



ERIC CONOVER/Standard-Speaker

RECYCLING IN CONYNGHAM – Rick Walck of the Friends of the Nescopeck stacks recycling bins before handing them to a Conyngham resident Saturday morning. Recyclable materials collected by households in the borough can be taken to the recycling collection depot on West Foothills Drive in Butler Township on Saturdays.

2/1/05

Bishop Property dilemma remains

by Donnell Stump

It is often said that it takes money to make money and for Conyngham Borough officials that seems to be just the dilemma they are facing. With grant money available again this year as has been available once or twice in the past, the borough could do the work they've long wanted to do to the Bishop property to make it the type recreation site that would be the envy of neighboring municipalities, but in order to qualify for the grant, the borough must have the matching funds required. And, they do not.

The 23.5 acre parcel was originally purchased using funds from the federal land and conservation fund so the borough is limited in what use it can make of the property, but the type recreational facilities envisioned would be a perfect match – if the borough had the equivalent of 50% of the projected cost for the project already available. It does not. So the idea of hiking trails and a cross country skiing course are on hold yet again.

In 2000, the last time any real cost estimates were worked out, the projected cost of a network of multi-use trails for hiking in spring, summer and fall and cross country skiing in the winter would have cost close to \$60,000. The project outline called for a weather shelter in addition to the actual trails. A 1998 survey identified the desire of the residents to see that type of facility within the borough.

The borough acquired the property close to 25 years ago and for some time it was used as a storage site for the Streets Department until that use was deemed unacceptable. A massive clean-up effort last April saw truck-loads of construction debris, household garbage and old tires removed from the site. That volunteer project was done by the Friends of the Nescopeck and Penn State University students.

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Nescopeck Creek Watershed clean-up set

Help clean up the Nescopeck Creek Watershed by participating in the Streamside Clean-Up 2004, a program sponsored by the Friends of the Nescopeck in partnership with Keystone Job Corps Center,

Delaware Chapter of the Appalachian Mt. Club and Conyngham Borough. The project is being supported in part by a grant from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

The cleanup will take place in Luzerne County along the banks of the Little Nescopeck Creek at locations in Conyngham Borough, Sugarloaf and Butler Townships.

If you wish to participate, please pre-register if you are able but reg-

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istration the day of the event is possible. There is a registration form that must be filled out so plan to arrive a little early on Saturday, April 17 if you have not pre-registered. The registration location will be at the Conyngham Borough Building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham. Clean-up site assignments will be distributed that day at the Borough Building. The clean-

Continued on Page 15.

Creek Clean-Up is April 17...

Continued from Page 4.

up is planned for the hours of 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. and snacks will be provided, but bring your own lunch. Rest rooms and parking are available at the Borough

Building.

Each of the three sites will have a site leader, first aid supplies, clean-up tools, water, trash bags and gloves. There will be no rain date - dress accordingly in case of inclement weather.

The three clean-up sites include, along Route 93 in Sugarloaf Township near the bridge over the Nescopeck Creek; the former Bishop Property in Conyngham Borough and Sugarloaf Township; and off Middle Road in Butler Township.