

# Planning Developments

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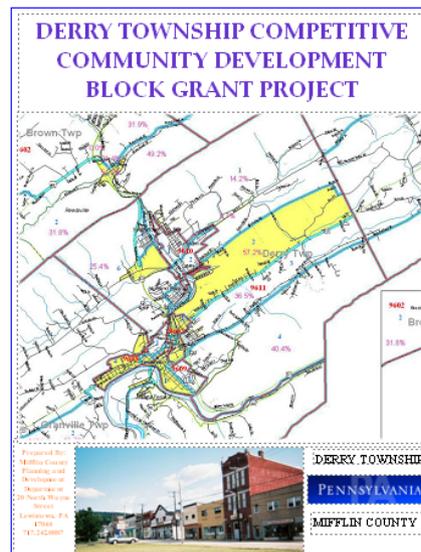
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July 2009

## Derry Township to Apply for a 2009 DCED Competitive Grant

An administrative agreement has been executed between the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners and the Derry Township Board of Supervisors authorizing the Planning and Development Department to submit a 2009 CDBG competitive grant application for \$500,000. This proposal is in conjunction with the estimated \$8.2 million Maitland Area Sanitary Sewer Extension Project partially funded by PENNVEST. The Township of Derry proposes to pay the sewer tap fees for qualifying low to moderate income (LMI) residents needing financial help with the tap fees associated with connecting to the new sewer system.

Analysis of the location of malfunctioning/under-designed systems with respect to geology indicates that those systems in the Maitland area are underlain by limestone-containing formations. Concentrated areas of malfunctions in limestone geology present a special danger of groundwater contamination due to the existence of solution channels and fractures in the rock. In conclusion, construction of public sewer service to the Maitland area should be considered of paramount importance to promote public health and to prevent further damage to the water quality of the Jacks Creek Watershed.



The Maitland area is experiencing many septic system problems due to the soil types and underlying geology. For the 1997 Act 537 Plan, the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) conducted a survey in the major areas of Derry Township served by on-lot disposal systems to identify systems that are malfunctioning or under-designed. A summary of the results for the Maitland Area are provided in the table on Page 2.

Proposed facilities for the Maitland Area Sanitary Sewer Extension project are in accordance with the approved Pennsylvania Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan for the area. Treatment of the sewage will be at Lewistown Borough's existing Sewage Treatment Plant under an existing agreement between Lewistown and the Derry Township Sanitary Sewer Authority. Local tradesmen and contractors will perform

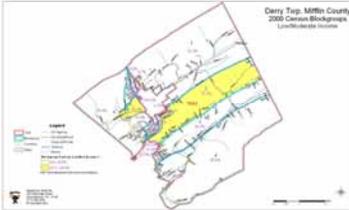
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## Derry Township Competitive Grant (cont.)



Map of Low/Moderate Income census block groups in Derry Township.

the construction work, thereby promoting economic recovery.

Income surveys of households in the Maitland service area have been conducted in the past. The principal objective of the income surveys was to obtain accurate income information in selected areas of Derry Township. The survey data obtained was analyzed to determine percentages of LMI households. The survey indicates that 57.2 percent of the households in the proposed Maitland service area were within the LMI level. However for this project, bene-

ficiaries must complete an income survey to show they meet the LMI level required to determine eligibility for CDBG competitive funding. Each applicant will be screened to ensure compliance with LMI Benefit Test Two-Limited Clientele-Income Eligibility. Recipients will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine if household income is within Section 8 Income Limits established by HUD.

The competitive grant application will be submitted to DCED in August 2009 with a decision anticipated in the next few months.

**TABLE 1**  
ON-LOT SEWAGE SYSTEM SURVEY  
NEEDS ANALYSIS

AREA	NO. SYSTEMS	NO. SYSTEMS INSPECTED	SEPTIC SYSTEM MALFUNCTION	SEPTIC SYSTEM UNDER-DESIGNED	% SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITH PROBLEMS	SOIL SUITABILITY FOR ON-LOT SYSTEM	PROBLEM GEOLOGY LIMESTONE	HYDRIC SOILS
HI-BRIDGE MAITLAND	177	73 =41%	31	26	78%	No	Yes	Yes
BROOKPOINT	130	52 = 40%	38	6	85%	Partial	Yes	Partial
TOTAL	307	125 = 41%	69 55%	32 26%	81%	---	---	---

## 2009 Funding Opportunities Still Available

A number of 2009 grant opportunities are still open for stimulus funding and other types of financial support. Each program has its own eligibility requirements such as income levels of the populace served and environmental impact on the community. Below are examples of project types that may qualify for stimulus funding:

- Infrastructure (downtown revitalization, economic recovery, green space)
- Senior and Low Income Services
- Job Creation

Many of the programs are limited to not-for-profit and local government organizations. However, funding is available for public-private partnerships to enhance the local community. Grant applications are due in August and September.

