

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Accomplishments of students, teachers celebrated

By SARAH HITE
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The Lake-Lehman School Board meeting Monday night was a celebration of students and teachers within the district.

Christine Worlanko, a junior high English teacher, was praised for winning the Excellence in Education Award sponsored by Misericordia University. Superintendent James McGovern read a nomination written for Worlanko that focused on her dedication, organization and use of technology within the classroom.

"She even has her advanced placement students blogging," it stated in the letter.

Two high school seniors were praised for their efforts to raise money through Cheer for a Cure, a cheering competition sponsored by Lake-Lehman that raises money for various cancer research organizations. Erica Schwartz and Caitlyn Wight raised more than \$8,000 to be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and a former coach, Jen Arellano, who is battling breast cancer for a second time.

Arellano's husband, Scott, accepted the check and told the au-

"If it wasn't for these girls and the team, I don't know where we would be."

Scott Arellano
Husband of L-L teacher battling cancer

dience the family plans to donate a portion of it to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

"If it wasn't for these girls and the team, I don't know where we would be," he said.

Seventh-grader Maria Chini-kaylo was also cited for winning a

drawing contest sponsored by Tobacco Free of Northeast PA. Chinikaylo entered a contest for placement in a calendar to be distributed by the organization. She depicted reasons why people should not smoke.

"The funny part is that when

we received notice that she had won, I searched through the calendar to find her artwork," said McGovern. "Here, she got a cover."

Eight students from the district's three elementary schools were honored for their participation in the Wyoming Valley Veterans Day Essay Contest. Students wrote essays on this year's theme, "Why should we be proud of our veterans?"

Retired Lieutenant Commander Susan Allen of the U.S. Navy presented certificates to the following students: Aryan Blazik of Lehman-Jackson Elementary,

Emily Johns of Ross Elementary, Morgan Marchakitus of Ross Elementary, Jason Marcin of Lehman-Jackson Elementary, Owen Morgan of Lehman-Jackson Elementary, Chyenne Nelson of Lake-Noxen Elementary, Jacob Stefanowicz of Lake-Noxen Elementary and Olivia Vasey of Ross Elementary.

McGovern also noted that the district has improved its scholastic aptitude test scores, and is now one of the top three schools within Luzerne and Lackawanna counties in terms of perform-

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A group of well-wishers and supporters gather around the pond at the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, for a candlelight vigil celebrating Alzheimer's Awareness Month.



Christian Wargo, a Scout from Shavertown, takes part in a Veteran's Day candlelight service at the Meadows Nursing Center.



Photographs of Alzheimer's patients and their families are displayed for a Veteran's Day candlelight service.

Vigil honors vets and those afflicted with Alzheimer's

The Dallas Alzheimer's Support Group held its annual Candlelight Vigil to recognize Alzheimer's Awareness Month at the Meadows Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. Because this year's vigil was held on Veterans Day, Boy Scouts participated in the event and special recognition was paid to military veterans.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Budget shows possible tax increase

By SARAH HITE
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The board of supervisors approved the first reading of the 2011 budget, and property owners could see an increase in taxes in the upcoming year.

The municipal millage rate will be raised to .0004112, which is .00006 mills higher than this year's rate. Chairman James Reino Jr. attributes the raise to an inaccurate assessment of township properties, which included non-profit properties, this year.

Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said the increase will result in an average of \$5.87 per residential unit.

The board also voted to draft amendments for the township's fee schedule ordinance, which will affect community programs such as the summer recreation program and the annual spring clean up project.

The township's earned income tax was set at one percent and the real estate transfer tax at one-half of one percent.

The 2011 budget, which totaled \$2,721,161, left just \$38,385 for the

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capital improvement fund. Supervisors said this could halt paving projects for the coming year.

In other news...

The board voted to grant a no-cost time extension to Borton-Lawson, an engineering firm, for the design of the East Center Street bridge replacement project until Dec. 16, 2011.

Reino said the project has been ongoing since 1999 and property disputes have halted progress on the bridge replacement. He said the project is now in the hands of a mediator, and snags in progress have cost the township \$80,000 in additional costs over the years.

An intergovernmental cooperative agreement was approved for the purchase of a radar speed trailer for the township and four neighboring municipalities as part of the Back Mountain Community Partnership. The trailer will cost the township \$1,300, and the municipalities will discuss a sched-

ule of use at the partnership's next meeting.

