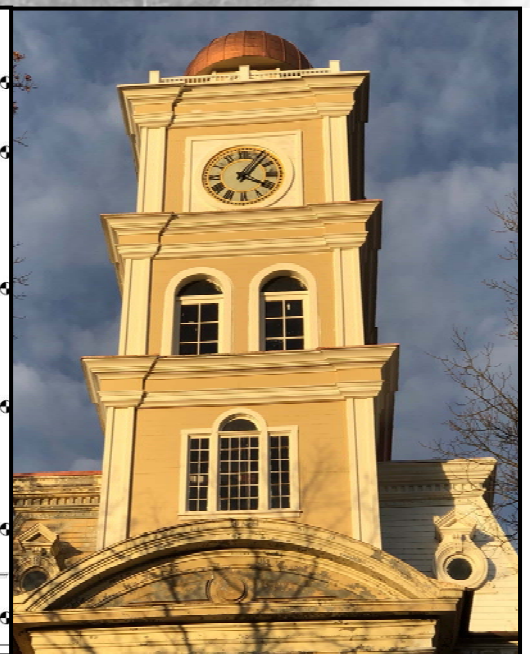
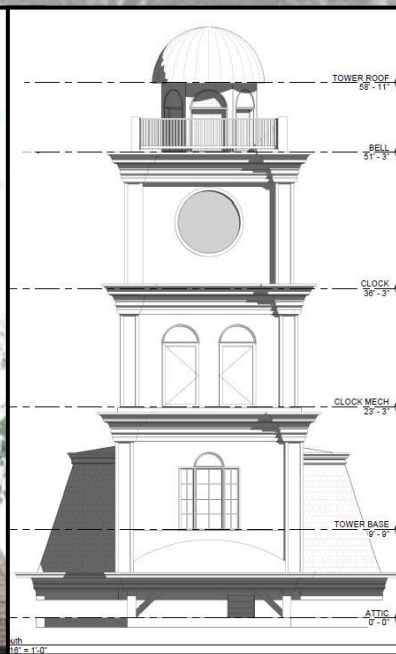


2017 Annual Report



ALLEGHENIES
AHEAD



Huntingdon County Planning Commission

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County; one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small-town atmosphere, protection of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access, and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

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SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes: Building and Subdivision Activity, Deed Transfers, Municipal Contacts, Municipal Land Use Ordinances, and Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics.

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

The number of new subdivision lots recorded indicates the level of land development occurring within the County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services.

Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced on page 2.

During 2017, 87 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 7.4% from the 81 lots recorded in 2016.

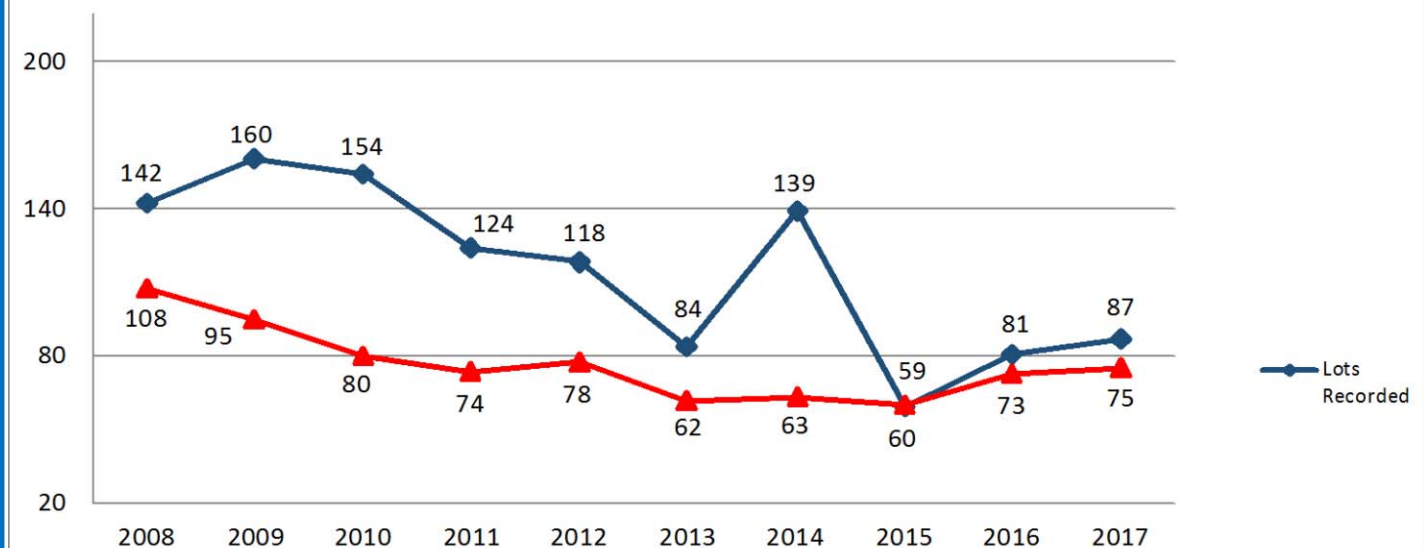
The chart on this page illustrates a ten-year history of new lot activity and subdivision and land development reviews, while the map illustrates the intensity of development in each municipality.

In 2017, the municipalities with the highest levels of recorded lots were:

- Juniata Township, 9 new lots;
- Jackson Township, 8 new lots;
- Clay, Cromwell, and Shirley Townships, 7 new lots each; and
- Porter Township, 5 new lots.



Comparison of Lots Recorded vs. Plans Reviewed 2008 - 2017



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Section 502 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with *Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act*.

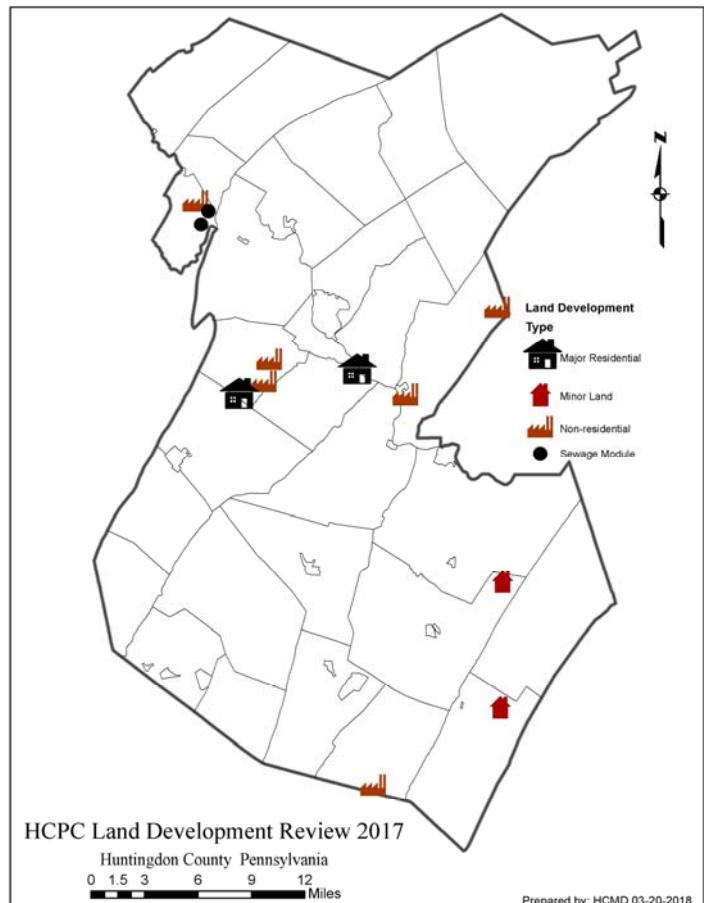
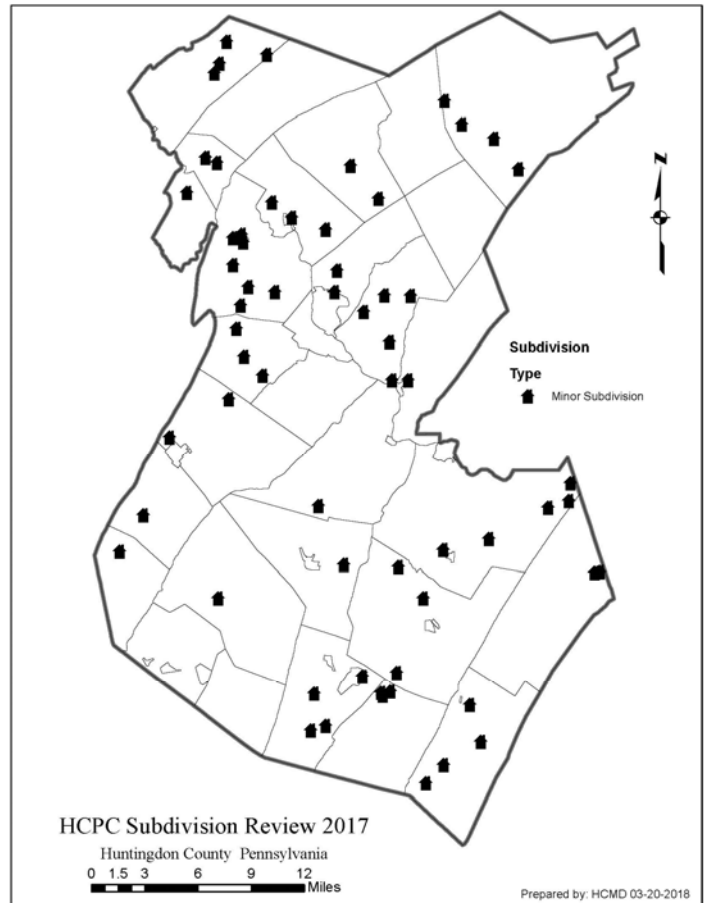
The Planning Commission reviewed a total of 75 subdivisions, land developments and sewage modules in 26 municipalities during 2017, up by 2 since the 73 reviewed during 2016. These reviews included: 2 major residential land development; 6 non-residential land developments, including 1 sketch plan; 63 minor subdivisions; 2 minor land developments; and 2 sewage facilities planning modules. These reviews encompass a total of 63 lots and 1,932.02 acres. The maps on this page illustrate the distribution of these proposals.

The two major residential land developments reviewed in 2017 were:

- Reed Campground Revision, Walker Township - expansion from 35 to 60 RV sites on 32.5 acres; and
- Riverbank Campground, Juniata Township - 48 campsites, including 28 RV sites and 20 tent sites, on 4.733 acres.

The six non-residential land developments reviewed were:

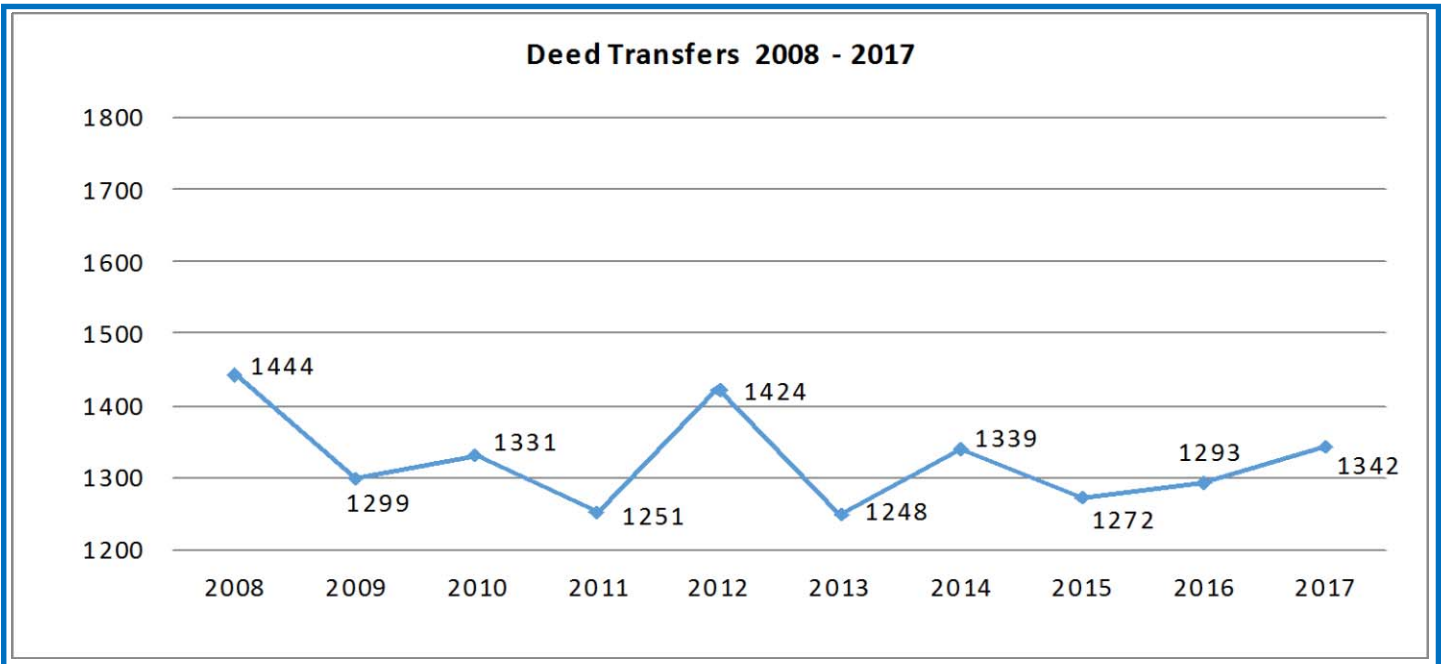
- David W. and Carrie L. Anderson (Sketch Plan), Springfield Township, 88.3 acres, construction of a 40,831.5 square foot hog barn;
- Community Chapel of Hesston, Walker Township, 22.5 acres, construction of a 44,655 square foot church, regrading and paving of Orchard Road, new driveway entrance, two bio-retention basins and stormwater collection system;
- Huntingdon Regional Fire & Rescue, Walker Township, 5.32 acres, construction of a 3,634 square foot building addition;
- Greenland's Lodge Banquet Facility, Morris Township, 2.151 acres, conversion of an existing building into a banquet hall with associated parking and stormwater facilities;
- Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center, Brady Township, 33.7 acres, installation of a 1,624 square foot prefabricated building; and
- Kauffman Poultry Operation, Brady Township, 60 acres, construction of a 16,800 square foot poultry building.



