

Borough kicks up its heels with blues band

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS — The joint was jumpin' when the Clarence Spady Band blew into Libations on Main Street, for the first of what organizers will be a series of "Arts in the Borough" events.

The evening attracted an audience that included a county judge, business owners a college president and anyone else who knows Muddy Waters isn't a nickname for the Mississippi. "This is great music," said Steward Calkins of Noxen, who described himself as a Friday night regular at Libations. "This is music."

It's been nearly 20 years since the Hearthstone Pub, which stood next door to Libations, featured live music, and a generation more back to Brothers

"I don't know how you all can just sit there. This is better than Curves."

Connie Morris-Anesi
Sweet Valley

Four, which Calkins said was the in place for his parents' generation.

The venue's owners were pleased, both with the turnout and the tone of the event.

"I love this crowd," said Amy Newhart, co-owner of the bar with Colleen Scanlon.

More than 75 people paid the \$3 cover charge to hear the well-known performer, who a decade ago was named one of the best young blues artists in



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Connie Scott, principal organizer of the blues night, danced with hizzoner, Dallas Borough Mayor Tim Carroll.

America. The concert went from 8 p.m. to midnight, and Scanlon said some people showed up later as well.

Joe Moskovitz, borough manager, said he suggested the Scranton-based Spady when a group of people that included representatives of the visioning committee and the borough discussed putting on smaller-scale events to highlight downtown Dallas.

"I knew he would put on a

good show," Moskovitz said.

The borough paid the band's fee, using funds from a \$15,000 grant given by the Maslow Family Foundation directed to supporting quality of life improvements.

"This is great music. This is music."

Steward Calkins
Noxen

Before Spady began playing, borough Mayor Tim Carroll wasn't sure he had ever heard the blues, but he quickly caught on, taking to the dance floor with Connie Scott, one of the organizers.

She was pleased with the turnout, and is hoping people who didn't attend will take notice. "People will say 'I should have been there,'" she hopes. "It was really great; the quality of the music was fabulous."

After opening his first set with a bluesy instrumental rendition of "Just My Imagination," Spady, accompanied by Bob O'Connell on keyboard and drummer Steve Carillo, paid homage to the late Ray Charles with "Georgia On My Mind."

When he broke into "Let the Good Times Roll," that was enough to get Connie Morris-Anesi out on the dance floor. After taking a turn at the mike, she urged everyone else to join in. "I don't know how you all can just sit there," she said. "This is better than Curves."

More events are in the works, including "Word Horde," a showcase for local talent planned for the Friday before this September's Harvest Festival.



Connie Morris-Anesi of Sweet Valley didn't have to be coaxed onto the dance floor at the Arts in the Borough blues concert, held June 11 at Libations in Dallas. Here she kicked up her heels as Clarence Spady led his band.

Noise

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ing in front of it is 110 decibels.

Answering questions from residents affected by constant banging and thumping sounds from the plant, officials described the difference between heavy and light industry at the June 15 Board of Supervisors meeting. The sheet metal plant uses heavy presses to pound out dishwasher and refrigerator parts around the clock. Zoning

Officer Len Kozick said the plant is zoned for light industry. According to Doughton the following definitions are accepted as basic planning standards:

- Heavy industry is manufacturing of materials or products from extracted or raw materials, using flammable or explosive materials, storage or manufacturing involving hazardous or commonly recognized offen-

sive conditions.

- Light industry is manufacturing, predominantly from previously prepared materials or parts, including processing, fabrication, assembly, treatment, packaging, storage, sales and distribution of such parts, but excluding basic industrial processing.

Doughton pointed out that although these are standard definitions, a lot of municipali-

ties expand on them. "If they're cutting heavy metal, I think it's heavy industry," said Vice Chairman Frank Wagner. "Why don't they have that shipped in already cut?" he asked.

Melnick said the supervisors might want to refine the definitions. "We have to decide if we want to include extra definitions of heavy industry that includes using items in excess of say 15,000 pounds."

Chief

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days by the Mayor for giving an old police schedule to an arbitration lawyer, on the basis that the schedule was borough property. Also that month, Fowler went on what was to have been a two-week medical leave to recover from stress and hypertension. In early 2003, Borough officials refused to allow him to return to work unless he provided clearance from a medical professional.

After providing proof of his fitness, Fowler returned to work in March, 2003. Since July, 2003, he has been on sick leave for a shoulder injury suffered while he was on vacation.

Council President John Oliver said the action was taken because it was uncertain when if ever Fowler would be able to return. But Joseph Mangan, vice president of the Fraternal Order of Police Wyoming Valley Lodge 36 claims the chief has given the borough a surgeon's opinion that he may be able to come back.

Borough Manager Joe Moskovitz said the council was advised by Atty. Joseph Rudolph, a partner with the Philadelphia law firm of Reed Smith, that Fowler should be asked to meet state-mandated fitness requirements before being allowed back on duty. Moskovitz said Fowler failed the test given by the borough's physician, and documentation provided by the chief's doctor did not adequately address the fitness issue.

The borough has spent about \$35,000 in legal fees on the dispute, said Moskovitz. Fowler was also being paid full salary during much of the time he was out, until his vacation, sick and personal days expired Sept. 12, 2003.

Because he has met age and service requirements, Fowler qualifies for pension and COBRA benefits as soon as his applications are processed, said Councilman William Peiffer.

The Council also passed two of three resolutions regarding the Uniform Construction Code at its Wednesday night meeting.

Council unanimously approved the adoption of the code and the future retention of third party UCC-approved building inspectors but at the advice of Borough Solicitor Matthew Reinert, tabled a resolution that would create the UCC board of appeals.

He said that residents may question the resolution since they know so little about the appeals board and suggested further advertisement.

Reinert said the delay in creating the board should not be a problem if council instated a 30-day waiting period before residents can take their case to the appeals board. Since the new code doesn't go into effect until after July 1, there would be "no actions to appeal in July," he said.

Council also agreed to apply for a \$50,000 grant to be used for a Council of Governments open spaces comprehensive plan.

Peiffer said the state funds were available through the Luzerne/Lackawanna County Open Space Greenway and Recreation Plan and would be used to focus on preserving open spaces, he said.

The funds would be added to an existing \$51,000 grant COG received through the Land Use Planning Technical Assistance Program (LUTAP), "expanding the pool of money" for the multi-municipal master plan, said Borough Manager Joe Moskovitz.

He said that by applying through the county plan, the borough saved time.

"If we didn't do it like that, COG would have waited until October 2004," he said. "If approved, the money would not be available until July 2005."

Auction

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massages," said Murphy. "I've even had some adults tell me they are interested in those."

The tent will also feature temporary tattoos. There will be a few simple styles to choose from that should appeal to both boys and girls.

Vendors in the tent will set a nominal fee for their service

and 20 percent of all proceeds will benefit the library. All proceeds from the tattoo art will be donated to the library.

"We are still looking for other vendors to complete the schedule," said Murphy. Anyone interested in being part of the Teens and 'Tweens tent can contact Murphy at 675-4830.

Correction

An article published in the June 6 issue, about the Back Mountain Trail, incorrectly identified a Dallas High School student who built a kiosk on the trail. His name is Ryan Marascio.

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