

# Planning Developments

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## SAVE THE DATE...

The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold its Annual Meeting on

**Thursday, April 3, 2014.**

The featured speaker will be James Ritzman, Deputy Secretary for Planning of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

Invitations will be sent in February.



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## Monument Square Project Winding Down

Over the past ten years efforts have been made to revitalize downtown Lewistown. This effort has been a collaborative effort between Mifflin County, Lewistown Borough, Downtown Lewistown, Inc., downtown merchants and interested citizens throughout the community. The most recent phase of the project was completed this fall and included East and West Market St. from Wayne St. to Monument Square and from the Square to Dorcas St. at the Five Points intersection. This most recent phase, also known as Phase IV, cost almost \$1.5 million, while the overall Monument Square Streetscape project cost a little more than \$3 million.

Following studies completed in 2000 and 2004 to enhance the appearance of downtown Lewistown and the area around Monument Square, the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department became involved after the announcement of former PennDOT Secretary Allen Biehler of a new program called HomeTown Streets and Safe Routes to School in April of 2004. The program was designed to encourage reinvestment and redevelopment in downtown areas and to improve pedestrian access, particularly for children walking to schools. Be-

tween 2004 and 2006 two grants were submitted and approved to develop Phases I and II around Monument Square, which would become the spoke for the revitalization efforts. Phases I and II were completed in 2008 and included improvements to the four corners around the Square and a portion of South Main St. The improvements included pedestrian level street lights, concrete pavers, sidewalks and decorative crosswalks to improve public safety; curb extensions 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.

Beginning in 2009, Phases 3A and B along North Main St. were initiated and included new trees, sidewalks, lights and concrete pavers. Phase 3A included the area around the historic courthouse and below the alley on North Main and was completed in 2010 with the assistance of Growing Greener II funds. Phase 3B was the area north of the alley on North Main St. and

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# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funded Projects

The Planning and Development Department received 9 funding requests for Mifflin County's 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The first public hearing was held on May 23, 2013 for applicants to present their proposals to the Mifflin County Planning Commission. In addition to the presentations, the public hearing also provided an opportunity to receive citizens' views, comments, and suggestions for consideration by the Planning Commission for the 2013 CDBG application. A second public hearing was held on September 5, 2013 by the Mifflin County Commissioners when they approved 7 of the 9 applications received.

Applicant	Project Information	CDBG Activity	Recommended Funding Amount *
Mifflin County Planning and Development	Single-family owner occupied housing rehabilitation	Housing Rehabilitation	\$2,539
Mount Union Municipal Authority	Potable water line replacement materials purchase only	Water / Sewer Improvements	\$30,259
Mifflin Juniata Dental Clinic	Second year of (fair share) equipment purchase, to continue serving additional income eligible patients	Other Public Service	\$7,130
SEDA-COG Mann Edge Terrace Phase II	Land acquisition and engineering services	Construction of Housing	\$7,000
Borough of Juniata Terrace	Completion of previously funded sanitary slip-lining project (construction cost only)	Water / Sewer Improvements	\$104,300
The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown	Public water line expansion materials purchase only Armagh Township	Water / Sewer Improvements	\$28,259
Mifflin County Planning and Development	Program Administration	Program Administration	\$39,399

## Mifflin County CDBG Funded Projects Progress

Mifflin County and Derry and Brown Township's projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (CDBG-R), and Competitive Grant programs continue to progress towards completion. The funded projects benefit low and moderate income citizens and neighborhoods. The following 2013 projects are either continuations of previously funded projects or new projects in Mifflin County, and Derry and Brown Townships. The County administers Derry and Brown Township's CDBG funds.

### Mifflin County Projects

The **Woodland Avenue Waterline Project** involves providing 40 residents along Woodland Avenue with public /potable water thus eliminating water contamination into their households. A total of 1,450 linear feet 8" PVC piping was connected to the existing water line on Woodland Avenue.

