

Dallas again holds back payments on middle school

Staff report

DALLAS TWP. — Chronic problems with auditorium seats in the newly renovated Dallas Middle School — including an elderly lady falling when a seat broke — prompted stinging questions from the school board, and refusal to pay bills.

"There are 1,034 seats, about 70 percent of them were put in wrong, and five were broken and had to be fixed," Principal Anthony Martinelli said at Monday's meeting of the board.

The seats were removed during renovation, then reinstalled last year. Martinelli said the seats in the back of the auditorium are supposed to be slightly wider than in the front. This keeps the aisles straight.

Martinelli said, five seats have broken since the school started using them heavily around Christmas. "The first time, a 70-year-old grandmother sat in the second seat of the first row and it broke," Martinelli said.

Architect Paul Degillio said a letter has been sent to the subcontractor responsible for the seats warning they must be fixed and that payment would be withheld, but the board wasn't satisfied.

Neither Degillio nor Superintendent Gilbert Griffiths knew the total cost of the seat re-installation, or how much has been paid for it so far.

Len Gallo, from Reynolds

Construction Management, notified the board that small rust spots in the new pool couldn't be fixed without draining the pool, prompting board Member Anthony Barboso to ask, "When were we planning to drain that pool? We weren't planning that."

Degillio told the board that about \$460,000 has been spent from \$725,000 earmarked for unexpected costs, but Gallo warned that those numbers didn't include nearly \$200,000 in bills that are pending. Gallo said about 95 percent of the work is done, but warned only about \$75,000 remains for contingencies.

Additional problems were noted, including a new sound system in the natatorium that is hard to understand, and shoddy or incomplete furniture installations by Institutional Furnishings Inc. in the classrooms and science labs.

The board ultimately gave the construction heads five days to research the seat problem and give a report, and until the next meeting on Jan. 27 on the other problems.

The board also refused to pay \$59,579 to Miller Bros., \$87,578 to Institutional Furnishings and \$4,820 to Foreman Architects/Engineers Inc., Degillio's company.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.



Small Wonders gift drive

The families of Small Wonders Day Care School collected many toys for the Toys-for-Tots program. Pictured in the photo are children from the small wonders before and after school program, displaying a few of the many toys collected.

These items were donated to the United States Marine Corps and were distributed to children for Christmas.

From left, first row sitting: Rebecca Sweetra, Mackenzie Brennan, Brandon Goble, Emily Banta. Second row: Danielle Bloomfield, Casey McAndrew, Michael Carey, Kayla Kaufmann, Jeremy Geisinger.

Vision

(continued from page 1)

Visioning is an ongoing process, in which participants look ahead 10 years or more and take steps make their dreams for an area a reality.

"If we put everyone's talents together and work for the good, we can improve the future of the Back Mountain," said Eckert.

One of the purposes of the upcoming meeting is to adopt a vision statement. The statement is the result of a series of public meetings over the last 12 months, in which four task forces and the steering committee have been addressing issues identified as important through a community survey completed in 2002.

The four task forces — downtown revitalization, community

services, traffic issues, and master planning — have been gathering information on specific issues that affect the community and identifying solutions. "A number of meetings have led to this. The anticipation now is a new phase — an implementation phase," said Joe Moskovitz, Dallas Borough Manager.

Moskovitz said the group will now focus on the "implementation of concrete programs" such as — most immediately — the downtown revitalization and spring beautification programs.

A recent press release urged residents to participate. It read: "All Back Mountain residents

are urged to attend this public visioning of their community. It will provide citizens that have been unable to attend previous meetings an opportunity to get involved and for those individuals who have not yet joined a task force to join."

The meeting will include presentations by regional program facilitators and refreshments will be served. Any questions about the visioning process or meeting can be addressed to the Dallas Borough administrative office, 25 Main St., Dallas, 18612. Or call 675-1389 for more information.

Bridge

(continued from page 1)

board to have a traffic light installed at the intersection of Manor Drive, Dug Road and Carverton Road. Township Police Chief James Balavage presented an accident report from the intersection, which provided figures warranting the board approving a request that PennDOT do a traffic study in that area. It was also requested that Green Road be properly paved so that commuters would be more willing to travel on it.

On another topic, Supervisor Chris Yankovich presented the board with an illegal parking issue. Throughout the township, vehicles are continuously parking over yellow lines directly in lanes of traffic. The particular location used as an example was Warden Avenue. Supervisors agree that the problem has occurred on more than one street however, and that something must be done about it. This type of illegal parking is obstructing the traffic flow during all times of the year and does not allow for plows to get through during treacherous weather.

Solicitor Benjamin Jones suggested the posting of an over-abundance of no parking signage would be cost prohibitive and that appearance would be an issue. O'Neill recommended that a warning system could be put into affect. In this way, parking offenders would be made aware of the situation by receiving a written warning, the information would then be logged on file and should that same vehicle be found parking illegally again there would be a fine and towing.

Jones felt that the main reason for the dangerous parking situation is that many of today's families have more vehicles than their lots can handle. Bigger families with older children who drive sometimes own three or four vehicles and they are forced to find somewhere other than their own lots to park. Jones now says he has enough information to go to PennDOT and discuss the exact rules and possible options.

Tell our advertisers you saw them in The Dallas Post.

They'll appreciate it, and so will we.

