my daughter's beloved Woofie.

On Tuesday, March 26, I went to the farm owners' house to pay the second payment for the animals claimed to have been killed. I told her that we had found a home for Woofie and asked if they had been bothered since the first incident because our dogs had been confined and, if there had been a problem since, it was not our dogs doing it. She replied no and I once again asked her not to kill Rugby,

our Corgi, since we had a kennel to confine him. She reiterated that she would shoot them.

On Friday, March 29, I came home late, raised the garage door, drove in not realizing the dogs were in the garage. Five minutes later, when I discovered the disappearance of the dogs, I went frantically searching but it was foggy and dark and I couldn't find them. At 1:30 a.m. I was still awake so I went searching again to no avail.

At 6:00 a.m. I was awakened by the police who informed me that my "neighbors" had shot our dogs and that we were to come and get them. My husband who had been out looking for the dogs, arrived at that moment, while my son was awakened by my crying. They both went to pick up our "bagged-up" pets and brought them home to bury them.

Since then, we have been summoned to appear before the magistrate to pay for the farmers' ducks and rabbits. Nobody is compensating us for our loss. We miss our pets and I'm sure they miss their animals, but it seems that they could have used a BB gun or buckshot or fired over their heads. The dogs were terrified of guns. Instead, they chose to kill the dogs.

In the past, there have been many dogs in our yard, one ferocious one. We have had rabbits and dogs have tried to get into them. Shooting someone's pets never occurred to us.

My son, my daughter, my husband, and I are devastated by the loss and enraged by the manner of death. I guess this why we write to soothe the pain and vent the rage. It is better than retribution.

Sincerely,
Florence L. Finn
Dallas

Urges citizens to support Rose sale for Diabetes Association

Editor:
April 15 begins the 1991 kick-off for the 3rd Annual Mother's Day Rose Sale for the American Diabetes Association in Luzerne County.

This year over 25 community groups and over 500 volunteers have made the commitment to do their part to put an end to Diabetes, a major cause of death in our country, with the raising of badly needed funds to pay for the research that is going to make that happen!

To place an order, by our deadline on May 3rd, simply contact any local member of the American Diabetes Association or call our office at 823-3355 to receive an order form, or stop by and pick up an order form at our second floor office in the Kirby Health Center, 71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Again, cost of a dozen, boxed, long-stem red roses is only \$18 a dozen. A real Mother's Day Bargain! Rose order pick-ups, at various community locations, are on May 10 or May 11.

We at the Luzerne County Chapter of the American Diabetes Association are excited and grateful for the tremendous support we have already received on this project and would like to invite all other members of our community to join with us to make the Diabetes condition, a thing of the past!

As always, "Thanks a Bunch!" (Roses, of course!)

Charles Wasserott IV
General Chairman
1991 ADA Mother's
Day Rose Sale

Letters invited

The Dallas Post encourages readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters for publication must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify their authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Letters received by Noon on Monday may be included in that week's issue.

Library news

Library to raise money for sign honoring Gulf War soldiers

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The 1991 Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction is scheduled for July 3 through the 7th, with Monty Evans as General Chairman. Ernest Ashbridge will be Antiques chairman and, in addition to antiques, Ernie has come up with a special fund raising project during the auction.

The proceeds of which will be used to purchase a special lighted library sign to be installed in the front of our building. The sign will be dedicated to all the Back Mountain men and women who served during Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf.

This sign will be an important addition to our library as there is no place on the building on Huntsville Road which designates this as the library.

More information on this special fund raising event will be forthcoming in the near future. We hope the community will support this event and help us to dedicate a much-needed addition to our library to the men and women of our armed forces.

Our library was decorated with story boxes made by the 1st grade classes of Gate of Heaven School during National Library Week. They included 'Bambi' by Elizabeth Cusina; The car race by Angelo Roocha; Old McDonald's Farm by Nick Joseph; Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Melissa Everitt and Christmas Day by Kristel Carter. Another highlight of National Library Week at the library was the delivery of a dozen donuts from a friend for the staff.

The Book Club membership for 1991 has reached a total of 198. The Book Club dues is \$10.00 for a single and \$15.00 for a double membership and may be paid at the library. The special shelf of

book club books is available for borrowing to Book Club members.

The library conducted a drawing contest for children from preschool to grade 2 as part of the National Library Week celebration. The entries at Back Mountain winning awards were: St. Mary's School, Grade 1; 1st Rachel Soroka; 2nd, Maria Melf and 3rd Kristen Masloski. Westmoreland School, Grade 1, 1st Carl Schiel, 2nd Stephanie Lutz and 3rd, Ryan Chlubieki.

Westmoreland, Mrs. Kirk, 1st, Lance Mekeel; 2nd, Vicky Tasselmyer and 3rd, Herby Bressler; Westmoreland Kindergarten, 1st, Christopher Webb; 2nd, Joshua Brokefield and 3rd, Laura Raczkowski.

The grand winner was Carl Schiel and his drawing will go to the Osterhout Library in Wilkes-Barre to compete in Luzerne County with other library winners. Other winners in Kindergarten, Lehman Jackson, 1st, Annie Higgins; 2nd, Chris Baloga and 3rd, Dale Radginski.

