



# THE DALLAS POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS



### SCHOOL

Lake-Lehman students make Christmas bright for kids. Pg 5.



### COMMUNITY

Church youth bake cookies for needy. Pg 15.



### SPORTS

Black Knights take team title at invitational meet. Pg 11.

## More nice than naughty, kids write Santa Claus

*Editor's Note: Each year The Dallas Post asks elementary school teachers in the Back Mountain to share their students' letters to Santa and holiday artwork with readers. The letters appear unedited, and filled with childish charm and hopefulness.*

Dear Santa,  
I would like anything you have for girls.  
Love,  
Kelsie  
Kindergarten, Dallas Elementary

#### Lehman-Jackson School 2nd grade

Dear Santa,  
I have been working hard in school this year. May I please have a sleeping bag, roller skates, and a horse poster. I can't wait for you to come.  
Your friend,  
Kristen

Dear Santa Claus,  
I have been a good girl in school and at home. For Christmas, I would like a live bunny (if you can). I want a Polly Pocket too. The last thing I want is a couple of bones for my dog, Bandit. I can't wait for you to come!  
Love  
Hope Dante

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl this past year. I would like a chapter book for Christmas and I would like a puppy. I am looking forward to you coming to my house!  
Your friend,  
Kirsten Stayer

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy this past year. I want transformers (especially Q-Rex), legos, and Thomas trains. I'm looking forward for you to come. Have a great Christmas, Santa.  
Love,  
Brent Oliver

Dear Santa,  
Can I have some of these things lik AARON Carter CD, a fish and a bowl, fish food too. Oh, and one more thing, a lava lamp. I am excited!  
Love,  
Carly Hislop

Dear Santa Claus,  
I have been a very good boy this year. Santa, if you could, get me Super Smash Brose Me-

tel and a Nintendocube traveling pack. I can't wait until you come.  
Love,  
Troy

#### Lehman-Jackson School 5th grade

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus? I bet the elves are getting pretty tired from making

toys and getting the reindeer ready! I bet you're hungry. If I was you I'd save my appetite for the cookies when you give people their presents. Speaking of presents I'd like a Nintendo game cube for Christmas.  
Your friend,  
Bryan Poepperling

Dear Santa,  
If I got to have anything for Christmas the first thing would

be a giraffe. (a stuffed one) because then I could slide down on his neck, or just sit on him. But I don't think he would really fit in my room. I think I have been pretty good this year.

If I got to have a second thing, it would be a swingset. It would be one with four swings. I used to have one, but it broke.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Austin

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### Smiling Santa

Franki Castrignano, a sixth grader at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, portrayed a smiling Santa Claus about to empty out a sack of gifts under the Christmas tree. More kids art appears with the letters to Santa starting on page 4.

## Borough to take a long look ahead

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS BOROUGH** - This is the time of year when most municipal governments look ahead to the next year. Officials in Dallas Borough are hoping to take a longer view.

Dallas Borough Council members invited a diverse group of community leaders to the inaugural Dallas Borough Community Visioning meeting Dec. 12, for a presentation and discussion on the future of the borough.

Community visioning is a process by which a community envisions the future it wants, and plans how to achieve it. It is a tool for the community to assess, evaluate, and implement far-reaching and long-term plans affecting the quality of life in the community. It is an opportunity for all aspects of a community — government, educational institutions, residents, businesses and non-profit organizations to get involved in projecting a municipality into the future and determining how the community will look 10, 15, even 20 years from now.

"Community visioning is at the cutting edge of community building across the nation today," said Joseph Moskovitz, Dallas Borough manager. "It's not a master or comprehensive plan. It is far beyond that."

"We are a fast food society. Everything is drive through. A visioning program is not a drive-through exercise," explained Moskovitz. "We are talking about generational change. For me, as a professional full-time manager, that is the exciting part."

When Moskovitz was hired a year ago as the first full-time Dallas Borough manager, he saw the need for a main street program. "Our main street area could be far more than what it is," he said. "Without discussing

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POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Santa's helper, Ellen Warunek of the Meadowcrest Tenant's Association consults with the Big Man (Don Fleschert) as she hands him a large bag of presents meant for a good little girl or boy.

## Santa pays a visit to Meadowcrest kids

**KINGSTON TWP.** - Christmas cheer and laughter filled the air Sunday afternoon at the hugely successful Christmas party for the kids of the Meadowcrest Housing Development, thanks to the generosity of the Back Mountain community. Each of the more than 30 needy children received loads of toys and each family received a gift certificate worth \$20, \$15 or \$10 donated by local area businesses.

Food and gifts overflowed thanks to Toys for Tots, Curves For Women, College Misericordia, Trucksville United Methodist Church, John Plucenik of the ARC and the American Legion of Dallas among numerous other Back Mountain organizations, businesses and individuals. Ellen Warunek and Marion Hazeltine, the organizers of the party, were bowled over by the response. The

pair stayed up late wrapping last-minute gifts for Santa to give to the kids.

After eating pizza donated by Renee's of Swoyersville, then munching on the abundance of Christmas treats made by parents, stockings stuffed with treats were passed out to each child. Warunek passed out songbooks she had created of Christmas carols and all joined in singing as they waited for the secret guest, Santa Claus himself. "They had a blast singing," said Warunek.

Santa's arrival was the highlight of the party. Don Fleschert, a ringer for the rosy-cheeked fellow, played Santa and called each child to him by name. One young boy was overheard anxiously asking his mother, "Does he know my name, Mommy?" Mom reassured him that Santa

knows every little boy's name, of course.

Santa passed out large bags of toys to each child. Some sat on his lap, even whispered in his ear, but a few were a bit terrified of the jolly elf. One persistent young lad asked Saint Nick repeatedly where his reindeer were. "There's no snow for my reindeer to land on!" Santa explained. "I had to leave them at home today." The older kids politely answered Santa's questions, then dashed out the front door as quickly as possible to tear open their presents on the lawn.

Warunek, Hazeltine and all the parents of the Meadowcrest Housing Development want to say thank you to all the people who played such a big part in making this a great holiday for the kids.

by Elizabeth Anderson

## Meadows rings with joy as Brownies sing

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

**DALLAS** - The residents at the Meadows Assisted Living Center waited all afternoon with excitement. More than a dozen children from Gate of Heaven Brownie Troop 631 were coming to sing Christmas carols for them again this year.

Under the direction of their co-leaders Mary O'Donnell, Lisa Valenti, Colleen Pomfret and Bar-

bara Kreidler, the girls sang many traditional songs the residents know so well. Many of the residents sang along as the familiar words came to mind. They swayed with the music and applauded with enthusiasm at the end of each carol.

At the completion of the program, the girls gave the residents ornaments they had had made. They walked around the room and wished each resident a Merry Christmas. They also shared re-

freshments of ice cream and punch.

Sean O'Donnell from Cub Scout Pack 281 came to see his sister sing. Soon he noticed the train under the Christmas tree. He turned it on and let it make its way around the track. The girls gathered around the tree, and the residents smiled and laughed as they watched the children play.

Ruth Curtis, Lillian Forred and

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Sean O'Donnell from Cub Scout Pack 281 enjoys operating the train for the enjoyment of the Brownies and the residents.

POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

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