



# THE DALLAS POST

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



### SPORTS

Check out all the local sports results. Pg 11.



### COMMUNITY

New rec facility coming to Trucksville Pg 6.



### WEEK II

We have a winner! Pages 4-5.

## Visioners get a virtual peek at 'greened-up' eyesores

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** — With the click of a button, participants in the Dallas visioning project caught a glimpse of how adding trees, shrubs and a little planning could make a difference in Dallas Borough.

"A lot of small towns are looking at ways to compete with malls," said urban forester Vinny Cotrone. "To do that communities are turning their commercial districts into destination places — places where people can get out of their cars and walk around."

He said part of the appeal comes from adding green space while "part of that is creating spaces where people can eat their lunch and socialize."

As part of the visioning process, Cotrone, from the Penn State Cooperative Extension, was asked to show participants just what is within their power with a little planning. Cotrone has been helping communities in Pennsylvania "green up" for years.

With the help of technology created by the Penn State School of Architecture, Cotrone inter-

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PHOTOS FROM PA BLUEPRINTS, PENN STATE DEPT. OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

How we might look. An interactive demonstration by Vinny Cotrone, urban forester with the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, showed how a barren parking lot could be improved with the addition of a few trees and shrubs.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

### Gentle touch

Taylor Shaw checked out one of the donkeys at last weekend's Lake-Lehman donkey basketball game, in which seniors took on the faculty while riding their trusty steeds. More photos on page 12.

## Lehman Twp. mulls reduced police force

By ERIN YOUNGMAN  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN** — For the first time in decades, it appears Lehman Township will not provide all of its own police coverage.

"We've never had to have state police cover Lehman, we've had police coverage since the 1930's," said Lehman Police Chief Howard Kocher in response to the recent announcement that Lehman Township will be reducing its force.

The expectation is that the supervisors will vote at their February 17 meeting to ask the Pennsylvania State Police to provide coverage during certain hours.

"We used to have two full-time officers and a slew of part-timers — up to 12," Kocher said that was in 1986 when he started with the department. He said since then the department has managed to increase the number of full-time employees and decrease the number of part-time officers.

That was until January 1 of this year. When full time officer Sev Newberry retired, the township supervisors decided they couldn't afford to replace him.

The change brings the total number of full-time officers down to three, supplemented by seven part-timers.

"We're not in trouble, but we could easily be."

Dave Sutton  
President  
Lehman Twp. Supervisors

Both Kocher and Dave Sutton, President of the Lehman Township Board of Supervisors, agree this is the first time anyone can remember Lehman won't have full-time coverage.

Sutton said in the 14 years he's been on the board, the trend has been to increase police coverage. "We added a full-time officer last year — it was supposed to save us money," said Sutton.

Adding the full-time position was designed to cut back on the need for part-time officers. But, Sutton said, it didn't work out as well as planned.

Sutton said the board had been aware of the possibility of police department cutbacks for a while. With costs rising and revenue not, other parts of the bud-

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## L-L cheerleaders put on milk faces

The Lake-Lehman High School All Star Cheerleading squad has been practicing to compete in Orlando, Florida for nationals next month.

Sandy Dobrowski coaches the squad of 15 with assistants Aprille Covert and Crystal Savage. The squad consists of senior co-captains Briana Maslowski and Maura Dougher; juniors Ashley Basar, Dana Colfax, Christina Reimard, Cheri Ross, Ainsley Schuler, Missy Simpson, Erika Steele, Kristie Taylor, Felicia Walsh, and alternate Ainsley MacDougall; sophomores Danny Evans and Kim Hartman, and freshman Caitlin Schuler and alternate Tiffany Harris.

During one of their early morning practices the girls took time out to pose for a got milk? "Squad of the Year" contest. To be considered, a 200-word essay on why the squad should be named the got milk? "Squad of the Year", had to be submitted including community service events, fundraising activities and cheerleading qualifications. The Scholastic GPA of each member and of the overall squad, a "MILK" cheer that in-



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Reflected in a mirror while putting on their "milk mustaches," Ashley Basar, left, and Kim Hartman.

## Harveys Lake on hot seat over 4-year officer's status

By TERRIE MORGAN-BESECKER  
Special to The Dallas Post

**HARVEYS LAKE** — As many as 205 criminal and traffic citation cases could be challenged because of questions about the accreditation of four-year Police Department veteran Charles Musial, court records show.

That figure represents 35 criminal cases that include drunken driving and burglary charges, 58 non-traffic citations, such as disorderly conduct, and 112 traffic violations, according to records compiled by District Justice James Tupper.

The validity of Musial's arrests came under question after the revelation Wednesday that he never obtained certification from the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission in Harrisburg.

Officers are required to be certified to carry a weapon and enforce state laws and moving traffic violations, said Maj. Richard Mooney, the commission's executive director. Without it an officer has no more power to make an arrest than a lay person, Mooney said.

The borough maintains Mu-

sial was qualified because he completed training under Act 120, the state law that mandates police training. But Mooney said the training itself was not sufficient for certification.

Mooney said a department also must show the officer passed a physical and psychological exam, provide proof a background check was completed, show the officer qualified with a weapon and completed first aid and CPR training. The commission never got that proof for Musial, he said.

As the borough and commission argue the point, prosecutors and defense attorneys are faced with a legal quagmire.

Jonathan Blum, an attorney with the Luzerne County Public Defender's Office who handles Back Mountain cases, said he's reviewing cases to determine whether challenges to arrests and convictions should be filed.

The biggest problems for prosecutors involve pending cases, Blum said. Should Musial's arrests be deemed illegal, Blum said prosecutors would have to drop the charges or try to have another officer take over the case and rearrest the

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