

# Planning Developments

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No. 57

January 2011

**SAVE THE DATE...**

The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold its Annual Meeting on **Thursday, April 7, 2011.** The featured speaker will be announced soon. Invitations will be sent in February.

**APRIL 2011**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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## Mifflin County Awarded PCTI Funds

On January 6, 2011, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced that \$24.7 million has been allocated to fund 41 communities' planning and construction projects in the Commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) program's second round of funding. Mifflin County is one of those successful communities selected for funding out of nearly 240 applications. The County has been awarded \$1,473,400 for Phase IV of the Monument Square Streetscape Project.

The Phase IV project area encompasses West Market Street between North Wayne Street and Monument Square and East Market Street from the Square to Dorcas Street. Phase IV will continue the streetscape/traffic calming design of the first phases that were initiated in 2004. The first two phases successfully improved the immediate area around Monument Square. Phase III, anticipated to be completed this year, involves streetscape improvements on Main Street. Phase IV not only continues the design of the earlier phases, but it also supports PCTI goals of strong partnerships and collaborative decision making that link transportation investments and land use planning. The project coordinates with the Lewistown Borough's ongoing street improvement program, the Elm Street project, and two proposed senior housing projects in the area.

The project will improve the quality of life and economic vitality of

downtown Lewistown in a variety of ways. The installation of new streetlights will not only improve pedestrian safety, but will make the area more inviting in the evening hours. Deteriorated sidewalks and concrete curbs will be replaced. The new sidewalks and improved crosswalks will better delineate street crossings. The new crosswalk and narrowed street design through the installation of curb extensions will also improve pedestrian safety by slowing traffic. New ADA compliant curb cuts will improve access for handicapped pedestrians. New street trees will be planted to provide shade, as well as help reduce heating and cooling costs for nearby buildings. Parking will be improved with modified parking space configurations. Other enhancements to the area will be the addition of underground electrical wiring, improved stormwater facilities, new flowerbeds and raised planters, concrete pavers, tree grates and guards, benches, and litter receptacles. Phase IV will be consistent with improvements made previously in downtown Lewistown.

Phase IV of the project will assist in the redevelopment of downtown Lewistown's commercial area and encourage reinvestment in this historic area. Phase IV construction is anticipated to begin in 2012.

For more information about Smart Transportation and to view other selected PCTI projects, visit [www.smart-transportation.com](http://www.smart-transportation.com).



One of the blocks on Market Street in downtown Lewistown to be improved with PCTI funds.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Evaluated



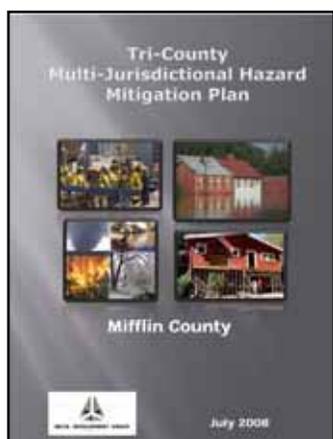
*A progress report on the Mifflin County HMP evaluation has been submitted to PEMA.*

The Mifflin County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), adopted in August 2008, was developed to proactively reduce natural and manmade disaster losses through advanced disaster planning. The HMP outlines actions designed to address and reduce the impact of a full range of natural hazards facing the County. Mifflin County's HMP originally consisted of 32 structural mitigation and 61 non-structural mitigation measures.

The HMP is required to be maintained by performing annual evaluations and five-year updates. The Steering Committee that helped develop the HMP conducts the annual evaluation to determine the status of the projects and measures identified in the HMP and if any new projects should be added.

Subsequently, on November 18, 2010, the Steering Committee met during the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting to conduct the annual evaluation of the HMP. The information provided by the municipalities on the structural measures and the updates from the Mifflin County Emergency Management office on the non-structural measures were reviewed. Of the structural mitigation measures identified, three projects had action taken, two projects were completed, two projects are pending action, and one new project was added. Of the non-structural mitigation measures, four projects have been completed, two projects are in progress, two projects have been deferred to other agencies, and one project had no action. A progress report was submitted to PEMA in January 2011.

