

## Meadows Center residents say 'nuisance tax' unfairly applied

Ask anyone about taxes and they'll probably give you several reasons why they're unfair, but some Dallas school district residents feel they're being hit with one that's truly inequitable.

In 1954 the district enacted an Act 511 "nuisance tax" of \$10, according to Dallas Township tax collector Len Kozick.

Anyone older than age 70 was exempt from paying it until 1990, when solicitor Ben Jones said the district must tax everyone because it was unconstitutional to exempt anyone.

Residents of The Meadows Apartments, all retired and on fixed incomes, suddenly found they had another bill to pay. However, everyone didn't receive a tax bill.

Margaret Williams, who has lived at The Meadows Apartments for 12 years, says between 12 and 20 of the tenants pay the \$10 tax. The rest don't.

"It's not fair that we have to pay and the others don't," she

said. "I would pay it willingly if everyone else did too. Some people have lived here as long as I have and have never had to pay."

She and neighbor Sarah Williams called the district, Senator Charles Lemmond, Congressman Paul Kanjorski and school board members to no avail.

"I know two ladies, one 87 and the other 91, who still pay the \$10, along with the \$5 per capita tax," Sarah Williams said.

Kozick agreed that everyone in the district doesn't get hit for the \$10.

"The county assessor's office gives the townships a list of people who have to pay it," he said. "The unfair part is that people move out and aren't deleted from the county's list, while others move in and aren't added. I know it's happened at The Meadows."

by Grace R. Dove

## School tax

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Noxen Township, Wyoming County, calculated at 108 mills, it's \$540.

"This tax is probably the way school districts will have to go in the future," Hasay said. "The present real estate taxes are deterring new construction. This tax will give people a choice in how they pay their school taxes. They should study it to determine their savings."

The estimates reflect only an average for the entire district. Actual figures for individual homeowners could vary widely.

For example, Lake-Lehman's Luzerne County municipalities contain large amounts of undeveloped land, whose owners often pay only \$50 or \$100 in real estate taxes, according to district finance manager Ray Bowersox.

The district could face another glitch with its Wyoming County residents, who are assessed at a different rate, he added.

However the proposed new tax might not be as good as it looks. While Dallas, which collected \$1,440,274 in earned income tax in 1995, will benefit, districts such as Lake-Lehman, which has more retired and low-income residents and collected \$950,000 last year, may not.

Representative Phyllis Mundy believes real estate tax reform should go further. "Tax reform is a very complex issue," she said. "I would like to see some relief for

	DALLAS	LAKE-LEHMAN
Millage rate	158	213
* Property tax collected	\$7,652,655	\$5,712,123
* Earned income tax collected	\$1,440,274	\$950,000
* Per capita tax collected	\$97,439	\$72,948
* Occupational privilege tax	\$50,000	\$19,418
* Property transfer tax	\$160,159	** \$163,453
Number property tax bills	9,695	9,162
Number of income/per capita tax bills	10,918	not available
Collection rate	94 percent	91 percent
Average property assessment	\$5,135	\$3,713
Average property tax bill	\$811	\$791
1 mill equals	\$49,783.00	\$31,147

\*These taxes are presently split with the municipalities

\*\* Not a typical amount because of several large land sales. The average collection is \$80,900.

Lake-Lehman also has a tax on video games and electronic amusements which generated \$390. Figures are based on the 1995-96 fiscal year, which ended June 30, and don't include county taxes. Lake-Lehman figures are for Luzerne County only. Wyoming County residents pay a different rate.

## Light bill

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end up with arrows in all different colors going in all different directions."

Tour sponsors may set up temporary signs with course directions on wooden posts driven into the berm of the roads the day before the race, as long as they remove them afterwards, Sutton said.

"They never said anything to us about painting arrows," he added.

Bartlett reported he had issued four building permits and two temporary permits during June and collected \$62 in fees. The building permits were issued to Gary and Rylhe Stull for an above-ground swimming pool. Mark Slenzak on

behalf of Mrs. Julie Cellen for a two-tier open deck. James Reed for roof repairs and Raymond Sedorchuk for a three-foot high picket fence.

Temporary permits for charitable events were issued to Lutheran Welfare for the Hospice Hundred and the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors for the Back Mountain Antique Car show and Flea Market August 18.

The supervisors will hold a hearing on a petition to rezone an area around the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company in Idetown from residential (R-1) to business (B-1) at 8 p.m. after their regular August 19 meeting.

## Shakespeare

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dots of The Bard on a stage, a cartoon by Stephen Davies, a maze to solve and lots of neat pictures to color. The book was prepared by Dr. Regina Kelly, RSM, Dr. Cordoni and Skip Sensbach.

"It's a lot of fun," said Dr. Kelly

after running the kids through their lines, complete with very dramatic gestures. She had a tough time keeping a straight face at their enthusiastic interpretations.

## Lake Twp. school tax bills mailed out

Ruth Orloski, Lake Township tax collector, mailed out 1996 school property and per capita tax bills on July 9.

Anyone not receiving their tax bills should contact the tax collector. Persons who have moved or are no longer residents of Lake Township should contact her so that she may correct addresses or remove them from the tax rolls.

All tax bills are mailed directly to the homeowner. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to forward property tax bills (not per capita) immediately to the mortgage company or bank for prompt payment. Rebate period ends Sept. 7. Face period ends Nov. 7.

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A: Only in The Dallas Post

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