

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. 41

October 2006



Above: Foot of the Seven Mountains in Armagh Township.

Below: Ferguson Valley Road and Freedom Avenue intersection in Derry Township.



Potential Transportation Safety Improvements Reviewed



In August 2005, President Bush signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which provides guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation. With funds of \$244.1 billion, SAFETEA-LU represents the largest surface transportation investment in our Nation's history. SAFETEA-LU addresses safety improvements, traffic congestion reduction, freight movement efficiency, intermodal connectivity, and environmental protection. SAFETEA-LU focuses on transportation issues of national significance, and it gives state and local transportation decision makers more flexibility for solving transportation problems in our communities.

the first time, allows states to target funds to their most critical safety needs. A total of \$5.1 billion is provided for 2006-2009, with

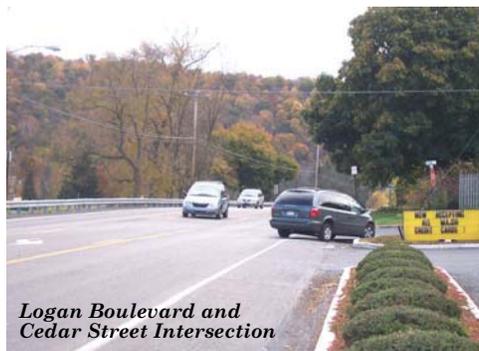


Electric Avenue and Sixth Street Intersection

\$880 million set aside for the Railway-Highway Crossing program. The remainder is distributed by formula based on each state's lane miles, vehicle miles traveled, and number of fatalities, with \$90 million set aside annually for construction and operational improvements on high-risk rural roads. Pennsylvania will receive annually through 2010 approximately \$40 million in HSIP funds for safety improvements. Mifflin, Juniata, and Clinton Counties comprise PennDOT's District 2-0 portion of the SEDA-COG Rural Planning Organization region. Approximately \$800,000 per year in HSIP funding is available for potential safety improvements in these three counties through 2010. A sound data-driven prioritization

Inside this issue:

Potential Transportation Safety Improvements Reviewed (cont.)	2
Habitat for Humanity Holds Dedication Ceremony	2
Mifflin County Assists Juniata County Develop Comprehensive Plan	3
Stormwater Management Plan to be Developed	4
Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan Progresses	4
Burnham Borough Income Survey Underway	5
Planning Commission Member Receives Recognition	5
Planning and Development Department Updates	5
Upcoming Events	6



Logan Boulevard and Cedar Street Intersection

In addition, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), established as a core program and separately funded for

(continued on Page 2)

Transportation Safety Improvements (cont.)

process will determine what projects are funded to reduce the number and severity of highway crashes throughout the three-county area.

On October 6, PennDOT, SEDA-COG, and staff of the Planning and Development Department visited safety improvement sites in Mifflin County for potential funding. Originally, PennDOT selected three sites based on crash and accident data for recommended safety improvements, which include signal and intersection improvements at the intersection of SR 22 and SR 747 at the bridge near Mount Union in Wayne Township, a flashing curve sign at the foot of the Seven Mountains in Armagh Township, and signal improvements at the intersection of Electric Avenue and Third Street in Derry Township. Other potential improvements are center line rumble strips on SR 22 in Wayne Township, SR 655 in Brown Township, SR 522 in Decatur Township, and Belle Avenue and Valley Street in Lewistown Borough.

PennDOT also looked at areas that the Mifflin County Planning Commission recommended for consideration, which included the Twin Bridges on SR 322 in Brown



Electric Avenue and Third Street intersection in Derry Township.



Township and the intersections of Ferguson Valley Road and Freedom Avenue in Derry Township, Cedar Street and Logan Boulevard in Derry Township, Sixth Street and Electric Avenue in Derry Township, and Walnut Street and Valley Street in Lewistown Borough. With limited HSIP funds available, PennDOT and SEDA-COG have offered to recommend other funding sources to assist with addressing the additional sites.



Dedication ceremony held for the Habitat for Humanity duplex on Third Street.

Habitat for Humanity Holds Dedication Ceremony

On September 27, Habitat for Humanity of Mifflin County held a dedication ceremony for the first unit of the duplex on Third Street in Lewistown. The duplex is being funded by Mifflin County with two Brownfields for Housing grants and Act 137 Affordable Housing funds. The ceremony involved a ribbon cutting and the presentation of a Bible and key chain to the family, Keith and Aimee Geise and their six children. Harold Aitken, President of the local Habitat affiliate; Joshua Henry, Mayor of Lewistown Borough; and Lynn Rockwell, Community Development

Administrator of the Planning and Development Department gave brief presentations on the history of the project and its potential impact on the Borough of Lewistown.

