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DAMA officials approve formation of waste collection program

By SARAH HITE
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The Dallas Area Municipal Authority voted July 14 to begin its own solid waste collection in Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township.

The authority currently utilizes the services of J.P. Masca-

ro & Sons, based in Audubon, to pick up solid waste and recycling within the municipalities.

DAMA Board Assistant Secretary John Oliver said the DAMA board began exploring the idea of self-collection about six months ago with the help of Paul Keating, administrator of the municipality of Kingston.

DAMA Executive Director Larry Spaciano said the self-

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Larry Spaciano
DAMA Executive Director

collection process could save more than \$600,000 a year, but residents won't see a major

change in cost right away. The average household currently pays about \$260 a year.

The board will purchase four 30-yard garbage trucks and one 10-yard truck via the state's purchasing program. Spaciano said the cost of the larger trucks will be about \$166,000 each and will be financed for five years. One of the larger trucks will serve as a "backup" in order to ensure the proper maintenance of all the vehicles. Between eight and 12 people

will be hired as part of the self-collection plan, including a solid waste collection supervisor. The board will form a committee to discuss job descriptions, salaries and benefits details for each of the positions.

"We hope to be able to hire a substantial workforce within the operating area," said Spaciano. "This will put something back in the community."

GOH uniforms enroute to Africa

By SARAH HITE
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MORE INFORMATION

To donate Gate of Heaven School uniforms for the Teach Peace program, contact Rockensies at 406-4533 or via e-mail at krock@epix.net. For more information about Teach Peace, visit www.teachpeace.com.

While the Gate of Heaven School may just be a memory, uniforms from the Catholic elementary school will live on and clothe children about 4,700 miles away.

Parents of former Gate of Heaven students have begun collecting uniforms to send to children in West Africa through a non-profit organization called the Teach Peace Foundation which, according to its website, aims to "transform from a world based on greed to a world based on kindness."

Susan Diana, of Lehman, led the cause as a former "home-room parent" for Gate of Heaven School. When it was mentioned to her that donating the uniforms would be a great idea, Diana contacted the Rev. James Paisley of St. Therese's Church to see if there was a possibility to bring the idea to fruition.

"He said he had two contacts but they were out of the country at the time," she said.

Despite the lag time in organizing the shipment, Diana began to spread the word about the collection and parents responded.

Diana announced via e-mail that her minivan would be parked in the Gate of Heaven School parking lot on certain days. Parents drove to the site, clutching green and yellow plaid uniforms. Diana even found two garbage bags filled with uniforms before she parked her van.

Many parents said it was difficult to let go of the memorabilia, but were happy to donate the items to a good cause.

"We did keep one piece because we're going to have it made into one of those Teddy Bears," said parent Deanna Mennig, of Dallas, who feels good about helping others in need, despite losing an iconic memento from the school

which closed this summer.

"We kept some basketball hoodies," she said.

Kevin Rockensies, executive director of Teach Peace, said the uniforms will be a much-appreciated necessity for children attending school in Liberia, Africa.

"It will mean the world to them - some will use them for school because each school (there) has a uniform, but even if they are not used for school they are used for regular clothing," said Rockensies. "A lot of times I'll go over there and the children are wearing rags and torn shirts. Between the heat and conditions there, things do get dried out. It will definitely mean a lot."

Rockensies, of Dallas, has been helping children in West Africa for about 12 years, having first become involved with Teach Peace after working with Sr. Mary Sponsa Beltran, of Ashley, in the Our Lady of Fatima Rehabilitation Center in Liberia helping poverty-stricken disabled children. The rehab center is now part of the Teach Peace Foundation's Special Ambassadors program.

Money will be raised to ship the materials to Africa but if enough money is not raised before the end of the year, Rockensies will take some of the uniforms with him on one of his bi-annual trips to West Africa.

"I'm very thankful Fr. Paisley contacted me about the uniforms," he said. "It's not often we get calls like that. We usually get monetary donations, but it's good to have donations like this because it really helps these kids."

AW, THAT'S GOOD!



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lemonade tastes good to Kieran Long, of Wyoming. Kieran and his brother, Spencer, visited the Back Mountain Library Farmer's Market on opening day last Saturday. For more farmer's market photos, please turn to page 4.

Readdressing by 911 causing confusion

By SARAH HITE
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Many residents in Dallas Borough and Dallas Township have recently been instructed to change their addresses as part of a project instituted by Luzerne County 911. Some residents are frustrated by the change, but emergency officials say the project is all in the name of public safety.

Since the 1998 inception of 911 in Luzerne County, tens of thousands of addresses have changed to become part of a national standard, according to Fred Rosencrans, 911 Data/Technical Support Manager.

The idea behind the readdressing project is for fire, ambulance and emergency medical services responders to be able to clearly find a caller in the event of an emergency.

The project is now underway in Dallas Borough and Dallas Township, and Rosencrans said the entire process should be complete in about five months after

"If a letter doesn't get delivered, it's not a big deal, but if we don't respond, we get sued or someone could die. This minor inconvenience is worth a lifetime of safety."

Fred Rosencrans
911 Data/Technical Support Manager

data analysis is completed in Kingston Township and Bear Creek Township.

Residents received letters about the change on June 30 and have been urged to make the address changes immediately. Rosencrans said post offices will deliver mail to both new and old addresses for up to a year, and local fire companies have copies of new and old addresses to ensure an accurate response to emergencies.

Rosencrans said out of about 3,500 addresses in the Dallas area, 50 have lodged complaints with 911. Dallas Borough Manager Tracey Carr said she's also received a few complaints out of the hundreds of addresses changed within the borough.

Jennie Congleton, a Dallas

Borough resident, said she's frustrated with the change because it seems like an illogical measure. She said the numbers on her street have become disjointed rather than consecutive, causing confusion among her neighbors.

"It goes from 1, 2, 3, 4 all the way to 11," she said. "Now the houses are 15, 49, 45, 16, 19, 11, and the other side is 52 and 28... we don't consider this safe."

Carr said Congleton's street is a primary example of why the readdressing needed to be done.

"Her street started at 100, and then went to 1 and the house next to hers was 2," said Carr. "That was a case of odds and evens being on the same side."

Carr said the borough is working from the recommendations of Luzerne County 911. She said

she knows what residents are dealing with - her own address has changed three times since the project started. But she believes the changes are for the right reasons.

"That bit of inconvenience is certainly outweighed if an ambulance or police car can get to you or your neighbors quicker," she said. "It's worth it."

Rosencrans, who also works for the Dallas Township police department, said the project means phasing out the old rural route system and driveways with two or more houses or in excess of 1,000 feet must have a street sign posted. He said houses are renumbered according to the Frontage interval addressing system.

See 911, Page 10



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Susan Diana, of Lehman, holds up a child's uniform from Gate of Heaven School she will pack up to send to Africa.