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well-being of the County. The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2017, both existing and new, showed a 3.8% increase from 1,293 in 2016 to 1,342 in 2017.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

For 2017, the Department used electrical permits reported by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (VREC), and new addresses issued by the County Mapping Department to estimate new permanent and seasonal housing within Huntingdon County.

Valley Rural Electric issued a total of 65 electrical permits in 19 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing, while the Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 105 addresses in 32 municipalities for seasonal and year round housing.

The table to the right illustrates the highest concentrations of new addresses and new electrical permits issued in 2017.

The new-home data from these sources includes conventional, modular, and mobile homes.

Data for building activity in all 48 municipalities is available in the Planning Department.

Municipality	County Addresses	VREC Electrical Permits
Cass Township	3	7
Cassville Borough	0	1
Clay Township	4	0
Cromwell Township	4	3
Dublin Township	3	6
Hopewell Township	4	4
Jackson Township	3	5
Juniata Township	5	7
Logan Township	5	1
Morris Township	5	0
Mount Union Borough	7	0
Penn Township	8	3
Porter Township	5	2
Shirley Township	6	6
Springfield Township	2	3
Tell Township	4	0
Three Springs Borough	0	0
Todd Township	8	3
Union Township	4	3
Walker Township	4	2

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

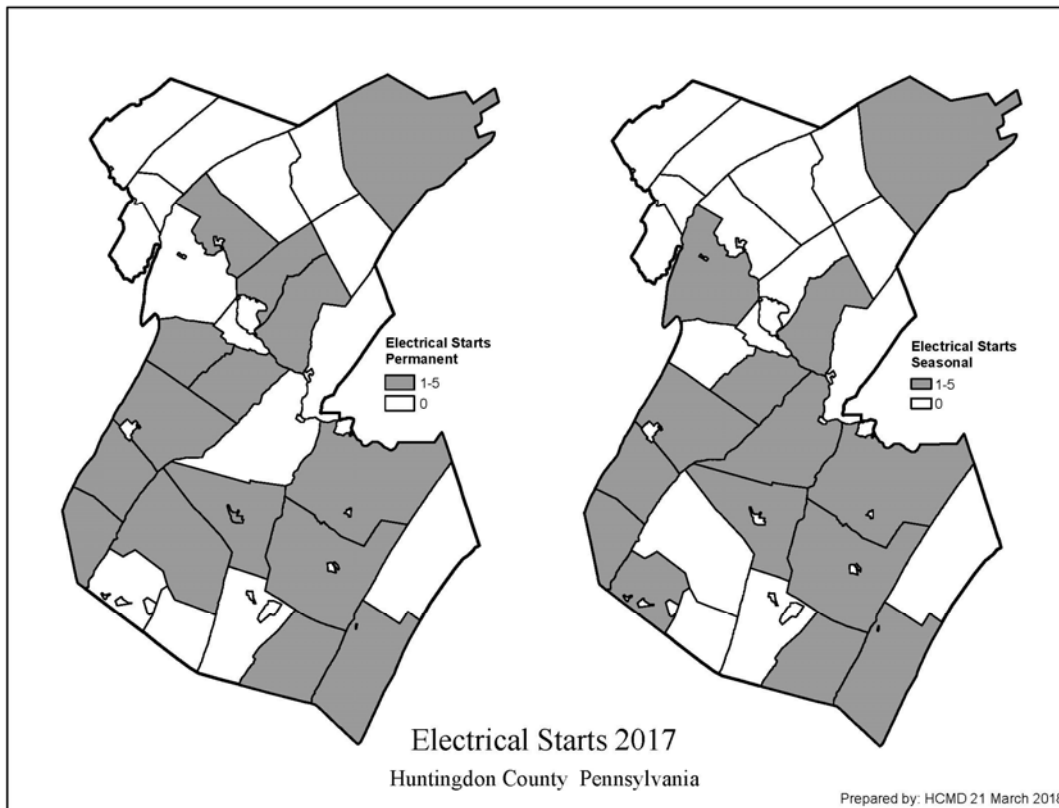
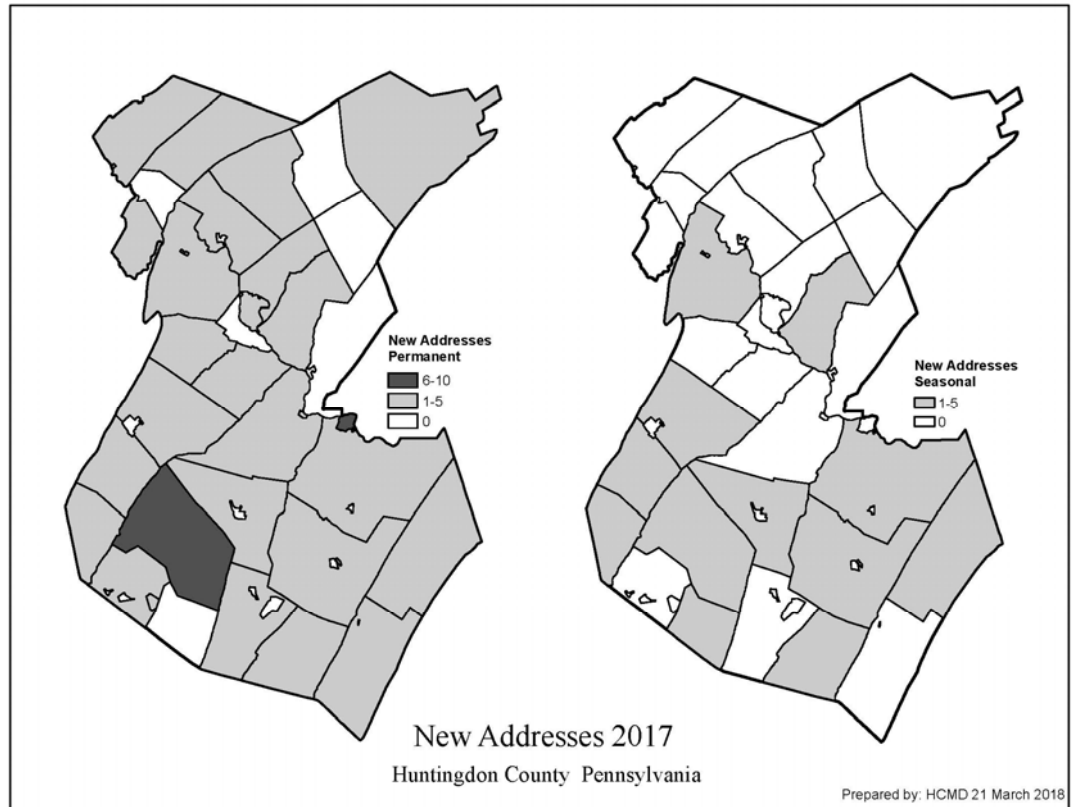
BUILDING ACTIVITY - PERMANENT AND SEASONAL

The Huntingdon County Mapping Department issued a total of 105 new addresses in 2017, 20 for seasonal housing and 85 for permanent housing.

The highest total number of new seasonal addresses (five) were issued in Penn Township, while the highest number of new addresses for permanent housing were issued in Mount Union Borough and Todd Township, with seven each.

The next highest number of new addresses for permanent housing were issued in Juniata, Logan, Morris and Shirley Townships, with five each.

Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (VREC) issued 33 electrical permits for seasonal housing, including 17 conventional homes and 16 mobile homes. With four permits, Shirley Township had the highest number of electrical permits for seasonal conventional housing, while Cass Township had five permits, the highest number of electrical permits for permanent housing.



The most electrical permits, permanent and seasonal combined, were issued in both Cass and Juniata Townships, each with seven.

In Cass Township, five permits were issued for conventional housing and two for seasonal conventional housing. Of the two seasonal permits, one was for conventional housing and one was for a mobile home.

In Juniata Township, one permit was issued for permanent conventional housing, three were issued for seasonal conventional housing, and three for seasonal mobile homes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various State and Federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program as well acting as the Responsibility Entity for Environmental Reviews.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Huntingdon County CDBG implementation focused on three projects in 2017: Mapleton Water Tank, Mapleton Line Looping and Mapleton Sewer Clarifier. All three projects were funded through Competitive CDBG contracts. A pending tax sale of blighted properties in Spruce Creek prompted Department staff to investigate the effect that such a purchase would have since these properties are pending demolition using CDBG Entitlement funding.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Blair Field Parking Facility

Per an Administrative Agreement between Huntingdon County and Huntingdon Borough to assist with the Borough's pre-2015 CDBG funds as related to the Blair Field Parking Facility Improvement Activity, extensive multi-year budget revisions were completed and approved by DCED in March 2017 allowing the Borough to utilize expiring CDBG entitlement funds on this activity.

The problems addressed with this improvement were uneven parking surfaces with pockets of low- and high elevation and excessive stormwater ponding due to the stormwater either not reaching the stormwater inlets or inlets being higher than the surrounding area. Additional subgrade drains to address a less pervious subgrade were added as well as the relocation of subgrade drains to accommodate the location of unknown sanitary sewer facilities.

Through the use of a force labor account, Borough employees worked diligently, under the supervision of Borough Manager, Bill Wheeler, to remove the patchwork of existing pavement, install new storm drains throughout the parking lot, and install a permeable GeoCell grid system backfilled with compacted stone.

On November 1, 2017, Senior Project Engineer, Anthony W. Miller, Stiffler McGraw Architects, LLC., issued a Letter of Completeness to DCED.

Apart from this project, the Borough will be installing parking edge devices next spring to optimize use of the parking spaces.

Blair Field Archaeological Dig



Stormwater Draining down Bearcat Alley



Completed Project November 1, 2017



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

ONGOING REHABILITATION OF THE MAPLETON AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

With Competitive CDBG funds totaling \$375,224, the Mapleton Area Joint Municipal Authority (MAJMA) completed a PA DEP mandated rehabilitation project to its wastewater treatment plant in October 2015 on schedule and under budget at \$233,539.65. The scope of the rehabilitation project included the replacement of one existing UV unit with two UV trough systems; replacement of antiquated comminutors with a fine screen system; and the upgrade of two pump stations with the installation of higher capacity impellers and auto dialers.

Even though the newly installed UV trough systems did, indeed, eliminate the bacteria and the fine screen system greatly improved plant operations, solids were still rising to the tops of the tanks and floating through the system, out the discharge pipe and making the “pile” that, in part, was causing the violations with PA DEP. According to the plant operator, Bruce Richards, and the PA Rural Water Association, it is believed that the fine screen system will stop this problem in the long run, by removing solids before they enter the plant. However, the problem still exists because of “rags” that join together and sink to the bottom of the tanks. As the sludge de-nitrifies, pieces of the solids sporadically rise to the top and slip out of the plant. If the tanks are not manually emptied and cleaned, including removal of a several foot thick layer of solids from



the bottom, this gradual release of solids will continue. The tank emptying work needs to be done in order to eliminate the problem of the solids leaving the plant, and is also needed to determine if the plant is operating correctly now that the fine screens have been installed.

In order for the project to be a complete success and benefit to the Mapleton community, it was decided to consult with Ed Gillette of Environmental Engineering & Management Associates, Inc. (EEMA). His September 2016 report verified:

“the existing cone bottom clarifiers are inappropriate for nitrified sludge. Because of the angles at the bottom of each clarifier, the sludge does not flow to the center withdrawal point. This, along with long clarifier detention times, allows the active bacteria to denitrify the sludge causing it to float to the surface. To remedy this problem, two circular, mechanically cleaned clarifiers are proposed.”

Due to funding limitations, two circular, mechanically cleaned clarifiers were not feasible. On

November 3, 2016, EEMA provided a letter concluding that due to current plant flow one circular clarifier would be adequate to remain within the PA DEP permit guidelines, and that the second circular clarifier could be installed as funding permits within the next five years. Utilizing their own funding, the Authority voted to move forward with the EEMA design plan.

