

DAMA in process of improving

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) is currently in the process of implementing an extensive long-range infrastructure improvement plan.

Some of these improvements include the construction of a 2.8 million gallon flow equalization tank to replace existing and decaying 40-year-old concrete tanks, miscellaneous repairs to the sewer collection system and improvements to the authority's main and satellite pumping stations.

These improvements are necessary to maintain compliance with PA Department of Environmental Protection regulations and to help keep pace with the growth surge that has taken place in the Back Mountain over the last several years.

Due to the cost of financing these improvements, it is necessary to increase the sewer rate charged to DAMA residential customers by \$3.50 per month, or \$10.50 per quarter.

Beginning in January 2009, the residential sewer bill will be \$80.50 per quarter. The rates charged to commercial customers will increase from the present charge of \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons to a new rate of \$4.39 per 1,000 gallons.

DHS ART STUDENTS PAINT AT MEADOWS NURSING CENTER



A group of Dallas High School art students recently visited the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, to paint winter scenes throughout the center. This service project is under the direction of Claire Morris, Dallas High School art teacher. Participating in the project are, from left, seated, Eden May, Amber Frania, April Rattigan and Taylor Trudgen. Standing, Amanda Walton, Abby Baltimore, Leighann Amico, Sam Backus, Beki Stasik, Chelsea Fufaro, Erin Fallon and Sarah Szczucki.

MIXER BENEFITS ROTARY'S SHOPPING SPREE



Elva Valentine, Ron Thomas and the Back Mountain Business Association recently hosted a mixer at Valentine's, Route 309, Dallas with all proceeds being given to the Rotary Club of Dallas to help with its annual Children's Christmas Shopping Spree for 45 children from the school districts of Dallas, Lake-Lehman and Northwest. At the end of the evening, almost \$300 was raised, including funds from a raffle sponsored by Kelly McAndrew of Arbonne International. The donation was presented at a recent Rotary Club meeting at the Castle Inn in Dallas. From left, are Gary Booth, club president; Kelly McAndrew, Arbonne International; Elva Valentine, owner of Valentine's Jewelry; Sandy Peoples, Rotary public relations chairperson; Ron Thomas, American Gold Buying Inc.; and Paul Saxon, Rotary Christmas Shopping Spree co-chairperson.

SHELTER

Continued from Page 1

in 20, 30 cats every day and I just can't take them."

Dogs and cats aren't the only animals who call Blue Chip home. The shelter has six horses, two pot-bellied pigs and rabbits, occasionally. Rocco Rooter, the pig, participates in the Dallas Harvest Festival's Kiss the Pig Contest each year.

All animals that come into Blue Chip are spayed and neutered at a cost of about \$140 each, which Bart believes is necessary to control the animal population. Horses, dogs and pigs live in the main building which has electronic fencing outside so they can roam. The cats stay in an office trailer that has been converted into a cottage. There is room for 20 cats and 15 dogs.

Animals available for adoption are advertised through Pet-Finder, an organization that places animals into adoptions and other networks. People who adopt an animal must have a referral and sign a contract in which they promise to return the animal to the shelter if they can no longer care for it. Bart also routinely checks in with the person's veterinarian to ensure the animal is being cared for.

Recently, the shelter developed a Web site, began distributing brochures and held a raffle at the now-closed Starbucks in Shavertown - all of which helped it gain positive publicity. Customers of Starbucks in Shavertown may have seen a Blue Chip donation box, which raised \$110, in the coffee shop in November.

Blue Chip relies completely on private donations to survive, although Bart pays for the daily upkeep of the animals. The shelter always owes thousands of dollars in veterinary bills.

Fundraisers are occasionally held to offset some of the shelter's costs. Bart baked and sold 120 cranberry walnut pies for Thanksgiving and, for Christmas, the shelter sold cookie trays.

The shelter has seen an increase in animals in recent months, which Bart feels is due to people losing their homes and jobs in the poor economy. She would like to see local food pantries carry dog and cat food so people can feed their animals without sacrificing their own



"Sam," a male tiger cat with a very warm personality, is ready for adoption.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



This abused stray adopted by Blue Chip Rescue in Orange has developed a neurotic self-chewing habit and needs to be muzzled.

food.

Volunteers are desperately needed at Blue Chip since the shelter's few volunteers must take care of all the animals. Bart even welcomes people who simply want to play with the animals, especially the cats. She encourages high school students to consider fulfilling their senior project at Blue Chip.

Future plans for Blue Chip include animal boarding, a dog park and a dog exercise facility. Bart would also like to have an on-site spaying and neutering facility that would serve animals at the shelter, as well as strays, in an attempt to reduce unwanted pets.

"We just need more funds and more people," Bart said.



Margie Bart, of Blue Chip Rescue in Orange rescued these hound puppies and has placed them for adoption.