

Gas pipe line on Rail-Trail Will be put underground

The News recently took another inspection tour of the UGI gas pipe line project here with Lynn Conrad, Executive Director of the D&H Rail Trail, and Bob McGraw, vice president of Linde Corp., the pipeline contractor.

Lynn wanted us to dispel a misconception that the pipeline will be above ground on the Trail. The 24-inch gas pipes are being assembled above ground and will be placed underground as the project proceeds. She said a number of folks who see the green pipes laid out along the trail think they will be there permanently.

For the first time we were able to view pipe being lowered into the ground down in the Simpson area. The pipe sections are put together above ground in strings which can be up to 360 ft. long. They are engineered and bent to follow the curves in the railbed.

Large excavators and trenchers are used to dig the ditch into which the pipes are set. Some of the sections of the Trail, especially down in the Simpson area on the O&W section, have hard rock which has to be broken up or trenched with a million dollar trenching machine with huge teeth to grind away the rock.

When asked why the rock was not blasted with dynamite, this reporter was reminded that the new gas line is paralleling an already existing 16-inch UGI gas line. The new pipes have a



Heavy equipment being used to bury natural gas pipeline.

coating on it which is constantly checked for any chips or scratches. They must be repaired if found.

Before the long sections of pipe are set into the ditch by the excavators, all welds are x-rayed and covered with a product to prevent corrosion. The pipes are then covered with a rubber fabric called Rock Shield to further prevent any damage to the pipes coating as they are covered with dirt. The pipe is placed in an envelope of screened soil or sand to further protect the coating.

On the day of inspection three sets of pipes were put into the ground, a length of approximately 800 ft.

It was good to see K.W. Oil Co. trucks from our local oil company delivering fuel to the many machines in operation along the 12 mile pipeline from Union Dale to Simpson.

Ms. Conrad and Linde

Hunter Safety Course in B'dale Sun., Aug. 13

A Hunter Safety Course will be held on Sun., August 13, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at the Browndale Fire Company, Browndale, PA.

You must be 11 years of age or older. You can register on PA Game Commission Website. There are 25 seats available.

It is sponsored by the Browndale Sportsman's Club. A light lunch will be provided.

Corp. VP Bob McGraw again exchanged comments along the inspection on how a particular wet area would be ditched or how a bank would be stabilized when the pipeline is completed. The entire section of the Rail-Trail from Simpson to Union Dale will be restored with drainage, vegetation and a new trail surface.

Conrad told the News that prior to the start of construction, Rail-Trail had a drone film the entire length of the trail to provide an accurate representation of what the Trail looked like prior to construction in the event there were any questions afterward.

Conrad also told the News that Rail-Trail is in the process of moving an old steel frame railroad caboose from Simpson to a siding location near the Rail-Trail headquarters in Union Dale where it will be restored and become a tourist attraction.

Breakfast mtg. slated for Aug. 25

The Susquehanna County Economic Development Board and the Progress Authority cordially invite area businesses to the annual economic development breakfast meeting on Fri., Aug. 25 at the Panorama Golf Course Banquet Hall, 1124 SR 2023, Forest City, with breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. Speaker will be State Rep. Jonathan Fritz. Awards to follow.

Reservations are necessary by contacting Kim Fairchild at cbpa@epix.net or 570-265-0937.

Food Safety Certification – ServSafe®

The ServSafe course, conducted by Penn State Extension is being held at Penn State Extension Wayne County, 648 Park Street, Suite E, Honesdale, PA 18431 on Monday, August 14, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and August 21 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The exam will be held at 11:00 a.m. on August 21.

After attending the class sessions and passing the multiple choice exam, participants will receive a ServSafe certificate which meets the PA Dept. of Agriculture's requirement for food safety certification.

The course covers information related to preventing cross contamination, safe handling of food, temperature control, cleaning and sanitization, proper storage, and pest control in addition to other relevant topics.

The cost of the class is \$185.00, and the registration deadline is August 9. Register online at www.foodsafety.psu.edu (choose ServSafe under "Courses and Workshops"). Contact Nicole McGeehan at 570-421-6430 or nmd5140@psu.edu with any questions.

Artist featured ReMax Wayne

Ralph Van Rooyen will be the featured artist at ReMax Wayne for August 2017. A reception open to the public is Sunday August 6 from 2-4. Ralph Van Rooyen, a farmer's son, was born and raised in Rhodesia. He started a career of accounting in Barclays Bank Salisbury Rhodesia where he met his wife Dianne. They have been married 45 years and have 5 children. Their eldest son is a well known artist world wide.

Ralph loves the wonderful climate and natural beauty of his homeland and spent 11 years as the Auditor for National Parks and Wildlife Zimbabwe, (formerly Rhodesia). Ralph has always been interested in a variety of art but never pursued it until arriving in America in 2002 to start a new life due to the unsettled political situation in Zimbabwe.

NE Susquehanna Co. Wildlife Habitat Field Day August 12

by Robert Wagner

On August 12th, from 8:30 AM to noon, a Wildlife Habitat Improvement/education Field Day will be held by the Finch Hill Rod and Gun Club on its property in the northeast corner of Susquehanna county. The Finch Hill Rod and Gun Club is on Lee Road Susquehanna, Pa. 18847. GPS Coordinates – 41 59 30 North & 75 29 10 West

The Club hosted its first field day in 2011. During the next 6 years the club created a lot more improved habitat. Come and see how they continued to improve upon their goal of improving their forest, wildlife habitat and deer hunting.