With a total project cost of \$445,700, the Authority was able to secure mixed PENNVEST funding in

July 2017 to be used in conjunction with the remaining \$101,684.35 in Competitive CDBG funds. With EEMA leading the project, competitive bids were sought and Hickes Associates, Inc. was selected as contractor for this project. Construction started in mid-November 2017 with a completion date slated for March 15, 2018.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

MAPLETON WATER TANK AND LINE LOOPING

Though many enjoy the allure that winter brings with holiday gatherings, cuddling by the fire, playing in the snow with children or grandchildren, the Mapleton Municipal Water Authority has not been as anticipatory of the season as others. Serving approximately 234 customers, the system's primary water supply source is Scrub Run with filtration provided via a slow sand filtration system. Water storage consists of a 150,000 gallon bolted glass-lined storage tank constructed in the early 1990's. The tank sets the hydraulic gradient of the distribution system and permits gravity flow



throughout the system.

Over the last seven years or so, the tank has increasingly begun to deteriorate. The manufacturer of the tank repaired leaks twice in 2011 and again in September of 2014.

Though the amount of water loss is hard to capture, during the freezing winter months, spraying leaks from a minute hole produce eye catching ice sculptures. The



The water plant operator wedges sticks in the leaking seams and holes in hopes of maintaining pressure and preventing water from leaking. This only lasts, however, until pressure in the tank increases and pushes water out. The ice formations and temporary fixes demonstrate the surmounting need for a permanent solution to this costly problem affecting

both the area's natural and financial resources.



Bids for the purchase and installation of a new 0.15 MG capacity bolted glass-lined



steel water storage tank and all associated site work were opened on June 28, 2017. The contract was awarded to Mid Atlantic Storage Systems, Inc. Site work began in August 2017 and the project was substantially complete by November 12, 2017.

Along with the deterioration of the tank system, there are dead-end sections of water supply lines on ten streets, including Hill, Ridge, Glendower, Grant, Vine, Main, Gayton, McHugh, Callowhill and Campbell. With no blow-off valves or hydrants to flush these dead-end lines, stagnant water builds up and chlorine residual levels drop below DEP standards allowing the growth of bacteria and bio-film on the inside of the pipes. These lines impact at least 45 houses with chronically unhealthy, dirty, foul



smelling and tasting water that stains laundry and house fixtures and impacts the resale value of housing.

The water looping portion of the project is anticipated to begin in Spring 2018. The project has been funded through a portion of the County's 2014 CDBG Entitlement grant of \$81,296, a 2014 CDBG Competitive Grant of \$556,000, a PA DEP PES (Professional Engineering Assistance) grant of \$17,000, and funding from the Mapleton Water Authority.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

THE HOME STORY: CHAPTER 2

If any one project could epitomize the virtue of overcoming adversity, then it would be the HOME Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Project in Broad Top City. In June 2014, Huntingdon County received a \$350,000 HOME Investment Partnership Program grant for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation of 12 homes in Broad Top City to utilize in conjunction with a USDA \$23,000 Housing Preservation Grant. While HOME funds are from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), applications are made through the



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Pennsylvania Department of
Community and Economic
Development (DCED).

The project started in 2014 with Weatherization, Inc. looking for qualified low- and moderate-income applicants. When Weatherization terminated the administrative agreement with the County in March 2016 due to an inability to fulfill the requirements of the agreement, the county had an important decision to make: look at another entity to assist with administering the program or turn the grant back to DCED. Because the need had not changed since the grant was requested, the Planning Commission and County Commissioners did not feel that turning the money back was an option. Thus, the project would move on under different organization and administration.

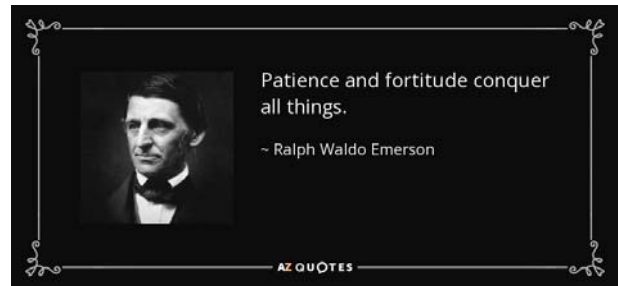


First, the county needed to hire an additional staff person to help with the new administrative burden of

the grant. A new Planner I, Iona Conner, was hired to help with the project. Second, a professional rehab inspector needed to be solicited under a fee-for-service contract. Unfortunately, the first housing rehab inspector backed out of the project after realizing he did not want to drive to remote Broad Top City from his home in St. Marys. Another RFP was conducted, and the county eventually entered into a contract with SEDA-COG, who had a full staff with years of experience. This decision proved to be a great one, as SEDA-COG offered more assistance than was outlined in the contract at no additional cost for simple things such as answering detailed questions about the program. Third, the county needed to solicit for a contract with a professional environmental inspector to meet the new and changing HUD requirements. Previously, environmental inspections such as asbestos and mold were not part of the HOME Program, but were now instituted under all current grant contracts. The county contracted with Michael Baker, International, after some negotiations to reduce their per-home fee. The environmental inspector, Gary Case, brought a wealth of experience to the project.



Although the county now had a full team on-hand to deliver the project, that was not the end of the challenges. Building off of the work done in 2016, 2017 brought more adversity.



In February 2017, a HOME kick-off meeting was held with SEDA-COG, Michael Baker Int., Broad Top City Borough Council members and home owners. After the initial meeting, preparation for construction began with preliminary inspections to develop a scope of work for each home. Adversity struck again, as the county team found out that the PA Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), at the direction of Governor Wolf, required that housing rehab contractors must pay prevailing wage rates for any construction work exceeding \$25,000 done on a house. This proved to be a hardship to a lot of contractors, who chose not to submit their names to become a qualified HOME Rehab Contractor. The limited number of contractors to bid on homes, plus the new environmental

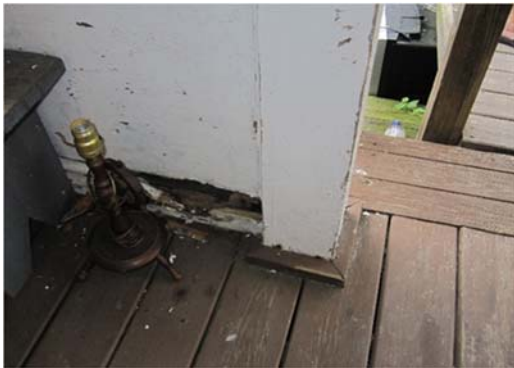
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

THE HOME STORY: CHAPTER 2 (continued)

requirements and payment of prevailing wage rates, would, on average, double the cost per home that the county had originally anticipated. On top of this, tragedy struck, as two applicants died before work could begin on their homes.

During 2017, six homes were completely rehabilitated and brought up to code. The initial goal of 12 homes was not possible due to the unforeseen increases in wage rates and needed improvements that significantly increased the cost per house. The 7th and final house is under construction as of the time of this report. While it took a while to get this project moving, the County strove to have as much impact as possible by the April 2018 deadline.

The photos below are an example of the Deanna Jones home, which was the first project completed. A requirement of the HOME Program is that the entire house be brought up to code, but, in some circumstances, the project would go beyond that minimum. The project illustrated below involved a lot of interior work to bring the house up to code, but the most substantial visual impact is the new ADA accessible ramp that replaced the unsafe ramp on the front of the house. Since Mrs. Jones must use either a walker or a wheelchair, accessibility accommodations were paramount to the project. This is a perfect example of how this project met the needs of residents and made houses more user-friendly. When given a choice, the rehab specialist allowed homeowners to pick material types.



Left: Visible signs of wood rot on the front porch, which required a complete replacement to be safe.

Right: Contractor, Brian Bower, in the process of building the new ramp on the front of the home



Left: Original deteriorating ramp off the front of the house.

Right: The finished product: the new ramp that was installed on the front of the house, including grab bars on either side.



Left: A **BEFORE** picture of the front of the house prior to any work taking place.

Right: An **AFTER** picture of the house after the ramp, new front porch, and windows were installed.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS		
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2013 - Broad Top City Borough Housing Rehabilitation	\$350,000
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2014 - Entitlement CDBG	\$84,913
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Mapleton Area Sewer Plant Rehabilitation	\$375,224
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2013 - Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water & Sewer	\$750,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2014 - Mapleton Water System Improvements	\$556,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2014 - Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water and Wastewater System Improvements	\$750,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2016 - Huntingdon County Courthouse Tower Phase II	\$70,850
Housing Preservation Grant	2016 - Broad Top City Borough Housing Rehabilitation	\$23,000

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS			
Activity	2014	2015	2016
Smithfield Township Mt. Vernon Avenue Stormwater	\$12,740	\$67,310	\$70,716
Smithfield Township Levee Rehabilitation**	57,173	2,238	0
Mapleton Water Line Looping*	81,296	\$0	0
Petersburg Spot Blight	45,000	\$0	0
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue Water Sewer Relocation	38,000	\$0	0
County Courthouse Accessibility**	26,000	\$0	0
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation	0	47,044	0
Huntingdon Borough Curb Cuts	0	40,000	0
Huntingdon Borough Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	0	0	63,000
Spruce Creek & Countywide Blight	0	25,552	0
Wood-Broad Top Wells Water/Sewer*	0	76,000	0
Mapleton Reservoir Upgrades	0	47,000	0
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue	0	40,000	0
Mapleton Sidewalk Replacement	0	0	50,000
Birmingham Water Line Replacement	0	0	137,811
Total Budgeted	\$260,209	\$345,144	\$321,527
* activity underway ** activity complete			
Activity	2017	2018	2019
Shirley Home Walk In Cooler/Freezer Combo	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
Todd Township Municipal Building ADA Accessibility Upgrades	50,000	0	0
Shade Gap Community Building Upgrade	84,000	0	0
Minor Home Rehabilitation (Countywide)	22,035	0	0
Huntingdon Borough Sidewalk Rehabilitation (Homeowner Occupied)	62,688	40,000	40,000
Huntingdon Borough Habitat for Humanity Demolition and Clearance	25,000	40,000	40,000
Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Storm Sewer System, Phase 2	69,896	65,000	65,000
Three Springs Reservoir Improvements	0	150,000	0
Shade Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	0	36,035	0
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - Hill Valley Sewer Improvement	0	0	87,000
Mount Union Area Municipal Authority - W. Water ST Waterline Replacement	0	0	60,000
Total Budgeted	\$343,619	\$331,035	\$292,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) defines Economic Development as creat[ing] conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services. Economic Development requires effective, collaborative institutions focused on advancing mutual gain for the public and the private sector. Economic Development is essential to ensuring our economic future. The role of the Department is to positively influence economic development policy and promote professional communication among members of key partners.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS (PEP)

The County Commissioners established the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) in 2000. This group has been meeting bi-monthly over the past few years with the vision of “improv[ing] the economic health and the quality of life of Huntingdon County residents by fostering and enhancing community education and innovation, agency communication and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the county.”

To implement this vision, the group participated in a few different strategic planning exercises since its inception to establish strategic priorities. Starting in 2014, the focus on updating the group’s Strategic Plan was spearheaded by the primary professional staffing, County Planning Director, Mark Colussy, who led the group into the strategic planning process by pointing out that the outdated strategic priorities needed to be updated.

Over a span of several meetings, new strategic priorities were developed and adopted, along with three goals to accomplish each priority. In order to make the plan easier to implement, the priorities were cross-referenced to the 2016 SAPDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Each associated CEDS objective is shown in brackets after the PEP goal.

Supply Chain: Support Existing Businesses by Promoting Crossover Businesses

- a. Assist the State Correctional Institutes with Locally Supplied Services [none]
- b. Identify Existing Businesses Supplied Goods/Services to Target Locally Sourced Businesses [1.A (partial); 4.B.2]
- c. Promote Full Range of Agricultural Products, such as Value-Added, Farm-to-Table, and Agritourism [4.A; 4.B]

Business Development: Assist Businesses by Providing a Host of Services

- a. Explore, Develop and Offer a Host of Capital Available for Entrepreneurs and Expanding Businesses [1.B.2]

- b. Explore, Develop and Offer Tax Incentives for Businesses (KOZ, LERTA, etc.) [1.A.4(partial)]
- c. Promote the Development of Professional and Family Housing [3.D.1]

Infrastructure: Promote 21st Century Infrastructure Provided to Businesses

- a. Work with Telecommunications Companies to Expand Cell Phone and High Speed Internet Services [2.A]
- b. Lobby for Roadway Improvements [2.B]
- c. Reactivate, Promote, and Utilize Rail Service for Distribution of Goods to Market [none]

Workforce Development: Attract, Retain, and Educate the Workforce

- a. Work with Educational Institutes to Provide Degrees and Credentialing in Areas of Businesses’ Needs [3.E.1]
- b. Analyze Desires of Youth to Provide a Desirable Place to Live, Work, and Play [3.A; 3.B]
- c. Develop a High School Graduates Network to Promote Area to Alumni [3.C]

Marketing: Market the County to Employers, Investors, and Employees

- a. Develop and Utilize Targeted Marketing Campaigns for Business Developers, Future Workforce, Visitors, and Local Residents [3.A(partial)]
- b. Improve the Image and Identity of the Community in the Local and Regional Media [1.C(partial)]
- c. Market Properties and Buildings Available for Business Development [1.B.3(partial)]

The next step was to identify stakeholders to help implement each goal. It was anticipated that this be completed with the assistance of an appointed chairperson for each goal. Each chairperson would then call meetings as needed to implement their goal, and would provide progress reports at future PEP meetings. This strategy had previously been utilized with the inception of PEP in 2000, and revived to bring a renewed sense of urgency to complete goals. The PEP members agreed that it would be best to identify big issues that required multiple stakeholders working together to implement, rather than selecting goals that are much

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

smaller and easier to accomplish. A question debated at a few meetings centered around: “If PEP members do not work together on the large and hard issues, then who will?” The PEP members felt strongly that, if collaboration could be done, namely through efforts of the Strategic Alliance for Economic Growth and other ad-hoc committees, then the goals are realistic and not too large to accomplish.

