



2011 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2012

Award Promotes Excellence in Development

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the seventh annual Community Improvement Awards.

The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee have jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. Sponsor for the awards is Kish Bank. Award categories include: Commercial, Residential, Special Merit, Revitalization and Public/Non-Profit.

Community Improvement Awards are based on both the visual and the environmental impact of the project. Nominations will be judged on how the project:

- Enhances the attractiveness of Huntingdon County;
- Is compatible with the site area and environment;
- Shows creativity/innovation in design and use of materials;
- Enhances the quality of life, including job creation; and
- Exhibits the principle of sustainability.

Commercial Award

AVALON OF SHADE MOUNTAIN

Thomas and Linda McMath began restoring a vacant stone farmhouse 14 years ago. The restored building is now used as a bed and breakfast. The McMath's began restoration of the Shade Valley farmhouse to become eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Restoration work included replacement of windows and doors with period reproductions; replacement of floors with locally grown yellow pine; trim repair or replacement; new plaster; re-pointing of entire exterior; and installation of a water-to-water geothermal heating system with fireplaces to serve as supplemental heat.





Before and after views along Allegheny Street in Huntingdon Borough.

Public/Non-Profit Award **JUNIATA RIVER WALK/ALLEGHENY STREET**

Huntingdon Borough is being recognized for their enhancement of historic Allegheny Street. The first phase of the project was from 4th Street to 6th Street and included evaluating existing street alignment and making adjustments; widening the paved area to include on-street parking; new curbs, sidewalks, lighting and landscaping; and new street entrances to the new surface parking area. The second phase was from 2nd Street to 4th Street and included regrading and realignment of existing paving; replacement of existing curbs and sidewalks; addition of curbs, sidewalks and landscaped islands in areas where none existed; installation of period street lighting; relocation of utility poles; and adjustment of storm water and sanitary facilities to comply with new paving, grading and slopes.

Residential Award **SHIRLEY HOME ENERGY PROJECT**

The Huntingdon County Commissioners and Shirley Home for the Aged, Inc. are being given the Residential Award for their investment in energy saving measures. Energy efficiency improvements included boiler replacement; restroom ERVs; steam heat system rehabilitation and installation of mini-split heating/cooling units. These improvements complement major renovations completed over 17 years including: elevator construction; electrical rewiring of entire structure; replacement of lighting fixtures; installation of a 40 year shingle roof; dining room addition and sand mound construction.



Special Merit Award
EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD MACHINE SHOP RESTORATION

The Special Merit Award for 2011 is presented to the Friends of the East Broad Top Railroad, Inc. (FEBT) for the preservation and restoration of the Machine Shop complex at Rockhill. This complex includes the Boiler House, the Coal Bin, the Generator Room, and the Machine Shop proper. The Friends prepared a work plan for the stabilization and partial restoration of the shops after they fell into poor condition. The FEBT was also responsible for executing the repair plans. FEBT volunteers from around the United States began restoration work in 2003 and completed the project in 2011.



Community Spirit Award HUNTINGDON COUNTY MOBILE CREW

Huntingdon Career Link created the Mobile Crew several years ago. The Crew worked with local government and non-profit organizations to complete projects enhancing the beauty and attractiveness of Huntingdon County. Organizations that benefited from this program included the Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon House, J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital, Shirley Home for the Aged, Lincoln Caverns, Inc., Mapleton and Mill Creek Fire Companies, Mapleton Historical Society and 4-H.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- ⇒ Create walkable neighborhoods.
- ⇒ Direct development toward existing communities.
- ⇒ Create housing choices.
- ⇒ Provide transportation choices.
- ⇒ Encourage a mixture of land uses.
- ⇒ Preserve open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.