

2013 Annual Report



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.

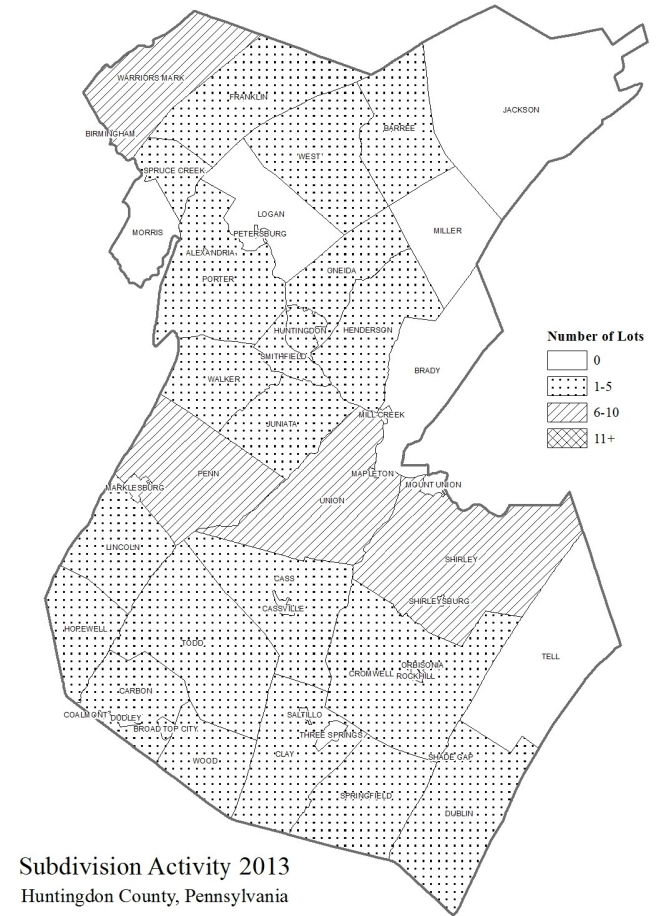
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

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.

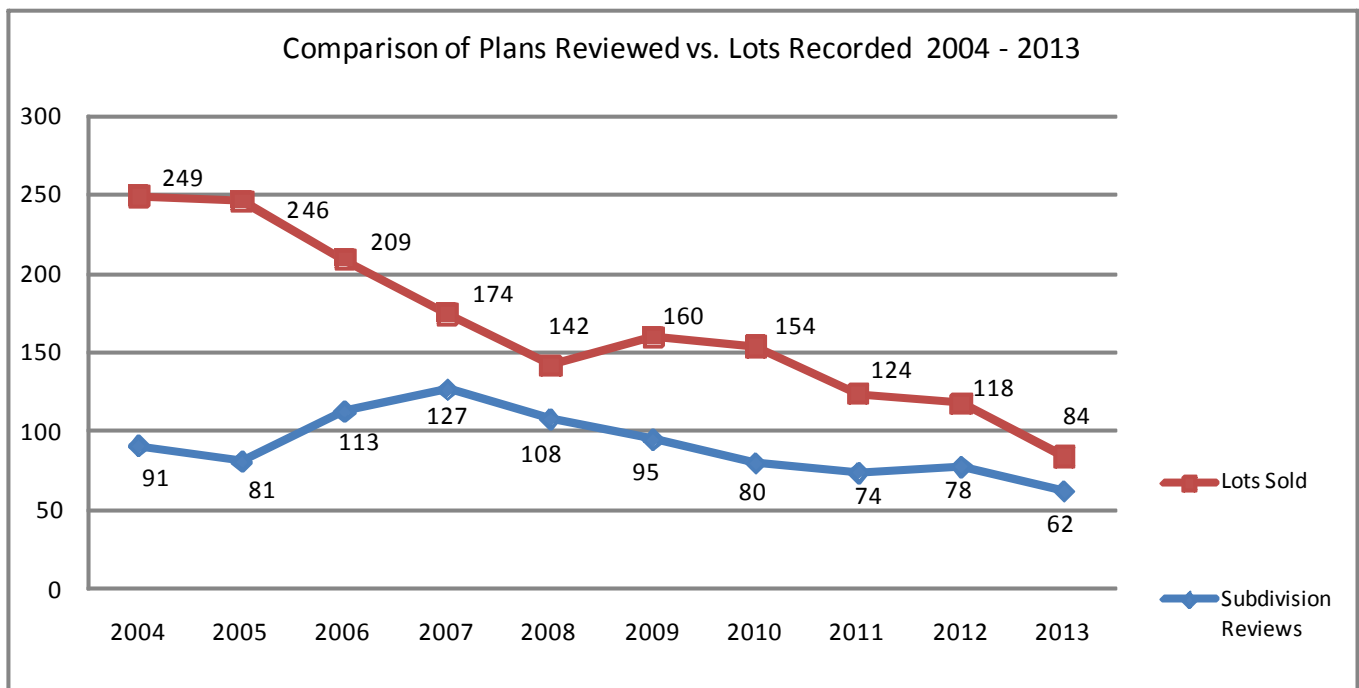
During 2013, 84 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 28.8% from the 118 lots created in 2012. The chart on this page illustrates a ten-year history of new lot activity and subdivision and land development reviews, while the map illustrates the intensity of development in 2013.

In 2013, the municipalities with the highest levels of activity are:

- Penn Township, 9 new lots;
- Warriors Mark Township, 9 new lots;
- Shirley Township, 7 new lots;
- Union Township, 6 new lots
- Hopewell Township, 5 new lots;
- Huntingdon Borough, 5 new lots; and
- Todd Township, 5 new lots



Prepared by: Huntingdon County Mapping Department
March 2014



SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

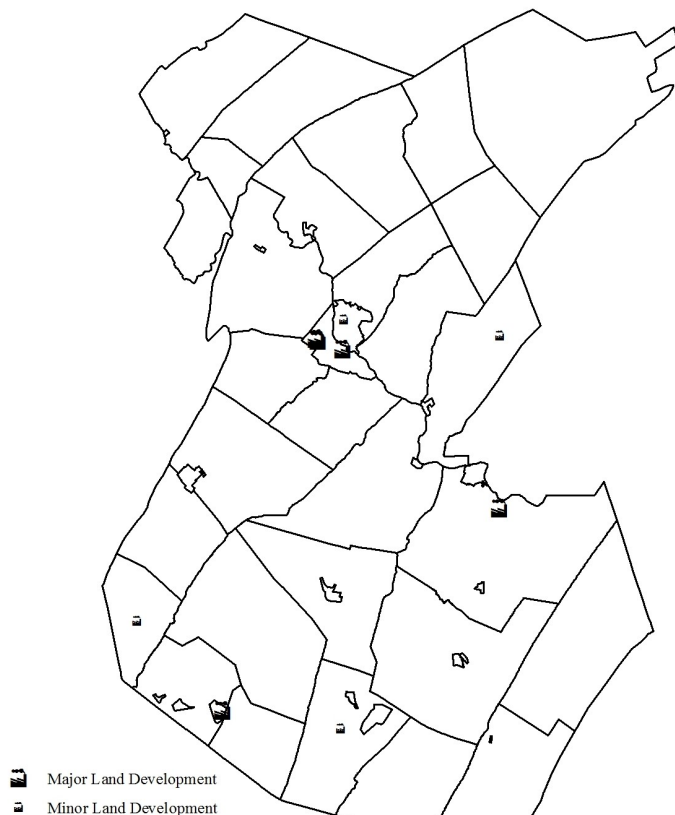
Section 502 of the *PA Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with *Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act*.