PEP MARKETING

One committee of the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) is the Marketing Committee. Over the past three years, the Marketing Committee had conducted “listening sessions” in 10 of 11 planning regions of the county. Based off of feedback gained from the listening sessions, three separate branding strategies were developed. The committee decided that the next steps would be to use the branding strategy to develop a useful media kit that includes key data, branding themes, and marketing ideas for various non-profits, businesses, and other key stakeholders to use when marketing themselves in parallel to the county’s efforts.



The committee’s first project was to work with CGI Communications to create branding videos based on the branding strategies already developed. The county had previously worked with CGI Communications in 2012 to develop the following videos: Welcome, Real Estate & Relocation, Education, Quality of Life, Nonprofits, Tourism & Attractions, Healthcare & Senior Services. The committee decided to use some of the same subjects, but to specifically target different user groups that the county hopes to market itself to: people that either live here or are looking to move into the county, people that either work here now or are looking to work here in the future, people that have fun and recreate here, people that further their education here, and people that want to invest here. By identifying those main user groups, subsequent videos could be used to target them: Welcome, Live

Here, Work Here, Play Here, Grow Here, Learn Here. Each video would specifically highlight the quality of life issues associated with each user group.

The process involved developing scripts for each video, and then having a videographer shoot video of places that represent or highlight features of each target group. The committee expects to wrap up the videos in the Spring of 2018. Afterwards, the committee plans to celebrate the completion of the videos by hosting a viewing party and inviting all those close to the project, the attendees of the listening sessions, CGI staff, as well as the general public. The committee plans to get back to work on the media kit development after the videos have been uploaded to the County’s webpage and partner’s webpages.

ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

When the Juniata River Blueprint Communities (JRBC) project was established in Mapleton, Mount Union, and Shirley Township, there were several projects that were identified when the five year strategy was developed. Since there was such an emphasis on reinvigorating the local economy by the attendees of several public meetings, a logical project was identified to assist in new business start-ups.

While the original Entrepreneurial Communities concept had already been established by Bill Shuffstall, of the Penn State University Extension office and the community coach given to the JRBC group, the project never fully realized what this would mean for the communities. Considering that economies do not work on the local level, the Entrepreneurial Communities project was better suited for a countywide effort. One of the major tenets of the program was to establish a group of already established entrepreneurs to provide feedback on what services, opportunities, and assistance are and are not available to a new business. Having a pool of entrepreneurs from across the County meant that the group could be filled with big to small employers, very successful to brand new business owners, and mature to fledgling business representation. By establishing a baseline of what is and is not available from multiple perspectives, the community could establish whether or not it was entrepreneurial-friendly.

By working through a program already developed by the PSU Extension Office, the baseline data provided by the entrepreneur group could be compared to other communities that are widely regarded as “Entrepreneurial Communities”, or communities that were very friendly to new business start-ups. Working with Huntingdon County Business & Industry (HCBI), Mark Colussy and former Director Amy Wise had formed the business heavy group and hosted a meeting with Bill Shuffstall to introduce the idea of the Entrepreneurial Communities program and to start the initial data dive.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

A few months passed, and HCBI was without a director for several months.

Colussy tried to resurrect the program by seeking a new partner, Terry Anderson at the Juniata College Sill Business Incubator. Shortly after Mark and Terry developed a plan to re-engage the entrepreneurs, HCBI hired Bob Reitman as the new director. Reitman was swiftly brought up to speed on the new program, and he quickly established himself as a key contributor in re-establishing the Entrepreneurial Communities program. However, the winds of change continued to touch the project. Bill Shuffstall retired from PSU Extension, and was not replaced. Since the Planning and Development Department already had a working relationship with Judy Chambers, an employee of a different PSU Extension Office, Colussy reached out to her to see if she would be interested in picking up the project. She admitted to not being well versed in the project, but was willing to do whatever was needed to help facilitate the project, since she had already helped Mount Union and Huntingdon Boroughs with new strategic plans and was familiar with the county.

Anderson reached out to Don Macke of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, based in Oklahoma, who had provided Shuffstall with some development of the Pennsylvania version of the Entrepreneurial Communities program. After setting up a conference call between Anderson, Reitman, Colussy, Chambers and Macke, a plan of action was developed by which Anderson, Reitman and Colussy would work together with local entrepreneurs to gather some data. Chambers would facilitate some meetings and workshops, and Macke would do some deeper economic data analysis for the area. PSU Extension and the Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship sent a formal proposal, funding for which is still being contemplated. Once fully funded, the program will start sometime in 2018.

SENATE BLIGHT HEARING

On September 6, 2017 Senator Eichelberger hosted a PA Senate Hearing on Blight in his district. He invited several people from his District to speak about the effects of blight on their respective communities and effective solutions to the problem. Planning Director Mark Colussy was asked to testify about the effects in Huntingdon County. Colussy was afforded the opportunity to invite someone else from Huntingdon County to speak. Since Colussy had been working closely with Dwight Rittenhouse of Mount Union, he invited



Rittenhouse to speak about issues he has seen in his own business while trying to renovate buildings in Mount Union and how the Federal Housing Units effect the market rate of housing throughout the community. Rittenhouse had successfully restored, renovated, and built several houses in Mount Union, and had plenty of knowledge as to the direct impact of blight in his community.

Colussy, when given the chance to testify, spoke about the true essence of the problem. He proposed that blight was not a problem that needed treated, but it was merely a symptom of a greater problem - the lack of disposable income by citizens to invest in their homes. Colussy presented the region's unique approach to the comprehensive plan update, which identified blight as one of the Plan priorities. Colussy commented that housing choices for various income brackets, workforce training, business development resources, high speed internet and cell phone coverage, recreational and cultural amenities, all priorities identified in the comprehensive plan update, contribute to a better workforce in which more jobs that allow for more disposable income help pay for home repairs that stymie blight in the first place. Colussy relishes opportunities to discuss the six-county comprehensive plan update.

BUSINESS IN FOCUS, by *Bob Reitman*

Business in Focus magazine offered Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCBI) Executive Director Bob Reitman a chance to show the possibilities for business in Huntingdon County in their magazine, and have Nate Hendley, a writer from the magazine write the article, which appeared in their November 2017 issue. Since one of the best qualities of Huntingdon County today is the way the leaders of the county work together, it was natural to suggest that a big part of the article could be an unscripted, unrehearsed interview with some of the county's leadership in a conversational setting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont...)

The interview took place with Huntingdon County Planning Director Mark Colussy, Executive Director of the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau Matt Price, the Director of the Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (JCEL), and Bob Reitman sitting down together, and the interviewer asking about the business and economic development climate in Huntingdon County. The resulting article told Huntingdon

hiking trails, abundant hunting, fishing, hiking, and mountain biking, were mentioned, as well as the fact that U.S. Presidents have often fished in Huntingdon County. Reitman



is quoted in the article, noting that “Dwight Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter would take their helicopters and land right at Spruce Creek, from Washington DC to fish. Residents knew when they came because they heard their helicopters flying over.”

Price noted that “Bicycling Magazine has ranked Huntingdon in the top five biking areas in all of America. A mountain bike festival called Dirt Rag Dirt Fest alone attracts about 3,000 mountain bikers from across the country and overseas.”

Anderson noted that “Juniata is kind of unique. What most colleges call majors, we call programs of emphasis (POE). We have over eighty POEs. Students can create an individualized POE in the subject area that really interests them.”

Colussy continued, saying “We have a high quality of life. It’s a great place to live. It’s safe. We have good, active, community-involved schools. It’s a good place to raise a family. You’re seeing a lot of people move back here to retire.”

When asked what the future held for Huntingdon, a question that the group had not discussed directly together before, the group agreed that “people say they like it just how it is. It’s rural. We have great scenic overviews. We have a lot of open spaces. People like our heritage and history. They like our small town feel. We could deal with another 5,000 to 10,000 people, but we don’t see ourselves in the 100,000 range. That would have a major impact on the environment and natural scenic beauty.”

Reitman closed saying that the leaders anticipate “stability in our businesses ... I can see us landing a few more businesses here and there and getting a few more destination places to keep more money in the county. I see us really becoming a jewel of the Northeast.” This effort is just one of the growing number of great team efforts underway in the county.

You can find the article at <http://www.hcbi.com/article/business-focus-magazine-article-huntingdon-county> or request a PDF of the article from staff@hcbi.com.



County’s story well, and revealed a surprising amount of agreement between the participants, even when new questions were asked that none of the group had discussed before. It also provided some stunning images of the county that were contributed by Ed Stoddard, Rick Walker, Juniata College, and JC Blair.

The article focused on the expertise of Juniata College and Penn State University, as well as the Entrepreneurial Communities initiative spearheaded by HCBI, the Juniata Sill Incubator, and the County Planning Department to provide startups/expansions with places, funding, and support to grow through early stages. It also talked about the strength of having the JC Blair Hospital located in the center of the county.

The county’s outstanding scenery, Raystown Lake, the largest inland lake in Pennsylvania, incredible



EDUCATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. The various methods listed below are ways in which department staff fulfill this responsibility.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2017, the Planning and Development Department published the *2016 HCPC Annual Report*.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Department staff continued to maintain the web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Most of the inquiries that the Department received were regarding municipal contacts and ordinances, floodplain data, and grant availability. Most of these requests came from municipal officials, realtors, engineers, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mark Colussy, Planning Director, was invited to speak and interact with attendees of the second Opiate Crisis Town Hall, held at the Career & Technology Center on September 26, 2017. This was off the heels of a drug abuse focus group with Mainstream Counseling and the Juniata Valley Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission to discuss the identification of a priority from comprehensive plan survey results. Colussy spoke about the role of planning in preventing opiate abuse by providing more robust communities with more community events, places to go, and help from more community members, rather than from the treatment side.

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, distributed recycling information at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough's Mayfest, and she presented information at area schools and senior centers.

PMPEI COURSE PLANNING

Mark Colussy is certified in two different courses by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI): The Course in Community Planning and The Course on Subdivision and Land Development Review. Being certified in this training will allow Mark to co-teach either course in the future. Colussy had told all the newer members of the Planning Commission that he would seek training opportunities for them. Colussy had actively sought to find a sponsor for the Course in

Community Planning in 2017, but found that he would have to push that into early 2018. The Course in Community Planning covers five main teaching units: The MPC, planning agencies, comprehensive plan, plan implementation, and an effective planning commission. Colussy will be co-teaching the course with longtime instructor Stan Lembeck.

JUMP START

Mark Colussy was approached by Barb Covert from CareerLink to present to high school seniors for the Jump Start program, which was possible through a Business Education grant. Covert had heard Colussy speak at a PEP meeting about the need to quiz area students regarding what they were looking for in a community and what it would take to keep them in Huntingdon County after graduation. The Jump Start program was the perfect opportunity to do so, since the purpose of the grant was to prepare students for their careers post graduation.



Colussy teamed with HCBI Director, Bob Reitman, to speak to the seniors on August 18th at the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center. Reitman and Colussy alternated asking questions of the seniors aimed at inquiring how many students were planning to move out of the county after graduation. Other questions focused on determining if some future career aspirations were even possible in Huntingdon County. Of the students that could possibly work in Huntingdon County, several students still wanted to move out of the area.

The community had a preconceived notion that the largest factor in driving students out of the County after graduation was the lack of a nightlife. In fact, the lack of a nightlife was a very small factor in student's rationale. Most students' primary driver was related to future career aspirations that would force them to work in other areas.

SCOUT CIVIC DAY

Mark Colussy was part of a renewal of the Boy and Girl Scout Civic Day on September 29, 2017, during which scouts visited county government offices to get a taste of the different offices' functions and services.

EDUCATION (cont...)

County Commissioner Chairman Mark Sather had been in contact with Scout Director Josh Woods to set up something. Former Mapping Director Grant Wills lead the scouts in a mock scenario of a developer wanting to subdivide his land and sell lots.