Organizations that have a project that might qualify for state or federal funding should contact Jan McDonald, Community Development Administrator, at (717) 242-0887 or [jmcdonald@co.mifflin.pa.us](mailto:jmcdonald@co.mifflin.pa.us).



Contact Jan McDonald at the Planning and Development Department for information about possible funding sources.

- Water and Sanitation
- Street/Road Improvements
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Transportation
- Flood Control
- Conservation (energy, water, land)
- Clean Energy Generation (alternative fuels, bio-design, hydroelectric, solar, wind)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## 2009 CDBG and CDBG-R Applications Submitted

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects are required to meet strict eligibility and environmental requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In addition, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), CDBG-R projects must also meet the CDBG eligibility and environmental requirements, as well as describe how the use of CDBG-R funds for the activity will maximize job creation and economic benefit in relation to the funds obligated, and how the activity will address the Recovery Act by:

- Preserving or creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;
- Assisting those most impacted by the recession;
- Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency; and
- Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.

The Planning and Development Department has submitted both CDBG and CDBG-R applications for projects in Mifflin County, Derry Township, and Granville Township. Decisions on the approval and funding of these types of projects generally occur in one to three months from the date the activities are accepted by DCED in Harrisburg.

### Mifflin County

For 2009, Mifflin County has applied for \$252,849 in CDBG funding. The application for these funds was approved by the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting held on June 4, 2009. The projects submitted for FFY 2009 include funding for a waterline replacement project in the Ferguson Valley Road neighborhood of Silverford Heights in Wayne Township, partial funding of a new den-

tal hygienist for the Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic, and countywide Housing Rehabilitation.

In addition to the annual CDBG funding, Mifflin County has applied for \$80,320 in CDBG-R funding. The Juniata Terrace Borough Street/Road Improvement project was submitted for funding under this program.

### Derry Township

For 2009, Derry Township has applied for \$134,510 in CDBG funding. The application for these funds was approved by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting held on May 18, 2009. The projects submitted for FFY 2009 include funding to help the residents of Route 522 North and Maitland areas with sewer tap fees and partial funding of a new dental hygienist for the Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic.

In addition to the annual CDBG funding, the Township of Derry has applied for \$33,470 in CDBG-R funding. A Township-wide Housing Rehabilitation program was submitted for funding under this program.

### Granville Township

For 2009, Granville Township has applied for \$107,012 in CDBG funding. The application for these funds was approved by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting on June 1, 2009. The projects submitted for FFY 2009 include funding to perform housing rehabilitation and repairs and on-lot sewage repairs within the Township.

In addition to the annual CDBG funding, the Township of Granville has applied for \$33,470 in CDBG-R funding. A Township-wide Housing Rehabilitation Program was submitted for funding under this program.

For more information about CDBG and CDBG-R funding and project eligibility, contact Jan McDonald at the Planning and Development Department.

## PLANNING FOCUS

### PennDOT and SEDA-COG Discuss Transportation Updates and Transportation Planning

On June 25, transportation topics were presented to the County Planning Commission. Karen Michael, Assistant District Executive for Design at PennDOT's District 2-0, provided an update on transportation projects affecting Mifflin County. Jim Saylor, Director of Transportation Planning at SEDA-COG, gave an overview of the Twelve-Year Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) processes.