The Planning Commission reviewed 62 subdivisions in 24 municipalities in 2013, down by 16 since 2012. These included 2 major subdivisions, 49 minor subdivisions, 6 major land developments and 5 minor land developments encompassing 84 lots and 1,638.4 acres. The maps shown below illustrate distribution of these proposals.

The major subdivisions reviewed in 2013 were the Townsley Subdivision with 160.458 acres and 21 lots in Shirley Township and the Kathleen L. Wilson, Etal Subdivision with 11.29 acres and 6 lots in Dublin Township.

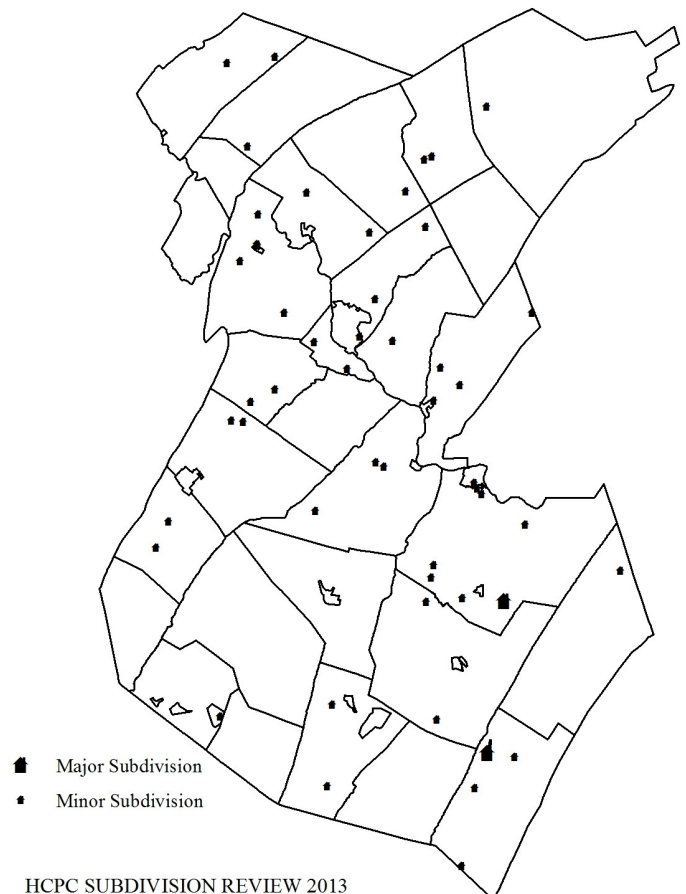
The six major land development reviews conducted in 2013 included:

- N.E. Reihart & Sons, Inc., Smithfield Township - construction of a 52,400 square foot light industrial facility;
- Sheetz, Smithfield Township - construction of a 7,093 square foot store, gas station and parking;
- Clearfield Bank & Trust Company, Smithfield Township - construction of a 3,638 square foot branch bank;
- Juniata College Residence Hall, Huntingdon Borough - construction of a 23,828 square foot residence hall with 78 beds, walkways, patios, and a new covered kiln;
- Broad Top City Family Dollar Store, Broad Top City Borough - construction of an 8,320 square foot store; and
- Riverview Business Park Phase II, Shirley Township - development of three lots, including grading, infrastructure, utility extension, and stormwater management.



HCPC LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW 2013
Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Mapping Department
February 2014



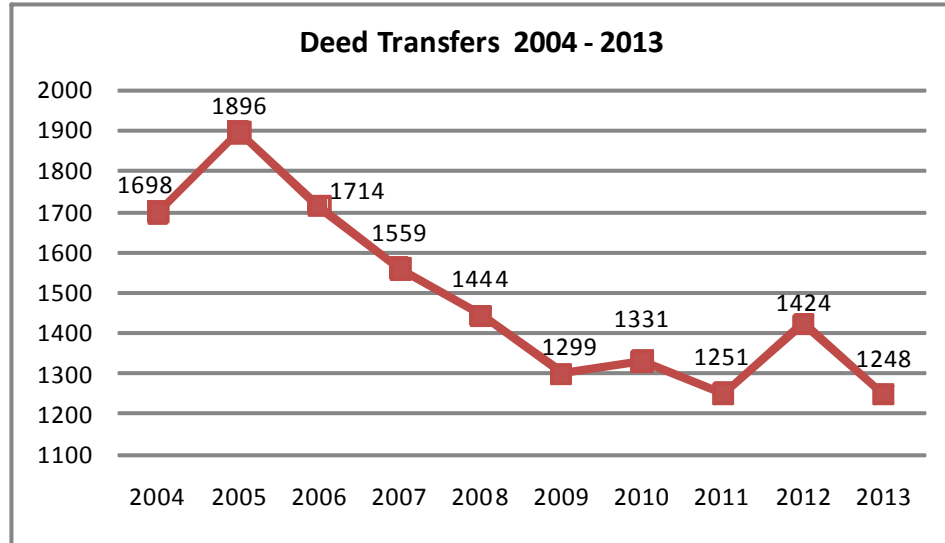
HCPC SUBDIVISION REVIEW 2013
Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Mapping Department
February 2014

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 chart on this page illustrates the number of deeds transferred over the past ten years.

