



# 2012 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce  
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2013

## Award Promotes Excellence in Development

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

The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee have jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. Sponsor for the awards is Kish Bank. Award categories include: Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit.

### Community Spirit Award MOUNT UNITY DAY

The Planet LoveJoy team developed a concept to unite their community for the greater good of its citizens.

On May 12, 2012, the Mount Union community was invited to beautify their town while forming and strengthening relationships. Approximately 250 individuals supported Mount Unity Day by planting 23 trees and removing two roll-off dumpsters of trash.

Mount Unity Day is envisioned as more than a one-day event. It's a way to take back the community by taking ownership in it and building up community pride.

The vision for Mount Union is that by improving appearance and morale, more industry and business can be enticed into the community.

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

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





## ***Preservation Award***

### **HUNTINGDON DANCE ACADEMY**

Jamie and Kristin Roberts purchased the former UNB bank building. This 15,000 square foot building consists of three floors, a basement, one 1,650 square foot apartment on the second floor and one 1,650 square foot apartment on the third floor. After a major transformation including patching cracked walls and ceilings and roof repairs, the 5,900 square foot main floor houses the new home of the Huntington Dance Academy.

The former bank lobby has been turned into Studios A and B. New "Marley" flooring was installed in both studios. This flooring material, similar to linoleum, is one of the best dance floors available, and it provides a state of the art dance surface similar to those used in professional dance facilities. Other improvements include converting a transitional corridor to a small dressing room, converting a meeting room into a larger dressing area, and transforming a conference room into a parent lounge with a closed circuit camera system displaying the dance activities occurring within the studios.

Above the former main bank entrance a large ballerina figure adorns the corner façade and the words "Huntingdon Dance Academy" have been applied to the glass doors with a decal design resembling etched glass. A plaque beside the 5th Street door contains the Dance Academy logo and a sign angled out from the building displays the ballerina logo guiding visitors toward the new main entrance.



# Special Merit Award

## WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION

The Special Merit Award for 2012 is presented to the Huntingdon County Conservation District for their many water quality protection and farmland preservation efforts throughout Huntingdon County. The Conservation District administers many conservation programs to protect the water quality of streams and groundwater, reclaim abandoned mine land, treat acid mine drainage, manage stormwater runoff, protect stream banks, prevent erosion and sediment pollution and preserve farmland, open space and critical environmental areas.

Since the inception of the Farmland Preservation program, the Conservation District has purchased farmland easements for approximately 700 acres of farmland. An additional 150 acres will soon be added.

The Conservation District also installs agricultural Best Management Practices on farms to protect streams and groundwater. Approximately \$2 million per year goes directly to many small businesses in the County that provide conservation support services to the agricultural community.

Because wetlands are important to manage stormwater, mitigate flood damage and play an important role in recharging and protecting quality and quantity of groundwater, the Conservation District has built and preserved hundreds of acres of wetlands throughout the County.

Acid Mine Drainage



Raystown Resort Rain Garden

Stream Restoration



Farmland Preservation



Stabilized Stream Crossing  
for Cattle



Rock lined waterway with detention basin



Water Quality Monitoring

## *New Construction* GRAYSTONE COURT VILLAS

Jeff Long designed and built this six story, 82 unit apartment building for individuals 55 and over who can live independently. Graystone developments are based on the belief that there is a need for quality, affordable housing for those seeking safe and maintenance free living.

The Huntingdon Graystone Villas building has a library, game room, community rooms, a gazebo and optional garages and private patios.

Located on Town Centre Boulevard in Smithfield Township, the Huntingdon Villas is directly off Route 22 within walking distance of Walmart and adjacent stores.



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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- ⇒ Creates walkable neighborhoods;
- ⇒ Directs development toward existing communities;
- ⇒ Creates housing choices;
- ⇒ Provides transportation choices;
- ⇒ Encourages a mixture of land uses; and
- ⇒ Preserves open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.