

Ground is Broken for Senior Center

Ground was broken on May 28 for the new Northampton Township Senior Center which will be built in the Township Complex opposite the cultural center that houses the current seniors' center.

The new structure is expected to be ready for occupancy in the spring of 2004.

Supervisor Jim Kinney, a long-time member of the Board of Supervisors, said he recalls breaking ground for the existing center 20 years ago. "We never thought we would be building another one," he said.

Kinney explained that the new building was designed for the future so it could handle the estimated 1,500 people who will be using it in years to come. About 700 seniors use the existing building.

However, Supervisor John Long pointed out that the building was functional "and not pretentious or overblown." He said a lot of thought went into its design. A committee, which included Kinney, studied the needs.

The bids for the construction came in about \$250,000 lower than the anticipated \$2 million.

The 10,000-square-foot building will contain meeting rooms, lounges,



Turning the first spadefull of earth to start work on the Senior Center are (from left) Supervisors James Kinney, George Komelasky, John Long, Arthur Friedman and Peter Palestina; State Rep. Scott Petri; Project Committee members Larry Hauler and Janet Tomkins; Robert Richter, Center Manager Sheila Jobs and Parks Director Nancy Opalka.

a kitchen, a community room, games and crafts rooms with kilns, administrative offices, bathrooms, an outdoor patio and a recreation area. The community room, which will be able to be sectioned off into three smaller rooms, will be available for rentals, thereby enabling the township to recover some of the cost.

The present senior center

shares the building with the township library. Once the seniors move, the library will expand into the space.

Seniors from the five towns that make up the Council Rock School District will use the facilities. In addition to Northampton, they include Wrightstown, Upper Makefield, Newtown Township and Newtown Borough. Everyone will be welcome.

Township Honors 3 Citizens

Three more residents have been honored as "Citizen of the Month" by the Board of Supervisors for their efforts on behalf of the community.

Camille Moll was selected as the Citizen of the Month for April based on her 26 years of service with the Northampton Girls Softball Association. She is stepping down this year from the board. Over the years she has held positions critical for both the intramural and travel teams.

Gene Gradel, the citizens for May, has dedicated two decades to helping protect the township by holding various positions. In 1983 he

was named chief of the fire police. In the early 1980s he formed one of the township's first Town Watch programs and has served for 20 years on the Emergency Management Agency.

Merilee M. Horvat was honored as the Citizen for June just before her relocation to Maryland. She was involved in many organizations. They include the Richboro 2000 Committee and the Historical Commission.



Girl's Softball Group Opens Another Season

Supervisors Peter Palestina, George Komelasky, John Long and Jim Kinney threw out first balls to open the season of the Northampton Girls Softball Association.

Each board member tossed a ball for one of the different leagues which are based on age.

The NGSA plays at the Municipal Park behind the Maureen M. Welch Elementary School off New Road.

In addition to the softball fields, the park has walking and running trails, a picnic pavilion, a snack pavilion, and a grassy area.

Construction of a second phase of the park is underway.