

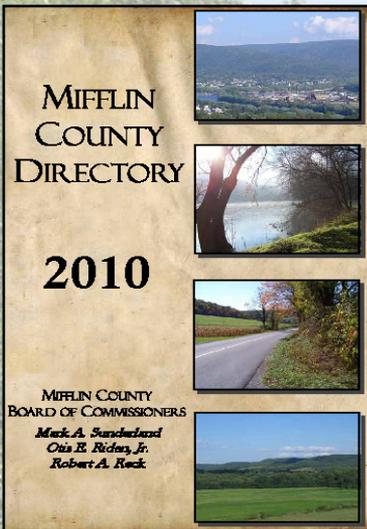
# Planning Developments

◆ Planning Developments is published quarterly by the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department ◆ 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044 ◆

◆ Phone (717) 242-0887 ◆ Fax (717) 242-5460 ◆ mcplanning@co.mifflin.pa.us ◆ www.co.mifflin.pa.us ◆

No. 55

April 2010



**The 2010 Mifflin County Directory is available at the offices of the Planning and Development Department and the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce.**

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Planning Commission Holds Annual Meeting (cont.)</i>	2
<i>Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan Adopted</i>	2
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT:</b>	3
<i>Mifflin County Approves Projects for FFY 2010 CDBG Funding</i>	
<i>Derry Township to Propose Projects for FFY 2010 CDBG Funding</i>	
<i>Qualification Process Underway for 522 North/Maitland Area Sewer Tap Fee Assistance</i>	
<i>Lead Paint Regulations Become Effective</i>	
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

## Planning Commission Holds Annual Meeting

The Mifflin County Planning Commission held its annual meeting on April 1. Approximately 80 people attended including Commissioners from Mifflin and Juniata Counties, municipal officials, local planning commission members, and State Representatives, as well as representatives of various engineering firms, local businesses, and organizations. The featured speaker was John Hines, Deputy Secretary for Water Management, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Mr. Hines oversees statewide policy and program development related to water management. He began his presentation by discussing the important role water plays in the world.

Deputy Secretary Hines reviewed the Chesapeake Bay Strategy and the need to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous entering the Bay. The voluntary strategy to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous has been inadequate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, or a pollution diet, for the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers. Additional permits will be required, and a Watershed Implementation Plan will be developed to establish milestones. As part of the process, farm technology to reduce nutrients in animal manure production will be reviewed. Consideration will be given to a nutrient trading

credit system. Compliance for point sources that affect sewage treatment plants will also be necessary.

Mr. Hines discussed stormwater management and the Act 167 program that assists counties meet stormwater management objectives. Even though the program was zeroed out in the State's budget, carry over funds from previous years' allocations will allow counties in the process of preparing a stormwater management plan, like Mifflin County, to receive



the funds to complete their plan by June 30. Of particular interest to Mifflin County residents was Mr. Hines' discussion on thresholds for requiring a stormwater management plan. He said the State will not define the threshold since we have 67 counties that are not all the same. It must be driven at the local level.

Mr. Hines discussed concern over limits on total dissolved solids, or salts, in wastewater from both Marcellus Shale drilling and food processing plants. Marcellus Shale development, which is not prevalent in Mifflin County, is important to economic development in the Commonwealth. Protecting our water resources is important in this process.

Mr. Hines answered several questions and ended his presentation by stressing the importance of the country maintaining its first place status in terms of water resources.