Karen Michael reviewed transportation projects affecting Mifflin County. In the past four years, more than \$17.3 million in transportation projects were completed in Mifflin County:

Enhancement Project:

*Monument Square Streetscape Project, Phases I & II  
Montgomery Avenue Project in Lewistown Borough*

Bridge Replacement Projects:

*SR 655 Little Kish Creek Bridge in Union Township  
T-702 Schoolhouse Road Bridge in Oliver Township*

The following projects are currently underway in Mifflin County:

Bridge Replacement Projects:

*SR 305 Little Kish Creek Bridge near Belleville  
SR 2002 Belltown Run Bridge in Decatur Township  
SR 2007 Kish Creek Bridge in Lewistown Borough  
and Derry Township*

Approximately \$13.6 million has been planned for projects through 2012. Upcoming projects for Mifflin County are as follows:

Box Culvert Replacement Projects:

*SR 4007 Musser Run Bridge in Oliver Township  
SR 2002 Belltown Run Bridge in Decatur Township*

Highway Restoration Projects:

*SR 1005 Electric Avenue in Lewistown and Derry*

Bridge Replacement Projects:

*SR 1005 Bucks Run Bridge in Burnham Borough  
SR 1002 Honey Creek Bridge in Armagh Township  
SR 2001 Jacks Creek Bridge in Derry Township*

Bridge Rehabilitation Projects:

*SR 22 Bypass Bridges near the Charles Street Exit in  
Lewistown Borough  
SR 322 Reedsville Bridges in Brown Township*

Jim Saylor began his presentation on transportation planning by discussing the Twelve-Year Transportation Plan, which is PennDOT's long-term transportation plan. The TIP involves the first four years of the Twelve-Year Transportation Plan and includes those projects most likely to be funded. The Twelve-Year Transportation Plan is updated every two years, and the process will begin this summer. The Highway Reauthorization bill, the Highway Trust Fund, and Act 44 are some items that make future funding provisions uncertain at this time. Without some direction on future funding, municipalities may not be able to add new projects to the TIP. Currently, bridge projects make up 95 percent of the TIP for Mifflin County.

As part of the process, the State Transportation Commission (STC) will hold public hearings throughout Pennsylvania. The public hearing for our region is scheduled for August 20 in State College. A limited amount of time to present oral testimony (approximately five minutes per project) will be available. In order to provide oral testimony, an electronic abstract on the proposed project must be submitted a week prior to the hearing. Another way to submit testimony is in writing through the electronic submission of an abstract by September 30. Those who want to present oral testimony or submit written testimony must contact Nolan Richie, Executive Secretary for the STC, at [RA-PennDOTSTC@state.pa.us](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@state.pa.us).

SEDA-COG will be submitting testimony for our region. Anyone planning to submit written or oral testimony should contact them prior to July 31. Communities with projects they wish to see added to the TIP should contact Bill Gomes at the Planning and Development Department with an abstract by that date, as he serves on SEDA-COG's Rural Transportation Committee. The abstract can be obtained at [www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us). It was clear from Mr. Saylor's discussion that maintaining the existing system, rather than adding new capacity, is preferred at this point.

For more information, contact Jim Saylor at SEDA-COG by phone at (570) 524-4491 or email [jsaylor@seda-cog.org](mailto:jsaylor@seda-cog.org), or Bill Gomes, (717) 242-0887 or [wgomes@co.mifflin.pa.us](mailto:wgomes@co.mifflin.pa.us).

## Funding Proposed for Phase III of the Monument Square Streetscape Project

The Monument Square Streetscape Project is a phased strategy to revitalize downtown Lewistown to make it safer and more inviting for citizens to visit, reside, shop, and do business.

Phases I and II of the project focused on the Monument Square area and included pedestrian level light standards, new concrete curbing, concrete and unit paver sidewalks, stenciled concrete crosswalks to improve public safety, curbed island bump-outs to slow and calm traffic, street trees to reduce heating and cooling costs for nearby buildings, outdoor café areas to encourage community interaction and seat wall planters. Construction was completed in the fall of 2008.

Preliminary design work for Phase III of the Monument Square Streetscape Project was initiated at the end of 2008. This information was used in the preparation of an application submitted in December 2008 to PennDOT for Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) program funds. The purpose of the application was to extend the work undertaken in the area of Monument Square to areas along East and West Market Street. Unfortunately, in May 2009, Mifflin County was notified that the project was not selected for funding from the PCTI program.

In order to continue Phase III of the project, a modi-

fied proposal has been developed. Mifflin County is now seeking funds through both DCED's Growing Greener II program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Community Facilities program. The combined request for the two sources of funding is \$159,893.

The focus of Phase III of the project will now be North and South Main Street. Improvements to this area will include benches, street trees, stenciled concrete crosswalks, new concrete curbing, concrete pavers, ornamental planters, and pedestrian level lights.

