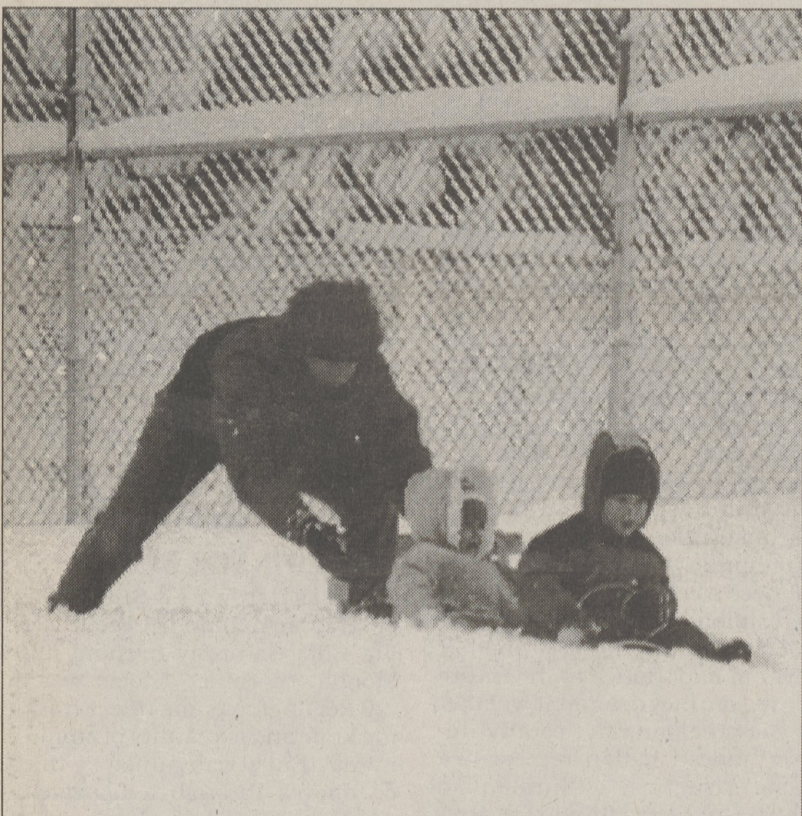


JUST A MEMORY

Last week's heavy snowstorm kept Back Mountain folks busy for a couple of days, only to disappear under 50° temperatures early this week. Working to clear the way last week, clockwise from left; Bob Becker opened a path, as did Charlene Albosta; Stan Shadle helped out some fir trees by removing the wet, heavy snow; Pam Dillon gave her children, Chris and Elizabeth, a push.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTZKEK



Neighbors to new fields challenge zone variance

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Neighbors of two planned athletic fields off Westminster Dr. in Orchard View Terrace have appealed the Dallas Township Zoning Board's ruling to permit the Dallas School District a 15 ft. setback between the road and the fields instead of the 100 ft. setback required by the zoning ordinance.

Bruce Phillips, an attorney who lives in Orchard View Terrace, is joined by Atty. Theodore Krohn in representing Phillips and his neighbors in a fight to block the construction of the fields.

The township allowed the district the 15 ft. setback if trees or a chain link fence were put between a service road and the two fields. Gil Griffiths, superintendent, said the district opted for rows of trees 15 ft. deep and 300 ft. long.

"This (appeal) will increase costs and delay construction. We won't have new fields and may need to use the Back Mountain Baseball fields. This won't only affect the district, but Back Mountain Baseball too," said John Litz, board president.

The appeal claims several irregularities when the zoning board granted permission for construction of the fields, among them:

- The zoning board ruled that the area of the fields, on land that is zoned agricultural, represented a commercial use, thereby exempting it from zoning ordinances.

- That the zoning board failed to properly notify adjoining property owners of the hearing at which the action was taken, and did not post or advertise the hearing in advance.

- That a variance was granted even though the school district never applied for a variance.

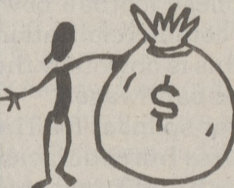
- The school district did not demonstrate an unnecessary hardship.

Phillips is joined in the appeal by Joseph and Ann Marie Gries, Betty Jean Haven, Stephen and Rita Kopcho, Edgar Lashford, Sterling and Mary Lamoreux, Robert and Helen Parker, Charles and Lowry Puckey, William and Sharon Strauser and Paul and Maryann Walsh.

Joel Sims, architect, of Quad Three Group, said the fields were scheduled to be finished by June 1999.

Griffiths said he was concerned that the contractor, Locust Ridge Construction, might not want to wait any longer because they already extended the original bid until March. "We might have to have the bids redone at an exorbitant amount of money," he said.

Q: Where do you find the most Back Mountain news each week?
A: Only in The Dallas Post.

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Host families sought for exchange program

The American Intercultural Student Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation, is seeking local host families for high school foreign exchange students for the 1998-99 school year. AISE's students come from over 40 countries world wide, and the program is expanding operations all the time. Every year, AISE places thousands of exchange students with loving host families throughout the United States. AISE exchange students live with American families and attend local high schools during their 10-month cultural exchange experiences. Please call AISE at 1-800-SIBLING or visit the AISE web site at www.sibling.org for more information on hosting a foreign exchange student in your home.

New school to be bid this month

Joel Sims, representing Quad Three Group showed the Dallas school board the final drawings of the new Gerald J. Wycallis Elementary School and additions to the Dallas Elementary School Monday night. Sims said they will advertise for contractor's bids between Jan. 19 and Feb. 24. Quad Three will check references and make a recommendation by March

9 and construction will commence on March 10. Sims stressed that actual groundbreaking would not begin that day.

Completion of Wycallis Elementary is scheduled for July 1999. "This is a very realistic schedule barring unforeseen circumstances," said Sims.

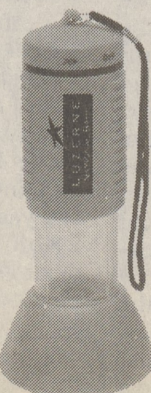
The board will meet again Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

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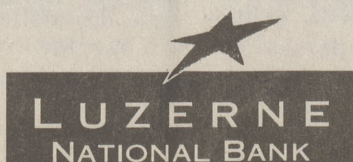
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- Gift certificate to Mark II Family Restaurant, Dallas
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Friday: 9-6 lobby; 8-6 drive through
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