The Mifflin County HMP and the results of the annual evaluation are available at the office of the Planning and Development Department. The HMP document is also available by visiting [www.co.mifflin.pa.us/PlanningandDevelopment/Pages/MifflinCountyHazardMitigationPlan.aspx](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us/PlanningandDevelopment/Pages/MifflinCountyHazardMitigationPlan.aspx).



*Visit Mifflin County's website to view the Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

In preparation for the Steering Committee's evaluation, the Planning and Development Department contacted the municipalities of Mifflin County in October 2010 to obtain the status of the structural mitigation measures that they originally identified when the HMP was developed. The municipalities were also asked to submit any new projects that could be added to the plan.

## Planning Services Provided to the Borough of Lewistown

Beginning in January 2011, the Borough of Lewistown and Mifflin County have entered into an agreement for the Planning and Development Department to provide planning services to the Borough. Under the agreement, the Department will provide review and recommendations for subdivision and land development plans, zoning map changes, and zoning and subdivision and land development regulations. Additionally, the Department will provide planning commission training assistance as needed, attend regularly scheduled Lewistown Borough Planning Commission meetings, and keep the Borough informed of important land use matters.

These services are similar to the planning services that the Planning and Development Department provides to Derry Township. The Planning and Development Department is pleased to work closely with municipalities to provide planning assistance, and the staff is looking forward to assisting the Borough of Lewistown.

Additional information about the planning services offered by the Planning and Development Department can be obtained by contacting Director Bill Gomes or Associate Planner Mark Colussy at (717) 242-0887.



*Contact the Planning and Development Department for planning services offered.*

## PLANNING FOCUS

### Mifflin and Juniata Counties Explore Joint Planning Opportunities

On October 28, 2010, project consultant and engineer, Terry Keene of Barton & Loguidice presented an update to the Mifflin County Planning Commission on the status of the Mifflin County Municipal Waste Management Plan project. Barton & Loguidice is under contract with the Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority (MCSWA) to develop an update to the Municipal Waste Management Plan.



In December 2009, Phase 1 of the project, a Waste Stream and Revenue Assurance Study for the MCSWA, was completed. Phase I included approximately 25 prospective strategies to maintain the viability of the MCSWA. Some of these strategies have already been implemented and will be incorporated into the updated plan.

Phase 2 of the project got underway during 2010. Phase 2 is the update to the Mifflin County Municipal Waste Management Plan that was adopted by the Mifflin County Commissioners in 2003. DEP requires that the planning process to update the plan begin three years before the ten year anniversary of the plan. This planning effort will be slightly different from that of 2003 in that Mifflin County is undertaking the project jointly with Juniata County. Juniata County has also received grant funding to update their plan, which had also been adopted in 2003.



Part of the planning process was the re-establishment of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) for each County, which is comprised of representatives of local government, businesses, school districts, the solid waste community, and the MCSWA. In September 2010, the Mifflin County SWAC met twice and the Juniata County SWAC met once. A joint SWAC meeting was held in November 2010.

The Mifflin and Juniata SWACs have been discussing waste deliveries to the transfer station, flow control, joint planning opportunities for both Counties to address common needs, expanding recycling oppor-

tunities in Mifflin County, enhancing recycling services in Juniata County, solar and composting options at the former Mifflin County landfill site, and landfill gas recovery. These discussions led to the SWACs conducting a site visit on October 26, 2010 to review the food recycling operations of Penn State and the Borough of State College. These operations will be fully reviewed in terms of feasibility in the development of the Municipal Waste Management Plan updates for the two Counties.

Barton & Loguidice is currently developing a webpage on the project for people in the community to better understand the process. The project webpage is expected to be available in February. Once available, a link to the webpage will be added to the County's website at [www.co.mifflin.pa.us](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us).

