

Area towns joining together against junked cars

By **JIM DINO**

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Hazleton area municipalities are beginning to work together to rid the area of abandoned autos with the help of the Mountain Council of Governments (M-COG), its executive director says.

Dan Guydish said several local municipal governments have approved or are considering approving an ordinance drafted by the M-COG which would prohibit the owners of junked autos to move them from municipality to another in an effort to avoid having them towed away.

Guydish said six municipalities have adopted the ordinance, and two others

are considering it.

"The interest in the ordinance is growing tremendously," Guydish said. "So far, Hazleton, Hazle Township, Beaver Meadows, Butler Township, Freeland and McAdoo have adopted it, and West Hazleton and Sugarloaf Township are considering it."

While municipalities consider approving the cooperative law, other details of the program – such as plans for a central impound area – are being worked out.

"We are now working on firming up all of the details, like a central reporting and record-keeping system," Guydish said. "We will also find a place for the central impound area."

Any cars towed will go to the central impound area. Autos that remain unclaimed after a designated period of time will be sold, and the proceeds will help pay for towing fees, and for the record keeping and impound area.

Meanwhile, Guydish reported that a the sewer camera the M-COG purchased with a joint grant the organization received has been delivered, and is being set up.

Five municipalities have signed up to share the camera and others can still do so within the next month, Guydish said.

"The City of Hazleton is installing the

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camera in a van the city is providing," Guydish said.

"The van will house the camera, computer, and all of the other equipment associated with the camera, so that it is self-contained in the van. By being in the van, all of the work can be done inside the van, so the camera can be used no matter what the weather conditions are."

Other entities that have agreed to share the camera are the Hazleton Area School District, Butler Township, McAdoo and the Freeland

Municipal Authority.

Within the next month, any other municipalities that want to share in the camera will be identified, and their personnel trained in how to use it.

Members of the M-COG may also be sharing a piece of equipment that fills potholes.

Representatives of a company that sells the equipment made a presentation to M-COG members recently. Dave Zedaker, a manufacturer's representative for Falcon Road Maintenance Equipment, and Jack Galvin, a representative of Jet-Vac, told

M-COG members what the equipment can do.

"Instead of using cold patch (asphalt) in the winter, this equipment can make hot patch," Guydish said.

"It recycles old asphalt, and melts it down for hot patch. "We will give the (M-COG) members some time for them to decide if they are interested."

Guydish said a firm that sells similar equipment, called the Asphalt Zipper, will demonstrate that equipment for interested M-COG members in May.