

# Boback, Baker address Route 118 concerns

Representative Karen Boback and Senator Lisa Baker are working with officials from Lehman Township and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to address concerns about safety along Route 118 in Luzerne County.

Earlier this year, Boback and Baker met with law enforcement officials, township supervisors and PennDOT representatives to discuss plans to improve travel and prevent accidents on this busy roadway.

"Our goal was to work together to identify solutions to improve public safety," Boback said. "I think we were able to find effective and practical solutions to minimize traffic prob-

lems on Route 118."

As a result of these discussions, the township secured a \$5,000 Smooth Operator grant to combat aggressive driving along Route 118. The funding provides additional manpower and traffic enforcement equipment.

Lehman Township Police Chief Howard Kocher believes the grant will help make Route 118 safer.

"The money allows us to dedicate additional hours to cracking down on speeding and other aggressive driving behaviors," he said. "We are also coordinating with the Pennsylvania State Police for additional enforcement."

Using crash statistics, Penn-

DOT safety engineers also identified specific intersections - Idetown Road, Lehman Corners, Harris Pond Road and SR 487 - that qualify for federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding. This designation is the first step in securing any additional project funding from PennDOT.

"We will continue pushing for safety improvements on Route 118," said Baker. "Accidents happen, but by deterring speeding motorists and making the appropriate enhancements, we can eliminate unnecessary dangers for those traveling this road."

Additional safety precautions

include the removal of seven passing zones, the installation of new reflective pavement markers and rumble strips and the cutting of overgrown brush to improve visibility. PennDOT has replaced outdated signs at Fedor Road and Idetown Road and will complete additional upgrades by the end of April. Signs alerting drivers of their speed and reminding them to slow down will also be set up in problem zones.

"We are thrilled," said Supervisor Dave Sutton. "This is a great example of what can be accomplished when all levels of government come together to help the people they represent."

## PEOPLE BRIEFS

### MU names archivist

Misericordia University has named alumna Dani Vaughn-Tucker as archivist and reference librarian at the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library.

She will be responsible for maintaining the university's history and, as a representative to the Back Mountain Historical Association, will be responsible for maintaining the Back Mountain community history. She will also serve as a resource for students, faculty and staff conducting research.

Vaughn-Tucker previously served as the automated



Vaughn-Tucker

services coordinator for the Luzerne County Library System and was an archivist assistant and reference librarian at the University of Scranton.

The Washington, D.C. native served four years in the United States Army, achieving the rank of corporal. She received the Soldier of the Month Award while stationed in Korea.

She and her husband Anthony Tucker, reside in Shavertown with four of their five children.

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with Gene Sperazza

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In the future, I will cover various topics concerning the legal system. However, feel free to contact me with any questions or suggested topics. I would be honored to assist you and, hopefully, help make a difference in your life.

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