The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2013, both existing and new, showed a 12.4% decrease from 1,424 in 2012 to 1,248 in 2013.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

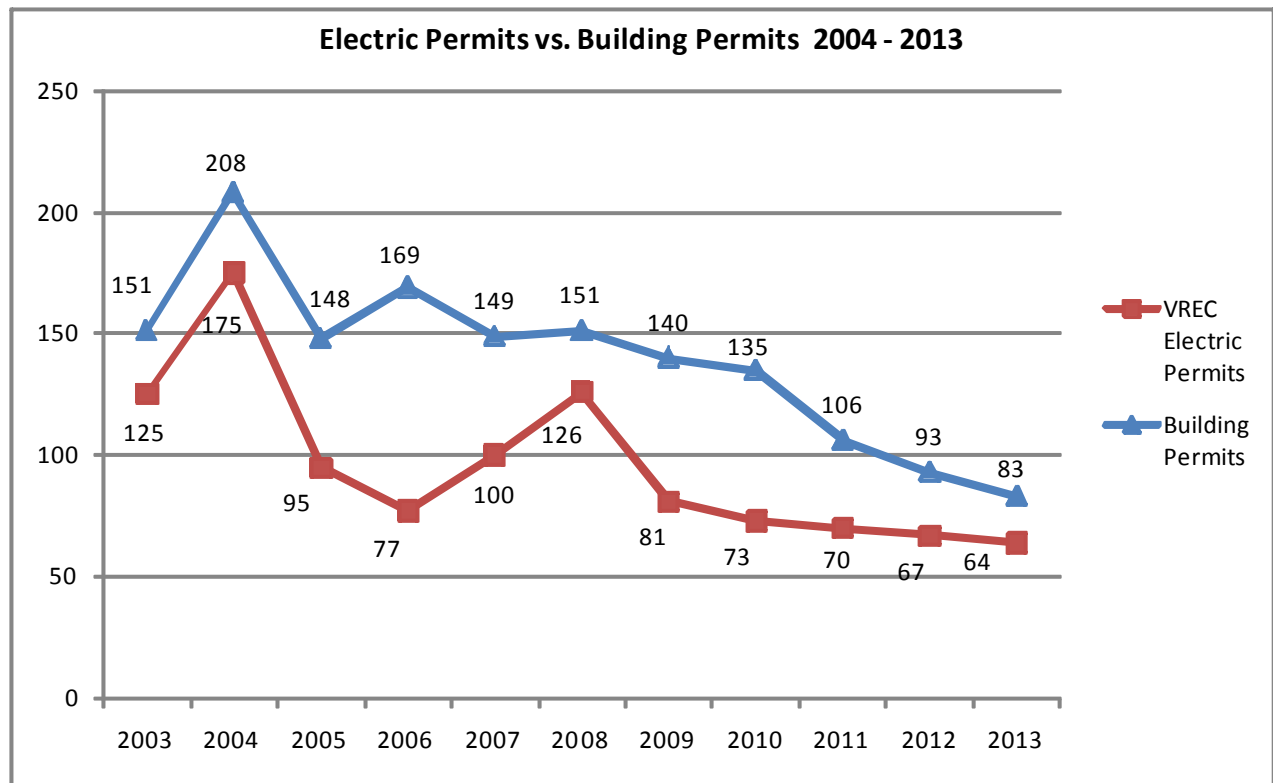
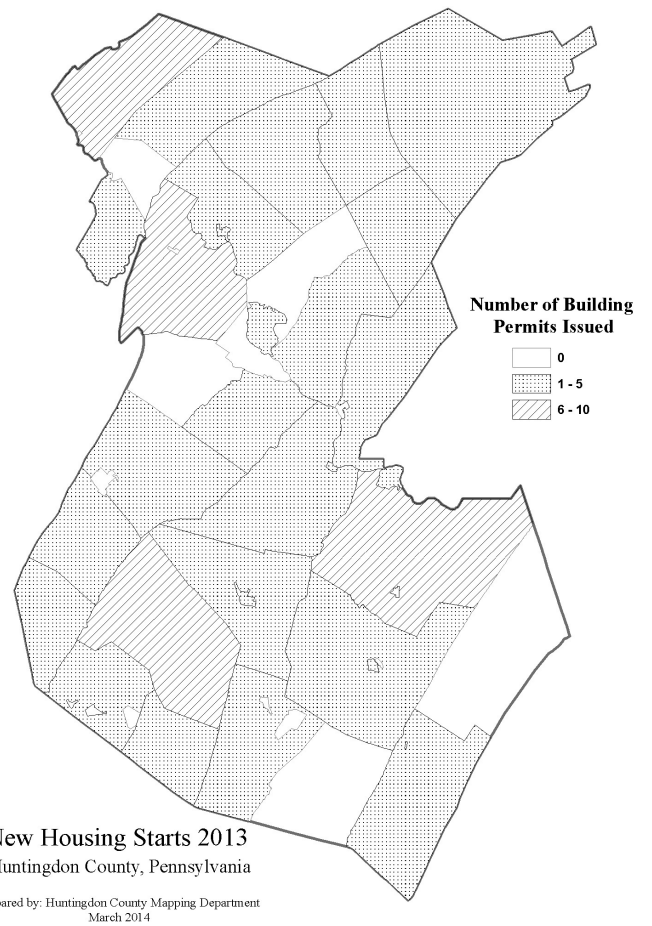
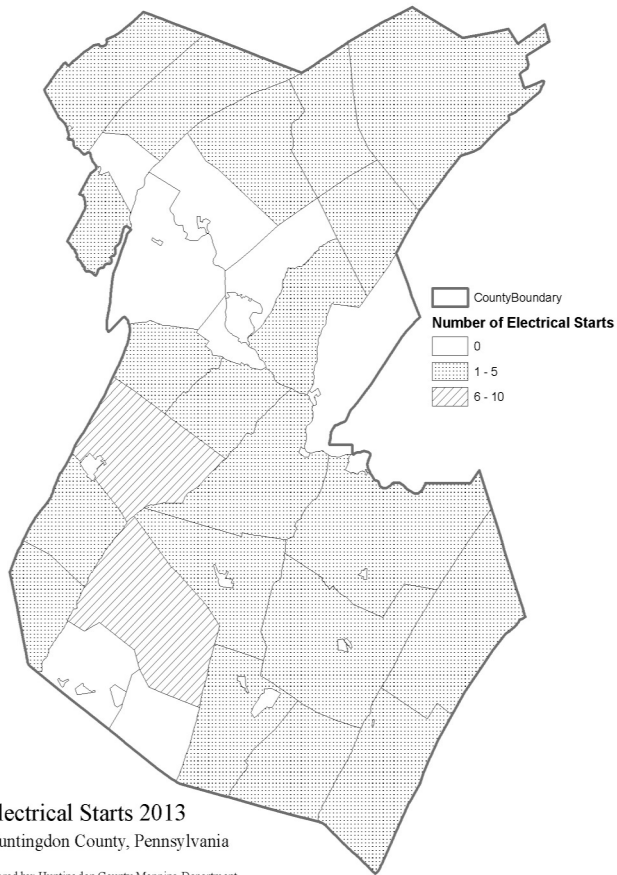
The Department uses electrical permits from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (VREC) and building permits from municipal permitting agencies to determine new housing starts. In 2013, municipal permitting agencies issued 83 building permits for new homes and Valley Rural Electric issued a total of 64 electric permits for seasonal and year round housing. The new home data from building permit and electrical permit sources includes conventional, modular and mobile homes.

The table on this page shows the municipalities with the highest documented levels of building and electrical permit activity in 2013 while the maps on page 4 illustrate the level of building and electrical permit activity in each municipality. A ten-year building and electrical permit trend is provided in the chart on page 4.

