

## MIDDLETOWN

## Park upgrades will run \$2.6M

*Two parks will be almost totally reconstructed, the parks and recreation director said.*

**By CHRIS ENGLISH STAFF WRITER**

*Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or .*

Middletown will spend an estimated \$2.6 million on major facelifts at two township parks during the next two years, and the supervisors took one of the early steps at Tuesday night's meeting.

The board voted 5-0 to have CMX Engineering develop construction plans and bid documents for improvement projects at Beechwood Park on West Maple Avenue and Lt. Cpl. Harry Simmons Jr. Memorial Park on Brownsville Road. The CMX work will cost \$79,950 at Simmons Park and \$87,850 at Beechwood Park.

The total estimated costs for the projects, including engineering and design, are \$1.25 million at Simmons Park and \$1.4 million at Beechwood Park. Those estimates include a 10 percent contingency to account for possible cost overruns, said township Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna.

Money for the projects is coming from a \$10 million bond issue approved by the supervisors this year, but Lamanna is hoping to get some grants that would reduce the amount coming from the bond. She hopes construction on both projects can start next year. Lamanna described the projects as near total reconstructions of both parks.

Included in the work at Simmons Park will be increased parking, reconfiguring basketball courts, rebuilding tennis courts and construction of a walking path.

Beechwood Park will get a walking path, a natural stormwater management system, a new entrance, a new playground and new softball field, among other items.