

Dallas Twp. budget holds the line on taxes for 2011

By SARAH HITE
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The Dallas Township board of supervisors passed the township's 2011 budget Tuesday night with no tax increases for residents.

Property taxes will remain at .52 mills. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

The real estate transfer tax will continue to be 1 percent of the

NEXT MEETING

The reorganization meeting of the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 3, and a regular meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal building.

value of transferred property, and the per capita tax will hold steady at \$5 per person.

The budget, which totaled \$2,467,850, is nearly \$50,000

more than last year's fiscal plan, but the rise is not attributed to any one specific line item.

The board also appointed and authorized the tax collector to provide residents with tax certification by request, along with the retention of a \$5 fee for services rendered.

In other news, resident Bill Zakosky addressed the board about a property that maintains horses and disposes of manure near his residence and business on Route 309. He has addressed the board

in the past concerning this issue, which he said has limited his ability to work in his garage because of the smell.

Zoning Officer Leonard Kozick said he has confirmed that the property owner on Route 309 is in violation of the township zoning code.

He told Zakosky that the property owner has been notified about the violation and was given 30 days to remove the horses from the property.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Chamber plans fundraising event

The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual fundraiser, "Kentucky Derby with a Bit of Vegas" presented by Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation from 6 to 11 p.m. on Feb. 18, 2011 at Shadowbrook Inn & Resort, Route 6, Tunkhannock.

In addition to horse racing and gaming, there will be Kentucky Derby style food, desserts, silent auction items, fireworks display and a live band. The WYCCC is especially grateful to Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation for serving as Presenting Sponsor of the event. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. For tickets, call 836-7755.

MUNICIPAL BRIEFS

Dallas announces holiday closings

The Dallas Borough Administrative Offices located at 25 Main St. in Dallas Borough will be closed on the following dates in observance of the upcoming holiday season: Monday, December 27, 2010 and Friday, December 31, 2010. Any questions may be directed to the Borough Manager, Tracey M. Carr at 570-675-1389.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

MU student appears on "The Sing Off"

Kurt Knecht, a student at Misericordia University, recently parlayed his extensive voice training and performing into an appearance with the Men of Note on NBC-TV's popular show, "The Sing Off," a singing competition featuring a cappella groups, after being chosen from national audition.

The group performed Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love," and "Halo" by Rihanna for their audition in New York City in the summer and was one of 10 a cappella groups chosen by NBC to appear on the nationally televised show.

Brace receives art award at PSU/WB

Penn State Wilkes-Barre student Shannon Brace, of Hunlock Creek, was recently awarded the Irene Thomas Memorial Award for their contributions to the arts.

Brace is a Dean's List student whose artistic interests include writing novel-length stories, poetry, short stories, and poetic drama. She is also interested in photography, sewing, make-up design and artistic animation.

Brace has been involved in creating artistic and scary elements for Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Haunted Forest and serves as president of the Lazy Artists. She also participates in Student Government Association and the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments.



Jack Barr, of Dallas, was the first to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Second Annual Prince of Peace Church Brunch with Santa.



Nathan Johnston, of Lehman, has a special connection with Santa at the Prince of Peace Second Annual Brunch with Santa.

Very merry visit



Jack and Theo Barr, of Dallas, enjoy a visit with Santa at the Prince of Peace Second Annual Brunch with Santa.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were the stars of the show, but the children were the most excited during the Second Annual Brunch with Santa held December 5 at Prince of Peace Church in Dallas.

SCOUT TROOP 146 HOLDS COURT OF HONOR



Back Mountain Boy Scout Troop 146, chartered by the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department, Shavertown, recently held its December 2010 Court of Honor.

The troop has successfully advanced all 21 boys on the membership roster within its first 10 months of being established. The troop celebrated a remarkable 12 Scouts advancing to First Class Rank within their first year.

The First Class (and higher)-ranked scouts will participate in the NEPA Council's annual "Merit Badge College" being held on the campus of King's College on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011. Shown here are Scouts and leaders of Troop 146, along with representatives from the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department.

From left, first row, Parker Dieffenbach, Anthony Khoudary, Michael Parmelee, Michael Lyons, Chester Brennan, Justin Marshall, Tyler Manzoni, Christo Huntington, Collin MacMullen. Second row, Thomas Brodhead, Chris Ercolani, Ryan Marshall, Tommy Calpin, Matt Lyons, Anthony Huntington, Andrew McCarroll, Connor Duffy, Thomas Manzoni, Matt Blaum, Nick Jensen. Third row, David Bradbury, Mike Anastasio, Tracy Manzoni, Lori Marshall, Amy Huntington, Richie Huntington, Percy Dieffenbach, Jim Blaum, Dan Duffy, Duncan MacMullen, Beth Calpin, Jay Wilkes, George Manzoni, Steve Yencha.

Absent at the time of the photo was Bray Vanderhoff.

REVIEW

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balls and blow bubbles to celebrate their educational careers.

