

Local group proposes creating central impound

Members of the Mountain Council of Governments believe the impound would help reduce the large number of abandoned vehicles on area streets.

By **JIM DINO**

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Having a central impound area for abandoned automo-

biles and area municipalities honoring each other's abandoned auto laws would cut the number of junk cars on area streets, some government lead-

ers believe.

The Mountain Council of Governments (M-COG) has proposed establishing a central impound so there would be a place to put abandoned and junk autos to get them off public streets.

Dan Guydish, the M-COG's executive director, said some

COG members like the idea.

"Interest in the impound idea is starting to expand," Guydish said. "There is a large number of abandoned vehicles in our communities. Having a central impound area seems to be catching on. It has struck the interest of COG members."

Guydish said he is on the

hunt for a location.

"I am investigating some possible locations," Guydish said.

If municipalities honored each other's abandoned vehicle ordinances, it would discourage people from trying to get

See **IMPOUND**, page 18

Impound

(Continued from page 1)
around the laws, Guydish said.

Most local municipalities have a junk car ordinance that states any vehicle that does not have a current license plate, sticker and inspection sticker has to be removed from the street within a prescribed amount of time, in so many days.

If someone lives near the boundary of two municipalities, they can move the vehicle to the other side of the street – and in some cases to the other municipality – and comply with the law in the first municipality by moving it after a prescribed amount of time.

If municipalities cooperated, vehicle

owners would not be able to get around the original time line, Guydish pointed out.

"The fact that they can get the vehicles off the street and then the clock starts ticking in the other municipality, doesn't solve the problem," he said. "If municipalities honored the other's ordinance, vehicle owners could not get around the time line."

Since taking over the reins of the M-COG last month Guydish has been going over all topics that the group have considered in the last year.

The M-COG has been discussing applying for a grant to purchase a camera

to be used to examine sewer lines. Discussion on application for the sewer camera grant was deferred to the special committee meeting.

Guydish led a brief discussion on old business, including the Pennsylvania Joint Purchasing Council, the Uniform Construction Code, and the asphalt zipper.

Any member interested in participating in a joint bidding for salt and anti-skid was asked to contact Dan Guydish and prepare their projected needs by the August meeting.

The next M-COG meeting was scheduled for Aug. 4.