

# The DALLAS POST

50¢

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

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## DALLAS TOWNSHIP ZONING

## Residents grill Chief Gathering's executive about gas station

By SARAH HITE  
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It was the residents' turn to ask questions Wednesday evening at Chief Gathering LLC's continued hearing for special zoning exceptions to build a natural gas metering station off Hildebrandt Road.

Chief Gathering LLC submitted plans to the township earlier this year to build a metering facility about 1,300 feet from the Dal-

las School District campus. The site plans include two metering buildings, two flow control buildings, a 100-foot communications tower, a 10-foot flare to be used once a month, an 8,000 gallon tank of mercaptan and various piping and valves associated with the project.

The company also has plans to build a pipeline that will lead to the metering station and tap into the Williams-owned Transco pipeline to send gas to market.

Dozens of residents and parents were in attendance at Wednesday's hearing - a small crowd compared to the hundreds who showed up at the two previous hearings. Despite a 3 1/2 hour running time, no decision was made in the matter that has been ongoing for months, and a future meeting will be announced.

Pipelines were discussed at the hearing but no plans about Chief's pipeline project have been submitted to the township. The company had plans to

build a compressor station as well, but due to public opposition and concerns of local legislators, has decided to relocate the compressor station to be at least 3

miles from the Dallas schools. The location has not yet been revealed.

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Ken Komoroski, a Chief attorney from the Fulbright & Jaworski law firm based in Canon-

burg, stated before the meeting it is Chief's opinion the proceedings for zoning approval have gone on "longer than necessary" and asked if a public information session after the hearing would be more appropriate to address community questions.

Zoning board solicitor Phil Gelso said Komoroski's opinion

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## Lake-Lehman VP killed in accident

John Peter Farrell was dedicated to his position on local school board.

By SARAH HITE  
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The Lake-Lehman community is mourning the loss of a man described as dedicated - to his family, profession, community and position as vice president of the Lake-Lehman School Board.

John Peter Farrell, 46, of Harveys Lake, died following a car accident on State Route 29 in Noxen Township last Thursday, according to state police at Tunkhannock. State police said Farrell failed to negotiate a curve and lost control when his 1987 Chevrolet Corvette struck a tree. He was pronounced dead on the scene of the late-night crash, according to state police.

Farrell, often referred to as Peter, worked as head custodian of the administration building of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District for 25 years. His wife, Lorraine, is a reading coach at the Leo E. Solomon Elementary School in Plains Township.

"He always wanted to be sure everything he did was to the benefit of the students," said Jeff Namey, superintendent of Wilkes-Barre Area School District, who knew Farrell for at least 15 years. "We'd sit around and talk of the problems of the world, but mostly about education."

Family, friends and fellow school board members saw Farrell as a kind, caring and helpful member of the community who often talked about his wife and son, Christopher, 10.

"As much as he was dedicated to his job and position at the Lake-Lehman School District, they paled in comparison to the



JOHN PETER FARRELL

dedication he had to his wife and son," said Namey.

Lorraine Farrell said her husband was excited to run for reelection to the Lake-Lehman School Board, which he began serving in 2008. She said his father, the late John Patrick Farrell, served as a school board member in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and was Farrell's inspiration for committing himself to education.

Mark Kornoski, a fellow board member who ran in the last election with Farrell, said Farrell's name will still be on the ballot in the May primary.

"Peter was a very good school board member," said Kornoski. "We were going to run together this year."

Lorraine said her husband "always put the kids first" and became a school board member "for the right reasons."

"We took a vacation last summer in Baltimore, Inner Harbor, and we sat in the lobby of the hotel for almost 45 minutes because there was a school board meeting that night," Lorraine said, explaining that the family

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



## Celebrating EASTER

'Tis the season of Easter bunnies, egg hunts, brightly-colored hats and lots and lots of chocolate. Above, Josie Straigis wears a very creative Easter bonnet to the Ross Elementary School Easter Parade. At left, Easter Bunny, aka Morgan Cohen, has the attention of Noah Love, of Shavertown, at the annual Kingston Township Easter Egg Hunt. More photos of both events inside.



Barb Mikielski will host a Mom Prom to raise funds for the prevention of suicide.

## 'Mom Prom' offers fun and awareness of suicide

By SARAH HITE  
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Barb Mikielski, of Lake Township, is planning a prom - but not for high school students. Though she will have a DJ, photographer and some flashy décor at the event, there are a few differences.

First of all, it's for women only. "The guys didn't really dance (at my prom), so we just eliminated the hassle," Mikielski said.

And second of all, it's to raise money for an organization close to Mikielski's heart.

A Mom Prom, a fun-filled dance for women over the age of 21, on April 29 will raise funds for the American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide.

Mikielski's brother, Lenny King, committed suicide in April 2005, and she is working to ensure others can get the help they need before it's too late.

Mikielski learned of the organization after searching for answers after her brother's death.

"I wanted to know why it happened, why did he choose this, why these things were happening, how do we fix our problems," she said. "I got help from an online support group and a

### ATTEND THE MOM PROM

**What:** Mom Prom to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

**When:** 8 to 11 p.m. Friday, April 29

**Who:** Women aged 21 and older

**Where:** Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas Township

**Tickets:** \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

**Details:** The Mom Prom will feature a DJ, photographer, cardboard cutout dates, cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, a prom queen drawing and raffles, including gift certificates, gift baskets, a handmade quilt and more. Information about AFSP will also be available.

**More info:** Contact Barb Mikielski at 762-2319 or barb@mikielski.com.

lot of reading."

She said suicide isn't just about one person - entire families often feel the effects of mental health issues. Mikielski wor-

ried whether her family would ever be the same, and if their problems were "normal."

"Yes, we are normal," she said. "The healing process is different

for everyone, and sometimes people never recover."

Mikielski became active in the AFSP-based Out of the Darkness Community Walks in Wilkes-Barre for the past two years, and now she is working to start a northeast chapter of the Amer-

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