

## Building

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In response to a query from PTO member Beverly Hetro, who suggested the board take a community survey before deciding the school's fate, superintendent Gerald Wycallis said the board was "looking into" holding as many public meetings as possible to solicit residents' input.

Other parents voiced their concerns about the longer bus ride which relocating Westmoreland to the Dallas campus would require, and the loss of Westmoreland's neighborhood school atmosphere.

According to Paul DeGillio of Quad Three Groups, to renovate the Westmoreland building will cost \$2 million. He also recommends adding six more classrooms, which will cost an additional \$1.4 million, to the 60-year-old building.

If the district decided to renovate Westmoreland, DeGillio also recommends acquiring three adjoining land parcels to enlarge the school grounds to 10 acres, at an additional cost of \$1.2 million for acquisition and site preparation. The district might need the space in 10 or 20 years for parking or a playground, he explained.

"No matter where you put up a new building, it will cost you \$6 million," he said. "If you build it on the present Westmoreland site, we still recommend buying the adjoining parcels, which will still cost an additional \$1.4 million to acquire and prepare."

He said the district would receive a larger proportion of state reimbursement for a new school than for renovating an older one. The state reimburses a district for renovations costing between 20 and 60 percent of a building's replacement value. Because the state has calculated Westmoreland's replacement value at \$2.3 million, the most the state would reimburse is 60 percent of that figure, which works out to about \$1,380,000.

Board president Ernie Ashbridge, John George, John Litz, Maureen Banks and Joe Kunc told the audience they favored replacing Westmoreland with a separate building housing grades K-5 over other grade configurations, while Thom Russ said he likes a K-6 setup and Reese Finn suggested a building housing K-8. The architect had originally proposed erecting a new building to house all the district's students in grades three through five, with all the students in grades K through two attending the present Dallas Elementary School.

Ashbridge said the board won't select a site for the new school until the state approves the district's Plan-Con documents, filed for reimbursement, which could take up to 14 months.

DeGillio also outlined the cost of a swimming pool, which several parents had requested, refurbish-

*"What you have at Westmoreland is a lot of satisfied customers."*

Andy Brazziola

Sent two children to the school

ing the tennis courts and developing the fields behind the high school.

The state will reimburse the district for the pool, which is estimated to cost \$1.5 million, only if it's added to the proposed new building or if it's part of an extensive renovations project at the middle school, which could cost between \$2 million and \$3 million without the pool, he said.

"It isn't an Olympic style pool, but it's a reasonable pool," DeGillio said.

Lloyd Warnica, who installed the hookups for the planned but scrapped pool at the middle school and is presently retired, offered an analysis of what it will cost the district to heat and ventilate the pool for a year.

Using original schematics and figures from PP&L, he said that operating the fans to dehumidify the air 24 hours a day would cost \$7,014 alone.

"Your total cost, based on .826¢ per kilowatt hour and 509,573 kilowatt hours, would be \$42,099 - just to heat the air to 80°, dehumidify it, then blow it back outside," he said. "I know a lot of people who can ill afford the extra millage to pay for the pool. You are obligated to provide our children the best education possible, and I don't think a pool is part of that education."

Warnica said his wife swims at the College Misericordia pool three times a week for \$1 a day and has seen between four and eight Back Mountain residents there at any time, he added. "I don't think too many people would support a pool," he said.

Replacing the four tennis courts would cost between \$100,000 and \$108,000 total, at \$25,000-\$27,000 each, DeGillio said.

Renovating them would cost at least \$15,000 per court, or \$60,000 total. If more drainage work is needed or the fence must be replaced, renovations could cost an additional \$60,000, for a total of \$120,000.

Developing the fields into two softball and one soccer field would cost about \$350,000 for the 16-acre plot.

At a meeting called after the property committee meeting, the board unanimously appointed Quad Three Group as its architect to prepare the state Plan-Con documents, at a cost of \$28,000. The fee will be added to the design fees.

Jim Richardson and Tom Landon were absent.



### Lions fund large print items

The Dallas Lions Club recently presented the Back Mountain Memorial Library with their annual donation to fund the large-print book section and the audio tapes for the visually impaired. Presenting the check to librarian Martha Wheeler is Bruce Pitts, club president, with business manager Nancy Kozemchak and Lions Club member Walt Roberts.

