

# 2014 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.

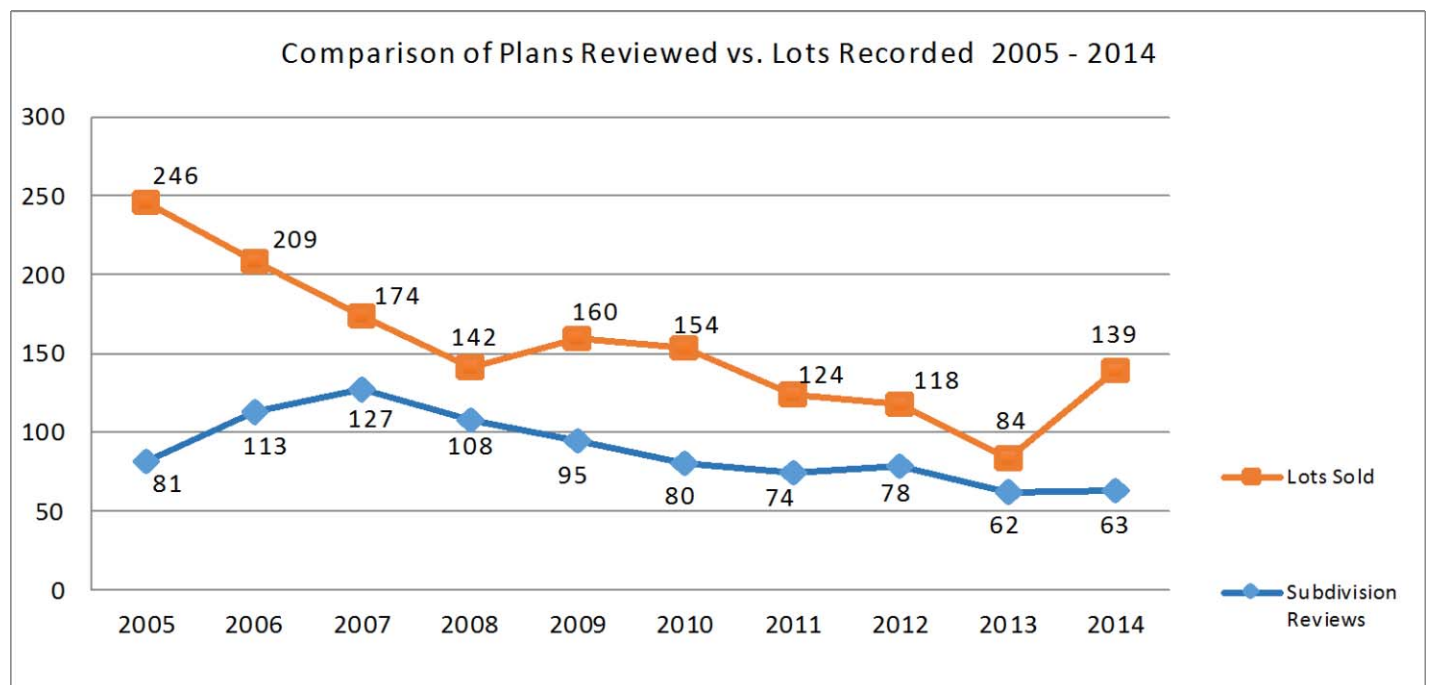
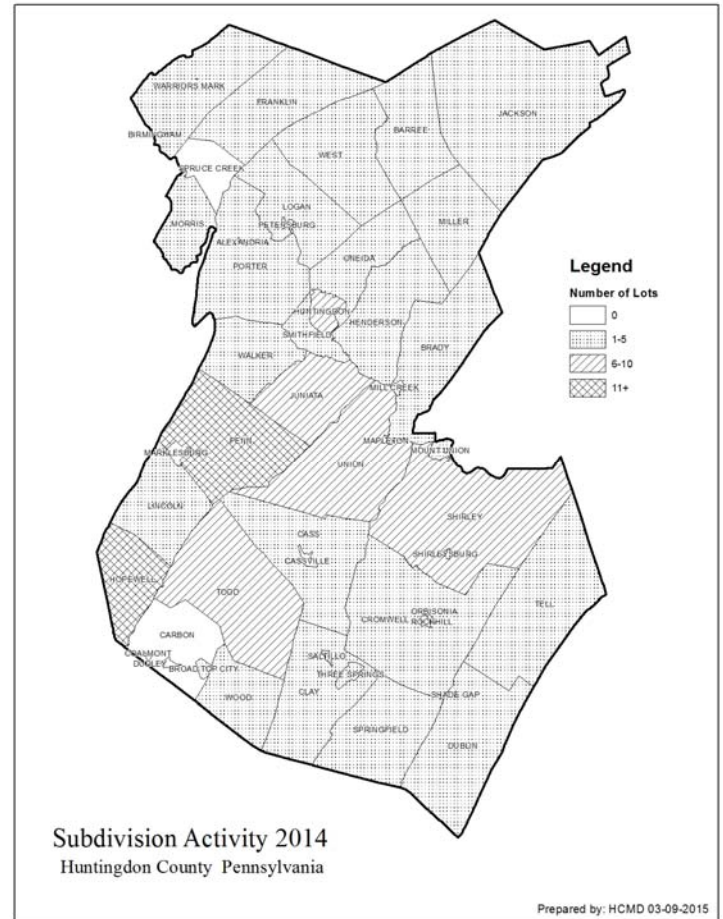
## SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY (LOTS SOLD)

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 2014, 139 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is an increase of 65.5% from the 84 lots created in 2013. 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 2014.

In 2014, the municipalities with the highest levels of activity are:

- Penn Township, 22 new lots;
- Hopewell Township, 14 new lots;
- Shirley Township, 10 new lots;
- Juniata Township, 9 new lots
- Todd Township, 7 new lots;
- Huntingdon Borough, 6 new lots; and
- Union Township, 6 new lots



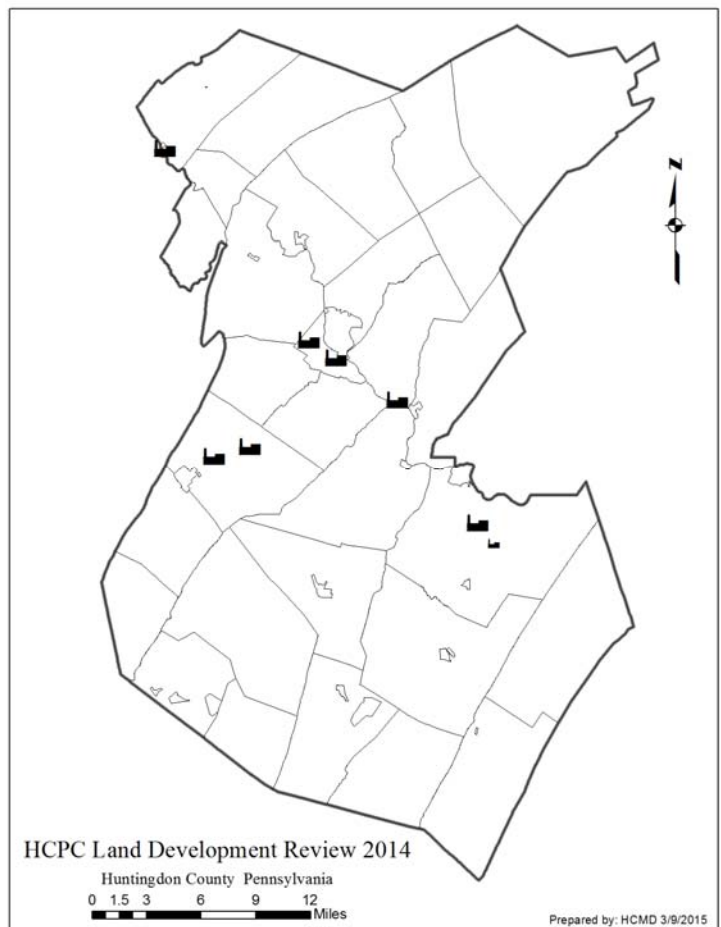
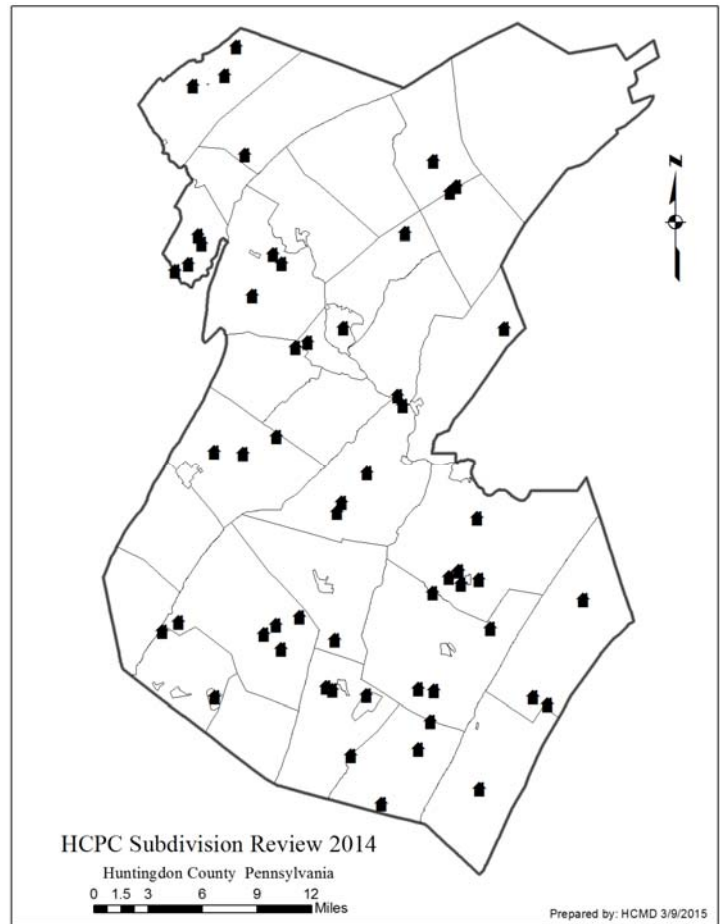
## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

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 63 subdivisions in 25 municipalities in 2014, up by 1 since 2013. These included 7 non-residential land developments, 55 minor subdivisions, and 1 minor land development encompassing 66 lots and 1,301.931 acres. The maps on this page illustrate distribution of these proposals.

The seven non-residential land development reviews conducted in 2014 included:

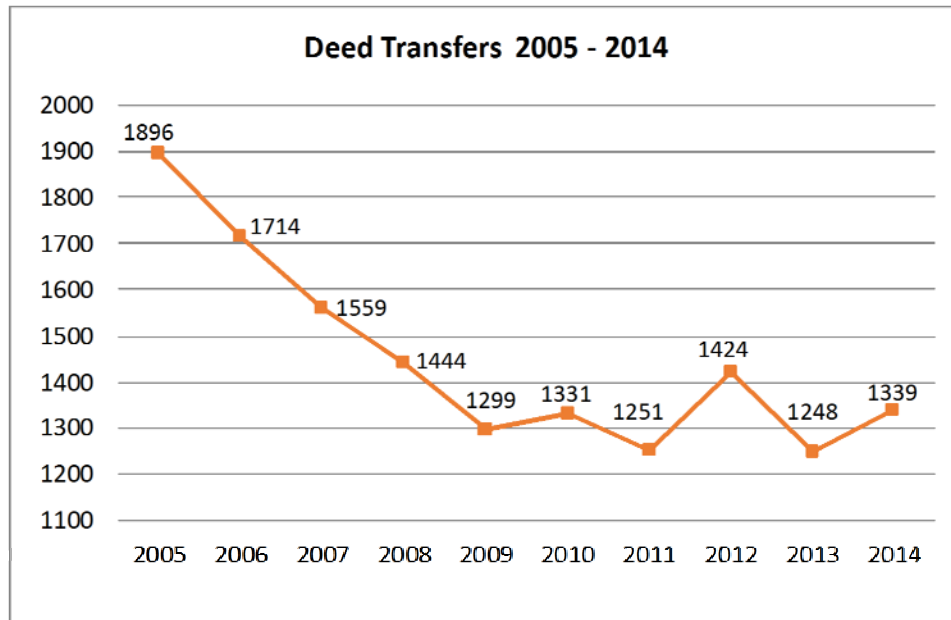
- D & F Realty (Price Motor Sales), Henderson Township - development of a used car sales lot and detailing garage;
- Jim's Anchorage, Penn Township - construction of a 20,400 square foot storage building;
- Marklesburg Pump Station, Penn Township - construction of a 2,442 square foot building for connection to an existing 12" diameter receiver and an 8" diameter launcher;
- Mount Union Pump Station, Shirley Township - construction of a 1,862 square foot building, including a launcher/receiver, meter, pump, strainers, and a flare;
- Klocker Brothers Design Build, LLC, Smithfield Township - renovation of an existing building into an office, showroom and warehouse;
- Huntingdon Goodwill Store, Smithfield Township - construction of a 9,600 square foot building; and
- Grier School Science and Music Building, Warriors Mark Township - construction of a 1,120 square foot Science building addition and a new 7,586 square foot two-story Arts building



## 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 2014, both existing and new, showed a 7.3% increase from 1,248 in 2013 to 1,339 in 2014.



## 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 2014, Bureau Veritas issued 55 building permits for new homes and Valley Rural Electric issued a total of 69 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.

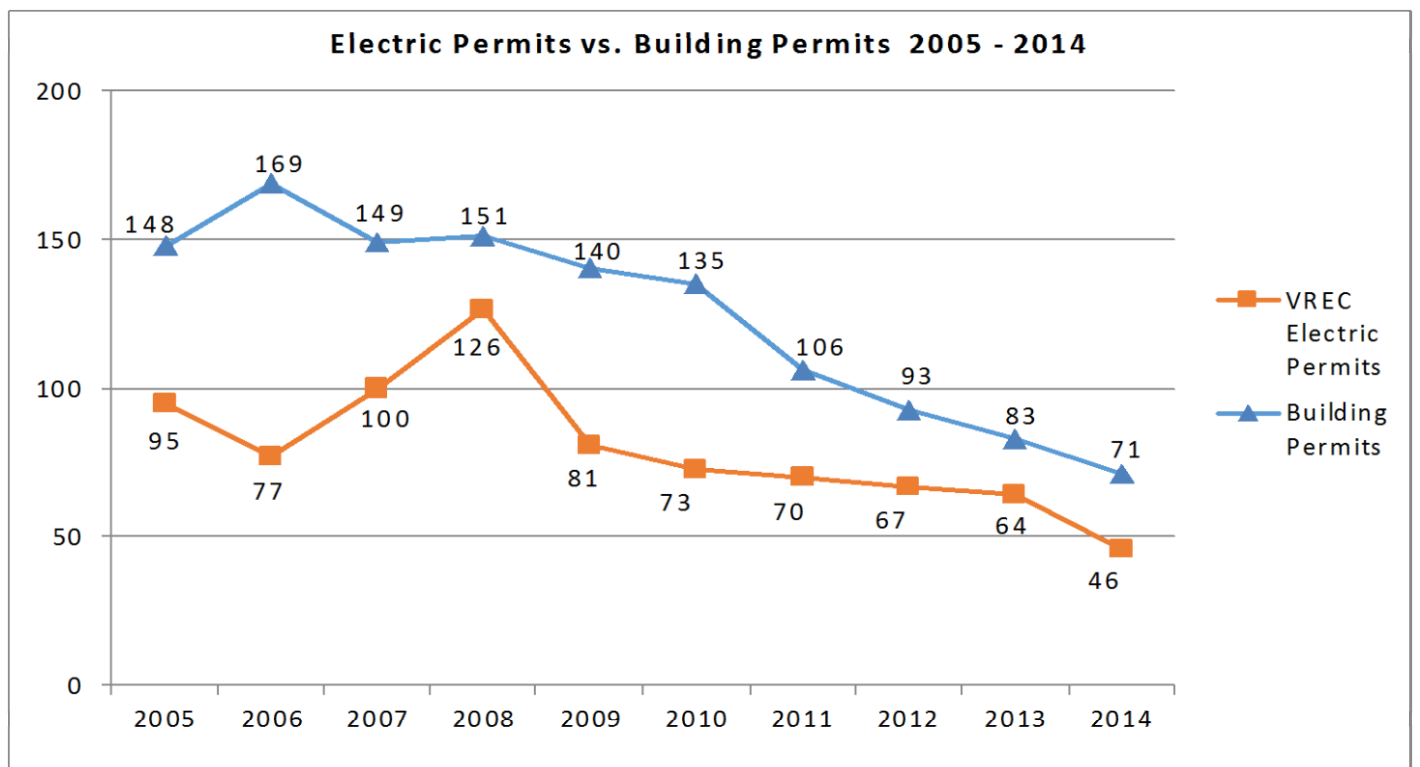
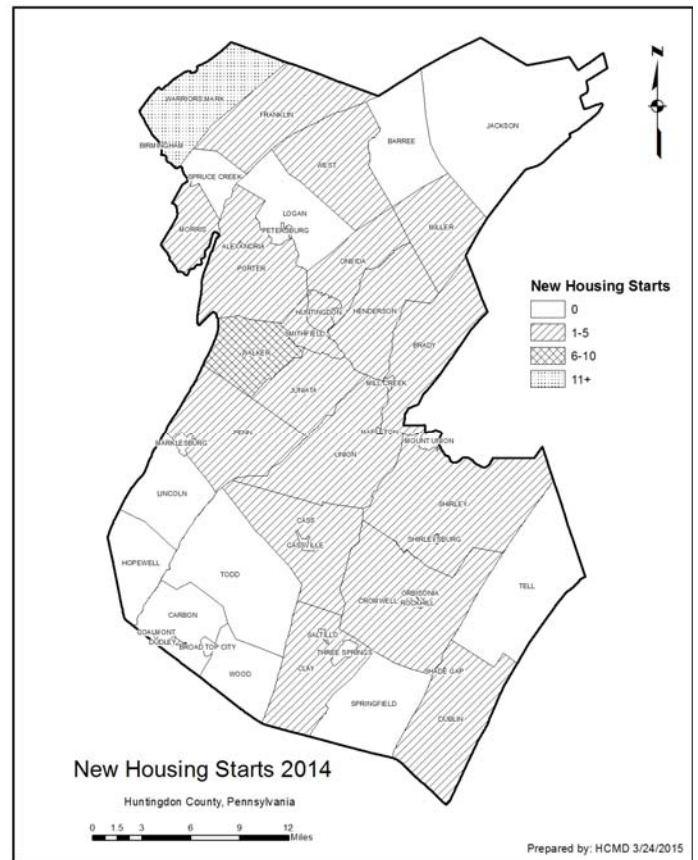
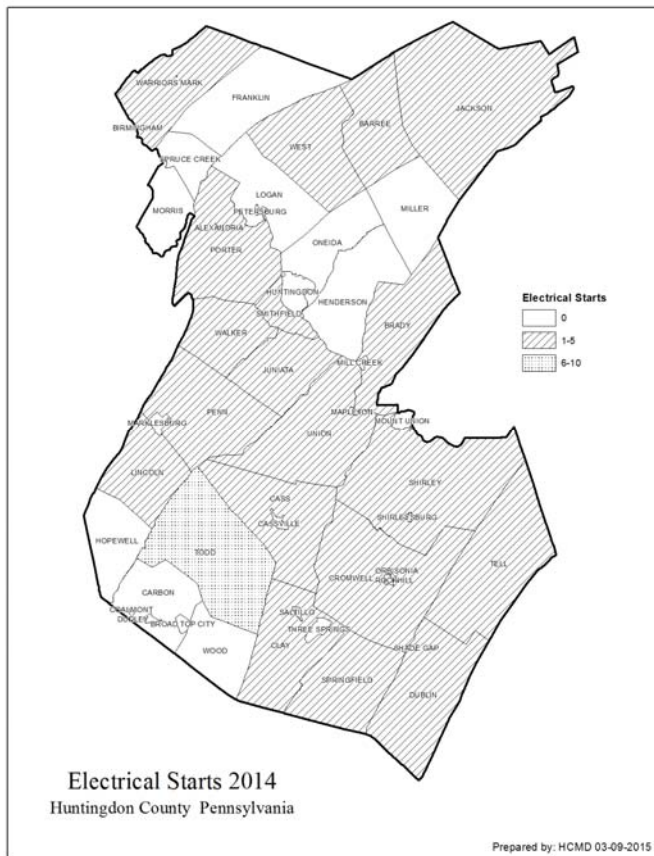
The table on this page shows the municipalities with the highest documented levels of building and electrical permit activity in 2014 while the maps on page 4 illustrate the level of building and electrical permit activity in each municipality. Data for all 48 municipalities is available in the Planning Department. 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, 19 permits were issued for seasonal housing, including 14 conventional and 5 mobile homes. Jackson and Todd Townships had the highest number of permits for permanent conventional housing, 4 each, while Todd Township had the highest number of permits for seasonal conventional housing, 5.

Municipality	New Building Permits Issued	New VREC Electrical Starts
Warriors Mark Township	11	1
Walker Township	7	1
Union Township	5	4
Cass Township	5	3
Clay Township	5	1
Porter Township	5	1
Dublin Township	4	1
Shirley Township	3	3
Juniata Township	3	2
Cromwell Township	3	1
West Township	3	1
Huntingdon Borough	3	0
Penn Township	2	4

## BUILDING ACTIVITY CONTINUED





# 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

Four community development projects completed with Community Development Block Grant funds in 2014 are: Birmingham Borough Water Line Replacement, Bricktown Senior Citizens Center Insulation and Exterior Rehabilitation, Dudley Area Water System Improvements, and Smithfield Township Mount Vernon Avenue Stormwater Rehabilitation. Well Facilities Rehabilitation in Orbisonia and Rockhill, while under contract in 2013, was also completed primarily in 2014.

## GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In addition to Entitlement CDBG funds, Huntingdon County was awarded three miscellaneous grants in 2014. A Competitive CDBG of \$500,000 was awarded for water and sewer line relocation along Mount Union Borough's Pennsylvania Avenue. Huntingdon County also received \$350,000 in HOME funds to benefit Broad Top City with rehabilitation of approximately 12 owner occupied houses. A 2014 award of \$75,737, through the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, includes \$48,000 for Rapid Rehousing Services provided through the Center for Community Action and \$25,000 toward continued operation of the Huntingdon House domestic violence shelter.

The Planning and Development Department administered a total of \$2,723,617 in State and Federal grants, including \$245,982 in Smithfield Township Entitlement CDBG funds during 2014. Tables on page 7 detail miscellaneous grants awarded, and CDBG usage and planned allocations.

## BIRMINGHAM BOROUGH WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Water service improved significantly for residents of Birmingham, especially for 27 Tyrone Street customers. Elimination of corroded, old, two inch metal pipe improves water quality and pressure. A new hydrant improves fire protection. Fire fighters previously pumped river water to fight fires. Since completion, the system experienced no service disruptions and is pumping a third of the water used in the past. Chemical and power costs are lower. Photos at right show the ancient two inch water main and the modern six inch replacement PVC line. The new line does not serve the Grier School; however, the School operates the system and contributed \$43,656 to supplement the CDBG Entitlement budget of \$188,462.

## SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

### MOUNT VERNON AVENUE STORMWATER

Township Supervisors chose to use \$176,716 of Smithfield Township's Entitlement CDBG funds to remedy traffic hazards caused by stormwater ponding along Mount Vernon Avenue between Eighth and Thirteenth Streets.



Levine Engineering, LLC, of Altoona, video taped the stormwater system and designed the project to create effective stormwater drainage by installing or replacing 5 inlets and 510 linear feet of pipe along Mount Vernon Avenue. Disturbed street surfaces were paved and graded to effectively drain water to the inlets and improve traffic safety particularly during winter, when ponding water forms ice slicks at intersections and school bus stops.



Left: Glenn Johnston, Inc., of McKeesport, boring under state road, new hydrant, replacement section of stormdrain and new water line risers and valves.



## BRICKTOWN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER 2014 INSULATION AND EXTERIOR REHABILITATION



The Bricktown Senior Citizens Center is enjoyed by over 280 members from the Mount Union area, who visit the Center for weekday meals, crafts, quilting, fundraisers and fellowship. State budget cuts experienced by senior centers in 2014 heightened the importance of this energy saving, cost-cutting, CDBG project. The activity aimed to reduce electricity bills by insulating the attic and walls of this historic, two-story, frame structure built as a railroad freight office and warehouse in 1914.

Below, to the left, is a small sample of the deteriorated condition of the wood siding on the original two-story, frame structure. The eastern gable end of the 1994 dining room addition suffered similarly from the weather. To the right, below, R.T. Contracting, Inc. of Altoona can be seen installing vapor barrier and new, Dutch lap, cedar shingles. R.T. Contracting workers painted the exterior of the building and rehabilitated the metal roof on the original structure. Kasun Architects designed the \$79,050 rehabilitation project, which was made possible by a contribution of \$10,070 from the Bricktown Senior Citizens, Inc. and \$72,000 in CDBG funds.



In addition to the Center's importance to the well-being of the 55 Plus population, the building contributes significantly to Mount Union Borough's Historic District as an authentic piece of railroad history. The importance of this CDBG project is heightened by another 2014 development. As seen in the photo to the right, trains are running in front of the Center for the first time in over forty years on railroad tracks refurbished by the East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Association in 2014. The Bricktown Senior Citizens Center is located along Pennsylvania Avenue, adjacent to the two-block section where CDBG funds will be utilized in 2015 for water and sewer line relocation in preparation for reconstruction of the failed street and retaining wall.





# Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2013 - Wood Township Housing Rehabilitation	\$350,000
Housing Preservation Grant	2011 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$42,397
Emergency Shelter Grant	2011 - Huntingdon House	\$44,515
Emergency Shelter Grant	2014 - Huntingdon House & Center for Community Action	\$75,737
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2011 - Entitlement CDBG	\$94,622
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2012 - Entitlement CDBG	\$82,863
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2013 - Entitlement CDBG	\$68,497
Competitive Community Development Block	2012 - Mapleton Area Sewer Plant Rehabilitation	\$375,224
Competitive Community Development Block	2012 - Dudley Area Water System Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Competitive Community Development Block Grant	2013 - Mount Union Pennsylvania Ave. Water & Sewer	\$500,000
Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant	2013 - Huntingdon County Heritage Plan Update	\$6,000

Community Development Block Grants			
Activity	2011	2012	2013
County Facilities ADA **	\$49,193.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rockhill Stormwater *	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Union Borough Building Accessibility**	\$0.00	\$9,500.00	\$0.00
Orbisonia-Rockhill Water **	\$127,607.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Bricktown Senior Center**	\$0.00	\$72,000.00	\$0.000
Cromwell Sewer Laterals*	\$0.00	\$82,000.00	\$0.00
Birmingham Borough Water Line Replacement**	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$188,462.00
Past Three Years Budgeted	\$206,800.00	\$188,500.00	\$188,462.00

\* activity underway      \*\* activity complete

Activity	2014	2015	2016
Petersburg & Other Spot Blight Elimination	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Union Pennsylvania Avenue	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Huntingdon County Courthouse Accessibility	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mapleton Borough Water Line Looping	\$81,296.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Alexandria Borough Water Intake Replacement	\$0.00	\$84,000.00	\$0.00
Wood-Broad Top-Wells Water System Control Panel Replacement	\$0.00	\$76,000.00	\$0.00
Marklesburg Borough Sewer Plant Rehabilitation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00
Next Three Years Budgeted	\$190,296.00	\$160,000.00	\$140,000.00

# 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.

## FEMA FLOOD MAPPING

Mark Colussy met with Miranda Leitsinger of NBC Universal for a news interview regarding the floodplain designations for Dry Hollow in Warriors Mark Township and Muddy Run in Huntingdon Borough. The interview and article focused on some of the hardships that were causing problems for landowners after FEMA's Map Modernization process was complete.



NBCUniversal

## STUDENT OUTREACH

Mark Colussy entertained two students for Job Shadowing and discussed Planning as a career with Ben Sereda, a Penn State Geography Student and Jordan Treaster, a Regional Planning Student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Mark Colussy and Amy Wise met with professor Tim Kelsey of the new Penn State Scholarship, Sustainability & Civic Engagement Program to learn more about Huntingdon County's participation in this program.



## PUBLICATIONS

In 2014, the Planning and Development Department published several documents, including the *2013 HCPC Annual Report* and the *2014 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*.

## HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Department staff continued to maintain the County web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). Kathie Zullinger from CCAP attended workshops with County staff to explain the new software and the new comprehensive web page update. Software conversion and a comprehensive web page update are scheduled to take place in early 2015.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mark Colussy was asked to speak to the Huntingdon Rotary Club regarding the Blueprint Communities project, and presented information about Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township.



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

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY COG

Mark Colussy was asked to present information at the Huntingdon County Council of Governments, or COG, in 2014. The first time he was asked to present information, he discussed the Subdivision Review Process and the County's role in the review process, including the procedure for the signing of plans. Mark was later asked to present information on Agricultural Security Areas, and how they differ from Agricultural Conservation Easements and the Clean and Green Program.

## MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Mark Colussy was invited on two separate occasions to present information on the Subdivision and Land Development process to municipal planning commissions. The first occasion sent him to Porter Township, where he discussed the differences between a Waiver and a Variance. He also introduced the concept behind a waiver form and criteria for considering a waiver.

The second Planning Commission Mark visited was in Morris Township, where the Township called a joint meeting between the Planning Commission and the Supervisors. Also in attendance were the Municipal Secretary and the Municipal Engineer. Those in attendance discussed formulating a concise plan submission process and what is required when. The meeting was beneficial for discussing several different scenarios, and ultimately developing a standardized process for receiving and reviewing plan submissions.

## WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Most inquiries the Department received were regarding municipal contacts and ordinances, flood plain data and grant availability. Most of these requests came 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 2014:

### Huntingdon Borough

Staff provided assistance with updates to the Borough's website.

### Warriors Mark Township

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

## JUNIATA COLLEGE RESIDENCE HALL CROSSWALK

In 2013, Juniata College submitted land development plans for their new residence hall, located on the corner of College Avenue and Cold Springs Road. As a condition of approval, the College was to work with a team comprised of Donna Isenberg of Huntingdon Borough Council, Mark Colussy of Huntingdon County, and Jesse Leonard of Juniata College to address the crosswalk crossing College Avenue. The team met several times in the spring and early summer of 2014. Eventually, an agreement was established, and a crosswalk proposal was approved and installed.

## 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. Mount Union Borough contracted with the Penn State University (PSU) Cooperative Extension to lead the planning process. The Borough formed a committee to implement the Strategic Plan, led by their Chairman, Dave Yocum. The Committee meetings focused around the Plan's five goals identified by the community:

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

Plan implementation continues to move forward and continues to gain momentum through the Blueprint Communities process.

## 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.

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."

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 municipalities 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. Five applications totaling \$41,423.03 were received and four projects totaling \$30,000 were approved in 2013. Work on Broad Top City Park's walking path was completed in April 2014.

The County Commissioners authorized another round of funding on February 11, 2014. Two applications were received by the April 8, 2014 deadline: \$4,228.50 for the Riverside Park Walking Path Repair in Smithfield Township and \$9,023.03 for the proposed Community Garden in Alexandria Borough. Both applications were reviewed by the Planning Commission and approved by the County Commissioners. Restoration of the walking path at Riverside Park was completed in August 2014.

Of the \$43,251.53 approved for eligible municipal projects since 2013, \$8,148.50 has been spent.



## FHLBANK-PGH BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES

*By Guest Writer Bill Fontana,  
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Downtown Center*

The Blueprint Communities Program is an initiative of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLBank-Pgh). The mission of the Blueprint Communities Initiative is to revitalize older communities and neighborhoods by fostering strong, local leadership, collaboration and development capacity; serve as a catalyst for revitalization based on sound local and regional planning that includes a clear vision for the community and a comprehensive implementation strategy; and encourage coordinated investments in targeted communities by both the public and private sectors.

The 2014-2015 round of Pennsylvania communities, the second round in the Commonwealth, in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh's (FHLBank-Pgh) Blueprint Communities Initiative represented the first formal involvement of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) with the Blueprint program. In the fall of 2013, FHLBank-Pgh selected the PDC as the lead technical assistance provider, with the Penn State Extension and DSSchlegel Associates as additional technical assistance subcontractors. The unique capabilities of this "Blueprint Communities Technical Team" included well developed courses and support materials in the areas of community vision development, strategic planning, work plan development, civic engagement, fundraising and many other leadership skill sets.

From the outset, the Technical Team was charged by the FHLBank-Pgh with conducting a community selection process that focused on "emerging" communities – communities that had not completed a detailed community plan within the last two years, but had exhibited a strong foundation of leadership and possessed some development capacity. To be eligible communities were required to:

- Have a population of less than 15,000.
- Have not completed either a neighborhood or community vision or a holistic, comprehensive strategy within the last two years.
- Demonstrate leadership and basic development capabilities and express a willingness to collaborate on development opportunities.
- Put together a diverse team of community leaders committed to attend the extensive training required by the program.

At the outset, PDC had more than 60 communities that it invited to be considered for designation as a Blueprint participant. One of the program requirements was a willingness on the part of the selected communities to put up a refundable \$2,000 "security deposit" designed to incentivize the local

team's participation in the process. This requirement resulted in all of the selected teams meeting the attendance requirements.

The "Huntingdon County Group" as it was originally called by PDC, began its path to Blueprint designation when Maureen Safko contacted PDC about possible sources of funding for the reconstruction of the retaining wall along the railroad line running through Mount Union. That phone call resulted in a site visit to Mount Union by PDC. As a result of that site visit, which occurred just as PDC was being selected by the FHLBank-Pgh to be the Blueprint Communities lead technical assistance provider, ultimately resulted in the Huntingdon County Group being selected for participation.

Among the various reasons that the Huntingdon County Group, now known as the Juniata River Blueprint Communities, was selected was the willingness of the leadership at the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department and Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Inc. to pull together a multi-municipal Blueprint Team. This was critical as PDC and the rest of the Technical Team were interested in comparing the results of multi-municipal teams with those generated by single municipality teams. The fact that Mount Union Borough, Mapleton Borough and Shirley Township were willing to come on board with the larger regional organizations did much to advance the Huntingdon County application.



Of the more than 60 communities that started the process, ultimately only six Blueprint Teams were selected. This included three stand-alone municipalities (Clarion, New Castle and Reynoldsville) and three multi-municipal teams (Oil Region Group, Curwensville Area Group and the Huntingdon Group). To say that the Juniata River Blueprint Communities was anxious to get started was an understatement when the day after the announcement, the group presented PDC with a news story and photos of the local announcement complete with school age children welcoming the Program to the region.

And from that day forward, the Juniata River Blueprint Communities never looked back. With a strong combination of professional staff and volunteers, the Juniata River Blueprint Communities team initiated and completed the rigorous training schedule. Meeting on a regular basis, the team worked its way through all of the challenges the Program presented, including crafting a vision, engaging the public, gaining a regional consensus on program activities and developing measurable goals and objectives. On March 4, 2015, the Juniata River Blueprint Communities team graduated from the planning phase “Magna Cum Laude” at a ceremony held at the Days Inn in a snowy State College. Now that graduation and the planning phases are over, the hard work of implementing the strategy will begin.

### JUNIATA RIVER BLUEPRINT COMMUNITIES

The Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) started in 2014 when the Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PaDC) nominated the Huntingdon County group of communities including Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township. The JRBC is one of six participants in the Blueprint Communities program in the Commonwealth. The nominated communities were then tasked with putting a formal application together, with the largest component being building a core team of members that would go through the training program. The JRBC team included several members from all aspects of the community, and in some cases representing multiple entities. The team that was built was strategically recruited to cover multiple agencies and sectors of the County. The Core Team consisted of the following members:

- Bruce Richards, Mapleton Borough Council
- Jerry Dunkle, Mount Union Borough Council
- Andrea Zilch, Mt. Union H.S., Shirley Township
- Amy Wise, HCBI, Economic Development
- Kathy Armillei, United Way, Human Services
- Wendy Melius, CCA, Housing Representative
- Michael Keating, Juniata College, Higher Ed
- Larry Burger, Kish Bank, FHLB Participant
- Robb Ritchey, J.C. Blair Hospital Board, Healthcare
- Melissa Foster, D&F Realty, Local Business Rep
- Ilona Ballreich, Arts Council, Cultural Rep
- Matt Price, Visitors Bureau, Rec & Tourism
- Mark Colussy, County Planning & Development
- Maureen Safko, County Planning & Development

All members were asked to sign an agreement that would commit them to attending six all-day trainings, sixteen local training sessions, local focus groups, and multiple community-wide public meetings to develop a “Blueprint” for the community’s future.



The JRBC was to help create a five year master strategy for the communities of Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township. The strategy sets a direction of the community moving forward for the next five years and into the future.

The ultimate result in all this work was development of a five-year strategy for the Community that included a thorough plan including goals, objectives, outcomes, and outputs. The Plan even developed a strategy to measure success over the next five years. The JRBC Plan was organized into seven themes, including:

- Business and Economy
- Housing and Neighborhoods
- Image and Identity
- Quality of Life
- Workforce and Education
- Infrastructure
- Social and Political



Once the Plan was prepared, the team was able to graduate. The Executive Director of the PaDC, Bill Fontana, explained that some of the training and work done during this process was master’s level information, and our Community not only consumed it, but flourished with the information. The team, with its five year commitment, had previously decided that, once things were progressing nicely in the three JRBC communities, the same concept could be used to help other communities in the County.

# 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 allowed residents to drop off electronics at their S. 5th Street office in Smithfield Township free of charge. As of May 31, 2014, they no longer accept electronic waste. In 2014, SKILLS recycled 5.10 tons or 10,205 pounds of electronics from Huntingdon County residents.

During 2014, 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 2014 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

The Tri-County Drop-Off recycling program marketed 1,097.08 tons of recyclables. Huntingdon County Drop Off sites collected 552.70 tons, over 50% of the total. The Huntingdon County Voluntary Curbside recycling program collected 188.32 tons. County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the fall collection resulting in 12,396 pounds or 6.2 tons. In addition, 10.81 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.

## 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".

In fourteen 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 focus on updating the group's Strategic Plan was spearheaded by the primary professional staffing, County Planning Director, Mark Colussy. Colussy led the group into the group-led Strategic Planning process by pointing out that the goals and objectives needed updated since they were developed in 2009.

The group agreed to begin the Strategic Planning Process by analyzing the County's major employment industries' economic producers by hearing separate presentations over a two-year period:

- Recreation and Tourism by Matt Price (2014)
- Hospital and Healthcare by Lisa Mallon (2014)
- Education by David Christopher (2014)
- Business and Industry by Amy Wise (2014)
- Agriculture by Matt Barnett (2015)
- Corrections by Duane Black & Chris Linn (2015)
- Insurance TBD
- Banking TBD

The strategic planning industry sector presentations are expected to conclude in 2015, allowing new Goals and Objectives to be produced based on factual information from the presentations.

## 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 offices of the Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and the Prothonotary. The renovation project is divided into Phases I and II. Phase I focused on the Prothonotary's Office and adding a new conference and lunch room. Phase II of the project included moving the Register of Wills Office into the old Treasurer's Office and allowing the Recorder of Deeds to have the entirety of the old Register and Recorder's space.

The Commissioners signed a contract with HAAS Building Solutions of State College for the





Office of the Prothonotary

design/build project on December 31, 2013. Phases I and II began in the spring and summer of 2014 respectively. Additionally, the Commissioners signed a contract with Lee Zeger, of CES Engineering out of Alexandria, to serve as the Project Manager. Mark Colussy served as the County Liaison between all parties on the project.

The project also included a separate HVAC contract, which was awarded to MARC Services, Inc., out of Windber, PA. A Mitsubishi Air-to-Air Heat Pump that provides Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) to the majority of the first floor of the Courthouse was installed, replacing the old steam radiators. The efficiency of the system is expected to reduce future energy costs for the County. A major benefit to the system is that it can be expanded into the rest of the Courthouse in the future.

In addition, the renovation project involves the rehabilitation of the restrooms on the first floor of the Courthouse and in the basement to bring them



Office of the Recorder of Deeds

into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Grant funds were secured from CCAP's Loss Prevention Grant for the design and CDBG funds for the construction. The restroom portion of the project is slated to be completed before the end of the 2015 calendar year. The spaces previously used by the Commissioners' offices are still un-programmed.

## COURTHOUSE ANNEX II ROOF

Since Mark Colussy and Lee Zeger worked so well together on the Courthouse Renovation project, the County Commissioners requested that they assist



with navigating the building permit and construction process required to install a new roof on the Annex II building, which houses the Probation and Children and Youth Departments. The project went out to bid and was awarded to R.H. Marcon, Inc. of State College. The project was contracted in September 2014 and completed in December 2014.

## PENELEC ENERGY REBATE APPLICATION

Huntingdon County's application for a rebate on the \$432,905 spent for electrical upgrades on the Bailey Building, Library and other County-owned buildings was not approved because the work was completed after the deadline for Phase I and before the start of Phase II of the Energy Rebate program. A new bonus rebate is offered if the County completes energy saving upgrades between November 1, 2014 and April 30, 2015.

## ENERGY STAR PROGRAM

Rose Rahman, Bookkeeper, participated in EPA Energy Star webinars to learn more about the program and about entering and analyzing data from electric and heating bills to determine energy consumed. Energy Star coordinates with NOAA, the world's largest climate data archive, to provide comparative Energy Star ratings by the



EPA for buildings throughout the United States. In 2014, five Huntingdon County buildings earned ratings of 75 or above and qualified for Energy Stars: Annex I - 77; Annex II - 75; Courthouse - 80; Domestic Relations - 79; and County Library - 89.

Annex II improved from an average rate of 61 in the previous four years to a 75 in 2014, and the Bailey Building improved from an average rate of 58 in the previous two years to a rate of 65 in 2014.

## **SALES TAX**

Rose Rahman obtained refunds of almost \$8,000 in State sales tax paid by the County for gas, electric and telephone bills. Refunds were requested directly from the companies or from the State when companies would not refund the tax. Copies of forms and information on how to obtain a refund were provided to Huntingdon County Library personnel, while paperwork was completed and filed for the Shirley Home. Rahman will continue to coordinate with the County Fiscal Department to monitor invoices for State Sales Tax charges, since some utility companies begin charging the tax unexpectedly.

Rahman also prepared and provided rebate instructions for 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to the United Way to be shared with over fifty charitable organizations.

## **ST. MARY'S BRIDGE FLUVIAL GEOMORPHOLOGY PROJECT**

This demonstration project, funded through a grant from the PA DEP, was designed specifically for the St. Mary's Covered Bridge in Cromwell Township. This project utilized state of the art technique to prevent additional bridge abutment scouring, and the streambank, both up- and downstream, was stabilized through placement of large boulders along the bank at water level and planting of new vegetation best suited for root growth. Construction was done by Site and Stream, LLC and Keller Engineers prepared the engineering.

## **CJAB CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM STUDY**

The Huntingdon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) operates with the vision "to enhance the safety and quality of life for the citizens of Huntingdon County." CJAB also operates with the goal "to identify opportunities, resolve issues and create solutions with a unified approach, combining agency strengths, efficiently using resources and educating the community." In 2013, CJAB initiated a strategic planning process, which identified their top fifteen priorities. Number one on the list was a

study for a new prison, and number six on the list was a study for new prevention opportunities. Priorities two through five revolve around finding funding for different activities.

With the growing need to conduct a study, CJAB reached out to Mark Colussy to assist them with understanding the study and planning process and requested that he provide a presentation to them on the benefits of proper planning. CJAB found that hiring an independent consultant to help with the planning process and to complete a comprehensive Criminal Justice System study was needed. CJAB also asked Colussy to serve as the liaison between the County, CJAB, and any future consultant.

Jim Robertson of VRJS, who had previously worked with the County to complete a Justice System Assessment through the National Institute of Corrections Jails Division, was asked to present information to CJAB on what a consultant can do to lead them through a study. Robertson, through his career with the National Institute of Corrections, gained experience working through the very process that Huntingdon County was considering. He outlined the Facility Development Process that he helped develop, which breaks the process into three major phases. The first phase identifies the project recognition and completes a needs assessment. The second phase would look at program development and project definition. The third and final phase would look at design and bidding, with the possibility of construction, occupancy, and post-occupancy. Between each phase, the County will be given a major go/no go decision to decide whether to move forward with the project as defined in the study or to stop.

The project is expected to move forward in 2015, and possibly advance years into the future.



Side and Front Views of County Jail



# 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) in 2013, the Planning Commission was tasked with updating this Plan. The scope of work included revising outdated information in the existing Plan. The update process engaged the Heritage Committee to evaluate the priorities of the existing Plan and add new priorities that have



emerged since 1996. The Plan update includes a new cultural resource inventory, which includes 'intangible' cultural heritage elements. Finally, the Plan update process establishes the need 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 kept the PHMC Grant funds in the County by hiring local consulting services. The services of the Huntingdon County Historical Society (HCHS) and the Huntingdon County Arts Council (HCAC) were utilized for this project. Ilona Ballreich of the HCAC was contracted to be the primary consultants on the project. The majority of the research and plan writing took place in 2014, while the final draft of the plan is expected to be complete by the end of March 2015.

## LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

A major component of the County Comprehensive Plan, *Continuity Through Conservation II*, is the Land Use Plan. In 2014, the County Commissioners agreed to allow the Planning Department to hire a consultant to assist the Planning Commission with the update of the Land Use Plan. The County hired Danielle Roslevich, who recently received a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Eastern Washington University. Danielle spent the last few months of 2014 becoming familiar with Huntingdon County by going on tours, meeting with key stakeholders, sending surveys and compiling the results, and hosting public meetings.



Participation in Future Land Use Exercise at the Public Hearings

Through her acclimation period, Danielle was able to gain a better perspective as to what Huntingdon County was about, how the land had been developed, how things were trending, and what the people of Huntingdon County would like to see in the future. It was then up to her to compile this information and develop a Plan with action items to address the needs.

The Plan she developed is organized by discussing the existing land use in the County, the development activity, developments of regional impact, emerging land use concerns, land use change and development projections, current land use planning and land development tools, and a summary of findings. The

Plan then discusses future land use, the public involvement and needs analysis, vision, moving forward, and a statement of Plan interrelationships.

Although the draft Land Use Plan was completed in December, the Plan will be completed sometime after June 2015 when the Mapping Department expects to receive updated Aerial Photography.

The Mapping Department will be working closely with the Planning and Development Department to update the mapping component of the Plan. It was agreed that, since a component of the existing land use map update requires an aerial photography analysis, the update would be postponed until the new data is received.

The Planning Commission has noted on several occasions during Subdivision and Land Development reviews that the future land use mapping should be updated. The Future Land Use maps cannot be completed until the Existing Land Use maps are finalized.

The Land Use Plan will be updated with the information from the updated mapping, and appropriate changes will be made, as needed.

The final version of the Land Use Plan is expected to be considered by the Planning Commission in late 2015.



Photos on this page are provided courtesy of April Feagley, *The Daily News*.

# 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.

## PA ACT 89 OF 2013

The Pennsylvania Legislature agreed to a new State transportation bill, which was signed into law by Governor Corbett in 2013. The transportation bill was aimed at trying to turn around an aging State infrastructure by putting an additional \$2.3 billion per year into transportation projects.

This Bill is primarily funded by eliminating a State retail gas and diesel tax and replacing it by uncapping the Oil Company Franchise Tax, which is a wholesale tax on gasoline and diesel distributors. The rest of the funds will be generated by bigger registration fees, steeper traffic violation fines, and other surcharges.

The key point of this Bill that affects Huntingdon County is the availability of additional funds to complete much needed transportation projects. PennDOT has focused the first 4 years of transportation projects, known as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), on projects listed on the Decade of Investment. It is assumed that during the next TIP update new projects can be considered for funding as early as 2019.

The County sends Mark Colussy to the SAP&DC RTTC meetings to make recommendations to the Coordinating Committee on the TIP. SAP&DC relies on the County to solicit for Transportation Projects, which are reviewed bi-annually by the County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission votes on recommendations to the Commissioners regarding a list of prioritized projects to be forwarded to PennDOT for consideration and addition to the TIP.

## HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Huntingdon County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) continued to work with a grant awarded through PEMA from FEMA to update the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA expects all counties in the country to update their plan every four years. The County used the grant to solicit for bids from consultants to help with the update process. The County Commissioners accepted a contract with URS, of Germantown, MD. URS worked with the EMA Office to update the Plan throughout 2014, and conducted the appropriate public meetings. The Plan is expected to be finalized in the spring of 2015 and adopted thereafter.

## 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 Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

In 2014, Award categories were Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit. New Construction included any type of new construction, residential, commercial or public/non-profit. Preservation included the restoration, preservation and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types. Community Spirit included 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 ninth annual Community Improvement Awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2014. Recipients of the 2013 awards were Gateway Arch and Pillars, Community Spirit; 300 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA Phase I, Preservation; N. E. Reihart & Sons, Inc., New Construction; and First Book - Huntingdon, Special Merit.

Designed and built by David Berger, the Gateway Arch and Pillars multi-media project took over three months to design and four months to construct. Each piece of iron was heated and forged by hand and the materials chosen blend with the surrounding buildings to transform an ordinary parking lot into something extraordinary.

The 1907 historic property at 300 Penn Street, Huntingdon is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located in Huntingdon's Historic District. The property owner, Neal Campbell, has enhanced the property by repainting the exterior, repairing and replacing the 106 year old slate roof, replicating the original shingle pattern, installing period-appropriate half-round gutters, and restoring the original windows of the second floor apartment.

The new 55,000 square foot N.E. Reihart & Sons, Inc. building meets all environmental requirements and has been called a state of the art facility. High value insulation was used; a hydronic (hot water) floor heating system is powered by natural gas; and energy efficient T4 fluorescent fixtures are used for lighting.

The mission of First Book is "to give children in need the opportunity to read and own their first new books". Since 2004 the Huntingdon County affiliate distributed over 45,000 books. First Book accepts applications from programs that serve children from low income families living in or near Huntingdon County and provides successful applicants a grant to order new books from First Book Marketplace. The Huntingdon Advisory Board was formed in 2003 and currently has twelve active members.

## 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 12 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2014, including 3 DEP permit requests, 3 effects to historic property inquiries, 5 land use consistency requests, and 1 zoning amendment.

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 5 State permit activity notices in 2014.

## 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 23 review requests in 2014.



# 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 2014, Planning and Development Department staff included Mark Colussy, Planning Director; Maureen Safko, Planner/Grant Administrator; Laurie Nearhood, Secretary; and Rose Rahman, Bookkeeper.

Planning and Development staff attend workshops and seminars to stay current with the latest planning and community development trends. Training activities in 2014 included:

- Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association Annual Conference;
- Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant Workshop, presented by DCNR;
- Fundraising and grant workshop, presented by the American Fundraising Professionals of Central PA;
- Community Development and Housing Practitioners Conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA);
- Floodplain Law workshop by Dan Fitzpatrick, presented by the Mifflin County Planning Commission;
- Mifflin County Planning Commission Annual Meeting, Keynote Speaker PennDOT Deputy Secretary Ritzman;
- EnergyStar Webinars, presented by the U.S. EPA;
- PA Recovery Resources Team Webinar, presented as a collaborative effort of DCED, PEMA and FEMA;
- Mandatory webinar for new invoicing requirements for drawing funds from the CDBG and HOME programs through IDIS, presented by DCED;
- NSP Monitoring Webinar, presented by DCED;
- Blueprint Communities Webinars: Marketing & Branding Your Community; Clean Community; and Elements of Good Design, presented by the PA Downtown Center through a partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh;
- Environmental Review Record (ERR) training, presented by DCED;
- Leadership Huntingdon County, membership in the 2014/2015 Class;
- Community Preservation Workshop, presented by a partnership between the Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Preservation PA, and PHMC;

- Census Data Workshop, presented by the Community Development Studies and Education (CDS&E) Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia;
- Webpage Administrator Training, presented by CCAP

## 2015 WORK PLAN

### Update Heritage Plan

The Heritage Plan update will be finalized by the end of March of 2015 and distributed thereafter.

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

Building on the Land Use Plan update that took place at the end of 2014, the mapping component will continue into 2015. These updates will be done in cooperation with the County Mapping Department after new aerial photography is secured. 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 many 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.

### Implement Blueprint Communities Plan

The Juniata River Blueprint Community (JRBC) will finalize its five year strategy and begin to implement its vision in Mapleton Borough, Mount Union Borough, and Shirley Township.

### Host Entrepreneurial Communities Workshop

The Penn State Cooperative Extension's Entrepreneurial Communities program will commence in 2015. 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.

## Finalize PEP's Strategic Plan

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

## County Courthouse Renovations Continue

The Courthouse Restroom Renovations will be finalized in 2015, while work on the Clocktower will start in 2015 and continue into 2016.

## Initiate SAP&DC's Multi-County Comprehensive Plan Update

The SAP&DC's Planning Advisory Committee, will continue to explore grant opportunities to update the Region's Comprehensive Plans through a Multi-County cost saving approach.

## CJAB Criminal Justice System Analysis

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) has formed a Steering Committee to analyze the entire Huntingdon County Criminal Justice System. The analysis will be done by Jim Robertson of VRJS, a jail-planning consultant with years of experience working with the Federal Department of Corrections. The study will begin in 2015 and continue into 2016.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2014, the Planning Department was funded by the County General Fund - \$87,455.94 from the Planning and Zoning Line Item and a total of \$88,372.06 from the Solid Waste and Recycling and Planning Grants Line Items.

The 2015 General Fund budget has increased by 6% from 2014; and the 2015 budget for Grants and Special Projects increased by 6.2%. Overall, the 2015 budget is 5.7% more than it was in 2014.

## Planning and Zoning Budget Report

	2014 Budget	2014 Expenditures	2015 Budget
Personnel	\$74,994.00	\$74,994.14	\$79,244.00
Office Expenses	\$8,750.00	\$10,843.57	\$9,650.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,118.23	\$1,500.00
Capital Outlay	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total	\$85,744.00	\$87,455.94	\$90,894.00

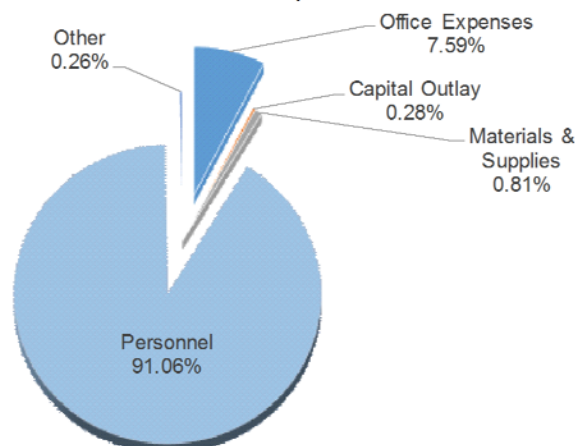
## Solid Waste/Recycling & Planning Grants Budget Report

	2014 Budget	2014 Expenditures	2015 Budget
Personnel	\$83,299.00	\$85,117.00	\$89,549.00
Office Expenses	\$2,650.00	\$2,498.27	\$2,400.00
Materials & Supplies	\$400.00	\$301.16	\$400.00
Other	\$1,000.00	\$455.63	\$500.00
Total	\$87,349.00	\$88,372.06	\$92,849.00

## Grant and General Fund Totals

2014 Budget	2014 Expenditures	2015 Budget
\$173,093.00	\$175,828.00	\$183,743.00

2014 Grant and General Fund Expenditures



## **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*

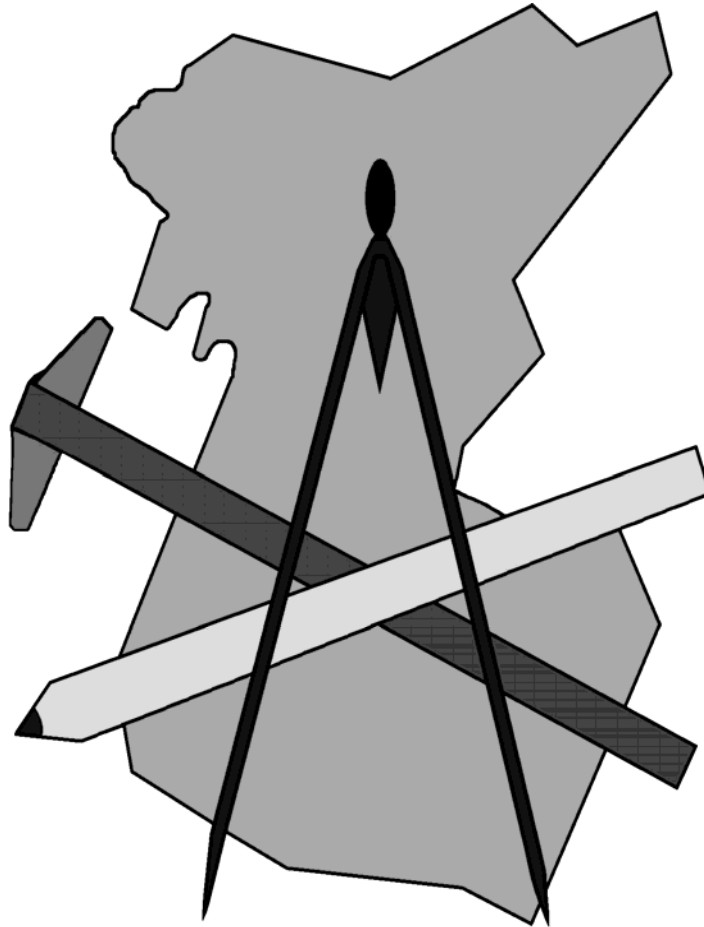
LouAnn Shontz, *Recycling Coordinator*

Barbara Foreman, *Office Assistant*



# Huntingdon County Planning Commission

## Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department



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