

# Game Commission offers advice on how to avoid 'bear necessities'

Now that fall has arrived, many Pennsylvanians will be spending increasing amounts of time outdoors. This also is when black bears become more active, setting the stage for an increase in bear sightings and possibly encounters.

Mark Terment, Pennsylvania Game Commission black bear biologist, says bears have started consuming massive quantities of food to prepare for the upcoming denning season, which begins in mid- to late-November. However, with the current drought causing many black bear natural food sources to wither, Pennsylvanians may begin seeing bears searching for alternative food sources in more populated areas.

Terment offered suggestions on how to reduce the likelihood that your property will attract bears and how to best react when a bear is encountered.

Terment stressed there are no known records of a Pennsylvania black bear killing a human, and there have been fewer than 15 reported injuries resulting from black bear encounters during the past 25 years in the state. However, recent deaths caused by black bears in New York (2002), New Mexico (2001) and Tennessee (2000) have given the Game Commission reason to be concerned. Pennsylvania's bear population currently is estimated at 15,000 ani-

mals. Cases of habituated bears becoming increasingly bold because some Pennsylvanians are failing to keep food away from bears are equally alarming.

"Pennsylvanians need to understand that when bears become habituated to their homes or communities, it can lead to conflicts and the potential for serious injury," Terment said. "Feeding wildlife, whether the activity is intended for birds or deer, can draw bears into a certain area. Once bears become habituated to an area where they find food, they will continue to return to this area, which is when the bear becomes a problem for homeowners and neighbors.

Terment noted that even food sources not currently attracting bears have the potential to be a problem as bear activity increases. In drought years, bears that usually steer clear of people wander closer to residential areas in their widening search for food.

"Ideally, we want these bears to pass by residential areas without finding a food reward that would cause them to stay and become a problem," Terment said. "Capturing and moving bears that have become habituated to humans is costly and sometimes ineffective, especially when faced with the reality that moving a bear behaving badly often only moves the problem, and sometimes only

temporarily. That is why wildlife agencies tell people that a 'fed bear is a dead bear.'"

Terment listed five suggestions that could prevent attracting bears to a property:

- Play it smart. Do not feed wildlife. Food placed outside for wildlife, such as corn for squirrels, may attract bears. Reconsider putting squash, pumpkins, corn stalks or other Halloween or holiday decorations outside that also may attract bears. Even bird feeders can become "bear magnets." From late November through late March; avoid foods that are particularly attractive for bears, such as sunflower seeds, hummingbird nectar mixes or suet; bring feeders inside at night; or suspend feeders from high crosswires.

- Keep it clean. Don't put out garbage until pick-up day; don't throw table scraps out back for animals to eat; don't add fruit or vegetable wastes to your compost pile; and clean your barbecue grill regularly. If you feed pets outdoors, consider placing food dishes inside overnight.

- Keep your distance. If a bear shows up in your backyard, stay calm. From a safe distance, shout at it like you would to chase an unwanted dog. If the bear won't leave, call the nearest Game Com-

mission regional office or local police department for assistance.

- Eliminate temptation. Bears that visit your area are often drawn there. Neighbors need to work together to reduce an area's appeal to bears. Promptly report road-killed deer to ensure their quick removal. Ask area businesses to keep dumpsters closed and bear-proofed (chained or locked shut).

- Check please! If your dog is barking, or cat is clawing at the door to get in, try to determine what has alarmed your pet. But do it cautiously, using outside lights to full advantage and from a safe position, such as a porch or an upstairs window. All unrecognizable outside noises and disturbances should be checked, but don't do it on foot with a flashlight. Black bears blend in too well with nighttime surroundings providing the chance for a close encounter.

Terment also advised:

- Stay Calm. If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, leave the area calmly. Talk to the bear while moving away to help it discover your presence. Choose a route that will not intersect with the bear if it is moving.