## POLICE LOG

### Dallas Township

#### TWO-VEHICLE ACCIDENT SENDS FOUR TO HOSPITALS

Police are investigating a two-vehicle accident Friday at 2:30 p.m. on Lower Demunds Road approximately 1/2 mile south of Demunds Corners, which sent four people to are hospitals.

Police said Hunlocks Creek resident Michael B. Phillips, 16, operator of a 1996 Pontiac Starfire GT, lost control of his car on the wet roadway on a curve heading south towards Dallas. It swerved into the oncoming lane and struck a 1988 Chevrolet S-10 truck operated by John Poulette, 47, of Portland, PA.

Judy Ann Poulette, 43, a passenger in the Poulette vehicle, was transported by helicopter to the

Geisinger Hospital in Danville, where she was admitted to the intensive care unit.

John Poulette was transported to the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, where a hospital spokesman has listed him in stable condition.

Phillips and Jeremy Baranowski, 19, a passenger in the Phillips vehicle, were transported to the Geisinger-Wyoming Valley Hospital.

Phillips was cited for driving in the wrong lane and careless driving, according to police records.

Police chief Carl Miers, assisted by officers Jeffrey Dennis and Robert Jolley, are investigating the accident. Kingston Township officer Wade Curtis, Medic-1 and Medic-302 also assisted at the scene



### OPM recognizes Laity, Chaban for service

Offset Paperback Mfrs., Inc. recently named Linda Laity of the web press department and Larry Chaban of the scheduling department as Employees-of-the-Quarter. Pictured from left is Joseph Makarewicz, Executive Vice President-Manufacturing; Larry Chaban, Linda Laity and Adam C. Crahall, Director-Human Resources.

## DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

### Arrested twice within three weeks for D.U.I.

Dallas resident Joseph Smee, 43, waived his right to two preliminary hearings on D.U.I. charges July 18.

He was arrested May 21 by Kingston Township officer James Ibbotson after police saw Smee drive at a high rate of speed through a red light on Route 309 at Center St. in Shavertown.

During a routine search of the vehicle, police found a cooler full of 12-oz. cans of beer on the passenger's seat and several empty cans on the floor.

After failing field sobriety tests, Smee took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .331, more than three times the legal limit of .10.

Smee was also arrested for D.U.I. June 8 by Dallas Township patrolman Douglas Higgins after police noticed him driving erratically and at a high rate of speed on Route 415, Main St. and Huntsville Road.

He refused to take field sobriety tests, and took a breath test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .370.

He was represented by attorney Gerald Wassil.

### DRUG POSSESSION CASE SENT TO COUNTY

Harveys Lake resident Daniel Enrico Falcucci, 36, waived his right to a preliminary hearing July 18 before District Justice James Tupper on charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

He was also cited for driving an unregistered vehicle, but related citations for driving without a license and driving a vehicle without a valid inspection sticker were dismissed.

Falcucci was arrested May 18 by Dallas Borough patrolman James Martin, who pulled his motorcycle, which had expired license renewal and inspection stickers, over for a routine traffic stop. He couldn't produce valid documents for the bike.

When Martin noticed two large bulges in Falcucci's pants pockets, he attempted to search the defendant, who was uncooperative and had to be handcuffed. Martin found a black and silver bowl containing residue, a purple cigarette lighter, a plastic bag containing a vegetable substance which field tested positive for

marijuana, cash, food stamps and keys, and a 375 ml. bottle of whiskey in a brown paper bag in his boot.

Falcucci was represented by public defender Jonathan Blum.

### D.U.I. CASE SENT TO COUNTY COURT

Kingston Township resident Darin J. Dixon, 20, waived his right to a preliminary hearing July 18 before District Justice James Tupper on a charge of D.U.I.

He was arrested May 3 by Harveys Lake officer Scott Baker after being involved in a motorcycle accident near Pole 149.

He was also cited for not wearing required eye protection, driving an unregistered vehicle, using the wrong class of operator's license, not having a valid inspection and not having a vehicle insurance card.

Additional citations for driving with a suspended or revoked license and underage drinking were dismissed.

According to a blood test, his blood alcohol level was .179.

He was represented by attorney Anthony Lumbis.

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