

New home in works for Conservation District

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

JACKSON TOWNSHIP - The Luzerne County Conservation District has outgrown its Wilkes-Barre offices and within a month plans to move into new digs in Jackson Township.

Its new home will be a large, airy log cabin on Smith's Pond Road just a mile from Route 29. There's plenty of room for nature trails and a land lab for environmental studies on the five-acre plot donated by the State Correctional Facility at Dallas through the Department of Corrections.

Designed by Alta Log Homes and built by Chestnut Ridge Construction, the \$200,000 building will house offices, a conference room and an environmental education center.

"We have set up a building fund to raise the money to pay off our loan from Mellon Bank early," said board member and funding committee member George Andrews, Jr. "That way we'll save interest and can use the money for environmental education programs. And we're not using taxpayer dollars."

Formed during the late 1960's, the Luzerne County Conservation District is a state agency which deals with soil erosion and long-term solutions to environmental problems. It is funded by both the county and the state.

"By controlling erosion, we prevent valuable soil from washing into rivers, lakes and streams - and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay," Andrews said. "We also work with farmers to devise ways to prevent runoff from mar-



Finish carpenter Wendy Flick of Chestnut Ridge Construction applies moulding around a thermal window at the Luzerne County Conservation District's new log office building in Jackson Township.

POST PHOTO: GRACE R. DOVE

nure, which adds nutrients to bodies of water which will encourage the growth of algae and harm aquatic life."

Conservation staff review erosion and sedimentation control plans for commercial and residential developments.

If developers don't voluntarily comply with regulations by erecting low erosion fences or planting vegetation to permanently stabilize slopes, the district can enlist the Department of Environmental Protection for enforcement assistance.

The board foresees a need for more environmental education programs, especially in area schools, and is exploring the idea of developing a few itself, Andrews said.

"We want to help people understand and respect the environment."

George Andrews Jr.
Luzerne County Conservation District board member

"We want to help people understand and respect the environment," he continued. "Young people are at the right age to begin."

The Conservation District also works with the state Soil Conservation District and has sponsored annual tree sales, enviro-thons at Moon Lake and environmental education programs at area

schools.

Its board of directors has included geologist Brian Redmond, PhD, Stan Sowa from WNEP-TV 16's "Pennsylvania Outdoor Life," farmer John Manzoni, the late Larry Law, who operated a buffalo farm in Sweet Valley, and other interested business people and farmers. Other funding committee members include honorary chairman and WYOU personality Barry Finn and Harveys Lake residents Jim Nelligan and Joseph Paglianite.

The district manager is Robert Yonkers and the enforcement officer is Paul Grimes.

Chestnut Ridge Construction is owned by Don and Cathy Flick, whose daughter, Wendy, is a finish carpenter with the company.

Borough will use grant to fix streets, drainage

By ANN POEPPERLING
Staff Correspondent

DALLAS BOROUGH - The borough has some new-found cash, and a plan to put it to use.

It was also announced at the July 16 council meeting that the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners, through the Office of Community Development, has awarded Dallas Borough a \$96,357 grant through the Capital Improvement Project (C.I.P.). This grant provides funds for the construction and repair of streets, water and sewer facilities, recreational facilities, and fire protection.

The Borough intends to use the funds for street repairs and water/sewer improvements to Lackawanna and Columbia Aves., including the purchase of a lot on

Lackawanna Ave. to be used as a storm drainage basin.

Jay Pope reported that the borough recreation center has 325 children registered currently with the following breakdown: 210 from Dallas Borough, 96 from Dallas Twp., 11 from Kingston Twp., from Sweet Valley, and 2 from Harveys Lake.

He also said that recreation center supervisor Jack Wolensky is concerned that some parents may be using the center as a source of day care. Pope said that children under age 6 must be accompanied by a parent and that parents not at the center with their children must be available in case the staff has to notify them of an accident or illness. He recommends that parents notify the staff where they will be in case of an emergency.

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Thursday.....J.T. Maxwell Band Sunday.....Jerry O'Toole
Friday.....The Vogues Fireworks Finale

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