

2011 Annual Report

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County; one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small-town atmosphere, protection of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access, and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

Economy, Environment Top Citizen Survey

While the economy is number one, it appears that there is now a greater appreciation of the natural, social and built environment of the County than there was during the *Quality of Life Survey* a dozen years ago.

This is a partial result of the *Huntingdon County Citizen Survey – 2010*. “Ratings of the environment, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and rural atmosphere, had substantially higher ‘excellent’ scores this time around,” said Planning Director, Richard Stahl.

While the top two priorities from 1998, creating new jobs and conserving rural communities, remained the same, protecting open space and encouraging development of wind energy climbed to third and fourth places respectively, replacing developing new retail shopping and developing new highways.

Question #7 was, “During the next five years, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following issues in order to preserve and/or enhance the quality of life in Huntingdon County?”

According to respondents to Question #7, the best way to enhance the quality of life is creating new jobs - 72% highest

priority, 29% high priority. Conserving the quality of existing communities is a strong second - 31% highest priority, 39% high priority; and protecting open space is third - 32% highest priority and 26% high priority. With 24% highest priority and 27% high priority, encouraging development of wind energy is the fourth priority, considerably more popular than oil and gas drilling with 12% highest priority and 15% high priority.

In the fall of 2010, the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department undertook a survey of County residents as a first step towards updating the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The survey was designed to capture public perceptions, concerns and preferences.

The Planning Commission is working to assure that the Comprehensive Plan reflects the views of citizens as it will be used to guide policy and programs for the next decade. Results of the Survey have been incorporated into a written report that is available at www.huntingdoncounty.net.

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CENSUS RELEASES SOCIOECONOMIC DATA FOR COUNTY

The Planning and Development Department is developing a demographic study of Huntingdon County. This study goes beyond population and housing data to analyze population characteristics such as age, race, education, income and labor force. Data comes from both the decennial 2010 Census and the American Community Survey 2006-2009.

Incomes and Poverty both Low

The median household income in Huntingdon County in 2009 was \$41,700. This was just 84.6% of the Pennsylvania median.

However, the County's mean household income was \$51,846 compared to the State's \$65,878. This implies that the income distribution of the County is not as skewed as that of the State. In other words, while incomes were lower overall, there is less of a range between the poor and the well-off.

Only 1.2% of the County's households had incomes over \$200,000 per year compared to 3.3% of State households. At the other end of the income spectrum, 7.1% of Huntingdon County's households had incomes under \$10,000 compared to 7.3% in Pennsylvania. In the lower middle income ranges, 31.8% had incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000 in the County compared to 25.5% in the State.

The relatively low incomes in the County suggest that poverty would be high but compared to the State it is not. About 10.9% of individuals in the County had incomes that fell below the poverty level. For all of Pennsylvania that percentage was 12.1. Further, 8.3% of the State's families were below the poverty level while only 7.1% of Huntingdon County families were in this category.

However, the incidence of poverty falls more heavily on the young in Huntingdon County. Seventeen percent of all families with children under five years old were in poverty in the County compared to 15.4% in the State.