*(continued on Page 2)*

## Planning Commission's Annual Meeting (cont.)



*Pam Sechrist accepts the Community Planning Award on behalf of PA Cleanways of Mifflin County.*

In addition, two awards were presented at the meeting. The Community Planning Award is given for demonstrating leadership in community planning. PA Cleanways of Mifflin County received the Community Planning Award for their dedicated network of volunteers who work diligently to remove illegal dump sites. The organization has cleaned up 61 illegal dumps in Mifflin County since 2001. The local chapter focuses on organized cleanups of illegal dumps, special collection events, recycling promotion, and illegal dumping and littering education. Through the chapter's outreach efforts, the general public has become more aware of the problem, which has resulted in a better quality of life for the residents of Mifflin County.

ties. Donald Kauffman received the award for his contributions to planning in Mifflin County. Donald Kauffman has been actively involved in both Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties for many years. He was an active member of the Mifflin County Planning Commission for the past 15 years. Don was a founding member of the Mifflin County Regional Police Board. He was an active participant in preserving agricultural land in Mifflin County as a member of the Mifflin County Agriculture Land Preservation Board. He has been a Bratton Township Supervisor since 1988 and was instrumental in securing public sewer service to portions of the Township.

The Planning Commission's 2009 Annual Report was reviewed and approved during the meeting. The Annual Report is available at the Planning and Development Department and will soon be available online at [www.co.mifflin.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us/planning).



*Jim Spendiff (left) presents Don Kauffman (right) with the Planning Excellence Award.*

The Planning Excellence Award, a joint award from the County Commissioners and Planning Commission, recognizes an individual for contributions to planning related activities.

## Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan Adopted

The Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan was adopted on February 4, 2010 by the Mifflin County Commissioners and on March 9, 2010 by the Juniata County Commissioners. The Plan represents a collaborative comprehensive approach to greenway, open space, and rural recreation planning in the two counties.

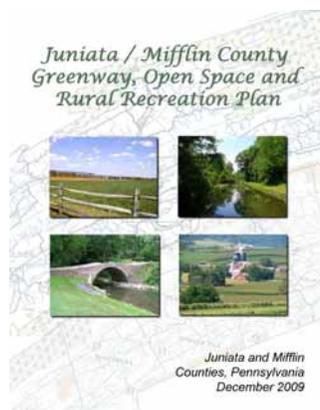
The Plan explores the status of parks, recreation, greenways, trails, and open space and recommends strategies and actions to enhance these assets for current and future generations. The planning process consisted of an inventory of resources, an assessment of strengths and challenges, a development of a vision and goals, and an implementation strategy.

An important component of the project was public input, which included advisory committee meetings,

key stakeholder interviews, public meetings, and a random citizen opinion survey in both counties. The last public meetings in each county were held in November 2009. A presentation was made to the Mifflin County Planning Commission in December 2009 as well.

During the process, targeted forums were held with local farmers and bicyclists, who expressed concern over preserving agricultural resources and enhancing better options for cyclists in the two counties. A trail and bikeway map was developed as part of the Plan. Another important facet of the Plan was its presentation of the potential economic benefits of parks, recreation, and open space to our area.

The Plan was funded in part by a Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



*Mifflin County adopted the Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan on March 9, 2010.*

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Mifflin County Approves Projects for FFY 2010 CDBG Funding

Mifflin County received seven proposals for the CDBG Program for FFY 2010. The first public hearing for applicants to present their proposals was held at the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting on January 28, 2010. The County's CDBG Advisory Committee recommended five of the proposed projects for FFY 2010 CDBG funding. The Mifflin County Commissioners approved the five recommended projects (listed below) at a second public hearing on March 18:

1. SEDA-COG Senior Housing Project, \$83,490
2. Newton-Wayne Joint Municipal Authority Sewer Lateral Project, \$72,581
3. Mifflin County Housing Rehabilitation Program, \$36,387
4. Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic Service Expansion Project, \$20,000
5. Wayne Township Water Authority Fire Safety Improvement Project, \$6,306



On April 19, Mifflin County received notice from DCED of the FFY 2010 funding allocation of \$266,136. On May 6, the County Commissioners approved the amount for each project and program administration based on the funding allocation. The County's CDBG application was submitted to DCED on May 7.

## Derry Township to Propose Projects for FFY 2010 CDBG Funding

On April 19, 2010, notification was received from PA DCED indicating that Derry Township's FFY 2010 funding allocation will be \$147,389. The Derry Township Supervisors are currently discussing potential projects for this funding. Derry Township's application is due to be submitted to DCED by June 4, 2010.

