

MIDDLETOWN

Meeting room gets a makeover

The changes will make the room better equipped to host events other than township government meetings.

By **CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES**

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Some in-house labor and almost \$15,000 have made the meeting room at the Middletown municipal center a more attractive and useful venue, township officials said.

Workers from the public works and parks and recreation departments recently tore out a concrete stage and table used by the supervisors and other boards at meetings. In their place, they installed a larger stage and a table that can be removed to make room for musical groups and other performers. The old table was permanently attached to the stage.

Part of the work also included improvements to the room's sound system. The total cost of \$14,576, which included \$4,435 paid to an Upper Makefield firm for installing a hardwood floor on the stage, would have been considerably higher had township workers not done most of the stage work, said Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna.

The new stage is 6 feet longer and 5 feet wider, and provides even more room when the table is removed, she said.

"It will be very nice when we have our arts festival Nov. 3 because performers will use the stage all day," said Lamanna. "Before, we had to bring in portable stages. When we put together our winter parks and recreation calendar, we'll be able to book a lot of different kinds of events for that room."

Workers covered the sides of the new stage with carpeting that matches the floor. The removable table curves around at both ends so board members can hear each other better. A cloth skirt with the township's logo covers the front of the table.

The changes give the stage area a softer, more appealing look, said supervisors Chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer.

Some electronic modifications made as part of the project will better enable the room to accommodate future improvements to the audiovisual system, she said.

"It demonstrates the skill of the staff we have in the township," said Pflaumer. "We saved the taxpayers some money by doing a lot of this in house, and it's high quality work."