Employees of the township will see a change in life, accidental death and disability insurance carriers, as the board voted to switch from the township's current provider, Harleysville Insurance, to Benefon Insurance. Sebastian said the township should see a savings of up to 22 percent.

The board voted for administrators to draft amendments to the township's transient retail business ordinance to clarify which solicitors need permits within the township.

Supervisors also voted to place an unmarked police vehicle, a 2004 Dodge Intrepid, for sale at auction.

The board of supervisors will hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22 to discuss general business and also for a second reading of the 2011 township budget.

The next regular meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 in the municipal building.

DALLAS BOROUGH

Council revises master plan costs

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Borough council revised and amended costs associated with Phase 1 of the Dallas Borough Downtown Master Plan at its regular monthly meeting Wednesday night.

The master plan to revitalize Dallas Borough's downtown area was adopted in July 2009. The plan includes several improvements on many aspects of the borough, including retail space, parking and light posts.

The plan was designed by Kairos Design Group but was based on feedback from residents, businesses and students who offered suggestions as to what they would like to see downtown.

Council's approval on the "opinion of probable costs" for Phase 1, as prepared by the borough engineer and Quad Three Group of Wilkes-Barre, will receive \$1,336,687 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

The \$1,120,000 proposed budget contains no tax increase for residents. The current mill rate of 1.28 mills will be carried over to the new year. A mill rate is \$1 for every \$1,000 assessed tax value.

Tracey Carr, borough manager, said Phase 1 includes installing new light posts, sidewalks, bike racks and street trees. A starting date has not yet been determined.

In other news...

Council announced the proposed 2011 budget is ready for public viewing.

The \$1,120,000 proposed budget contains no tax increase for residents. The current mill rate of 1.28 mills will be carried over to the new year. A mill rate is \$1 for every \$1,000 assessed tax value.

The tax rate for earned income will remain the same at five percent. Per capita will hold at \$5, and the real estate transfer tax will stay at one percent.

Carr 2010's budget is \$1,085,000, a \$35,000 difference to the proposed budget. "There were small areas of

change," she said. "Some things went up while others went down."

The 2011 proposed budget is available at the borough office for public review.

Council is scheduled to vote on it at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15, in the borough building on Main Street in Dallas.

Council approved a motion to participate with the Back Mountain Community Partnership in the joint purchase of a radar speed trailer, costing \$1,154.

The Back Mountain Community Partnership includes the following municipalities: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township, Jackson Township, Kingston Township and Lehman Township.

Council announced the proposed 2011 budget is ready for public viewing.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Supervisors hold tax line with new budget

By SARAH HITE
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The \$2,467,850 plan is nearly \$50,000 more than last year's proposed budget, and Supervisor Glenn Howell attributes the rise to the current economic climate.

The board of supervisors passed a 2011 budget Tuesday night without a formal public presentation. Supervisors said there will be no tax increase for residents, and the municipal millage rate will remain at .52.

A mill is \$1 in tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

The \$2,467,850 plan is nearly \$50,000 more than last year's proposed budget, and Supervisor Glenn Howell attributes the rise to the current economic climate.

"Everything has risen a bit due to the economy," he said.

The board also discussed a new paving project that will potentially benefit the entire Back Mountain community.

The township may receive a grant of up to \$100,000 next year from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development, and plans include paving and conducting street improvements to Fairground Road.

Fairground Road starts at Conygham Avenue, right across from the Dallas School District campus, and ends at Lower Demunds Road. Fairground Road is currently blocked off due to its poor condition.

Supervisors said this will be a great benefit to the area and especially the Dallas campus where traffic concerns are paramount.

A bridge connecting Fair-

ground and Lower Demunds roads was replaced with funds received last year from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The \$1 million reimbursement was given to the township for damage caused by flooding to various areas in June 2006.

Supervisors said there isn't much use of the bridge due to Fairground Road's current condition.

"As of now, there's only one person who lives there who's using that bridge," said Wagner.

The project would need to follow program guidelines by benefiting lower to moderate income families, and the township will soon conduct a survey to determine whether or not the benefactors meet this requirement.

In other news...

The board approved payment to Popple Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$234,791 for 2010 paving projects. The price includes the \$204,173 agreed upon cost as well as \$30,618 in unforeseen charges, including manhole repairs, additional paving and extra materials used.

A presentation was given to the supervisors as an

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