Continue from page 2 CDBG Project Process

The **Country Club Drive and Front Road Project** in Wayne Township consists of replacing old and underutilized portions of the water distribution system in the southern part of the Township. The project involves replacing 1,750 linear feet of 2” piping with 4” PVC piping benefiting 20 residents.



The **Terrace Boulevard Project** in the Borough of Juniata Terrace is a previously funded project consisting of the rehabilitation of 1,589 linear feet of 6” terra cotta sanitary sewer pipe by trenchless pipe line to improve the sewer collection and pumping system. The area of the activity is located on the 200 and 300 blocks of Terrace Boulevard.

The **Single-Family Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Project** in the County is a continuation of the County’s efforts to improve the housing conditions for low-moderate income eligible home owners. Improvements include life, health and safety related improvements, such as roof and electrical repairs, heating, windows, doors and lead based paint testing.



The **Mifflin / Juniata Dental Clinic Project** is a continuation of a project that provides dental services to low-moderate income residents of Mifflin / Juniata County. Equipment being used has broken parts and is not cost effective to repair. Replacement of equipment in their operatory rooms 3 and 4 is the focus of this project.

The **SEDA-COG Mann Edge Terrace Phase II Project** is a previously funded project that will provide funding to assist with development costs of phase II of this project. The project is an affordable, senior-housing facility in the Borough of Lewistown.

**Derry Township Projects**

The **SR 522 North Water Line Extension Project** in Derry Township is to provide public potable water to approximately 65 households in this area that were still being served by private wells. The project consists of installing approximately 8,200 linear feet of 8” main line and 5 new hydrants from Crossover Drive to the Derry / Decatur Township line will provide public water and better fire protection to the residents. This project was funded in the amount of \$65,226. A Competitive application was applied for in the amount of \$422, 093 for the bulk of this project.



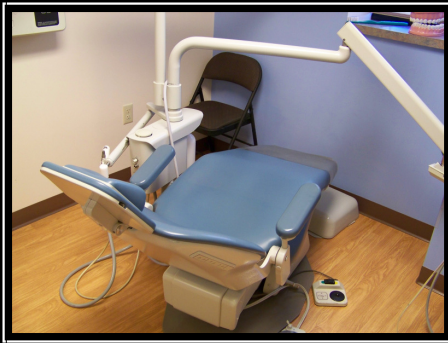
The **Architectural Barriers Removal Project** for a proposed dog park in Kish park involves making the dog park amenities handicapped accessible and includes improvements to the restrooms. This project was funded in the amount of \$19,396.

The **Mifflin / Juniata Dental Clinic Project** is a continuation of a project that provides dental services to low-moderate income residents of Mifflin / Juniata County. Equipment being used has broken parts and is not cost effective to repair. Replacement of equipment in their operatory rooms 3 and 4 is the focus of this project. This project was funded in the amount of \$2,346.

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### **Brown Township Projects**

The **Main Street Architectural Barrier Removal Project** in Brown Township, involves removing barriers that hinder pedestrian access. This includes replacing sidewalks with a stone sub-base, wearing course concrete, adding handicapped accessible ramps and a work zone traffic control plan to improve the conditions of the walkway and make the area ADA accessible.



The **Mifflin / Juniata Dental Clinic Project** is a continuation of a project that **provides** dental services to low-moderate income residents of Mifflin / Juniata County. Equipment being used has broken parts and is not cost effective to repair. Replacement of equipment in their operatory rooms 3 and 4 is the focus of this project. This project was funded in the amount of \$1,200.

### ***Boat Launch Proposed Along the Juniata River***

A key recommendation in the Juniata/Mifflin County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan was the need for improved boat access along the Juniata River. Currently, there is no river access between Granville and Newton Hamilton, which is a 22 mile stretch. This became a priority for the Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Council, which has worked with Mifflin County, Bratton, Oliver and McVeytown to correct this. For people in the McVeytown area there has long existed a rough boat launching area on private property. The question remained on how to improve on this situation for public access and to assist with river rescue groups, which have also been concerned about this problem.

