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GOVERNMENT

Merchantville approves more funds to fix drainage along Glenwood Ave.

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ough Council approved a capital ordinance that includes a \$22,800 appropriation for fixing the drainage problem.

Water drains very slowly at Glenwood Avenue because the current 24-inch drainage pipe is too small and because the drainage ditch near the railroad tracks behind Glenwood Avenue also is too small, said Donald Mauer of Remington & Vernick, engineers for the borough.

Mauer said the new plans include installing a larger drainage pipe, enlarging the drainage ditch, and adding five storm-water catch basins along the side of the road. Also, officials said, a 135-foot stretch of the road near Holly Avenue will be re-

paved and the center of the street raised so water can drain off more effectively.

About \$25,000 for the work was appropriated in the 1991 Merchantville budget to enlarge the storm drain, said Jack Hughes, Merchantville Borough Council president. But plans then were expanded to increase drainage capacity for very heavy storms, Hughes said. And so the council appropriated the additional \$22,800 last week.

The borough hopes to defray most of the cost with a grant from the state. An application has been submitted to the state Department of Transportation's annual street-repair grant program. Officials expect a response in October, Hughes said.

In the meantime, Hughes said, he has asked the engineers to prepare bid specifications so the borough can put them out by September. Hughes said he hopes the borough can award a contract for the work by the end of October and, weather permitting, finish work by the end of this year.

Until those repairs are made, Press and other residents along that section of Glenwood Avenue will continue to keep a strict eye on the weather. If it floods during the week, Press can't get his car out of the driveway to get to work. If there's a torrential downpour at night, the car floods inside.

"If the forecast is for thunderstorms, then I worry," Press said.

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