

Volume Two

A Special Justice Center Edition

September 2009

Bucks County

Moving Forward



Project Update

We are pleased to provide you this progress report on the substantial amount of work accomplished on phase one of the Bucks County Justice Center. As you have surely seen, we are in the midst of constructing a new, 1,200-space parking garage that will clear the way for the next phase, demolition of the existing parking garage and construction of a new Justice Center. Since our last update, the garage has gone from an artist's rendering to bricks and mortar. The project now stands half-way complete, with 100 percent of the caisson drilling completed, 90 percent of the retaining walls completed, and 90 percent of the pre-cast brickwork and concrete ready for assembly. "We have found creative ways to remain on schedule," Director of Operations Jerry Anderson stated, pointing out that weather isn't stopping progress. "We've done things like bring on extra personnel and pumping water out of the site, all in an effort to stay on schedule, and especially to live

up to our promise to neighbors that we will work within specified hours of the day." Anderson underscored that key to the progress are the partnerships with Doylestown Borough officials and the contractor. "It is because of everyone's hard work and cooperation, that's we're progressing so nicely."

Looking ahead, Anderson also notes that program verification is taking place on the Justice Center portion of the project. He explains that program verification is a process by which architects meet with court and county officials to determine how much space is required for its various programs. Although Anderson says not many calls have been placed, something he views as positive, the Justice Center hotline established in January continues to be available to those with concerns or questions. That number is **215-345-3949**.

Pre-cast concrete and brick walls will be brought into the borough for installation in mid-October.



"Given a project of this scale, you almost don't know it's going on if you live in the borough."

-Borough Assistant Manager Phil Ehlinger

Frequently Asked Questions With answers by County Director of Operations Jerry Anderson

Is the new Justice Center still on schedule?

Yes, the parking garage is still slated for opening by July 2010. Due to the cooperation of our neighbors, effective management and tenacious problem solving, we have been able to remain on track. Once the garage opens, we can then demolish the existing parking garage and begin building the new Justice Center.

Once July 2010 comes, how long will it take to demolish the existing garage?

Once demolition begins, it will take approximately three months. During that time, the county also will complete the bidding process for the Justice Center in order to put all contracts in place for the new courthouse. All of the current garage materials are planned to be recycled to complete a road within one of our Bucks County facilities. During demolition, every precaution will be taken to protect surrounding structures.

How is the county managing traffic during construction and beyond?

In an effort to be a good neighbor, the county has ensured that construction vehicles and equipment only travel via the bypass, and not in the downtown area. Over the long term, the county will undertake a major improvement project to funnel traffic via Broad St. to the bypass, at a cost of over \$1 million. This project will include new signals, turning lanes and a fiber-optic traffic control system to regulate flow efficiently. The county also will install pavers in walkways that conform with the existing style in the borough.

What public safety measures are ongoing?

As part of our commitment to safety, the contractor voluntarily installed concrete barriers as a precaution for drivers and pedestrians near the site.

A Message from the Chairman



Charles H. Martin
Bucks County
Commissioner
Chairman

As the new, 1,200-space Bucks County Parking Garage rises along Broad St., we would like to reaffirm our commitment to making the project as unobtrusive as possible. From the moment we placed ceremonial shovels to frozen ground during late December 2008, it has been paramount for the County of Bucks to be a responsive, responsible partner with the residents of Doylestown Borough and the thousands of visitors who travel to the county seat each week.

That commitment has been echoed by neighbors of the construction site and Doylestown Borough officials alike. During a recent article in the *Intelligencer* newspaper, Borough Assistant Manager and Zoning and Planning Director Phil Ehlinger commented, "Given a project of this scale, you almost don't know it's going on if you live in the borough."

This ongoing partnership with Doylestown Borough and its residents is the driving force behind our efforts to provide comprehensive information about the construction efforts. These include the construction Web cam which is available on the county Web site, www.BucksCounty.org, the feedback telephone hotline **1-215-345-3949**, and multiple site visits by county officials to ensure the efficiency of the project.



Bucks County Board of Commissioners
55 East Court St.
Doylestown, PA 18901

Charles H. Martin, Chairman
James F. Cawley, Esq., Vice Chairman
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(Commissioner's name omitted at her request)

David M. Sanko, COO/Managing Director



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