Race and Gender

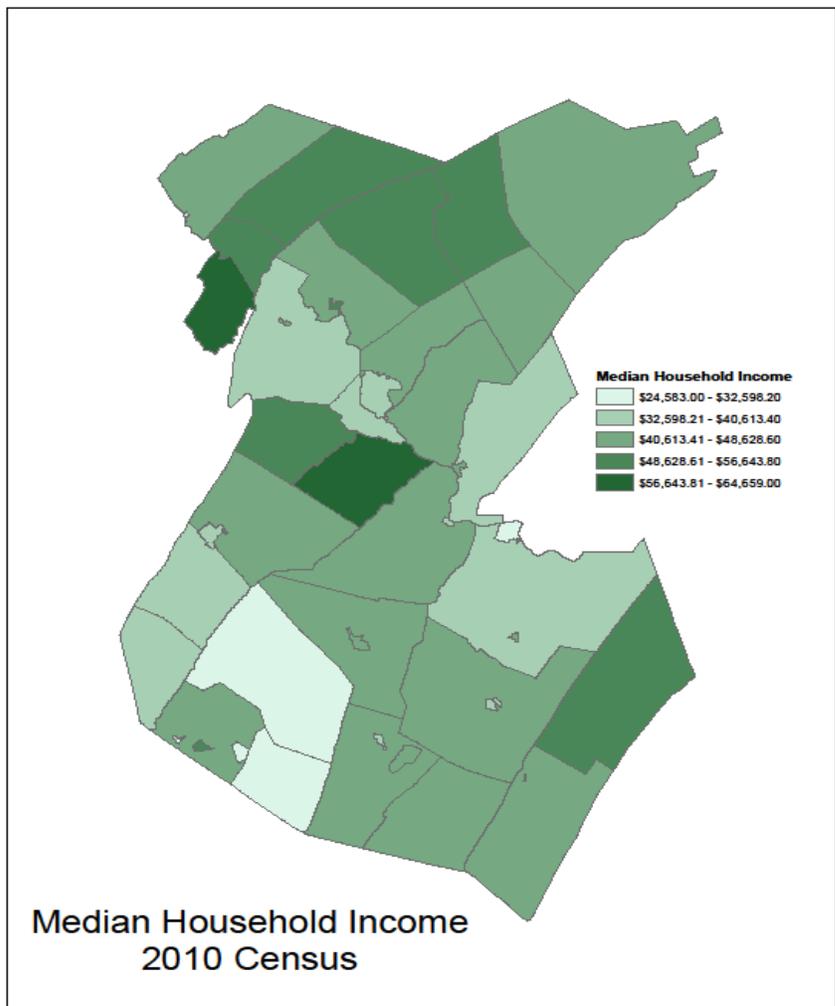
The percentage of minority residents in the County, like most rural counties, is considerably less than the 18% minorities in Pennsylvania.

Huntingdon County had 3,443 (or 7.5%) non-white residents in 2010. It is the 26th ranked county in the State in the percentage of its

population made up of other races. All but two of the counties with higher percentages of minorities are much larger and more urban.

Blacks (African-Americans) make up 70% or 2,387 of the minority population in the County. Those claiming two or more races are a distant second (424) and Asians are third at 184.

The primary reason that Huntingdon has such a large proportion of non-white residents is undoubtedly the State Correctional Institutions in the County.



Age Structure

Although no one statistic can accurately portray the age structure of an area, median age is often used as the best predictor of age distribution because it measures the midpoint of that distribution. One-half of the population is older and one-half younger.

Median age in Pennsylvania was 40.1 years in 2010. In Huntingdon County, the median age was 41.2 years. But this median age was not especially high; among the 67 counties, 40 have an older median age. The county with the greatest median age was Sullivan at 49.9 years.

Median age may also be used as a measure of how fast a population is aging. A rapidly aging area will exhibit a large change in median age over a Census decade. The State has been aging rapidly. Between 2000 and 2010, the State's median age climbed from 38.0 years to 40.1 years. Huntingdon County was one of the faster aging counties in the State with an increase of 2.4 years.

Huntingdon Borough, probably due to the presence of Juniata College, was the youngest municipality in the County with a median of 32.8 years. Juniata Township was the oldest at 49.1 years.

Dependent Populations: In Pennsylvania 22% of the population were under the age of 18 in 2010. In Huntingdon County, only 20.1% were in this age group. Huntingdon County was 51st among the 67 counties in percentage of youth. Just 15.4% of the State's population was over 65, but in Huntingdon County the percentage was 16.2%, ranking the County 27th in the percentage of its population who were senior citizens.

Among the municipalities in Huntingdon County, Smithfield Township is a real outlier in the age structure of its population. Because of the high percentage of the

population which is incarcerated in State prisons, only 5.1% of the Township's population are under 18 and just 7.1% are over 65. Leaving aside Smithfield, seven municipalities have less than 19% under 18. At the other extreme, Brady Township, probably because of the large Amish families residing there, had 29% under 18.

In Oneida Township 23.7% are over 65, the largest percentage in the County; and Saltillo Borough had the smallest percent elderly at 12.1%.