The duplex is approximately one-third of the way completed. It is under roof, has much of the plumbing and wiring rough-ins completed, and has windows and doors on the first floor. The Geise family members are working on the unit as part of their “sweat equity” contribution and are very excited about their new home.



Lynn Rockwell speaks at the Habitat for Humanity dedication ceremony.

Mifflin County Assists Juniata County Develop Comprehensive Plan

by Frank Chlebnikow, RETTEW Associates, Inc.

The Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) now requires counties to update their comprehensive plan every 10 years. Therefore, in 2004, the Juniata County Board of Commissioners approached the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners for assistance from the Planning and Development Department to develop a comprehensive plan for Juniata County.

In 2005, the Planning and Development Department worked with the Juniata County Commissioners and the Juniata County Planning Department to secure funding and hire a consultant for the project. Funding for the project was secured through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP). The Planning and Development Department assisted with developing a request for proposals, reviewing proposals, interviewing prospective consulting firms, and selecting the consulting firm to facilitate development of the plan. The Juniata County Board of Commissioners contracted with the consulting firms of RETTEW Associates Inc. and Shepstone Management.

Juniata County's existing comprehensive plan, which was a joint plan between Mifflin and Juniata Counties adopted in 1972, has served its purpose. Mifflin County adopted a new Comprehensive Plan in 2000, and it is important that Juniata County develop its own vision and identity of mutually supportive policies that will

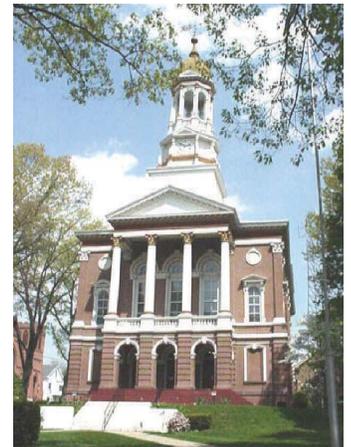
guide Juniata County through the next 10 years. This is extremely important given Juniata County's geographic location in central Pennsylvania and the recent and ongoing highway improvements that contribute to the county's accessibility and desirability.

The comprehensive plan is a policy document that will help guide the county over a 10-year period. The plan will also identify community planning strategies that local municipalities can utilize to initiate or strengthen their planning programs. The Juniata County Comprehensive Plan is scheduled to be prepared over a 2-year period. Key elements of the plan include public participation, community survey, infrastructure analysis, housing analysis, future land use, natural resources availability, agricultural preservation and protection, watershed management, and historic preservation. The plan will also recommend implementation strategies and identify funding sources. The plan will become the framework from which local municipalities can update or prepare their own plans. It is important to develop a common vision and an atmosphere of consistency throughout Juniata County and its 17 municipalities.

Project Manager, Frank Chlebnikow, AICP, of RETTEW Associates, Inc. is the point of contact for the project and can be reached at (717) 697-3551 or fchlebnikow@rettew.com. Future press releases, project web-site, and meeting times/locations will be announced.



The Juniata County Comprehensive Plan, funded by a DCED LUPTAP grant, will be developed over two years.



The Juniata County Courthouse in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania.



Contact Frank Chlebnikow, Project Manager, for information about the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan project.

Stormwater Management Plan to be Developed



DEP awarded Mifflin County \$12,000 for Phase I of the Juniata River Watershed Stormwater Management Plan.

In June, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded Mifflin County a \$12,000 grant for Phase I of the Juniata River Watershed Stormwater Management Plan. The plan will be developed for the Juniata River, East Licking Creek, Mill Creek, and Middle Creek Watersheds, as well as update the Jack’s Creek Watershed and the Kishacoquillas Creek Watershed (which includes Honey and Laurel Creeks) plans.

In August, a request for qualifications was sent to 10 consulting firms to assist with the plan’s development, and 5 firms responded. The proposals were reviewed, and interviews were conducted with two of the firms. On October 19, the Mifflin County Commissioners approved the hiring of HRG. The project will be completed in two phases, with the first phase expected to be completed in June 2007.

Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan Progresses

by Tim Staub, RETTEW Associates, Inc.

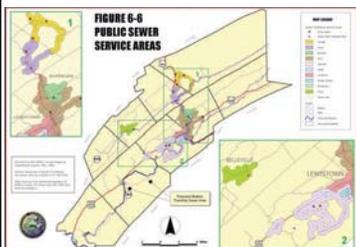


The Juniata River Watershed is part of the Susquehanna River Watershed, which goes into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan is in month 12 of the 18-month project schedule. The main purposes of the Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan are to: 1) inventory existing sewage collection and conveyance facilities; 2) evaluate the current and long-term wastewater needs of the County as a whole; 3) encourage local municipalities without an Act 537 Plan or that have not updated their plan within the past 10 years, to develop or update their plans; 4) promote coordination of public sewage facilities planning to positively impact on economic development; and 5) collaborate with municipal officials to ensure sewer facility improvements are consistent with the High and Limited Growth Areas described in the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan.

peake Bay Strategy is a program DEP wants to implement to control the nitrogen and phosphorus going into the Chesapeake Bay via the Susquehanna River Watershed, which includes the Juniata River. The Chesapeake Bay has been identified as impaired water in the Clean Water Act, and DEP’s target for the bay to be cleaned is 2010.

