

SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN



Scenes from Saturday's Santa visit to White Haven, sponsored by Crime Watch. Clockwise, from left: Kids busy at crafts, sponsored by the Cub Scouts; Mr. & Mrs. Claus cuddle; watching the bell choir; listing wishes; and Santa lands.

Photos by Seth Isenberg & Beth Watson.



THE WHITE BOX TRUCK, center, got stuck in Thursday's snow on Church Street hill in White Haven. A Schlier's tow truck works from behind to move the vehicle, while borough crews salt and cinder in the foreground.

Photo by Seth Isenberg.



White Haven Library News

The White Haven Area Community Library has been designated as a collection site for the annual Toys for Tots program, which provides holiday gifts for financially eligible children. Marge and Karl Sharples, library volunteers, have been coordinating this effort. New, unwrapped toys can be brought to the library before December 17.

The next Board of Directors meeting for the library will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at the library in the PNC Bank building on Main Street.

St. Jude hosts special program



In October, St. Jude School in Mountain Top held an educational enrichment program called "Body Changes," conducted by junior nursing students from College Misericordia. The fifth grade boys met with nursing students in one room while the girls met with others in another room. The program included an educational video, open discussion, answering of anonymously written questions, knowledge contest, handouts and a self-assessment quiz. All activities offered education on the emotional and physical changes associated with growing up.

Shown in the photo are nursing students Andrea Marquez (left) and Kristen Camilletti conducting a contest with fifth grade boys.

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duce income. Under Veracom's proposal, the borough would retain ownership of the land but fully assign the leases to Veracom. Veracom would manage the leases, which Holmberg noted could be quite complex. Veracom would collect all payments under the current leases, and from any renewals. He said that the upfront payment would exceed the amount the borough would receive from remaining initial lease payments.

Robert Hill of Pocono Wireless, a communications company, made a proposal to council to purchase Nextel cellular phones for the police department. His firm represents Nextel. He and the police department have tested the units in town, and found that they provide better coverage than the existing radios. They also provide digital unit-to-unit communications. Other local police departments are using the system, so there could be direct communications with them. Cost is \$39.95 per month, for up to 650 minutes, free unlimited nights and weekends, and free long-distance.

Council decided to contract for six phones, with service starting before the end of this month.

The 2003 proposed budget for White Haven Borough of \$718,870, a big jump from earlier years due to income from water sales and tower leases, was approved unanimously to be advertised. It is slated to be accepted at the December 19 meeting. Taxes remain at 41 mills (8 for lights, 3 for fire protection, and 30 for general), and all other taxes are proposed to remain the same as well (\$5 per capita, .5% occupancy, .5% transfer and .5% earned income).

Council president Marge Reilly, in

remarks, welcomed Greg Gower's newly opened business (Astrotech on Berwick Street), and said a graphic artist plans to set up shop on Main Street (in the same building).

Bills of \$5,162 were approved. The largest of these were to Campbell, Durrant & Beatty, special labor counsel (for their work in settling the dispute between Chief Shupp and Council and the Mayor), \$1,363, Button Oil for fuel \$1,138 and \$1,230 for ammunition and a new gun for the police department.

Switch Insurance will be notified about the new properties that need to be placed on the borough's insurance coverages.

Plans were being made for council's Christmas party.

As the meeting drew to a close, the idea of looking for a Borough Manager was brought up again. Reilly feels that it is more important to have a Code Enforcement Officer. Atty. Karpowich recommended that the borough join the Council of Governments because they have a code enforcement officer training programs.

Regarding the Borough Manager, there was discussion as to why to have one. Day-to-day administration was mentioned. Also, it was noted that the person would be a grant writer. It was noted that typically, the person would bring in grants of well more than their salary. It was agreed that the position would be part-time, if at all, and to advertise to see what kinds of people could be attracted to the position.

Attending the meeting were three citizens, Chief Shupp, Eng. Bruzgulis, Atty. Karpowich, Mayor Ray Ward, Herb Albee, Jason Holmberg, council members Reilly, Madigan, Charlie Best, Steve Drais, John Klem (arrived late) and Harvey Morrison, secretary Betty Altero, and these reporters.



The Fairview Elementary School annual Thanksgiving Feast was held on Monday, November 18. The parents of Fairview's third grade class donated, prepared and served lunch for approximately 130 students and faculty. Each family made Pilgrim and Indian costumes as well as the table decorations. The students presented a program on Tuesday, November 19 during Fairview's Open House.

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