

# The DALLAS POST 50¢

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## SHE ONLY HAS EYES FOR SANTA



FRED ADAMS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Santa whispers into the ear of 4-year-old Bella Shotwell at the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Christmas Party. For more photos, please turn to page 8.

## DALLAS TOWNSHIP

# Long-time super resigns abruptly

Chairman Phil Walter announces resignation to large crowd at meeting.

By SARAH HITE  
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Supervisors won't have a full, three-person board until January after residents accused supervisors of violating the Sunshine Act when two remaining supervisors attempted to appoint a replacement for one board member who abruptly resigned Tuesday.

After a seven-minute meeting, Chairman Phil Walter announced his resignation to residents in the packed municipal building. The remaining supervisors, Glenn Howell, who will be replaced by Liz Martin on Jan. 3, and Frank Wagner attempted to appoint township emergency management coordinator Jack Dodson to the position.

Residents accused the supervisors of violating the Sunshine Act, or open meetings law. Martin said she felt the supervisors had deliberated outside of a public forum because she heard from District Judge James Tupper that Dodson had contacted the judge about the process of

"I want what's best for this township, but give me half a chance to prove myself. 'Don't shove something down my throat that shouldn't really happen.'"

Liz Martin  
Incoming Dallas Township supervisor

swearing into an elected office.

"For someone to plan his swearing-in, there had to have been discussion and a decision made," she said.

Solicitor Thomas Brennan repeatedly asked the supervisors whether they had deliberated prior to the meeting. Both men said they had talked about the issue of Walter's resignation, but did not come to a decision together on the appointment. Both board members attempted to nominate Dodson for the position.

Martin, who was in the audience, urged the supervisors to postpone the decision until January when she and Wagner could make the appointment together. Wagner has two years left on the board,

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK FILE PHOTO/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Children in the Dallas School District, including Hunter and Jessica Dixon and Caitlin Walsh, show-off tee shirts with a message for the Dallas Township Zoning Hearing Board in February.

## 2011: A look back

By SARAH HITE  
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The year 2011 was a groundbreaking year for the Back Mountain, and not just because of weather.

Historical moments like the late summer and early fall storms of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, Liz Martin unseating longtime Dallas Township Supervisor Glenn Howell and the closing of Gate of Heaven School all took place this year.

Despite a dismal economy, community growth also occurred, including the rise of Christian school Rock Solid Academy, the development of the Back Mountain Chamber of Commerce, the expansion of Misericordia University and the increasing of services offered by the HOPE clinic at Back Mountain Harvest Assembly.

Here's a look back at some of the moments that defined 2011 in the Back Mountain.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Natural gas issues were at the forefront of the year, too. Those moments have been compiled into a separate timeline.

### JANUARY

- Dallas residents Tony and Kitch Mussari wrap up and prepare to unveil their project called "Face of America," commemorating the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001.

- Former Dallas School Board member Dennis Gochoel Jr. returns from a 10-month tour of duty in Afghanistan and jumps back into board business, namely the construction of the new



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK FILE PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

A tree fallen across Machel Avenue in Dallas onto the property of Pauline Kutz from Hurricane Irene remained there for days before being removed in August.

## Gas issue was a talker all year long

By SARAH HITE  
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After numerous hearings and negotiations and despite widespread public protest, Dallas Township will be the ending site for two 30-mile pipelines and the location of one natural gas metering facilities.

The decision whether another metering facility will be lo-

cated off Lower Demunds Road will be made in January. Here's a look at a timeline of events that occurred in Dallas Township related to natural gas development.

**Jan. 18, 2011**—A resident asks Dallas Township supervisors about a proposed natural gas compressor station to be built in the area at the board's regular meeting. Supervisors confirm that they and officials from the Dallas School District held separate meetings with representatives from Chief Gathering LLC about a compressor station planned for Hildebrandt Road near the district campus.

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high school.

- The Dallas Lions Club announces the beginning of its "Hometown Heroes" project, which features banners with photos of past and present military veterans throughout downtown Dallas.

- It's revealed that Harveys Lake Borough is facing major budgetary issues, including a \$118,000 deficit, after the new council's first year in office. Council member Larry Radel disputes this claim, saying the previous board prepared the 2010 budget and cuts reduced the deficit to \$75,000.

- Dallas Borough Council sends a petition to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas to reduce its size from seven to five members. It is eventually approved.

### FEBRUARY

- The Misericordia University Women with Children program celebrates its 10-year anniversary. The program is catered to female students and their children on campus, including providing a family-style dorm.



Bernie Bronsberg, Greg Brown and Andrew Stocker admire an ice sculpture made especially for the new Dallas High School dedication ceremony in October.

- Father Vincent Dang of St. Francis Cabrini Church in Kingston Township leads a celebration of the Vietnamese New Year with more than 200 people in attendance.

- Former editor of The Dallas Post, Doris Monk Mallin, is remembered as a "community

friend." Monk Mallin worked at the Post for many years since 1947. She passed away in January on her 84th birthday.

### MARCH

- The Daddow Isaacs American Legion in Dallas celebrates

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