- Get Back. If you have surprised a bear, slowly back away while quietly talking. Face the bear, but avoid direct eye contact. Do not turn and run; rapid

movement may be perceived as danger to a bear that is already feeling threatened. Avoid blocking the bear's only escape route and try to move away from any cubs you see or hear. Do not attempt to climb a tree. A female bear can falsely interpret this as an attempt to get at her cubs, even though the cubs may be in a different tree.

- Pay Attention. If a bear is displaying signs of nervousness or discomfort with your presence, such as pacing, swinging its head, or popping its jaws, leave the area. Some bears may bluff charge to within a few feet. If this occurs, stand your ground, wave your arms wildly, and shout at the bear. Turning and running could elicit a chase and you cannot outrun a bear. Bears that appear to be stalking should be confronted and made aware of your willingness to defend by waving your arms and yelling while you continue to back away.

- Fight Back. If a bear attacks, fight back as you continue to leave the area. Bears have been driven away with rocks, sticks, binoculars, car keys, or even bare hands.

More information on black bears is available on the Game Commission's website ([www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)) by clicking on "Wildlife," and then selecting "Black Bear in Pennsylvania."



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Kindergarten teacher Victoria Flynn and Educational Technologist Laura Matechak demonstrated some of the Dallas technology to the school board.

## Dallas makes high-tech useful, fun

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS TWP.** — "We used to have artwork hanging around the room, now we can have it on the web for everyone to see," said Ernest Ashbridge, Dallas School Board Chairman, about how technological advances have changed classrooms at Dallas.

At the October School board work session, Laura Matechak, Educational Technologist for the Dallas School District, demonstrated some of the ways new technologies are being used in the classroom as well as in students' homes.

Matechak discussed how teachers in the district are able to utilize existing technology to combine children's artwork with music. Matechak and Kindergarten teacher Victoria Flynn demonstrated a Microsoft Powerpoint presentation that Flynn's Kindergarten class put together last year. The project tied together the children's artwork with a musical theme.

Using the song, "The World's Greatest," for inspiration, Flynn's class drew pictures for each verse of the song. The pictures were then scanned into Powerpoint and the music added, to create an approximately five-minute-long presentation of all

the students' artwork.

Matechak also previewed new "teacher pages" that have been added to the main district's web page. The pages allow parents and students to access class information that teachers are encouraged to put on the web. Every teacher has a link to their own computer "folder," where information pertaining to their classes can be added. Information such as calendars, syllabi, and homework assignments can now be accessed by parents and students at home.

To access the new pages, go to the main Dallas website, [www.dallassd.com](http://www.dallassd.com), and click on "teacher pages."

## Harveys Lake

(continued from page 1)

my ideas," said Boback. Boback is undecided on what he will do after graduating next spring. He is looking at entering the Naval Academy or possibly the University of Pennsylvania. He is interested in both the medical field and engineering. "I'm not too decided yet, but I'm getting there," said Boback.

The junior councilman program is in its pilot year. Kelly said if it goes well, and he anticipates that it will, council will ap-

*"It's great for the community and for the young people, it gives them a voice."*

Ed Kelly  
Borough Council President

proach the high school to seek another motivated and interested student for the following year.

## Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

The Catherine McAuley Center is preparing for another season of matching local families/business/organizations with needy families in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The Center is the linking agency to people who are in need to people who have more than they need and want to help.

If you would like to apply, applications for the Adopt-A-Family program will be taken Monday and Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. through November 4, or until predetermined quota is met at the Catherine McAuley House, 121 Church St., Plymouth. Call 779-2801 for details on application procedures.

## New drop-off point for BMT food pantry

The Back Mountain Mountain Food Pantry sponsored by the Back Mountain Ministerium is in need of many food items.

The client population grew over the past year creating a larger need than in years past.

Due to the construction at Trucksville United Methodist Church Education Building, it is not possible to accept food items at the Education Building. Food collection points have been established at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Shavertown United Methodist Church. They will deliver the food supplies to the Food Pantry at the former Kingston Township Municipal Building in Trucksville.

