

The DALLAS POST

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas Township has posted this 'Young Lungs at Play' tobacco free sign at the township park. The Dallas Township supervisors passed an ordinance in early August that bans smoking in the township's public parks and playgrounds.

Smoking ban may hit parks

By REBECCA BRIA
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There is little doubt that smoking cigarettes is harmful to one's health.

According to the American Lung Association, smoking-related diseases kill about 430,700 Americans every year. Smoking also costs the United States approximately \$97.2 billion annually in health care costs and lost productivity.

On Sept. 9, the Kingston Township supervisors approved the drafting of an ordinance that, if passed, will ban smoking at the Center Street Park.

The Dallas Township supervisors passed an ordinance in early August that bans smoking in the township's public parks and playgrounds.

Tracey Carr, manager for Dallas Borough, says the borough passed an ordinance in August 2008 prohibiting smoking and tobacco use in Tots Lot (Bicentennial Park) and the Kenneth Young Memorial Park. Carr says there used to be a similar ordinance in place that went into effect years ago that restricted smoking in the parks.

According to Carr, the borough recently received signs from "Young Lungs at Play" to post in the parks. The signs were scheduled to be installed by the road department the week of Sept. 14.

"Young Lungs at Play" from Steps to a Healthier PA Luzerne County is an initiative to make parks, playgrounds and playing fields in Luzerne County tobacco-free.

Although the measures have passed in both Dallas and Kingston townships, not all of the Kingston Township supervisors agree with the decision to outlaw smoking at places where children play. Jeffrey Box, who serves as chairman of the board, and John Solinsky voted against drafting such an ordinance.

"I'm not keen on banning legal activities in public parks," Solinsky said. "The residents that smoke are taxpayers, too."

Solinsky is a non-smoker and was also not in support of the Pennsylvania Indoor Clean

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Focus on DHS camera security



FRED ADAMS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Work is being done on the new maintenance building, shown here, and a new high school in the Dallas School District. The district's school board learned from building and grounds manager Mark Kraynack on Sept. 21 that change orders may be necessary to make additions to the high school construction project contract. According to Kraynack, cameras at the new high school and maintenance building will focus only on observation, not intrusion, under the contract.

Contract re-evaluated to beef-up safety, make additions to construction

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Dallas School Board learned from district building and grounds manager Mark Kraynack on Sept. 21 that change orders may be necessary to make additions to the high school construction project contract.

According to Kraynack, cameras at the new high school and maintenance building will focus only on observation, not intrusion, under the contract. Some of the exterior doors to be installed on the school do not have contacts for burglary detection.

Kraynack said there was talk of intrusion detection on the building during school design committee meetings, which were attended by representatives from the project's architectural firm, Crabtree Rohbaugh and Associates.

"At one meeting, we heard from Chief Balavage from Kingston Township Police Department that took the entire meeting on the latest deterrents used to make a building safe in a lock-down situation," Kraynack said. "We also discussed the maintenance building and the fact it houses the central supply for the district as well as all the equipment to maintain the campus. The project has an extensive state-of-the-art security package. No one at the district could have

imagined the package would not include intrusion detection, especially since the board opted to accept the alternate enhanced package at bid time."

The contract calls for a security system at the maintenance building and high school; however, it is for Simplex and not with ADT Security Services, which is the standard system throughout the district. Kraynack says the Simplex system can easily interface with the ADT system in both the high school and maintenance building and he does not see it as an issue.

Kraynack said there will also be a fiber optic issue related to the construction project. To open the new high school and demolish the existing one, fiber optic

cables will have to be rerouted through the middle school to keep the internet running in the district.

"The district is always concerned with the budget, especially when change order issues arise," Kraynack said. "The hard truth and fact of the matter is, although it was missed in the bid it would have been included within cost of the project originally. Now the burden is on the district to make certain the costs are in line and not inflated to include the changes. We all are aware that change orders happen and are expected, although for me the unexpected is a lot easier to swallow than the missed."

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Runner hopes to raise cancer awareness

By REBECCA BRIA
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If just one family can be spared the pain she and her family felt, Kelly Larson thinks her trek will be worth it.

Larson, of Kew Gardens, N.Y. and formerly of Shavertown, is running the 2009 ING New York City Marathon on Nov. 1 as a member of Fred's Team to raise money for research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

The 27-year-old is running the 26.2-mile race in memory of her godmother, the late Mary Ann (Mihalick) Connor, formerly of Larksville. Connor was age 48 when she died from breast cancer in March 2005.

"I just want to raise awareness for cancer research," Larson said. "I just don't want another



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kelly Larson, of Kew Gardens, N.Y. and formerly of Shavertown, is running the 2009 ING New York City Marathon on Nov. 1 to raise money for cancer research.

family to go through that."

Fred's Team is a group of first-time and veteran marathon runners with the common goals of raising funds for cancer research and completing a marathon. Seven hundred runners competed on Fred's Team in the 2008 ING New York City Marathon wearing the orange-and-blue Fred's

Team uniform. Fred's Team has competed in marathons across the world and has raised more than \$35 million since 1992.

The daughter of Jim and Dorothy Larson, of Shavertown, Larson is a 2000 graduate of Dallas High School and a 2004 graduate of King's College. She works as an accountant in the modeling division at IMG in New York City. IMG, not to be confused with the marathon's sponsor ING, is a sports, entertainment and media company. ING is an annuities and life insurance company.

Larson trains four or five days a week and is now running more than 30 miles a week. She also joined the New York City Road Runners to help her prepare for the marathon.

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Summer comes to an end

The farmers' market at the Back Mountain Memorial Library was a popular stop every Saturday morning during the summer. The market, as well as summer weather, has come to an end as fall is here. For more end of summer photos, please turn to page 3.