

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

District employees say final 'goodbyes' at meeting

By SARAH HITE
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Longtime employees of the district said their final "goodbye" at the Dallas School Board meeting on Monday evening.

Five faculty retirees with a combined 115 years of service were honored by the board and given the opportunity to talk about their experiences at the district.

Dallas Elementary kindergarten teacher Lucy Callahan will retire with 33 years of service. Dallas Elementary Principal Thomas Traver said Callahan was "extremely dynamic" and "way ahead of her time" when it came to teaching style.

"I've never seen anyone who understands kindergarten kids more than Lucy," said Traver.

Callahan plans to travel and spend more time with her children and grandchildren during

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her retirement.

High school English and language arts teacher Candyce Fike will retire with 31 years of service. Superintendent Frank Galicki said Fike is "one of the most unique individuals" he's ever met in his life.

He talked about the time he, as Dallas High School principal, had to form a committee to find a way to change the school schedule. Fike was a member of that committee.

"Whatever people thought was the right way, Candy had another

way," said Galicki. "They may have had the same end point, but some people chose that easy direction. Candy went around the block and did it her way."

High school band director Todd Hunter will retire with 24 years of service.

Galicki said he and Hunter both served at Berwick Area High School in the 1980s, with Galicki coming to Dallas in 1982 and Hunter arriving at the school in 1988.

"There were a lot of highs and maybe one or two lows, but mostly highs," said Galicki.

Hunter said it's difficult to leave teaching after 35 years.

"Maybe some of you are thinking it's time to go, but I don't know if there's ever a good time to go," he said. "I'll continue to work with students, and teach on a part-time basis. I'm honored to have worked in this district."

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DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Request for water tests are denied

By SARAH HITE
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Supervisors were denied in their request for water testing at sites where a PVR Partners contractor spilled drilling mud within the township, officials said Tuesday.

Atty. Jeffrey Malak, attorney for PVR Partners, formerly Chief Gathering LLC, stated in a letter the company would not provide water testing for property owners in the vicinity of two drilling mud spills that occurred near Kunkle-Alderson and Upper Demunds roads in early May.

The letter stated the company would not perform testing because the state Department of Environmental Protection has not requested it. Malak wrote that independent studies conducted by Wilkes University concluded there were no chemicals in the wetlands near where the mud was spilled.

He also said that because there have been no baseline tests conducted, there would be nothing with which to compare the water tests.

Supervisor Bill Grant, who lives on Hildebrandt Road and plans to test his own water, said the township will provide interested residents with information about water testing.

He received estimates of between \$300 and \$900 for the work, depending on the chemicals being tested.

"It's pretty expensive," said Grant.

Supervisor Liz Martin said she spoke to George Turner, a regional geologist, who estimated the tests required for the chemicals involved in the spills would cost between \$450 and \$500 per sample.

"Unfortunately, the township can't pay to get this water tested," said Martin.

Martin said the boring for the pipeline should be done soon, and those kinds of issues are not likely to occur again.

WATER TESTING

The following are three third party water testing services as recommended to the township by Kirby Health Center: George Turner, 836-1055; Brian Oram, 335-1947; and Altest Environmental, 239-7086.

"We just have to keep our eyes open," she said of the pipeline construction process.

Supervisors also addressed residents' concerns about PVR Partners' contractor working at the pipeline work site after hours.

Grant said he received one complaint and the township engineer received three complaints about the pipeline contractor working beyond normal hours of operation last Sunday.

Malak wrote in a letter that the company's work hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week, but because of deadlines, some work during off-hours has been necessary.

Grant said he understands the company will finish the work soon and will not work outside of normal operating hours again.

PVR Partners is in the process of building a 30-mile pipeline to flow natural gas from wells in Susquehanna County to the Transco interstate pipeline, located near the Dallas School District.

The company will also build a metering facility to measure the gas off Hildebrandt Road.

In other news ...

Police Chief Robert Jolley addressed safety concerns about the upcoming Wilkes-Barre Triathlon that runs through Dallas and Harveys Lake boroughs and Dallas, Jackson, Lehman and Noxen townships.

He said the race directors should increase the event's \$1 million insurance policy and suggested the route be re-examined as traffic concerns on

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Brittany Gebhardt, left, Joyce Gebhardt, both of Kingston, Maureen and Morgan Lewis, of Dallas, and William Lewis, of Pittston, enjoy the festivities.



Delores Stubeda, of Jackson Township, left, and Cynthia Beck, of Kingston Township, look over items for the mini-auction at the Back Mountain Memorial Library's Annual Kick-Off Dinner.



Marilyn Feldman, left, of Shavertown, and Mary Lou Grant, of Dallas Township, sample hors d'oeuvres at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction Annual Kick-Off Dinner.

Kicking off the library auction

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction Committee kicked things off for this year's event with a dinner and mini-auction on June 4 at Newberry Estates. This year's auction is slated for July 5-8 on the library grounds, Huntsville Road, Dallas.



Some of the items on display for the mini-auction at the Back Mountain Memorial Library's Annual Kick-Off Dinner.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Bulford Farms residents want answers about sewer system

By SARAH HITE
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Residents raised concerns about a plan to revamp the Bulford Farms sewer system and a proposed composting site at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas at a meeting Monday.

Resident Mary Dockeray asked the supervisors about a township-wide sewer plan that was sent to the state Department of Environmental Protection and why the Bulford Farms project was only "two sentences" of the document.

Solicitor Jeffrey Malak said the plan only briefly mentions the Bulford Farms sewer project because it addresses the entire township's sewage needs.

Dockeray said she and "at least one other" neighbor are upset about paying the \$22,875 to complete the project, which will revamp the sewer system in that

section of the township.

The township will also incur costs in the project, but Supervisor Al Fox said the majority of property owners in the Bulford Farms area have agreed to the project's costs.

Malak said some residents are concerned about paying taxes towards the project when it doesn't affect their properties at all.

"It goes both ways," he said.

Dockeray said she has yet to see documents sent to DEP justifying the project, though Malak said he has attempted to provide all the documents Dockeray has requested.

"You should have really consulted a financial advisor before you started in on this project because you clearly got no financial advice," said Dockeray.

Residents also asked the supervisors about a project proposed by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority to operate a com-

Fox urged residents to attend the soon-to-be scheduled planning commission and zoning hearing board meetings on the matter to voice their opinions. The zoning hearing is tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, June 25.

posting site on land owned by SCI-Dallas.

Supervisor John Wilkes Jr. said DAMA's plans include moving its compost operation from South Memorial Highway to state prison land. He said its intention is to combine the food compost from the prison with the nutria from all the participating municipalities to make a "better product" than municipalities can create on their own.

Bonnie Dombrowski said she has concerns about noise, traffic and safety of the area where the operation is planned.

"If you can hear our grinder, then you'll hear this," he said. "I mean, there's no way around that. Their grinder is louder than ours - ours is a 500 horse-

power engine compared to a 700."

Malak said DAMA is requesting a use variance of the land it has leased from SCI-Dallas. He said the land is currently zoned

especially for "prison activities."

Fox urged residents to attend the soon-to-be scheduled planning commission and zoning hearing board meetings on the matter to voice their opinions. The zoning hearing is tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, June 25.

Fox said his concern is whether the township should host such a project that may cause is-

sues when the township won't even be participating. Jackson Township is currently not a member of DAMA, but uses some of its sewage services.

He said the supervisors also have some concerns about the project, and will consider having Malak attend the hearings to express the supervisors' and resi-

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Feds seize Jackson Township records

The solicitor for Jackson Township confirmed Monday that federal agents recently sought administrative records from township, but said he did not know the nature of the inquiry.

Attorney Jeffrey Malak said agents visited the township building some time around

March and obtained records from 2010 and 2011.

Malak did not know which federal agency the agents were from or any other details regarding the inquiry. He said the township is cooperating with the investigation.

"We are confident we have

done everything right in Jackson Township and are waiting for them to contact us to see what the next step is," Malak said.

Supervisor John Wilkes Jr. declined to comment on the issue Monday night.

-Terrie Morgan-Besecker