

From The Morning Call

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## **Forks touts new municipal complex amid fanfare**

**Township also revives its Community Days weekend celebration.**

By Joe Nixon Of The Morning Call

EVEN THOUGH Forks Township has been using its new municipal complex since January, a dedication ceremony was held Saturday to coincide with its Community Days weekend. The municipal building was the last to be finished.

Jane Therese

Special to

The Morning Call

Forks Township kicked off its Community Days weekend Saturday by dedicating its new municipal complex in a ceremony that included speakers, a ribbon-cutting and the burial of a time capsule that will be exhumed on the township's 350th anniversary in 2104.

The \$10 million complex, which includes a new municipal building and fire station and an expanded and renovated police station, has been open since January, but the dedication was timed to coincide with the community festival in the adjacent municipal park. Several supervisors who spoke Saturday thanked residents and previous supervisors for making the complex a reality.

"It was a long project, but it never went over budget," said Supervisor Chairman David Hoff.

Other speakers included U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent, R-15th District, and state Rep. Richard Grucela D-Northampton.

The one-story municipal building was the last of the three buildings to be finished. Previously, municipal offices and the township fire department shared a building, with township offices on the second floor. Before a police station was located on Sullivan Trail, those offices were also housed in the same building with township and fire offices. The old municipal building has been razed and the area where it stood is now open space just to the west of the current municipal building.

The time capsule buried Saturday includes some memorabilia connected with the township's 250th anniversary in 2004.

In the municipal park area, crowds were building early Saturday afternoon as the Community Days celebration made a return after a roughly decade-long absence. Craft and food vendors, rides and live music were all scheduled parts of the festival, which continues from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. today. Saturday's events were set to be capped off with a fireworks display at 9 p.m.

Township resident Harry Bennett, who along with his wife Sue headed up the festival's volunteer effort, said the festival got off to a "fantastic" start. "My biggest worry was the weather," he said, noting the township's 250th anniversary celebration was partially washed out by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. "We have a lot for everybody," said Sue Bennett.

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