

# THE POST

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



Dallas Township native Sandie Swan spends a light moment with Daisy, a 6-month-old beagle who was missing for more than a week before being found.

FOR THE POST/JONATHAN J. JUUKA

## A tail-wagging ending

### Missing 6-month-old beagle back with owners

By DAVE KONOPKI  
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. – This is a story with a happy ending. A story where tears of sadness were changed to tears of joy. It's the kind of story Sandie Swan enjoys reading in the newspaper.

And a story that makes Swan and her husband Dave proud to be members of the Back Mountain community.

For 10 agonizing days and nights last month, the Swans watched, waited and worried after their beloved 6-month old pet beagle Daisy disappeared from their Spencer Road home on a cold winter afternoon. Daisy and her 2½-year-old mother Patches left the home through a door the Swans didn't realize was broken.

Patches returned the next day. Daisy didn't.

"We don't know what happened, but

Patches is a hunting dog and she probably outran Daisy," said Swan. "Daisy got lost didn't know how to get back home."

Swan made signs and hung them throughout the community. She also placed Daisy's photo in the lost and found section of a local newspaper.

"We were so worried," said Swan, whose mother was having open heart surgery on the day Daisy disappeared. "We just kept the faith that we'd find her safe."

On Valentine's Day, the prayers were answered.

Carol Schaffer is an animal lover. She and her husband Jon have a dog and four cats, all of which were taken in by the couple as strays. Carol also keeps a shed on the side of the couple's Lakeway Manor home – located approximately one mile from the Swan home – that has been used for years by stray cats looking

for a place to be protected from the elements.

Schaffer saw the newspaper ad regarding Daisy. The next day, Jon said he thought he saw a beagle walking along Route 415 near Back Mountain Bowl. The couple went searching for the dog, but couldn't find it.

The next day, Jon Schaffer saw something bolt out of the shed. A few hours later – with her curiosity rising, some of the cat food gone, and two of the three stray cats nowhere to be seen – Carol Schaffer stood outside the shed and called out "Daisy, is that you?"

And a beagle face peered out from the shed.

"You could tell she was scared," said Schaffer, who locked the gate near the shed and called Swan. "She didn't want to come out."

See DAISY, Page 5

## Chili contest has something for every taste

By GENELLE HOBAN  
Post Correspondent

SHAVERTOWN – From hot and spicy to regular and mild to vegetarian to positively unusual, just about every kind of chili you can think of was brewed at the second annual Greater Wyoming Valley Chili Cook-off at the Shavertown United Methodist Church.

The contest was held last weekend as a fund-raiser to help finance a summer service program called the Pittsburgh Project, which helps refurbish homes in

the city's most neglected neighborhoods.

The truly unusual entries which simmered in their slow cookers through the afternoon contest ranged from a chocolate chili to a peanut butter chili which was victorious in last year's competi-

tion.

Results of this year's chili cookoff were not provided to The Post before deadline.

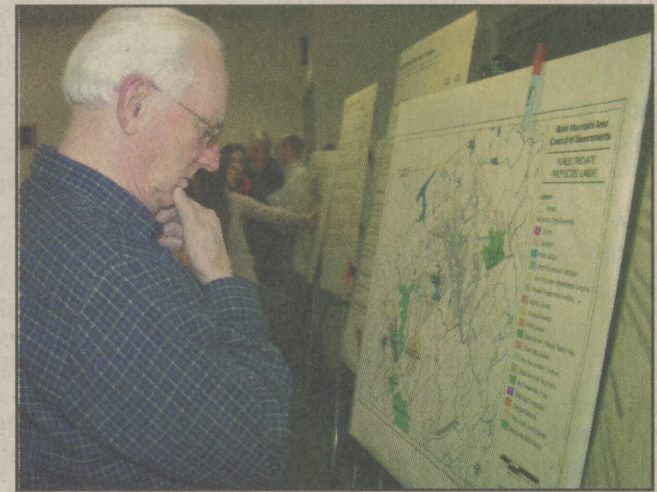
Clark and Ziegler volunteered in the

See CHILI, Page 5



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/S. JOHN WILKIN

Colin Grube takes a sample bowl of Kelsey Maas's vegetarian chili as associate pastor Drew Cottle of the Shavertown United Methodist Church looks on during a chili cookoff.



Dallas resident Paul Rodda looks at the projected lands during the meeting.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/JONATHAN J. JUUKA

## Council of Governments moves forward with plan

By IAN CAMPBELL  
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. – The Back Mountain Area Council of Governments has a plan for the future – if everything goes well.

And it might make living in the area a lot more manageable in the years to come.

The Multi Municipal Comprehensive Master Plan was unveiled at a public meeting earlier this week during at the Kingston Township Municipal building. Approximately 70 people attended the meeting.

The plan aims to streamline development throughout the borough of Dallas, and the townships of Dallas, Kingston and Lehman, with a combination of road projects, environmental proposals, and centralized development areas, with the hope of eventually creating an environment that mixes village life and ecotourism development, in a way that maintains the quality of life in the region and maintains its pastoral nature.

Part of the reasoning, Dallas Borough Manager Joe Moskowitz noted, is the simple fact that nonstop, uncontrolled growth in the area is simply unsustainable. Putting in infrastructure for developments further and further out in rural areas becomes an expense most municipalities cannot sustain.

Additionally, despite the reservoirs in the area, the majority of the Back Mountain relies on well-water, and there are only so many places where water is accessible.

So the question for the master plan designers became where, and how, development should flow, and what they presented Tuesday was a three-pronged approach.

The road network remains one of the area's weakest links, with thoroughfares overcrowded in some areas, and under-engineered in others. The major development theme was to re-

duce access points on the major roads, directing business traffic in through control points, and creating a bypass away from the known chokepoints for those going through the area on route to Wilkes-Barre or Scranton.

Water remains another core issue, with future expectations that development will double the drain on water supplies to an annual 7.5 billion gallons. Having the development centered on where the water is becomes an issue of necessity, the gathering was told.

The overall plan called for a mixed community, with large and small centers of development and an overall effort to maintain as much as possible the mostly rural elements that have contributed to the growth of the area in the first place.

When people in the group were asked to indicate what planners should examine first, most chose big box development, regionalization of services, developing a commercial zoning program, and the expansion of senior housing opportunities.

People also wanted to see work on ecotourism possibilities and protections of the historic nature of the area, and limits on growth of water and wastewater use.

The overall theme was summed up by one anonymous comment that the Back Mountain didn't "want to become another Wilkes-Barre Township Boulevard."

The enthusiasm for increased municipal cooperation has come from the state government, Department of Community and Economic Development representative Cindy Campbell said. The Governor's Office, PennDOT, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as county officials, have all spoken of the need for municipalities to begin working effectively together, and it is hoped that proposals like these will mark a step towards that for the Back Mountain.



Keith Mullins of Edwards and Kelcey goes over the plans.

### Inside The Post

- 8 Pages, 1 Section
- Puzzles .....2
- Civic.....3
- Only Yesterday.....4
- School.....5
- Sports.....6-7

Dallas Youth Basketball crowns boys seventh/eighth grade boys playoff champion.

6



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2

Winning artwork to be on exhibit.

3

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