

PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

2012 MIFFLIN COUNTY DIRECTORY



MIFFLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Mark A. Sunderland • Otis E. Riden, Jr. • Kevin P. Kodish

The 2012 Mifflin County Directory is available at the offices of the Planning and Development Department and the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Comprehensive Plan Update Moves Forward

Preparation for the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan update process began in the Summer of 2011, with the distribution and preliminary analysis of a Quality of Life community survey to some 2,500 households in Mifflin County. Responses were received from 784 households (a 31.4 percent response rate) on a variety of community conditions and compared to the results of the 1998 Quality of Life Survey. In December, the Mifflin County Commissioners appointed an Advisory Committee of 17 municipal, private sector, community organization and citizen representatives to work with the County Planning and Development Department in preparing the plan update.

The update began in earnest in 2012. In February, Mifflin County entered into a contract with Gannett Fleming, Inc. to assist in the development of the plan update. Assisting Gannett Fleming are two subcontractors, Vernon Land Use and Delta Development Group, Inc. The consultant team met with the County Planning and Development Department and GIS Department staff to review the plan components and tour the county for field views of development and areas of concern. Subsequently, the consultants held interviews with approximately thirty community stakeholders, focus group meetings with municipal road masters and municipal zoning officers, and four meetings with the Advisory Committee.

Over the past few months, the Advisory Committee has reviewed the purpose and scope of the plan, the 2011 Quality of Life Survey results, the draft population and socio-economic analysis, land use patterns, transportation analysis, environmental and cultural resources, economic analysis, community facilities and housing analysis.

Among the early findings include the following:

- Increasing job opportunities was the first priority among residents.
- The Amish population in Mifflin County is the second largest in the State and represents 5% of the County population.
- Between 2000 and 2010 a total of 1,220 subdivision and land development plans were reviewed and 12,063 building permits were issued.
- Based on safety audits, there are substandard roadway conditions that should be considered along US 522 North and US 22 West/522 South.
- Parking capacity in Downtown Lewistown is adequate except for the Regional Business Center area.
- The manufacturing sector peaked in 2002, while there have been steady increases in the health care and accommodation industries in the past ten years.
- Unemployment rates in Mifflin County have consistently been higher than the State average.
- In the area of community facilities, the County is served by 19 fire departments, 4 police departments, 7 emergency medical service agencies, 35 private schools, 6 public and 6 private water systems, 11 municipal sewage systems and 25 municipal parks.

In order to increase public input, the first countywide public meeting was held on September 27, 2012 at the Mifflin County Courthouse. Some twenty residents of the County were in attendance to learn where the Plan stands now and to provide additional comments. Information on the Plan can be found at the project website, <http://mifflincompplan.com/> or by contacting the Planning and Development Department.

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◆ Planning Developments Is Published Quarterly By
The Mifflin County Planning And Development Department ◆

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Planning Commission Holds Annual Meeting



The Mifflin County Planning Commission held its annual dinner meeting on April 12, with approximately 85 people in attendance. Attendees included the Commissioners of Mifflin County, municipal officials, local planning commission members, and individuals from local businesses, organizations and various engineering firms.

The featured speaker for the evening was C. Alan Walker, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). C. Alan Walker was confirmed as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on April 12, 2011. Secretary Walker recognizes that businesses are not only the driver of our economy, but the backbone of our communities. As the head of DCED, Walker leads the agency's efforts to improve our communities and position Pennsylvania businesses to grow and compete in the global economy.

During his speech, Walker emphasized the need for strategic planning and commended Lewistown and the Mifflin County Planning Commission for its dedication to making the area a better place to live and thrive. He also mentioned the Planning Commission's mission statement which states, "The mission of the Mifflin County Planning

Commission is to provide strategic, coordinated, and objective guidance and oversight to the growth, planning and development activities of Mifflin County".

Walker continued his speech by reminding the audience of the past. In 1920, Pennsylvania possessed the 4th largest economy in the world, he said, but no state suffered more during the Great Depression. Though there was economic recovery that came with World War II, Pennsylvania's growth rate is less than half the national rate. Walker sees the same sort of trends in Mifflin County. He said Lewistown used to be a transportation hub. Boasting the presence of both the Pennsylvania Canal and the Pennsylvania Railroad, it was a thriving community.



Annual meeting featured speaker, C. Alan Walker, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

In addition, one award was presented at the meeting. The Community Planning Award recognizes an individual, community, or organization that has demonstrated leadership in community planning. Granville Township was presented the award in recognition for the community collaboration involved with the development of Veterans Memorial Park. Lisa Swisher, Granville Township Manager, accepted the award on behalf of the township.

Mifflin County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan

In July 2012, Mifflin County applied for a grant from the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the County in updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan that was adopted in 2008. A grant was awarded to the County in September 2012 to complete the update.