The tour highlighted all the county departments and their part of the process. The tour led the Scouts to the Recorder of Deeds office to discuss the recording of plans and deed process; to the Prothonotary's office to look into liens; to the Planning and Development Department to discuss the Planning Commission review and municipal approval process; to the Tax Assessment Office to look at assessed values and taxes; to the Treasurer and Tax Claim office to learn about back taxes; and to the Mapping Department to discuss the GIS system and 9-1-1 addressing. There is a possibility that Scout Civic Day could become an annual event.

LEADERSHIP HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Upon graduating from Leadership Huntingdon County, Mark Colussy volunteered to serve on the organization's Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is responsible for all the tasks related to organizing a new class. The monthly meetings allow the Committee to discuss marketing and recruitment efforts for new class members, the course schedule, course speakers, class budgeting, alumni interaction, etc. Colussy also volunteered himself to organize and teach the Municipal Planning and Infrastructure Course and be a tour guide for the scavenger hunt. The last scavenger hunt took the students to the East Broad Top RR in Rockhill to hear Lee Rainey speak about the history of the EBT and the resource extraction history of the area (pictured below).



Leadership Huntingdon County not only provides leadership training to students, it also provides networking opportunities and emphasizes community volunteerism.

HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM

Mark Colussy fielded a call from real estate agent Tim Schrack in early 2017 regarding an intriguing project that the Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) teachers from the Huntingdon Area Middle School were giving to their students. Schrack was fresh off a presentation to the middle school students to discuss land use and zoning designations for properties and the real-estate mantra: *location, location, location*. Schrack mused to himself that Colussy would possibly be a better fit to discuss some of these topics with the students. Fortuitously, Colussy had been looking at reaching out to the school on his own to do land use decision-making presentations to school students.



Colussy had previously had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Neal Fogle, of PSU Extension, regarding a similar program in the Williamsport area. Fogle had stressed the value of engaging the younger demographic so that community planning in the future would be much easier if community members already had a baseline understanding of land use decision-making.

Colussy teamed up with Bob Reitman of HCBI to present to the STEM students. The assigned STEM project given to the students was to design their own key, or man-made island. Colussy and Reitman's task was to challenge students to think about all the infrastructure planning and economic development aspects needed to make a successful island. The students then physically made a model of their engineered and designed islands, and produced a marketing video to entice would-be visitors or residents to their island.

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities and agencies upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning, and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services and various planning studies.

INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Department staff worked directly with the following municipalities in 2017:

Huntingdon Borough

Staff attended meetings with borough staff and the Community Development Committee to discuss CDBG administration.

Juniata Township

Staff met with Township Supervisors to discuss township ordinances.

Mount Union Borough

Staff attended meetings to assist with implementation of the Borough's Strategic Plan and a Zoning Ordinance update.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff provided assistance with Township website updates.

Smithfield Township

Staff attended meetings with township staff and Supervisors to discuss CDBG administration and Act 13.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Since December 1997, Planning Department staff have worked with the Huntingdon County Housing Authority (HCHA) to complete the required Environmental Review Reports (ERRs) needed for modernizations and improvements to the five facilities owned by the HCHA. These ERRs must be complete before the HCHA can receive money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A revised agreement was approved by the County Commissioners in August 2017 and signed by the HCHA in September 2017.

By mid-2017, Iona Conner had completed five ERRs:

- Chestnut Terrace Drainage;
- Greene Street Village Lighting;
- Hartman Village Parking Lot;
- Security Cameras (Taylor Apartments, Hartman Village, Chestnut Terrace, Crawford Apartments) and Computer System Upgrade at the HCHA Federal Drive Office; and
- Taylor Apartment Windows

Under the revised agreement, Melody Mason anticipated completion of ERRs for the following projects by the end of 2017:

- FY 2017 - 2021 Capital Improvement Program for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village and Taylor Apartments;
- Crawford Apartments Kitchen Renovation;
- Crawford Apartments Parking Lots and Landscaping; Site Lighting and Replacement of Boilers and Hot Water Heaters;
- Administration and Management Activities, Procurement of Tools and Equipment, and Maintenance Activities for Chestnut Terrace, Greene Street Village, Hartman Village, Taylor Apartments and Crawford Apartments;
- Taylor Apartments Fire Alarm System Upgrade; and
- Chestnut Terrace Parking Areas Resurfacing and Boiler Replacement

PA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT (PHARE)

In June 2015, Huntingdon County was awarded a \$125,000 PHARE grant to work with the Center for Community Action (CCA) to provide rental and utility options for older adults, low- and moderate income families and people with special housing needs to prevent homelessness.

All funds were expended by June 30, 2017, with 94 households in 17 Huntingdon County zip code areas receiving assistance. Intake data revealed that 98.9% of the participating households had income below 50% of the median area income for the county.

ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

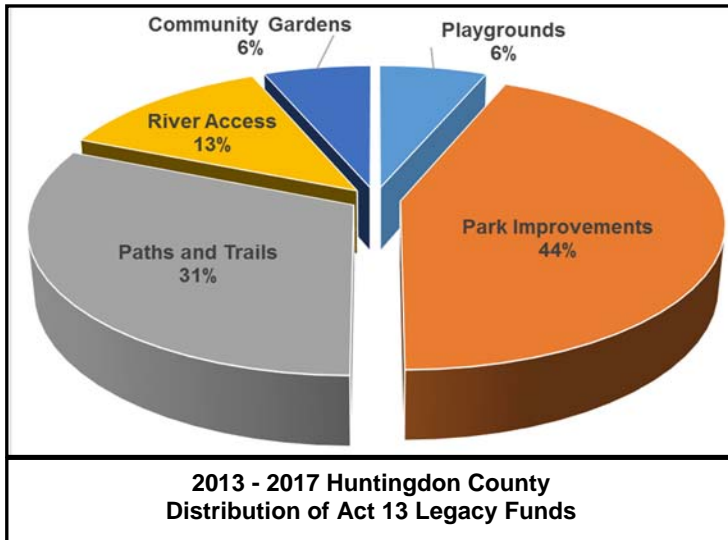
One provision of Act 13 that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)), which allows each county in the commonwealth to receive a share of the Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee based upon county population.

These funds are intended for "the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management. Funds may be used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation purposes and land damaged or prone to drainage by storms or flooding.”

Since September 3, 2013, the County Commissioners have made a total of \$30,000.00 available each year, with a maximum award of \$10,000.00 per project.



The Planning Commission has been appointed to accept and review applications, and make recommendations to the County Commissioners.

In 2017, three applications totaling \$18,350.00 were received and reviewed by the Planning Commission. Recommendations were forwarded to the County Commissioners, who awarded a total of \$19,000.00:

- \$5,500 toward engineering costs to prepare construction drawings for Mount Union Borough's Lower Municipal Park;
- \$10,000 for Phase One of the Blairs Mills Sportsman's Association Renovation Project in Tell Township; and
- \$3,500 for the purchase and installation of security cameras in Walker Township's Woodcock Valley Community Park

Of the \$117,345.53 approved for eligible projects since 2013, a total of \$66,425.72 was spent by the end of 2017 - \$59,834.99 for project costs and \$6,590.73 for program administration.

Projects have been approved in Alexandria, Broad Top City, Cassville, Huntingdon, Mount Union and Shirleysburg Boroughs; and in Morris, Porter, Shirley, Smithfield, Tell and Walker Townships.

LITTLE JUNIATA RIVER FIRM UPDATE

The last Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that were adopted in Huntingdon County occurred in October of 2012. This map update was part of the Map Modernization Project. It is not often that these maps are updated, as Warriors Mark Township learned while trying to fix the error on the maps in the Dry Hollow area. Substantial amounts of hydraulic and hydrologic analysis need to be done to any watershed for FEMA to consider updating the FIRMs. Tyrone Borough, just west of Warriors Mark Township in Blair County, had been on a quest to update the FIRM maps in the borough. Tyrone was able to get the Army Corps of Engineers to assist in the analysis and work needed to submit to FEMA. FEMA reviewed the information and ultimately published draft FIRMs for the entire watershed affecting the borough. That watershed also impacts Warriors Mark Township, Birmingham Borough, Spruce Creek Township, and Morris Township.

JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES (JRBC)

The Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) adopted a Five-Year Strategy based on comprehensive input from several public meetings held throughout the Mapleton, Mount Union, and Shirley Township area. Due to such a wide array of needs and ideas presented, the five-year strategy was bold and wide-reaching. After a few years of getting some initial ground level projects off the ground, the community was anxious to see results. 2017 marked a change in direction for the communities and the JRBC Core Team of facilitators. Visible impact projects was the new name of the game. Mount Union PA Avenue, Mapleton Boat Launch, Mount Union Farmer's Market, and the Regional Tool Shed all gained traction in 2017.

The Mount Union Farmer's Market was widely regarded as a success out of the gate, due to the fact



that the organizers of the very successful Huntingdon Market decided to expand their services and form the

MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

Huntingdon Local Food Association. The new group was geared up to not only take on two markets, but to do educational outreach. JRBC facilitator, Tiffany Crouse of the Center for Community Action (CCA), was instrumental in keeping this project going. Having access to fresh foods locally is extremely important, and the JRBC Core team was proud to be part of getting such a positive project started. These types of projects were highlighted at a public meeting held on February 22, 2017.

2017 was also the year for the JRBC to be re-certified by the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), which required an extensive amount of updates to the 5-year strategy documentation. The FHLB did re-certify the organization, allowing the group to qualify for additional grant applications. The latest grant application was for a project with significant community impact, thus the selection of the Tool Shed. The JRBC group had already laid out some groundwork for this project, but having the dollars to buy tools was necessary. The FHLB grant allowed purchase of the tools, which the JRBC team is looking forward to using in 2018. They are also looking forward to focusing on the start of additional projects in the Five-Year Strategy.

Additional public meetings and input will be a focus for 2018, as well as a re-engagement with stakeholders.

JUNIATA RIVER WATER TRAIL ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS *by Jane Sheffield*

The Huntingdon County boroughs of Mapleton and Mt. Union celebrated a five-year planning and fund development effort, managed by the Allegheny Ridge Corporation in cooperation with borough and county officials, during a groundbreaking at both Riverside Parks in September 2017. The total infrastructure investment, funded through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program, is half a million dollars. The project will enhance access at the Mapleton site by adding a canoe and kayak launch facility and an accessible fishing pier and enhance the water trail by providing a well-equipped trailhead at a key location along the Juniata River. Development will result in



facilities for overnight camping, allowing for multi-day experiences on this Chesapeake Bay tributary. Its location on the long-distance Standing Stone hiking trail will bring through-hikers into contact with the Juniata River and information on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Riverside trails will allow people looking for low-impact recreation and contact with nature to experience viewing access and connect with the watershed. This project will also result in the construction of direct boating access to the Juniata River Water Trail at Mt. Union where there currently is none. This fills an access gap along the water trail. A riverside trail, championed by *Planet LoveJoy*, will provide a connection between their community park and the access area. A canoe and kayak launch and overnight camping sites will also be provided.



Mark Colussy, County Planning Director and Clerk of the Works of the Juniata River Blueprint Communities Initiative, pointed to this effort as important to the group, stating “Water trail access is a high priority based on months of community input and we look forward to accomplishing this and other action items from the Blueprint Communities’ Five-Year Strategy that will make Mapleton, Mount Union, and the entire Juniata River Corridor better for residents and visitors.”

Matt Price, Executive Director of Huntingdon County’s Visitors Bureau, furthered that “Paddle sports have seen a dramatic increase in our area, so having safe access points on



MUNICIPAL AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS (cont...)

the Juniata River is important to those communities, providing access to a beautiful stretch of water that goes through the deepest gorge in Pennsylvania.”

About the Juniata River Water Trail

The Juniata River, designated a National Recreational Trail, was historically used as a major transportation route between the developing colonies east of the Susquehanna River and the unexplored frontier of the Allegheny Plateau and the Ohio Watershed. Today, however, the Juniata is appreciated more so for the abundant recreational opportunities it provides than for the role it played in western expansion. Much of this recreation, however, is directly linked to the original corridors used as early shipping routes.

JUNIATA COLLEGE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Juniata College’s President Jim Troha had instituted a celebration of community partnerships and college success stories since he started his new tenure as president. Troha has been inviting Planning Director Mark Colussy to attend the Campus and Community Conversation luncheon annually.

Troha continues to deliver the message that he wants both he and the college to be good community partners. In turn, Colussy finds it extremely valuable to continue to learn about the efforts ongoing at the college. Juniata College truly is a high quality asset that Colussy cherishes.

JUNIATA TOWNSHIP SALDO

The Huntingdon County Planning Commission has a rich tradition in assisting the county’s municipalities with their land-use related ordinances. Paramount on that list is the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). There are only two of the 30 county’s townships that do not currently have an adopted SALDO: Juniata and Franklin.

