



The Dallas Post

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Vol. 107 No. 39

Dallas, Pennsylvania

September 25 thru October 1, 1996



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Children released Monarch butterflies as part of the kickoff of the community portion of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's drive to raise funds for a children's wing. Rick Mikula, a lepidopterist from Hazleton, provided the butterflies, whose offspring will return to the area in the spring.

Children's wing fund drive off to a 'flying' start

DALLAS - The drive to raise funds to build a new children's wing on the Back Mountain Memorial Library is nearly halfway to the minimum goal of \$500,000.

More than 100 people gathered at the library Sept. 20 for the formal commencement of the community portion of the fund drive. They were pleasantly surprised when Dr. Wallace Stettler, who is leading the effort, announced that \$226,445 has been committed by donors who were contacted individually before the public portion of the campaign began.

After thanking everyone who has supported the drive, Stettler listed several activities that will take place in the next few weeks, including an insert that will be mailed with all Commonwealth Telephone bills in October, and billboards that will be put up in November.

"It is the power of a dream that brings us here," Stettler said, harkening to the theme of a song performed at the closing ceremony for the Atlanta Olympics. He said any funds left over after construction would be placed in an endowment dedicated to maintain-

ing the children's area and its collection of materials.

The kickoff ceremony, organized by Liz Lloyd, was held under brilliant skies, and included a welcome by Ruth Tetschner, president of the library's board of directors. Marilyn Rudolph, children's librarian, made a presentation titled "The Children's Room," in which she described the history of the children's area and activities.

Children from the Major Performing Arts Center gave an outdoor choral performance, "Hello to All the Children of the World," followed by the release

of dozens of Monarch butterflies, supplied by Rick Mikula, a world-renowned lepidopterist who raises butterflies in Hazleton. Mikula said the butterflies' offspring would return to the area of the library next spring.

The addition will triple the size of the children's area, and will allow the library to make story hours and other activities available to more children. Designed by architect Paul Rodda, the wing will include new storage modules making materials accessible to children, a multi-media center, and a program area.

Customers seek more cable tv choices

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP - With the cable television franchise due to expire in 1999, Tele-Media held the first of a series of public hearings required by the federal government as part of negotiations for a new non-exclusive contract in each municipality.

Tele-Media serves 7,200 customers in the Back Mountain, where it has strung more than 230 miles of cable.

Contracts with Kingston and Dallas townships and Dallas Borough expire first, with Harveys Lake, Franklin and Lehman townships following, according to manager Don Zagorski. Lehman Township is the only municipality which doesn't receive franchise fees of three percent of gross revenues from Tele-Media.

Cable television in Jackson Township is provided by Cable-TV in Hazleton, while Dallas Township from Upper Demunds Road to Kunkle is on Blue Ridge Cable.

Four residents turned out to ask Zagorski and vice-president and general manager Charles Hilderbrandt why Tele-Media doesn't offer more channels.

See CABLE TV, pg 8

Skateboard enthusiasts learn political ropes

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - More than 60 skateboarders, teachers and friends signed a petition that was presented to the borough council Sept. 17, asking council to create a skating park if it decides to ban skateboarding in public places.

"I have no problem with the borough banning us from the roads, but it should also give us a place to go to practice," said Joe Fritz, 13, as he and two friends practiced Ollies, kick flips, heel flips and pop-shove-its for a photographer in a local parking lot.

The council decided to postpone a final vote on the proposed ordinance until its November meeting, when several revisions will be included.

Setting up a park for skateboarders and in-line skaters is the brainchild of Fritz, Anthony Yenason, Jared Flower and Adam Reggie, who said they are willing to help work on it. They believe it can be funded through donations

"They're not bothering anyone - the majority of skaters I know are nice kids."

Ralph Flower
Father of skateboarder

and work by volunteers. It could even help pay for itself if the borough charged a small admission fee, they said.

Anthony, Jared and Joe are 13 years old and borough residents.