## Qualification Process Underway for 522 North/Maitland Area Sewer Tap Fee Assistance

Derry Township's FFY 2009 CDBG Program will assist qualifying residents of Route 522 North and Maitland areas with sewer tap fees. Letters were sent to residents of the project area to notify them of income eligibility interviews. On April 7, 2010, the Planning and Development Department began conducting the interviews to qualify residents for the project funds.

The grant will pay 100 percent of the sewer tap fee for qualifying individuals. Residents can expect to be notified of their qualification status in May. Funds for eligible residents' sewer tap fees will be paid directly to the Derry Township Sewer Authority.

## Lead Paint Regulations Become Effective

Lead paint poisoning affects more than one million children. Adverse health effects can include learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and speech delays. If not done in a lead-safe manner, renovations and repairs that disturb lead paint can expose children, as well as adults, to harmful levels of lead dust.

On April 22, 2008, EPA issued regulations requiring lead-safe work practices to prevent lead poisoning. Beginning April 22, 2010, federal law requires certification and training for contractors performing renovations, repairs, and painting that disturb more than six square feet of paint in all homes, childcare facilities, and schools built before 1978. Certified and trained contractors must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

A Lead-Safe Certification training course was held on March 30 for local contractors and landlords working in the private sector of housing and child-occupied facilities built before 1978. The course was instructed by Dan Casciato, Jr. of Pittsburgh. Approximately 28 people attended the training. Each attendee is now a certified renovator through EPA. Firms must also register with EPA in addition to individuals completing the course. Doug Marks, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist/Construction Manager of the Planning and Development Department, attended the course and earned his certification as well.



The Mifflin/Juniata Builders Association will sponsor a course to be held on May 12, 2010. For more information, contact the Builders Association at (717) 320-3259 or [info@mifflinjuniatabuilders.org](mailto:info@mifflinjuniatabuilders.org).

Facts about lead, information on the Lead-Safe Certification Program, and Lead-Safe certified firms can be found by visiting [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).



**MIFFLIN COUNTY PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

20 North Wayne Street  
Lewistown, PA 17044

Phone: (717) 242-0887

Fax: (717) 242-5460

Email: [mcplanning@co.mifflin.pa.us](mailto:mcplanning@co.mifflin.pa.us)

Developing a Better Community

### Staff Members

William Gomes, AICP,  
*Director*

Jan McDonald,  
*Community Development  
Administrator*

Doug Marks,  
*Housing Rehabilitation  
Specialist/Construction  
Manager*

Mark Colussy,  
*Associate Planner*

Jodie Barger,  
*Community Development  
Bookkeeper/Secretary*

Donna Baer,  
*Fiscal Assistant*

Millie Sunderland,  
*Office Manager/  
Grants Manager*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.**
- ◆ **The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association will sponsor a professional development program entitled *Transportation Training: Making Use of PennDOT's Handbooks to Improve Transportation Planning in Your Community*. The training will focus on land use and transportation planning in comprehensive plans. Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for registration information and session dates and locations.**
- ◆ **The Mifflin/Juniata Builders Association will sponsor a Lead-Safe Certification Program course to be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. For more information, contact the Builders Association at (717) 320-3259 or [info@mifflinjuniatabuilders.org](mailto:info@mifflinjuniatabuilders.org).**

#### Training Video Available Online...

*Tools for an Effective Planning Commissioner*, a video produced by the PA Chapter of APA in association with Penn State Cooperative Extension, is now available by visiting [www.planningpa.org/events/video.shtml](http://www.planningpa.org/events/video.shtml). The video provides both new and experienced planning commission members with an overview of what planning commissions do and where they fit in their city, borough, township, or county government. The basic tools of comprehensive planning, subdivision and land development regulation, and zoning are described so that planning commissioners can learn how they can effectively contribute to the quality of life in their communities.

***Developing a Better Community***