Age Cohorts and aging baby-boomers: Analysis of age structure by five year cohorts shows that the County is rapidly losing residents in all groups less than 45 years of age and gaining rapidly in all groups over 50. This is due both to the aging of the large baby-boomer group and the out-migration of persons under the age of 35.

Education

High school graduation in Huntingdon County is somewhat below that of the State (85.1% versus 86.9%) in 2009. But compared to the US it is quite high; only 84.6% of US residents over 25 had completed high school.

However, relatively few County residents over 25 have a college degree, only 13% compared to 26% in Pennsylvania and 27.5% in the US. College degrees are not evenly spread throughout the County. In Birmingham Borough, no doubt due to the presence of the Grier School, just over one-half of all residents 25 years and older have at least a bachelor's degree. There may also be some spillover from Grier into Spruce Creek Township, which has the second highest percentage (27.5%). West, Franklin, Oneida, Lincoln and Walker Townships are all in the northern portion of the County and all have over 20% of their residents with bachelor's degrees. In three small boroughs, (Rockhill, Mapleton and Mill Creek) less than 3% have college degrees.

Labor Force and Employment

The ACS indicates that 37,742 of the County's residents were over the age of 16 in 2009. Of these, 20,392 were in the civilian labor force. This is a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 54%. This is quite low and is partly because neither the almost 3,200 prisoners nor most of the Juniata College students are employed or seeking work. By contrast the State's LFPR in 2009 was 61.8%.

If the 3,179 inmates are removed from the total available, the LFPR would be 58.9%, which is much closer to the State figure. Further, the population of the County is significantly older than the State population and a larger percentage have retired.

The labor force of the County and the State will, barring significant in-migration, decline substantially in the next two decades as the "baby-boomers" retire. There are not sufficient young people in the population to replace all of them. The age cohort table indicates that 6,663 persons were in the 50 to 59 age group in 2010 compared to 5,713 in the 10 to 19 group and some of those are college students who will probably leave the County when they get their degree.

According to the ACS, there were 18,866 employed persons in the County and 1,526 were unemployed. Hence, about 7.5% of the labor force was unemployed. For the same period the State recorded a 6.8% rate. Just over 49% of the females over 16 were employed as opposed to 53.9% Statewide. The highest unemployment rates were in Dudley Borough, Henderson Township and Logan Township. All of which had rates exceeding 15%.

AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first Planning Director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

The Planning and Development Department is headed by Richard Stahl, AICP, Planning Director. In addition to the Planning Director, the 2011 staff included Planner/Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko; Bookkeeper, Peggy Wilson; and Secretary, Laurie Nearhood. Brennan Cornelius, a math major at Juniata College, and Rose Rahman, an Experience Works participant, assisted Department staff during 2011.

In August, Peggy Wilson submitted her resignation due to health concerns. Peggy served as the Department's Bookkeeper for 18 years. In November, the County Commissioners gave approval to hire Rose Rahman as Bookkeeper.

Planning and Development staff frequently attend workshops and seminars to stay current with the latest planning and community development trends. During 2011, training activities included the Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference and numerous grant specific webinars.

2012 WORK PROGRAM

County Assistance

Planning and Development staff will continue to assist the Board of Commissioners with managing projects such as office expansion, completion of the Bailey Elevator and managing the County website.

Community Development

Staff expects to focus on obtaining additional CDBG discretionary grant funding for County projects in 2012, including implementation of projects such as the Alexandria-Porter Sewer Lateral and Tap Fee Project. Applications are anticipated for restoration of the Courthouse, housing rehabilitation and additional water and sewer projects.

Municipal Assistance

Staff will continue a major project for Warriors Mark Township - a rewrite of their Zoning Ordinance and Map. It is expected that staff will customize model floodplain and subdivision ordinances to meet municipal needs.

Comprehensive Plan

Staff will continue the process of updating the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* in 2012, focusing on updating Background Studies.

Public Education

Municipal planning workshops are planned on topics such as floodplain management and subdivision and land development.

