

2019 Community Improvement Awards

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce
Huntingdon County Planning Commission

August 2020

Award Promotes Excellence in Development

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

The Planning Commission and the Chamber jointly reviewed the nominees and the final selection was made by the Planning Commission. The sponsor for the Awards is Kish Bank.

The 2019 Award categories are Community Spirit, Preservation and Special Merit.

- Community Spirit includes the recognition of individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to Huntingdon County in the field of community development.
- Preservation includes the restoration, preservation and/or rehabilitation of buildings of all types to retain historic character.
- A Special Merit Award may be made for projects, persons or groups that demonstrate outstanding achievement on their own merits.

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 were judged on how each 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.



2016 Community Improvement Awards Presented March 30, 2017

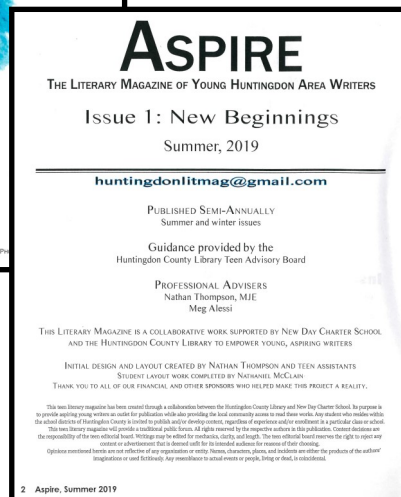
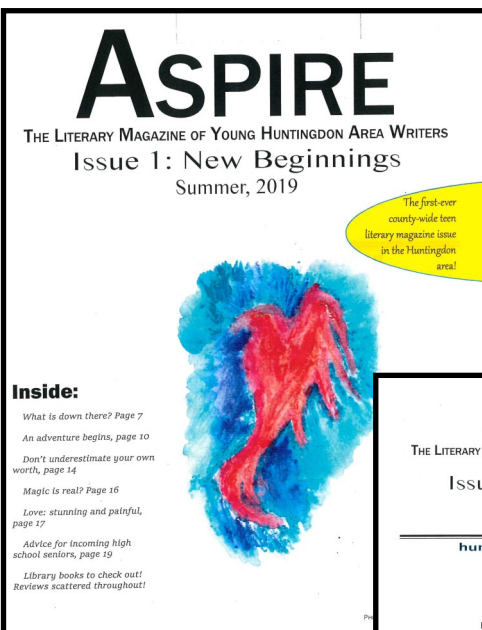
Community Spirit Award

HUNTINGDON COUNTY LIBRARY

Beginning in 2018, the Huntingdon County Library has developed programs and outreach services to become more involved in the community it serves and to fulfill the mission of the Huntingdon County Library System. Some of these efforts include visits to the Shirley Home and Westminster Woods, Sensory Store Time, Library-by-Mail, a “Maker Space”, a monthly all-ages art club, STEM activities, a teen and young adult program, book clubs, yoga and jewelry-making classes, and crafting events. Additionally, transformation of a small outdoor space into a reading and storytelling garden has allowed for other outdoor programs, including a garden tea party and ice cream making.

Sensory Story Time was developed after health and service meetings revealed a local need for social outlets for families of children on the autism spectrum. Library-by-Mail was created to mail books on a monthly basis, free of charge, to County residents who cannot visit the library due to physical limitations or a lack of transportation; and “Maker Space” combined with new discovery kits helps children creatively learn about science and the arts. The teen and young adult program successfully created and published the first county-wide teen literary magazine in the Huntingdon area. This publication in the Summer of 2019, was titled “Aspire, The Literary Magazine of Young Huntingdon Area Writers, Issue 1: New Beginnings.” These increased programs and outreach efforts have led to tremendous growth in program attendance and print material circulation, as shown by the following statistics:

Area of Participation	2018	2019
Children	3,667	4,721
Teen	27	319
Adult	1,147	1,625
Circulation of Print Materials	43,311	51,137



Preservation Award
211 5TH STREET, HUNTINGDON, PA

Work on this building included the total renovation of three floors. The first floor is used as retail space while the second and third floors contain a three bedroom apartment. The store and apartment each utilize high efficiency gas forced air furnaces and central air units, and all appliances are Energy Star rated. The hardwood floors on the second floor were sanded and refinished and carpeting was installed in the third floor sleeping area. In the retail space, the ceiling was covered with metal panels to bring back the retro look. The renovation also included installation of fire rated drywall in the ceilings and hall corridors on the second and third floors and in the ceilings of the first floor. R-38 insulation was placed in the ceilings and R-15 in all exterior walls. When the plywood window coverings were removed from both the inside and outside of the transom windows above the second floor windows, stained glass windows with the Star of David and the address number 211 were revealed!

The owner focused on the metal and artistic aspects of the building's exterior in an effort to bring the extensive detail back to life and the painter took pride in his artistic workmanship.



Special Merit Award

BRICKTOWN MUSEUM, MOUNT UNION, PA

After the Bricktown Model Railroaders Association purchased the property at 300 West Small Street in October 2017, they began an effort to turn the former warehouse into the Bricktown Museum - a state-of-the-art museum dedicated to the rich railroading and industrial history of the Mount Union area. In November 2019, they upgraded the entry stairs and added a concrete ramp to meet building code and ADA requirements. As a result of this 2019 project, disabled visitors can easily access the museum.

This historic building, located on the site of the former Dufresne Chair Factory (late 1800s - 1916), has housed the Shapiro Warehouse (1930s - 1980s) and the Beaver Wholesale Grocery Warehouse (1916 - 1933). The goal of the Association is to improve the property by exceeding construction codes and completing projects in a sustainable manner.



Special Merit Award

DIVERSITY HUNTINGDON—EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!

Formed by Pat Hunter and Anthony Bullett in March 2018, Diversity Huntingdon—Everyone is Welcome Here! collaborated with a number of organizations, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Governor's Council on LGBTQ Affairs, Trans Advocacy Pennsylvania, the Huntingdon Borough Administrative Committee, the Huntingdon Borough Community Development Committee, and the Huntingdon Borough Council to develop an inclusive anti-discrimination ordinance.

This effort culminated on December 17, 2019 when Huntingdon Borough Council adopted an ordinance that applies to all groups not currently covered under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, not just those who are LGBTQ+.

Passage of this anti-discrimination ordinance made Huntingdon Borough the first rural municipality to pass such an ordinance and resulted in the Borough becoming one of only 58 municipalities throughout Pennsylvania that provides protections for classes of people beyond those covered by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

Since the Borough has garnered positive publicity statewide, it is anticipated that passage of this ordinance will help retain residents and be a marketing tool to attract businesses, tourists, and new residents.



Left to Right: Pat Hunter, Jean Collins, Councilmember John Hyde, Tammy Stuber, Anthony Bullett, Tory Smith, Councilmember Nicole Houck, Lisa McDaniels, Councilmember Sean Steeg, Pennsylvania Youth Congress Executive Director Jason Landau Goodman, and Alex Bressler

Community Improvement Awards

Partners

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