The boys have done their homework on skating parks, obtaining a set of rules from a one successfully operating in Boise, Idaho. They have drafted a set of skating rules which require knee and elbow pads, helmets and respectful behavior and prohibit rudeness, vandalism and skating on public sidewalks and streets.

A large group of skaters is working on a similar park, which would

See SKATEBOARD, pg. 8



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Dallas resident Anthony Yenason, 13, shows off some skateboard maneuvers.

County 911 plan still year from completion

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

WILKES-BARRE - Since February, every telephone subscriber in Luzerne County has paid an additional \$1.25 per telephone line to fund the county's new 911 emergency dispatch system.

Slated to go on line sometime during the third quarter of 1997, the system will provide emergency personnel with complete information on emergency calls - the caller's name, address, telephone number, important medical problems and a precise location for the home.

Accurate records are vital because the 911 center's computer will automatically display each caller's address and home fire, ambulance and police departments on the screen for the dispatcher. This is important in areas such as the Back Mountain where fire and ambulance companies serve parts of two municipalities or counties.

"We saved the rural route addresses for last - they're the most complicated."

Al Gervenak
County emergency services director

Fire and ambulance companies with fax machines will be able to directly receive a copy of the information before the responders leave for the call.

"We have about 60 percent of the county's 250,000 addresses entered into our system," said Luzerne County Emergency Services Department executive director Al Gervenak. "We saved the rural route addresses for last - they're the most complicated."

Once all homes are identified and house numbers assigned by the post office, local emergency response personnel will have to

See COUNTY 911, pg 8

Trading card program may make cops local heros

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE - Mayor Richard Boice is looking for people to sponsor police officer trading cards and make the borough the Back Mountain's first municipality to offer the program.

A \$125 donation will purchase 1,000 trading cards containing the sponsor's name, the officer's photo, vital statistics and law enforcement goals, and a few safety tips.

"I'm modeling this program on the one in Wilkes-Barre, which has been very successful," Boice said. "So far I have sponsors for officers Jeff Butler, Damian Hoover and Mark Karlonis. I need four more - Lake Township is also interested in going in with us on it."

"I think it's a great program. It helps the public get to know our officers personally..."

Richard Boice
Harveys Lake mayor

Since Wilkes-Barre initiated the trading cards earlier this year, kids have asked Harveys Lake police for cards, he said. By using sponsors for each officer, he is not tapping any tax money for the program.

"I think it's a great program," Boice added. "It helps the public get to know our officers personally, to see they are real people who care and to help young people approach the police without fear."

The council unanimously approved new names for 18 borough roads which are duplicated

either in the borough or throughout the Back Mountain, to prepare for the new county 911 emergency dispatch system.

Outlet Drive, which has experienced flooding problems from several beaver dams and lodges, has been rechristened Beaver Drive, while Sunset Terrace is now Trolley Hill and Oak-by-Wood is now Wood Street.

Maple St. has been renamed Pear St.; Oak St. is now Cedar St.; Ridge St. is now Cliff St.; Maple Knoll is now Knoll St.; Maywood Ave is now May Ave.; New Road is now Lakeside Drive;

Park St. is now Wilson St.; Hill St. is now Summit St., and Sordoni Road is now Beaumont Hill.

Access roads receiving new names are Sunset Ave., now Samson Road, Elm St., now Apple St.; Orchard St., now Washington St., West Hemlock, now Lincoln St. and Birch St., which is now Eagle St. An unnamed access road has been named Hawk Street.

In other business, George Andrews reported the borough has received a \$55,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to buy a new recycling truck with trailer and snowplow. Once its specifications are written, the borough will advertise for bids. Fran Kopko said the borough plans to give its old recycling truck to Lake Township.

■ New muse

Marie Lewis, once a music teacher, is now an artist. Pg 3.

■ College prep

Jeremy Fleeger is making the transition from Lake-Lehman star to college. Pg 9.

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