

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Mass student evacuation plan is unveiled to public

By SARAH HITE  
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The Dallas School Board unveiled a working mass evacuation plan to the public Monday evening.

The plan states students will be transported to Lake-Lehman School District schools in the event of a catastrophic occurrence on the Dallas campus, and vice versa.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said the plan is still a work in progress, and he hopes to have a drill of the evacuation upon coordination with both

districts' schedules.

"I have communicated with first responders, local police, fire, administrators at the neighboring Lake-Lehman School District and developed this collaborative agreement," he said.

At last month's school board meeting, concerned parents pressed the board for more information about an emergency evacuation plan due to the ongoing natural gas development within 2,000 feet of the campus.

Galicki told those parents an evacuation plan was put in place long ago, and evacuation

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Frank Galicki  
Dallas School District superintendent

sites included Misericordia University, Irem Temple Country Club, the old Dallas Township High School building and Gate of Heaven School.

He said after the storms of late August and early September when both districts hosted

many evacuees, the two superintendents got together to develop a plan.

"There are not too many areas now in the Dallas community where we could evacuate to," he said. "Gate of Heaven School is no longer available,

the Dallas Township school is structurally a nightmare and there's no heat, so we wouldn't want to take kids there. Irem Temple pavilion can only house a couple hundred kids, so we had to look elsewhere."

Galicki has also talked to the superintendent at Forest City Regional School District in Susquehanna County, an area where natural gas activity is prevalent.

"He's going to e-mail me his plan," he told the audience.

Galicki said he would include the public in future announcements regarding the plan.

**Dallas Elementary repairs**  
Rick LeBlanc, of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, told the board roof repairs will need to be made to Dallas Elementary in the near future. He said there are roof panels in three classrooms that are sagging as much as six inches, and they must be monitored closely until work can begin on the project.

The board approved the estimated \$15,000 project and will advertise for bids within the next month.

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JACKSON TOWNSHIP

## Agreement with Larksville is ended

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Back of payment and a communication breakdown led Jackson Township supervisors to terminate a 49-year agreement with neighboring Larksville Borough during their November 7 meeting.

In 1962, an agreement bound the two municipalities for shared maintenance of a mile of Steele Road, a dirt road.

Jackson Township chairman John J. Wilkes Jr. said the agreement worked well for years. Jackson Township, well equipped to maintain dirt roads, used its manpower and machines and, in return, Larksville Borough paid \$400 from its liquid fuels fund for the work, he said.

Liquid fuels money is allocated by the state based on the mileage of roads within a municipality and is often earmarked for road repairs and related expenses.

"It worked flawlessly up until 2005," Wilkes said.

That is when Larksville Borough stopped paying. To date, about \$2,800 is owed to Jackson Township.

Wilkes said several letters have been sent to Larksville Borough to clear up the balance, but there seems to be a communication error."

Honoring the terms of the agreement, Jackson Township

continued to maintain the road and has not received compensation for its services, Wilkes said.

He explained in the past there were times when Larksville Borough would pay ahead or catch up on payments. Wilkes said about two months ago the borough council and township supervisors met.

"It went well," he said about the meeting. "We had a good dialogue but there must be a breakdown of communication somewhere else."

Wilkes said the two municipalities have worked well together in the past, sharing equipment and maintenance of a second road, Weavertown Road.

Jackson Township has similar agreements with Plymouth and is a member of both the Back Mountain Community Partnership and the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency.

Wilkes said the township would be willing to reinstate the agreement with Larksville Borough once the balance is paid.

In other news ...

- Resident George Manzoni was hired as a part-time road department employee.

- Wilkes was appointed as the PEMA and FEMA designated agent.

- The next supervisors meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5 in the municipal building.

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

## Council attempts to protect zoning rights

SUSAN BETTINGER  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Borough Council Tuesday night voiced its opposition to HR 1950 and SB 1100, which would take away local municipalities' rights to zone for gas drilling.

Councilwoman-elect Michelle Boice stated, "They are trying to take away the little rights that we have left" in regards to the drilling industry.

Councilman Larry Radel, in a letter to state Sen. Lisa Baker, R-Lehman Twp., and state Rep. Karen Boback, R-Harveys Lake, urged the lawmakers to vote "no" to the bills.

In the letter, Radel stated that it is his "responsibility to preserve the natural environment and protect its unique qualities."

In other business ...

- Councilman Richard Williams III said he is supporting the Harveys Lake Fire Department regarding a potential change in dispatch service. At present, the fire

department, which is all volunteer, provides assistance to its residents.

The 911 Emergency Communications Center is trying to take over the borough's call boxes, so that the fire department will no longer be in charge of the dispatching.

