

Dakota Woods subdivision in Dallas Twp. is for sale

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The upscale townhouse subdivision Dakota Woods is up for sale.

John Thomas, president of The Dakota Group Inc., developer of the Dallas Township townhouses, confirms the development has been on the real estate market for seven months.

"The reason that Dakota Woods stopped was the Dakota Group were not good developers," said Thomas, one of the six

owners of The Dakota Group Inc. "I'm embarrassed to be a part of them."

After a year of alleged abandonment, Dakota Woods residents are hoping the development will be sold to someone who will complete construction. Only 11 units, nine of which are occupied, of the proposed 42 have been built.

But a bigger problem has been the fallout of the development-run homeowner's association. Despite paying a \$185.23 fee to the association each

month, the bills for maintenance, insurance, outside lighting, etc. were not being paid. So the residents stopped paying the fee in September 2007 and gathered their own money together.

"So far we haven't run out of money...if we get two or three snowstorms in a row, we're going to run out of money in an instant," said Rod Azar, a homeowner in Dakota Woods.

Resident Martha Danon says the group meets about once a month and works together

cooperatively. Each occupied unit is represented. The homeowners ensure the snow plowing is being done and insurance is paid. In the spring, they hope to provide funds for the landscaping.

"We want the property to look pristine," Danon said. "We, as a group, currently do some of the work on our lawns on our own. And we help each other out."

Azar resides in New York City, but his mother was living in his townhouse until she recently left due to health problems.

Azar could not even sell his unit if he desired due to the lack of a certificate of occupancy in his building. Thomas said the permit issue will be corrected before the development is sold.

Dakota Woods residents asked Dallas Township to plow their street. But because Dakota Woods is a private residential development, the township will not offer snow plowing services. Dallas Township Zoning Officer Leonard Kozick says the township cannot help in any way. According to Kozick, township of-

ficials can't even fine the developers for the lack of occupancy permits on some buildings because it was handled through a third party building inspector underwriter.

"There's nothing we can do," Kozick said. "The developer is not doing anything and we can't force him to do anything."

At the last township meeting, Attorney Thomas Brennan, solicitor for Dallas Township, advised the homeowners to obtain a private lawyer to review their rights.

King's College Dean's List

Dr. Nicholas A. Holodick, vice-president for academic affairs at King's College, recently announced the students who have qualified for the fall 2007 dean's list, having achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or higher.

The following Back Mountain residents have been named to the list:

Adam Barry, Trucksville; Daniel Barry, Trucksville; Cynthia Devens, Dallas; Lauryn Ference, Shavertown; Michael Gengel, Shavertown; Alyssa Gill, Shavertown; Elizabeth Graber, Dallas; Eric Gula, Dallas.

Also, James Heffers, Dallas; Alexander Kish, Shavertown; Gracjan Kraszewski, Dallas; John Leahigh, Dallas; Edward Lewko, Shavertown; Mirna MacKay, Shavertown; Gracemarie Mike, Shavertown; Alyssa Miller, Shavertown; Claire Mitchell, Shavertown; Janine Mitkus, Shavertown; Laura Mould, Dallas; Kaitlyn Musto, Dallas.

Also, Melissa Novitski, Shavertown; Kathleen Paley, Shavertown; Thomas Parrish, Dallas; Kimberly Peron, Shavertown; Victoria Posatko, Dallas; Kelly Puffenberger, Dallas; Mary Roman, Shavertown; Jessica Ryan, Dallas.

Also, James Savitski, Shavertown; Stefanie Schultz, Dallas; Jamie Sulewski, Dallas;

Melissa Supczenski, Trucksville; Erin Tanner, Dallas; Camille Valvano, Dallas; Angela Wagner, Dallas; Mark Yanchik, Dallas; and Mark Yankowski, Shavertown.

Seminary names BMT students to Dean's List

Wyoming Seminary Dean John Gordon has announced the Back Mountain students named to the Upper School Dean's List for the fall trimester of the 2007-2008 academic year.

Dean's List High Honors

Benjamin Bell, Shavertown; Catherine Clements, Shavertown; Ian Delehanty, Shavertown; Sean Dickinson, Shavertown; Jocelyn Eckman, Dallas; Katherine Farias, Shavertown; Jared Gollhardt, Dallas; Molli Grossman, Shavertown; Chloe Kalna, Shavertown; Evan Leas, Shavertown; Ryan Leas, Shavertown; Katherine Levandoski, Dallas; Mona Lotfipour, Trucksville; Jezza Malik, Shavertown; Caroline Meuser, Shavertown; Zachary Reuth, Shavertown; Nina Santarelli, Dallas; Richard Squitieri, Harveys Lake; Nicholas Strzeletz, Dallas; Mary Thede, Dallas; Ilya Volodarsky, Shavertown; Brianna Wise, Shavertown; Tyler Zalatimo, Dallas.

