

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

Kingston Township budget meetings were a step ahead

They may not have seemed like much, but the open budget meetings held October 30 and November 7 in Kingston Township were a step forward for relations between citizens and their government.

The usual budget procedure is for officials to gather information and recommendations, formulate a budget at present it to the public for two required readings. By then it's usually too late for citizens to have any influence on the plan.

But things were different this year in Kingston Township. The two work sessions to which the public was invited opened the process to any taxpayers who wished to attend, and gave them the chance to comment on the budget before it was finalized. While there is no mechanism by which officials can be forced to follow the public's wishes, at least the options were discussed openly.

In many states, each year's municipal budgets must be approved by a majority of voters, giving the people who must pay the bills direct influence on planned spending. Most years the budgets sail through unscathed; at other times, especially given recent economic pressures, budgets are voted down several times until an acceptable plan is put forward.

Pennsylvania law denies the taxpayer the opportunity to pass judgement on budgets, and limits it to the election of the officials who formulate the spending plans. In Kingston Township, at least citizens have been invited to review the plan and process as it takes place.

Election message: Was there one?

Did last week's elections define the future political agenda? It all depends how you look at the results.

Harris Wofford's smashing victory in the U.S. Senate race appeared to send a wake-up call to Washington, with the message that issues like universal health insurance and extended benefits for the unemployed are important to the majority of voters. But just over the state line, Democrats were thrown out of the New Jersey Legislature wholesale for their support of higher taxes. So, which is it America; do you want more services or less taxes? Or do you cling to the myth that we can have both?

In some cases, such as health care, we may in fact be able to have our cake and eat it too. On average, we spend about twice the share of our total economy on health care as do other industrialized nations, yet we have fewer people covered. There's no logical reason for this, and if we have the courage to reform our present system, the result can be overall better care at lower cost.

Reform of health care may stand a chance less because of Wofford's victory than because middle class Americans are now being affected by the inequities in our existing system. What formerly was a problem only for poor people who lived in the ghetto has now visited us or our neighbor. As many have learned recently, when you lose your job, you lose your health insurance, and purchasing coverage individually is prohibitively expensive.

But health care may be the exception. In other areas such as transportation, the United States is reaching the point that massive investment is needed and it's unclear where the money will come from. Where it shouldn't come from is obvious; we would be dangerously irresponsible to simply add to the national debt and pass the bill on to our children and grandchildren. So, if we want more and better services, we're going to have to pay for them, in cash.

The naysayers would have us believe that virtually all government spending—except possibly for defense—is bad and unnecessarily sucks money from the private sector. But that's simply not true; taxes and fees don't just take money, they direct resources. If gasoline becomes more expensive because of higher taxes, for example, entrepreneurs will be spurred to develop alternative fuels and auto manufacturers to engineer more efficient vehicles.

Hopefully the message in these elections was that the American people are ready and willing to face up to their responsibilities and that we want political leaders who will do the same.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.



Spreading seeds for next year

Photo by Charlotte Bartizek

Letter

Diabetes Association needs your support

Editor:

Fourteen million Americans have diabetes, a chronic disease with serious complications and half the people don't realize they even have diabetes. Anyone can get diabetes, children and adults alike. It is vitally important to be aware of the warning signs of diabetes and to seek immediate medical care.

Insulin dependent diabetes is most common in children and young adults. Parents as well as teachers or people working with children should be aware of the symptoms and warning signs. They include: Frequent urination, abnormal thirst, excessive hunger, rapid weight loss, irritability, obvious weakness and fatigue, nausea and vomiting. Prompt attention could mean life for you or your child.

Non-insulin diabetes usually occurs after the age of 40. It may

include any of the previously mentioned signs as well as: Drowsiness, itching, family history of diabetes, excessive weight, tingling numbness in feet, skin infection and slow healing. Diabetes is a chronic disease which if left untreated can lead to serious complications and even death. We urge you to consider these symptoms. If they appear suddenly, see a doctor immediately.

Over 16,000 people in Luzerne County presently have diabetes. One in 600 are children. The American Diabetes Association Luzerne County Chapter located at the Kirby Health Center, 71 N. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, (823-3355) is leading the fight against diabetes.

There is information on diabetes available, support groups for people with diabetes for sharing and coping skills, as well as a

parent support group for parents with children who have diabetes. The focus is on keeping current with proven methods of controlling diabetes, as well as living successfully with this chronic disease. The Luzerne County Chapter of the ADA is ready to help families, children and elderly in our community successfully manage their diabetes.

Some 150,000 people will die this year as a result of diabetes. Every year 12,000 people lose their sight from diabetes and it causes half of all leg amputations in America. It is a serious, chronic disease and the only way to end it is with your support. You can make a difference by supporting research and educational programs. We need your support during this National Diabetes Month.

Fred W. Reschauer
Volunteer

Library news

2nd printing of cookbook now available

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library is planning for its annual Christmas tea which will be held on Monday, December 16 at 1:30 in the reading room of the library. Friends of the Library members and interested persons from the community are invited to attend the tea and the special Christmas program which will be presented.

Children's Book Week will be celebrated from November 11 through the 16th. The theme for 1991 is "PowPow With Books". Students from College Misericordia's children's literature course present programs on children's books to the members of the Story hours on Wednesday, the 13th. There will be bookmarks and other items available for the children to take to commemorate the special week at the Back Mountain Library.

The library has received a shipment of the "Chefs and Artists" cookbooks from the second printing and they are available for purchase at the circulation desk in the library.

The November meeting of the Book Club will be held on Monday, Nov. 18 at 1:30 in the reference room at the library. The program will consist of members bringing

their own "Show and Tell" items from home for discussion. Guests are invited.

