

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Sponsorship of grant is under review

Grants with BMCP and Misericordia discussed at work session.

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
mschneider@mydallaspost.com

Mark Van Etten explained the details of the proposed Back Mountain Community Partnership Local Share Account grant to Dallas Township supervisors at a public work session on Nov. 5. Van Etten said the grant is being written by the NEPA Alliance and the amount requested has not yet been determined.

Vice Chair Elizabeth Martin agreed to have Dallas Township sponsor the grant at the October partnership meeting. Van Etten said this meant all money, should the grant be approved, would be passed through Dallas Township.

Conrad Higgins asked to which municipality property purchased through the grant would belong since the township sponsors the grant. Van Etten said the municipality that requested the equipment will own it.

Martin would like to include a regular partnership report in the township meetings.

The board discussed lending its support

to Misericordia University for a proposed LSA grant to install sidewalks from the campus to Center Hill Road. There have been concerns for student safety when they walk along the roadside to reach local businesses.

Since the sidewalk would sit on a PennDOT right-of-way, an agreement would have to be reached and engineering estimation costs would be the responsibility of the university. The board agreed to support the university in looking into the process. The board felt it would be a beneficial project for both businesses and residents of the university and the apartments near Center Hill Road.

The board discussed the ongoing dispute between Dallas Fire and Ambulance and Kunkle Fire Company regarding lines of responsibility. Dallas Fire Chief Harry Vivian reported that the two have reached an agreement on the areas of Lower Demunds Road and Spencer Road, but are still trying to reach an agreement on a wooded area between Brown's Field and Martin's Pond.

A meeting was planned for this weekend with the Kunkle fire chief to review maps and make a decision.

Roadmaster Martin Barry asked the board to consider the installation of a manual switching station when planning

the 2013 budget. The township purchased an Army surplus generator in 2007 to power municipal buildings in the event of a power outage. For the past several years, the township has set the switching station aside in lieu of other projects but, with the recent power outage resulting from Hurricane Sandy, Barry feels the switching station should be regarded as a priority for next years budget.

Barry also reported that the repair of problems on Old Highway Road associated with Stall Shaffer Engineering were scheduled to begin Nov. 5 and, weather permitting, finished by Nov. 16. The areas being repaired are Old Highway Road at Martz Lane, areas around the mobile home park and the access road near the ballpark. Barry didn't know who had been contracted to do the work, since the township is not responsible for repairs.

Supervisors approved Barry to submit 10 problem streets for estimates to be classified for weight restrictions. It was noted that these restrictions would offer exemptions to local businesses. Martin said she would raise the issue of assessments at the Back Mountain Community Partnership meeting so adjoining municipalities with connecting roads would be aware of the assessments.

In other business:

- Van Etten announced that Lehman and Dallas Fire and Ambulance are prepared to move forward with a merger of their forces, an alliance nearly four years in the making, in January. He stressed that none of the services would change and that the workman's compensation insurance would remain with the municipality of the worker.

- Chief Vivian submitted a proposal for an ordinance allowing the Dallas and Kunkle Fire companies to bill insurances for costs generated by response to calls.

- Sergeant Doug Higgins requested the board consider an investment of approximately \$1400 for the purchases of a bar coding system for the police department's evidence locker.

- The board authorized advertisement for two DAMA board members and a zoning board member.

- The board noted it is time for the county to perform its five-year update of the 2009 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan must be updated so residents will be eligible for flood insurance.

- The board congratulated solicitor Thomas Brennan for receiving the Luzerne County Bar President's Award.

The regular meeting of the Dallas Township supervisors will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the municipal building.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Board hears queries on taxes

Residents concerned about 2011 tax refunds.

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
mschneider@mydallaspost.com

Tax collector Jackie Latosek attempted to find answers to residents' concerns about income tax returns from 2011 during the Jackson Township supervisors meeting on Nov. 5. Latosek says she has received calls from residents who have yet to receive their returns from last year. She noted that the township and school districts are short on tax revenue as well, but wanted to know if there was someone residents could contact to get their returns.

Solicitor Jeffrey Malak said the only thing residents can do is to contact their state representatives to put pressure on the companies to pay. He said, at this time, Berkheimer is not processing 2011 returns and the process is stalled in court. He added that municipalities and school districts will receive tax dollars before individuals.

Jackson Township is behind about \$179,000 in tax revenue, which accounts for approximately 22 percent of its income.

Malak reported the township received word that it is in compliance with DCED for flood plans.

The board authorized Malak to post a second advertisement for a part-time police officer as the first advertisement received only one applicant.

Supervisors also requested Malak to contact Larksville Borough in an attempt to reach an agreement on the maintenance of Steele Road. For years, the two municipalities have shared the responsibility for the road, but Larksville Borough fell behind on its end of the financial responsibility. Back maintenance fees have been paid, but now the two municipalities need to come to a new agreement before the end of the year or terminate the contract.

Chairman John Wilkes Jr. announced that the yard waste and recycling center will be open from 8 a.m. to dusk on Sunday, Nov. 11 and Sunday, Nov. 18 for those residents who suffered damage from Hurricane Sandy.

Then next Jackson Township supervisors meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3 in the municipal building.

Concert to benefit Cleary Memorial Fund

The Back Mountain Men's Ecumenical Group is sponsoring its second concert to benefit the First Lieutenant Michael Cleary Memorial Fund. Held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11 at the Shavertown United Methodist Church.

Performers will include Father James Paisley of St. Theresa's, Pastor Gideon Gaitano of the New Life Church, Barbara Roberts of the Step By Step Praise Band, the Shavertown UMC Chancel & Bell Choirs and more.

There are less than 400 seats available at \$5 each. Seats may be reserved by calling John at 479-2307.

The BMMEG is creating a program for this event. Several pages dedicated to those people who would like to honor any veteran, living or dead. The listing will include the honored veteran and the name of the person(s) honoring him or her.

A listing of patrons who wish to donate to the Lt. Michael Cleary Memorial Fund is also being created. The cost for each listing is \$5. To have a listing in either category, call Phil Brown at 696-3385 or 443-605-7162 (cell).

Postal service outlines dates for military mail

According to the United States Postal Service, to ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas, it is suggested that mail be sent by the recommended dates listed here.

Military mail addressed to APO/FPO AE ZIPS 090-092: Dec. 17, express mail; Dec. 10, first class mail; Dec. 10, priority mail; Dec. 3, parcel airlift mail; Nov. 26, space available mail; Nov. 13, parcel post.

APO/FPO AE ZIP 093: Dec. 3, first class; Dec. 3, priority mail; Nov. 30, parcel airlift mail; Nov. 26, space available mail; Nov. 13, parcel post.

APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098: Dec. 17, express mail; Dec. 10, first class mail; Dec. 10, priority mail; Dec. 3, parcel airlift mail; Nov. 26, space available mail; Nov. 13, parcel post.

APO/FPO AA ZIP 340: Dec. 17, express mail; Dec. 10, first class mail; Dec. 10, priority mail; Dec. 3, parcel airlift mail; Nov. 26, space available mail; Nov. 13, parcel post.

APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966: Dec. 17, express mail; Dec. 10, first class mail; Dec. 10, priority mail; Dec. 3, parcel airlift mail; Nov. 26, space available mail; Nov. 13, parcel post.



Maddy Arthur, left, and Olivia Ostrowski, both of Dallas, chat over chili before attending a costume party.



The trophy table at the Cub Scout Pack 155 Third Annual Chili Cook-Off at Trucksville United Methodist Church.



Christine Kon, right, of Larksville, gets a sample of Don Austin's 'Lean and Mean' chili.

Filling up on Flavor



Madison Fleschut, 8, her mom, Katie, and grandma, Sylvia, all of Trucksville, look over the ballot listing 23 different types of chili as they vote for their favorites at the Cub Scout Pack 155 Third Annual Chili Cook-Off.

The Cub Scout Pack 155 Third Annual Chili Cook-Off was held Nov. 3 at the Trucksville United Methodist Church. The cook-off is a long-anticipated fundraising event for the Cub Scout pack. Scout leaders, parents and close friends of the pack fire up their crock pots to offer up their own unique recipes. Some are spicy while some have a flavorful sweetness to them. Beverages were also available. For \$5, each guest received a 4 oz. cup to taste test as many chilies as they wished. After tasting, participants voted on their favorites. There were first, second and third-place trophies awarded to the top three recipes.

CHANGING MEDIA

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with organizing BlogCon?

A: "Well it grew out of Blog Fest. It's kind of an informal mixer started by political bloggers. Carla and I started talking about an event that was more like the name suggested where people could discuss blogging and where you could learn. But we needed more help so we recruited Leslie and Mandy."

Q: How do you find time between school, work and family to maintain two blogs and get involved with an event like BlogCon?

A: "It's a challenge sometimes, and it's a



Blogger Michelle Davies, left, is shown here with other coordinators of NEPA BlogCon 2012. From left, are Carla Porter, Mandy Boyle and Leslie Stewart.

lot of late nights and early mornings. You need to just focus on what's important at

the time and prioritize, and do what is most important at the moment. My husband and I really work as a team, so we can coordinate our schedules with the kids and we work things out. He usually works from home, so that makes things easier too."

Davies says that next year the group hopes to grow the event next year and is already working on plans for the 2013 event.

Since September, the group has hosted a mixer for bloggers and social media junkies where people from the area can get together, compare notes and ideas and learn from one another.

Davies and the rest of the Fearsome Foursome help to bring the secrets of success with the technology new business requires to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Supervisors to advertise 2013 budget

Ross Township supervisors authorized the advertisement of the 2013 budget at its regular meeting on Nov. 6.

There was no old business to discuss and no public comment.

Supervisors announced the following meetings:

Thursday, Dec. 27 - 7 p.m., year-end meeting

Monday, Jan. 7, 2013 - 7 p.m., Reorganization meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. Auditors reorganization meeting Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2013

- 7 p.m., Regular meeting