Recently, one of Juniata Township’s new supervisors, Greg Stein, approached Mark Colussy and Laurie Nearhood for assistance in helping him and the township organize their ordinances. This opened the door for Colussy to promote the Planning Commission’s model ordinances and ability to assist the Township with the preparation of an ordinance. While Stein and Juniata Township did not completely take Colussy up on his offer, they did consider adopting the Township’s very first SALDO. Stein employed the help of resident Ben Bristol to write an ordinance.

Colussy had met with both Bristol and Stein to discuss moving forward, to which Bristol provided Colussy two versions of the ordinance to review.

While Colussy continued to promote language from the county’s model SALDO for the sake of consistency with other municipal SALDOs, the township insisted on a more scaled back version of a SALDO. Their rationale was that going from nothing to something very large and comprehensive would be a shock to their citizens. Colussy expects to see a third draft of the ordinance in 2018.

MOUNT UNION BOROUGH ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Since Planning and Development Department staff had been intimately involved in the Juniata River Blueprint Communities program in Mount Union, several area residents had the opportunity to interact with Planning Director Mark Colussy and former Grant Administrator Maureen Saffko. Because of this interaction, Colussy developed a relationship with Dwight Rittenhouse, who has been singlehandedly trying to resurrect parts of Mount Union by renovating deteriorating housing stock and building new senior housing units. Rittenhouse had become very familiar with the zoning ordinance, which was developed based on a model that promoted building setbacks that do not meet the character of the existing Mount Union neighborhoods.

Rittenhouse had been working with the new code officer and members of council to consider a revision of the zoning ordinance. Rittenhouse reached out to Colussy to see how this could be done and to obtain procedural guidance. Colussy proposed the idea of eliminating the front setback for certain districts, and replacing it with a build-to line that would be respectful to the majority of the structures on the block of any given parcel. This small tweak could allow dozens of lots to be available for infill development matching the character of the community.

Rittenhouse had continually urged council to promote infill development since all the infrastructure was already built out, as compared to greenfield development outside of town. Additionally, any infill development would increase the tax base that could help pay for other concerns highlighted in the newly adopted Strategic Plan or JRBC Five-Year Strategy. The update to the Zoning ordinance stalled at the end of 2017 with the exodus of a majority of Council members from the Board. Colussy and Rittenhouse are hopeful that the new council will consider this a valuable update in 2018.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally while other activities assist the County Commissioners in non-planning areas.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.

During 2017, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 901 Planning Grant and Household Hazardous Waste Grant, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2017 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon Counties Recycling Program.

The Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon County Drop-Off Recycling Program marketed 1,202.21 tons of recyclables. Huntingdon County Drop Off sites collected 620.07 tons, 51.5% of the total. The Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside Recycling Program collected 357.95 tons.



A major change in the Drop Off Recycling Program occurred in 2017 with the move of the Smithfield Township site from its location behind the Smithfield Township building to a property purchased by the Huntingdon County Fair Board. This site, easily accessible from Fairgrounds Road, is directly across from Business Park South.

In 2017, there were seven recycling drop-off locations in Huntingdon County:

Oneida Township Building;
Stone Valley Community Charter School, Jackson Township;
James Creek Post Office, Marklesburg;
Park's Garbage Service, Shirley Township;
Fairgrounds Road, Smithfield Township;
Porter Township Building; and
Wood Mizer, Shade Gap



The Recycling Coordinator continued to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee. She is also an active member of the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful.

The 2018 Recycling Program includes plans to hold four special electronics recycling events. In 2018, efforts will be underway to obtain funding to retain the seven recycling drop-off locations.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the fall collection resulting in 13,489 pounds or 6.75 tons. In addition, 17,531 pounds or 8.77 tons of office paper was recycled from various county offices.

COUNTY ASSISTANCE (cont...)

COURTHOUSE TOWER PRESERVATION PROJECT: PHASE II

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) provided a fully executed Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Contract in the amount of \$70,850 in October 2016. The Huntingdon County Commissioners matched this amount equally to fund Phase II of the clocktower construction work.

Phase II work included preservation carpentry and painting of the exterior of the entire tower, except for the top, bell level, which was completed in 2016 along with minor interior structural repairs. The color scheme for paint matched that used for the bell level. This scheme was selected in 2016 in consultation with the architect, the Huntingdon County Historical Society and the PHMC.

The contract was awarded to C&D Waterproofing Corp. at their bid price of \$129,110. Although work under this 90-day contract was anticipated to begin in August 2017 and be completed by November 1, 2017, several delays occurred that did not allow completion of the painting before the temperature dropped below the manufacturer's recommended minimum application temperature. A no-cost change order extending the timeframe for completion until May 1, 2018 was approved in December 2017. It is anticipated that the work will be completed before May 2018, if spring temperatures meet the manufacturer's minimum application temperature.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The comprehensive plan has been the cornerstone of American planning theory and practice since the early 1900s. Pennsylvania law requires counties to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan. It contains the basic policies that will guide the future growth and development of the community. The plan is of a general nature, long-range in outlook, and includes all factors affecting growth and development. The comprehensive plan serves three principal functions: 1. It is a statement of goals, a listing of objectives, and a vision of what could be; 2. It is an educational tool, helping everyone who uses it understand the conditions, problems, and opportunities of the community through the provision of factual information; and 3. It serves as a guide to public and private decision-making, thus, shaping the future of the community.

A comprehensive plan by itself is not a solution to all the problems and concerns of a community. The value of a well-prepared plan is derived from the process of preparing the plan and the implementation of the plan after it is prepared. The plan should focus attention on the major issues and concerns of a community and establish a basis for debate, discussion, and conflict resolution. The plan should never be regarded as a finished project, to be completed every ten years or so, but as a community-based planning process.

Continuity Through Conservation II, The Plan is Huntingdon County's blueprint for the future, detailing the vision, goals, objectives, policies and plans for the next twenty years. It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living. The Plan, developed between 1996 and 2015 by a team of consultants and the staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department, is made up of the following documents:

- *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan, 1996*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Part I, Background Studies, 1997*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Background Studies Supplement, 1999*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, Part II, The Plan, 2000*
- *Huntingdon County Intergovernmental Action Plan, 2001*
- *A Comprehensive Economic Analysis for Huntingdon County, 2003*
- *Huntingdon County Natural Heritage Inventory, 2004*
- *Continuity Through Conservation II, 2007 Supplement*
- *Infrastructure Investment Strategy and Water Supply Plan, 2007*
- *Southern Alleghenies Greenways and Open Space Plan, 2007*
- *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan, 2015*

ALLEGHENIES AHEAD

The six counties in the Southern Alleghenies Region, Cambria, Somerset, Blair, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon, all started a multi-county Comprehensive Plan update in 2016. Though the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires each county in Pennsylvania to update their Comprehensive Plan at least every 10 years, six counties have never come together to work on an update.

The Southern Alleghenies region is truly a trail-blazer with regards to this innovative approach. From the very beginning of the project, the planning directors from each county, who meet regularly with the SAPDC staff at Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, sought to not only update the plan data and query the public for their priorities, but to focus on developing an action strategy that is both realistic and visionary, but also fundamentally implementable.

Knowing that this was a big undertaking, the PAC sought and received MAP funds from DCED with the commitment of matching dollars and staff assistance from each county, to seek a planning consulting firm to assist with the plan development. The PAC unanimously chose Charles Buki and Pete Lombardi of czb, LLC. out of Alexandria, VA, and Matt Ingalls of Ingalls Design to assist the counties with the Plan update. Alleghenies Ahead was born!

czb took an aggressive approach to acquiring regional data to immediately analyze some demographic and housing data in the area. It was not long until a project outline was chosen and launched. Each of the six counties formed a steering committee that would meet every six weeks for a little over a year - from December 2016 through March 2018. Each county was tasked with fielding an individual steering committee of committed implementation partners and key stakeholders,



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (cont...)

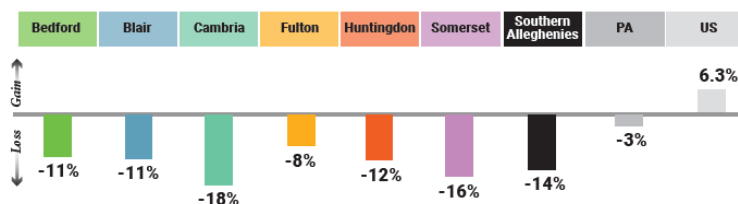
ranging between 12 to 24 people with a balance of familiar and fresh faces, people under and over the age of 40, people that both own or do not own a business, an equal share of males and females, a proportionate mix of the ethnicities in the county, and a few elected and non-elected officials. It was critical that those participating be key stakeholders that would be relied upon to be the driving force in implementing the plan. Various other stakeholders and groups that did not fit in the core steering committee membership were interviewed outside the Steering Committee meetings. Each of the six counties that are part of the Plan update conducted their own independent steering committee meetings starting the first week of December 2016.

The consulting team developed take-home assignments for the Steering Committee members called “Kitchen Table Conversations” for each committee member to discuss critical planning ideas with their friends, families, colleagues, and anyone else they have an opportunity to meet with to gain a more intimate, grassroots-style data collection method. Simultaneously, a public survey was developed and promoted to seek additional feedback and input. More traditional public open houses were held throughout the region at the end of May 2017 to inform the community of the plan update process and to seek initial feedback on the data that had been collected to that point.

While doing research and data collection, the czb team had found a pretty stark reality: the region is approaching a demographic cliff. The median age of residents throughout the region has risen an average of six years over the past 15 years, which means the region is aging much faster than the rest of the nation. Not only that, but the natural population change in the region left 6,500 more deaths than births since 2010. Also, the percent change in the civilian labor force between the age of 25 to 54, largely considered the “workforce” of the population, has decreased anywhere from 8 to 18% in the region (see bar chart).

In order to make an impact on that stark reality, or any issue identified through the Plan update process, a set of core values and planning principals would need to be shaped to move the region forward.

% Change in Civilian Labor Force Aged 25-54 Between 2000 and 2015



Through the process, each one of the six counties had identified the same eight “BIG Issues, Opportunities, and Challenges” that would shape the rest of the planning process (see graphic above).

Once the BIG, or critical issues, were identified, each county sought to prioritize each issue. Since there is such a regional aspect to broadband and cell service, coordination and capacity, and business development concerns, those issues were discussed to be approached regionally. The Steering Committee discussed and vetted the following additional county specific priorities: housing choices and blight remediation, business and workforce development, and recreational and cultural assets and amenities. In order to make this into an implementable plan, each priority had to be made complete by identifying if the outcome would be considered successful if finished, as well as the inputs and outputs needed to get to the outcome. Once those have been identified for each priority, the action plan matrix could be developed, to identify answers to the following question for each action step: What? Why? Who? What Resources? When?

The draft plan is to be released to the public at the end of March 2018, with a Public Hearing held in April of 2018, and final adoption of the plan in June of 2018. The Planning Commission has committed to regular review of plan progress to stay committed to the *Implementable Plan* approach. Stay up to date on the project at: AllegheniesAhead.com.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation Planning exists to facilitate technical information, effective transportation, and efficient movement of people and goods. Transportation Planning shapes urban form, affects economic vitality and impacts quality of life. The Planning & Development Department strives to create better communication among Huntingdon County Municipalities, Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC)'s Rural Planning Organization (RPO), and with other professional groups. We assess and make recommendations on policies and programs so as to derive the full public benefits of comprehensive and community-based planning that promote personal mobility and travel choices.

2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP)

Every four years, Huntingdon County participates in the update to the Region's TIP. The TIP is developed in cooperation with the four rural counties of Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset, PennDOT District 9-0, PennDOT Central Office, and SAP&DC. The Southern Alleghenies RPO prioritizes, reviews, and approves the final TIP.

The TIP is the first four years of the Twelve Year Plan (TYP) that contains project-specific information. The TIP, fiscally constrained by available funding identified by PennDOT, projects expected funding sources to fund the region's transportation projects, which include safety improvements, traditional roadway resurfacing and reconstruction projects, major construction projects of new facilities, and the bridge network.

Planning Director Mark Colussy is appointed by the County Commissioners to the SAP&DC Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC), which makes TIP recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. SAP&DC relies on the County to solicit for transportation projects, which are reviewed bi-annually by the County Planning Commission. The Huntingdon County Planning Commission (HCPC) votes on recommendations to the County Commissioners regarding a list of prioritized projects to be forwarded to PennDOT for consideration and addition to the TIP. Once the RPO formally approves the TIP, the TIP is incorporated into the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Solicitation for the next TIP, including FY 2019-2022, started in 2017.

It is critical that transportation needs to be continually analyzed for future consideration. The HCPC identified priorities in three categories for consideration for inclusion in the next TIP. The following projects were formally adopted as a recommendation at the HCPC's June 15, 2017 public meeting:

Local Bridges

1- Bridge Replacement, Miller Road (T-529) Bridge over Laurel Run, Jackson Township; and

2- Bridge Replacement, New Fording Bridge, Co. Bridge 12 over Great Trough Creek, Todd Township

Safety and Mobility

- 1- SR 1009, Intersection Improvement and Traffic Calming, between SR 1009 and College Avenue, Huntingdon Borough; and
- 2- SR 1009, Intersection Improvement, Cold Springs Road and Petersburg Pike (SR 4007), Huntingdon Borough

Major Projects

- 1- PA 453, preliminary engineering and reconstruction to 24 ft. cartway, from SR 4013 to I-99 (in Blair County); and
- 2- US 522, preliminary engineering and reconstruction to 24 ft. cartway, from PA Turnpike (I-76 in Fulton County) to PA 35 in Shade Gap

The Commissioners accepted these recommendations at their June 20, 2017 public meeting and forwarded them to PennDOT and SAPDC to discuss at the RPO meetings.

2017-2041 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN by Joe Saxfield

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a fiscally constrained document that serves as the compass for deciding on future transportation projects to be included in the state's Twelve-Year Transportation Program (TYP) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The LRTP for the Southern Alleghenies RPO delineates how available and projected transportation funds will be spent over a 25-year period. The LRTP serves the following purposes:

- outlines the "vision" of the future transportation picture through a series of goals and objectives;
- describes the transportation projects that make up the plan;
- outlines a financial plan that describes the proposed source of funding and establishes a time frame for implementation;
- tests proposed projects to a level that can reasonably be expected to be let (bid out);

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

- describes how the plan will be updated and provides for new initiatives to be undertaken; and
- provides for inclusion of comments, concerns, and the vision of the general public.

The most recent update is for the years 2017 through 2041. The plan is updated regionally (Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties) by the Southern Alleghenies RPO every five years.



This most recent update was adopted by the four counties in the Southern Alleghenies RPO on, November 2nd, 2017. The update was developed with the guidance of a steering committee comprised of local, regional, and statewide stakeholders. These stakeholders included county planning directors, PennDOT staff, Southern Alleghenies RPO staff, and regional rail and freight representatives. The steering committee provided input and assistance in the day-to-day development of the plan. Stakeholders were also contacted to provide information on various transportation modes including existing assets, historic trends, and future implications. Southern Alleghenies Rural Transportation Technical Committee and Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee provided regular guidance and input in the overall plan development including vision, goals, and objectives and project selection. Public involvement in the form of a listening session in each of the RPO's counties before the plan was developed, and a 30-day public comment period before the Plan was adopted, were also integral to the development of this plan update.

The result of this update resulted in 8 main goals to guide future transportation planning efforts. They are as follows:

1. Develop a reliable and resilient transportation network, which links the region with the nation's markets and provides regional access for industrial, commercial, educational, and recreational growth areas to support tourism and the economic vitality of the region.
2. Foster a strong commitment to maintenance of the existing transportation system and stormwater facilities.
3. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. Improve quality of life and equity of access through enhanced community access via public transportation, including passenger rail, bus, transit, and human services transportation.
5. Maximize the benefits of transportation investments in the region.
6. Ensure the safety, efficiency, and usability of the freight system for effective movement of goods.
7. Inform and educate the public, stakeholders, and elected officials on key regional transportation initiatives.
8. Plan for bicycle and pedestrian initiatives.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) adopted the *2016 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* on July 20, 2016. A major recommendation in the Plan to carry out the priorities of the Plan was to have each county form an Active Transportation Committee (ATC). At their March 7, 2017 Public Meeting, the Huntingdon County Commissioners were the first Board to move forward with this recommendation by investigating the formation of an ATC in Huntingdon County.

Relying on the Planning Commission to provide feedback, the County Commissioners recommended that the ATC be comprised of a wide array of different types of organizations and individuals from categories such as:

Education, Business, Veterans, Aging, Trail Groups, Clubs, Healthcare, Wellness, State Agencies, Federal Agencies, Local Elected Officials and a variety of at-large citizens.

Ex-officio members included the County Planning Director, Senator Eichelberger, Vince Greenland of PennDOT, and Brandon Peters of SAPDC for the inclusion of their expertise at the meetings.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)

On November 28, 2017, the Commissioners formally approved the appointment of 18 individuals to the board as voting members and 4 individuals as ex-officio members. The Commissioners set the first meeting date to be January 29, 2018 to kick-off the new year with this new group.

COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT - HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN *by Joe Saxfield*

The Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is responsible for developing and maintaining the Region's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). Federal law requires that projects selected for public transportation funding be derived from the Coordinated Plan. Also, the Coordinated Plan is consistent with the goals set forth in the Southern Alleghenies Long Range Transportation Plan. The Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan was adopted by the RPO at the July 20, 2016 Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting. The Plan is made up of seven broad categories that focus on potential solutions and best practices:

1. Education, Information, and Communication
2. Reliable Transportation, Access to Jobs and Training for Young, Low-Income Individuals
3. Access to Areas Outside of Local Destinations
4. Service Availability and Cost
5. Funding Program Rules and Regulations
6. Transportation for Non-Medical Trips
7. Transportation Service Quality

This year has found Huntingdon County leading the way in illustrating a public transportation gap in the RPO region. J.C. Blair Hospital attended CTP implementation committee meetings to discuss issues with transporting emergency room patients that had been discharged. The patients that lack a means of personal transport have issues returning from the hospital if they are discharged outside of the state-run ride-sharing system (CART) hours (CART operating hours are 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM). This results in patients having to stay in the hospital until the rides are available the next day, thus creating an issue with patient overload at times.

Through these implementation meetings, J.C. Blair Hospital representatives have been put in contact with the Bedford/Huntingdon/Fulton County Area Agency on Aging, who operates CART. This has led to some coordination between the agency and the hospital to explore solutions. One solution, within CART operating hours, would be to provide

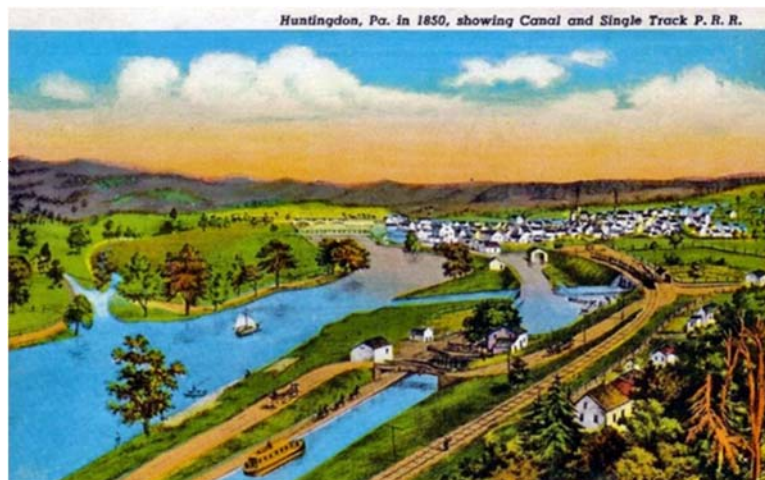
scheduled group pick-ups at the hospital daily. This would cut down on the wait time for patients being discharged, as hospital staff could schedule discharges based on these pickup times. One other possibility that was discussed, was the idea of a Fixed-Route Bus System that could be run in the area with hours beyond that of CART. The Southern Alleghenies RPO is currently investigating the feasibility of this option. There are many other options that could potentially fill this gap as well such as; encouraging ride-hailing services to be present in the area, microtransit models, and volunteer ride-sharing services. All of these models are being investigated by the Southern Alleghenies RPO and the CTP Implementation Committee.

MAIN LINE CANAL TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY *by Robert Thomas*

Huntingdon County, along with Mifflin County launched a Trail Feasibility Study in August 2017 for a 42-mile long corridor linking the current end of the Lower Trail in Water Street to Huntingdon, Mt. Union and on to Lewistown in Mifflin County.

The two counties have contracted with the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, who in turn has retained the trail consulting team led by Campbell Thomas & Co., the firm that authored the alignment study for the September 11th National Memorial Trail from the Great Allegheny Passage, through Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties, and then on to the Delaware Water Gap.

The Main Line Canal Greenway Trail, and the 9/11 Trail are one and the same in both Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties. The Study will end by September of this year, with the result of a preferred alignment, projected details and estimated costs, and recommendations for the long-term maintenance and management of the Trail.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING (cont...)



The Trail in Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties is seen as not only a long linear walking and bicycling route connecting communities, but also an important reach of the Main Line Canal Greenway between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, and of the 9/11 Trail's northern crossing of Pennsylvania and New Jersey between the Great Allegheny Passage at Garrett, PA, the Flight 93 National Memorial, and the Memorial at the World Trade Center.

The Trail is seen as a benefit to the residents, businesses and visitors to the communities served along its way, and thus as a generator of trail-related community and economic development.

Over the one-year course of the Feasibility Study, the team is interviewing numerous interested parties, and helping the counties to conduct a series of study committee meetings, public workshops, stakeholder meetings, as well as three general public meetings scheduled for April 5th, June 28th, and September 20th.

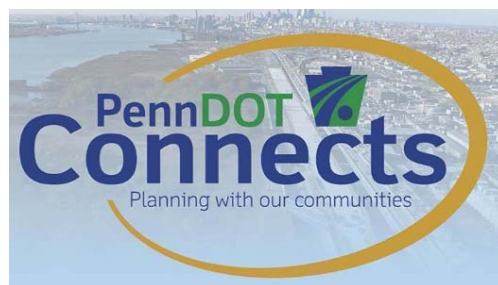


For more information please contact the Allegheny Ridge Corporation at: 814-940-1922 or on the web at: <https://mainlinecanalgreenway.org>.

PENNDOT CONNECTS

Governor Wolf appointed Leslie Richards as the new PennDOT Secretary in May of 2015. Since that time Richards has sought to look at innovative ways to engage PennDOT to the community. Since 2008, Pennsylvania had committed itself to Smart Transportation, which recommends a new approach to roadway planning and design that takes several things into context: finances, community needs, land use decisions, transportation considerations, and the environment. Starting in 2017, PennDOT implemented a new way to engage the local communities with regards to project planning, design, and delivery. This new program, tagged PennDOT Connects, requires collaboration with stakeholders before the projects' scope are developed. PennDOT relies on their local engineering districts' staffing to conduct meetings with local governments and the local RPO/MPO representation prior to any project being added to the TIP.

As Richards states in her description of the PennDOT Connects program, she states: "Simply put, PennDOT Connects



means we are going to become better planners — talking to our partners at the local, county, and regional level earlier in the process so that we can hopefully deliver an asset that the community truly feels is an asset, and really fits in the fabric of the neighborhood."

PennDOT District 9-0, which covers the SAPDC RPO and Huntingdon County, led the charge with getting out to meet with all the communities impacted by projects already on the 2017-2020 TIP, and then again having a series of meetings for the 2019-2022 TIP over the timespan of a year. SAPDC RPO meetings had previously held discussions that pointed towards the need for better communication between all partners, and PennDOT Connects fits that need. Meetings consist of a project summary, then solicitation for feedback regarding the following subjects: Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Public Transit, Congestion, Freight/ Economic Activity/ Manufacturing, Stormwater & Green Infrastructure, Safety, Public Controversy, Other (Utilities, Health, Cultural Events), other Sources/References. Finding this information out beforehand instead of afterwards has the potential to improve the projects.

AGENCY LIAISON AND COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review, and Subdivision and Land Development Review.

The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.

COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The County Planning Directors Association (CPDAP) is an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The CPDAP provides input on State policy on environmental and land use issues to both the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania and to the Commonwealth.

SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SAP&DC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees, including the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RTCC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (HCB&I)

The Planning Director serves on the HCB&I Economic Infrastructure Committee. The Committee has the goal of advocating, supporting economic issues related to Highways, Rail, Riverview Business Center, Telecommunication, Multimodal Transportation, and Economic Development incentives. The Planning Director also serves as an ex-officio member of the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Committee.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

The Community Improvement Awards are sponsored by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, and Kish Bank. The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee jointly review nominees, with final selection made by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

The categories for the 2016 Awards were New Construction, Preservation, Community Spirit, and Special Merit. Five applications were received for consideration and four Awards were presented when the twelfth annual Community Improvement Awards were announced during the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 30, 2017.

Recipients of the 2016 Awards were Ryan Gibboney, ReInvision Huntingdon Initiatives, Community Spirit; Jarred Covert and Zachary Irvin for the New Sign and Garden Improvement Projects at the Shirley Home, Special Merit; Garrett Love, Hunter Blair, James Woods and Jamal Inch for the KIA Memorial, Mount Union Area High School, Special Merit; and Ginny Gill for promoting healthier communities, Lifetime Achievement.

Ryan Gibboney started the non-profit ReInvision Huntingdon in the fall of 2015 in an effort to create and facilitate Borough-based events to draw people back to the downtown area. The hope of ReInvision Huntingdon is "to create united organizations, community members, politicians, and communities through a collaborative process, rooted in revitalization." Board members include Courtney Lang, Kirstin McKenzie, Nick Miller, Erica Shoaf and Greta Gibboney Hall.



