

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Jackson Township Fire Companies

12/23/15

A fire department connection, commonly known as a “dry hydrant” was recently placed into service on the East end of Jackson Township at the Millardsville Quarry. The dry hydrant is the Eagle Scout project of Myerstown Troop 20 Eagle Scout candidate Michael “Vito” Heck III, age 16.

The dry hydrant allows any fire department pumper to connect and draft water from the quarry. Being spring-fed, the water in the quarry does not freeze during the winter. This water can then be pumped into tanker trucks for transport to a fire scene or pumped through hoses to a fire in the immediate area. An estimated 2,105,000 gallons of water is available at the hydrant.

Constructed of 8-inch pipe, the dry hydrant is capable of supplying more than 1000 gallons of water per minute to a fire truck.

Eagle Scout candidate Vito Heck was responsible for all design, planning, permitting, finance, public relations, procurement and project management efforts. In the process of planning and securing permits for his project, Vito was required to meet with representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Jackson Township supervisors, Lebanon County Conservation District, the private landowner, attorneys for both the township and landowner, local Fire Chiefs and other involved parties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission also have jurisdiction over projects involving Pennsylvania waterways.

Volunteers from Myerstown Boy Scout Troop 20, members of the Jackson Township Highway Department, volunteers from Myerstown’s Keystone and Goodwill and Richland’s Neptune Fire Companies as well as parents and friends volunteered labor for the construction of the project.

The project was funded by Jackson Township supervisors, who authorized a budget of \$4000.00 for the project. Through generous donations of labor, materials, services and supplies from the local community, the project was completed for a total investment of \$901.44.

A dedication event will be held in the spring of 2016.

Congratulations to Eagle Scout candidate Michael “Vito” Heck for an outstanding job that will benefit all of the residents and businesses of Jackson Township.

Myerstown Boy Scout Troop 20 is headed by Scoutmaster Mr. Dennis L. Palm. Go to www.myerstownboyscouts.org for more information about Scouting in Myerstown.



