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**Master Gardeners Complete First Phase of Lions Club Landscaping Project**

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THURSDAY WEEKLY

# The Fulton County News

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109TH YEAR, NO. 19

MCCONNELLSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 7, 2009

**PennDOT Awards Six Stimulus Projects In District 9-0**

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced the award of the first six transportation stimulus projects in south-central Pennsylvania that are financed with federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"These initial contract awards are a significant milestone as we work feverishly to move the region's 17 economic stimulus transportation projects into construction so they can help stimulate job growth and provide transportation benefits across District 9," PennDOT District Executive Thomas A. Prestash, PE, said.

Prestash said construction will start in mid-May on five of the six economic stimulus projects. The remaining project is a design/build project that will go to construction in 2010. The remaining 11 projects will move into construction at various times over the next year.

PennDOT awarded New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co. Inc. of New Enterprise two of the six projects, \$589,408 for the 2.60 mile Route 30 resurfacing project in Brush Creek and Ayr townships, Fulton County, and \$1,256,648 for the 3.82 mile Route 30 resurfacing project in Jennerstown Borough and Jenner Township, Somerset County. Hercules Painting Co. Inc. of New Castle was awarded a \$4,389,810 bridge painting project that will cover 20 bridges throughout the six-county district.

The fourth project was awarded to Grannas Bros. Contracting Co. Inc. of Hollidaysburg for the 9.33 mile project to resurface the Route 30 Bedford Bypass from the intersection of Township Road 720 to just east of the Snake Spring Township line at a cost of \$6,116,997.

The last two projects were awarded to George S. Hann & Son Inc. of Fort Littleton for \$1,261,696 to replace the Route 1010 (Penn Street Extension) bridge over Standing Stone Creek in Huntingdon County, and \$508,765 for the minor rehabilitation to three structures in Fulton County on Route 1103, Route 3006 and Route 4004.

Within District 9, PennDOT will invest approximately \$47 million of federal economic recovery funds on 17 transportation projects, which include road and bridge improvements and traffic signal upgrades.

To learn more about how the federal economic stimulus will benefit Pennsylvania, visit [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov).

**DEATHS**

- Clippinger, Naomi, 65, McCbg.
- Garman, Susan, 59, Huntingdon
- Hershberger, Mabel, 91, Transfer
- Miller, James Jr., 58, McCbg.
- Nickleson, Wilma, 94, Hancock
- Snyder, Helen, 93, McCbg.

OBITUARIES, Page B3



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**Volunteers Tidy Up Little Aughwick**



Local volunteers worked diligently Saturday to remove 70 bags of trash and litter as well as multiple bulky items from roadways running parallel to three tributaries of the Little Aughwick Creek. Sponsored by Friends of the Little Aughwick Creek, the event in the Fort Littleton area was held in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup and boasted three times the volunteers from prior cleanups. Volunteers included (front, l to r): Brian Dupree, Wyster Wines, Dalton Hawbaker, Blayze Swope, Derrick Winegardner, (back, l to r) Amanda Garland, Megan Skiles, Heidi Basler, Greg Ramsey, Chris Swope, Doug Everhart, Aaron Gracey and Cory Cutchall. In addition to the volunteers, Park's Texaco, PennDOT and the Fulton County Probation Department were also responsible for lending a hand. An additional cleanup organized for Burnt Cabins has been set for Saturday, May 9. Interested volunteers are urged to gather at the Burnt Cabins Grist Mill at 9 a.m. to help with the event.

**Licking Creek Race For Twp. Supervisor On**

Six candidates vie for party nominations May 19

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz STAFF WRITER

The field will be narrowed from four Democrats and two Republicans on May 19 when each party will nominate only one candidate for the position of Licking Creek Township supervisor.

The six-year term of office is being sought on the Democratic side by incumbent John R. Swindell Sr. as well as newcomers Curt Lynch, James A. Laughlin and Brian Gordon. Meanwhile, on the Republican ticket, Eugene A. Keebaugh and Jerry Gregory will be battling it out for their party's lone nomination and a chance to move on to the

November 3 election.

**Brian E. Gordon (D)**

A self-employed carpenter, Brian E. Gordon of 1938 Patterson Run Road, McConnellsburg, noted both his experience as a small business owner and knowledge of finances and budgets would fulfill several of the requirements for the position of Licking Creek Township supervisor. One of four Democratic candidates seeking his party's lone nomination this spring during the municipal primary election, Gordon stated his carpentry business has also allowed him to become more acquainted with the building permit process established through the Uniform Construction Code.



Gordon



Swindell

"Since I am self-employed my time schedule is flexible, allowing me to have the time to make a difference in helping to maintain the roads," said Gordon, who added he would like to see future improvements in the condition of the township roads and better winter maintenance.

"I feel the number-one role of a township supervisor is working to serve the best interests of the township citizens by seeing to it that needed work is done," he concluded. In his spare time, Gordon is an active member of the Fulton County Fair Board as well as a 4-H leader in the shooting, rabbit and Licking Creek Little Critters clubs.



Keebaugh

**John R. Swindell Sr. (D)**

An equipment operator by trade, Democratic incumbent John R. Swindell Sr. has had six-



Gregory

years experience in working along Licking Creek Township's roadways making repairs and managing the township's finances to ensure proper funds are available for those same much-needed repairs.

According to Swindell of 287 Backridge Road, Needmore, in addition to his experience being a proven asset to the three-man board of supervisors, he is also backed by hard work ethics.

Swindell told the "News" as far as the number-one role of a township supervisor, he will strive to continue working hand-in-hand with the public if re-elected. Furthermore, he would like to see more money become available to area townships for roadway improvements.

