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724-867-1112 ~ 410 Main Street ~ P.O. Box A ~ Emlenton, PA 16373 www.progressnews.net Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Water Authority Receives \$16.6 Million in Funding

The light at the end of the tunnel appears closer now with the visit of Gov. Edward H. Rendell on Saturday, with a check for just over 16.6 million dollars to assist in bringing clean water into the Petroleum Valley area where contamination of wells and other water sources has been blamed on industry in the Valley.



Rep. Stevenson and Hutchinson flank Gov. Edward Rendell as he presents a \$16.6 million dollar check to Jeff Shumaker, chairman of the Petroleum Valley Water Authority for help in providing clean water for the valley in northern Butler and Armstrong Counties.

For over two years now, since the contamination resulted in bottled water being used in homes, schools, businesses and other users where 24 known pollution sites have been found, have depended on bottled water delivered into the areas where the local water was unusable and presented a severe health hazard.

Gov. Rendell said at the check presentation, that the cleanup in the Valley is the largest cleanup ever attempted by the Department of Environmental Protection. The \$16 million will be used to update the East Brady Borough Water system, and to place 30 miles of pipe from East Brady to the Petroleum Valley.

A booster pump station and tanks will be constructed in the Petroleum Valley area and expansion of the East Brady system will provide 250,000 gallons of water daily for

the Petroleum Valley. The lines, to be placed 1,000 feet under the Allegheny River at East Brady, in Clarion County, as the water is brought through part of northern Armstrong County and into Butler County, will cross 75 streams as it is pumped into the Petroleum Valley.

Gov Rendell explained that his Growing Greener program will result in a cleaner Pennsylvania for all of us. Income from the program will be used in cleaning up polluted areas, like the one in the area here, without using tax monies. With the release of the \$16.6 check, only six million dollars will be left in the fund used in cleanup operations.

Over 2,300 miles of polluted streams can be found in Pennsylvania, enough to reach from Philadelphia to Las Vegas. Finds from the Grower Green will help cleanup the 24 contaminated sites in the local areas. "You can imagine what it would have been like here, if there had been no funds to provide bottled water," the Governor noted.

It will cost 40 million dollars to cleanup the 24 sites, where cleanup operations have already started at

the Kelly Farm and Hemlock Road sites. Much of the cleanup funds are to come from settlements with the industries that contaminated the sites 30 to 40 years ago.

The Governor stated that people are looking for good, quality places, and tourists and businesses are attracted to areas free of pollution. His program under the 2004-05 budget, includes a bond issue that would be used to stabilize and expand two key programs, Grower Greener and the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

When officials were questioned as to the ability of East Brady to provide sufficient well water for the area, DER Deputy Secretary, and Ken Bowman, Assistant Regional Director out of the Pittsburgh Regional Office, said "the two wells were checked and from all indications, can supply the water necessary for the Valley."

The check was presented to Jeff Shumaker, chairman of the Petroleum Valley Municipal Water Authority, with Representatives Stevenson and Hutchinson looking on, and receiving praise for their help in the water situation.

Foxburg Library Holds Open House

Foxburg: The board of directors and library director Linda Mahood held an open house at the Foxburg Library on Saturday afternoon, May 8, 2004.

The event started with a welcome message from the library president, Denise Shekell, followed by Vern Mahood, library treasurer who gave a little history and background of the Josephine Robertson family. Library director, Linda Mahood explained how the Phillips Trust helped to make possible the history room they were now dedicating and about the grant from the Oil Creek Library District to help purchase local history books. She also noted that many patrons donated funds for the library to purchase additional books and picture memorials. Other historical photos were loaned to the library so they could copy them. Mr. McClaine of Chicora, then hand made frames for each picture.

An extensive handout was prepared by Linda Mahood and local historian Christopher Fleming and given to visitors as they toured the library and could appreciate each item that hung on the walls of the library.

Visitors then found themselves in the newly remodeled history room that is located in the rear of the library. The history room is filled with history books and photos of Foxburg. Board secretary, Sandy Best, stated that the new history room will help individuals who are interested in genealogy research. She also noted that several of the older books recently received a new hard cover to help preserve the books. One such book is the "Life of George Washington", that is being held by Best in the picture above.

Later in the day the historical memorial plaque was unveiled. The family of the late Josephine Robertson attended the event. Alec Robertson spoke briefly before he unveiled the plaque, mentioned that his mother would be so pleased



Pictured here is library director Linda Mahood (L) and library board secretary Sandy Best (R), showing visitors books that can be found in the newly dedicated history room at the Foxburg Library.

Alec Robertson, son of the late Josephine Robertson, gave brief remarks to attendees at the open house at the Foxburg Free Library. He is pictured here to the right unveiling the memorial plaque donated in memory of his mother.



(Below) This historical memorial plaque now hangs in the foyer of the Foxburg Free Library. The plaque was donated by the family of the late Josephine Robertson.



to see the progress Foxburg is currently making. He remembered how much his mother Josephine had cared for Foxburg, thus his families desire to make a gift to the Foxburg Library in her memory. After unveiling the plaque board member Vern Mahood accepted it on behalf of the rest of the board.

The historic plaque can now be seen on your right as you enter the library.

Directors of the Foxburg Library include the Executive board: President, Denise Shekell; vice President, Donna Wineland; Secretary, Sandi Best; Treasure Vern Mahood. Board members Alberta

Continued on page 2

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