New books at the library: "Happy Endings" by Sally Quinn begins with a drama that stuns America and moves from romance to suspense to surprise. It is a story of passionate, sensual love—and commitment. It's the tale of two extraordinary women: Sadie Grey, former First Lady and Allison Sterling, star reporter. The story shows us Washington and all its worlds. It shows us women facing changes they didn't expect and finding out what really matters.

"No Greater Love" by Danielle Steel is a novel that portrays the full breadth of human emotions as it sweeps us back to a dramatic moment in history no one will forget. The sinking of the Titanic

comes alive through the Winfield family and their experiences in those terrifying moments. It is the story of people on a voyage of the greatest ship ever built and brings a new authenticity and immediacy to the Titanic disaster and its impact on survivors.

"The Love Child" by Catherine Cookson brings vividly to life a cross-section of 19th century England and its people, offering a dramatic example of the battle against human cruelty, and of the restorative power of love. It is the tale of a family of outcasts as they triumph over the narrow-minded community in which they live. It shows us one woman's enduring spirit and heart-warming romance. The story is set in Northern England.

'Y' offers No School Day program

The Wilkes-Barre YMCA, a United Way Agency is announcing its No School Day program.

The No School Day program is designed to give the youth of our area someplace to go when they have a day off from school. It is a recreation program for children ages 5-14, which consists of recreational and structured gym classes, swimming, arts, crafts, field trips and much more.

Programs are planned for Nov. 29 and Dec. 2. Children can be dropped off at the YMCA from 7:30-9 a.m. and can be picked up from 4-5 p.m. The children will need to bring a swim suit, towel, gym shorts, T-shirt, white socks, sneakers and a lunch. Drinks will be provided.

For additional information please call the YMCA at 823-2191.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Nov. 13, 1931 ITS A GOOD YEAR FOR TURKEYS

Roland S. Stevens, former Dallas boy has been promoted from eastern buyer of hardware for Montgomery Ward & Co. with offices in Baltimore, Md. to district merchandise manager.

A turkey crop of unusually good quality will be available for the housewife's Thanksgiving selection according to the Federal State crop reporting service.

Wed - Maple McHenry to Lewis Labar; Marion Nelson Williams to Herman Kern.

50 Years Ago - Nov. 14, 1941 MYSTERY PERSON PLEDGES \$100 FOR DALLAS BAND

An anonymous donor has promised to give \$100 to Dallas High School band for the purchase of additional uniforms if the Band Parents Association will match it with \$100.

Forty nine new members were initiated into Dallas Junior Woman's Club at its annual birthday dinner attended by 150 women of Irem Temple Country Club, Wednesday evening.

"The Haunted High School" will be presented by the senior class of Dallas Township High School, Wednesday, Dec. 3, directed by J. Lloyd Drake, senior class advisor.

Engaged - Lillian Ward to Sgt. Richard Huddy.

Wed - Julia Matukitis to Robert Pickett; Marin Eipper to Pvt. Allen Ockenhouse; Ruth Ross to Ernest Gay.

40 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1951 LAND PURCHASED FOR IDETOWN DEVELOPMENT

The 1952 Dodge will go on display Saturday morning at L.L. Richardson's show room on Lakewood Street, Dallas in conjunction with an open house of the completely remodeled sales and service agency.

Capt. Luther D. Kocher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Kocher of Noxen, celebrated his 21st birthday on Oct. 29 in the Philippines.

Whitesell Brothers, local building contractors have purchased 96 acres of land at Idetown and will shortly open a new building development there.

Dallas Township unleashed a crushing ground offensive to topple Tunkhannock 26-0 Monday afternoon at Dallas Township.

Engaged - Ruth Elizabeth Drake to Paul D. Wasserott Jr.

30 Years Ago - Nov. 9, 1961 REPUBLICANS SWEEP BACK MOUNTAIN ELECTIONS

Republican candidates for County and local political office swept to victory in the Back Mountain region during Tuesday's General Election in many instances with 3-1 majorities.

The day after the new Correctional Institute at Dallas was dedicated, the third prison break within five months occurred. The prisoner was apprehended in less than an hour and a half.

Civil Defense meeting is set for Wednesday Nov. 15, at Lehman High School gymnasium in which questions relative to construction and importance of fall-out shelters will be discussed.

Engaged - Theresa Reinard to Charles Hayes Jr.

Saturday will be a must day as Dallas hopes to upset a powerful, unscored upon Wyoming eleven at Wyoming Stadium at 2 p.m.

20 Years Ago - Nov. 11, 1971 LEHMAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS DISAGREE ON SEWERS

A sewer controversy erupted at Oak Hill with six members of Lehman Township Taxpayers Association against a sewer system and five residents of the development speaking for a cross-section of Oak Hill citizens expressing opposing opinions.

Lehman's Board of Supervisors joined a growing number of Back Mountain municipal governments protesting the proposed increase in electric rates by U.G.I. Corp.

A Dental Unit was added to Rural Health Corporation's growing list of services at the Harveys Lake-Noxen Center.

Dallas Mountaineers defeated West Side Central Catholic 16-14 at its homecoming game last Saturday. Holly Phillips was crowned Dallas Homecoming Queen.

The "B" Division leading Lake-Lehman Black Knights scored once against a strong Coughlin eleven to evade a shut out Saturday night by a score of 30-6.

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P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612
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Ronald A. Bartizek
Editor and Publisher

Charlotte E. Bartizek
Associate Publisher

Peggy Young
Advertising Acct. Exec.

Eric Foster
Reporter

Paul Rismiller
Production Manager

Olga Kostrobala
Classified/typesetting

Jean Hillard
Office Manager

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