



2010 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2011

Award Promotes Excellence in Development

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Huntingdon County Planning Commission are proud to announce the winners of the sixth annual Community Improvement Awards.

The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Committee have jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. Sponsor for the awards is Kish Bank. Award categories include: Commercial, Residential, Special Merit, Revitalization and Public/Non-Profit.

Community Improvement Awards are based on both the visual and the environmental impact of the project. Nominations will be judged on how the project:

- Enhances the attractiveness of Huntingdon County;
- Is compatible with the site area and environment;
- Shows creativity/innovation in design and use of materials;
- Enhances the quality of life, including job creation; and
- Exhibits the principle of sustainability.

Special Merit

HUNTINGDON TREE COMMISSION

The Huntingdon Tree Commission partnered with the JC Blair Hospital Foundation to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hospital by creating the **Hospital Beautification Project**. The project involved planting 56 deciduous and evergreen trees along 14th Street and throughout 20 planters in the parking lot.

This project is "a community-oriented project celebrating the Hospital's 100th anniversary year by using a combination of Hospital employees, local volunteers and donated labor and materials to beautify the approach to the Hospital, creating a healthy and uplifting scene for visitors, employees and patients." The trees chosen have varying blooming seasons that will allow a variety of color at all times.





The above murals are near the intersection of 5th and Penn Streets in Huntingdon Borough.

Public/Non-Profit Award **HUNTINGDON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL**

The Huntingdon County Arts Council is being honored for two recently completed projects: the Huntingdon Mural Project completed in 2008 and The Art Space completed in 2010. The Arts Council has demonstrated that art plays a role in downtown revitalization.

The Huntingdon Mural Project has murals located on the Huntingdon Savings Bank and Rothrock Outfitters buildings. The Arts Council commissioned these two murals to reflect the landscape paintings of Huntingdon County by Thomas Moran. The paintings are on parachute cloth mounted to the buildings. Designer Ilona Ballreich and artists Phillip Adams and David Guinn completed the project in 2008.



Artist's rendition of The Art Space at 4th and Penn Streets

The Art Space, designed by Ilona Ballreich and remodeled by the Huntingdon County Arts Council, was completed in 2010. This project energizes one of Huntingdon's most visible, high traffic intersections and gives the Arts a physical home in Huntingdon.

The former commercial building was renovated into an art gallery. The exterior was painted to present an eye-catching, yet stylish façade and the interior was repaired and refurbished.

Revitalization Award

JUNIATA COLLEGE

Juniata College is being honored for the completion of two major revitalization projects. In 2009, the College completed the renovation of Founders Hall, built in 1879. In 2010, the former Alfarata School, built in 1914, was renovated. These buildings represent the College's commitment to building a sustainable community.



The Founders Hall Project demolished and reconstructed the north wing of the building and refurbished the east and west wings and the bell tower, allowing for full use of all four floors, the top two of which had been unusable for nearly 30 years. Founders Hall now houses administrative offices and the History and English Departments. The completed project has achieved LEED Gold rating.

The Founders Hall Project was completed in July 2009 at a cost of \$8.5 million. Some features of the LEED Gold project are: 1) more than 20% of the materials are made of recycled content; 2) over 50% of the demolition waste was diverted from landfills; 3) 75% of occupied space have windows and natural daylight; 4) water is conserved through waterless urinals and dual flush toilets, and a 10,000 gallon tank which stores rainwater for irrigation, reducing consumption by 50%; 5) 25% of the materials were harvested within 500 miles of the site; 6) 5% of building materials are made from rapidly renewable sources (cork, bamboo, rubber flooring, agrifiber); and 7) Founders Hall is heated and cooled by a ground source heat pump using 56 wells.



The Bob and Eileen Sill Business Incubator Phase II Renovation Project involved the adaptive reuse of the former Alfarata Elementary School into a multi-tenant business incubator.

Juniata College invested \$2.1 million in Phase II renovations at the Sill Business Incubator. Work included:
new rubber roof; replacement windows;

razing the multi-purpose room; removal of lead and asbestos; installation of new HVAC, plumbing, electric, wallboard, drop ceilings, interior and exterior doors, interior finishes, access alarm system, parking and exterior walks and landscaping.

Over 20 trees have been planted to beautify the site. The “bump out” along 14th Street improves traffic safety by providing a convenient loading and unloading area for deliveries. Finally, the demolition of the multi-purpose room and portions of the formerly paved playground reduces the amount of stormwater runoff and greatly improves the visual appeal of the Sill Incubator.

Commercial Award

HOME NURSING AGENCY HUNTINGDON OFFICE

The Home Nursing Agency renovation project turned the former Tri-Star Motors building into the Agency's Huntingdon Headquarters. The 25,940 square foot building has been transformed to allow for continued growth in services as requested by the community and the Advisory Committee.

Approximately 8,754 square feet of the building is used by Home Nursing for various programs, including Adult Day Services, Home Healthcare Services/Telehealth, Hospice and Bereavement Services.



Residential Award

RICHARD A. HECKMAN BUILDING REHABILITATIONS



Over the past decade, Richard A. Heckman has purchased and rehabilitated several historic properties in downtown Huntingdon Borough. Mr. Heckman not only saves buildings from demolition, but he also does a thorough job of rehabilitation by removing old plaster and lath; replacing wiring, plumbing and heating systems; and installing new drywall. Often Mr. Heckman salvages window and baseboard molding, which are then reinstalled.

The building exteriors are restored to their historic appearance, blending with other downtown buildings. Mr. Heckman has quietly restored

buildings and created affordable housing. Many of the buildings are a mix of commercial and residential use. This developer is one of the few in our area to meet the stringent standards of the U.S. Department of the Interior for historic tax credits.

Sustainability Criteria

- ⇒ Create walkable neighborhoods.
- ⇒ Direct development toward existing communities.
- ⇒ Create housing choices.
- ⇒ Provide transportation choices.
- ⇒ Encourage a mixture of land uses.
- ⇒ Preserve open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.