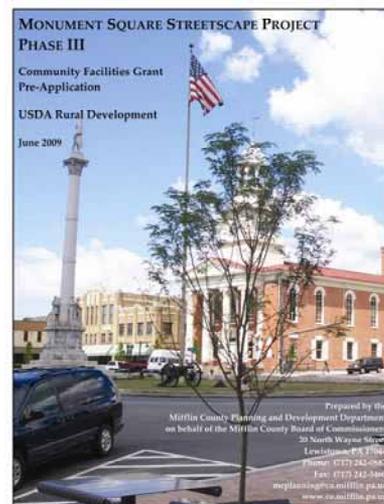
The new proposal builds on the investments made in Phases I and II of the project and provides pedestrian accommodations to replace unsafe sidewalks and takes into consideration ADA requirements at intersections to make it safer for people with disabilities.

An additional phase of the project will eventually include improvements to East and West Market Street pending future available funding sources.

In the next few months Mifflin County anticipates decisions on the USDA Community Facilities and the DCED Growing Greener II grant applications. Phase III of the project will further improve downtown Lewistown by encouraging reinvestment in this historic area.



*Phases I and II of the Monument Square Streetscape Project were completed in 2008.*



*Mifflin County applied to USDA Rural Development for a Community Facilities grant in June 2009.*



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*The Growing Greener II grant application will be submitted to DCED this summer for Phase III of the project.*

# Juniata County Adopts Comprehensive Plan

by Frank Chlebnikow, AICP, RETTEW Associates, Inc.



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*The Juniata County Comprehensive Plan was funded by a DCED LUPTAP grant.*

On June 30, 2009, the Juniata County Board of Commissioners adopted the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan. The completion of this project fulfills an Act 247, Pennsylvania Municipalities Code (MPC) requirement that every county in Pennsylvania must prepare and adopt a Comprehensive Plan.

The Boroughs of Juniata County are generally located along the Juniata River and act as centralized nodes providing needed services to the residents of the surrounding townships. These Boroughs are connected by state roads, which provide interconnectivity throughout the County.

The Comprehensive Plan creates a vision for Juniata County with

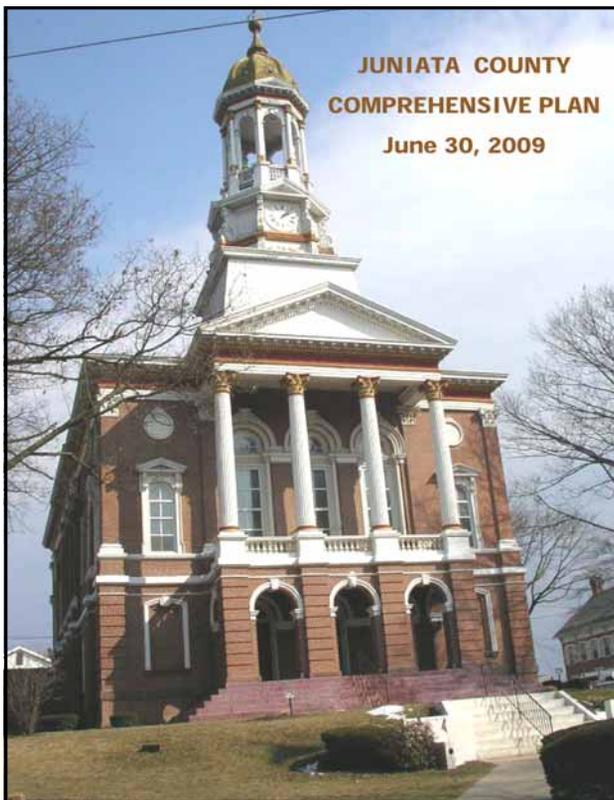
mutually supportive policies that will guide it through the next ten years. This is extremely important given the County's geographic location in central Pennsylvania, as well as recently completed highway improvements that contribute to the County's accessibility and desirability.

The natural beauty of Juniata County, along with the small-town, close-knit communities, has contributed to a high quality of life that must be protected for this generation and future generations to come. It is the preservation of this high quality of life that must follow the adoption of this plan.

The plan also provides municipalities with guidance about future development and how it relates to natural and water resources, population, housing, land use, community facilities, historic resources, and transportation, and it recommends implementation strategies and identifies funding sources. It provides framework from which local municipalities can update or prepare their own plans, and it is important to develop a common vision and an atmosphere of consistency throughout the county and its 17 municipalities.

The Juniata County Board of Commissioners contracted with RETTEW Associates Inc. and Shepstone Management to facilitate the development of the plan. The Planning and Development Department helped oversee the project and administered the DCED Land Use and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) grant that funded the project.

