



Dallas resident Deborah Chielli stands next to a pair of draft horses near Hillside Farms in Kingston Township.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Community begins work down on the farm

They don't call it a "working farm" for nothing.

Volunteers recently began preliminary cleanup tasks to restore a former Kingston Township dairy farm to its former – and fully functional – splendor.

The Lands at Hillside Farms – an upstart not-for-profit organization – announced plans in late November to acquire the property from the Conyngham family, which has owned the parcel for about 125 years. Promoters plan to return cows, horses and other barnyard critters to the 410-acre tract. They say it'll be a place for teaching people about agricultural history, organic growing and other earthy subjects.

"Volunteer work days" are scheduled on alternate weekends leading up to a planned grand opening in late May.

Helpers are needed for a variety of chores: Web design, fund-raising, field work, maintenance/repairs and deliveries. People also are being sought for event planning, musical performances and publicity.

A volunteer orientation is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30 at the dairy store on Hillside Road, Shavertown. For more information, call 696-4500 or visit the Web site www.TheLandsatHillsideFarms.org.



Mike McMullen helps cut away brush at Hillside Farms.



Lehman Township resident Sal DiPietro participates in the cleanup effort.



Delores Caverly and Colette Check were some of the many volunteers who assisted in the cleanup.



Gia Querci and Francesca Domiano rake the leaves on the Hillside Farms property.



Mark Hetman of Warrior Run volunteered to participate in the cleanup.

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