

## Vision

(continued from page 1)

formity of business appearance were suggested.

An informal tally of the results showed residents were concerned with traffic flow and the appearance of the Route 415 corridor, improving pedestrian traffic with sidewalks, getting residents and students in the area involved, encouraging more family owned-businesses, maintaining rural areas and green spaces and integrating services, communication and cooperation between Back Mountain municipalities to create a "one community feeling."

"We are concentrating on Dallas Borough, but it's really a bigger area than that," said Connie Scott, steering committee member. "I think most people would agree the Dallas is bigger than Dallas."

Although Dallas Borough sponsored the meeting, a veritable Who's Who of the Back Mountain turned out, with many representatives of the surrounding areas present. All encouraged Dallas residents to continue with the visioning process.

"I applaud you all for what you're doing tonight and I encourage you to proceed," said Steve Barrouk, president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. "I encourage you to continue with getting a plan established that doesn't just include the borough, but the entire Back Mountain area. The plan is absolutely essential and I ask you to proceed with it in haste."

Dr. Mike MacDowell, president of College Misericordia and Vice Chairman of the Chamber, said he had gone to all four of the Wilkes-Barre downtown visioning sessions.

"The difference is not only eight miles," he said, "It is night



Tina MacDowell, wife of the College Misericordia president, presented the ideas generated at her table during the meeting. Seated, from left, Fran Ochman, Steve Kopic and Lou Ruckno.

*"We are concentrating on Dallas Borough, but it's really a bigger area than that."*

**Connie Scott**  
Steering Committee member

and day. When we look at the people who showed up," MacDowell added. "When we look at the community leaders and others who care enough about this community to give their time, it says a great deal about Dallas."

The official results will be tabulated before the next meeting of the steering committee. Based on the results, task forces will be formed to deal with the top

three to five areas the citizens felt needed priority attention.

Angela Callie, Community Planning Specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture, will assist Dallas Borough in obtaining grants from federal and state resources to carry out the activities of the task forces. "We already know there's going to be a downtown revitalization task force," said Callie. She

added, "This is one of the biggest turnouts I have seen."

There will be a second public meeting August 22, at 7 p.m. at College Misericordia to assess the efforts of the various task forces over the summer and draft vision statements, said Moskovitz.

"The fact that representatives from the other municipalities are here tonight is indicative of the kind of cooperation we're going to need to make this a reality," said Moskovitz. He asked that anyone interested in helping on the task forces call the borough or contact a steering committee member.

## Budget

(continued from page 1)

mentary and most recently, a major renovation and expansion of the Middle School, which will house a swimming pool.

"There has been increases (in the millage rate) for the past couple of years because of construction," said school district business consultant Al Melone Jr. "The reason for the 8 mill increase (this year) is due to the rise in health care benefits."

"(The preliminary budget) seems to be reasonably firm. We're not anticipating an increase above 8 mills."

The cost of health care benefits is expected to go up over \$385,000 from a year ago, and a rise of 3.3 percent in salaries.

Melone said the 3.3 percent raise is normal, and drops in debt expenditures will cover the raise.

"(The rise in health care benefits) is basically our only problem at this time," Melone said.

The school district estimated an ending fund balance of \$4,337,364 for the 2001-2002 school year, but actually came away with \$5,179,474, or a difference of a little over \$1.3 million.

Melone said some school districts ending fund balance is a result of over taxing, but he did not feel this was the case with Dallas. He said an increase in local revenue aided in the difference.

"We do constant reviewing of the budget," said Melone. "We look at the fund balance as an asset, and feel good about the financial future of the Dallas School District."



POST PHOTO/ELIZABETH ANDERSON

The top dogs of the Lake-Lehman Education Association celebrate their acceptance of the fact-finders report. The school board must render its decision by Friday.

From left to right; LLEA Vice-president Phil Lipski, Attorney John Holland and President Dan Williams.

## Teachers

(continued from page 1)

fully, between the two attorneys."

Holland said he could not disclose any details of the report until after the board had voted. If the school board votes to reject the findings of the fact-finder, the report will be made public. After its publication, both parties then have no less than

five and no more than 10 days to either accept or reject the report again.

Even if the fact finding does not resolve the contract negotiations, both Holland and Boytin have said they have hopes it will bring the two parties closer to a resolution.

## Hoover will lead Gettysburg Student Government

Justin Hoover, of Shavertown was recently elected President of the Student Government at Gettysburg College for the 2002-03 school year. Justin, a 1999 graduate of Dallas Senior High School, is a junior at Gettysburg pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in

Biology with a Minor in Chemistry. He had served as Gettysburg's Vice-President this year.

The son of Russ and Dee Dee Hoover, Justin will be serving an internship at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland for the summer.



JUSTIN HOOVER

## Trinity Church to note 40th

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Irem Road, will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a special service of worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 9. The service will be conducted by Pastor Mark Harper and Pastor Emeritus and founding pastor, Andrew Pillarella. The service is open to the public, and all are welcome.

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