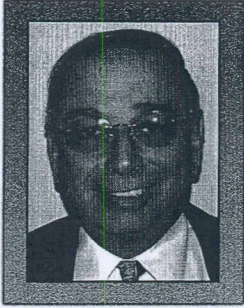


Allendale Constructs Pavilion in One Month Expedited Construction Project Is for the Birds



Leslie M. Shenkler

Borough Administrator,
Borough of Allendale

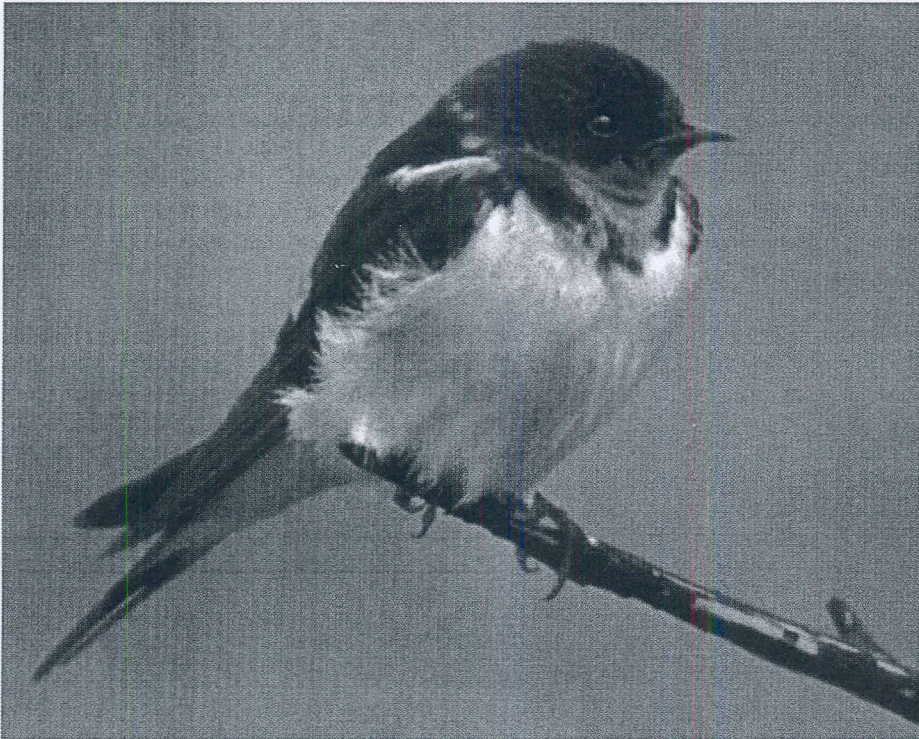


Photo by Douglas Goodell

The beautiful barn swallow has made its home in the Crestwood Lake Park pavilion for many years.

Nestled in Northwest Bergen County, the governing body of the Borough of Allendale, population 6699, had the vision in the late 60s to purchase a 72 acre tract of private parkland near the center of the borough. The property, including a 7.5 million gallon man-made lake, is within Crestwood Lake Park.

The parkland contained an 80-year-old red barn and connected open outdoor pavilion with picnic tables and barbeque grills. This barn and pavilion are used by many residents, volunteer groups, and Boy and Girl Scout troops for parties, family reunions, and other outdoor func-

tions. Adjacent to the Red Barn is the borough's 9-11 Memorial.

The outdoor pavilion section (with roof trusses) is also home to the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo Rustica*). This little bird has nested in the rafters of the Pavilion year after year. This beautiful small blue and rust colored bird is a neotropical migrant. It leaves its breeding range in the fall and travels south to winter in Central and South America, always returning on May 1. Although not on the endangered or threatened list, the Barn Swallow is generally not found in Allendale.

The borough's Department of Public Works has diligently maintained this

facility over the years with roofing repairs, painting, electrical work and overall general maintenance. Unfortunately, time had taken its toll on the facility. The Red Barn's rubble wall foundations began to crumble, structural members were costly to replace and the overall condition of the building was becoming too dangerous to allow anyone to enter. Restoring the Barn would cost more than to replace it.

The project was substantially completed by May 1st! The Barn Swallows arrived on time, in fact one pair showed up a day early.

After consulting with our architects, Elkin/Sobolka & Associates Corp. of Rutherford, the governing body decided to replace the old barn with an exact replica. Prior to demolition, photographs were taken of the entire structure including all elements of its construction. The new barn was reconstructed with these details and completed last summer. Our attention was now directed to the pavilion.

The pavilion was also evaluated for either renovation or replacement. The 80-year-old span roof trusses had noticeable deflection and the supporting columns were rotting at the base. It was deemed not cost effective to renovate. This structure would have to be taken down and replaced, like the barn. But the barn swallows would soon be returning to nest.

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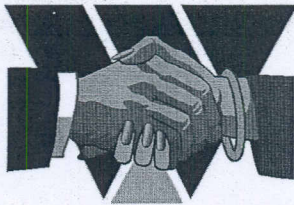


EXPEDITED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

So what happened when Mother Nature depends on man to provide space where birds have been nesting for years and Borough residents want their recreational areas for the upcoming summer season?

The borough, architect and the contractors worked together to meet a May 1 deadline. The challenge before us was great; working in the public sector often takes time, and in our case the holidays were upon us, the Council reorganized and the 2005 budget was in preparation. But the pavilion's tiny "tenants" were in flight and would soon return to start their families.

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The crumbling barn and pavilion structure were replaced just in time to host the swallows for another year.



As the contract documents were nearing completion, we were running out of time. The bidding process required three weeks, the bid review period took several days, and the contract award to the low bidder by the governing body would require a resolution and a public meeting. This all occurred by the end of March. The contractor now had 30 days to complete the pavilion; the contract was very specific with respect to liquidated damages for not meeting completion dates. The weather had to cooperate and teamwork was important.

The architect had prepared a thorough and complete set of drawings and specifications (there were no change orders

on this public works project). The contractor, Ferraro Construction of Franklin, worked long days, and built the nine long span trusses in their shop while the field crew completed demolition and prepared the site. Inspections by the borough's code officials were conducted in a timely manner.

The project was substantially completed by May 1st! The Barn Swallows arrived on time, in fact one pair showed up a day early.

The borough now has its new outdoor pavilion, recreational space for the summer months, with at least six pair of mating swallows in residence...and all because everyone worked together. ▲