ReInvision Huntingdon's first year of the "Small Projects, Big Ideas" grant program funded four beautification projects, including benches at Portstown Park. Public Community Discussions in 2016 resulted in the Huntingdon Community Food Garden, which grew enough produce to donate sustainably-grown food to local organizations like Meals on Wheels, the Drop-In Center, and the Salvation Army. ReInvision Huntingdon embodies the Award by initiating community revitalization efforts in Huntingdon Borough.

As their Eagle Scout projects, Jared Covert and Zachary Irvin made significant improvements to the entrance of the Shirley Home for the Aged. Both teens designed their projects, raised funds and provided the labor for the new sign and perennial flower garden. Covert was the Project Manager for the sign and Irvin was the Project Manager for the garden.

The LED-lit sign is secured on a solid concrete floor with square columns on each side. A time capsule was placed in the column closest to Croghan Pike and the color of stones was chosen to complement the

AGENCY LIASION AND COORDINATION (cont...)



colors of the Shirley Home. New landscaping and mulch contribute to the sign's professional and welcoming appearance. A bare piece of ground approximately 20' by 30' was transformed into a

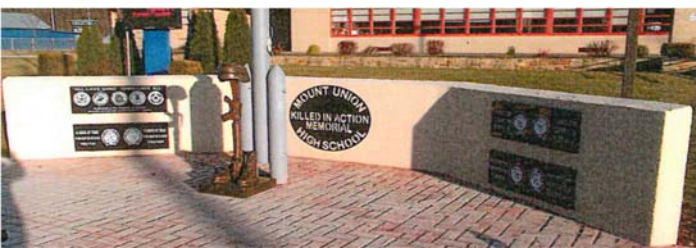
flower garden with a slate walking path and iron benches. Plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds were chosen and the layout was designed to allow room for growth as the garden matures.

Additional aspects of the garden include landscape lighting, stone figurines, and room for container gardening by the residents.

These projects embody the award as they represent actions taken to fill a need for community enhancement.



Built as the graduation project of Garrett Love, James Woods, Hunter Blair, and Jamal Inch, the KIA Memorial is located at the Community Entrance of the Mount Union Area High School to honor military service personnel killed in action during WWI, WWII, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and wars on terrorism who were also graduates of Mount Union Area Schools. The memorial, publically dedicated on May 28, 2016, contains a flag pole, cement brick pattern platform, killed-in-action monument, a three panel wall with the plaques of each war represented, and a killed-in-action plaque.



Funding for the Memorial was received from the Blue Juniata VFW Post 5754, Simpson-Hunt American Legion Post 107, Planet LoveJoy, and numerous Mount Union Alumni. Mount Union Contractor, Dwight Rittenhouse, provided guidance throughout construction. This Memorial embodies the award through recognition of efforts on their own merit that resulted in a memorial honoring hometown heroes.

Ginny Gill's efforts in promoting healthier communities were recognized by the Lifetime Achievement Award, which honored both her 30-year tenure on the County Planning Commission and, since 2004, her committed

service on the Huntingdon Borough Tree Commission. Gill enjoys participating in the growth of healthy, sustainable, and sensible development, while at the same time, planting trees to clean the air and beautify the borough and the county. Her efforts will linger long into the future.



COUNTY - MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 303 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247)* gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision, and other land development ordinances. In addition, Acts 67 and 68 of 2000 provide an opportunity for local municipalities and counties to comment on the consistency of State-funded projects with county and municipal planning and zoning.

Local government and State agencies submitted 11 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2017. These included one effect to historic property inquiry, one FCC Positive Train Control Tower notification, one PENNVEST application Plan Consistency request, one gas main replacement Plan Consistency request, one DEP Residual Waste Allocation Permit notification, one Pennsylvania Pipeline Finding of No Significant Impact notification, one DCNR C2P2 Grant letter of support request, one Official Map Update notification from Ferguson Township, Centre County, one blasting schedule notice, one request for bond release, and one Housing Authority Annual Plan Comprehensive Plan consistency request.

Additionally, Act 14 requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits or air quality permits to notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for State permits. The Commission received ten state permit activity notices in 2017.

FEDERAL - STATE PROJECT REVIEW

The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the *County Comprehensive Plan*, under the authority of Executive Order #12372. Under the State-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission received 20 review requests in 2017.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first Planning Director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

From January through March, Planning and Development Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Planner/Grant Administrator; Iona Conner, Planner I; Laurie Nearhood, Office Manager/Secretary; and Taylor Pollicino, Bookkeeper/Secretary. In July, Melody Mason assumed the role of Grant Administrator, and, in mid-October, Iona Conner left County employment.

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR TRANSITION

Maureen Safko, Grant Administrator, left County employment on April 7, 2017, after almost 28 years. She began her career in May 1989 as the County's Recycling and 9-1-1 Coordinators and transitioned into grant administration in June 1994. Plans to hire a grant administrator to lead the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program began in April, as this position is a vital part of the County's CDBG Program and also important in the administration of non-CDBG grants, including the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Pennsylvania Conservation Works (PACW), Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission (PHMC), HOME, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHARE), Emergency Shelter Solutions (ESG) Programs, and the USDA Housing Preservation Program. After five initial candidate interviews and two second interviews, a recommendation to hire Melody Mason was forwarded to the County Commissioners who approved hiring Mason on June 7, 2017. She began her duties on July 10, 2017.

Mason, a native of Cordele, GA, is a graduate of Juniata College with a BA in Communication and Conflict Resolution. Her previous CDBG experience began in Mifflin County in 2006. Most recently, she was Senior Grant Officer for Habitat for Humanity International in Americus, GA, and was instrumental in administering a \$138 million NSP 2 Grant to be utilized nationwide. This position ended in 2013 at the end of the grant contract. Mason is excited to be back in the area and working for Huntingdon County. She is eagerly learning about the County's communities, residents, and ways CDBG and other programs can assist with community needs.

In November 2017, the County Commissioners approved a title change for the position from "Grant Administrator" to "Community Development Administrator" to encompass what Mason contends is the crucible of the position: building community capacity to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Huntingdon County socially, culturally, environmentally, and economically resulting in mutual benefit, shared responsibility, and respect for others.

STAFF PROMOTIONS

In November 2017, Taylor Pollicino was promoted from Bookkeeper of the Planning and Development Department to a newly created position, Community Development Assistant. Along with fiscal responsibilities, Pollicino assists Mason with a variety of duties including federal labor compliance for construction contracts, Davis-Bacon wage interviews, door-to-door income surveys, and preparation of Annual Single Audit and monitoring visits.

STAFF TRAINING

In 2017, Planning and Development staff training included:

- Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference;
- County Planning Directors Association of PA quarterly meetings;
- Southern Alleghenies Planning Advisory Committee bi-monthly meetings;
- Community Development and Housing Practitioners Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA);
- Fair Housing Equal Opportunity Conference, presented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED); and
- Annual Reporting Requirements Webinar, presented by DCED

LOOKING AHEAD to 2018

Continue to Seek Pennsylvania Avenue Funding
The Pennsylvania Avenue project in Mount Union Borough has already been partially funded and completed through 2017, but there is still a significant unfunded portion to be completed. Searching for funds

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (cont...)

to meet all the moving parts, requirements, and wishes of the community is paramount to success in revitalizing this significant corridor through the heart of Mount Union.

Implement Blueprint Communities Plan

Assist the Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) in implementing its 5-Year Strategy in Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township. Host additional public meetings and engagement of stakeholder groups and individuals.

Host Entrepreneurial Communities Workshops

PSU Extension and Center for Rural Entrepreneurship is set to start the Entrepreneurial Communities Program as soon as funding is in place. This Program will piggyback off of the JRBC Five-Year Plan and provide the County with an understanding of what successful entrepreneurial communities do to make a thriving business start-up community.

Complete PEP's Marketing Plan

Continue to work with the PEP Marketing Committee to develop a marketing strategy designed to promote a positive image of the county to visitors, business investors and business employees, and residents. This will build off the new videos developed by the PEP Marketing Committee and CGI Communications.

Implement PEP's Strategic Plan

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) will start implementation of the new Strategic Priorities by working with newly appointed Chairs to facilitate progress.

County Courthouse Clocktower Phase II

Work on the second phase of the Courthouse Clocktower will re-start in the late spring and be completed by end of the summer of 2018.

Adopt and Implement the new Comprehensive Plan, Alleghenies Ahead

The SAP&DC staff and Planning Advisory Committee will continue to facilitate efforts by the consulting firm, czb LLC and the Steering Committee to finalize and adopt a multi-county, implementable comprehensive plan: Alleghenies Ahead.

Identify Projects for the new Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

The newly formed Active Transportation Committee has the dual task of formulating an identity and quickly forming a reputation and relationship with partners, while identifying key projects to start on and complete.

Tri-County Solid Waste Authority Solid Waste Plan Update

The current Tri-County Solid Waste Authority member counties, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon County, have their Solid Waste Plan agreements expire in 2019. 2018 will be devoted to applying for a DEP 901 Grant to find the Plan update.

Competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-C) Projects

Staff will continue to move forward with previously awarded Competitive Grants for Mapleton Borough, and the Wood-Broad Top-Wells Joint Municipal Authority.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Department is funded by the County General Fund's Planning and Zoning, Solid Waste and Recycling, and Planning Grants Line Items. The total of the 2018 General Fund budgets for Planning and Zoning, Solid Waste & Recycling and Planning Grants is 9.04% less than it was in 2017.

Planning and Zoning Budget Report

	2017 Budget	2017 Expenditures	2018 Budget
Personnel	\$86,762.00	\$86,762.11	\$90,720.00
Office Expenses	11,900.00	13,483.18	12,500.00
Materials & Supplies	1,200.00	1,043.48	1,200.00
Capital Outlay	1,200.00	0.00	1,000.00
Total	\$101,062.00	\$101,288.77	\$105,420.00

Solid Waste/Recycling & Planning Grants Budget Re-

	2017 Budget	2017 Expenditures	2018 Budget
Personnel	\$120,622.00	\$108,526.05	\$94,922.00
Office Expenses	3,200.00	1,955.88	2,600.00
Materials & Supplies	700.00	356.01	1,000.00
Other	600.00	608.99	1,800.00
Total	\$125,122.00	\$111,446.93	\$100,322.00

General Fund Totals

2017 Budget	2017 Expenditures	2018 Budget
\$226,184.00	\$212,735.70	\$205,742.00

HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mark A. Sather, *Chairman*

Scott Walls, *Vice Chairman*

Jeff Thomas, *Secretary*

Michelle Barnett, *Chief Clerk*

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ron Rabena, *Chairman*

Larry Mutti, *Vice Chairman*

Raymond Barley, *Secretary*

Robert Benson

Jeremy Crouse

Wendy Melius

Philip Cahill

Bryan Yingling

Nancy MacNamara

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mark Colussy, *Planning Director*

Melody Mason, *Community Development Administrator*

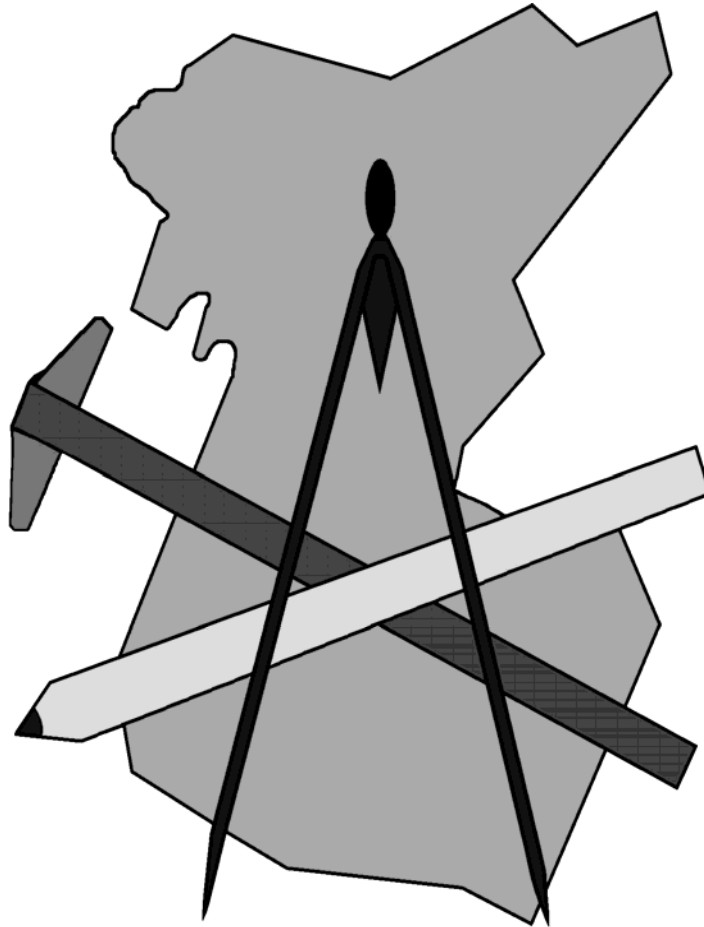
Taylor Pollicino, *Community Development Assistant*

Laurie Nearhood, *Office Manager/Secretary*

LouAnn Shontz, *Recycling Coordinator*

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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