

Hometown Hero Project continues

The Dallas Lions Hometown Hero Project 2011 was very well received, and based on the number of requests and inquiries about possible sponsorships for next year, the club has decided to once again promote the project for 2012 in partnership with Frontier Communications.

The project will be a tribute to those men and women from the Back Mountain who have served or who are presently serving in any branch of the military.

The Hometown Hero Project is a street pole banner program. The banners are 30" wide and 60" high. Each banner is unique and honors a specific honoree. The banners include a picture of the service man or woman in uniform, branch of service, era of service and rank. Photos can be in black and white or in color.

The banners will be placed throughout Dallas Borough on Memorial Day and displayed through Veterans Day. At the conclusion of the program, banners will be given to family members.

Sponsorship cost for each banner is \$200. Family members and loved ones of service men and women may purchase a banner themselves or obtain sponsorship by a local business.

Should a family wish to purchase a banner the family name will appear on the bottom of the



Planning the 2012 Hometown Heroes project sponsored by the Dallas Lions Club are, from left, seated, Don Berlew, project chairman; Dan Corbett, president; Joe Czarnecki, secretary. Standing, Joe Hudak, lion tamer; Joe Dwinchick, director; and Dave Fitch, director.

banner. Businesses that sponsor a banner could have their name at the bottom of the banner.

Any proceeds from the project will be donated to the 1st Lieutenant Michael J. Cleary Foundation.

Sponsorship forms will be available at the Dallas Borough office, Frontier Communications office, Dallas American Legion Post #672, Back Mountain Memorial Library and NAPA Auto Parts.

For additional information, contact project chairman Don Berlew at 675-4360 or 760-6147 or Dallas Lions P.O. Box 54, Dallas, PA 18612. Deadline for sponsorships is March 31.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Residents may see tax increase

By SARAH HITE
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Luzerne County residents in the Lake-Lehman School District could see a 4.4 increase in their property taxes for the 2012-13 year as shown in the board's preliminary budget approved on Monday.

Business Manager Thomas Melone of Albert Melone & Co. presented the \$27.4 million budget to the board, which will increase millage rates to 9.28 for those living in the Luzerne County municipalities of Harveys Lake Borough and Jackson, Lake, Lehman and Ross townships.

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

Melone said the increase will translate to an additional \$54.90 for the year for an average assessed property value of \$141,241.

The budget set the millage rate at 53.52 mills for those living in Noxen Township in Wyoming County, which is a slight decrease from last year's millage. This translates to a decrease of \$57.55 for the average assessed property value of \$14,932.

The percentage increase for Luzerne County residents goes above the Act 1 index, a state-wide limit to how much school boards can raise property taxes.

This year the Act 1 index is 2.1 percent, and the district will need to apply for special exceptions to cover the proposed increase.

Melone said the district will apply for special exceptions in retirement contributions and special education. Special exceptions are "extraordinary circumstances" in which the rise in costs for certain programs dwarfs the amount of revenue that

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Dallas Township to get second gas metering station

By SARAH HITE
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Another natural gas metering station will be located in Dallas Township, as the zoning hearing board recently approved Williams Field Services LLC's request to build a facility off Lower Demunds Road.

The facility, opposed by several local residents, will be located on 4.29 acres about 2,682 feet from the Dallas School District campus, 1,140 feet from the closest residence, 1,651 feet from the closest residential development and 2,249 feet from the Evangelical Free Church on Hildebrandt Road.

Williams has already put the finishing touches on a 33-mile natural gas pipeline that runs from Springville Township, Susquehanna County to Dallas Township. It carries natural gas from wells to the Transco interstate pipeline, also owned by Williams, which then sends the gas to market.

The purpose of the metering station is to measure the quantity and quality of the natural gas. The facility includes a metering building, a flow control building, a pig receiver and a filter at the site. A pig is a device that runs through the pipeline to remove debris from the line.

The zoning hearing board offered several conditions for Williams to follow in order to construct the facility. Many of the conditions were similar to those imposed on another gas company, Chief Gathering LLC, which received approval to build a metering station Dec. 7 after nearly a year of

hearings. The Williams hearings began just last month. Williams must comply with the following conditions:

- Install a fast-acting shut-off valve upstream of the facility and a valve to prevent the backflow of natural gas downstream from the metering station to minimize the effects of a potential leak.
- Provide certification that the valves have been installed to the township engineer.
- Construct a 6-foot-high fence with barbed wire to be no

less than 50 feet away from ground equipment at all points.

- Post warning signs around the perimeter of the property.
- Meet with local emergency responders and officials from the Dallas School District to develop an appropriate emergency response plan.
- Maintain a system integrity plan for the metering facility applicable to federal and national industry guidelines.
- Do not store any hazardous materials at the site.
- Install a remotely-controlled video monitoring system at the site.

Supervisor Liz Martin said she and emergency management coordinators are creating a website to keep residents informed about work on the line and Williams officials have agreed to provide the township with information.

Also, resident Chuck Borland said he noticed a pig receiver already located at the site, and provided photos as evidence. He asked why the mechanism was constructed prior to the board issuing a decision on the matter.