Planners wait for direction from state before next move

By SCOTT VINNACOMBE II
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. — The Kingston Township Planning Commission is waiting for direction from the state before suggesting changes to zoning or building codes.

The state of Pennsylvania, like other states, is currently sorting through methods and ideas that would serve to unite counties, townships and municipalities under the same set of zoning laws and regulations. Pennsylvania legislators are in the process of weighing the pros and cons of such a move and it appears the ball will drop in favor of the process.

The Kingston Township Planning Commission met to discuss zoning issues and to elect their officials on Tuesday. Elected officials are the same board members who served in 2002 and consist of Ed Price Jr. as Chairman, Vice Chairman Sam Merrill and Secretary Frank Grabowski.

Commission members tend to believe that the idea of Uniform Code Council, which is what state legislators are trying to initiate, would be an overall improvement over the way zoning

is done now. At this point, there are many different codes and regulations throughout the state's numerous municipalities, counties, townships and boroughs.

William M. Eck, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, plans to go over new ordinances that would be initiated under the UCC (Uniform Code Council) in order to ascertain which of the policies would be useful in Kingston Township. Eck will then recommend to the Planning Commission that they take these suggestions to the Board of Supervisors and recommend they be adopted. From there these suggestions, as well as those from municipalities statewide, will be sent to state officials, where decisions will be made based on those suggestions.

At this point, nothing is certain as to how municipalities will be able to deviate from whatever rules and codes are finalized. According to Eck, new amendments to zoning codes and rules will need to be decided upon within the state legislature before decisions closer to home can be made. This, he says, will only happen after all smaller organizations check in with their own recommendations.

YMCA
Indoor Soccer Registration
Boys & Girls Ages 5-12
2003 Season Begins In February
• Saturday Games •
Registration Deadline Jan. 18
Please Call
823-2191 ext. 129
4 Year Old Soccer Clinic
Also Available

ANNUAL WINTER SALE
30% Off
All Winter Merchandise
SHOOZE
626 Market Street
Kingston • 287-2777
Monday-Saturday 10-5

ANNUAL SALE 50% OFF
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
164 UNITED PENN PLAZA
KINGSTON, PA 18704
283-5116
MON-SAT 10-5

We're behind you in retirement.

The IRA Advantage

When it comes to Individual Retirement Accounts, First Federal delivers a powerful advantage. For starters, our Banking, Insurance, Investments and Trust businesses offer a broad array of IRA products to help you manage your retirement savings wisely. But we do much more than simply open an IRA account. We appreciate the fact that everyone's needs are unique, so we take the time to get to know you and make sure you understand all of the options available to you. We can even professionally manage your account to help you accomplish your financial goals. Make a resolution to invest for the future. It's simple when you put a great bank behind you.

First Federal
Member FDIC
1stfederalbank.com
Equal Housing Lender

Shavertown ATM 196 North Main Street (570) 674-6084

Lobby Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm Friday, 9 am - 6 pm Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm

Drive-Thru Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 5 pm Friday, 8:30 am - 6 pm Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm

MARTZ TOURS

When it's snowin' season, think of the growin' season at Philadelphia's Flower Show!
DAILY TRIPS MARCH 2 THRU 8. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "FESTIVAL DE LAS FLORES". PLANT YOUR RESERVATION NOW

1-DAY TRIPS

- BROADWAY "OKLAHOMA" Jan. 25 (Reduced Price! Hurry! Call Now)...
- "PRODUCERS" Feb. 22... "THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE" March 8... "MOVIN' OUT" April 5 "HAIRSPRAY" June 7...
- "DANCE OF THE VAMPIRES" June 14
- METROPOLITAN OPERA "La Traviata" - March 12
- SIGHT AND SOUND March 15 "Daniel"... Dinner included
- HUDSON VALLEY CULINARY INSTITUTE April 4 Winery Tour, Meal
- LILY LANGTRY'S DINNER THEATRE April 5 "Tribute to America"
- 3 LITTLE BAKERS DINNER THEATRE April 6 "Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat"

MULTI-DAY TOURS

- PARK PLACE CASINO AND HOTEL IN ATLANTIC CITY Jan. 26-28 Includes Accommodations and Casino Bonus Package
- WASHINGTON DC CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL April 4-6 Night and Day Tours, Festival Parade, Mount Vernon, Arlington
- CAPE COD "SHIP AHOY" May 15-18 Martha's Vineyard, 10-Mile Ocean Drive to Newport, Battleship Cove, Hyannis
- SENECA LAKE WINE AND CHEESE WEEKEND April 26-27 Wine-tasting with Treats, Boat Tour on Seneca Lake, 3 Meals
- MYRTLE BEACH AND CHARLESTON May 18-24 Full Tours of both cities, Shopping, Paddlewheel Boat Cruise, 3 Musical Shows
- BRANSON, ST. LOUIS AND THE PASSION PLAY IN EUREKA SPRINGS June 22-28 Three big shows in Branson!

Ask for a free copy of our 2003 Tour Book.

MARTZ TOURS
821-3855 - www.martztravels.com - 800-432-8069

First Federal will not furnish any service, or fix or vary the consideration for obtaining a service, on the condition that the customer obtain some additional credit, insurance or other service from First Federal or any of its affiliated companies. Securities and other investment products offered through First Federal are not deposits, not FDIC insured, not bank products and involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal.