

Party

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Claude Street for decades and never became acquainted with Ettore Anselmi, who lives across the street from them, and his brother, Richard, who was visiting him.

Other folks renewed old acquaintances and made new ones as they sampled the goodies and walked around. "We should do this more often," they said.

The block party started off with a 1 p.m. parade led by Jeremy Moore and Jessica Thomas carrying American flags and Hume Ross with the POW-MIA flag, followed by nearly every child on the street. Many of the younger set decorated their bicycles with balloons and brightly colored crepe paper, while Mike Spencer dressed in a White Ninja costume to drive his battery-powered Jeep. Other kids pulled a red wagon carrying a boom box which blared the "Macarena" as they danced up the street.

As the parade reached the intersection with Church Street, the Dallas fire truck turned into the street and led the group back to the Cusmas' yard.

An impromptu Macarena line formed behind the parked fire truck, later moving up onto a pile of neatly folded hoses stacked in the truck's hose bed. Jessica Comitz, Katie Bartizek, Kelly Delaney, Jennifer Arthur and Julia Ross, still in her soccer uniform, grinned as they moved through the dance's movements.

Firefighter Chris Purcell watched as youngsters swarmed onto the back of the truck.

Dalton Elston, whose favorite TV show is "911," was the first to climb aboard with the help of his mother, Jill. Making swishing noises, he imitated the sound of rushing water as he pretended to work the deluge gun.

"What do you call this truck?" asked Jill.

"Mine," he fired back, grinning. Jake Kalinay said he wanted to be a fireman when he grows up. "Look! I'm on 911!" he called to Dalton.

Carrying his son, Keith, 4, Gregg Cusma walked around the red truck pointing out different pieces of equipment. "Look, here's a pike pole, just like you have in your fire truck book," he said to the child. "They use it to pull the walls out in a house that's on fire."

"This is a real first," Purcell said, smiling and nodding at the small crowd of children on the truck. "Don't worry - they can't damage anything," he told a concerned mother. "This truck gets a lot more punishment than this during a fire." The truck's air horn blasted as several kids in the cab of the truck discovered the cord which activates it and pulled it with gusto.

Kids' games included picking lucky numbers, a duck pond and two bean bag tosses - knock over soda bottles or throw it into a hole in a board. Kelly Delaney won a \$10 gift certificate in the "Pretty Baby" contest by matching 12 of 19 baby photos with the correct person.

Other fun for kids of all ages included a Native American storyteller and a country line dancing demonstration by instructor David Zimmerman.

The kids outlined a few projects for their neighborhood, which they would like to work on, including decorating each home with American flags and beautifying the Honor Roll at Dallas Corners for Memorial Day and lowering the speed limit on Claude Street to 15 mph (it presently has no posted limit.)

And next year? The kids have already started a sign-up sheet for another party.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Ready to party, clockwise from bottom right; Samantha Elston, Keith Cusma, Aaron Cusma, Alice Westfield, Jessica Thomas, Sally Ann Cusma, Michelle Moore, Elizabeth Cusma, Kelly Delaney.

Kingston Twp.

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never did, and now faces contempt of court proceedings.

The sheriff will send a sheriff in Florida to serve the contempt of court notice to Heck, Jones said. "We must be extremely careful to follow the procedure to the letter," he added. "The township and I have been already threatened with a civil rights suit if we miss one step of the process."

In other business, the supervisors unanimously voted to accept the preliminary land development plan for Phase Three of the expansion planned for Echo Valley Trailer Park on Harris Hill Road.

According to owner Michael Kester, Jr., this phase will add 82 units to the park, to make a total of 200 single and double-wide mobile homes on the park's 77 acres. He said he doesn't plan further expansion because the park will be filled to capacity.

Valley Swim and Tennis Club representative Carl Handiman and Hill Brook Farms representative Len Romanowski, said they didn't think a high-density development like Echo Valley was appropriate for the neighborhood and expressed their concerns for safety with anticipated increased traffic caused by the park's expansion.

The supervisors also appointed Edward Brewer as a recreation commission member and Debbie Corylan as an alternate, with Randall Glidden abstaining.

"I never met them and didn't feel comfortable voting for people I don't know," he said after the meeting.

Glidden also voted against the township's annual \$500 donation to the Kingston Township Raiders Football Team, which the other supervisors approved, and against permitting the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association to set up a portable toilet at the Center Street park. Shirley Moyer also voted against the portable toilet. Both said the park already has toilets which could be unlocked for practices and said a portable toilet had too much potential for vandalism.

Women's political workshop Sept. 28

The Luzerne County Commission for Women will sponsor a Women's Political Workshop Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. in Room 320 of Wilkes University's new classroom/office complex building, South Franklin Street. Keynote speaker for the event is Auditor General Barbara Hafer. The workshop will provide instruction on the procedures for running for political office, forming a campaign, and campaign strategy.

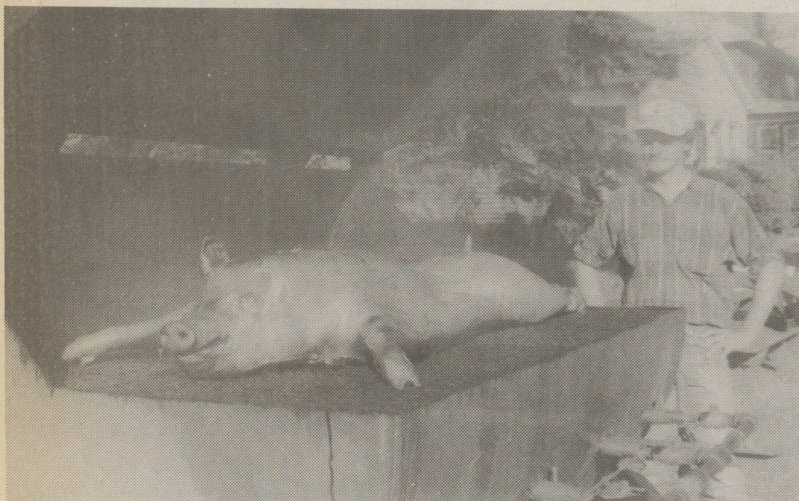
For more information, or a "Women in Politics" workshop registration form, contact Dawn Seidel, LCCW coordinator, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until noon, at 825-1727.

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

The kids of Claude Street welcomed friends and neighbors to their first block party.

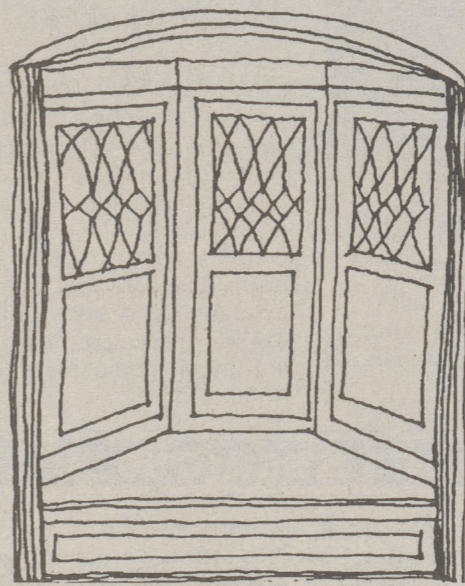


POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Dave Walko roasted a whole pig for the Claude Street block party.

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