As part of the evaluation process, the project team is comparing the wastewater planning at the local authorities to the planning implemented with the local municipalities and county to determine implementation consistency. The team is paying particular attention to sewage facility planning implementation in municipal ordinances and the county’s High and Limited Growth Areas.



Public Sewer Service Areas map from the 2000 Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan.

Over the summer, the consultant team toured the major wastewater treatment facilities and interviewed the operators. The objectives were to obtain the status of each plant in terms of capacity and future needs and to review each facility with respect to the Chesapeake Bay Strategy. The Ches-

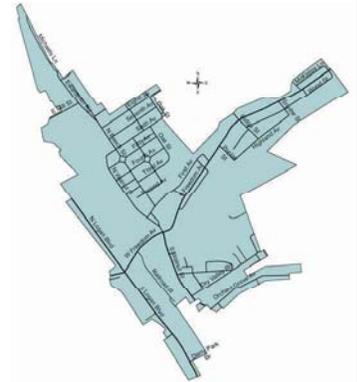
The next advisory committee meeting will be held on November 2 to discuss these topics, as well as to begin determining future recommendations for the county’s public sewer planning. A public meeting will be held in early 2007 to share the Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan recommendations.

Burnham Borough Income Survey Underway

The Borough of Burnham is in the midst of conducting a borough-wide income survey in the hopes of becoming qualified as a low to moderate income area. The borough did not qualify as a low to moderate income area in the 2000 Census. If over 51 percent of the residents surveyed are within the low to moderate income range, the borough as a whole would qualify for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for projects that would benefit the community. If the survey is successful, the information can be utilized for a 10-year period.

The Planning and Development Department assisted Burn-

ham Borough develop the database of addresses used in the survey, as well as generate the mailing lists through computerized random number selection. In September, the Borough Council approved the income surveys mailing, which included a letter explaining the need for the survey, a survey form, and a postage paid envelope in which to return the survey. Approximately 145 surveys were received. A second mailing was sent in October, and an additional 50 surveys were received by the end of October. If the second mailing fails to generate sufficient responses according to DCED survey requirements, door-to-door and/or telephone interviews will be conducted.



Burnham Borough did not qualify as a low to moderate income area in the 2000 Census.

Planning Commission Member Receives Recognition

On July 24, Dan Dunmire, District Manager of the Mifflin County Conservation District and Vice Chairman of the Mifflin County Planning Commission, was awarded the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees' (NACDE) Conservation Award. The purpose of NACDE Conserva-

tion Award is to recognize professionalism and dedication in the people behind the Northeast Region's conservation programs. The award was presented to Dan at the NACDE annual meeting held during the NACD Northeast Regional meeting. Congratulations to Dan on a well-deserved recognition!



Dan Dunmire (right) receives NACDE Conservation Award.

Planning and Development Department Updates

In September, Lynn Rockwell, who served as the Community Development Administrator since November 2000, resigned her position. Lynn was married in August and plans to pursue her dream as a full-time artist. She will continue to work and train her replacement on a part-time basis through November. The entire department staff wishes Lynn the very best in her future endeavors!

On October 10, the department welcomed Melody Bratton as

the new Community Development Administrator. Melody holds a Bachelors Degree in Communication and Conflict Resolution from Juniata College. In July 2005, she completed her internship at The Abuse Network. She previously worked in the banking/financial services field. Melody is currently involved in the Penn State Program Development Committee, Mifflin County 4-H, and the Mifflin County Community Skate Park Committee. She resides in McVeytown with her husband and their two children.



Melody Bratton, Community Development Administrator, can be reached at (717) 242-0887 or mbratton@co.mifflin.pa.us.

William Gomes, AICP
Director

Melody Bratton
*Community Development
Administrator*

Doug Marks
*Housing Rehabilitation
Specialist*

Jodie Barger
*Community Development
Secretary*

Donna Baer
Fiscal Assistant

Millie Sunderland
Planning Secretary

Upcoming Events

- The last session of PMPEI's Course in Zoning will be held Wednesday, November 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room on the lower level of the Regional Business Center.
- The Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan Advisory Committee will meet Thursday, November 2 at 4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- Due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, the Mifflin County Planning Commission's November meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16 at 3:30 p.m. The December meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 28 at 3:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.

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