



## Fun at the Festival

There was plenty to do at the Arts at Hayfield Summer Festival held Sunday at Penn State, Wilkes-Barre. Above, Danny Evans, 4, of Hunlock Creek got his face painted by Willy Baker. At right, Jacqueline Haglieri of Clarks Summit displayed her crafts. She calls herself the "Bag Lady."  
(Post Photos/Charlotte Bar-tizek)



# Dallas Boro, Township ink trash pact despite objections

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Despite a large turnout of angry citizens, Dallas Township and Dallas Borough officials at separate meetings August 20 approved the ratification of a garbage service contract between the Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) and Danella Environmental Technologies.

In the contract, Danella is named as the sole contractor for pickup of trash and recyclables in the communities. That fact and complaints by other haulers who have lost customers have caused weeks of controversy and complaint against the new program, which was instituted July 1.

Busloads of residents and some who came in cars crowded into the Dallas Township meeting room displaying signs against the program and shouting at the officials prior to the opening of the meeting.

In a not always successful effort to maintain order, board chairman Phil Walter explained that one person at a time should speak, first giving his or her name.

Benjamin Burket of West Wyoming addressed the supervisors, "I rent three apartments in the Back Mountain. Who pays the fee, the tenants or do I have to pay it?" he asked. Walter told him his tenants should pay the fee, either to him or to DAMA. Walter suggested Burket call DAMA for the proper procedure.

Jerry Devlin, 42nd Street, Dallas, said he wanted to clarify that the residents were not against recycling but do not like the way the program was handled. He presented the supervisors with a petition signed by many residents and a letter asking the officials not to sign the contract.

Dave Mosier read the letter, then asked why the township did not apply for a grant to offset some of the cost of the program.

"We cannot tolerate actions of neglect. If you do not adhere to our requests we will take any action necessary to force you," Mosier said.

When an unidentified person in the group asked who decided to have DAMA select this program, supervisor Frank Wagner explained that all of the officials from the three municipalities approved the program in June. Township solicitor Frank Townend said that

the program had been discussed last spring and was well advertised in the spring, and that all meetings were well advertised.

"Two years ago we had a meeting with the haulers and asked them about recycling and they told us no," said Wagner. "In the past 20 years we went to bat for the private haulers many times. It has to end sometime." He also said that in September, a grant can be applied for but it will be for equipment only.

Despite the residents' objections, Wagner, Walter and supervisor Glenn Howell signed the contract and explained that adjustments may be made to the program for residents who generate little or no trash.

"A committee of representatives will be formed from each municipality to evaluate complaints and try to work something out," Walter said.

### Borough meeting quieter

Fewer residents were at the Dallas Borough meeting and acted in an orderly manner when council president Tim Carroll said he was allowing 30 minutes for Dallas Borough residents only to speak about the garbage program.

"Each person may speak for no more than five minutes after first giving your name and address," Carroll said.

James Davis, Davenport Street, Dallas, spoke first, telling council he had a copy of a petition signed by Back Mountain residents protesting the program as it was now in effect. He presented council with the petition as well as a letter from Dallas Borough residents asking council not to sign the ratification of contract.

Davis also asked why the borough did not apply for grants and Carroll answered that since DAMA was the agent, DAMA would be the one to apply for a grant which could be used only for equipment.

Council member Pat Peiffer explained that people in the state are looking at 1993 and 1994 for all municipalities to be mandated to recycle.

"If Dallas Borough went into recycling alone, we would have no site but behind the Borough building," Peiffer. "DAMA did a lot of research and study and did it the most economically. DAMA is looking at grants and will apply when it

can," she said.

"Anyone doing your own recycling can do it," said councilman Jerry Machell. "If you can find someone to take it."

Borough manager Milt Lutsey then brought up the problem of trash being burned by homeowners. "We should eliminate the burning barrels in the borough. We have been getting complaints that people are burning all kinds of items in barrels and the odor is terrible. Composting grass and branches are illegal," said Lutsey.

Joseph Smee, Charles Street, Dallas, asked, "How was the amount for garbage determined? I put out one bag of garbage every three weeks; why should I have to pay every week when I only put out one every three weeks."

"We signed an ordinance with DAMA and we are going to try to work it out. We advertised the program three times for the May meeting before the ordinance was passed and no one showed up. Now everyone is showing up complaining. Where was everyone in May?" asked Carroll.

"Are recyclables really being recycled," asked Joan Oliver of Lake Street.

"At the last DAMA meeting they told how much was recycled and the kinds," said Carroll. "If it wasn't recycled they wouldn't have that information."

"We passed an ordinance on the basis of which DAMA entered into a contract with Danella. If we don't ratify we will open the borough to a lawsuit," said council member Robert Brown.

When it came to the vote to ratify the contract, however, Brown voted 'no' because he said he didn't understand why it was necessary to ratify it the way the contract was worded since the borough had already approved DAMA as their agent to hire Danella.

Carroll, Don Cooper, Harold Brobst, Jerry Machell, and Pat Peiffer voted in favor of ratifying the contract. Council member Donald Shaffer was absent.

Most of the residents left after the discussion on garbage collection and the borough council conducted the balance of their regular meeting.

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