According to Williams, the fire chief said the 911 center "does not have the authority to make this change and that they must provide documentation in order to do so."

Fire Department President Ed Kelly said, "The way it is now, emergency calls are dispatched immediately...if the change takes effect, and there will be about nine minutes between the times of the alarm to the dispatch."

- Council approved payment to American Asphalt for the re-pavement of Perrego and Lewis streets.

- Funding for a new cruise was approved.

- It was reported that borough employees are still repairing storm damage to basins and driveway pipes.



Jennie Vesloski, of Franklin Twp., displays some of her most colorful hand-quilted table runners at the Hayfield Holiday Fair.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

## Crafts return to PSU/WB campus

Homespun Holidays Craft Fair attended by many after popular Arts at Hayfield was canceled this summer.

By SARAH HITE  
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Curious craft-goers flocked in and out of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus parking lot in Lehman Township for most of the day November 13 in support of the Arts at Hayfield Homespun Holidays Craft Fair.

Hundreds of vendors sprawled the athletics and commons buildings for the show, the first fundraiser for the Arts at Hayfield program after the popular summer festival was canceled in August due to Hurricane Irene.

Janis Winter, festival and craft show chairperson, said the cancellation was just the second time that's happened in the 25 years she's been involved with the group.

"We gave partial refunds to crafters and food vendors," said Winter. "We had some money set aside in a stained glass restoration fund for the Hayfield House that we were able to use."

While the program took a slight hit financially, she said crafters were in more trouble as larger festivals like the Bloomsburg Fair were also canceled.

"I've had crafters tell me that (their sales at) Bloomsburg Fair pay for their medical insurance for the year," said Winter.

As a result of the cancellation, crafters were more apt to apply for a spot at the Homespun Holidays even, according to Winter, who received applications from crafters she'd never even heard of prior to this year.

Crafters Dolores and Jerry Frask, of Drums, were affected by the summer festival cancellation. The pair makes wooden shelves with hooks decorated with popular cartoon characters, country-themed paintings and other designs.

"(The summer festival cancellation) hurt," she said. "This is the first time we've been here (at Homespun Holidays)."

Art Smith of A & A Crafts based in Stroudsburg said his



Nancy Turner, of Stillwater, shows off some of her warmest creations.

display of bird seed houses can only be set up during the fall months, so he just missed the financially-damaging fair cancellations in early September.

He was concerned about setting up shop recently at a craft show in Tunkhannock, but Smith was surprised to see how many customers shopped for handmade gifts.

Tunkhannock was one of the many hard-hit areas during flooding in early September caused by remnants of Tropical Storm Lee.

"People are ready to get out," he said. "They're ready to get a break. You can only clean up so much."

Diane and Ralph Geiger, who own Ralph's Birdhouses based in Waverly, N.Y., said it was their

first time selling at the Homespun Holidays show, and they applied soon after the summer festival was cancelled.

"We wanted to make up for that loss," Diane said.

The retirees have been crafting for about seven years, and this was the first time they've been worried about weather affecting their sales.

"We were signed up for the Canton Apple and Cheese Festival but that was cancelled," she said. "We had to go to other areas to make up that difference."

Despite the dismal weather this year, many crafters remain undeterred.

Dolores Frask said products from their business, Jerdee

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DALLAS TOWNSHIP

## Supers pass budget, hold line on property tax

By SARAH HITE  
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The board of supervisors passed a proposed 2012 budget at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The \$2.5 million fiscal plan would keep property taxes at .52000 mills and the earned income tax at 1 percent.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Glenn Howell said the 2012 spending

plan hasn't changed much from last year in terms of funds, but expenses have generally increased due to inflation.

The township received several applications and held multiple meetings every month for natural gas development issues, which caused increased costs for lawyers' and engineers' fees.

Howell said there is an ebb and flow to the budgeting process, and the document has a habit of balancing itself out. For example, the township

usually budgets for paving projects in spring, but the wet weather caused the road department to focus more on cleanup efforts. Howell said the money always moves toward where it is needed most.

The board will vote on the 2012 budget at its Dec. 20 meeting. The document is available for public inspection at the municipal building at 601 Tunkhannock Hwy., Dallas Township.

In other news, the board heard from several residents who urged the township to get

involved in a petition circulating through neighboring municipalities opposing state legislation that would dissolve local zoning laws.

Resident Diane Dreier said she would get a copy of the petition for the supervisors if they would consider signing it.

Supervisor Phil Walter said the board has already expressed its ill feelings about the pending state law to local legislators state Sen. Lisa Bak-

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