The Municipal Waste Management Plan drafts for Mifflin and Juniata Counties are expected to be completed in 2011, which will initiate the plan review process for the community and DEP. Plan completion and adoption is anticipated in 2012.

The project is being funded primarily by the DEP Municipal Waste Planning Grants awarded to each County. The Mifflin County Planning and Development Department is overseeing the project and administering the grant for Mifflin County. The Juniata County Planning Department is overseeing the project and administering the grant for Juniata County.



To view the Mifflin County Municipal Waste Management Plan document that was adopted in 2003, visit [www.co.mifflin.pa.us/PlanningandDevelopment/Pages/MunicipalWasteManagementPlan.aspx](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us/PlanningandDevelopment/Pages/MunicipalWasteManagementPlan.aspx).

Information about the MCSWA, can be obtained by visiting [www.mifflincountyswa.com](http://www.mifflincountyswa.com), or contacting the MCSWA by calling (717) 242-3301 or emailing [mcswa@mifflincountyswa.com](mailto:mcswa@mifflincountyswa.com).



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Progress Continues to be Made on CDBG Funded Projects

Projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (CDBG-R), and Competitive Grant programs for Mifflin County, Derry Township, and Granville Township are progressing towards completion. The funded projects benefit low/moderate income citizens and neighborhoods.

### Mifflin County Projects

The **Ferguson Valley Waterline Replacement Project** in Wayne Township, funded by FFY 09 CDBG program funds, involved the replacement of the main, potable waterlines. Installation of the last six individual waterlines into residential homes has been completed, and public water is now flowing through the lines. The project is now complete.



The **Newton Wayne Joint Municipal Authority Project**, funded by FFYs 06, 07, 08, and Competitive CDBG program funds, involves the installation of public sewer lines. The new public sewer lines tie into the new public sewage treatment facility. The project is 93 percent complete at this time. All of the pumping stations that convey waste to the treatment facility have been completed. Sewer flow is anticipated to begin during February and March 2011.

The **Lempkelde Well Project** in Wayne Township, funded by FFY 08 CDBG program funds, involved the construction and installation of a well to provide additional water to local residents. The finalization of utility easements from surrounding property owners to Penelec and the installation of an antenna tower will complete the project, which is anticipated by the end of January 2011.



### Derry Township Projects

The **Maitland Area Sanitary Sewer Lateral Connection Fee Project**, funded by FFY 09 Competitive Grant funds is related to the expansion of Derry Township's existing public sewer system to the Village of Maitland. As a result of the expansion, 300 new residential customers and 2 non-residential customers were added to the system. The grant assisted income eligible households to connect a sewer lateral from the edge of their property line into their homes. The remaining residents that were not connected are hooking up as weather permits. The contractors, residents, Derry Township Sewer Authority, and the Planning and Development Department are all working together to expedite this process. Barring extremely bad weather, all laterals should be installed by March 2011.

The **Fire Hydrant Pressure Reducing Project**, funded by FFY 10 CDBG program, involves improving the efficiency of water pressure in 14 fire hydrants within and surrounding the Village of Maitland. The existing water pressure produced from these hydrants is excessive, and the improved water pressure in the hydrants will better control the flow of water for fire protection services. The Planning and Development Department is currently conducting a confidential income survey of the area, to determine the project's eligibility. There are approximately 203 households within the project area. Although, not all households will need to be surveyed, since DCED's requirements allow for a random survey of 150 households. An income eligibility determination is anticipated to be made by March 2011.