Publication of the following studies is anticipated: *Demographic Analysis*, *Employment Analysis* and *Housing Analysis*. Other background data analysis includes a Community Facilities Survey and a Land Use Analysis.

Community Improvement Awards

The sixth annual Community Improvement Awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 23, 2011. Recipients of the 2010 awards were the Huntingdon Tree Commission, Special Merit; Home Nursing Agency Huntingdon Office, Commercial; Richard A. Heckman, Residential; Huntingdon County Arts Council, Public/Non-profit; and Juniata College, Revitalization.

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, which included the planting of 56 deciduous and evergreen trees along 14th Street and throughout 20 planters in the parking lot.

The Home Nursing Agency transformed 8,754 square feet of the 25,940 square foot former Tri-Star Motors building into their Huntingdon Headquarters.

Richard A. Heckman has purchased and rehabilitated several historic properties in downtown Huntingdon Borough, restoring their historic appearance and creating a mix of commercial and residential uses.

The Arts Council demonstrated that art plays a role in downtown revitalization through the Huntingdon Mural Project and The Art Space.

Juniata College's commitment to building a sustainable community is demonstrated by renovations to Founders Hall and the former Alfarata School.

Presented at the Commission's Annual Meeting, the Community Improvement Awards are sponsored by the Huntingdon County Planning Commission, the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce and Kish Bank.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2011, the operation of the Planning Department was funded through the County General Fund (\$111,795.00) and through several State and Federal government grant programs (\$87,714.00).

The 2012 General Fund budget decreased by 1.34% from 2011; and the 2011 budget for Grants and Special Projects decreased by 5.1%. Overall, the 2012 budget is 2.99% lower than it was in 2011.

General Fund Budget Report

Grants and Special Projects Budget Report *

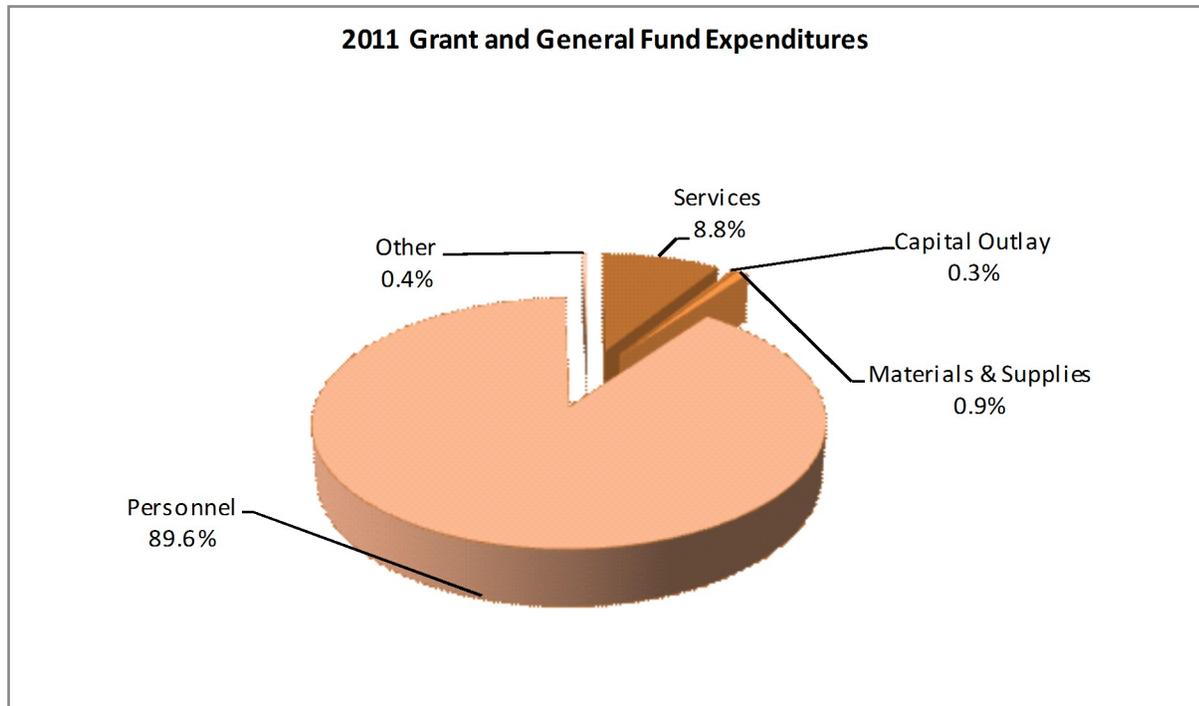
	2011 Budget	2011 Expenditures	2012 Budget
Personnel	\$92,295.00	\$92,295.06	\$94,345.00
Services	\$15,500.00	\$13,222.50	\$12,950.00
Materials & Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$1,485.37	\$2,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$1,500.00	\$558.24	\$1,000.00
Total	\$111,795.00	\$107,561.17	\$110,295.00

