

FEATURED

## Tunnel vision: Curwensville passage to receive historical transformation

By Dianne Byers dbyers@theprogressnews.com Apr 28, 2016



Photo by Dianne Byers

Displaying a sketch of one of the scenes that will be painted on the tunnel over the sidewalk along State Street in Curwensville are, from left, Emma Vance, a 10th grade student at Curwensville Area High School, art instructor Sue Lemmo and Taylor Seger, a ninth grade student. In the back row are Charles Guarino of CRG Resources LLC, who will assist with the site preparation, Curwensville Area District Superintendent Ron Matchock and Curwensville Borough Council President Doug Bloom.

CURWENSVILLE — The tunnel surrounding the sidewalk along State Street in Curwensville is about to be renewed.

About 20 art students from Curwensville Area High School in grades 9-11 have volunteered their talents to freshen the cement structure's walls with decorative art featuring images from Curwensville's vivid history.

"The idea is to fill the space with a series of overlapping postcards featuring scenes from the history of Curwensville," art instructor Sue Lemmo said.

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The ceiling and the surrounding wall space will be painted like the sky.

Some of the scenes to be painted are taken from photos found in Curwensville history books. Up to 18 pictures will be painted including the stone quarry, a Memorial Day ceremony, the Doughboy, a view along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River showing a lumber mill, Curwensville High School's graduating class of 1890, the Patton building dedication, the Curwen coat of arms and others.

"The kids have picked out additional images for the rest of the spaces. We were trying for a balance of buildings, scenes, and people," she said.

Lemmo said the subjects were selected "to draw on the area's rich history." "These are images people will remember from growing up in our hometown. They will bring back memories. It's important for kids to know what the history of the community is." Plans are for students to paint the scenes May 31-June 2.

The tunnel's walls and ceiling will be prepared in advance of the art student's project. Dee Holland, a member of the Curwensville Regional Development Corp and its Curwensville Area Revitalization Entity who spearheaded the recent Curwensville cleanup project, said Charles Guarino, owner of CRG Resources LLC of Curwensville, will donate his services and equipment to clean the walls and ceiling to prepare them to receive a basecoat and a primer coat.

Rescue Hose and Ladder Co. of Curwensville prepared the site with an initial spring cleaning of the walls and ceiling to remove road salt and other dirt, Holland said.

Volunteers to assist with preparing the tunnel's walls and ceiling are needed on two dates. On May 22, the primer coat will be spread and on May 29, the basecoat will be added.



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Donations of equipment are also welcomed, Holland said. Items needed include large paintbrushes, a type that would be used to paint a structure's exterior, paint in assorted colors, ladders, tarps or drop cloths. Financial donations will also be appreciated, Holland said. They may be mailed to the CRDC at P.O. Box 129, Curwensville, PA 16833. Those writing checks are asked to write 'tunnel project' on the check's memo line. Those with questions can contact Holland at 592-0229.

The idea for the project stemmed from a recent Great American Cleanup in Curwensville's business district.

Curwensville Borough Council President Doug Bloom said, "I'm really excited about this. Mrs. Lemmo and her students painting the historical images fit in so well with what we are doing in town with the new addition to the Veteran's Park and the historical homes in this section.

"We appreciate the students donating their talents," Bloom continued. This wouldn't be possible without their willingness to donate their talents."



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