

Planning Developments

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Mifflin County Planning Commission Holds Annual Meeting

On March 19, the Planning Commission held its Annual Meeting at the Lewistown Country Club. Approximately 100 people were in attendance, which included Commissioners from Mifflin and Juniata Counties, municipal officials, local planning commission members, and State Representatives, as well as representatives from various agencies, businesses, organizations, and consulting and engineering firms.



cused on transportation financing, the federal stimulus package, and Smart Transportation initiatives. Mr. Ritzman discussed how the cost for transportation has continued to rise over the past few years. A funding deficiency for new projects has led to a 17-year backlog. A legislative action taken in the past two years to help offset this situation was Act 44. The Act proposed the use of funds from the tolling of I-80, which was blocked at the Federal level.

Deputy Secretary Ritzman spoke about the number of structurally deficient bridges in the Commonwealth and in the County.

Approximately 47 of those bridges are found in Mifflin County. Last year, PennDOT spent \$1 billion statewide in response to this problem. In addition, 17 percent of the State roads are

considered to be in poor condition, with 10 percent of those poor roads found in Mifflin County. This information is based on the worldwide standard for measuring pavement smoothness called the International Roughness Index (IRI). The index measures pavement roughness in terms of the number of inches per mile that a laser, mounted in a

The featured speaker was James Ritzman, Deputy Secretary for Planning of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Mr. Ritzman is a resident of Juniata County and directs the activities associated with the Center for Program Development and Management, the Bureau of Municipal Services, and the Bureau of Planning and Research.

The Deputy Secretary spoke about PennDOT's evolving approach to transportation planning and program delivery. His presentation fo-

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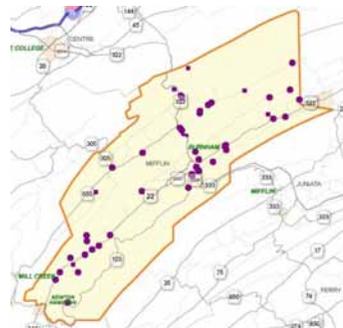
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Planning Commission's Annual Meeting (cont.)



Structurally deficient bridge locations in Mifflin County.

specialized van, jumps as it is driven across the roadway. The lower the IRI number, the smoother the ride.

Mr. Ritzman discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that passed at the Federal level. Pennsylvania will have over \$1 billion for roads and bridges, over \$263 million for transit capital, and \$10 million for transit-fixed guideway modernization.



Mr. Ritzman also spoke of the Smart Transportation Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI), a \$60 million program established by PennDOT that integrates land use and transportation decisions to enable better transportation investments. PennDOT received over 400 applications requesting more than \$600 million in project assistance. One of those projects under consideration is Phase III of the Monument Square Streetscape Project, which would extend the Phases I and II project design along Market Street in downtown Lewistown. A decision on projects to be funded will be made by June.

In addition, two awards were presented at the meeting. The Community Planning Award is given to an individual, community, or organization for demonstrating leadership in community planning. The Mifflin-Juniata Special Needs Center received the Community Planning Award for the leadership role they played in creating a facility, the Community Partners Allied Service System (COMPASS) Center, by reusing a former warehouse in down-

town Lewistown. The project was also successful in bringing together a variety of non-profit organizations into one building. The facility is home to the Mifflin-Juniata Special Needs Center, the Abuse Network, the Juniata Valley Tri-County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit's Early Intervention Program, and the American Red Cross. It will soon be home to the Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic.

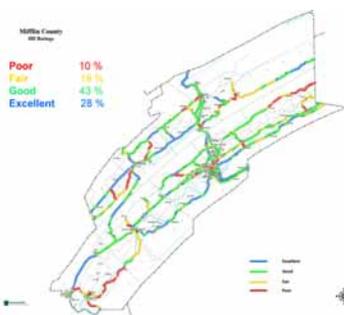
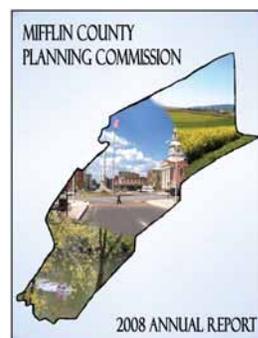
The Planning Excellence Award, a joint award from the County Commissioners and Planning Commission, recognizes an individual for contributions to planning-related activities. Marie Mulvihill, Executive Director of the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata, received the award for her service to the community. Marie was recognized for her work with various boards and committees to maximize funding opportunities to assist citizens



in the community, her involvement in the Elm Street Neighborhood project and

Angel Foods Ministries Program, her work on the Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan Advisory Committee, her role in facilitating the initiation of the Peer to Peer project, and her work with other agencies in addressing long-term housing needs in Mifflin County.