The Juniata County Comprehensive Plan is available online at [www.co.juniata.pa.us](http://www.co.juniata.pa.us).



Public participation was a key element in developing the Comprehensive Plan.

The public's number one comment was to keep the rural character of Juniata County intact. That is accomplished by employing a growth strategy that focuses growth to the boroughs and their immediate surroundings. These areas are generally served by public infrastructure that can immediately accommodate the growth, or upgrades to water and sewer systems can be accomplished to accommodate growth in the future.



*RETTEW Associates prepared Juniata County's Comprehensive Plan.*

## Granville Township Promotes Green Innovation

The Granville Junction Waste Water Treatment Plant does more than process waste water and sewage; it promotes a clean environment through a soil-revitalizing program called vermicomposting. Vermicomposting is the process of using earthworms to turn organic waste into vermicompost, a high quality natural, odorless fertilizer and soil conditioner.

One of the first U.S. treatment plants to install the system, the Granville Junction Treatment Plant, turns out 50 to 70 dry tons of high quality natural fertilizer and soil conditioner each year. Closely monitored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Granville treatment plant is a prime example of how waste that

typically ends up in a landfill or back in our watershed, can be turned into a productive and environmentally friendly product for farmers, gardeners, homeowners, and governments.

As Granville Township continues to process biosolids with this innovative technology, they will also continue to explore new processes and partnerships to make vermicomposting even more productive for the community.

The dry, natural compost locally known as "GranVerm," is available by the ton or bag to commercial suppliers and the general public alike. For more information on the vermicompost, contact Granville Township's Sewer/Water Foreman at (717) 242-1838.



*Vermicompost facility in Granville Township.*

## CATA Informs Communities of CENTRE COMMUTE Program

On May 28, Hugh Mose, General Manager, and Terri Quici, Ride Share Coordinator, of the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) gave a presentation to inform the community about the CENTRE COMMUTE Program.

Since 1999, CATA has been providing a regional program for commuters to find an economical way to travel to and from work. The program expanded in 2007 to serve a ten-county area with Ride Share programs (carpool and vanpool) and a Guaranteed Ride Home Program. They now have 1,100 participants in their database. There are two vanpools and five carpools commuting from Mifflin County, with a new vanpool proposed to start this summer. Approximately 90 Mifflin County residents participate in the program.

Ride Share is a web-based matching program for commuters

where participants self-register, edit their profile, and can be matched for carpool and vanpool service. The vanpool can be 10-15 riders with one designated driver. CATA facilitates the arrangements providing driver safety orientation, a van, insurance, maintenance, and a gas card. Fares are calculated based on depreciation, insurance, and operational costs, which are billed monthly to the vanpool group. All riders in the group, except for the van driver, contribute to the monthly fee. For an additional fee, CATA offers to participants a Guaranteed Ride Home Program, which provides a taxi ride home for emergencies (e.g., illness, workplace shutdowns, unscheduled mandatory overtime, disasters) up to four times a year.

CATA's presentation was part of an outreach initiative to encourage further participation in the program.



*Contact Granville Township's Sewer/Water Foreman at (717) 242-1838 for information on vermicompost.*



*For information on CATA's CENTRE COMMUTE Program, contact CATA at (814) 238-2282, ext. 134 or [rideshare@catabus.com](mailto:rideshare@catabus.com).*



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Developing a Better Community

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### **Upcoming Events**

- **Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the third quarter of 2009 will be held Thursdays, July 23, August 27, and September 24 at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.**
- **On Thursday, August 20, 2009, the State Transportation Commission (STC) will hold a public hearing in State College for our region to discuss updating the State's Twelve-Year Transportation Plan. Oral testimony is due for submission to PennDOT no later than August 13. The deadline for written testimony is September 30.**
- **Grant applications for 2009 stimulus funding and other types of financial support are generally due in August and September. Organizations in Mifflin County that have a potential project for state or federal funding should contact Jan McDonald, (717) 242-0887 or jmcdonald@co.mifflin.pa.us.**
- **The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association will hold its Annual Conference from October 4-6 in Valley Forge, PA. Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for more information.**
- **The FFY 2010 application period for FEMA's hazard mitigation grants will close on Friday, November 6, 2009. Grant applications submitted after that date will be held until the FFY 2011 grant application period.**

**Developing a Better Community**