Dean's List

Mordechai Bell, Shavertown; Kristen Dagenais, Shavertown; Hannah Frantz, Dallas; Bijoy Ghosh, Dallas; Rachel Gower, Dallas; Kyla Halsor, Dallas; Bryn Harvey, Trucksville; Lauren Henry, Dallas; Derek Kopen, Shavertown; Louise Lumia, Dallas; Ashley Pavill, Shavertown; Richard Rose, Shavertown; Marco Santarelli, Dallas; Allison Ustynoski, Shavertown; J. Alexander Wise, Shavertown.

WILKES TO SERVE JACKSON TOWNSHIP AS CHAIRMAN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jackson Township Supervisor John (Jay) Wilkes Jr. was sworn in for a third term as supervisor of Jackson Township at the January reorganization of the board of supervisors by District Justice James Tupper with his family, friends and colleagues on hand at the ceremony at the township building. Wilkes was also elected by the board of supervisors to serve as board chairman for 2008. From left, are District Justice James Tupper administering oath to Supervisor John (Jay) Wilkes Jr., Jamie Wilkes, daughter; and Debbie Wilkes, wife.

CHILDREN AT TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECEIVE BIBLES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Several children at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas received their first Bible while others received their study Bible to use during their confirmation class to prepare to become members of the church on Palm Sunday. From left, are Jim Snyder, Russell Newell, Sara Davis, Kathy Stevens, Megan Davis, Tyler Evans, Kyle Bolland, Megan Johnson, Stephanie Baines, Steven Newell, Frank Weaver, Connie Weaver and Rev. Roger Griffith. Absent at the time of the photo were Lauren Cunius and Dylan Pilger.

DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE BUILDING AT ROSS ELEMENTARY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ross Elementary School Students of the Building for December are, from left, first row, Cody Dunn, Jimmy Herceg, Joelle Burke, Maclyn Vasey, Olivia Vasey, Garrett Kolb and Garrett Weston. Second row, Emily Crawford, Hannah Cross, Hunter Nice, Sequoia Saxe, Rebecca Wright, Chris Herrick and Grant Calkins. Third row, Donald James, principal; Rebecca Keefe, teacher; Corin Smith, teacher; and Justin Feinauer, teacher.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Dr. Schlifka joins surgery team

Brett Schlifka, DO, of Dallas, joins John Cantando, DO and John Presper, MD, FACS, as an associate in the neurosurgery department at Geisinger Wyoming Valley. He will also see surgical cases at Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. Board certified in neurosurgery, Dr. Schlifka specializes in brain, spine and trauma surgery.



Schlifka

Most recently, Dr. Schlifka worked at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. Previously, he gained extensive trauma experience as a staff neurosurgeon in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his tour in Iraq, he operated on hundreds of soldiers, members of the news media and civilians. He also served as a brigade flight surgeon at Camp Humphreys in Korea.

Dr. Schlifka earned his medical degree at the University of Health Sciences - College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. He completed a general surgery internship at Madigan Army Medical Center and a neurosurgery residency at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Robert McGonigle honored at King's

Robert B. McGonigle, of Dallas, was among several employees of King's College who were honored recently for 20 years of service to the Wilkes-Barre school.

McGonigle is the associate vice-president of student affairs and dean of students at King's.

Seminary sets Open House

The Wyoming Seminary Lower School in Forty Fort is offering area elementary and middle school students and their families an opportunity to visit the school on Monday, Jan. 21.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. with visiting students attending classes, taking part in the day's activities and having lunch in the school cafeteria. Visitors will participate in the school's special assembly, marking observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

Tours of the Lower School for parents also will be offered.

This visitation date and on February 18 and March 24 are offered when many local school districts have a scheduled day off; however, prospective students may arrange an individual visitation day at the Lower School anytime classes are in session.

This date is especially timely for students in grades 4-7 not currently enrolled at Sem who will be participating in the Lower School Merit Scholarship Exam on Saturday, Feb. 2.

For more information or to sign up for the day's events or a tour, call the Lower School Admission Office at 718-6610.