This field day will feature completed forestry management/wildlife habitat improvement projects such as: Timber Stand Improvement, early successional habitat development (young forests) (small open area habitat development), forest stand improvement – mast (acorns, cherries, apples, hickory nuts and seed producers) tree release, invasive weed control, annual and perennial plantings (food plots) for wildlife, apple tree pruning, tree planting and other upland wildlife habitat management.

Program Speakers - Finch Hill Rod and Gun Club: Jerry & Jey Rusek, Butch Rusak and Finch Hill Club members – How Quality Deer Management, a Forestry Management Plan (FMP) + implementing the FMP + help from the USDA NRCS + hands on work by club members = improved habitat and improvements in the local deer herd;

Dave Sienko and Matt Sellers Private Forestry and Wildlife Habitat Management consultants - Site specific and specialized wildlife habitat improvement work via forestry management practices they have completed here;

DCNR Service Forester Ryan Brown - Forestry Management Plan development and the success of the implementation of the forestry management plan on this property;

Susquehanna Branch of QDMA (Mike Koneski - President, Jerry Rusek - VP, Jack Sorber, Sean Bonnice, Matt Sellers, Dave Sienko, and Butch Rusak) Deer management, wildlife habitat improvement, chainsaws are a good tool for wildlife habitat improvement work! Better Deer Better Deer Hunting

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service - Conservation Technician Bob Wagner – How NRCS helped the Club achieve their goals. (Funding and technical conservation advice).

Travel will be by foot and ATV. (Wear appropriate clothing and footwear) If you have your own ATV 'bring it' to the field day to tour the various work areas.

From 8:30 AM to 9 AM, coffee and donuts and the staging of the ATV's will take place.

A light lunch of hotdogs and drinks will be provided, when the tour is completed.

For directions or more info call Jerry Rusek 570-350-0966 or email jrusek@echoes.net or Bob Wagner 570-278-1197 x 108 or email eaglexc@epix.net

Cub Scout Pack 419 to meet Wed., Sept. 6

Cub Scout Pack 419 Pleasant Mount will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 PM. They will be meeting on Wednesdays from 6:00 PM-7:30 PM.

If anyone is interested please contact Katie Millon at 570-903-1703, call or text or email her at fcpack419@gmail.com.

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• PUBLIC NOTICE •

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

The following is a true and correct copy of a joint resolution of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania. Consistent with the procedures prescribed by Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution, the General Assembly first proposed the amendment during the 2016 session and approved it for a second time during the 2017 session of the legislature. As required by Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution and statutory law, the Secretary of the Commonwealth has caused the proposed amendment to be published here.

Pursuant to law, the Secretary of the Commonwealth will submit the proposed amendment to the electors of Pennsylvania in the form of a ballot question at the Municipal Election to be held on November 7, 2017. If a ballot question is approved by a majority of electors voting on it, the corresponding amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

Those parts of the joint resolution that appear in **BOLD PRINT** are the words of the Constitution that are proposed by the General Assembly for addition or deletion. If an amendment were approved, the words **UNDERLINED** would be added to the Constitution and the words in **BRACKETS (e.g., [Constitution])** would be deleted. The unbolded words would remain unchanged in the Constitution.

Following the proposed amendment is the text of the question that will be placed on the ballot. Below the question is a "Plain English Statement" prepared by the Office of Attorney General, and published as required by law, indicating the purpose, limitations and effects of the ballot question upon the people of this Commonwealth.

Anyone who needs help reading this advertisement or who needs the text of the proposed amendment in an alternative format may call or write the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, Room 210 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 787-5280, ra-BCEL@pa.gov.

Pedro A. Cortés

Secretary of the Commonwealth

JOINT RESOLUTION 2017-1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the provisions of Article XI:

That section 2(b)(vi) of Article VIII be amended to read:

§ 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

(b) The General Assembly may, by law:

(vi) Authorize local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation an amount based on the assessed value of homestead property. The exclusions authorized by this clause shall not exceed **[one-half of the median assessed value of all] 100% of the assessed value of each** homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. A local taxing authority may not increase the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for these exclusions.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this

proposed constitutional amendment.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

AMENDING THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT EXCLUSION

Ballot Question

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?

Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General

The purpose of the ballot question is to amend Article VIII, Section 2(b)(vi) of the Pennsylvania Constitution to permit the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to increase the amount of assessed value of homestead property that may be excluded when determining the real estate tax owed for homestead property. If the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly could then pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property when calculating the real estate tax owed on homestead property.

The Pennsylvania Constitution currently permits the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude only a portion of the assessed value of homestead property when determining the amount of real estate tax owed. Under current law, the amount of assessed value that may be excluded from taxation cannot exceed one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. Local taxing authorities may not increase the millage rate of its real property tax to pay for homestead property exclusions.

The effect of the ballot question would allow the General Assembly to pass a law increasing the amount of assessed value that local taxing authorities may exclude from real estate taxation for homestead property. Currently, local taxing authorities can exclude from taxation only up to one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property located in the local taxing jurisdiction. But if the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly would have authority to pass a law permitting local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property. Local taxing authorities would continue to be prohibited from increasing the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for the homestead exclusions.

The ballot question, by itself, does not authorize local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property from real estate taxation. Local taxing authorities could not take such action unless and until the General Assembly passes a law authorizing them to do so. The ballot question authorizes the General Assembly to pass that law.