

The DALLAS POST

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

Wall of Hope fundraiser a big success at Dallas

By DAVE KONOPKI
Dallas Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. — The names on the Wall of Hope inside the Dallas High School gymnasium read like a "Who's Who in the Dallas School District."

They are the names of cancer victims. And cancer survivors. There are names of teachers. Graduates. Family members of students. District employees.

There are stories behind each of the names, written on an honor card in support of the Coaches Vs. Cancer program. And no one knows that better than Dal-

las trainer Tom Connors, whose 73-year-old father is a survivor of prostate cancer.

"When you look at all of those names, it hits home. It really does," said Connors, who organized a program that raised more than \$600 for Coaches Versus Cancer in a one-week period. "You can talk to just about anyone and you'll find that cancer has affected the lives of someone in their family."

"Cancer hits home to everybody." Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The pro-

gram increases cancer awareness and promotes healthy living through year-round awareness efforts, fundraising activities, and advocacy programs.

A few weeks ago, Dallas athletic director Jack Wolensky received a letter from the organization asking if the district wanted to participate. He asked Connors to lead the way. The result: more than 400 honor cards sold at \$1 each and 200 Coaches Vs. Cancer wristbands sold for \$2 apiece.

"Jack asked me if I wanted to run with it and I did," Connors said. "The people at Dallas, especially the sporting community, are always great at helping caus-

es. I thought it would be great to implement a program that helps local families. The money we raised is going to cancer research and to improve the quality of lives for local cancer survivors."

Connors says looking at the vast number of honor cards can be an overpowering experience.

"You look at the names on the wall and you see so many names that are familiar," he said. "You see so many people that you know. It's sad to see the names of the people who have died because of cancer, but it's also good to see the names of cancer survivors."



FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Dallas trainer Tom Connors directed an effort that raised more than \$600 for the Coaches Vs. Cancer program.

Developers accused of violations

By CAMILLE FIOTI
For The Dallas Post

DALLAS TWP. — The developers of the Dakota Woods townhouse subdivision are in violation of township ordinances, zoning officer Len Kozick reported at Tuesday's meeting.

John Thomas and Joe Albert sold two units and allowed the owners to move in without first obtaining a final inspection of the property and a subsequent occupancy permit, Kozick said.

"They called for a final inspection, but they weren't ready yet," Kozick said, adding that he's had problems with Thomas and Albert in the past with various zoning permit violations. "I think we should prosecute these people for not following the ordinance and fine them," he said.

Infrastructure work also needs to be done before the letter of credit, or bond, is released, Township Engineer Tom Doughton said.

"They've never completed the final pave. They've never completed the storm water ditches, and the letter of credit sits there," he said. "If we're going to go that route, maybe we should start making provisions to pull that letter of credit."

Solicitor Tom Brennan said proof of occupancy must be determined before proceeding with legal action. In other business:

Brennan updated residents on a nuisance property at 445 Valley View Drive in Shrine Acres.

At the Jan. 2 meeting, several residents complained that piles of garbage had been left on the front lawn after a recent fire there. At a Jan. 25 hearing, Luzerne County Judge Michael Conahan told representatives from the PNC Bank Trust Department, which manages the property, that a follow-up hearing is scheduled for Feb. 21.

Conahan will evaluate the costs involved to either repair the dwelling or to demolish it, and give his recommendations at the upcoming hearing.

Another option is to sell it and have the buyer pay for the clean up, Brennan said, adding that several people have expressed an interest in purchasing the property.

devoted DIVAS



PHOTOS FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Red Hot Divas members Cheryl Hillard (standing), Cathy Lanyon, Jean Scupski, Vanessa Richey, Mary Lou Hines, Connie Golumbeski, Jane Featherman, Marlene Blackford, Joan Knesis and Joanne Lehman attend a recent meeting.

Organization home to community-minded ladies

By GENELLE HOBAN
Dallas Post Correspondent

DALLAS — Members of the Red Hot Divas were decked out in red and purple attire during a recent meeting at Pickett's Charge restaurant. The organization is the Shavertown chapter of the Red Hat Society.

The group of about 10 members met for their usual monthly meeting to discuss upcoming events. Each month, the women meet at various restaurants or members' homes for breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

The Red Hat Society officially formed on April 25, 1998, after Sue Ellen Cooper and a group of five friends, known as The Founding Chapter of Fullerton, Calif., dressed in purple clothing and red hats and met for afternoon tea. Today, more than 40,000 chapters exist in the U.S. and 30 foreign countries.

The Red Hot Divas meet not only for the social aspect of the group, but to give back to the local community as well.



Jean Scupski, Vanessa Richey, Mary Lou Hines, Connie Golumbeski and Jane Featherman have a good time during a meeting of the Red Hot Divas.

"We've done many things that benefit charities," Shavertown resident Cathy Lanyon, who founded the chapter about two years ago, said.

"We sponsored care packages for

soldiers and we sent them cookies we baked during Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Last Christmas, the group baked

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"We've done many things that benefit charities. We sponsored care packages for soldiers and we sent them cookies we baked during Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Cathy Lanyon
Founder of Shavertown chapter

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