



## Visions of Dallas

Last week's meeting of the "Our Dallas — Today and Tomorrow" visioning project included virtual views of the borough as it could be. Kevin Buchinski, Penn State Wilkes-Barre student majoring in Information Sciences and Technology, took digital photos of street scenes and modified them to demonstrate the effect of the addition of greenery, and street lamps, the removal of unattractive signs and the use of underground utilities.

At left, how the five-way intersection might look if the present empty gas station was replaced with a green space. An alternative use for this area is a traffic roundabout.

Below, before and after views of Main Street reveal a striking difference.

## Roundabout

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According to Mattei, a minimum of 65 feet in diameter would be required.

Moskovitz said two members of the community, Michael MacDowell, president of College Misericordia and Bernard Walter, an attorney in Dallas, have taken on the cause of lobbying for the donation of the gas station to the municipality. Moskovitz said calls have been placed and letters drafted. One argument that is being advanced is that the station has little economic value as an operating entity.

Early on it was believed that Fino's Pharmacy on the corner of Main Street and Route 415, would need to be acquired as well. However, the new plans, Moskovitz said, don't require the

acquisition of additional properties.

John Oliver, Dallas Borough Council Vice President, said he's not sure how he feels about the possible traffic easement. He said he does believe, though, "the roundabout is one of the only ways the situation could be ameliorated."

Oliver said it was the possible big box store going into Dallas Township that "forced Dallas to look at the intersection," and PennDOT as well. PennDOT originally had not planned to look at the intersection for changes until 2012, but, according to Moskovitz, will now add it this summer to its 12-year plan.

Oliver said he sees four main concerns that need to be ad-

dressed in the information gathering process:

- Is there a guarantee it will reduce speed?
- How is the traffic controlled with no lights?
- What, if anything, will it cost?
- Most important, will it be pedestrian friendly?

"One of the things we're trying to do in the visioning is make the downtown more people friendly," said Oliver.

Being people friendly, Oliver said, means making the area accessible for people to go downtown, park, get out of their cars and visit shops and eateries. This idea is integral with making Dallas Borough "a destination place," efforts that are ongoing

within the Dallas visioning.

Oliver said the question is how will the roundabout affect those goals.

"I'm not opposed to it, but I'm having a hard time envisioning what it would look like — I'm trying to envision a roundabout that would accommodate a tractor trailer," said Nancy Eckert, chairperson of the downtown Dallas task force. Her task force is charged with finding ways to improve the looks and quality of life in the downtown area.

Eckert said she thinks any traffic solution in the area would need to link the currently dissected downtown. If the circle can in some way accomplish that, then, she said, it would be viable.



## War

(continued from page 1)

Scott Moelder, of Kunkle, agrees. "We should have done this a long time ago. There's been too much diplomatic stuff — let's just do it."

*There's been too much diplomatic stuff — let's just do it.*

Scott Moelder  
Kunkle

Students at College Misericordia have sent rice packages to President Bush encouraging him to feed the Iraqi people rather than attack them, says Chris Somers, assistant director of Campus Ministry. However, after a recent student town hall meeting she thought more students were for a "pro American war policy" than against the war.

Somers has noticed that students are becoming more concerned and fearful as war draws near. The college is aware that students will be especially affected by a war since some of them or their family members are enlisted or in active duty.

According to Sr. Barbara Craig, the Sisters of Mercy have taken a corporate stance against war by buying a full-page ad against the war in The New York Times. "Actually, we are calling for peace rather than being against war. We are not unpatriotic, we do support the troops. We want them home, whole and alive, without damage to body or soul. But this president is hell-bent on war," she said.

Sr. Andre Dembowski, of Dallas, says her stance against war has nothing to do with politics, but that peace is a "way of life, a choice to act morally in the face of anger or aggression, and a struggle to be peaceful. The antidote to war is always prayer and thoughtfulness." She has placed

a sign on the front door of her home and encourages everyone to email the president@whitehouse.gov to register their opin-

ions.

Mark Margavage, Chuck Glasser and Ted Dymond, all board of director members at the

Legion Post, while totally supportive of the President, think the strong military stand may be for show and hope for a quick resolution. They offered prayers for the troops at their meeting Tuesday night and feel sorry for the Iraqi people who, they say, are victims.

Susan Merrill, a Shavertown resident and co-director of the Peace Center in Wilkes-Barre, says that peace rallies are held every Tuesday noon on Public Square, and that if war should begin, a vigil will be held at 5 p.m. that day or the next, also on Public Square.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

John Scafidi and Tom Paul sheltered their candles from the breeze during Sunday evening's candlelight service at St. Theresa's Church.

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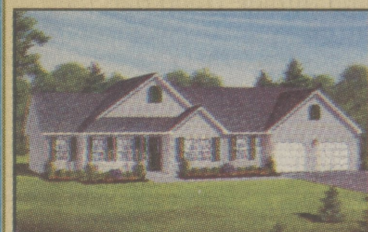
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