SEASONAL HOUSING

According to the Valley Rural Electrical Permit Data, 26 permits were issued for seasonal housing, including 17 conventional and 9 mobile homes. Penn Township had the highest number of permits for seasonal conventional housing, 5, while Dublin Township had the highest number of permits for seasonal mobile homes, 3.

Municipality	New VREC Electrical Starts	New Building Permits Issued
Penn Township	7	3
Porter Township	0	7
Todd Township	6	6
Dublin Township	5	3
Shirley Township	5	6
Cass Township	4	4
Clay Township	4	3
Hopewell Township	4	2
Jackson Township	4	1
Springfield Township	4	0
Warriors Mark Township	0	9
Wood Township	0	4



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.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

Projects substantially completed in 2013 include: Mount Union Borough Building Accessibility Improvements, and providing operating assistance to Huntingdon House domestic violence facilities through Emergency Shelter Grant funds. While the Orbisonia-Rockhill Well Facilities Rehabilitation work was under contract and to be completed in November of 2013, colder than usual temperatures and water system leaks delayed well pump replacement until 2014.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In 2013, the Planning and Development Department administered a total of \$2,700,639 in state and federal grants, including \$287,427 in Smithfield Township Entitlement CDBG funds. Tables on page 6 detail miscellaneous grants awarded, and CDBG usage and planned allocations. Three grant applications were filed in 2013 requesting: \$500,000 in Competitive CDBG for water/sewer line relocation along two blocks of Mount Union Borough's Pennsylvania Avenue; \$250,000 from the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) for Mount Union Borough linear park improvements in public rights-of-way along Pennsylvania Avenue; and \$350,000 in HOME Investment Partnership funds for owner occupied housing rehabilitation in Broad Top City Borough. While GTRP funds were not awarded, decisions are pending on the HOME and CDBG applications. Huntingdon County received a Competitive CDBG of \$375,224 for an application filed in 2012 for wastewater treatment plant improvements serving the Mapleton Area.

FAIR HOUSING

Huntingdon County complied with federal requirements to promote Fair Housing awareness by holding two workshops in April of 2013. Details of these events are provided in the Education section on page 7.

MAPLETON AREA SEWER TREATMENT PLANT DISCRETIONARY CDBG AWARD

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development approved \$375,224 in "Competitive" CDBG funds for repairs at the Mapleton Area Joint Municipal Authority's wastewater treatment plant. This grant, paired with \$35,276 in County Entitlement CDBG funds, will improve plant efficiency through installation of a fine screen designed to capture and remove rags and

other debris from the waste stream before it enters the treatment process. The grant will also help the plant to achieve NPDES permit compliance, and improve the quality of water released into the environment, by installing two new ultra-violet disinfection units. Finally, grant funds will be used to equip two remote pump stations with auto dialing equipment to notify staff of malfunctions that can result in overflows of untreated wastewater from the subsurface pump station vaults.

MOUNT UNION BOROUGH BUILDING

Huntingdon County and Mount Union Borough collaborated on improvements to the Mount Union Borough Building. The purpose of the activity was to allow the historic structure to remain a viable home for municipal offices by removing architectural barriers to the physically disabled. A County CDBG grant of \$91,817 was made available. However, CDBG funds were strictly limited to paying for



accessibility improvements. Mount Union Borough Council seized this opportunity to enhance the façade of this historic building by investing an additional \$14,000 to install the large

panel, arched window, to replace flooring and several windows, and to make other necessary related improvements. Project Architect,



APArchitects, selected the large window to improve natural lighting in the offices and to mimic a fire station door, which once occupied the space. Interior accessibility improvements made by Project Contractor, Southern Contractors, included widening a doorway and lowering the service counter to accommodate wheelchair-bound individuals.

Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2008 - Housing Rehabilitation	\$306,000
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2010 - Entitlement CDBG	\$109,942
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2011 - Porter Township Sewer Laterals and Tap Fees	\$500,000
Housing Preservation Grant	2011 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$42,397
Emergency Shelter Grant	2011 - Huntingdon House	\$44,515
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2011 - Entitlement CDBG	\$94,622
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Dudley Area Water System Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2012 - Courthouse Clock Tower Preservation Strategy	\$6,500
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2012 - Entitlement CDBG	\$82,863
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2012 - Mapleton Area Sewer Plant Rehabilitation	\$375,224
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2013 - Huntingdon County Heritage Plan Update	\$6,000

Community Development Block Grants			
Activity	2010	2011	2012
Mapleton Sewer Plant *	\$49,280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mapleton Revitalization **	\$35,276.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
County Facilities ADA **	\$151,650.00	\$49,193.00	\$0.00
Rockhill Stormwater	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Mt. Union Boro. Bldg. ADA **	\$1,070.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00
Orbisonia-Rockhill Water *	\$0.00	\$127,607.00	\$25,000.00
Bricktown Senior Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72,000.00
Cromwell Sewer Laterals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,000.00
Cromwell Sewer Tap Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,000.00
Past Three Years Budgeted	\$237,276.00	\$206,800.00	\$188,500.00

* activity underway

** activity complete

Activity	2013	2014	2015
Birmingham Borough Water Line Replacement	\$188,462.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mary Alexander Outreach Shelter Mount Union Area	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$0.00
Mapleton Borough Water Line Replacement	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Petersburg Borough and Other Spot Blight Elimination	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Alexandria Borough Water Intake Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,000.00
Wood - Broad Top - Wells Water System Control Panel Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$76,000.00
Next Three Years Budgeted	\$188,462.00	\$180,000.00	\$160,000.00

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 Department Staff fulfill this responsibility.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Huntingdon County Planning Commission hosted a Floodplain Management Workshop on March 26, 2013 in the Bailey Building Ballroom. This workshop was open to the public and all municipal officials were officially invited. The large attendance was an indicator of the importance of the topic, as all municipalities were struggling with the new flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) officially adopted on October 26, 2012.

The FIRMs were adopted after going through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization project over the previous two years. With the amount of properties affected by floodplains in the County expanding by over 25% with the new maps, a lot more people were being required to carry flood insurance than previously.

Interested parties had a chance to hear from a variety of presenters. Heather Crayosky, representing the Carriage House Insurance Agency, spoke about the current insurance marketplace. Cheryl Shope, of Kish Bank, explained the banking requirements related to the NFIP. Theodora (Teddie) Kreitz from Keller Engineers provided information from the perspective of an official Floodplain Administrator. Dan Fitzpatrick, from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), described the State's role in Floodplain Management and update Ordinance Adoption. Brian Young, County Mapping Director, spoke about what the County was doing to review the new maps and highlighted the County's online web-mapping tool.

This workshop would not have been possible without the coordination and help from Warriors Mark Township, who has been dealing with issues with the new FIRMS, particularly in the Dry Hollow area.

This Workshop also paved the way for Planning and Development staff to work together with staff from the County's Mapping Department and Emergency Management Agency to investigate the Community Rating System (CRS).

PUBLICATIONS

In 2013, the Planning and Development Department published several documents, including the *2012 HCPC Annual Report and the 2013 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*.

FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS

Through effective partnership development, Caroline Morgan, Planning Intern from Juniata College, coordinated two fair housing education workshops.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services delivered a Fair Housing/Fair Lending Presentation for local attorneys, realtors, lenders and



other housing professionals. Continuing Legal Education Credits were available for attorneys in attendance. In cooperation with the Center for Community Action, Caroline coordinated House Hunt, a gathering of realtors, mortgage lenders and other housing specialists, providing information and door prizes for prospective home buyers.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Department staff continued to maintain the County web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). Kathy Zullinger from CCAP attended one workshop with County staff to explain the new software and the possibility of a new comprehensive web page update. Software conversion and a comprehensive web page update are scheduled to take place in 2014.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mark Colussy spoke to the Huntingdon Board of Realtors regarding the future vision of Huntingdon County.

Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, distributed recycling information at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough's May Fest.

WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Most inquiries the Department receives are regarding municipal contacts and ordinances, flood plain data and grant availability. Most of these requests are from municipal officials, realtors, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities 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 2013:

Henderson Township

Staff assisted the Supervisors with edits to the recently adopted Zoning Ordinance.

Huntingdon Borough

Staff provided assistance with website updates to www.huntingdonboro.com.

Marklesburg Borough

Staff edited the Borough's Draft Subdivision Ordinance in response to comments from the Borough Engineer.

Union and Walker Townships

The Planning Director met with the Supervisors to introduce himself and to describe the services offered by the Planning Department.

Warriors Mark Township

Staff continued to assist with updating the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Map. Staff also provided assistance with website updates to www.warriorsmark.net.

JUNIATA COLLEGE RESIDENCE HALL CROSSWALK

On April 16, 2013, Juniata College submitted land development plans for their new residence hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Cold Springs Road. During the review process, the Planning Commission pointed out several concerns about the safety of pedestrians crossing College Avenue to get from the residence hall to the rest of campus.

The Huntingdon Borough Council agreed with concerns about the proposed traffic calming device and agreed to establish a team comprised of members from the County Planning Department, Borough Council and Juniata College to come up with a solution. The group met once in 2013, and is set to continue to meet in the Spring of 2014.

REGIONAL MAIN STREET

Beginning in 2012 with a visit from Bill Fontana of the PA Downtown Center, who attended a public meeting, the Planning Commission and the Chamber of Commerce have jointly been supportive of a Regional Main Street Program in the County.

The Main Street Program has existed since the early 1980s, when communities tried to re-create the central business districts that had traditionally existed in downtowns. The Main Street Program includes a four point approach: Organization towards common goals; Promotion and marketing of the district; Design of a consistent inviting atmosphere; and Economic Restructuring of existing businesses to enhance competitiveness.

Traditionally, the Main Street Program had been focused on one individual community's downtown. However, in the current state of municipalities having less

and less dollars to work with, the sharing of services is becoming more of a reality. Thus, the regional approach was more

realistic for Huntingdon County, where multiple communities could share a Main Street Manager. With this premise, solicitation was made for persons interested in the project, and a Steering Committee was formed in early 2013.

On April 29 and 30, 2013, Steering Committee meetings were held. Two key questions were generated in these meetings: who will participate, and how will the program be funded? These questions will continue to be explored as research is done and this process moves forward in 2014.



MOUNT UNION BOROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING

In December 2013, Mount Union Borough adopted the Mount Union Strategic Plan, prepared through a public process involving Council members, staff and citizens in three public visioning discussions. The plan is a brief, five page, action-oriented guide for community involvement, over the coming five years. Recommended objectives are focused around the following five goals identified by the community:



- Rejuvenate rail infrastructure and activities in Mount Union;
- Increase River Tourism;
- Increase jobs and tax base in Mount Union;
- Revitalize and beautify Mount Union's homes and buildings; and
- Build community pride

The Plan directs implementation by assigning responsibility for each objective to a specifically named individual, agency or organization. Mount Union Borough nominated a steering committee to oversee Plan implementation. Efforts of Planet LoveJoy are central to many Plan recommended objectives.

Mount Union Borough contracted with the Penn State University (PSU) Cooperative Extension to lead the planning process and to prepare the written strategic plan for a cost of approximately \$700. This effort was directed by Economic and Community Development Educator, Judy Chambers of the PSU Cooperative Extension.

The Mount Union Strategic Plan credits the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department as a champion for the process, for initiating the discussion, providing data and maps, and committing to help the Borough with Plan implementation.



ACT 13 LEGACY FUND

The PA Legislature passed a bill entitled Act 13, which Governor Corbett signed into law in 2012. The purpose of this comprehensive bill is to handle unconventional well drilling due to the recent industry breakthrough of extracting natural gas from the Marcellus Shale, a subsurface geologic formation.

The bill covers a plethora of topics related to gas drilling, but one provision that directly impacts Huntingdon County is the establishment of a Legacy Fund (Section 2315(a.1)(5)). Each county in the Commonwealth received a share of the impact fee based upon the county's population. The funds are intended for "the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community



conservation and beautification 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."

Starting on September 3, 2013, the County Commissioners established a grant process that made a total of \$30,000 available to any of the County's townships and boroughs with a maximum award of \$10,000 per municipality. The Commissioners appointed the Planning Commission to accept applications, review them, and make recommendations similar to the way the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process operates.

The Planning Commission held a special meeting on October 3, 2013 to review applications. The Planning Commission then recommended that the Mount Union Pavilion construction project be funded at \$10,000; the Broad Top City Park Walkway Restoration to be funded at \$4,000; and the Huntingdon Borough and Porter Township Boat Launch engineering and permitting to be funded at \$8,000 each. The Commissioners accepted the Planning Commission's recommendation, and funded each of the four projects at the level recommended. The Commissioners also agreed to award an additional \$5,000 to the Farmland Preservation program.

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.

Since 2008, SKILLS has allowed residents to drop off electronics at their S. 5th Street office in Smithfield Township free of charge. In 2013, SKILLS recycled 8.27 tons or 16,540 pounds of electronics from Huntingdon County residents.

During 2013, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2013 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

The Tri-County Drop-Off recycling program marketed 1,118.53 tons of recyclables. Huntingdon County Drop Off sites collected 554.81 tons, over 50% of the total. The Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside recycling program collected 232.41 tons. County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the fall collection resulting in 13,040 pounds or 6.52 tons. In addition, 9.59 tons of office paper was recycled from various County offices.

The Recycling Coordinator continues to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee; and is an active member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful.

VOLUNTARY CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

In June 2008, Huntingdon County and eleven municipalities started the Voluntary Curbside Recycling Program in response to a proposal from Parks Garbage Service, Inc. and Querry's Sanitation Service. This innovative single stream curbside recycling program offered curbside recycling of mixed recyclables on a voluntary basis regardless of the participants' household garbage haulers.

With the support of Park's Garbage Service, Inc., Querry's Sanitation Service and a DEP grant, 2,400 bright yellow 32 gallon recycling containers were purchased and distributed to participating residents. The tonnage recycled through this Program grew from 106.51 tons in 2008 to 284.97 tons in 2011.

The rising costs of fuel and program participants changing garbage haulers contributed to changes to the Curbside Recycling Program. Beginning March 1, 2013, all residents who had curbside recycling no longer had automatic curbside pick up. Park's Garbage Service and Querry's Sanitation Service agreed to continue to pick up their customers' recycling on the same schedules. Worthy's Refuse, Inc. and Burgmeier Hauling also agreed to offer recycling services for their customers. Residents using other haulers needed to determine if their haulers were participating in the Curbside Program. If haulers were not participating, residents had to either return their recycling containers to Huntingdon County or contract with a hauler offering recycling services.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS (PEP)

The County Commissioners established the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) in 2000. This group has been meeting regularly 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".

When PEP was initially established, the group went through strategic planning to determine what the partners could do to work together to accomplish healthy economic development in the County. In thirteen years, the members became well established in creating an atmosphere of collaboration and a known forum for coordination.

Since there had been a few years without accomplishment of any of the items on the current list of goals, a need arose to establish an action-based strategy. A new group was formed in 2013, called the Strategic Alliance for Economic Growth (SAEG). This group includes a portion of the same participants as PEP, but differed by meeting monthly with a focus on action steps.

Due to this similar group gaining momentum, it was agreed that PEP needed to start the strategic planning process to see how PEP could complement the SAEG and avoid duplication. This process will continue in 2014.

COURTHOUSE FIRST FLOOR RENOVATIONS

The Huntingdon County Commissioners have been working closely with the Planning and Development Department to develop plans to renovate the first floor of the Huntingdon County Courthouse. The Courthouse renovation project includes the expansion of the Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and the Prothonotary's offices. The renovation project is divided into two phases, Phases I and II.

Phase I would give the Prothonotary a private office for the first time, and also allow enough room for a small conference and lunch room, which previously had not existed in the Courthouse. Phase II of the project would include moving the Register of Wills office into the old Treasurer's office and giving the Register and Recorder a private office. Phase II would allow the Recorder of Deeds to have the entirety of the old Register and Recorder's space. Planning for this project included a space and needs analysis, developed after several meetings with the individual Department Heads. Once the planning had been completed, the project was put out for bid, with bids due October 29, 2013.

The Commissioners signed a contract with HAAS Building Solutions of State College for the design/build project on December 31, 2013. Phases I and II are slated to begin in the Spring and Summer of 2014 respectively. The project will also include a separate HVAC contract, which is yet to be determined. The spaces previously used by the Commissioners' offices are still un-programmed.

COURTHOUSE CLOCK TOWER

A preservation plan for the Courthouse Clock Tower was prepared, which stated that the main structure of the Tower shows no substantial structural deterioration. While some wood elements are rotted at the bell level, other levels only need paint and other minor repairs. The most significant structural deficiency noted is at the back of the Tower, where the mansard cornice meets the main slate roof. Correcting this problem is estimated to cost \$7,500. The probable cost of all recommended improvements is \$255,420.

Interestingly, the Plan contests the theory that the original tower constructed in 1883 was demolished

in 1935. Rather, through a side-by-side comparison of architectural components and examination of the structure, the Plan states a belief that the skin was replaced around 1935, but that the tower structure itself is original.

PENELEC ENERGY REBATE APPLICATION

Penelec offered an energy rebate program for electric energy-saving projects completed on Huntingdon County buildings from October 2009 to May 2013. Invoices worth \$432,905, mostly from the Shirley Home and Bailey Building, were submitted. Rose Rahman, Department Bookkeeper, keeps in contact to determine if funds for the second round of rebates have become available.

ENERGY STAR PROGRAM

Rose Rahman, Bookkeeper, participated in the EPA's Energy Star webinars to become familiar with the updated system for entering and analyzing data for energy consumed on electric and heating bills. Energy Star coordinates with NOAA, the world's largest climate data archive, to provide comparative Energy Star ratings on buildings throughout the United States. The six Huntingdon County buildings that qualify for Energy Star plaques with ratings over 75 are: Annex I - 76, Courthouse - 83, DA/Corbin House - 85, Domestic Relations - 80, Sheriff's Office - 78 and the Library - 88.

ST. MARY'S BRIDGE FLUVIAL GEOMORPHOLOGY PROJECT

In an effort to keep the County's bridges in good operating order, the County applied for a demonstration project grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This demonstration project was designed specifically for the St. Mary's Covered Bridge in Cromwell Township. This project utilizes state of the art technique to prevent additional bridge abutment scouring by doing both down- and upstream bank stabilization. In addition, placement of large boulders along the bank at water level and planting new vegetation best suited for root growth help keep the stream bank in place.

Site and Stream, LLC was awarded the construction contract and Keller Engineers prepared the engineering. Not only will this project involve design and construction, it will also include continuing monitoring to evaluate how the methods are weathering through the erosion of the stream. If this project is as successful as it is designed to be, it can be used for educational purposes and utilized as a future Best Management Practices (BMPs).

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: it is a statement of goals, a listing of objectives, and a vision of what could be; 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 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.

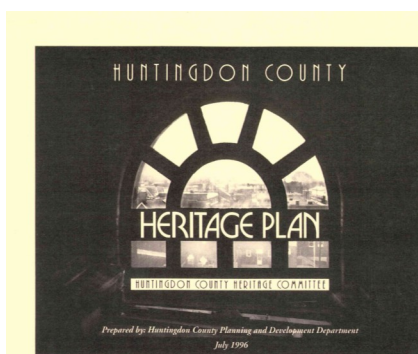
Continuity Through Conservation II, The Plan is Huntingdon County's blueprint for the future, detailing the vision, goals, objectives, policies and plans for the next twenty years. It is our goal that Huntingdon County achieve economic prosperity while retaining the qualities of rural and small-town living. The Plan was developed between 1996 and 2000 by a team of consultants and the staff of the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department. The Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan 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*

The *2007 Supplement* updated the land use plan, developed an infrastructure investment strategy, developed a model zoning ordinance and developed an updated zoning ordinance for Huntingdon Borough.

HERITAGE PLAN UPDATE

The *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan* was last updated in 1996. After securing a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the Planning Commission is now tasked with updating this Plan. The scope of work includes revising outdated information in the existing Plan. The update process will engage the Heritage Committee to evaluate the priorities of the existing Plan and add new priorities that have emerged since



1996. The Plan update will also include a new cultural resource inventory, which will include 'intangible' cultural heritage elements.

Finally, the

Plan update process will work to develop a network of collaboration among stakeholders to foster preservation and investment in the County. Understanding the heritage and history of the County and region allows us to foresee where we are headed.

The Commissioners agreed to keep the PHMC Grant funds in the County by hiring consulting services from within the County. The services of the Huntingdon County Historical Society (HCHS) and the Huntingdon County Arts Council (HCAC) will be utilized for this project. Kelley Kroecker of the HCHS and Ilona Ballreich of the HCAC will be the primary consultants on the project. The majority of the research and plan writing is expected to take place in the Spring and Summer of 2014.

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 - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee. The TTC 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 Infrastructure Committee. Two principle goals of this Committee are development of the Riverview Business Center and completion of Appalachian Corridor M. The Planning Director also serves as an ex-officio member of the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Committee.

SAVE THE TRAIN

The Planning Director helped assist the Chamber of Commerce, HCB&I and the Visitor's Bureau to hold a successful "Save the Train" Rally on March 1, 2013. Not long after the Rally, the Governor and Amtrak made an agreement to keep the current service. The issue now is to seek a second train.

MAP-21: FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION BILL

Congress agreed to a new federal transportation bill, otherwise known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The President signed this \$105 billion surface transportation bill into law on July 6, 2012.

The key point of this bill that affects Huntingdon County is the provision that it starts to wind down the Appalachian Region Commission's (ARC) funding designed to spur economic development in Appalachia by improving the highway network.

One of the few highways remaining to be completed in the network is Route 22 from Blair County, through Huntingdon County, to Mifflin County. The only hope of expanding Route 22 to a four lane highway lies in the hands of PennDOT, which has not shown any interest at this point.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Huntingdon County Emergency Management Agency has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan for the second time. The County has hired URS out of Germantown, Maryland to be the consultant on the Plan update.

Huntingdon County was one of the first counties in the Commonwealth to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan, doing most of the work in-house. This update focuses more on man-made hazards than the Plan has in the past, as Hazard Mitigation Plans are only required to focus on natural hazards. With each Plan update, it is the County's goal to add components to the Plan to make it better, rather than simply revising outdated information.

The Emergency Management Agency has partnered with the Planning Commission to update the Plan, which is slated to be sent to PEMA and FEMA for review in 2014.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Presented at the Commission's Annual Meeting, 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 Planning Commission.

The Award categories are Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit. New Construction includes any type of new construction, residential, commercial or public/non-profit. Preservation includes the restoration, preservation and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types. Community Spirit includes the recognition of individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution to Huntingdon County in the field of community development.

A Special Merit Award may be made for projects, persons or groups that demonstrate outstanding achievement on their own merits. Substantial renovation or restoration projects are eligible in any category.

Community Improvement Awards are based on both the visual and the environmental impact of the project. Nominations are 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.

The principles of sustainable development include: creating walkable neighborhoods; directing development toward existing communities; creating housing choices; providing transportation choices; encouraging a mixture of land uses; and preserving open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas

The eighth annual Community Improvement Awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 20, 2013. Recipients of the 2012 awards were Mount Unity Day, Community Spirit; Huntingdon Dance Academy, Preservation; Graystone Court Villas, New Construction; and the Huntingdon County Conservation District, Special Merit.

Planet LoveJoy developed a concept to unite the Mount Union community. Mount Unity Day was held on May 12, 2012. Two hundred and fifty 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 ownership in the community and build community pride.

Jamie and Kristin Roberts purchased the former UNB bank building on Penn Street in Huntingdon. After a major transformation, the 5,900 square foot main floor houses the new home of the Huntingdon Dance Academy. The former bank lobby has been turned into two studios and new "Marley" flooring

was installed in both. This state of the dance surface is similar to those used in professional dance facilities.

Jeff Long designed and built the six story, 82 unit Graystone Court Villas on Town Centre Boulevard in Smithfield Township. This community is for individuals 55 and over who can live independently. The building has a library, game room, community room, a gazebo, optional garages and private patios.

The Huntingdon County 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.

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 10 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2013, including 6 DEP permit requests, 2 letters of support, and 2 land use consistency requests.

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 8 State permit activity notices in 2013.

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 4 review requests in 2013.

AGENCY 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

In 2013, Planning and Development Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Planner/Grant Administrator; Laurie Nearhood, Secretary; and Rose Rahman, Bookkeeper. Douglas Shontz and Caroline Morgan, Juniata College seniors, interned in the Department prior to graduation.

Planning and Development staff attend workshops and seminars to stay current with the latest planning and community development trends. Training activities in 2013 included:

- Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference;
- Homes Within Reach - Conference on Blight Remediation, presented by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania;
- Curbside Chat meeting with Strong Towns founder, Charles L. Marohn, Jr. PE, AICP;
- Penelec Operational Information Workshop;
- CDBG Tools for Compliance Training, presented by SEDA COG;
- CDBG Subgrantee Training, presented by the Council of State Community Development Agencies;
- Community Development and Housing Practitioners Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA); and
- EnergyStar Webinars, presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2014 WORK PLAN

Update Heritage Plan

Work on the Heritage Plan update will continue through 2014 and is anticipated to be completed in the Spring of 2015.

Update the Comprehensive Plan's Existing Land Use and Future Land Use Maps

These updates will be done in cooperation with the County Mapping Department. Updating these Land Use Maps will better convey current conditions in the County, since the maps were developed in 2000.

Hold additional Regional Main Street Steering Committee meetings

Considering that there are a lot of moving parts regarding funding and interest from the community, additional Steering Committee meetings will be hosted to attempt to decide how to move forward with the program.

Launch Blueprint Communities training and associated community planning meetings

This new opportunity is made available via the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. This program will consist of sending a core group of members to nine training sessions, that will equip them to hold 16 community meetings to use the training to help our communities gain a mutual vision to work together.

Host Entrepreneurial Communities workshop

The Penn State Cooperative Extension hosted an Entrepreneurial Communities workshop in other communities. Due to our recent success working with them to develop the Mt. Union Strategic Plan, working together yet again will provide an opportunity to understand what our communities need to be a successful Entrepreneurial Community.

Finalize PEP's Strategic Plan

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) will continue to finalize their Strategic Plan.

Initiate SAP&DC's Greenways and Open Space Network Plan Update

Mark Colussy chairs the SAP&DC's Planning Advisory Committee, which will be exploring grant opportunities to update the Region's Greenways and Open Space Network Plan, *Connections in Our Landscape*, which was adopted in May of 2007.

Provide project management for the Courthouse Renovation project

The Courthouse renovation construction will take place in the Spring and Summer of 2014.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2013, the Planning Department was funded by the County General Fund - \$87,444 from the Planning and Zoning Line Item and a total of \$83,889 from the Solid Waste and Recycling and Planning Grants Line Items.

The 2014 General Fund budget decreased by 1.9% from 2013; and the 2014 budget for Grants and Special Projects increased by 4%. Overall, the 2014 budget is 1% more than it was in 2013.

Planning and Zoning Budget Report

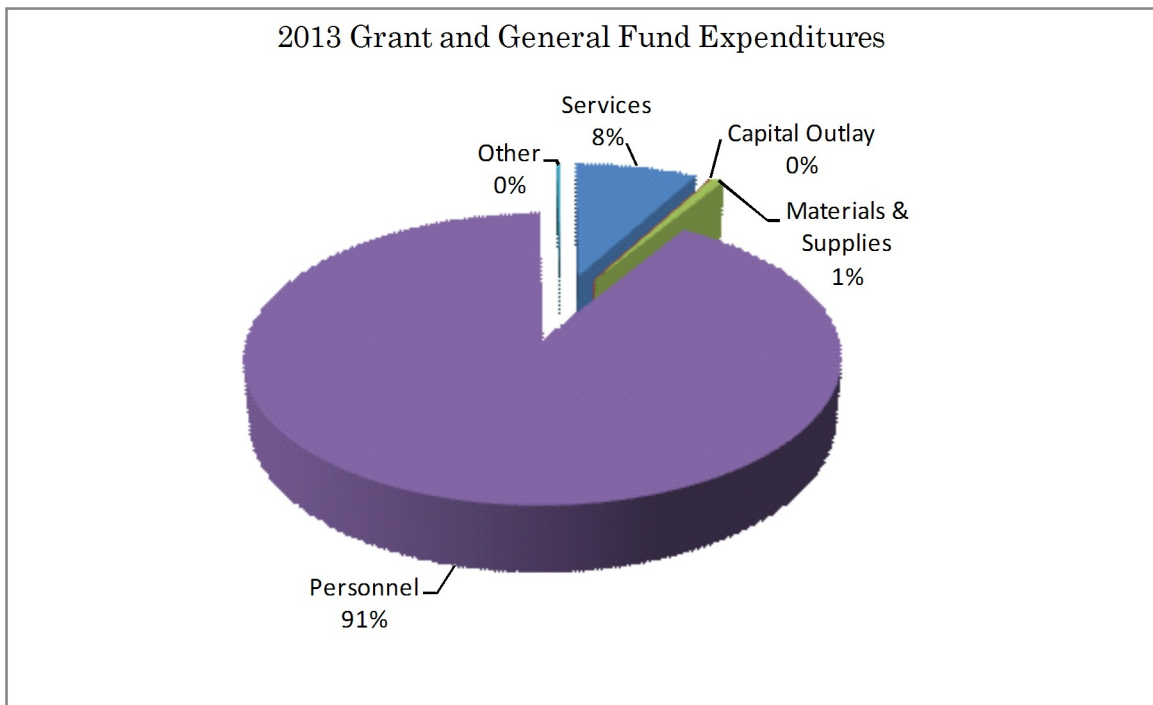
	2013 Budget	2013 Expenditures	2014 Budget
Personnel	\$72,994.00	\$83,623.42	\$74,994.00
Services	\$12,450.00	\$9,851.19	\$8,750.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,058.53	\$1,500.00
Capital Outlay	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total	\$87,444.00	\$94,533.14	\$85,744.00

Solid Waste/Recycling & Planning Grants Budget Report

	2013 Budget	2013 Expenditures	2014 Budget
Personnel	\$80,539.00	\$73,510.44	\$83,299.00
Services	\$2,150.00	\$3,768.66	\$2,650.00
Materials & Supplies	\$200.00	\$406.70	\$400.00
Other	\$1,000.00	\$499.15	\$1,000.00
Total	\$83,889.00	\$78,184.95	\$87,349.00

Grant and General Fund Totals

2013 Budget	2013 Expenditures	2014 Budget
\$171,333.00	\$172,718.09	\$173,093.00



HUNTINGDON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Gary A. O’Korn, *Chairman*

R. Dean Fluke, *Vice Chairman*

Jeff Thomas, *Secretary*

Michelle Cerett, *Chief Clerk*

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ron Rabena, *Chairman*

Larry Mutti, *Vice Chairman*

Ginny Gill, *Secretary*

Raymond Barley

Cindy Book

Jeremy Crouse

Wendy Melius

Ann Kyper Reynolds

Bryan Yingling

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mark Colussy, *Planning Director*

Maureen Safko, *Planner/Grant Administrator*

Rose Rahman, *Secretary/Bookkeeper*

Laurie Nearhood, *Secretary*

LouAnn Shontz, *Recycling Coordinator*

MAPPING DEPARTMENT STAFF

Brian Young, *Mapping Director*

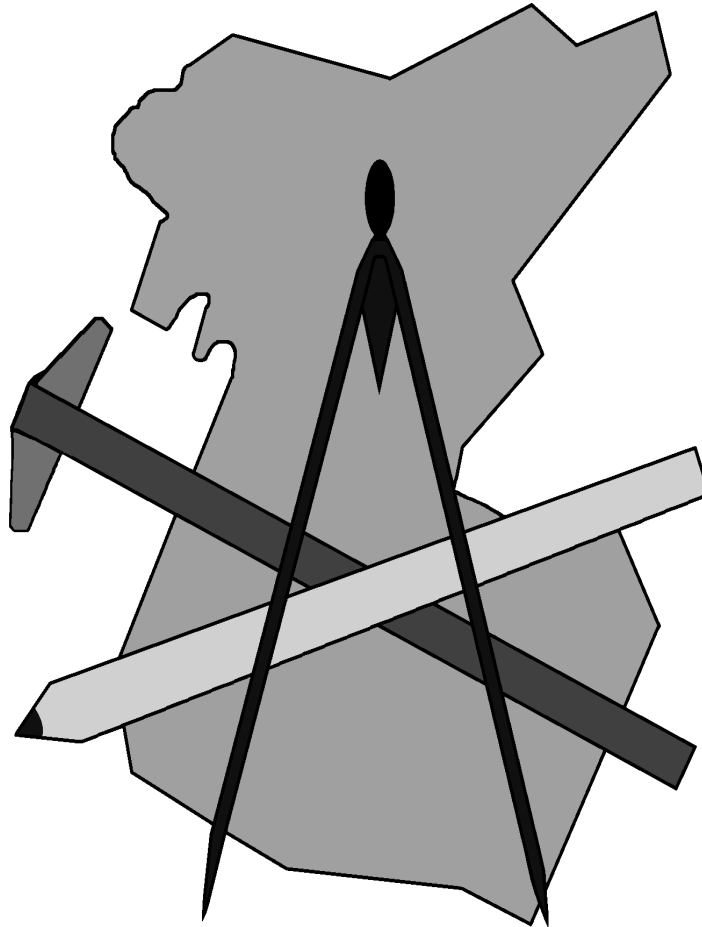
Grant Wills, *Mapping Technician*

Marie McClain, *Mapping Technician*

Melissa Bousum, *Mapping Specialist*

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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