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Survey says: Emergency response times are good

By REBECCA BRIA
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Results from a recent survey show the majority of Dallas Township residents feel emergency services and response times in the township are good.

The survey was the first step supervisors will take to form a comprehensive plan, which represents a continuation of planning initiatives by the township. Six hundred of the surveys were mailed to township households in June of this year and 376 were returned.

Dallas Township supervisors released results from a township community survey before their regular bi-monthly meeting on Oct. 20.

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. Township officials say they were expecting Varaly to present the findings at the special public meeting, but he did not show up.

In the survey, residents had the chance to voice their opinions on township matters including new growth, the most positive and most negative aspect of living in the township, the most important change that should occur and other matters. They were also able to rank the importance of aspects of living in the township, maintenance of roads

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Attorney Thomas Brennan
Dallas Township solicitor

and highways, the adequacy of emergency services, general services and facilities and recreational opportunities and facilities.

The majority of survey respondents were age 50 and above with the 50 to 59 age group representing 28 percent of those who completed it. Twenty-six percent were ages 60 to 69 and 22 percent were age 70 and above.

Over 50 percent of the survey takers have lived at their residence for more than 20 years, with 41 percent having lived in the Back Mountain prior to relocating to their current home.

The questions that received the most positive responses pertained to the quality and response of police, fire and ambulance services in the township. Seventy-nine percent of respondents ranked police protection

as good, 16 percent felt it was fair and 5 percent said it was poor. Eighty percent thought the response times are good, 15 percent said they are fair and five felt they are poor.

The fire department and ambulance received even better ratings. Ninety-one percent of survey takers felt the fire departments are good, 8 percent said they are fair and one percent said they are poor. Ninety-two percent of those who completed the survey said the ambulance service is good, eight percent said fair and none said poor.

Both the fire and ambulance services received a 90 percent good rating for response time. Ten percent said it was fair while none said it was poor.

Many of the people who completed the survey felt restrictive about new growth and development in the township. Only nine percent favor new development while 45 percent are okay with moderate residential development. Forty-six percent opposed development all together.

The availability of outdoor recreation facilities also received a somewhat unfavorable response. Thirty-four percent of those who responded said they are good, 42 percent said fair and 24 percent said poor.

"My impression is that it's kind of reflective of what we hear at these meetings," said Attorney Thomas Brennan, the

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Priest's CD will benefit kids' agency

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Rev. James Paisley's parishioners have always suggested he record his Christmas homilies.

After singing his Christmas homilies for more than two decades, the Rev. Paisley, pastor of St. Therese's Roman Catholic Church in Shavertown, released his CD titled "My Grown Up Christmas Wish" on Oct. 19. The CD is his first solo album and is comprised of songs and reflections for Christmas.

"I sing my Christmas homily," the Rev. Paisley said. "I've been doing that for 24 years ever since I was ordained. After I would sing my homily, many people would say, 'Boy, Father, I really enjoyed that. You should record that.'"

The CD contains 10 songs including "Believe," by Josh Groban, from the movie "Polar Express"; "Breath of Heaven" and "My Grown Up Christmas List," both by Amy Grant; "A Baby Changes Everything," by Faith Hill; "A Soldier's King," artist unknown; "Joseph's Lullaby," "One Bright Star"; "Family," artist unknown; "Holy is His Name," by

CD INFORMATION

"My Grown Up Christmas Wish" may be purchased for \$12 now through the holiday season at the following locations: Wyoming Valley Children's Association, Forty Fort (call ahead to 714-1246); Joe Nardone's Gallery of Sound stores, various locations; The Guild Store, Scranton; Sunshine Market, Plains Township; St. Therese's Church and rectory, Shavertown; Francine Paisley Beauty Shop, Hazleton; Thomas' Foodtown, Shavertown; and Thomas' SuperFoodtown, Dallas; and Barnes & Noble, Wilkes-Barre (Nov. 8 only).

John Michael Talbot; and "Thankful," by Josh Groban.

Spoken words of reflection by the Rev. Paisley are featured over piano music as lead-ins to five of the 10 songs. Kathy Elgaway is the pianist on the CD.

"The purpose of the CD is to get people in a reflective Christmas mood," the Rev. Paisley said.

All proceeds from the CD will benefit the Wyoming Valley Children's Association in Forty Fort. The local non-profit agency's pri-

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Rev. James Paisley has recently produced a CD of his songs at the urging of parishioners at St. Therese's Church, Shavertown. Sales of the CD will benefit the Wyoming Valley Children's Association.



Former Dallas Township police officer Wayman Miers was honored recently at the township supervisors meeting. Miers retired from the township's police department Sept. 23. He served as a full-time officer for the department since 1987. From left are supervisors Glenn Howell and Phillip Walter, Miers and supervisor Frank Wagner.

Miers honored on retirement as police officer

By REBECCA BRIA
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Police work was something Wayman Miers never thought he would do.

Miers' brother, Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Johnson Miers, now retired, urged his brother to also become a state trooper back in the early 1970s. But Wayman didn't listen.

"I kept saying to him, 'What do I want to do that for?'" Miers said. "Then when I finally got into it, I knew that's what I'm supposed to

do. That was my calling."

Miers became a police officer in 1981 at the age of 34 when he was laid off from Luzerne Products in Plains Township after working for 17 years as a foreman.

Miers, 58, of Dallas, retired from the Dallas Township Police Department on Sept. 23 after having served as a full-time officer for the department since January 1987.

When Miers first joined the police department, his boss was his older brother, Carl, Dallas Township Chief of Police at the time.

"He taught me a lot of stuff,"

Wayman said of Carl. "Not what you learn in the book, but what you learn on the road in real life. Book work and being out on the road are two completely different things...."

Many other members of the Miers family have also served in law enforcement. Their grandfather, Walter Besecker, was a game warden, they have cousins who serve as police officers in Dupont Borough and a nephew is a sergeant in the Virginia State Police.

Miers and his wife, Jane, have two grown daughters, Jennifer,

who works as a dispatcher for Luzerne County 911, and Julie, a registered nurse.

Miers has many memories from his career, but especially remembers saving someone's life. Miers responded to the home of Martin Barry who was choking on a pork chop bone, performed first aid and was able to dislodge the bone.

"Anytime that I could help anybody, no matter what the situation was, I felt good about," Miers said.

Another instance that Miers

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