

The DALLAS POST

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

David Waligorski, of Dallas Township, reads over a survey the township has asked residents to complete. The survey will help the town deal with development concerns and municipal needs.

Asking the residents

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Dallas Township Board of Supervisors is developing a comprehensive plan and they want help from residents.

Jack Varaly, a planning consultant from Pasonick Engineering, the township's engineer, came up with the idea of a community survey to see what issues are important to people living in the township.

"He said he had used it in other areas and that it had worked well," said Dallas Township Supervisor Glenn Howell.

Citizens are asked to complete the survey as the first step supervisors will take to form the plan, which represents a continuation of planning initiatives by Dallas Township.

"The comprehensive plan, it's everything throughout your township - what you'd want it to look like and what the people want it to look like in the future," Howell said. "We should have one. Every township should have one. We changed our zoning ordinances, so we came up with the idea to come up with a new comprehensive plan."

Township residents will have a chance to voice their opinions in the survey on township matters including new growth, the most positive and most negative aspect of living in the township, the most important change that should oc-

cur and other matters.

Residents can also rank the importance of aspects of living in the township, maintenance of roads and highways, the adequacy of emergency services, general services and facilities and recreational opportunities and facilities.

Residents do not have to include their name or any other identifiable information on the survey. Howell requests that only one survey per household be completed.

"Generally, I think this is a good idea," said resident Holly Pelton, who had not heard of the survey. "As with all surveys, I don't know how honest everyone is when they fill them out."

Pelton, who has lived in Dallas Township for 43 years, thinks land development is the most important aspect of the survey and feels the township has grown to the maximum for the time being.

"We keep taking land without having the resources to back it up," Pelton said.

David Waligorski has lived in Dallas Township since 1978 and is happy to fill out the survey, but like Pelton, wasn't aware it existed. Waligorski thinks the township should have mailed the survey to each household to ensure a wide response.

"It looks like a nice survey," Waligorski said.

The survey can be accessed in several ways. It is posted in an Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the township's Web site at www.dallastownship.com.



Holly Pelton, a Dallas Township resident, discusses her views of the survey currently being conducted by township supervisors.

The online form can be downloaded, filled out and e-mailed to dallastwpo@epix.net. Or, it can be printed and mailed to or dropped off at the municipal building.

Copies of the survey can also be obtained at the municipal building. Additionally, the survey will be mailed to citizens upon request. To request a survey, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the township.

Anyone wishing to send a completed survey or a survey inquiry by mail should send it to: Dallas Township Board of Supervisors, Community Survey, 601 Tunkhannock Hwy., P.O. Box 518, Dallas, PA 18612.

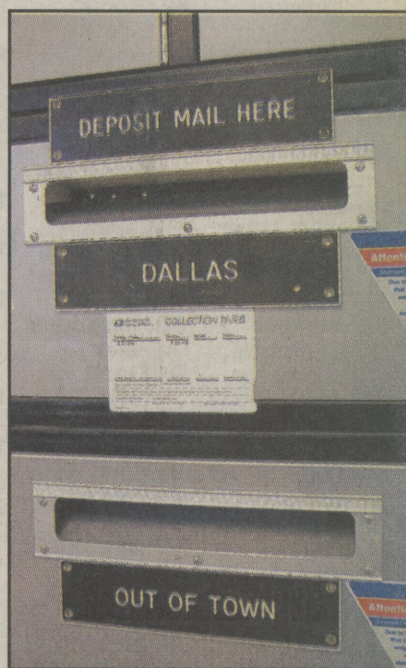
Surveys will be accepted through April 30. Results are expected to be completed by June and will then be presented at a future public meeting and incorporated into the township's comprehensive plan. Results will also be available online once they are compiled.

HOW TO GET A SURVEY

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The United States Postal Service is currently performing a study on its Wilkes-Barre Processing and Distribution Center to determine the feasibility of consolidating mail processing into the Scranton facility. Customers served by the Dallas Post Office may be affected.

Mail delivery may be affected

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

Mail coming in and out of the Back Mountain may eventually be processed and distributed in Scranton.

The United States Postal Service is currently performing a study on its Wilkes-Barre Processing and Distribution Center to determine the feasibility of consolidating mail processing into the Scranton facility.

Raymond V. Daiutolo, USPS public affairs and communications, says the study began January 7 and a decision will be made in approximately five months.

PETITION AVAILABLE

The online petition against stopping consolidation of the Wilkes-Barre Processing and Distribution Center may be accessed at www.savethewbpo.org.

ZIP codes served from the Wilkes-Barre plant include 182 (37 post offices), 186 (35 post offices) and 187 (Wilkes-Barre Post Office and seven stations and branches). ZIP codes in the Back Mountain start with either 186 or 187.

"We feel this move, if they follow through, would be detrimental to the mail service citizens and businesses in the valley receive from the Postal Service," said Bill Smith, president of NPMHU Local 308 Wilkes-Barre Branch and a resident of Dallas. "Delivery standards will not be the same if mail is processed in Scranton."

According to Smith, sorted mail from both Wilkes-Barre and Scranton is sent to Harrisburg and back. Mail from Wilkes-Barre to Harrisburg is returned overnight, but the turnaround time for mail from Scranton to Harrisburg is two days.

"It's going to delay the mail you receive by two days," Smith said. "Also, collection times will have to be earlier."

Daiutolo says each processing plant sorts and processes incoming and outgoing mail for the ZIP codes it serves. Some of the mail goes to deliveries in the areas served by the Harrisburg facility.

But Daiutolo says if the consolidation were to take place, the study must first show mail service would not be adversely affected.

"Despite what you may have heard, if any consolidation is made there will be no impact on your lo-

See MAIL, Page 2



American Legion Riders roll on

By REBECCA BRIA
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Every time Art Parks gets on his Harley Davidson Road King, he rides in memory of his son.

Parks is president of the newly-formed Dallas chapter of the American Legion Riders. He and his wife, Melanie, of Dallas, lost their 27-year-old son, David, when David crashed his motorcycle on Upper Demunds Road in November 2006.

"He bought his bike and had his about one-and-a-half years," Parks said. "I was supposed to buy one in the spring of 2007 (which he did) so we could go to Rolling Thunder together, but that never happened. I ride because he can't." Rolling Thunder is an annual POW/MIA rally held Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C.

The American Legion Riders was started by Chuck "Tramp" Dare and Post Commander Bill "Polka" Kaledas at the American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Mich.

TO JOIN...

Dallas American Legion Riders

- Meet the third Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Dallas American Legion
- Membership requirements include owning a motorcycle and being a member of any chapter of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion or the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Immediate family members are included. There is a \$12 annual fee per member.

in 1993. Since then, the organization has grown to include groups of American Legion Riders across the country.

The idea to form a Legion Riders chapter at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Dallas Post 672 came about last fall because many of the members who attend Poker Night on Tuesdays have motorcycles. Post Commander Clarence Michael conducted the initial meeting in January and began an election of officers.

See RIDERS, Page 2



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Dallas residents Melanie Parks, left, and her husband, Art, are members of a newly-formed Dallas American Legion Riders chapter. Art serves as president of the organization, which meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday of every month at the Post home on Route 415 in Dallas. The Parks couple lost their 27-year-old son, David, in a motorcycle accident in November 2006.