The **Second Street Storm Water Management Project**, funded by FFY 10 CDBG program, involves improvements to storm water drainage in the Second Street and Clover Avenue area of the Village of Yeagertown. The improvements will reduce ponding of water on these roads from rain and snowmelt, and will allow easier emergency and personal vehicular access during storm events. The Planning and Development Department is currently conducting a confidential income survey of the area to determine the project's eligibility. The Department mailed 53 surveys, and 23 households have responded. A second survey was mailed on January 5, 2011. A door-to-door survey will be conducted for households that do not respond. An income eligibility determination is anticipated to be made by February 2011.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

### CDBG Program (cont.)

#### Granville Township Project

The **Middle Road Ball Field Concession Stand (Veterans Memorial Park and Ball Field Complex)** is a multi-year funded project involving the construction of a 1,620 square foot concession stand. The new concession stand will allow public access to food and soft drinks and will provide an eating area under an overhang, which will be an added amenity to the park.



As of January 4, 2011, the exterior walls have been framed and sheeted with metal. The exterior doors have been installed and drywall has been hung on the ceiling where enclosed. A portion of the electrical service equipment has been donated by Lepley Electric of Lewistown. The final electrical service will be installed soon. Granville Township employees are completing the work this winter and spring.

In preparation for FFY 2011, the Planning and Development Department has begun to work on Mifflin County's 2011 CDBG application cycle. The application deadline for municipalities and non-profit agencies to submit grant applications for FFY 2011 funding was December 21, 2010. The County received 11 application requests totaling \$707,827. However, \$218,764 is anticipated to be allocated to Mifflin County representing a funding deficiency of \$498,773. The first of two public hearings for the FFY 2011 program will be conducted on Thursday, January 27, 2011 by the Mifflin County Planning Commission. Items for discussion include the summary of eligible activities, review of funding requirements, identification and discussion of known projects, presentations by applicants for new projects, and anti-displacement plan requirements. Subsequent to this public hearing, the CDBG Advisory Committee will meet to rank each application based on criterion established by the County. The resultant funding recommendations will then be forwarded to the County Commissioners for funding approvals at a second public hearing. The approved projects will then be considered for approval by DCED. Citizens are encouraged to attend the public hearings to involve themselves in the public participation process.



In addition, the Planning and Development Department was notified by the State's Grant Manager that DCED will conduct a monitoring of program files for the CDBG, CDBG-R, and HOME programs. The monitoring is tentatively scheduled for the week of February 14, 2011. DCED will monitor the program files, program compliance and regulations, and procurement policies and activities from 2005 to 2009.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

### PMPEI Holds Course on Subdivision and Land Development Review

The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) coordinated with the Mifflin and Juniata County Planning Commissions to hold 10 hours of training on subdivision and land development review. Stan Lembeck, AICP and Bill Elmendorf of Penn State instructed the course on the subdivision and land development process, spanning from pre-application meetings through project completion. Three sessions, held on November 3, 10, and 17, 2010, were broken down in the following sections: 1) the principles of subdivision and land development regulation and ordinance requirements, focusing on key provisions of the MPC; 2) subdivision and land development review procedures; and 3) design and technical standards of subdivision development.

Course topics included the MPC requirements governing subdivision and land development regulations; the importance of regulations to municipalities and to developers; a procedure for reviewing applications; requirements for approving and denying plans; project completion and follow-up; design considerations; density and open space criteria; and new approaches to better project design.

Course information can be obtained by contacting Bill Gomes, who attended the first session, or Mark Colussy, who attended the second and third sessions, at (717) 242-0887. Visit [cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei](http://cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei) to obtain information about courses PMPEI offers.





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*UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES*

- Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the first quarter of 2011 will be held Thursdays, January 27, February 24, and March 24 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- The first public hearing for the FFY 2011 Mifflin County CDBG program will be held during the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- The CDBG Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 15 to formulate funding recommendations for the Mifflin County Commissioners' approval.
- The second public hearing for FFY 2011 CDBG funding will be held Thursday, March 3, 2011 during the Mifflin County Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Meeting Room A at the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lewistown Country Club. Invitations to the event will be mailed in February.
- The deadline for DCNR's next Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) funding round is April 20, 2011. Applications are completed through the e-grants system at [www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us). The 2011 guidelines should be posted shortly. To view 2010 guidelines, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/indexgrantsinstruct.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/indexgrantsinstruct.aspx).

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