The Lands at Hillside Farms restores the Conyngham Family Cottage, opening its doors for weddings and other private parties. The cottage was built in 1881 and it took \$700,000 and hundreds of volunteers to complete the restoration of the first floor.

The Lake-Lehman School Board approves an 11-plus percent increase in property taxes for residents.

July

Harveys Lake Borough officials begin discussions for a one-year moratorium on gas drilling in the borough. The measure is approved in September.

Encana Oil & Gas prepares to repair roads in Lake Township at no expense to residents for the increased truck traffic on the township's dirt roads due to its work on a gas well drilling site on Zosh Road.

With temperatures soaring above 90 degrees for five consecutive days in July, the Back Mountain sees its most intense heat wave in nine years.

The 64th Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction enjoys great weather and many helping hands. The auction raises 40 percent of the library's budget every year.

August

Five students from the Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 celebrate a fruitful summer at the conclusion of their Dream Green Farm program at The Lands at Hillside Farms. Participants learned job skills as they grew and tended to vegetables and sold them at farmers' markets.

The Dallas School Board approves \$80,000 in change orders to the new high school project. Though the board plans to be reimbursed for the cost of "errors and omissions," the price keeps steeping for the new school, set to open in September 2011.

A new program to honor Lake-Lehman alumni, Knights of the Round Table, gets underway at the junior/senior high school. Superintendent James McGovern hopes the program will honor professionally successful and community-minded graduates.

Current and former employees of Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises reunite for the first time at Konefal's Grove. Hundreds attend the event that was in the works for 21 years.

September

Doug Klopp joins the Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School as principal this year. Klopp, who has worked as a principal and guidance counselor in Pennsylvania schools, looks forward to bettering the educational environment for students.

Dr. Michael MacDowell, president of Misericordia University, and David Yeager, of Radnor Property Group, present to the Dallas School Board a pressing issue of using the old township high school. The men planned to utilize the building for a Misericordia dormitory and daycare center with a 50-year lease from the board. The property would generate tax revenue and eliminate demolition costs for Dallas taxpayers. The school board opts to take its time in deciding on the issue, and no decision was made before the duo's deadline for applying for tax credits approached.

Members of the local organization the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition and others travel to Harrisburg to address the issue of forced pooling and the natural gas severance tax. The natural gas severance tax was not passed in 2010.

The eighth annual Dallas Har-

vest Festival expands for the first time in its existence. Twelve new booths and a new space for entertainment keep the crowd pleased at the Main Street event.

October

A new course at Dallas Middle School teaches students about widely used languages and cultures of the world - Hindi, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Arabic - and brings in community volunteers to bring life experiences with learning.

Pizza Perfect celebrates its 35th anniversary in Trucksville.

Winners in more than 80 categories celebrate at The Dallas Post's third-annual Best of the Back Mountain ceremony. Readers voted online and via mail to choose local professionals to receive top prizes.

Lake Township residents press for details at a board meeting for information about the Zosh Road gas well drilling project. Amy Salansky, board member and property owner at Zosh Road, answers questions but many are left unanswered. Encana Gas & Oil leaves Luzerne County in November after not discovering enough natural gas for commercial use on the property.

November

Voter turnout is high in the Back Mountain for the 2010 election. Elected leaders Karen Boback of the 117th legislative district, Phyllis Mundy of the 120th legislative district and Lisa Baker of the 20th senatorial district maintain their seats in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Dallas Superintendent Frank Galicki takes some flak concerning a state auditor general's report released in October that said he knew of a fundraiser that led to a former school employee's misappropriation of funds. Residents attend board meetings in record numbers, demanding answers from the superintendent. Former Dallas guidance counselor John Wolensky pleaded guilty March 2009 to unlawful taking and was ordered to pay restitution of \$24,631, but the October report noted that Wolensky could have misappropriated more than double that amount.

The Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School theater group performs its first fall play in years. The laugh-out-loud one-acts feature high school students acting as two year olds and fairy tale characters.

A townhouse development set to be built at the 33-acre Hanson's Amusement Park former site receives approval from Harveys Lake Borough but with many conditions, including restrictions on using the sewer system.

December

Harveys Lake Borough officials get started on preparations for the borough's new comprehensive plan. About 600 community surveys are sent out to residents, and those who don't receive them are encouraged to participate. The last Harveys Lake Borough comprehensive plan dates back to the 1970s.

Deborah Basalyga promotes Liberty Reins Ranch in Harveys Lake, which will provide equine therapy for wounded veterans. Basalyga hopes the program will begin in May 2011.

Residents from Fairground Road attend a Dallas Township board of supervisors meeting after hearing about a plan to pave the dead-end road. Residents' concerns range from safety of children to traffic worries. Supervisors say there are no definite plans to pave the road until grand funds are issued to the township.

One year after the Dallas Shopping Center fire, businesses are putting the pieces back together in preparation for the Christmas shopping season. The shopping center was completely rebuilt during the year, including areas of the center that were not damaged in the fire.

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