

## MIDDLETOWN

## Roads project enters home stretch

*Scheduled for repaving this year are Forsythia Gate, Juniper Hill, Quincy Hollow, Cobalt Ridge and a small part of Highland Park.*

By CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES

Residents in all the Levittown sections of Middletown should have smooth roads by the end of this year, and all it took was \$10 million.

That will be the approximate bill for repaving the 51.9 miles of Levittown roads in 12 sections by the time the three-year program ends this year, said township Manager Richard Gestrich. The money is coming from a \$10 million bond issue in 2006 and another \$10 million bond floated this year, he said. Those bonds also paid for other projects, Gestrich added.

Scheduled to be repaved this year are 23.3 miles of road in the Juniper Hill, Forsythia Gate, Cobalt Ridge and Quincy Hollow sections and also a small part of Highland Park that wasn't done the previous two years, said Gestrich. The estimated cost, including engineering and other fees, is \$5.06 million, he added. "Our engineer, Herb Gery, indicated it might be substantially below that when bids come back," said Gestrich. The other 28.3 miles in eight sections were done in 2006 and 2007 for \$5.55 million, he said. Those numbers didn't shock Russell Gillespie of Fruitree Road in Forsythia Gate, a road that will be repaved this year. "I'm not surprised considering the cost of things these days," he said. "That's a lot of asphalt." Mark Russell of Cleft Rock Road in Cobalt Ridge said he was happy to hear his road is getting repaved this year. However, he's noticed the repaving has caused some drainage problems in other Levittown sections of Middletown.

"I see water collecting in spots, but I'm glad my road is getting done this year," he said. "This will save a few tires from potholes."

Township Public Works Director Rick Wendel said contractors are addressing problems with the repaving when warranted.

"People think there is regrading going on but there is not," he said. "There is milling off old blacktop and repaving. But there have been flat spots that aren't draining off properly and steps will be taken to correct it."

Supervisors Chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer said she's not distressed by the high price tag.

"This is not just a resurfacing but a milling down and repaving and that is not cheap," she said. "Actually, previous bids on this had come in below our budget and we were able to use the leftover money to pave other roads in the township."

Gestrich estimates the repaving should be good for 15 to 20 years.

"I certainly hope so," he said. "A lot of these roads were in pretty bad shape and hardly anything had been done on them for 15 or 20 years. It had been put off for years."

Gery said he hopes bids on this year's Levittown repaving come back later this month so work can start in May.

In addition to the Levittown sections, this year's township road repaving program will include about .75 of a mile of roads in the Summit Trace development in northern Middletown, said Gery. The estimated cost of \$395,000 will come from Middletown's share of the state liquid fuels tax, he added.