A new book at the library is "Eminent Dogs; Dangerous Men" by Donald McCaig. It is the story of searching through Scotland for a Border Collie. It takes us on a splendid journey through rural Scotland, where champion Border Collies and the shepherds who raise them demonstrate how the relationship between man and animal can ennoble both.

The characters here, both human and animal, are unforgettable. A stirring book not only for dog lovers, but for all who are fascinated by our desire, human and animal, to hear and respond to each other. The landscape resonates with legends.

THE DALLAS POST
Published Weekly by Bartsen Media, Inc.
P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
Telephone: 717-675-5211

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Property transfers

Property transfers recorded at the Luzerne County Court House from April 11, 1991 to April 17, 1991. Prices are extrapolated from transfer taxes paid. Money transfer are exempt from tax, so no amounts are shown.

Gomer I. Elston to Dale L. Elston, RR 1, Box 178, Dallas, property 7.7289 acs., Dallas Twp.

Hale Bronson to Wm. J. Bronson, RR 3, Box 185D, Hunlock Creek, property 1.0 acre, Lake Twp. Estate Dorothy Harrison LaBar to Floyd Wolfe, RR 3, Box 84, Main Rd., Hunlock Creek, property 1.10 acres, Ross Twp., \$82,500.

Beverly Perrego to Beverly Perrego, Box 38A, Dallas, property Demunds Rd., Dallas Twp.

Estate Carl Gries to Mark Alan McLaughlin, 2408 Lower Demunds Rd., Dallas, property Lower Demunds Rd., Dallas Twp., \$62,000.

Estate Arthur R. Gosart to Robbin Uzdella, PO Box 294, Shavertown, property Harveys Lake Rd., Harveys Lake, \$12,500.

Harry Salavantis to Lewis E. Lisses, 70 N. Lehigh St., Shavertown, property Field Ridge, Dr., Kingston Twp., \$31,500.

James F. Rittenhouse Jr. to Edward D. Husted, 13 Highland Dr., Dallas Twp., property High

land Dr., Dallas 1wp., \$110,000. Diodato Bassano to Wm. R. Puchalsky Jr., 48 Valley View Park, Dallas, property L21, Midway Manor, Kingston Twp., \$98,000.

Robert A. Supey to June Supey, 164 Highland Ave., Trucksville, property L18, Trucksville, Kingston Twp.

Scott Le May to Joseph Thomas De Graba, 32 Yeager Ave., Dallas, property Yeager Ave., Dallas Twp., \$87,500.

Estate Dorothy E. Roberts to Joseph M. Salvo, 1050 Sheffield Rd., Shavertown, property Sutton Rd., Jackson Twp., \$40,000.

Ruth E. Wasserott to Charles S. Yurkon, Box 490 James St., Dallas, property James St., Dallas Twp., \$112,500.

Mary Montross to Harry Montross, RR 1, Box 66, Noxen, property 32 acres 50 perches, Lake Twp.

Harry Montross to James P. Flynn Jr., RR 3, Box 13A, Harveys Lake, property Tulip Rd., Lake Twp., \$2,500.

David Scherer to David J. Phillips, property 711 Pleasant Dr., Edwardsville, property 11.619 ac., Dallas Twp., \$29,500.

Wm. R. Morris to Dena Ann Miles, 15 N. Lehigh St., Shavertown, property Overbrook Rd., Dallas Twp.

Congressman agrees with editorial about energy plan

Editor:
Thank you for forwarding a copy of your editorial to me regarding the need for a U.S. energy policy. I enjoyed reading it and I agree that our priority should be energy efficiency, not increased production.

Since coming to Congress I have been a staunch advocate of a comprehensive national energy plan. In 1988, I contacted the speaker of the House of Representatives and urged him to create a select bi-partisan committee to develop and legislate a national energy policy. Unfortunately, no such committee was initiated in the 101st Congress. With the onset of the 102nd Congress, I am pleased to see that more Members of Congress, as well as the Administration, are finally beginning to take seriously the need for a comprehensive national energy plan.

Thus, while I applaud President Bush for introducing legislation in this area, I would have preferred to see more emphasis in his bill on conservation and research and development of alternative fuels. I was also dismayed to see that the Administration's policy, if enacted, will perpetuate our nation's dependence on oil.

As you are probably aware, the President's "National Energy Strategy Act" was formally introduced on March 6, 1991. Although no comparable omnibus legislation has been introduced in the House,

there are a number of smaller bills that together address the same issues. Many of these bills have been introduced in previous Congresses.

These alternative proposals include measures to mandate or encourage energy efficiency, require oil importers to donate oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, grant a tax incentive for producing energy from renewable resources and ease licensing for natural gas pipelines. There is also legislation in the works dealing with federally mandated fuel efficiency standards for auto makers.

During the next few months, Congress intends to take a long hard look at all of the proposals that have been put forth. I will be certain to follow these debates closely, for in the end, my goal is to develop and support an energy plan that will help us preserve our natural resources yet continue to allow us to grow.

Thank you again for sharing your column with me. The issue of a national energy policy is a very important one. All of us need to do our part to save energy and change our energy habits, and our national policy is the place to start.

Paul Kanjorski
Member of Congress
11th District, PA