

Planning Developments

No. 40

www.co.mifflin.pa.us

July 2006



Vacant lot on Third Street before construction of the Habitat for Humanity duplex.

Third Street Renewal Project Underway

After more than a year of planning, the construction of a duplex has begun on West Third Street in Lewistown. The duplex is being built by Habitat for Humanity of Mifflin County with DCED grant funding received by



The following week, a pre-cast foundation was set in place. Walls and steps had been pre-cast by Advanced Concrete Systems, Middleburg plant. A five-member crew set the pieces in place with a crane. It took four and a half hours to complete the foundation—pieces were bolted together and seams waterproofed.

Two large steel I beams spanning the length of each foundation were set in place by the crane crew at no charge. The steel supplier was unable to deliver the beams that day. Willie Goss, a Habitat for Humanity member,



happened to stop at the work site. Willie immediately called his brother-in-law, Harold Morgan, who was able to truck and deliver the beams from the supplier. If it had not been for Willie's unplanned but timely appearance and Harold's generosity, setting

(continued on Page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>Third Street Renewal Project (cont.)</i>	2
<i>Township CDBG Projects Progress</i>	2
<i>Stone Arch Bridge Restoration Completed</i>	3
<i>Stormwater Management Plan Grant Awarded</i>	4
<i>C2P2 Grant Received</i>	4
<i>Planning Commission Members Attend Forum</i>	4
<i>Planning Commission Training Held and Zoning Course Scheduled</i>	5
<i>Planning Workshop Attended</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6

Mifflin County and Lewistown Borough. The foundation excavation was completed the week of June 5. Dave Knox of John C. Knox & Sons, Sam Hostetler of Sam's Backhoe Service, Bill Shafranich of Shafranich Excavating and Haines Trucking donated their time, equipment, and expertise to complete the work for Habitat for Humanity.



Third Street Renewal Project (cont.)



Pre-cast stairs ready to be lifted into place.

the beams would have been difficult for the Habitat work crew. It was a minor chore for the crane crew.



On July 10, 2006, contractor Tony Grose poured the concrete floors of both units of the duplex. A skilled Habitat for Humanity crew is currently framing the structure, which is anticipated to be under roof by late August 2006.



At their July meeting, Habitat for Humanity selected a family that will eventually own one half of the duplex. The family will participate in the final design of the home and contribute sweat equity by working on the construction and landscaping. The public announcement of the selected family will be made after Habitat for Humanity's monthly meeting in August.



Aerial map of Woodland Avenue in Derry Township.

Township CDBG Projects Progress

Derry Township

Woodland Avenue Project

In May 2006, a request for qualifications was advertised for the Woodland Avenue paving project in Derry Township, and five firms responded to the request. The township selected the engineering firm of Buchart-Horn, Inc. to design and manage the project.

The Woodland Avenue area of Derry Township will receive new waterlines and a new fire hydrant as part of this project funded by Derry Township's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown will begin replacing the waterlines within the next month. In addition, the Derry Township Sewer Authority will replace the sewer lines in

the area. The sewer lines will not be funded with CDBG funds. The streets will be resurfaced next summer after the water and sewer line replacement and storm water improvements are completed.

Granville Township

Fairview Area Project

The Fairview area in Granville Township is receiving storm water improvements and resurfaced streets. The area consists of Racetrack Road, Brannon Lane, and Bailor Drive. Granville Township's road crew is currently completing the pre-paving storm water work. The paving contract was bid and awarded to Glenn O. Hawbaker for \$57,345.

This is a multi-year project funded primarily by Granville Township's 2006 CDBG program.



Street to be paved in the Fairview area of Granville Township.

Stone Arch Bridge Restoration Completed

Restoration of the historic Stone Arch Bridge that crosses Jack's Creek is now complete. The restoration project was made possible with a Transportation Enhancement Program grant that Mifflin County received from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

The project consisted of repairs to the concrete toe walls and stone arch, reinforcement of the concrete substructure within the walls,

installation of an interior drainage system, and construction of a walkway. Restoration work on the bridge was completed in November 2005. The final elements, which included landscaping, bank stabilization, and walkway improvements along Grant Avenue were finished in May 2006.

The Planning and Development Department is currently in the process of obtaining signage for the historic bridge.

Before



Before



Before



During Construction



During Construction



During Construction



After



After



After



Stone Arch Bridge before, during, and after construction.

Stormwater Management Plan Grant Awarded



Mifflin County is awarded a stormwater management plan grant from DEP.

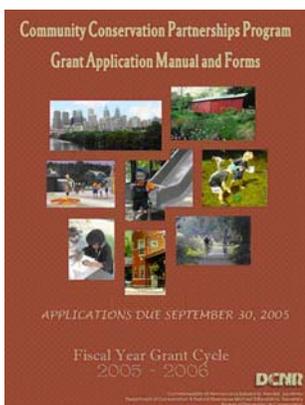
In June 2006, Mifflin County was notified of a Stormwater Management Plan grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The grant will assist and reimburse the county for preparation and implementation costs of a countywide stormwater management plan. In August 2006, a request for proposals will be sent to qualified consulting firms.

