

# Toys

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Marines campaign on the news, and we are happy to be part of it."

"We only collected \$100 our first year," said John Wertman, "but because our office deliveries have picked up dramatically and our customers have been very generous, we had \$1,800 this year to spend on toys. The Marines told us if we didn't have time to do all the shopping ourselves this year, we could just write a check, and they would be happy to do the shopping for us."

"But we always make time every year because that completes the circle for us," he said. "We watch the money grow all year, and it gives our employees a thrill to actually buy the toys and deliver them. This year we were able to buy so many toys that we took them directly to the Marines near the airport in Wyoming."

*"It gives us a good feeling to know that we may have helped a child's dreams come true."*

Heather Wertman  
J&J Deli

"We are grateful to K-Mart in Edwardsville for helping us this year," said Heather Wertman. "They helped us stretch our money further, set up a special check-out for us, packed the toys in boxes, and helped us get them to our truck. We really had a great time loading our carts so high that we could hardly see over them."

"The Marines told us that the infant to 3-year-old age group needed the most help, so we tried to concentrate on toys for them. We want to thank store manager, Jim Soucy, for his kindness and hospitality."

The morning after their whirlwind shopping spree, John Wertman delivered the toys to the Marines. Several of the Marines greeted John at the curb and helped unload the toys into one of their vans. Captain Joseph Novario, from Dubois, directed the transfer of the toys.



POST PHOTOS/SANDY PEOPLES

Above, J&J Deli employees held some of the toys purchased with their tip money. From left, first row: Tim Reese, a senior at Dallas High School; Paul Fiske, a senior at Dallas High School; Sam Russoniello, a junior at Dallas High School.

Standing: Bill Cuff, Mary Ellen Neely, Pam Dunbar. Below, John Wertman made the "Santa delivery" to the Marines Corps in Wyoming. From left: Sgt. Glendon Garrett, John Wertman; Capt. Joseph Novario, First Sgt. Charlie Stanford, Staff Sgt. Kirk Larson, Sgt. Joseph Limani.



"This is an amazing amount of toys," he said. "The donations for the kids really bring out the spirit of the season."

"We have a lot of fun with this project," said Heather Wertman. "I just read some Valley Santa letters in the paper and some of

them are enough to break your heart. It gives us a good feeling to know that we may have helped a child's dreams come true."

J&J Deli and its employees will be honored by the Marines with a plaque of appreciation.

# Dallas will miss the man who waved

By M.B. GILLIGAN  
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — The man who waved at Dallas has died.

The community lost a long-time volunteer and friendly face when Alvin Shaffer passed away on December 5, at the age of 77.

Shaffer was a member of the Dallas Fire and Ambulance, Inc. and a charter member of Dallas Ambulance Association. He was the number one driver for many of those years and also operated the pump.

"He was always there, always had his hands on the trucks," said Tim Carroll, mayor of Dallas.

"His favorite love was the 1927 Mack fire engine," said Bob Besecker, Dallas. That truck can still be used at a fire if it was needed.

"Al helped me a lot when I was fire chief," said Besecker. "He was a former chief and I ran my first ambulance call with him back in 1957 and he was still working with the department up to about a year ago."

*Al Shaffer was a fixture as he waved at passing motorists from his back yard.*

Dedicated community volunteers like Al Shaffer are hard to replace. "Our fire department is hurting for dedicated people who'll get up in the middle of the night or go on a call on a Sunday. Volunteerism seems to be dying," said Besecker.

"We have a nice group of junior firefighters right

*"He enjoyed greeting everybody whether he knew them or not. He was like an icon out there."*

Jim Eason  
Dallas

now but we'll be lucky if one or two of those will stay on for the 15 to 20 years that the rest of us have put in."

Al Shaffer became known over the last several years as the man who waved to everyone going by his Memorial Highway home. "Some probably never even knew his name," said Ed Roth, Dallas. "He was just a nice, friendly guy."

Shaffer and his wife, Edith, lived near the Dallas Center Hardware store. He spent a lot of time in his back yard overlooking Route 309 near Wendy's. People would beep their horns at him and he'd wave back.

"He enjoyed greeting everybody whether he knew them or not," said Jim Eason, owner of Dallas Hardware. "He was like an icon out there. He was always dedicated to the community with his work at the fire department. We will miss him."

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Janis L. Barringer, League City, Texas; two grandsons; brothers, Donald F., Dallas; Kenneth L., Panama City, Fla.; William R., Dallas; Richard H., Mexico; and sister, Carolyn Purvin, Shavertown. Memorial donations may be made to the Dallas United Methodist Church or Hospice Community Care, Wilkes-Barre.

# Developer gives traffic advice to borough

DALLAS — Council members were left with a lot of information and one major option after being presented with a traffic analysis report by traffic engineers Monday night during a Borough Council work session.

Consulting engineers with Pennoni Associates Inc., hired by J. Naparolo, the developer of the former Yalick property in Dallas Township, brought to the council a suggestion that would make Lake Street, a current two-way street, one-way.

Lake Street is part of the five-point intersection where Church, Main and Lake streets, and the Route 415 Memorial Highway, meet.

The development in Dallas Township would affect the borough because much of the traffic to and from the proposed "box store," which might be a Super Wal-Mart, would travel through the borough.

"If we make Lake Street one way, that time and signal can be reallocated to provide flow to the other streets," said Eileen M. Pauletta, a consulting engineer for Pennoni Associates Inc.

But not everyone agreed. "It's a waste of time for the drivers, plus, you have school transportation to worry about," Councilwoman Barbara Barnes said.

Council members reacted with questions and voiced their opinion on traffic matters throughout

the borough. "All our intersections are tough," said Borough Manager Joseph Moskovitz.

Council is expected to review a summary report of the findings and make suggestions to the developer and the consulting engineers.

Other agenda items during the work session included:

- A presentation on health-insurance benefits for full-time borough employees.

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