

Gate of Heaven parishioners make holiday brighter through 'Giving Tree'

A Giving Tree, erected in the Gate of Heaven Church vestibule and decorated with sets of four colored "angel" wish cards, was the attraction from Thanksgiving to December 13.

The wish cards contained holiday wishes of children who, otherwise, would go without gifts. The wish cards also contained the child's first name and gender.

Each color represented one of the following groups or organizations which were recipients of the gifts: Birthright, Wyoming Valley Children's Association, Mental

Health/Mental/Retardation, Head Start and Children of Gate of Heaven Parish.

The parishioners removed the 350 wish cards, purchased and returned their gifts to the Giving

Tree. It was a simple and effective way for the parishioners to enrich their own lives by helping others.

Giving Tree Co-chairpersons were Rose Schmid, Joan Gilbertson and Sunny Cesarini.

Parishioners at Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas recently shared the spirit of the season by participating in A Giving Tree. From left, first row, are Joanna Wallace, Rachel DeCesaris, Sean McMonagle, Courtney McMonagle, Eryn McMonagle. Second row, Pam Scales, Anthony DeCesaris, Dorothy Koscielski, Dorothy Kolaniewicz and Jim McMonagle. Third row, are Sunny Cesarini, Jonathan Wallace, Bette Gillespie and Whitey Gillespie.



CIVIC BRIEFS

Police Assn. will hold coat drive today

The Back Mountain Police Association will hold a coat drive from 1 to 3 p.m. today, Dec. 20, in the parking lot of the Shavertown Shopping Center.

Association members will collect coats, hats and gloves from the public to be given to needy children.

'A Christmas Carol' presented at Music Box

"A Christmas Carol," an original musical version of the classic Dickens' tale written by Kevin Costley and Ted Anderson, will be performed today, Dec. 20, at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swoyersville.

For more information, call 283-2195.

Blood drive set

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21, at the Dallas American Legion. The double red unit is scheduled to be at this drive.

There will be a drawing from all donors of the Northeast Pennsylvania region in the month of December. The following items will be awarded to the lucky winners: 40" Sony Bravia HDTV LCD, three Apple iPod shuffles, a Garmin GPS system and a digital camera.

HL Legion to meet

Harveys Lake American Legion Post 967 Sons of the American Legion will meet at 8 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21, at the post home. Food will be served.

Music Box slates auditions

Auditions for "American Stars of Tomorrow," an original musical revue written and directed by Debbie Zehner, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 28, and Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse.

All children and young adults ages 7-20 may audition and asked to bring sheet music of their choice. An accompanist will be provided.

Performance dates are January 22, 23 and 24.

Contra dance planned

A New England Contra dance sponsored by the Chicory House and the Folklore Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Church of Christ Uniting, Sprague Avenue, Kingston.

For information, call 333-4007.

Too often we forget to count our blessings until December rolls around, and the Christmas spirit finds us and reminds us of how good life is, how fortunate we've been. I hope the Holidays bring you generous feelings, good memories, time spent with the ones you love... and all the best reminders of the dreams, hopes, wonder and beauty of life.

-Barbara F. Metcalf



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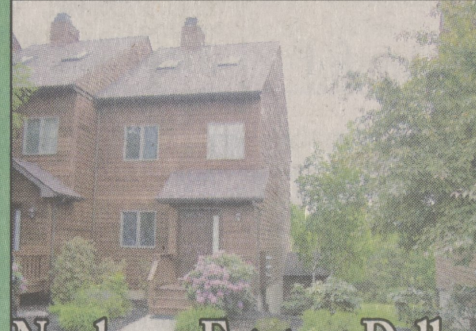
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Beautiful surrounding area of Lake Louise. This home offers great family living with open space. The kitchen features granite counters and tile floors, sunroom, screened porch, library, large LR/DR, family room with double sided fireplace, wine cellar with fireplace and inground heated pool. MLS#09-1850 Offered at \$850,000

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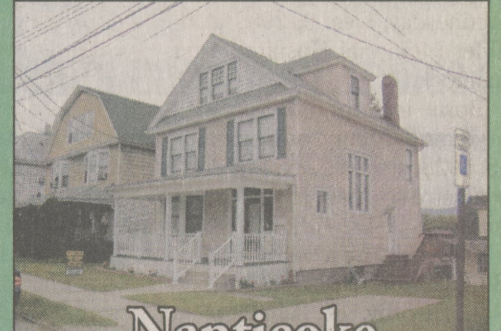


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