

*Backyard critters breeding*

# Flooding persists in McKownville

By Maureen McGuinness

**GUILDERLAND** — A petition signed by 40 residents of McKownville requesting assistance in fixing the storm drainage system on Providence, Mercer, and Warren Streets was presented to the board Tuesday night.

The six inch storm drainage pipes on those streets installed 40 to 50 years ago, are now blocked, and there is some concern that they are broken in some areas. The condition of the pipes has flooded some basements, and the back yard of Robert Benson of Mercer Street has water as high as one foot. Benson has pumped one million gallons of water from his yard but stopped when he realized it was fruitless, he said.

Benson noticed more water in his yard last summer, but thought it was from rain. In the winter he noticed there was water that was not freezing. Since the beginning of spring he has been flooded, and submitted pictures of the flooding to the board.

Some neighbors feel the water can cause some dangerous situations like electrical shock. Tadpoles and mosquitos are also breeding in the water, and there are now ducks living in flooded back yards. Residents have suffered water damage to property in their basements, and their homes are hard to sell in their current condition.

In order to make repairs the town would have to get easement from the property owners because the town does not own that pipe line. The property owners would not be allowed to build any permanent structures on that land once the easement is given.

Highway Superintendent Todd Gifford said, "There is no question it's in need of repair. This is not a small undertaking. It will need more than slapping two pipes together." Gifford said he would go back out to the neighborhood to see if there is any temporary remedy for the situation.

The board authorized the su-  
(Continued on Page 9)

# McKownville flooding persists

(Continued from Page 1)

supervisor to hire an engineer to do a study on the situation.

## Lot size

Board member Richard Murray's comments on the lot size report were met with a round of applause from the audience.

Murray said the cost of living in the town is increasing at such a rate that many people can't afford to live in the town any more. Many town employees probably could not afford to buy a home in the town, and those on fixed incomes may have to move, he added. Murray said as he is approaching retirement age and a fixed income he has concerns that he may have to move.

The costs for expanded water treatment and sewage treatment plants, new library, solid waste disposal, and the \$31.7 million school budget are among the concerns Murray had about the cost of living in the town.

Murray said the quality of life in the town can be improved if current zoning laws are enforced. "I'm not against rezoning but we must take into consideration all of the residents."

Murray said he would like to approach growth concerns in a business like manner and increase the tax base. This would include adopting a proposed amendment to the lot size report that recommends the formation of a citizen's master plan committee and the development of a comprehensive growth management plan.

Murray also said that the defeat of the Southern Bypass did not indicate residents wanted a study or a lot size committee.

Supervisor Kevin Moss disagreed. The voters told the town they didn't want to spend the money on the bypass, but something had to be done about growth. The growth problem is obvious according to Moss, "All you have to do is look at the traffic back up."

Moss said something must be done to control growth and im-

provements are implemented the town will continue to see clogged highways. "Assessed value of the town will not decrease if we adopt the report," Moss said. The report recommends clustering of lot sizes.

Both Moss and board member Connie Fennessey responded to accusations that the town is turning into an elitist community. Moss pointed out that of the 10,000 parcels of land in the town there are 3,300 apartment units and 550 townhouses. Fennessey said the number of apartments, townhouses and senior housing makes the town diverse in its population. "We have a good record of multiple housing," Fennessey said.

Board member William Welburn said he wished the report had recommendations on the tax base, and also information on development currently under way.

Welburn also said a committee for growth management should be formed as well as a

master plan of growth in the town. The assistance offered by the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Center For Economic Growth should also be utilized according to Welburn.

The board will meet on May 24 for a work session on the report because Fennessey and board member Anne Rose felt the map that accompanied the report was insufficient.

## Other business

— The board appointed Phil Bibbo as Town Planning Coordinator.

— The board authorized Moss to sign a contract with Metals Unlimited for removal of metals from the construction and demolition landfill at \$10 a ton.

— The contract with the police union was approved.

— A public hearing was set for June 5 to discuss a law to prohibit parking in designated fire lanes at the town post office. The public hearing on the Rapp Road realignment and Crossgates Ring Road and bridge was rescheduled for June 5.

# Westerlo noise law . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

would effect gun clubs.

Also from the gallery Cliff Richardson said, "If you don't watch out the way you word any noise law you can put any of us in construction out of business. . . I won't be able to drill wells."

Supervisor Richard Rapp said most of the complaints have been coming from South Westerlo, which already has a noise ordinance.

"We wouldn't even need an ordinance if people would use their own head and common sense," said Rapp.

The proposed ordinance will cover the entire Town of Westerlo, and will be enforced by the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Copies of the

available at the next board meeting.

— Approved a motion to wait and see if the Berne and Knox boards approve participation in the Hope House program. The program will cost the town one dollar per person.

— Asked for volunteers to help in the park for the celebration of Westerlo's 175th birthday during Memorial Day.

— Approved Supervisor Rapp to contact a number of painters to bid on the painting of the exterior of the library.

— Authorized the highway superintendent to buy gravel for Crop Road at two dollars a yard.

— Approved the appointment of Jim Freeze to the Conservation Board.

The meeting lasted 30