

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Report says period of rapid growth is now passed

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Dallas Post Correspondent

During a visioning session on Jan. 29, Jack Varaly, a consultant to the township's Comprehensive Plan Committee, reported the results of the American Community Survey, an ongoing activity of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The township is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to identify issues regarding the future of the township and data collected by the Census will be

used in the plan.

Varaly said, although the township population continues to grow steadily, the period of rapid growth has passed. The median age of township residents is 44.3 and only 12.3 % of its residents are school-aged children.

"There's a lot of empty-nesters now," he said. Of the 3,333 households in the approximately 18.7 square miles of the township, 99% of its occupants are white and primarily of German, Irish, Italian and Polish descent.

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Varaly said, although the township population continues to grow steadily, the period of rapid growth has passed. The median age of township residents is 44.3 and only 12.3 % of its residents are school-aged children. Varaly also reported that the average home value in the township is \$182,400.

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"That's well above that of the county or state and it's among the highest in the Back Mountain area," he said, adding that Jackson Township's average home value

is the highest at \$218,000. "Investing in housing in Dallas Township is a worthwhile investment."

Part of the process of developing a comprehensive plan is updating the township's maps and

ordinances. The committee discussed the township's zoning districts and the possibility of changing the designation of some areas.

Varaly suggested rezoning some Agriculture-zoned areas (A1) to a Conservation designation, which could protect landowners from oil and gas uses such as compressor stations and processing plants. "It makes sense to be in a conservation district," he said.

Therese Kosek, a member of the Visioning Committee, said

she's concerned about losing green space along the highway business district on state Route 415. "I'd hate to see the whole corridor of land turn into one long strip mall to Harveys Lake," she said. Varaly pointed out that zoning modifications can be made for set-back requirements and sign height.

The group will meet again at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7 in the municipal building and also at its regular meeting held at 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month, as needed.



Jace Garnick is the solo Grand Champion in the 10 to 12 year-old category.



'Entertainer of the Year' Nick Oberst holds one of his trophies over his head. The Back Mountain Dance Studio won \$4,300 in cash and swept a regional dance competition in southern PA.

CHAMPION DANCERS

Dancers from local dance studio win cash prizes in Contest of Champions.

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Dallas Post Correspondent

On a cold Sunday afternoon, far from their cozy living rooms and football games, a group of dancers and their faithful parents piled into the Back Mountain Dance Studio of Bob and Kristine Oberst to celebrate a phenomenal victory.

While the feathered and sequined Back Mountain dancers won competitions before, never have they won this many trophies and cash - a total of \$4,300.

The competitions are run by the Performing Arts Alliance which, according to its website, is considered one of the "best dance competitions on the East coast."

Competitions are held in May and November and dancers or teams that place first, second or third in those competitions are then eligible to compete in a Contest of Champions in January.

Oberst says the local studio often wins parts of the competition, but this year it's more like a sweep. Local dancers took the grand championships in four age groups: in solo performance ages 8 to 9; 10 to 12, 13 to 15 plus a duo/trio championship in the 16 to 18 age group. Two groups competed and won in the 8 to 9 and 10 to 12 year old bracket and there was a Grand Champion for Mod from the school.

If that wasn't enough, 12-year-old Nick Oberst, son of the studio owners, won as best solo entertainer of the year and the group Locomotion won \$1,000 for having the most entertaining routine of the year.

"It's enough to take one's breath away," said Oberst. "It was a big surprise."

The competition involves over 500 contestants from about a dozen dance studios from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Obersts have owned and operated the Back Mountain

WINNING DANCERS

"SUGAR"

8-9 Grand Champion Group/Line
Samantha Blamire, Faith Bradley, Carly Kappler, Mia Karcutskie, Olivia Karcutskie, Megan Krakosky, Mikayla Krakosky, Samantha Matushek, Erin McLaughlin, Tegan Ostroski, Morgan Risch, Makenzie Walsh, Bailey Zelinski

"LOCOMOTION"

10-12 Grand Champion Group/Line, Entertainment Award
Angelena Allen, Jessica Bowden, Megan Daily, Jace Garnick, Emily Gomelko, Madeline Gomelko, Danielle Krispin, Grace Kuschke, Maranda Moosic, Mikayla Reynolds, Morgan Rogers, Amanda Roxby, Gabrielle Sabatini, Angelina White, Alexis Wyandt, Lauren Zeisloft, Abby Zondlo

Dance Studio since 1990 and have won honors for their school and their choreography.

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Some solo winners from Back Mountain Dance Studio include, from left, Jamie Bonsall, Sara Pizzo, Nick Oberst, Carly Kappler, Jace Garnick and Tegan Ostroski.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Carly Kappler, dancing for the Back Mountain Dance Studio, was a Grand Champion for her solo tap performance in the 8 to 9 year-old category.



An award-winning trio of Jamie Bonsall, Nick Oberst and Sara Pizzo from the Back Mountain Dance Studio.