Williams attorney Shawn Gallagher said the pig receiver already onsite is part of the Springville Gathering Line and not the metering facility. The pig receiver approved will be a larger mechanism that will allow a smart pig, which collects data about the pipeline, to pass through.

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HARVEYS LAKE

Council votes to oppose legislation

SUSAN BETTINGER
Dallas Post Correspondent

Council voted to write letters of opposition to legislation related to gas drilling during its regular meeting on Jan. 17.

The letters, which will be addressed to state Sen. Lisa Baker and state Rep. Karen Boback, oppose Senate Bill 1100 because it would take away any rights the borough has in regards to the gas zoning laws, borough officials said.

SB1100 is coupled with House Bill 1950, which allows the bor-

ough to receive impact fees.

Former council member Diane Dwyer stated the two bills should be voted on separately.

In a letter to Baker, professional geologist Sid Halsor points out that SB 1100 would require "every municipality to allow gas drilling operations in every zoning district." Halsor is currently a member of the Environmental Advisory Council of Harveys Lake.

Dwyer also said there was an incorrect statement in the minutes of the Dec. 20 council meet-

ing. The minutes state that all seven members of council, along with Mayor Clarence Hogan, had made the decision to forego their yearly stipends in order to balance the borough's budget. Dwyer pointed out only the seven council members agreed to give up their stipends, but the mayor will still receive his.

The decision to have the 911 home addresses displayed on all borough mailboxes has not yet been voted on and is in the process of being studied from all legal aspects.

DALLAS BOROUGH

Council will seek funding to address water drainage issues

By SARAH HITE
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Borough officials said Wednesday they are looking into funding sources to solve water drainage issues along Toby Creek.

Borough Manager Tracey Carr said she and the borough engineer have been conducting research to find funding sources for a Toby Creek maintenance project that would alleviate water drainage and other issues along the waterway.

Residents told council about problems with water drainage at council meetings after tropical storms Irene and Lee dumped record amounts of rain on the Back Mountain within a two-week period.

Carr said she has contacted state Department of Environmental Protection officials to discuss storm water and flooding concerns along Columbia Avenue, at the American Legion and at Leggio's Restaurant.

She said the consent of all property owners would be a requirement for the project, and costs may need to be shared with property owners as well.

"We don't know what we're going to do yet because we don't want to spend money on engineering fees on a project if we don't have the funding," said Carr. "The size of the project will be determined by whether or not we can

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Dallas Borough Manager Tracey Carr
About Toby Creek water drainage issues

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She also said borough engineer Brent Berger is in the process of contacting officials from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a partial grant to complete the work. The grant would require a 15 percent contribution from the borough and property owners.

Carr also announced Berger is working with the state Department of Transportation to ensure the agency's designs for a roundabout in the center of Dallas Borough would be in accordance with the flow of Toby Creek, which flows underneath that area.

In other news, council will consider banning all clothing and furniture donation boxes within the borough at its next meeting.

Solicitor Jeff Malak said the donation boxes are located in parking lots and other common areas, and the overflow of items often blocks access to traffic.

Carr said she has received several complaints about the various donation boxes located within the borough over the last few months.

Council also passed a resolution acknowledging the inclusion of Dallas Township into the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency, and approved Alan Pugh as an assistant coordinator of the regional group.

Malak also said council will consider the adoption of a "BYOB" ordinance in March. The bring-your-own-bottle ordinance refers to restaurants that allow customers to bring their own alcohol rather than selling it in-house.

Carr said there have been requests in the borough about establishing BYOB policies at restaurants. She learned that the policy is not governed by the Liquor Control Board, but rather the municipality in which the restaurant resides, so council must have a law in place to regulate the policy.

Malak said the law would ensure that alcohol would be handled appropriately at those restaurants and would include regulations such as hours of consumption.

The next Dallas Borough Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 in the municipal building.

Police offer identity theft advice

Dallas Township Police Department offers tips on protecting identity.

The Dallas Township Police Department advises residents to guard their personal information to avoid identity theft.

Several township residents have been contacted by telephone and electronic mail by people seeking information regarding personal banking.

In one case, the caller stated that the Dallas Township resident had won a large sum of money and a small fee was necessary to process the prize. Another asked for banking information so the prize could be electronically

delivered to a checking account.

Legitimate operations do not call or e-mail asking for such information. Anyone receiving such calls or e-mails should not provide private information or send money.

Residents are advised to shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before discarding them.

Social Security numbers should be protected. Residents are advised not to carry their Social Security card in their wallets or write their Social Security number on a personal check.

Residents are advised not to give out personal information on the telephone,

through the mail or over the Internet unless they have initiated the contact and know with whom they are dealing.

Links sent in unsolicited emails should never be opened. Residents are advised to use firewalls, anti-spyware and anti-virus software to protect home computers.

Obvious password like birth dates, mother's maiden name or the last four digits of a Social Security number should never be used.

Personal information should be kept in a secure place at home, especially for those who have roommates, employ outside help or are having work done in their homes.