

Multi-municipal plan will be reviewed, voted upon

The Dallas Borough Planning Commission will hold a public meeting at the Dallas Borough Municipal Building at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 17, in Dallas Borough Council Chambers.

The purpose of the public meeting is to review the multi-municipal comprehensive master plan completed in 2006 under the auspices of the Back Mountain Area Council of Governments (BMACOG).

Following the planning commission meeting, Dallas Borough Council will hold the regularly scheduled October Dallas Borough Council meeting beginning at 7:30 PM.

The planning commission will make its recommendations rela-

tive to the master plan to borough council at that time.

The BMACOG membership, during the initial phase of the master plan development, included Dallas Township, Kingston Township, Lehman Township and Dallas Borough.

To date, only Lehman Township has adopted the master plan and, pending the Dallas Borough Planning Commission's recommendations, Dallas Borough will be the second Back Mountain municipality to adopt the plan.

The BMACOG multi-municipal master plan was funded through a series of grant awards to the COG by the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development,

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners.

A local match by the BMACOG member municipalities also paid for the cost of part of the master plan study.

Volume one of the master plan contains the comprehensive plan study, volume two contains the transportation plan and volume three is an open space, greenways and outdoor recreation master plan.

The three-volume study serves as a blueprint for smart growth development strategies recommended for the Back Mountain.

As a result of the multi-municipal master plan for the Back Mountain, Dallas Borough Council is currently in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a "Downtown Development Plan" specifically for Dallas Borough.

Following adoption of the comprehensive master plan by Dallas Borough Council, the selection process for the downtown planning consultants will begin.

In addition to the development of a downtown plan, the selected consultants will be required to update and revise the current Dallas Borough zoning ordinance adopted in 1992 to conform to the recommendations

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made in the master plan.

Dallas Borough residents are urged to attend the planning commission meeting to discuss their ideas and concerns about the adoption of the master plan and the proposed planning efforts envisioned for Dallas Borough's future.

Borough residents should direct any questions about the

planning commission meeting or the master plan to the borough manager at 675-1389.

The public is invited to attend the meeting to review the master plan and to comment on the plan.

The plan is available for inspection at the borough administrative office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dallas Junior Women reunite and reminisce

Members of the Dallas Junior Women's Club, a club that held its very first meeting on January 9, 1944 and, for 40 years served the Back Mountain, held its first-ever reunion recently at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates.

Five charter members of the club, including Jane Davis, Pauline Shaver Roth, Margaret Purcell Doris Brobst and Peg Cable, were present at the reunion that saw 80 former members come together to reminisce.

Jean Hillard, a member of the reunion's planning committee, served as master of ceremonies and introduced Pauline Shaver Roth. Hillard and Roth discussed the history of the club that saw its members doing everything from making and selling fudge at the first-ever Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction in 1946 to raising funds for residents in need.

Newspaper clippings and photographs were abundant at the reunion. They featured the women at a variety of events, including a sewing contest, fashion show, spring dance, rummage sale, awarding scholarships, as aides at the library auction, guides at the Swetland Homestead and at a 24-year anniversary dinner at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in 1968.

Jayne Haefele, who handled publicity for the club's reunion, said the women had such a great time, they've decided to hold another reunion in two years.



Five charter members of the Dallas Junior Women's Club attended the first-ever reunion of the club recently at Newberry Estates. From left, seated, are Doris Brobst, Dallas; and Jane Davis, Tunkhannock. Standing, Peg Cable, Shaver Roth; Pauline Roth, Dallas; and Margaret Purcell, Harveys Lake.



Members of the committee that planned the first-ever reunion of the Dallas Junior Women's Club are, from left, seated, Peg Thomas, Sheila Bonawitz, Jean Hillard and Alice Niskey. Standing, Evelyn Farrell, Sandy Richardson, Helen Davis, Ginny Orlowski, Diana Dreher, Mary Ann Davies and Jayne Haefele.

Vets contest offers cash

The local Veterans Day Parade Committee is sponsoring an essay contest with cash prizes. Any student enrolled in a school or home-schooled in the Wyoming Valley in grades 4-12 is eligible to participate.

This year's essay topic is: "Why is it important to have a Veterans Day Parade?"

There will be three award categories for this contest: Grade 4 and 5, grades 6 to 8 and grades 9 to 12.

All of the school winners will be invited to participate in the Wyoming Valley Veterans Day parade to be held at 2

p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. Finalists will be notified by October 26 and will be invited to attend an awards ceremony prior to the parade where the winners will be announced.

The third-place winner for each category will be awarded \$50. The second-place winner for each category will be awarded \$100 and the first-place winner for each category will be awarded \$250. Good luck to all the participants.

For questions and a copy of the essay guidelines and regulations, please contact LCDR Susan Allen at susan.allen@navy.mil.

Seniors can apply for rebates

State Senator Ray Musto remind senior citizens eligible for property tax and rent rebates (PTRR) that they have until December 31 to apply for a rebate check.

"Many people have already received checks, but far too many others have yet to apply," Musto said. "Knowing how important these rebate checks can be to senior citizens, I am alarmed by how many eligible people in our area have yet to apply."

The eligibility criteria are: Those seniors earning \$35,000 a year or less and who own a home are eligible for a rebate. And seniors only count one half of Social Security payments toward that income threshold.

You must be a Pennsylvania resident homeowner age 65 or older or be a widow or widower 50 years of age or older or you must be permanently disabled

or medically unable to work. Renters who meet the age requirements and who make less than \$15,000 per year can also receive a rebate.

To receive a free PTRR application, senior citizens can call toll-free at 1-888-222-9190 or register online at www.paproperty-taxrelief.com.

Citizens may also contact Senator Musto's local office in Pittston at 654-1483 to obtain or get help filling in their PTRR application.

"It is important for senior citizen homeowner or renters to get an application and see if they qualify for a rebate check," Musto said. "We are now spreading the word - sending letters to senior citizens centers throughout the region and reaching out to as many senior citizens as possible - on the rebate program and December 31 filing deadline."

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