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Menallen supervisors outline sewerage project progress

By Angie Santello, Herald-Standard
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MENALLEN TWP. - Township Supervisor Joe Petrucci said Thursday that the Rocks Works sewerage project, originally scheduled to be finished by May 1, might require an extra two weeks for completion, due to weather.

"People can start tapping in toward the end of May," said Petrucci.

Petrucci said tap-in fees for residents are \$1,200, adding that the township sewage authority is sending letters in the next two weeks for information on tapping in and the cost. After the May 1 deadline, which may be pushed back with the project construction, residents will be charged \$1,800 to tap in.

Crews from Shallenberger Construction of Connellsville are working along Haddenville, Stoney Point and New Salem roads.

"We are a couple of weeks behind on line work on Haddenville Road," said Petrucci. "Stoney Point Road is in bad shape and will be repaired after this is done. People need to be careful driving on this road."

A third crew working on New Salem Road will head toward Kaider Road, he said.

Construction at the new sewage treatment plant below Rocks Works is progressing, also, Petrucci added. Discharge will run into a Salt Lick Run tributary.

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The \$7.9 million sewage treatment project will provide public sanitary sewer service to the developed areas of Searights, Dearth, Haddenville, Rock Works, Dunlap Creek, Balsinger and Uledi and the Balsinger area of German Township. Existing gravity sewers near Menallen School, Searights Village and Meadow Ridge developments will be incorporated, and the three existing package treatment plants serving those areas will be abandoned, according to U.S. Rep. John Murtha, who secured millions of dollars in funding for the project.

In the already completed Smock Hill project, out of the 52 customers on the hill, three-quarters have tapped in, Petrucci said.

"Those people need to get tapped in, because I would say it won't be long before they start getting letters from the sewage authority if they don't tap in," said Petrucci.

A second sewage project, the Jennings Run project, will cost an estimated \$3.5 million and will include a sanitary sewage interceptor line and upgrade to the Upper Middletown treatment plant. Petrucci said plans and preliminary design work for the project are being finalized, with construction scheduled to begin in September soon after the work goes out to bid.

Petrucci said the township has secured \$1.9 million through Murtha for this project and will seek approximately \$1.3 million more through the USDA Rural Development and local sources.

In another matter, the supervisors said they plan to use \$123,316 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money on road reconstruction and storm sewers on Haddenville Road and for the final-year equipment purchase for the New Salem Volunteer Fire Department. Also, the township will allocate money for its housing rehabilitation fund.

The federal money is administered by the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority and given to municipalities classified as entitlement municipalities to put toward projects that better their communities.

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