In 2012 Bratton Township received a small grant from the PA Recreation and Park Society to develop a feasibility study of the proposed boat launch area. This was completed in early 2013 and applications were submitted by Mifflin County to the National Parks Service and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for funds to develop the boat launch. As part of the applications a property survey was completed and lease agreement with the property owner were developed with the assistance of Mifflin County. Another important element that is still being developed was a joint agreement between Bratton and Oliver Townships and McVeytown Borough for the long term maintenance of the facility if funding was provided and it was developed. In order to facilitate the project, funding avenues were divided between the two grant agencies since both required a 50% match. During the summer of 2013 the National Parks Service application was turned down in part because there was no secured funding match. However, in December of 2013, DCNR awarded Mifflin County with \$125,000 toward the project. This now puts Mifflin County in an excellent position to reapply to the National Parks Service for the balance in March of 2014. If full funding takes place, Mifflin County will have improved boat access that will include a handicap accessible parking area as well as an area for fishing and picnics. For additional information on this project, please contact the Planning and Development Department.



## ***Proposed Dog Park Moves Forward***

Derry Township was recently awarded \$50,000 to assist them in developing the first dog park in Mifflin County. Funding for the dog park is being provided through a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. This grant requires a match that is being matched in part with an allocation from the Township's CDBG program, township funds. The County assistance and in kind services will be provided by township staff and volunteer services from local contractors and community organizations. The dog park will be situated in Kish Park, eliminating the abandoned pool area in the park and creating an attractive reuse of the area.



The Kish Dog Park has been a priority project for the past two years of the Mifflin County Parks and Recreation Council, a multi-municipal organization that is an outgrowth of the Juniata/Mifflin County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan. The proposed dog park is also consistent with the Open Space Plan since it promotes recreational activities that advance active healthy lifestyles for people who live and work in the area. The facility will provide a place for young and old to visit and play with

their dog(s) and increase community interaction. Nationally, dog parks are considered one of the fastest growing recreation facilities.

Based on a review of dog licenses issued annually, Mifflin County also has a large dog population with approximately 43% of all households in the County owning a dog. Kish Park is already dog friendly with a walking trail where dogs are allowed. The dog park will complement the current park facilities. The long term plans for the project include the demolition and filling of the old pool area, handicap accessible trail and parking area, ADA restroom renovations, fencing, landscaping, electronic access to insure dogs entering are properly inoculated, a water foundation and a separate area for large and small dogs. Since the state funding allocation is less than what was requested, community support and assistance is still needed. For more information on the park, please contact Derry Township or the County Planning and Development Department.

### ***Continued from front page Monument Square Project Winding Down***

was completed between 2012 and 2013 with PennDOT Transportation Enhancement funds and assistance from Lewistown Borough. Also, through the collaboration of Mifflin County and the Borough of Lewistown and assistance provided by the USDA Rural Development Program Phase 3B was extended to include an area in front of the Borough of Lewistown Municipal Building along Third St.

Phase IV along Market St. was completed through PennDOT's Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative that was awarded to the County in 2011. The overall project phase included 21 pedestrian level lights, 34 trees, and 50 planters with a variety of shrubs. Phase IV connects with Downtown Lewistown, Inc.'s project at the Five Point intersection, where a fountain will eventually be installed. The Planning and Development Department's long term vision would be to redevelop the last two blocks of East Market St. and South Main St. to Water St.



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*Developing a Better Community*

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**County Comprehensive Plan in Final Stages**

The Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan update is nearing completion with a 45 day public review period scheduled to start in mid February. A copy of the draft plan will be sent to each municipality. The draft plan will also be available at the Planning and Development Department office and at the plan's website, [www.mifflincompplan.com](http://www.mifflincompplan.com). A public hearing and adoption by the County Commissioners is anticipated at the end of March. Visit the website for more information, or contact the Planning Office

**UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES**

- Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the first quarter of 2014 will be held Thursdays, January 23, February 27, and March 27 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mifflin County Courthouse in Meeting Room B.
- The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lewistown Country Club. Invitations to the event will be mailed in February.

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