

Dallas swimmers swamp O'Reilly. Page 7



# THE POST

50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## Both sides in condo battle vow to press on

Expansion plan appears to meet regulations, but angers neighbors.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Not In My Back Yard, NIMBY, is often used in broad terms to describe resistance to new development. But for residents of The Maples, a neighborhood of stately

homes on expansive lots, it is literal when referring to the Dakota Woods condominiums.

John Thomas, President of The Dakota Group Inc., which is building the condos, says their fears are misguided.

"These aren't babies," he says in describing the units, some of which sell for \$300,000. "These are equal in any way, shape or form to anything in

The Maples."

About 50 people signed a petition protesting Dakota's request to add 14 units to the 42-unit project, and many of them turned out for a zoning board hearing Jan. 10. They voiced concerns about crowded schools, lower property values and environmental degradation in asking the board to turn down the request.

Even if that happens, Thomas says

Dakota will purchase the land, and take whatever action is necessary to gain approval.

"They can sign petitions until Hell freezes over," he said. "We'll let the course of the legal system go through."

Zoning approval is conditional upon the board ruling the proposed development complies with existing regulations. If the board finds the expansion is legal, engineering and site develop-

ment plans would be presented to the township's planning commission for approval prior to construction.

"If you only consider the zoning rules, we should have gotten approval," Thomas said.

Zoning officer Leonard Kozick doesn't disagree. He thinks the plan meets the rules for Planned Residential

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### DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Galicki wants all teachers to be on the Web

Acting superintendent says most teachers now have in Internet page; he is pushing for it to become a requirement.

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Dallas students will have one less excuse for not completing their work if acting Superintendent Frank Galicki is successful in making all teachers maintain a Web page.

Galicki says many teachers in the district's two elementary schools and the middle school — he estimates 75-80 percent — now have an Internet page accessible to students and parents. The rate is lower at the high school, "but we're getting there," he says.

"The availability of technology is greater in the elementaries and middle school," Galicki said last week. Dallas Elementary and the middle

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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## They're walkin', yes indeed

Irwin and Helen Messick walk two miles every day. The 80-something couple forgo exercise machinery for the more natural and communal benefits of walking in Dallas.

### LAKE-LEHMAN BUSING

## Van contractor defends record

By RONALD BARTIZEK  
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — There's no disagreement on this: It costs a lot to transport Lake-Lehman special-needs students and those who attend parochial and private schools.

But Lake-Lehman School Board President James Mahon and van contractor Sandy Dobrowski are locked in a war of words about why, and what to do about it.

One of the 13 contractors used by the district, Dobrowski says she has tried to show administrators how to cut costs, but they have not responded.

"There's no reason for three vans to be at Wilkes-Barre Vo-Tech," she said. On her run from the far western reaches of the district to the Wilkes-Barre school, she drives very near the homes of three students who are picked up by other contractors.

"I have offered to take them at no extra cost to the district," she says, but has not been allowed to.

Instead of implying that all the contractors are ripping off the district, Dobrowski thinks the district should be looking for efficiencies in its system. "I have given them ways to save this district money," said the 19-year contractor.

According to school district figures, in 2003-04, Lake-Lehman paid an average of \$10,070 for each child shuttled by car or van to classes elsewhere, a service mandated by state law. That

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## DMS students come to the aid of fire victims

They had intended to donate to tsunami relief, then a tragedy occurred closer to home.

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

It is often said that charity begins at home and that was the sentiment behind a decision at the Dallas Middle School last week to change the beneficiary of a fundraising effort.

Members of Miss Jennifer Presper's sixth, seventh and eighth grade Cultures classes had planned to seek donations for victims of the recent tsunami in Asia. Instead, due to a fire on January 6, a local family will benefit from their efforts.

The Scafidi family of Dallas lost most of their possessions in a fire at their home. The three children, John, Steven and Lauren, are students in the Dallas School District.

"We at the Dallas Middle School are very grateful for the positive response we always receive from our families, so we are very selective in

what we choose to do. I think we already ask a lot of our students," said Anthony Martinelli, principal. "But, when an emergency in our community arises, we feel it is the responsibility of our school community to respond."

The Dallas Middle School has annual events that benefit the SPCA, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the Back Mountain Food Pantry.

School courses revolve around meeting standards these days and that is the goal of Miss Presper's Cultures class. "It is part of our community access standards," said Presper. Her students are developing their skills by interacting with the community. They made and posted signs throughout the school to advertise the fund raising drive.

"We're collecting money at each of the three lunch periods and then counting the money," said Erika Turner.

The students collected over \$200 in the first day of the drive, which lasted until Thursday of last week.



FOR THE POST/M.B. GILLIGAN

Members of Miss Presper's Cultures Class who recently helped with a collection to benefit the Scafidi family of Dallas are pictured by one of the many signs they made for the school halls. From left are: David DeJesus, Erika Turner, John Lyons, Christine Snedeker, Tim Vassello, Cassie Atherholt, Stephen Lyons, and Jennifer Presper.

"Someone even donated a gift card to Old Navy," said Cassie Atherholt.

"My brother knows the oldest of the Scafidis," said Tim Vassello. "I think this is something nice for them."

The students all expressed the notion that they will be more willing to donate to future causes after working so hard on this effort. Several clubs at the Dallas Middle School have also pledged donations.



Cadet John Isaac

## Back Mountain connections to the inaugural

### Cadet Isaac to participate in Inaugural Parade

Cadet John Isaac of Dallas will participate in the Presidential Inaugural Parade January 20, in Washington, D.C. as a member of The Citadel Summerall Guards.

The guards were recommended to the Armed Services Inaugural Committee by the entire South Carolina congressional delegation. The recommendation was initiated by Congressman Joe Wilson.

Named for Gen. Charles P. Summerall, former chief of staff of the U.S. Army and president of The Citadel from 1931 until 1953, the Summerall Guards is the military college's silent precision drill platoon. Each spring rising seniors are

selected by outgoing guards for their superior physical stamina and drill proficiency. Membership in the platoon is considered one of the most prestigious honors at the college. The 61-member team performs precise drill movements based on a silent close order drill known as The Citadel Series. The series has never been written down, but has been passed down from class to class through rigorous practice.

A widely-traveled unit, the platoon has participated in parades and ceremonies throughout the country, including the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans; the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Ga.; and the Azalea Festival in Wilmington, N.C. In 1989, they performed in the Presidential Inaugural

Parade for President George H.W. Bush.

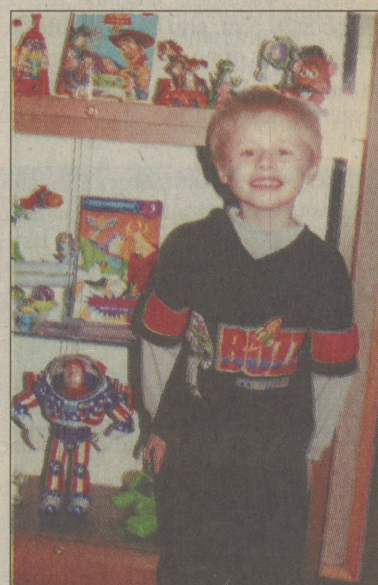
### Sgt. Griffin helping with military's planning

Army Staff Sgt. Cynthia L. Griffin has arrived in Washington, D.C. to serve as a member of the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. The competitively selected members from the five branches of U.S. military services arrive according to a time-phased plan at the direction of the Secretary of Defense.

The inaugural team is responsible for a range of planning, operational, communications, logistics, personnel, and public affairs support related to inaugural cere-

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'Toy Story' display at the library.

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