



Taylor Whitaker, left, and Rachael Alles, eighth grade students at Dallas Middle School, are presented with poppies by Bonnie Thomas and Kep Gottshalk from the Daddow-Issacs American Legion Post # 672 in Dallas at a Veterans Day ceremony. Students at the school raised over \$300 selling poppies.

Poppy sale honors vets

Commander Clarence J. Michael of the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 saluted the student body of the Dallas Middle School after he was introduced by Student Council President Andrew Santora and stated, "It is always a pleasure to visit the Dallas Middle School each year on Veterans Day and see what spectacular program will be presented. The decorum of the students shows a respect that has been instilled by the administration and the faculty. The program again this year was outstanding." Commander Michael reviewed past programs which consisted of a lovely Veterans Garden which was dedicated three years ago and last year's accomplishment of raising

\$982 in a penny collection which was sent to the American Legacy Fund. This fund provides scholarships to children who have lost a parent on the field of battle. The theme of this year's Veterans Day program at the Middle School dealt with the poppy. Mr. Anthony Martinelli, school principal, related the history of the poppy and read the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields," venerating the poppy. He acknowledged the American Legion's Ladies Auxiliary which was represented by President Bonnie Thomas and its unique role in distributing poppies. Eight hundred poppies were given to Mr. Martinelli and the auditorium was



Clarence Michael, commander of the Daddow-Issacs American Legion Post #672 in Dallas congratulates Andrew Santora, president of the Student Council at Dallas Middle School, on his essay about Veterans Day.

awash with the distinctive red color. Students raised over \$300 in donations which will help hospitalized veterans. The Dallas chorus gave a heartrending edition of "God Bless America" while the highlight of the program was the reading of essays and poems by selected students. The theme of the program was "Boots" and a large screen pictured boots and crosses at a gravesite, adding to the emotionality of the presentations. The students had also filled a huge box with

packages of gum and other requested items to be sent to a unit serving in Iraq. The elementary school students made special decorated cards to include in the box. In addition to Commander Michael, Kep Gottschalk, John Emil Sr. and Robert Hines represented Post 672. Mr. Martinelli, Mrs. Holthaus and the entire faculty at the Dallas Middle School take great pride in presenting these programs and the audience appropriately concluded the proceedings by singing a rousing rendition of "Proud



Chris Os-trum, a student at the Dallas Middle School, sports his poppy and an appropriate shirt during a Veterans Day ceremony.

to be an American." Mr. Martinelli was so enthused by the wonderful student cooperation that he did

his traditional cartwheel as Commander Michael whispered to a fellow legionnaire "I'm glad we know CPR!"

Abandoned project has township residents worried about kids' safety

By REBECCA BRIA
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Anthony Usavage of Dallas Township is fed up. Construction began with an erred permit on East Fallbrook Avenue behind his property in the early summer. Once the construction was stopped by the township, the land was left excavated and a mess. Now, Usavage and his neighbors on Midland Drive whose yards are adjacent to the site have an abandoned eyesore and a dangerous hole to worry about. According to Dallas Township Zoning Officer Leonard Kozick, a building permit was issued in error by the township to Michael Garrity of Garrity Realty in Harveys Lake. Garrity allegedly told the township he had a subdivision, but that subdivision was from 1987 and was void. The township revoked the permit after construction had started. "Personally, I pay my taxes. I respect local governments if they do their job and do their job properly," Usavage said. "If I caught them (Dallas Township) doing something wrong in my backyard, then how many jobs were done wrong prior?" Because the construction site has been vacant for over 90 days,



Rainwater fills a hole at a construction site on East Fallbrook Avenue in Dallas Township. The project was abandoned after the township pulled the developer's building permit because of a void subdivision and drainage issues. Neighbors are worried children will get hurt.

the Dallas Township Building Code requires that the large hole be filled in. Kozick says the township was scheduled to send a letter by certified mail to Garrity on November 13, ordering him to fill in the hole. Because children are

known to play in the neighborhood and the rear of a Little League field is close to the site, neighbors are concerned a child will fall in and get hurt or drown in the meantime. "There are too many little kids

and somebody's going to get hurt," Usavage said. Another reason construction was shut down on East Fallbrook Avenue is because the developers are in violation of the township's storm water management ordi-

nance. Kozick says a new storm water management plan is needed in addition to a new subdivision before a permit could be approved. Usavage says Garrity tried to get him and the previous owner of Usavage's home, a woman who is now deceased, to sign an easement allowing a storm water drainage system to pass through the yard of the property. Neither homeowner would sign the paperwork. Garrity says he is a co-owner of the land on which he started to build and plans to continue the construction. "I'm looking into re-doing some drawings for the township and still building there," he said. According to Garrity, the land was subdivided before he purchased it as five separate parcels. If he gets a new permit to build, Garrity plans to construct five new homes. Usavage says his attorney put the township on "point of taken," which, he says, means the township will be legally responsible for any damage that may occur to his property as a result of the construction site. "I believe in doing things the right way because I'm a contractor myself," Usavage said. "And if I don't get the proper permits in

these towns, they don't let me work. "If you want to build something in my backyard, you better make sure it's legal, the 'ts dotted and the 'ts crossed," he added.

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is a good PAIR OF SHOES!



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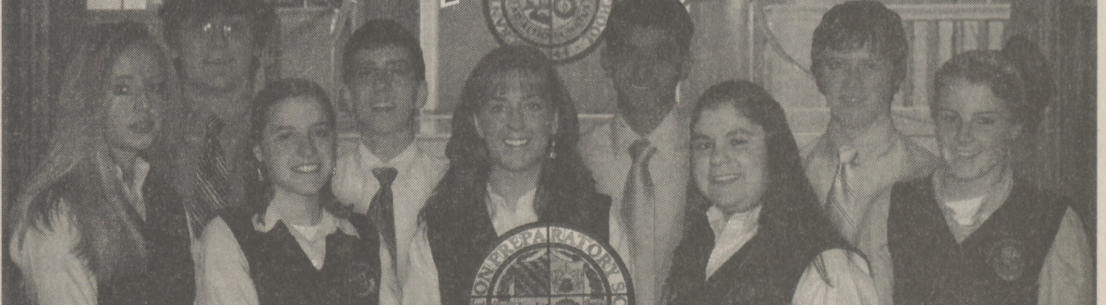
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