

Amity Township is going to see four years of bridge repairs

By Denise Larive, News Writer

Published: Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Township will begin this June through August with the Monocacy Creek Road Bridge and continue with three more bridge repair projects through 2013.

Four months of repairs to the Route 422 bridge overpass at the Amity Township line with Douglass Township, Berks County, will occur in 2011.

Detours will include routes 562 and 662.

Officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation told Amity Township Supervisors May 19 that the two bridges on River Bridge Road (that connects Route 422 with Route 724) will be repaired in 2012 and 2013.

On that road, the 187-foot bridge built in 1922 over the Norfolk-Southern Railroad tracks will be closed from February through November 2012.

The 600-foot span over the Schuylkill River will be closed from February through November 2013.

The board asked PennDOT officials to consider closing both bridges at the same time and using Squirrel Hollow Road, Douglass Township, as a detour to Old Philadelphia Pike and Route 422.

Repairs to the Route 82 bridge, Birdsboro, are slated for July 2011 through 2012.

Charles G. Babcock, engineer for C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C., Camp Hill, said the River Bridge Road projects could be delayed if local detours across the Schuylkill River aren't yet open due to repair projects.

In other business:

- The board discussed alternate ways it could spend the \$20,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant money that was secured by State Rep. David Kessler (D-130) to rebuild the 238-year-old Peter Jones house.

The grant will expire on June 30 unless work begins before that date and the money is spent, said township Manager Charles E. Lyon.

“Charles Miller (president of the Amity Heritage Society) said it isn't likely that the house will go to Union Township,” said Lyon.

that the house will go to Union Township, said Lyon.

On May 17, members of the Union Township Board of Supervisors said they were in favor of rebuilding the house at their 48-acre recreational site between Route 724 and the Schuylkill River and agreed to move forward with the project.

Union Township Board Chairman John Salaneck III said Miller responded favorably to his May 13 offer before it was discussed on May 17. He said Miller declined the offer by e-mail on May 18.

“Miller said he has several other alternative sites on routes 422 and 662 [to consider for the house],” said Lyon.

Amity supervisors said \$12,000 could be spent on turf improvements at the Daniel Boone Middle School fields and \$8,000 on engineering a parking lot at Morlatton Village, Old Philadelphia Pike.

- Bradley Silcox, assistant EMS chief Southern Berks EMS, said J.P. Mascaro will provide property on the eastbound lanes of Route 422 near the Exeter Township line for a permanent EMS building.

Silcox said the land development process will begin soon for the two bay building with offices, sleeping quarters, and the ability to add a future third bay.

He said Mascaro has also offered to provide a single or double-wide trailer as temporary accommodations.

- The board unanimously approved the resignation of Edwin Selwin from the Economic Development Advisory Committee and appointed Majid Alsayeh. Alsayeh previously served on the Planning Commission.

- The Amity Township Fire Department will hold its annual carnival on July 27-31.