The Mifflin County Planning Commission's 2008 Annual Report was reviewed and approved during the annual meeting. The Annual Report is available at the Planning and Development Department, or online at www.co.mifflin.pa.us.



International Roughness Index for Mifflin County roadways.



Visit www.dot.state.pa.us for information about Smart Transportation.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Competitive Block Grant Awarded for the Newton-Wayne Joint Municipal Authority

Mifflin County has received through DCED, a \$500,000 Competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award for the Newton-Wayne Joint Municipal Authority Wastewater Collection and Conveyance Project. Total project costs may exceed \$11,000,000. Other funding sources include PennVest, entitlement CDBG 2006-2008, Community Revitalization, and Growing Greener II.

This project addresses suspect and malfunctioning sewage disposal systems in the area. The project area encompasses 460 homes, including the entire Borough of Newton Hamilton and a portion of Wayne Township between Newton Hamilton and Kistler Borough known as "the former Methodist campground area", all of which is located in Mifflin County. The sewer project as a whole will also benefit the segment of Wayne Township called Silverford Heights and Country Club Road. The collection and conveyance system will connect into a pumping station near Kistler Borough and will be tied into the Mt. Union Borough wastewater treatment plant, which was enlarged in 2002 to handle the added capacity.

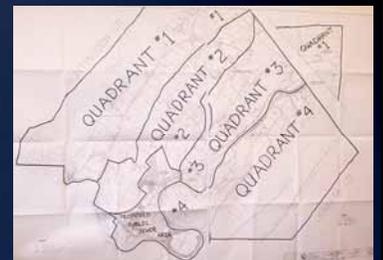
This grant award is beyond the normal CDBG allocation that the County annually receives. The Planning and Development Department developed the grant

application on behalf of Newton-Wayne Joint Municipal Authority to help facilitate lower monthly user fees to residents that will be linked to the enlarged wastewater treatment plant. Construction on the new project will begin in 2009. The Planning and Development Department will administer this grant to ensure that project management and financial reporting activities meet DCED requirements.

The Planning and Development Department administers the County CDBG program, as well as CDBG entitlement programs on behalf of Derry and Granville Townships.



Visit PA DCED online at www.newpa.com.



Wastewater Collection and Conveyance Project area.

What's New in Grant Funding for 2009?

Community Development Block Grant Recovery

Economic stimulus funds in the new Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) program (formerly the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) for 2009 offer Pennsylvania counties, cities, boroughs, and townships an opportunity to use Federal funds to put people back to work.

As part of the funding package, DCED will receive an additional \$12,434,921 allocated to the CDBG-R program under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. DCED will distribute these funds in accordance with State Act 179. This will mean that Mifflin County may receive additional funds contingent upon its commitment to fulfill the priority uses of the program specified in CDBG-R.

The CDBG-R program requires that DCED give priority to those applicants proposing to use the funds for projects (any eligible and fundable CDBG project) that can award contracts within 120 days from the date funds are made available based on competitive bids.

Mifflin County Proposes Projects for 2009 Funding Opportunities



Phase II of the Mt. Union Water Authority's project will affect 28 residences.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

On behalf of Mifflin County, the Planning and Development Department is currently submitting four projects for FFY 2009 CDBG opportunity grants.

Union Township Second Street Improvement Project Funds Requested: \$82,490

Located on Second Street in the Village of Belleville, Union Township, this portion of the roadway provides the only developed access to the rear of the properties fronting North Kishacoquillas Street. It serves as the sole outlet for vehicular traffic traveling west on Second Street. The roadway has deteriorated and has become a "hazardous" roadway condition. The condition of the roadway has steadily deteriorated due to increased traffic. The hazardous road condition has prompted the mail carrier to draft a letter formally requesting roadway improvements.

The purpose of this project is to eliminate further deterioration of the street, re-grade, re-shape, and widen the travel way to match the existing width of Second Street, as well as install applicable storm sewer inlets, appropriate roadway sub-base, concrete base course, and wearing course.

The project is subject to an income eligibility survey to determine whether or not the project area meets the low-moderate income guidelines.

Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic Expansion Funds Requested: \$20,437

The Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic was created in 2001 with the mission of caring for the poor and disabled by offering dental assistance to patients who are uninsured or under-insured. There is presently a desperate

need for adult oral healthcare in rural Mifflin and Juniata Counties. Approximately 11 percent of residents in Mifflin County do not have their teeth any longer. Many adults are using the emergency room services to temporarily alleviate dental pain.

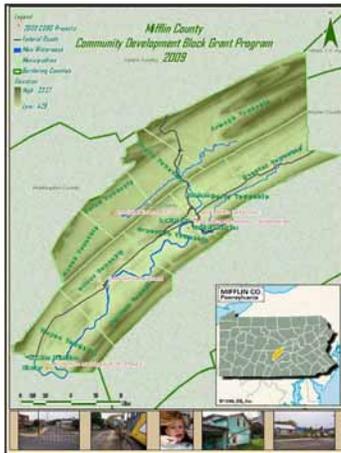
The purpose of this project is to support the expansion of the Dental Clinic's services to low-income and disabled adults, to improve their access to care by removing the physical barriers for disabled individuals, to partner with other service agencies for improved coordination of care, and to add portability for outreach services and education. The goal is to increase the number of low-income and disabled clients that can be seen at the Dental Clinic. FFY 2009 CDBG funding would be used to support the salary of an additional dental hygienist.

Mt. Union Municipal Authority Ferguson Valley Road Area Water Replacement Project Funds Requested: \$76,973

The Mt. Union Municipal Authority's (MUMA) water system currently serves all of Kistler and Newton Hamilton Boroughs and portions of Wayne Township located in Mifflin County, as well as all of Mount Union Borough and several areas of Shirley Township located in Huntingdon County. These customers require an average water supply of 650,000 gallons a day, with peak usages as high as 850,000 gallons per day.

This proposal is for Phase II infrastructure improvements for the Authority's public water distribution system. It is the next project phase in the Authority's ongoing campaign to replace troublesome aging and deteriorated water mains. A total of 28 residences will be directly or indirectly served by this proposed project (Phase II).

(continued on Page 5)



Mifflin County will soon apply for FFY 2009 CDBG funding.



Adult oral healthcare is greatly needed in both Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

Mifflin County Proposes Projects (cont.)

Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program Funds Requested: \$25,600

Housing rehabilitation continues to be a high priority in Mifflin County's CDBG Program. Because of the priority placed on this program by the community, it will remain constant for the foreseeable future. The Housing Rehabilitation Program, initiated in 1982, has assisted over 400 homes in the County. This effort was complimented by HOME Program funding, which was provided through DCED in 1993, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2002, and 2007. These combined efforts have not eliminated the need for housing rehabilitation as is evident by the current waiting list of over 63 eligible families.

Stimulus Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) Funding

The Planning and Development Department is also submitting three projects for the 2009 Stimulus CDBG-R grants. This funding was formerly known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Snyder Union Mifflin Child Development Playground Funds Requested: \$2,950

This project will serve low-income children of McVeytown Borough and western Mifflin County in support of the local Head Start Program. The Head Start playground is located on Queen Street at the McVeytown Borough Building. Existing playground equipment will be repaired, and non-compliant equipment will be upgraded and replaced to meet current playground safety standards.



Juniata Terrace Street Improvement Project Funds Requested: \$53,400

The Borough of Juniata Terrace is an architecturally homogeneous development created by the American Viscose Co. in the 1930's to house employees. It is a series of almost identical three bedroom red brick row houses with front porches and distinctive green and white awnings. Streets are in a grid pattern.

