

Dallas senior citizens are still looking for place to call home

By SARAH HITE
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HELP THE DALLAS SENIORS

To offer suggestions for a new Dallas Senior Center or to seek more information about turning a property into a Dallas Senior Center, contact Trula Hollywood at the Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties at 822-1158 or email thollywood@aging.luzerne-wyoming.org.

Several senior center members met at the Edwardsville center on June 20 with officials from the county Area Agency on Aging to discuss the prospects of a new Dallas Senior Center.

Trula Hollywood, executive director of the agency, told several seniors in attendance there were only a few locations that responded to the agency's requests for proposals, and many did not meet the criteria for a center.

The former Dallas Senior Center, located on Rice Street in Dallas Borough, was evacuated due to problems with "mold, rust and safety issues," said Hollywood.

Hollywood told the seniors, who have been without a center to call their own since March, that the Kingston Township Municipal Building has been offered.

She added, however, that the lower level of the Kingston Township Municipal Building on East Center Street in Shavertown features disjointed rooms that will be in use by other groups in the evening hours. The facility also does not include a kitchen and hot lunch is a primary aspect of the senior citizens program.

Dallas resident Alfreda "Susie" Malak said she's disappointed there haven't been many offers from the Dallas area to house the center when there are so many buildings without tenants.

Linda Kohut, director of community services for the county Area Agency on Aging, said the law states the agency cannot purchase property - space can be donated or rented for the center.

There are also many consid-

erations for centers, including safety concerns, transportation accessibility, having enough space for activities, being ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible and others.

Many residents have been traveling to the Edwardsville Senior Center on Russell Street at least once a week - that's a decrease in participation from the near-daily trips Malak and her husband Joe would make to the Dallas center.

Transportation is an issue to the Edwardsville center and solving that problem would be

an additional cost to Dallas seniors.

Hollywood said the residents seemed in favor of pursuing the bidding process again and staying at the Edwardsville center in the meantime.

Malak said she hopes the seniors don't get "stuck" attending the Edwardsville center permanently.

Kohut encouraged the seniors to call the agency with tips for space so she could explain the bidding process to property owners who may want to assist the Dallas seniors.



Jennifer Schwenk, left, and her sister, Jessica, traveled from Schuykill Haven to the 30th anniversary service of the Apostolic Faith Tabernacle in Orange.



Seven-year-old Willow Walter, of Franklin Township, reads a poem.



The Apostolic Faith Tabernacle Choir performs 'The Old Time Way' during a 30th anniversary service at the church.

Celebrating 30 years

Songs, testimonials, skits and stories highlighted a program marking the 30th anniversary of the Apostolic Faith Tabernacle in Orange. Rev. Dan Chorba is pastor of the church.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Rev. Gaitano presents concert

The Fine Arts Series of Shavertown United Methodist Church will present Gideon Gaitano, tenor, in concert at 7 p.m. today, June 24 at the church, 163 N. Pioneer Ave.

Pastor of New Life Community Church in Dallas, Gaitano will present a concert entitled "Songs of Love and Faith." He and his family will perform in concert along with local guest artists, Dina and Doug Hamilton, veteran performers of Sight and Sound Entertainment Centre.

A free will offering will be received and a reception will follow the concert.

For more information, call 675-3616.

Vacation Bible School planned

Vacation Bible School, entitled "Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity," will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. June 24-28 at the Centermoreland United Methodist Church, 17 Creamery Road, Centermoreland.

A light dinner will be served every night.

To register, call 836-5898 or e-mail melanie.transue@elkklakeschool.org.

LIUM Church plans Bible School

The Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church, Mountain View Drive, Lehman, will host its annual Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon June 25-29.

"The Good News Games" is an Olympic-themed program featuring Bible lessons, crafts, games, songs and snacks. VBS is free for children ages 3 through sixth grade.

A special service to celebrate the week will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 1.

For more information, contact Mandy Newman at 674-9777 or Pastor Bob Ryder at 675-5192. No pre-registration is needed.

Maple Grove Church plans Bible School

The Maple Grove United Methodist Church, 5876 Main Road, Sweet Valley, will hold its Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 25-29.

This year's theme is "Shake It Up Café." Children from preschool to sixth grade may attend.

Registration may be done the first night of VBS or by calling 477-5216 to obtain a registration form.

A light supper will be served before each session.

Chicken dinner set

The Men's Club of Trinity Presbyterian Church, 105 Irem Road, Dallas will sponsor a chicken and biscuit dinner including homemade desserts and beverage at 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 30 in the fellowship hall at the rear of the church. Takeouts begin at 4 p.m.

Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

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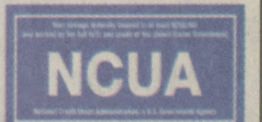
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