

Caution: Summer construction season ahead

What you need to know when it comes to the upcoming sewer and roadwork season.

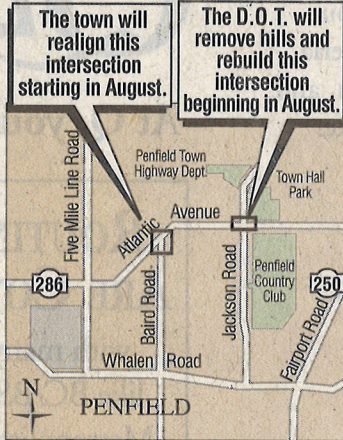
By **AMY CAVALIER**

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This summer will see close to 10,000 linear feet of new sidewalks installed in Penfield, about 12 miles of roads will receive oil and stone treatments and about 233 homes will get access to sewers.

It all adds up to a busy summer construction season. Be prepared.

While there will be minor disruptions, only one of the projects will cause a road closure. Atlantic Avenue, near the Jackson Road intersection and Town Hall, will be closed for about three weeks in August,



MESSENGER POST GRAPHIC

according to town Engineer Geoff Benway.

The \$2.1 million state Department of Transportation project will remove hills from Atlantic Avenue to improve visibility, and the intersection at Jackson Road will be rebuilt with wider shoulders and an

underground signal light conduit in the event the state approves a light at the intersection in future years, said Benway.

Also in August, the town will realign Baird Road where it meets Atlantic Avenue, said Jim Fletcher, highway supervisor. That project should be completed in six to eight weeks.

"That won't really affect drivers because we can rebuild the new road without closing the old road," he said.

The project will cost a little more than \$200,000 with a lion's share of the costs covered by state grants.

Oil and stoning of town roads will impact the most residents, said Fletcher, although it will not require any road closures. Work has already begun patching roads in preparation for sealing 10 to 13 miles of

roads.

"It's not the most popular thing, but it's the most beneficial in terms of getting the most life out of the road," said Fletcher.

The oil seals the road, he said, and the stone creates friction to prevent cars from sliding on the road. The project will cost the town about \$100,000, and will begin in July and take about two weeks to complete.

Several roads in Penfield Meadows, Meadowview Drive and Hilltop Drive will be reconstructed this summer. Those subdivisions on Baird Road, south of 441, are some of the oldest in town, according to Fletcher. The project will take four to six weeks and start sometime in July.

Town crews will also put finishing touches on the Daytona Avenue cul-de-sac installed



STAFF PHOTO/JACK HALEY

Construction equipment, signs, barrels and cones are a sign of the 2007 sewer construction project underway on Shirewood Drive and in the surrounding neighborhood.

last summer and do some repair and maintenance work on Plank Road, from Empire Boulevard to Five Mile Line Road, under a contract with the county, Fletcher said.

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Summer construction season ahead

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Expect lane closures when the work begins in late July, but the road will remain open.

The town is hoping to install some additional sidewalks this summer than in the past. The proposed 2007 schedule includes over 9,000 linear feet of sidewalks. Typically, the town aims to install 5,000 linear feet annually.

Part of the reason for the increase, according to Assistant Engineer Mark Valentine, is that the town has received money from the county to install sidewalks near Rothfuss Park and from an incentive zoning proposal to install sidewalks on State Road, near several new developments.

What isn't completed this year will be finished next summer, said Valentine. Most work will be done in August and September, and Valentine estimates, it will take three to four weeks to complete. Residents who will be impacted have been contacted and will be invited to a meeting before construction begins, he said.

Work installing new sewers on Burroughs Drive, Penfield Crescent and the Shirewood area has already begun. Mark DiFrancesco, supervisor of the sewer department, said the 2007 sewer project will take 150 days to complete and will provide sewer access to 233 properties.

The project is expected to cost \$1.38 million. For taxpayers, that's an annual \$70 fee on their town tax bill.

DiFrancesco estimates it will cost homeowners anywhere from \$2,500 and up to hook into the sewer system. Typically he said, about 50 percent of people connect to the sewer system within the first couple of years.

For residents affected by the sewer project, DiFrancesco reminds them to keep little kids away from the construction area and equipment.

Here is the projected sidewalk schedule: Atlantic Avenue, from Tree Brook Drive to Qualtrough Road; Five Mile Line Road, from Tall Tree Lane to Embury Road; Two properties on Route 250, near Chippenham Drive; State Road, from Jackson Road to Shoecraft Road; Plank Road, from Creek Street to Empire Boulevard