The streets that are to be reconstructed are used primarily by Borough residents. The Borough is adjacent to S.R. 103, but the local streets are not thoroughfares. The Borough had requested that all of their streets be repaved. After recommendations from DCED, the County has reduced the project to reconstructing and resurfacing the three remaining intersections between Terrace Boulevard and Henderson Way, the intersection between Terrace Boulevard and Third Street, and the intersection between Terrace Boulevard and Fourth Street connecting Community Avenue and Wagner Avenue. Portions of Terrace Boulevard will be reconstructed where major deterioration has occurred. The Borough expects this project to give them another 8 to 10 years of wear on the streets.

Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program Funds Requested: \$24,410

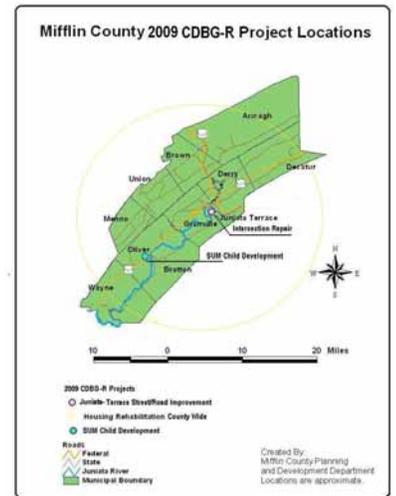
CDBG-R funding is being requested for the Housing Rehabilitation program for 2009. This funding would supplement the CDBG and HOME program funds currently being utilized for the Housing Rehabilitation program for Mifflin County.



Example of a house repaired through the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program.



Juniata Terrace Borough streets are used primarily by Borough residents.



Mifflin County will soon apply for 2009 CDBG-R funding.



Derry Township Proposes Projects for 2009

CDBG Competitive Grant

On behalf of Derry Township, the Planning and Development Department is developing a \$500,000 CDBG Competitive Grant application to offset the \$8,617,608 estimated cost of the proposed Maitland Area Sanitary Sewer Extension Project. The 537 Plan identified the Maitland area of the Township as experiencing malfunctioning on-lot sewage disposal facilities in addition to well water contamination. After discussions with DEP, the Derry Township Sanitary Sewer Authority decided to develop a project to construct a new public sanitary sewer extension for the Maitland area.

The most cost effective alternative for providing a public sewer system to serve the Maitland, HiBridge, and Brookpoint areas of the Township is the proposed conventional gravity sanitary sewer system including two pumping stations and associated force mains to provide sanitary sewer service to the Maitland Area service area.

CDBG Program

On behalf of Derry Township, the Planning and Development Department



Derry Township



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The CDBG and CDBG-R applications will be submitted to DCED.

ment has developed and will submit a 2009 funding request for two projects.

Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic Expansion

Funds Requested: \$5,854

Derry Township plans to fund from the 2009 CDBG program the Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic Expansion project. The purpose of this project is to increase the number of low-income and disabled clients that can be seen at the Dental Clinic. Derry Township's CDBG funds would be used to support the salary of an additional dental hygienist at the Dental Clinic.

N. Maitland/522 Tap Fee Project

Funds Requested: \$126,488

Derry Township is requesting CDBG funding to help homeowners in the N. Maitland/522 area with the cost of the sewer connection tap fees.

Stimulus CDBG-R Funding

Derry Township is planning to submit proposals for CDBG-R funding for 2009. Information about the proposals for the CDBG-R program will be coming soon.

Granville Township Proposes Projects for 2009

CDBG Program

On behalf of Granville Township, the Planning and Development Department will submit a 2009 CDBG funding request for two projects.

Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic Expansion

Funds Requested: \$3,949

Granville Township is requesting funds from the CDBG program for the Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic Expansion project. The purpose of this project is to increase the number of low-income and disabled clients that can be seen at the Dental Clinic. The 2009 CDBG funds would be used to support the salary of an additional dental hygienist at the Dental Clinic.

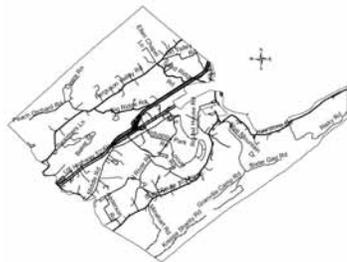
Housing Rehabilitation Project

Funds Requested: \$101,050

Housing rehabilitation is a high priority in Granville Township's Three-Year Plan and CDBG Program. Therefore, 2009 CDBG funds are being requested for a Township-wide housing rehabilitation project. Because of the priority placed on this program by the Township, it will remain constant for the foreseeable future.

