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## County Council releases funds to help municipalities fill potholes

This winter, residents all across the county endured a harsh winter that lasted well into the spring. Now motorists are dodging potholes across the county.

Recognizing that municipalities are working hard to fix the large number of damaging and dangerous potholes on their roads, Delaware County Council is offering assistance through the county's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

On April 24 Delaware County Council Chairman John McBlain announced Operation PAT (Pothole Assistance for Taxpayers.) Operation PAT is a grant program that enables each of the 49 municipalities to apply for Liquid Fuel Funds for the specific purpose of repairing potholes.

"Council is keenly aware of the economic hardship that our municipalities have endured from the harsh and extreme weather conditions that have occurred this season. We recognize that municipalities' local budgets were severely impacted by snow removal and now roadways are in need of repairs due to potholes," said Chairman John McBlain.

Delaware County Council joined Springfield Township Manager Lee Fulton in Springfield to detail the program. Fulton noted that the township is grateful to the county for supplementing Springfield's local budget which has been impacted by the harsh winter.

Each year, Delaware County Council receives funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Liquid Fuels Program, which funds the repair and replacement of county bridges. The funds are also used by municipalities for the construction, repairs and maintenance of roads. The amount of the allocation to municipalities is based on a formula of population and miles of roads. County Council announced that it is making \$250,000 in grants available to the 49 local municipalities. This will be a supplemental allocation of 35 percent of the regular Liquid Fuel funds allocated on an annual basis.

"We've all encountered dodging these dangerous potholes and some residents have needed car repairs or have been in accidents," McBlain said. "It's a public safety concern and County Council wants to help our municipal partners fix the situation."

Delaware County is one of a few counties in Pennsylvania that allocates a percentage of its Liquid Fuels Funds to local governments instead of retaining the total amount in the county fund. Delaware County allocates about 70 percent of the funds to municipalities for road repairs. The remaining amount is used to fund the design, construction and repair of more than 40 county-owned bridges.

Operation PAT is administered through the Delaware County Department of Public Works. Local municipalities will be sent an application package similar to the annual Liquid Fuels Funds application package. The municipalities will be required to use the supplemental funds to fix potholes on their roads and bridges.

To report a major pothole on a municipal roadway, motorists should call their municipal office. To report a pothole on a state road, people can call 1-800-FIX-ROAD.