Each year the County is required by PEMA/FEMA to perform annual evaluations of the plan and after five years is required do a complete update of the plan. The plan update will address and expand upon the previous plan coverage of multiple natural hazards and man made hazards. The purpose of the update is to review current data pertaining to hazards affecting the county, costs associated with

hazard occurrences, the existing capacity to deal with hazards and to identify future actions/projects to mitigate such hazards. The expected outcome is a fully updated regional plan to be adopted by the sixteen (16) municipalities in the county.

In preparation for the plan update, Mifflin County has solicited for the services of a consultant to assist the county in completing the plan. As part of the process, there will be public outreach that will include a citizen's advisory committee, a public meeting as the plan develops, and a public hearing prior to plan adoption. The plan update is anticipated to be completed by the end of summer in 2013. For more information about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, please contact the Planning and Development Department at (717)242-0887.

Community Development Spotlight

Projects Approved for 2012 CDBG Funding

The Mifflin County Planning and Development Department received four (4) applications for funding, for the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. An informational meeting was held on January 26, 2012 to review deadline dates, discuss eligible and fundable activities, subrecipient agreements, and the criteria used for

funding recommendations. The first public hearing occurred on February 23, 2012, the CDBG Advisory Committee met on March 9, 2012 and the County Commissioners held the second public hearing on April 5, 2012. The table below summarizes the County Commissioners' actions. The application is pending approval by the PA-DCED.

Applicant	Project Information	CDBG Activity	Recommended Funding Amount*
Mifflin County Planning and Development	Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation	Housing Rehabilitation	\$134,574
Armagh Township Brown Addition Phase II	Construct stormwater management and roadway improvements to address ponding and drainage conditions	Stormwater Management Projects	\$25,000
Armagh Township Laurel Avenue	Construct stormwater management and roadway improvements to address ponding and drainage conditions	Stormwater Management Projects	\$10,000
Mifflin-Juniata Dental Clinic	Purchase of equipment to continue serving additional income eligible patients	Other Public Services	\$9,642
Mifflin County Planning and Development	Program Administration	Program Administration	\$39,340

**Amounts include Delivery Costs, which consist of administration expenses such as site visits, environmental reviews, project management, employee interviews, etc. The Federal government cut the CDBG program 16.2% for the 2011 FFY and by 8.3% for the 2012 FFY. These reductions significantly decreased the available funding for the program.*

Mifflin County DCED Approved Projects

The following 2011 Mifflin County projects have been approved by the Department of Community and Economic Development and all the projects except the Armagh Township's Brown's Addition, 2012 stormwater project and the Newton Hamilton water project have been environmentally cleared. The following are brief explanations of each project. Project commencement is anticipated to begin by the end of 2012 for The Regional Services Corporation and SUM-Child Development Projects.

▪ **Mifflin Juniata Dental Clinic**

This project consists of paying salaries and fringe benefits for employees of the clinic, to assist with the expansion of the program to serve income eligible adults. This is the third (3rd) and final year of funding for the expansion project.

▪ **Armagh Township-Water/Sewer Improvements-Brown's Addition**

The Township is proposing to construct stormwater

management and roadway improvements in the neighborhood of Brown's Addition on the east side of Milroy to alleviate ponding and drainage hazards that occur after rain events. The stormwater collects on and along the roadways and in private yards, creating unsafe driving conditions. The project consists of replacing approximately four (4) inlets and associated piping to alleviate the major problem areas on the roadways. Additionally, the road side area will be graded to keep the water from entering resident's yards. Paving will remediate unsafe roadway conditions and direct storm water into the existing inlets and piping system.

Community Development Spotlight

Mifflin County DCED Approved Projects (cont.)



▪ Borough of Newton Hamilton-Water Improvements

The Borough of Newton Hamilton owns and operates a municipal water system that provides drinking water for the Borough residents, and bulk water to Wayne Township to serve the Methodist training camp area. The system is comprised of 6" and 4" asbestos cement water mains and associated appurtenances. Due to the age of the system and ongoing problem with water leaks, the Borough has decided to begin a phased program for replacing the water mains that serve the system. The first phase of this multi-year project involves the replacement of approximately 6,000 linear feet of 6" watermain. The project will begin at Walls Road where the Borough has a master meter installed, to measure the amount of water they purchase from Mount Union and will extend up to the Borough line. At this point, it will reconnect to the existing distribution system. The existing location of the watermain is approximately 3 feet off the northwest edge of Ferguson Valley Road. In addition, approximately 10 water service connections and 2 fire hydrants will be constructed and installed. The grant of \$20,000 will pay for engineering costs only.

▪ Borough of Juniata Terrace

The Borough of Juniata Terrace owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection and pumping system that serves the Borough's water needs. The waste is ultimately disposed at the wastewater treatment facility owned by Granville Township. The existing collection system includes approximately 3,400 linear feet of the collection system in 2004. The project consists of the trenchless rehabilitation of 1,900 linear feet of terra cotta sanitary sewer line, in the 200 and 300 blocks of Terrace Boulevard. This process is best suited for this project due to the various obstacles that are located within close proximity of the existing sewer main. This project is the most economically feasible, for the purposes of keeping the costs low for the Borough and the low-moderate income residents in the neighborhood. The grant of \$53,200 will pay for engineering and a portion of the relining only.