Stimulus CDBG-R Funding

Granville Township is planning to submit proposals for CDBG-R funding for 2009. Information about proposed projects for the CDBG-R program will be coming soon.



Granville Township.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

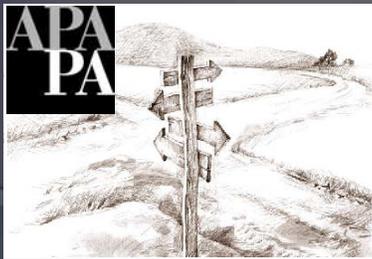
Department Welcomes Jan McDonald



Contact Jan McDonald, Community Development Administrator, at (717) 242-0887 or jmcdonald@co.mifflin.pa.us.

In February, the Planning and Development Department welcomed Jan McDonald as the new Community Development Administrator. Jan comes to the department with a wide range of experience and a diverse background in the public and private sectors including Economic Development Commissioner in Auburn, California. He has extensive experience in grant development and administration, as well as project management. Jan currently resides in Phillipsburg with his wife.

Ethics and Land Use Law Workshop Held



Guideposts for Decision Making: Ethics and Land Use Law was sponsored by the Central Section of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association.

On April 7, Bill Gomes and Mark Colussy attended a professional development workshop entitled *Guideposts for Decision Making: Ethics and Land Use Law*. Bill Gomes helped organize the workshop. Approximately 58 professional planners and planning commission members attended the workshop. The program included sessions on the following topics: Ethics and the American Institute of Certified Planners' (AICP) Code of Ethics and how it impacts the local decision making process; recently introduced legislation that could impact planning; and court decisions that relate to land use and the environment.

As part of the workshop, Dr. Steven Gimbel, Professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College, gave a presentation on ethics and the influences on real life moral decision making. Dr. Gimbel provided some historical context and the reason why people make the decisions they make. Susan Elks, Community Planner with the Chester County Planning Commission and the Professional Development Officer for the PA Chapter of APA, discussed the

requirements for the AICP Code of Ethics, the findings of the 1979 study entitled *Ethics of Contemporary American Planners*, and a recent update completed in Pennsylvania. Dave Tive of Tive Lobbying provided an overview of proposed planning legislation that could affect municipalities and counties. Charles Courtney, an attorney with McNeese, Wallace and Nurrick, LLC, gave an update on recent appellate court decisions in Pennsylvania involving zoning, subdivision and land development, as well as the implications of recent amendments to the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Scott Gould, an attorney with McNeese, Wallace and Nurrick, LLC, provided an update on recent developments in Pennsylvania environmental law on municipalities and counties, with particular emphasis on the Chesapeake Bay Strategy, as well as water, sewer, and storm-water matters.

PA CD & H Practitioners Hold Annual Conference

On April 20 and 21, Jan McDonald, Doug Marks, and Jodie Barger attended the Pennsylvania Community Developers & Housing Practitioners (CD&H) Annual Conference. Representatives from SEDACOG, HUD, DCED, and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) discussed Federal and State grant requirements, environmental review, and financial reporting.

The two-day training seminar was to help educate local Pennsylvania government employees and consultants on the requirements and opportunities presented through both stimulus programs, such as CDBG-R (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) and CDBG programs. Day two of the program was focused primarily on Federal program administration issues and environmental review training.



PA DCED sponsored the CD & H Practitioners Annual Conference.



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Developing a Better Community

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Upcoming Events

- **Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the second quarter of 2009 are scheduled for Thursdays, April 23, May 28, and June 25 at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.**
- **A meeting to discuss the Countywide Stormwater Management Plan will be held for municipal engineers on Thursday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.**
- **The Mifflin County Council of Governments will meet on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Derry Township Senior Center. The Countywide Stormwater Management Plan will be discussed.**
- **New Users Training on the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) will be held on June 4 and 5. The IDIS system is used for financial reporting on State administered grant programs.**

Developing a Better Community