



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### Bargain bear

Beth Grose and Jessica Kus, Dallas, pick out some treasures at the Prince of Peace rummage sale that was held last week. Rain and gloomy skies didn't keep people from turning out to search for bargains.

### Noise

(continued from page 1)

Mark filed an appeal and the zoning board voted in his favor.

Mark has hired an acoustic specialist who identified some solutions such as installing a heavier, insulated roof over the existing metal roof; putting enclosures around the presses, which Mark said is not a practical solution since it hampers production; installing new absorption pads under each of the four legs of the presses; and buying an additional press to be used during first or second shifts, thus minimizing third-shift activity.

He stressed that he will not commit to any of the potentially costly solutions without a thorough investigation. He added that it could take at least 30 days if not more to come to a decision.

"I am willing to spend the money required to do some-

"I am willing to spend the money required to do something if I know it's truly going to benefit."

**Randy Mark**  
Pulverman's owner

thing if I know it's truly going to benefit. I'm not going to plant trees, I'm not going to do things just to say I did them. I want to do something that's going to make a big impact," he said.

Vice Chairman Frank Wagner has been impressed by Mark's responsiveness. "Randy Mark is here to try to resolve this or he wouldn't be here. I congratulate him."

Matthew Krivak, who lives in Orchard View Terrace, one of the neighborhoods affected by the noise, wasn't so optimistic.

"We need a solution, not someone saying, 'I'm looking into it.'"

**Matthew Krivak**  
Orchard View Terrace

"We need action, not reaction. We need a solution, not someone saying, 'I'm looking into it.'"

Ruth St. George, a frequent vocal critic of Pulverman, said that because of the noise, her health has suffered and she was recently hospitalized. "I have been up constantly, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is getting out of hand" she said.

"No one has ever come to my house to listen to the thumping, the pounding, and I live directly across from the building on Lower Demunds Road."

Mark assured her that he will

send someone to her home. "I've always stated that I'd be willing to take corrective action if I knew what would be effective," he said.

Mike Kovalick and other neighbors also complained about loud, crashing sounds created by employees tossing scrap metal into dumpsters before 6 a.m. each morning. Mark explained that small containers are set up at each work site to collect the scrap metal. He has instructed his employees not to dump the metal into the large dumpsters after dark.

"By the time morning comes, those bins are overflowing, and their first objective is to unload" Mark said.

Mark said he will continue to attend the meetings to try to work with residents until they can find a solution that will satisfy everyone.

## New solicitor in the dark on factory noise issue

By CAMILLE FIOTI  
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — Attorney Thomas Brennan was introduced as the township's new solicitor at the Sept. 7 board of supervisors meeting. He replaces Michael Melnick, who resigned Aug. 21.

Brennan is a Dallas Township resident with an office in Kingston.

Melnick came under fire at the August 3 meeting for skipping a highly anticipated zoning hearing in July. Residents have been attending the township meetings for months protesting the thumping sounds coming from Pulverman Enterprises.

Melnick issued an enforcement notice to the sheet metal plant's owner, Randy Mark to cease and desist with the objectionable sounds or face legal action. The zoning hearing was a result of an appeal to the notice. The hearing continued

without Melnick. The township lost.

"Where were you?" asked Matthew Krivak of Orchard View Terrace. "We had no representation," he said. Melnick apologized and said that he was at another meeting and was tied up.

Melnick had also been working on revising the noise ordinance. The current ordinance states the maximum allowable decibel level is 72. Noise testing performed by sound engineers hired by Pulverman indicated the plant is in compliance. Residents have been pushing for a change to lower the decibel limits, but Pulverman, will be grandfathered into the current ordinance.

Brennan indicated that he had not received anything from Melnick. He added that although he isn't completely familiar with the case, he'll try to address the concerns as quickly as he can.

### School tax rebate period ending

Dallas Borough Tax Collector Mark W. Van Etten reminds Dallas Borough residents the last day to pay the 2004 Dallas School District real estate and per capita taxes during the rebate period is Wed. Sept. 15. Van Etten will be available at the Dallas Borough building on Wednesday evening between 6 and 8 p.m. Residents can mail tax payments to: Mark Van Etten, P.O. Box 447, Dallas, PA 18612. He can be reached at 675-1878.

The rebate value on 2004 school taxes will end Wednesday, Sept. 15. All payments must be postmarked on or before Sept. 15 to be eligible. The Kingston Township tax collector's office is open Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Payments also may be dropped off any time in the mail slot located in the vestibule of the township building at 180 E. Center Street.

## Homeowners charge runoff ruins property

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. — Janet and John Sauchak brought concerns about the state of property near their Fernridge Court home to the supervisors' Sept. 8 meeting.

A long discussion centered on drainage and uncompleted work by the developer, Gerald Fisher.

Janet Sauchak listed at least three items she said should have been addressed by Fisher, but have not. They were an improperly installed storm drain, a street light that was never put up and a pile of rocks she said were supposed to be used to construct a drainage basin but were only dumped and left in one place.

"That has to be cleaned up," she said. "If Mr. Fisher won't do it, who is responsible?"

Supervisor Jeffrey Box, who was township manager at the time the development was put in, defended the decision to accept the street. "The lion's share of these issues were completed," he said, or the street would not have been accepted.

Sauchak also said a new neighbor's landscaping and gutters have diverted water runoff onto her property. Township solicitor Ben Jones III told the Sauchaks that if changes were made to the subdivision's drainage plan, action can be taken, but hard evidence is needed.

"Simple soil erosion in itself is not a violation," Jones said. Sauchak said the grade had been changed dramatically, and she could produce photos to support her position. She said the runoff had ruined a stone wall and cracked the driveway.

The Sauchaks left with a promise from zoning officer Bill Eck that he would visit them at home the next morning to review the situation. Eck said the neighbor is on notice

that the drainage issues must be corrected by the end of September.

The local property tax has brought in 92 percent of the \$194,500 estimated in the 2004 township budget, enabling the township to weather a fiscal storm that arose late last year.

The supervisors adopted a 10-mill property tax last December when it appeared revenues would fall short of spending in 2004. So far, more than \$178,000 has been received, said Kathleen Sebastian, township clerk. As a result, the general fund showed a balance of nearly \$337,000 at the end of August, even after a \$248,807 semiannual payment was made on debt service for the township office building.

The township had not imposed a property tax since 1994.

In other business:

- The Green Road paving project, which was supposed to be completed in June, may get done by the end of the month. Work has been held up for several weeks while the contractor waited for UGI to move electrical lines. That work should have been completed last week, said township manager Eddie O'Neill, and the contractor has indicated it will take two or three weeks to finish up.

The supervisors will delay until the work is done a decision on whether to seek damages of up to \$500 per day beyond the contracted completion date.

- After discussing three bids to install a railing at the front of District Justice James Tupper's office in the old township building on Carverton Road, no motion was offered to accept any of them. The brick wall has separated from the walkway and is being held up by wooden stakes. O'Neill was asked to investigate other contractors for a metal railing and for rebuilding the wall.



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