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Opponents of gas metering station continue to air concerns

Residents have been protesting gas metering facility since February.

By SARAH HITE
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Opponents of a proposed natural gas metering station continued to testify at a Dallas Township Zoning Board hearing Monday evening.

Chief Gathering LLC has submitted an application to

build a natural gas metering facility off Hildebrandt Road, about 1,300 feet from the Dallas School District campus.

The meter would measure gas flowing through a gathering line from wells in Susquehanna and Wyoming counties to the Transco interstate pipeline.

Concerned residents and parents have been protesting the development since February when the hearings began.

Resident Jim DeMichele has learned a great deal about the

"The Back Mountain is quickly, to me, becoming an area where you do not want to relocate....The gas industry comes strolling in, with money like they have been able to do, and quickly seems to make landowners forget about their neighbors..."

Jim DeMichele

Expressing concern about gas industry

underground pipeline landscape of the township through this proposed endeavor and has dedicated much of his time to fighting against "arrogant" gas companies.

"I moved to the Back Moun-

tain with my family to get away from the city life. The Back Mountain had beautiful terrain, wide open spaces, gorgeous scenery and lots of peaceful living," he said. "The Back Mountain is quickly, to

me, becoming an area where you do not want to relocate....The gas industry comes strolling in, with money like they have been able to do, and quickly seems to make landowners forget about their

neighbors..."

DeMichele is concerned about the way the gas industry is being bolstered by Gov. Tom Corbett and read excerpts from local newspaper editorials in an attempt to show that he is not the only one who thinks this way.

"Where will it stop and how far will it go?" DeMichele asked.

Fairgrounds Road resident Wayne Dottor, via a slideshow

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DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Residents and hockey players bombard board

By SARAH HITE
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Parents and students passionately addressed the district's emergency preparedness and athletic team space at a meeting Monday evening.

Fairgrounds Road resident Jane Tolomello slammed Superintendent Frank Galicki and board members for not responding to an incident on the nearby Transco interstate natural gas pipeline.

Tolomello said a 20-minute natural gas release occurred around 2 p.m. Sept. 22 at the site where Williams Field Services LLC is preparing to tap its Springville Gathering Line into the Transco line, located about 1,300 feet from Tolomello's home and about 1,500 feet from the Dallas schools.

She said county 911 was notified of the planned release, but she and her neighbors were not. Tolomello said she e-mailed Galicki about the event, but he did not believe her.

"I'm giving you information no one else has. I wasn't doing that because you're my friend - I was doing that for all the kids sitting in this room."

Jane Tolomello
Fairgrounds Road resident

Galicki said he called the township zoning officer, supervisors and chief of police, all of whom said they were not aware of a natural gas release in the area.

"I'm giving you information no one else has," said Tolomello. "I wasn't doing that because you're my friend - I was doing that for all the kids sitting in this room."

Tolomello yelled for Galicki to present an evacuation plan and test it due to the onset of

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HAVING SOME FALL FUN



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Justin Greyson bobs for apples at a Dallas Baptist Youth Group get-acquainted event. For another photo from this event, please turn to page 5.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Tiffany Oplinger was crowned the 2011 Lake-Lehman High School Homecoming Queen during ceremonies prior to the Lake-Lehman/Northwest football game on October 8. Oplinger is shown here with her parents, Caryn and Wayne Oplinger, of Shavertown.

Tiffany Oplinger crowned Queen

Tiffany Oplinger was named the 2011 Homecoming Queen at Lake-Lehman High School during ceremonies prior to the Lake-Lehman/Northwest

football game on October 8. Curtis Barbacci was crowned king. Members of the court included Lindsey Bennett, Shelby Foster, Morgan

Mathews, Mikayla Orrson, Nikki Sutliff, Ryan Hoyt, Kevin Katchko, Christopher O'Connor, Cody Poepperling and Nick Shelly.

'Asylum' is for a good cause

By SARAH HITE
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IF YOU DARE ...

Screams of terror are like music to their ears.

When Bill Davis and James Starosta have down time, the creators of the phobia-filled Brokenharts Asylum at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds in Dallas Township sit at the exit of the self-guided haunted attraction, watching and listening to reactions of petrified patrons.

"It's fun to watch their reactions, and you can tell when you've done a good job," said Davis, of Harveys Lake, of the people who visit the spectacle.

Brokenharts Asylum, an annual fundraiser for the Harveys Lake Fire Department, is based on the story of the fictitious Dr. Vanburen, a man gone mad after exploring others' nightmarish neuroses.

"The different scenes reflect fears people have," said Davis.

Each room has a theme in the four-trailer attraction. There are clowns, bugs, pitch-black darkness - and plenty of chainsaws.

"We have four chainsaws

Brokenharts Asylum is located at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds off Route 118 every weekend in October and Halloween night. Cost is \$10; \$5 for a re-ride. All proceeds benefit the Harveys Lake Fire Department. For more information, visit www.screamindemonshunts.com.

throughout the attraction," said Starosta, of Hunlock Creek. "One girl just sits in a chair in a corner and revs the chainsaw."

The volunteer-run event is previewed at the Luzerne County Fair in September, although this year the Harveys Lake Fire Department had its hands full after Hurricane Irene wreaked havoc on the area. Davis said the group set up one trailer and charged just \$1 for those looking to sneak in a quick scare at the family-themed event.

"With the flooding, we were doing water rescues, pumping basements, so we were really busy," said Davis. "And people didn't have a lot of money at the time anyway, so we dropped the price."

The attraction got its start right on the lake, at the Harveys Lake Fire House on Lakeside Drive. Davis said he and

Starosta worked at the Haunted Fire House as youngsters, setting up and tearing down the entire site every night.

"It was a lot of fun," said Davis. "Girls would be so scared and running to their cars, and we would jump up from behind their cars and they'd slam their car doors so hard the windows would break."

Starosta, who works on lighting and effects for a stage company that tours with nationally-recognized artists, said those early years taught the volun-

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