Anyone with questions about the Food Pantry may call 696-3897.

## Tonight, Dinner's on the House (literally)



With Luzerne National Bank's **Home Equity Line of Credit** a lot more of your purchases can be **on the house** as well. Your line of credit can be up to 75% of your home's value\*, while enjoying a low interest rate, NO FEES, and immediate availability with your MAC/Visa card or personal checks, and a possible tax deduction.

**On the house**  
has never had so many possibilities!

Special Intro  
Rate 4.50%



A Proud Past, A Promising Tomorrow

Luzerne 288-4511 Plains 829-3900 Swoyersville 287-1141 Dallas 674-5442 Public Square 822-4211

\*75% of appraised value minus current mortgage amount(s). This is a variable rate loan. Special introductory rate of 4.50% APR fixed for first 90 days. Regular current rate is 5.00% APR (Variable Rate, Prime Plus 0.25%). The maximum APR will be the lesser of 18% or the maximum allowed by law. You must carry insurance on the property that secures this line of credit.

**MARTZ TOURS**

**We're going to Niagara Falls' Festival of Lights. 'Canoe' go, too?**

A YULE EXTRAVAGANZA ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER DEC. 6-8  
Festival of Lights Tour with Fireworks over the Falls, Dinner Show, Electric Lights Parade, High Tea at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Imax

<p><b>1-DAY TRIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR</b> Nov. 20, 24...Dec. 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 21, 22, 28 Reserve early!</li> <li>• <b>LANCASTER SHOPPING</b> Nov. 2</li> <li>• <b>BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS</b> Dec. 7 Dinner, Christkindlmarkt, Yule Concert</li> <li>• <b>PA CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOW</b> Dec. 7 Plus time at Hershey's Candy Lane</li> <li>• <b>THREE LITTLE BAKERS DINNER THEATRE</b> Dec. 12 "Christmas Show"</li> <li>• <b>SIGHT AND SOUND "MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS"</b> Dec. 14 Includes Meal</li> <li>• <b>NETS HOME BASKETBALL</b> Washington Wizards Dec. 13, Sacramento Kings Jan. 9, Philadelphia 76ers Feb. 16</li> <li>• <b>PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW</b> Daily Trips March 2 through March 8</li> </ul>	<p><b>MULTI-DAY TOURS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WILLIAMSBURG &amp; VIRGINIA'S 100 MILES OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</b> Dec. 11-13 Colonial Williamsburg, Richmond, River Cruise, Entertainment, Carter's Grove Plantation, Newport News, Maymont &amp; Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens</li> <li>• <b>PARK PLACE CASINO AND HOTEL IN ATLANTIC CITY</b> Jan. 26-28 Accommodations and Casino Bonus Package</li> <li>• <b>CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL IN WASHINGTON, DC</b> April 4-6 Full Tours, Reserved Seating for Festival Parade</li> <li>• <b>BRANSON, ST. LOUIS AND THE PASSION PLAY IN EUREKA SPRINGS</b> June 22-28 Three shows in Branson, the St. Louis Arch, Harrah's Casino in St. Louis, Eureka Springs' celebrated Passion Play, and superb sightseeing</li> </ul>
--	---

**BROADWAY**

- "PRODUCERS" Dec. 14
- "OKLAHOMA" Jan. 25
- "MAMMA MIA" Jan. 25
- "HAIRSPRAY" March 22, April 12

**FLYERS HOME HOCKEY**

- NEW YORK RANGERS Feb. 8
- COLORADO AVALANCHE Mar. 8

**PRO FOOTBALL**

- CARDS AT EAGLES Nov. 17
- BILLS AT JETS Nov. 24
- BRONCOS AT JETS Dec. 8

Call for additional games!

**CALL FOR GROUP CHARTER INFO.**

**MARTZ TOURS** Metropolitan Opera "La Traviata" March 12

821-3855 — [www.martztrailways.com](http://www.martztrailways.com) — 800-432-8069