

# Some households may get price break on trash pickup

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Low income residents in the municipalities served by the Dallas Area Municipal Authority's (DAMA) garbage hauling plan soon may be able to get a 30% price break on their garbage bill.

At its meeting January 29, the ad hoc committee formed to investigate complaints about the garbage program has come up with a plan that would split the expense of a price break equally among the municipality, DAMA, and the contractor, Danella Environmental Technologies.

If approved by Kingston Township, Dallas Township and Dallas Borough, the break will mean a \$40.50 yearly reduction for those meeting income guidelines.

To be eligible for the price cut, residents of the three municipalities must meet the following income guidelines according to the size of the household:

For a one person household, the maximum income is \$8,606; two people, \$11,544; three people, \$14,482. For each additional person add \$2,938 to the maximum income.

Tom Bagley, executive director of DAMA, said that about 100 people have asked about a discount.

Although progress has been made on reducing the cost of waste collection, members of the Dallas Taxpayers Association who serve on the ad hoc committee aren't happy with the direction the group has taken.

Forum members want to talk about allowing haulers other than Danella to collect trash in the three municipalities. Township officials refuse to discuss the matter because a lawsuit has been filed against them by Searles Sanitation and C&K Enterprises.

"This meeting was a deviation from what we thought it would be," said Jackie Zukowski. "We thought they were going to discuss the concerns of the residents."

"It's becoming so it's not even worth going," said Jim Fowler. "I'll

## LOWER RATES FOR LOW-INCOMES

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority and its member towns are considering a price break on trash pickup fees for low-income households. Here are the income levels that would qualify:

# in household	Income limit
1 Person	\$8,606
2 Persons	11,544
3 Persons	14,482
Add \$2,938 for each additional person in the household.	

keep going because I told the people I would. In my opinion, it seems that they don't care about this lawsuit. They don't care that it's costing people money."

Zukowski and other association members asked why DAMA couldn't allow private haulers to collect trash as Nanticoke did with Dave's Sanitation early this year.

Municipal officials pointed out that Nanticoke is operating in debt. "The DAMA program is the best recycling program in the north-eastern part of the state," said Kingston Township manager Jeff Box. "The point is we don't have anything to apologize for."

According to Bagley, 21% of waste collected since July has been recycled. The state calls for 25% of waste collected to be recycled by 1995.

"DAMA's doing an excellent job out there," said Luzerne County Recycling Coordinator Ed Latinski.

Latinski notes that most other recycling programs collect only three or four items instead of the nine items DAMA does.

Bagley said that 85% to 90% of the residents have paid their bills so far. DAMA has applied for a recycling grant and expects to receive about \$41,600 and is also applying for a grant based on the performance of the recycling program.

## Schwartz

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point ammo, three spent .380 brass bullet casings and a set of metal handcuffs with three keys from the home on Windsor Drive in Dallas Township where Schwartz lives with his parents.

Emergency room personnel at Nesbitt Hospital, where Ms. Van Leuven died several hours after the shooting, had removed handcuffs from her right wrist shortly after she was admitted.

Luzerne County Coroner Dr. George Hudock, Jr. had removed three .380 caliber bullets from Ms. Van Leuven's body during the autopsy January 18.

Ms. Van Leuven had obtained a Protection From Abuse Order against Schwartz in April, 1991, from Wayne County, where she lived with their two-year-old daughter.

Schwartz had been awaiting trial on charges of reckless endangerment, risking or causing a catastrophe and carrying a firearm without a license stemming from an incident in May, 1991, when he brandished a gun while pursuing Ms. Van Leuven's car down Route 81. Pittston Township police confiscated a .380 caliber handgun while investigating that incident. His legal counsel for that incident

is Attorney Ted Krohn.

In December, 1989, Schwartz appeared in Luzerne County Court to appeal fines from several traffic violations incurred in Kingston Borough; the appeals were denied. He had to pay a total of \$545 in fines, costs and CAT fund assessments for driving while under a suspended license, fleeing police and running a red light.

According to the Luzerne County Clerk of Courts, a complaint of domestic violence against Schwartz was never acted on.

Schwartz has been charged with criminal homicide in the Van Leuven shooting and is in the Luzerne County Prison, where he was transferred from Wilkes-Barre General Hospital after being treated for a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. His bail has been set at \$1 million.

His preliminary hearing before District Magistrate Earl Gregory on the murder charge is scheduled for 10 a.m. on February 14. Other charges in connection with the taking and use of the handgun may be lodged by the Luzerne County District Attorney's office. Public defenders Ferris Webby and Lewis Bott have been appointed to represent him.

## Senior citizens offer tax help to public

The Bureau for the Aging is pleased to announce that volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will be available to give assistance with federal and state income tax, the PA Rent/Property Rebate and PACE. The RSVP volunteers have received special training from Joan Lenahan, IRS; Bill Andrews and Mary Ann Tigue, PA Department of Revenue; and Jane Pugh, Bureau

of the Aging. Volunteers will be at the Dallas Senior Center Tuesday, March 3. In order to reduce waiting time, taxpayers will be taken by appointment only.

Bring with you: all 1099's, Social Security 1099, W-2's, Tax or Rent Receipts, copy of last year's taxes and rebate, and any other income you received in 1991. It is impossible to complete the forms with information missing.

## Newspaper

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press. The Dispatch uses a single width instead of a double width press, which larger papers such as the Times Leader have.

According to the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association, recycled paper accounted for 17.5% of all newsprint used by newspapers in the state in 1990, the latest year for which they have figures. In 1988, only eight percent of the total was recycled paper. Member newspapers are committed to using 50% recycled newsprint by 1995.

Tim Shaw, vice president of Eagle Recycling, says it's natural that newsprint manufacturers have been a little slow in manufacturing recycled paper.

"A de-inking pulp plant costs \$450 to \$500 million to construct," said Shaw. "What the industry is worried about - is recycling here to stay? Or is it a fad and we'll become a throw-away society again? \$450 to \$500 million, that's a lot to spend. They've got to make sure that if they do put up a plant that they've got the papers and they've got to know publishers are going to use recycled newsprint."

Shaw, a member of the Economic Development Council's Recycling Committee, can tell you, however, that 13 plants for recycling newsprint are expected to start operation in 1993.

## Price of recycled materials has fallen

Shaw doesn't expect recyclables to be money makers for the next four to five years.

In a corner of Eagle's warehouse, there are bales of crushed plastic bottles that are being set aside until the market for them improves.

"Every market has gone down," said Shaw. "At one time, we got 50 to 60 cents a pound for aluminum, now it's 20 to 25 cents a pound."

Eagle has to pay to get rid of green glass. The company breaks even on brown glass and white office paper, and they make a little bit on clear glass and cardboard. Aluminum is still profitable says Shaw, and so are plastic milk bottles. But the market's way down on plastic soda bottles, which is why they're holding on to them.

"The paper you can't hold," said Shaw. "We get so much of it, we have to get rid of it. In two weeks time we'd be buried. Between paper and co-mingled we're bringing in 50 to 60 tons of material a day."

In December, Eagle processed 500 tons of newspapers says Shaw, and January will probably top that.

The declining market for recyclables is one of the reasons that DAMA chose to have a contractor handle waste collection instead of purchasing their own equipment.

"We originally thought the whole recycling market would fall apart and any investment we would make in equipment would be lost," said Tom Bagley, executive director of DAMA.

To make the newspapers easier to recycle, Shaw says they should be tied with twine instead of bagged. Brown bags are recyclable and can be tied up separately. Phone books should not be included with news-

papers, but glossy inserts are acceptable, as long as they are put back in the paper they came from.

## Alternative use for papers

While there's a glut of old newspapers in Luzerne County, Huntingdon County, just south of State College, doesn't have enough of them.

Farmers use all of the newspapers in the county, says Huntingdon County Recycling Coordinator Maureen Fasko.

"Our farmers are going directly to our newspapers and the uncirculated newspapers are being recycled," said Fasko. "Some farmers have a drop-off box at the end of their lane and their neighbors drop off their newspapers."

Fasko will be calling area recycling centers to see if she can arrange for Northeastern Pennsylvania newspapers to be shipped to the center of the state.

Fasko said that the county worked with the local Cooperative Extension office. A couple of farmers tried shredded newspaper as animal bedding two years ago, and since then, the idea has taken off.

"Both Penn State and the University of Wisconsin did studies which show that shredded newspaper contaminates the land with fewer traces of heavy metals such as cadmium than hay or sawdust," said Fasko. "These studies have shown that newspapers are less toxic to the soil than straw or sawdust. The absorbency is very high and it's very neat."

Luzerne County has had programs on using newsprint for animal bedding, but county Recycling Coordinator Ed Latinski says that there just aren't enough farms in this county to use all of the papers.

"The amount of paper to use for animal bedding would probably only be one week out of a month's supply for Luzerne County," said Latinski. Luzerne County's population is about 312,000, in contrast with Huntingdon County's 42,000.

Khodara would still like to see the government provide incentives to encourage new uses for old newspapers. "We can't give it away and it's too much and it can't go in a landfill."

## Back Mountain Firemen's Association will meet Feb. 15 at the Castle Inn

The Back Mountain Firemen's Association will hold its annual installation of officers and dinner Saturday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Castle Inn in Dallas Township. Senator Charles Lemmond and Representative George Hasay will be guest speakers.

Interested fire and ambulance personnel should contact their chief or association president Jack Dodson at 675-3334.

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