



# 2014 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce  
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2015

## Award Promotes Excellence in Development

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

The Planning Commission and the Chamber's Community Improvement Award Committee jointly reviewed the nominees, with the final selection being made by the Planning Commission. Sponsor for the Awards is Kish Bank.

The Award categories are Community Spirit, New Construction, Preservation and Special Merit. New Construction includes any type of new construction, residential, commercial or public/non-profit. Preservation includes the restoration, preservation and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types. Community Spirit includes the recognition of individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution to Huntingdon County in the field of community development. A Special Merit Award may be made for projects, persons or groups that demonstrate outstanding achievement on their own merits. Substantial renovation or restoration projects are eligible in any category.

While nominations were open for all categories, no applications were received in the New Construction category for 2014.

The principles of sustainable development include:

- ⇒ Creating walkable neighborhoods;
- ⇒ Directing development toward existing communities;
- ⇒ Creating housing choices;

- ⇒ Providing transportation choices;
- ⇒ Encouraging a mixture of land uses; and
- ⇒ Preserving open space, farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.

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.



## *Preservation Award*

### HUNTINGDON COUNTY LIBRARY, HUNTINGDON, PA

After three decades of minimal exterior upkeep to the historic McMurtrie mansion housing Huntingdon County's public library, paint was peeling, bare wood was exposed, and the front pillars and capitals were rotted. This project included replacing the pillars and capitals; and scraping, priming and repainting all wood and concrete structures using America's Heritage Exterior Historic Colors from Sherwin Williams. The small roof structure over the outside back stairs was also rebuilt and shingled to match the main building roof. Since the County Library serves as a community gathering place and educational center, there is significant value in maintaining the building in a way that is befitting of such a facility. Maintaining and preserving the historic structure enhances the appearance and appeal of this significant historic structure prominently located in Huntingdon Borough's Historic District.





## *Community Spirit Award*

### STONE TOWN GALLERY & CAFÉ AND STONE TOWN ARTIST COMMUNITY

Beginning in 2011, live music on Friday nights was held inside Lil Deb's, a rented space on the corner of 4th & Penn Streets. This tradition continues at the Stone Town Gallery on Washington Street, a facility owned by Debra Tumlin and Caroline Gillich. These music events are held on the back patio during the warmer months and inside the Café during colder weather. The Gallery's backyard, containing a lighted pergola, is completely landscaped and filled with art. The number of participating musicians, ranging from individuals to musical groups, continues to grow, while the 4th Friday "Open Mic" Night provides a showcase of community talent that includes music, dance, poetry reading, and stand-up comedy.

In January 2013, the Gallery hosted their first Winterfest Celebration and continues to do so each January to provide a break from the winter's isolation. The ice sculpting, sponsored by area businesses, attracts chainsaw artists from as close as Altoona and as far as the state of Washington.

All of the events held at the Gallery foster a feeling of community, whether through the free flowing communication throughout the space or at the large "community" table.





## **Special Merit Award**

### **D & F REALTY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, 11923 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY, HUNTINGDON, PA**

This improvement initiative includes four buildings on four separate lots fronting Route 22. The façade of the Cisney & O'Donnell property was improved and a new sign was installed. The buildings now housing Shear Impressions and Price Motors Pre-Owned Vehicle Outlet were completely renovated and feature updated exteriors and energy efficient heating and cooling systems. While the Colonial Florist façade was updated several years earlier, the space was recently divided and a new entrance was added for the Love It consignment shop.

D&F Realty has made improving their properties a priority since Route 22 is a “gateway” for westbound travelers. Improvements to these properties support economic development and an entrepreneurial spirit. Through these efforts, Colonial Florist has been able to expand services, Price Motors has opened a second pre-owned car sales location, and Shear Impressions and Love It are new start-ups that have become flourishing businesses.



Once vacant, this former Army Reserve location has been renewed by D&F Realty and now houses two businesses: Colonial Florist and Love It, a fashionable consignment shop.



Shear Impressions hair salon is open for business in this former residence, remodeled and repurposed by D&F Realty.





Price Motors Sales enjoys improved visibility on Route 22 at their new Pre-Owned Vehicle Outlet, modernized and upgraded by D&F Realty. The interior is seen below at a Business After Hours hosted at the new facility in 2014.



Over the decades, Cisney & O'Donnell, Inc. invests in their business and in the community as the company continues to diversify, modernize and grow. As shown by these photos, the facility, like the company, stays current, adapting with the times.



# **Community Improvement Awards**

## **Partners**

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce  
500 Allegheny Street  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
(814) 643-1110  
[www.huntingdonchamber.com](http://www.huntingdonchamber.com)

Huntingdon County Planning Commission  
205 Penn Street, Suite 3  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
(814) 643-5091  
[www.huntingdoncounty.net](http://www.huntingdoncounty.net)

## **Sponsor**

Kish Bank  
9471 William Penn Highway (Rt. 22)  
PO Box 593  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
814-641-5474  
[www.kishbank.com](http://www.kishbank.com)