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Gas metering station to be built

By SARAH HITE
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Next week zoning hearings will begin for another natural gas company, Williams Field Services LLC and its request to build a similar facility about 500 feet away from the Chief site.

After nearly a year of hearings and hours of testimony, the Dallas Township Zoning Hearing Board approved Chief Gathering LLC's request to construct a natural gas metering station on Wednesday, but with several conditions.

The facility will be located off Hildebrandt Road about 1,300 feet

from the Dallas School District campus. Its purpose is to measure the quantity and quality of gas flowing from wells in Susquehanna and Wyoming counties via a not-yet-built Chief gathering line.

Two members of the three-per-

son zoning board, Bob Bayer and Gary Hozempa, unanimously approved the company's application but offered several conditions. A third member, Conrad Higgins, abstained from voting because he has a right-of-way agreement with

Chief.

The conditions Chief must adhere to include maintaining the highest local, state and federal safety standards, constructing a six-foot high fence no less than 315 feet away from the structure, devising an emergency preparedness plan with emergency responders and the Dallas School District, and installing a video surveillance system

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AIMEE DILGER/THE DALLAS POST

Attorneys for Chief Gathering LLC Jeff Malak, left, Emily Thomas, center, and Ken Komoroski prepare to leave after final decisions were voted on by the Dallas Township Zoning Board meeting.

New stage is big hit with actors

By SARAH HITE
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IF YOU GO ...

The Dallas High School Drama Club is preparing to wow audiences in a big way for its upcoming production of "Little Women" - in a bigger auditorium, on a bigger stage and with a bigger cast.

After a few complications, the students are working on the final touches for their first show on the stage in the new Dallas High School, which opened in mid-September.

The new space comes along with male and female dressing rooms, prop storage, state-of-the-art technical equipment and high expectations.

"It's our first show right at the starting block, so I think there are high expectations," said theater director Harry McKeown. "We've always done a nice job in the past. The kids are so excited."

Caitlin Cameron, of Dallas, will make her stage debut in the period piece as Aunt Carol. It's a small part ("I only have seven lines," she said) but Cameron said the venue in which she will perform makes her feel like a star.

"It's going to be so fun on this stage," said the 17-year-old. "We get to act more important and we get more perks - it's more professional."

Cameron said the old school's stage was much smaller - about half the size. The space didn't have much storage and a lack of dressing rooms meant everyone had to change together behind the stage curtain in between scenes.

Limited space affected sets, props and the kinds of shows the

What: Dallas High School Drama Club presents "Little Women"
Where: Dallas High School auditorium
When: 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17
Tickets: \$5 at the door
For more information: Call the high school at 675-5201.

club was able to present.

"This gives us more of an opportunity to do maybe bigger productions," said Audrey Ide, assistant director.

Rachael Alles, of Dallas, said lags in the construction process hindered the play at the beginning of the year. The flooring on the stage wasn't completed by the school's opening date, and students had to practice in a large classroom in the meantime.

"At first it was hectic ... but now we have a nice big stage," said the 17-year-old. "It makes me feel like I'm on Broadway."

Student actors will use wireless microphones for the first time in this production, and theater intern Jeff Kelly from Misericordia University said there are some glitches to work out before opening night.

"At the old school, we used to do everything just to get through the show, including using duct tape," he said, laughing. "It's nice to have brand new, state-of-the-art equipment, but it's taking some getting used to."

Kelly said learning the ropes of the new technical equipment has warranted some long nights on the set, but he feels the show will be worth it.

"There's a lot of potential

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Eris Dickson, of Tunkhannock, has a special love for Santa, whom she met at the downtown Christmas tree lighting in Tunkhannock.

Christmas in Tunkhannock

By SARAH HITE
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nual tradition.

"The response after the flooding was phenomenal," said Parlo. "Business owners were just amazed by how people helped them get back up and running."

The event featured a host of activities for patrons, including sleigh rides, ice-carving demonstrations, performances from local dance groups and free activities and refreshments from local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

"I think this shows residents that Tunkhannock is back, and businesses get to show off to visitors," said Parlo. "You would never know we were flooded."

Ramsey's father, Michael, agrees. The Clarks Summit resident was surprised the event went on at all this year, but thought it was a good time to lift locals' spirits after the flood.

"We loved it last year, so we had to come back," he said. "The Dietrich (Theater) recovered shockingly well, and it's nice to see that everyone came together to help out the Dietrich. It looks wonderful."

Recuperating businesses were the last thing on 4-year-old Eris Dickson's mind. The Tunkhannock tyke's eyes widened as soon as she spotted her favorite fellow donning red and white.

She rushed over to Santa and gave him a big hug as soon as he was finished with media interviews.

The clip-clop of horses' hooves only meant one thing to 3-year-old Macey Ramsey - Santa Claus was coming to town.

Onlookers crowded East Tioga Street in downtown Tunkhannock on Dec. 2 to welcome the Clauses and the holiday season at the 10th annual "Christmas in our Hometown" event, hosted by the Tunkhannock Business and Professional Association.

Ramsey and her sister, 6-year-old Ava, twirled around streetlamps and jumped up and down excitedly at the sight of St. Nick and his wife as they were led down the street by two Belgian horses during the event.

The Clauses were escorted to People's Neighborhood Bank, where they flipped a larger-than-life light switch to make a festively-decorated tree come alive.

With ornately-decorated storefronts, it was difficult to tell that just a few months ago the downtown area was underwater due to flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee.

Tunkhannock was one of the hardest-hit areas during the flood, which occurred in early September.

Nancy Parlo, coordinator of the event, said the flooding did affect the event but the group was determined to continue the an-



Mrs. Claus approves of Tunkhannock's Christmas lights that Santa Claus has just turned on.

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Nancy Parlo
Event coordinator

"I love him," she said. "He gives me toys." Parlo said children were at the forefront of planning for the event, and businesses planned to give back to the little ones who helped during the recovery.

"There's a candy store on North Bridge Street and kids came and helped clean up because they wanted their candy store back," she said.

Mayor Norman Ball said the

outpouring of support and aid from residents was tremendous, and "Christmas in our Hometown" was a celebration for them. "We're almost back to normal," he said.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Alyssa Horvath, left, and Rebecca Darling rehearse for the Dallas High School production of "Little Women."



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