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**Forbes Road Split On Budget**

Foster to step in as acting superintendent

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz STAFF WRITER

Members of the Forbes Road School Board found themselves at odds Monday night following a 70-minute executive session where they discussed at length "personnel and contract" issues in conjunction with next year's general operating budget.

Emerging from the closed-door meeting, board members Dr. Walter Curfman and Teresa Bard proposed a motion to set expenditures at \$7,289,956 for 2009-10 along with revenue and financing sources at the slightly lower amount of \$7,078,456. The tentative budget passed on a 5-3 roll-call vote.

Board members Kirby Shoemaker, Ed Brown and Deonna Carmack voted against the general fund budget, and

board member Debbie Strait was unable to attend the May 4 meeting.

Final adoption of the budget, which could include up to a one mill increase from its current rate of 32.63 mills, is slated for June 1 at 7 p.m.

In other finance-related issues, the board also granted approval for the 2009-10 general operating budget for the Fulton County Area Vocational-Technical School. The budget in the amount of \$892,829, according to Superintendent Arnold, is 2 percent lower than the total last presented to the board.

**Personnel**

With Superintendent Arnold scheduled to retire, the board unanimously agreed to appoint high school Principal Fred Foster to the position of "acting superintendent" effective July 1. Foster's initial salary was accordingly set at \$82,000.

Foster joined the district as principal February 2007 after having worn multiple hats at neighboring Southern Huntingdon School District, including those of assistant principal, middle school principal and high school principal. He also logged nine years teaching physical education and health at the Hartford County School District in Maryland and oversaw their football, wrestling and track teams before returning home to rural Pennsylvania. Foster is a native of the Pittsburgh area and active member of the Air Guard in Baltimore, Md.

Foster is in the process of obtaining his superintendent's certification and will reportedly have one year to finish the certification process. In the event he is unable to finish his certification, he will revert back to the position of high school principal.

In the meantime, the board

has not made a final decision as to how to handle the principal's vacancy over the course of the 2009-10 school year.

The board agreed to retain the services of school solicitor Fred Gutshall at an hourly rate of \$110. Gutshall will also receive a flat fee of \$140 per trip during the 2009-10 school year.

In addition, school psychologist Philip S. Wilson will continue offering services during the upcoming school year at his current rate of \$14,000.

Local auditors Boyer & Ritter were again retained for the 2009-10 fiscal year at a rate of \$18,750. The firm is slated to receive an increase from last year's rate of \$15,965 based on additional hours it will be logging.

Dr. Walter Curfman will continue serving as school board treasurer for the 2009-10, while

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**Pa. Judicial Candidates Speak To GOP**

By Chanin Rotz-Mountz STAFF WRITER

Several judicial candidates representing various levels of the court system ranging from the county Court of Common Pleas to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court topped the list of scheduled speakers appearing Friday night before county Republicans.

Judge Joan Orié Melvin, who is the lone Republican candidate endorsed by the state party for the position of Supreme Court justice, led off the extensive list of guest speakers at the Hustontown Firehall, touching on both her judicial and personal experiences. Melvin has logged 11 years with the Superior Court hearing more than 8,000 appeals but actually started at a grass-roots level as an Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas judge and a municipal court magistrate in the city of Pittsburgh.

Melvin stated she is the only proven conservative judge and reminded voters her job is to rule in accordance with the law and not create it.

Melvin also urged county Republicans to cast their votes in favor of Judy Olson, Sallie Mundy and Temp Smith, candidates for judge of the Superior Court. All

three individuals are currently endorsed by the state's Republican Party.

Kevin Brobson, judicial candidate for the Commonwealth Court, shared with the crowd his background with the Commonwealth Court that primarily deals with issues ranging from insurance regulatory disputes and government procurement to land-use and environmental law. Brobson, a resident of Dauphin County, mentioned the need for voters to elect judges who share conservative, Republican and Pennsylvania's values.

In addition to Brobson being endorsed by the state party, fellow Commonwealth Court candidate Al Frioni, who was unable to attend the May 1 spring dinner, is also endorsed at a state level. Frioni, a native of Scranton, has served for the last 12 years as an administrative appeals judge/commissioner on the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Appeal Board.

Fulton/Franklin County Court

of Common Pleas Judge Carol Van Horn announced she will be seeking retention in the fall in hopes of serving an additional 10-year term of office. Van Horn stated she still holds the same values she had when she first took office 10 years ago regarding faith, family and the community and is now backed by experience. She added she has developed an interest in juvenile law and has had the opportunity to work with many good Fulton County residents during her tenure with the county Court of Common Pleas.

With two vacancies currently existing in the county Court of Common Pleas, one resulting from the retirement of President Judge John R. Walker and the second created by the Legislature, four Republican candidates have emerged in recent months as contenders. Hoping to give some information not previously shared with registered voters, Eric Weisbrod, a Waynesboro-based attorney in private prac-

tice, informed those on hand he hopes to bring a judicial temperament to the bench based on legal and personal insight.

Weisbrod, the father of a special-needs child, said he was raised by a single mom on limited means and has always aimed to provide competent representation for individuals regardless of their economic situation. In connection with his ongoing community involvement, Weisbrod has volunteered his services to Franklin County Legal Services, representing clients in family law matters such as divorce and support issues. He also offers pro bono services to Franklin County Women In Need.

Former county treasurer David Wright spoke on behalf of judicial candidate Shawn Meyers, who began practicing law more than 15 years ago and has experience in criminal, family and municipal issues. Having travelled the mountain into Fulton County over the years, Wright noted, Meyers is familiar with routes 30 and 522 and all points in between.

Meyers, according to Wright,

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Brobson



Melvin

**ANGELA ROSENBERRY KROM FOR JUDGE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**  
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