The stormwater management plan will be developed for the watersheds of East Licking, Mill,

and Middle Creeks, and the Juniata River. The plan will also update the existing stormwater plans for the watersheds of Kishacoquillas, Honey, Laurel, and Jack's Creeks.

The project will be accomplished in two phases. Phase I is the preparation and submission of a scope of study to be submitted to DEP for review and approval. Phase II is the preparation and adoption of the stormwater management plan based on the scope of study. Phase I of the project is expected to be completed in June 2007.

C2P2 Grant Received



Juniata and Mifflin Counties received a C2P2 grant from DCNR.

In September 2005, a Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant application was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for funding to develop the Juniata-Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan. In July 2006, notification of a \$75,000 grant award was received.

Juniata and Mifflin Counties will explore opportunities for creating greenways and trails, protecting

open space and natural areas, and identifying recreation needs and feasible recreation sites within both counties. The Planning and Development Department will assist with the project administration. A joint advisory committee comprised of representatives of both counties will oversee development of the plan. Public participation will include public meetings, key person interviews, and a public opinion survey. The project is expected to be completed in 2008.

Planning Commission Members Attend Forum



The forum was co-sponsored by DCNR and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

On June 13, 2006, Mifflin County Planning Commission members Dan Dunmire and Kirk Moon attended the Eastern Pennsylvania County Forum on Greenway and Open Space Network Plans in Hamburg. The forum was co-sponsored by DCNR and the Appalachian Mountain Club, and was intended for counties developing or implementing Greenway and Open Space plans. Some of the highlights were examples of county greenways and open space initiatives and their im-

plementation, presentations on defining and developing greenway corridors and "mega-greenways", County Natural Areas Inventories (CNAI), and an address by DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis on DCNR's Vision for Shaping a Sustainable Pennsylvania.

Shortly after this meeting, notification was received of the C2P2 grant award for the Juniata-Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan.

Planning Commission Training Held and Zoning Course Scheduled

On May 24, 2006, the Governor's Center for Local Government Services in cooperation with the Mifflin County Planning Commission held a planning commission training class entitled *Pennsylvania Planning Elements*. Thirteen people representing five municipalities, as well as members of the Planning Commission, attended the class.

The training provided an orientation to new planning commission members on their responsibilities and served as a refresher course for planning commission members who have served for several years. Topics included an overview of the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC); the planning commission's purpose and functions; the importance of a comprehensive plan and cooperative planning; subdivision and land development regulations, planned residential development standards, and zoning; the public participation process; and conflicts of interest and ethical considerations.

The training class was a prelude to an upcoming *Course in*

Zoning to be provided by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) on October 18, 25, and November 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Regional Business Center in Lewistown.

The *Course in Zoning* will stress the fundamentals for developing a sound zoning ordinance using the authority granted in the MPC. Course topics will include the relationship of zoning to comprehensive plans, key zoning terms, critical issues in drafting a zoning ordinance and map, procedures for adopting and amending ordinances, and basic zoning administration. Advanced land use techniques such as overlay zones, performance zoning, traditional neighborhood development and planned residential development, as well as the options available for joint municipal zoning, will also be covered. The course will include mapping exercises, ordinance provision reviews, problem situation discussions, and ethical issues. The course is intended for planning commissioners, zoning and elected officials, and others interested or involved in zoning.



The Governor's Center and County Planning Commission co-sponsored the training class.



PMPEI is an educational collaboration of the Penn State Cooperative Extension and PPA.

Planning Workshop Attended

On May 11, 2006, Director Bill Gomes attended a workshop entitled *Achieving Balance – What Can Municipalities Do?* The workshop was sponsored by the Central Section of the Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA) and was attended by professional planners, elected officials, planning commission members, zoning officers, and municipal engineers.

One of the main topics of the workshop was the role of the Sus-

quehanna River Basin Commission and its water resource management responsibilities. Other topics discussed were potentially stressed groundwater areas in central Pennsylvania, improving stressed areas/protecting the resource, evaluating land use ordinances, incorporating environmentally-sensitive design principles into local land use ordinances, examples of local achievements from Lancaster County in implementing recommendations, and related case law.

Achieving Balance



PPA's Central Section sponsored the May planning workshop.

Director,
William Gomes, AICP

*Community Development
Administrator,*
Lynn Rockwell

*Housing Rehabilitation
Specialist,*
Doug Marks

*Community Development
Secretary,*
Jodie Barger

Fiscal Assistant,
Donna Baer

Planning Secretary,
Millie Sunderland

Upcoming Events

- The Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan Advisory Committee will meet August 23 at 4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the remainder of 2006 will be held on August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16, and December 28.
- The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) will hold a *Course in Zoning* with sessions on October 18, 25, and November 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Regional Business Center (former Danks Building) in Lewistown. Contact the Planning and Development Department for more information about the course and how to register.
- The Pennsylvania Planning Association's (PPA) 2006 Annual Conference will be held from October 22-24 at the Hilton in Harrisburg. PPA will send out registration information in August. Visit PPA's website at www.planningpa.org for more information.

Developing a Better Community



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

Developing a Better Community