

DALLAS AREA MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Waste takeover means savings

Customers will pay less with DAMA's new solid waste collection program.

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority approved its budgets for 2012 on Dec. 8, resulting in a net savings for customers due to its takeover of solid waste collection.

Solid waste and recycling customers will see a \$30 decrease per household per year because the authority is preparing to switch from utilizing contracted services to maintaining its own system.

Sewer customers will see a \$20 increase per household per year in services. Larry Spaciano, executive director of DAMA, said this is attributed to costs incurred during tropical storms Irene and Lee as well as other upcoming projects.

DAMA serves Dallas Borough and Dallas, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships. The average household currently pays \$260 a year for solid waste collection and \$330 for sewer fees.

Spaciano said the authority had been mulling the idea of self-collection about six months prior to making a final decision on the matter.

The board approved the measure in July. Nine full-time employees have already been hired for the new program and the

authority is currently waiting on the delivery of four 30-yard garbage trucks and one 10-yard truck via the state's purchasing program.

Spaciano said the board also plans to hire three or four more part-time employees, as well.

DAMA most recently contracted J.P. Mascaro & Sons, based in Audubon, for solid waste collection. Spaciano said in the past there have been service issues with various contracted collectors.

"Our primary focus is providing the best possible service to our customers," said Spaciano.

The program is set to begin on Jan. 2. Spaciano said there are a few changes for customers, including a switch in the recycling pickup schedule. He said the program will include single stream recycling, which means any type of recyclable material such as glass, paper, aluminum and plastic, can be mixed in bins. Recyclables will be collected every other week.

Spaciano also said special arrangements, such as collection services for customers with long driveways, will no longer be available for insurance purposes.

"It's going to be a little bumpy in the beginning, but we're going to advertise these changes to ensure there's a minimal impact," he said.

In other news, the board also changed its meeting schedule for 2012 to 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month.



Jessica DeSanto, of Kingston Twp., and her mom, Gail Humko, of Harding, use their most persuasive powers to entice young Madeline DeSanto into Santa's lap for a picture at the annual Misericordia University Brunch with Santa.

Meeting the big guy

Youngsters were able to meet Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at Misericordia University's 13th annual Brunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 3. Little ones posed with jolly St. Nick and shared their Christmas wish lists. Brunch was served for families and activities were also provided for children in attendance.



Grace Jeffery, of Wyoming, has an earnest conversation with Santa.



Amid horns and tubas, Ronald Simmons-Wells practices for the concert.



Amber Kelley, left, and Victoria DeCesaris perform at the Lake-Lehman Junior High School Concert.

Sounds of the season

The Lake-Lehman Junior High School Annual Winter Concert was held with the less fortunate in mind as members of the band asked those planning to attend the concert to bring a non-perishable food item to help a family in need within the school community.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students' creativity, leaders' achievements are recognized

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Students were lauded for their creativity and district administrators were applauded for their achievements at a Lake-Lehman School Board meeting Tuesday evening.

Artwork created by six elementary students was chosen to adorn holiday greeting cards sent to Lake-Lehman employees past and present, as well as to neighboring school district employees.

Superintendent James McGovern said the Christmas card contest is his "favorite time of the year" because it displays the creative efforts of students.

Mikayla Kidd and Jade Fry of Lake-Noxen Elementary, Christopher Ash and Laurel Traver of Ross Elementary and Madison Siley and Nicole Barto of Lehman-Jackson Elementary will all have their artwork sent to schools throughout the area.

McGovern also awarded plaques to the four district school administrators. Junior/Senior High School Principal Doug Klopp, Lehman-Jackson Elementary School Principal

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Marilyn Glogowski, Lake-Noxen Elementary School Principal Nancy Edkins and Ross Elementary School Principal Donald James, were recognized because their schools met state requirements for adequate yearly progress.

Individual schools are awarded AYP only if requirements for attendance, academic performance and test participation are met for two consecutive years. McGovern said Lake-Lehman is one of only three districts in the area to have all its schools meet the requirements. The other school districts who received AYP locally are Crestwood and Dallas.

The board designated McGovern as the district's agent in applying for FEMA funding to recoup losses from Hurricane Irene damage. McGovern said the district is applying for about \$15,000 for

various damages sustained from the late August storm.

Lacrosse coaches Mark Yaple and Alex Wilson provided the board with an update on the growth of the sport nationally and locally. Yaple said the teams will have more freshmen next year and asked the board to consider budgeting bus transportation for away games.

In other news, the board...
• Approved leaves of absence for elementary teachers Eileen Coslett, Jaclyn Krogulski, Melissa Smigielski and Carrie McDonald and appointed Michelle McHale as a district substitute.

• Appointed Gerald Gilsky as the physical fitness director for the 2011-12 school year, working no more than 10 hours per week and John McDonald as substitute for the position.

• Accepted a letter of retirement from maintenance employee Joseph Luketic and authorized the advertisement for a maintenance employee with heating, ventilation and air conditioning experience.

• Approved Albert Melone and Co. as the district's business manager with a monthly

See STUDENTS, Page 12



Santa visits Kunkle

A very hungry Santa Claus made an appearance recently at the Kunkle Volunteer Fire Department to take part in the department's annual Breakfast with Santa.

AT LEFT: Dominic Schultz, 3, left, and his brother, Raymond, 7, both of Harveys Lake, are thrilled to visit with Santa.

AT RIGHT: Five-year-old Lia Oshirak, left, of Beaumont, sits on Santa's lap as elf Rusty Coolbaugh, of Kunkle, assists at the Kunkle Volunteer Fire Company's Breakfast with Santa.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST