



2017 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2018

Award Promotes Excellence in Development

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

The Planning Commission and the Chamber jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. The sponsor for the Awards is Kish Bank.

Award categories are Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit.

- New Construction includes any type of new construction of buildings of all types.
- Preservation includes the restoration, preservation, and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types to retain historic character.
- Community Spirit includes the recognition of individuals and organizations that 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.

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.

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



2015 Community Improvement Awards Presented March 23, 2016

Community Spirit Award

RAYSTOWN MOUNTAIN BIKE SKILLS PARKS, SEVEN POINTS

With more than 50 in attendance, the Skills Park Grand Opening was held on September 14, 2016. Located on approximately 2 unused acres in a borrow directly across Seven Points Road from the Visitor's Center, the Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park is the first of its kind on Federal lands. The Park contains berms, natural and wooden features, small vertical drops, and other skill features designed to help bikers improve their abilities in close proximity to emergency vehicle access points and services.

Completion of this Skills Park was the final phase needed for the Allegrippis Trails to receive Ride Center™ designation from the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). Such designation is a recognition that large-scale mountain bike facilities offer "something for every rider" within a 30 minute radius of the trail's center points. The Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park achieves this "something for every rider" by recreating and concentrating the riding features of the Allegrippis Trails and giving riders a chance to experience and practice the skills necessary to navigate the remote sections of the Allegrippis. Not only does the Skills Park complement the Allegrippis Trails, the Skills Park also meets the 1994 Raystown Lake Master Plan goals of improving and expanding existing facilities within the Seven Points Day Use area.

With ARC grant funds provided to the Friends of Raystown Lake and administered by the Army Corps of Engineers, members of the Friends of Raystown Lake constructed and donated the Allegrippis Skills Park as a contribution to the Corps. The Corps of Engineers accepted the ownership and liability of the Skills Park in the same manner as they would any of the other recreational facilities owned and operated by the Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake.

This project is the result of a cooperative effort among a number of organizations who signed a Challenge Partnership Agreement in November 2015 to construct such a mountain bike skills park. These organizations included the Army Corps of Engineers, the Friends of Raystown Lake (FRL), the Raystown Mountain Biking Association (RMBA), the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (HCVB), Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAPDC), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Nittany Mountain Bikers Association (NMBA), the Seven Mountain Conservation Corps (SMCC), Waddle Fabrication, Dunkleberger Carpentry, and Rothrock Outfitters.



New Construction Award

SANDY RIDGE EXPRESS AND A&W RESTAURANT, CROMWELL TOWNSHIP

This 4,600 square foot convenience store, gas station and restaurant is architecturally designed to blend in with the rural community. Located just outside of Orbisonia in the Sandy Ridge Station complex along Croghan Pike (Route 522), these businesses provide over 30 jobs and serve both travelers and local residents.

Not only does the Sandy Ridge Express offer eight fueling stations with Sunoco fuels, the convenience store features fresh donuts from the nearby Sandy Ridge Market and offers snacks, drinks and a full New England Coffee bar with cappuccino.

The A&W Restaurant is a fast food franchise with both a drive-thru and seating for 34 customers. Featuring the famous A & W Root Beer in a frosted mug, Root Beer Floats and Wisconsin White Cheddar Cheese Curds, the A&W menu offers something new and different from that of other fast food establishments in Huntingdon County. Both businesses are open seven days a week.

Although the Sandy Ridge Express opened for business on April 3, 2017 followed by the A&W Restaurant on April 24th, the official ribbon cutting was held on Friday, July 21st. The grand opening celebration was a two-day event ending with entertainment and fireworks on Saturday, July 22nd.

Locally owned by the Marymart Family Limited Partnership and built by Gary Snyder and Sons from Three Springs, these new businesses complement the Sandy Ridge Station complex that opened in 1999.



Preservation Award

BRUMBAUGH ACADEMIC CENTER, JUNIATA COLLEGE, HUNTINGDON, PA

Completed in August 2017, the Brumbaugh Academic Center project addressed a dated exterior at the main entrance and improved accessibility to the building. Electrically-operated doors were added for easier access and an additional 576 square feet were added within the building's entrance, providing space for two new ADA accessible bathrooms and a more spacious lobby and gathering space for students. The entrance renovation also provided additional student gathering spaces on the newly-created terrace above the entrance and on the covered patio at the entrance.

This renovation project provides faculty, staff, students and visitors with a much-improved large seating venue. Accessibility within the space was improved with the addition of an ADA compliant ramp to the stage area and ADA seating areas. Other improvements to this space include technology, lighting, new seating, and new ceilings and floor cover.

The project provides greater accessibility, comfort, and utility for one of the most important spaces on Campus. A100, known officially as Alumni Hall, hosts visiting lecturers, prospective students and families, community events, alumni events, and Chamber events. It is the highest quality presentation space now existing in Huntingdon County, with three-screen digital presentation ability and high quality sound systems.

The refurbished entrance has provided a contemporary edifice for what had been a distinctive, though dated, building façade. The entire building, named Brumbaugh Academic Center, was constructed in the 1960s as the College's science center and served that purpose until the completion of the Von Liebig Center for Science in 2003. While parts of the building were renovated and re-imagined over the years, it was only recently that the dated front, with its distinctive grille and glassed lobby, was targeted for renovation. Due to the amount of pedestrian traffic into the building and vehicle traffic passing the front, the College intended that these renovations signal to the community and future students that Juniata College cares about the aesthetics of its Campus appearance.

The design provides a cleaner and more maintenance-friendly face and preserves the building's status as a Juniata College landmark. By keeping the rounded circular character of the original building, the structure remains recognizable and evocative for alumni and community members who remember the original building.



Special Merit Award THE 48TH SWIGART MUSEUM MEETING

The 48th Swigart Museum Car Meet was held on August 11th and 12th, 2017. W. Emmert Swigart began collecting cars in 1920 and continued to do so until his death in 1949. He had the foresight to realize that the early cars should be preserved to teach future generations about the development of automobile transportation. His son, William E. Swigart, Jr., also continued to collect cars until he died in 2000 with over 200 cars in his collection. William felt there was a need to host a venue in which car collectors could meet and "talk cars". And so, the first Swigart Museum Meet was held. Originally, the event was held on the campus of Juniata College and that location was used for the next 30+ years, until the 1980s. At times, there were more than 100 cars participating in this event and the owners and guests were housed in the college dormitories. Attendees came from surrounding states to meet other collectors, discuss cars and methods of repairing their vehicles. In 1994, a group of car enthusiasts met with William to discuss his hosting of the meets again. This time the car meet was held on the grounds of the museum itself. Some guests brought their children and grandchildren and became reacquainted with attendees they had met in the 70's and earlier. In the beginning, show participants only brought their antique cars, but, as time went on, cars became classics and these were also included in the judging. In recent years, more car clubs and organizations were formed and there are many more car shows all over the country.

The mission statement of the Swigart Museum is as follows: "we are a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and education of present and future generations." The cars that come to the meets every year tell a story. The earliest car in the collection is an 1899 Winton. William and the Museum have earned and won many awards for the caliber of cars in their collections. William's reputation earned him the "lifetime achievement award" from the National Association of Auto Museums, joining Henry Ford and Bill Harrah. There is no other museum or event within 100 miles of Huntingdon with these kinds of cars that not only show the history of the automobile but also keep them preserved in very fine condition. The Swigart brochure states that the Museum is educational, historical and entertaining. The meet each year helps to promote all of this and brings many visitors to Huntingdon and the surrounding area.



Community Improvement Awards

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