

Public meeting set on White's Woods



TOM PEEL/Gazette

TAKING THEIR DOGS for a morning walk today in the White's Woods Nature Center were Tom Miller and Mary Lou Manecke, both of Indiana. The picture was taken at the nature center's entrance off North 12th Street.

Timbering plan could be put up for vote

By **MARGARET HARPER**
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WHITE TOWNSHIP

Area residents concerned with a proposed forestry management plan intended for implementation in White's Woods will have a chance in June to speak out about the issue to White Township supervisors.

The supervisors set a special public comment meeting for 8 p.m. June 11 at the S&T Bank Arena at a meeting Wednesday. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the plan — drafted by local forester Dave Babyak — which calls for the removal of 550,000 board-

feet of trees from the forest in a 10-year period.

The primary goal of the plan, according to Babyak and the supervisors, is to protect and enhance the forest. By taking out the trees that are expected to die or are choking the growth of healthier trees, the forest can flourish, Babyak said.

But members of the group Friends of White's Woods disagree and have openly opposed the project since it was presented to the supervisors at a meeting

March 28.

A copy of the entire plan is available at the township's new Web site, www.whitetownship.org.

Supervisors may take action on the plan at the public meeting if desired, said Larry Garner, township manager. If action isn't taken then, he urged supervisors to come to a decision as quickly as possible afterward.

Depending on attendance, supervisors may limit speaking times, said Robert Overdorff, chairman. Rules and guidelines will be discussed immediately before the meeting, Garner said.

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In other business, the supervisors:

■ Heard from library board of trustees member Jim Antis, who spoke about the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Indiana Free Library and encouraged people to support an auction to benefit the library at 5 p.m. May 24 at the J.S. Mack Community Center.

Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to noon May 19 and 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. May 20 to May 23 at the building at Mack Park that formerly housed the ice skating rink (the first building through the lower gate when entering from South Sixth Street).

A person can decide to donate all proceeds or keep 70 percent of the profits.

"We're trying to make it a win-win (situation) for everyone," he said.

Items must be clean, complete and in good condition. Televisions, electronic devices, clothing, bedding, holiday decorations, tires and appliances will not be accepted. Requests for minimum bids on an item will also not be tolerated.

He stressed that the library's funding comes from three main sources other than fundraising: White Township, Indiana Borough and Indiana Area School District.

"Without their support, our library couldn't function the way it does," Antis said.

■ Awarded a contract to Laurel Management, of Johnstown, for the Chevy Chase storm-water project. While the bid of \$272,558 is more than the budgeted \$230,000 for the project, supervisors will adjust the project price through change orders as necessary to fit the budget, Garner said. Construction for the multi-phase project may begin as early as June and will replace all pipe work and catch basins in the Chevy Chase area.

■ Awarded contracts for road materials and fuel. The supervisors approved bids from Derry Stone & Lime, of Laughlontown, for 1,700 tons of various stone ranging from \$10.35 to \$12.40 per ton; Indiana Fuel & Oil, of Indiana, for 3,000 gallons of unleaded gas at \$2.364 per gallon and 13,000 of diesel fuel at \$2.072 per gallon; and IA Construction Corporation, of Zelenople, for 2,200 tons of two paving materials at \$38 and \$42 per ton.

■ Accepted a quote of \$1,480 from Strong's Nursery for 40 evergreen trees to plant at Getty Heights Park. The township will also pay \$80 for delivery of the trees.

■ Will advertise an ordinance to erect a stop sign at the intersection of Heritage Run Road and Concord Street. With the addition of the sign, the intersection will form a three-way stop, Garner said.

■ Approved a motion to post speed limits along Lilac Street and Lisa Drive at Westgate Terrace Apartments. New speed limits will be 30 mph for Lilac Street and 25 mph for Lisa Drive. The roads were previously unposted, Garner said.