▪ Regional Services Corporation– Senior Services

This project involves the purchase of a new "cargo" van for the purposes of delivering individual meals, bulk food and supplies to Senior Citizens within Mifflin County.

The current vehicle used for this purpose is a 2002 modified wheelchair passenger van. The van frequently breaks down and creates constant repair bills. The grant of \$8,322.04 would assist with part of the purchase cost for the van.

▪ Mifflin County Planning and Development Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation

These funds will allow for the continuation of the County's housing rehabilitation program. The funds will be used to improve the housing conditions for income eligible clients. All improvements are for life, health and safety items and do not include additions, swimming pools or luxury items. All homes are brought up to current housing standards.

▪ SUM-CHILD Development Playground Equipment



The McVeytown Head Start facility is located on Queen Street in the Borough of McVeytown. The Headstart program utilizes the facility Monday-Friday 8:00AM-3:00PM ten months out of the year. The facility consists of a tot-lot containing two see saws, four swings, a brick paved oval walking/riding course, benches monkey bars, a tubular slide, picnic tables, an awning, a sand box, a jungle gym, a basketball hoop, and big wheels and bicycles. This project consists of the installation of an explorer play structure, a single post swing and a triple shoot out. These enhancements will create more amenities for the Headstart students.



Community Development Spotlight

Derry Township Projects For FFY 2012 CDBG Funding

The Derry Township Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on Monday, March 5, 2012 to provide an opportunity for the community to present CDBG projects for the Township's 2012 allocation. The Supervisors discussed their desire to fund road reconstruction improvements for Ridge, Fox, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Mifflin Avenues, Sawmill Road, Pinewood Road, Rosemont Avenue, First Street or Highland Avenue. Only those streets whose residents are eligible through an income survey will be improved. The Supervisors also affirmed that they will support the Township's fair share for the Mifflin Juniata Dental Clinic for the purchase of dental equipment and a computer. The second public hearing was held on May 7, and the Supervisors funded the Mifflin Juniata Dental Clinic in the amount of \$3,221 and the road reconstruction projects in the amount of \$82,829.

• Vermont Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project

During 2011, the Municipal Authority for the Borough of Lewistown (MAOBL) approached the Township regarding a project that was ongoing. The Burnham

Borough/Derry Township Bridge replacement project caused the Water Authority to re-route the main water line through the area. With that relocation taking place, the Authority ran new lines through the Borough/Township line and added one fire hydrant. The Authority wanted to extend the new line to all residents in that area and add another fire hydrant near the end of the line to aid in fire protection and flushing of the lines. This area previously had no local hydrants and firefighting was difficult.



The MAOBL installed 1,400 feet of 8" ductile iron pipe to replace an existing section of a potable water main. Additionally, two (2) fire hydrants and two (2) stormwater inlets were installed to allow for improved fire suppression and adequate stormwater run-off control.

Brown Township Projects for FFY 2012 CDBG Funding

Brown Township was not eligible to receive CDBG funds until after the results of the 2010 decennial census. In January 2012, the Township was notified by the Department of Community and Economic Development that the Township has been designated an entitlement entity under the Commonwealth administered Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, based on the 2010 decennial census.



Development Plan. A public meeting was held on May 21, 2012 to discuss the draft. Several potential projects discussed included ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) park improvements to Bender Park and the Reedsville Playground. The Supervisors ultimately approved funding for a streetscape project on Main Street in Reedsville.



On April 2, 2012 the Township conducted its first public hearing. The second public hearing was held on April 16, 2012. Additionally, since this was the first year the Township applied for CDBG funds, they were required to complete a three-year Community

The project will be a multi-year project, consisting of sidewalk and street improvements including but not limited to demolishing and replacing existing sidewalks, installing stormwater inlets, constructing ADA accessible ramps, installing acorn style street lights, tree planting, and engineering and project delivery. The total grant for these improvements is \$65,880.



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DEVELOPING A BETTER COMMUNITY

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Upcoming Events/Important Dates

- ◆ Mifflin County Association of Township Officials will host a banquet on **Thursday, October 24, 2012** at the Penn Valley Christian Retreat in McVeytown. More information can be found at www.psats.org.
- ◆ The next Mifflin County Planning Commission Meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 25, 2012** at the Mifflin County Courthouse in meeting room B.
- ◆ PA Chapter of the American Planning Association– Central Section will hold a workshop on **Friday, October 26, 2012 from 8:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.** at the PA Association of Township Supervisors Office (PSATS) in Enola, PA. This workshop is called “Guideposts for Decision Making: Ethics and Land Use Laws”, and will include a review of the APA Code of Ethics and how it impacts the local decision making process as well as recent court cases that will effect planning and local government.

DEVELOPING A BETTER COMMUNITY