	2011 Budget	2011 Expenditures	2012 Budget
Personnel	\$83,314.00	\$71,852.17	\$78,039.00
Services	\$2,450.00	\$2,998.04	\$3,350.00
Materials & Supplies	\$450.00	\$114.54	\$350.00
Other	\$1,500.00	\$766.18	\$1,500.00
Total	\$87,714.00	\$75,730.93	\$83,239.00

Grant & General Fund Totals

*Grants and Special Projects include Community Development Block Grant funds used for administrative purposes and Solid Waste and Recycling.

2011 Budget	2011 Expenditures	2012 Budget
\$199,509.00	\$183,292.10	\$193,534.00



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. The various methods listed below are ways Staff fulfills this responsibility.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Planning and Development staff continued to maintain the County web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), including regular data updates and organizing training for County and municipal staff. 2011 brought a major upgrade to the SharePoint software and training of several County staff in how to post new material to the website.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Planning Director spoke to a variety of organizations in 2011:

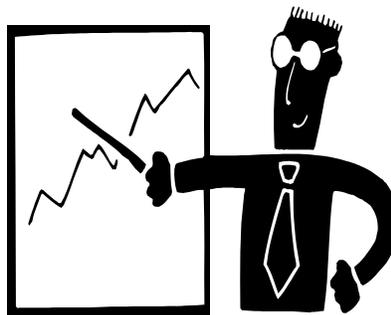
- ⇒ presented a public workshop on the *Huntingdon County Citizen Survey - 2010*;
- ⇒ gave a planning presentation to a Juniata College Environmental Science class at the Raystown Field Station;
- ⇒ moderated a Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce workshop on the prevention and elimination of blight;
- ⇒ participated in a County Economic Forum, presenting information on demographic trends and the role of the County Commissioners in economic development;
- ⇒ gave a “Local Government and Planning” presentation to a Leadership Huntingdon County Class;
- ⇒ spoke about historic preservation at the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce’s “Preserving Old Houses” workshop; and
- ⇒ attended the annual Township Convention to provide information about planning and CDBG topics.

The LouAnn Shontz, Recycling Coordinator gave “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” presentations at several school districts, senior centers, and health fairs; and distributed recycling information at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough’s May Fest.

Preserving Old Houses

Planning Director, Richard Stahl participated in a workshop, titled “Preserving Old Houses,” sponsored by the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, Huntingdon County Historical Society and Huntingdon County Planning Commission. The workshop, held on February 9, 2011, was attended by approximately 40 people. Other presenters included Brian VanSweden, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Glenn Vernon, Architect with Vernon-Albertin Architects.

The workshop focused on the conservation of older homes and preservation of design elements that enhance the value of older homes. The workshop addressed the following questions: Why bother to preserve an old house? What are the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation? What effect does listing on the National Register of Historic Places have on housing rehabilitation activities? What are the best techniques for preserving and restoring old windows and doors without damaging the character of the home?



Economic Forum

The Planning Director participated in an Economic Forum on March 8, 2011 along with representatives of Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Huntingdon County Visitor’s Bureau. The Economic Forum was designed to highlight the role played by each of several organizations in economic development.

Presenters provided details about how their organization works to improve local economic conditions. The Planning Director presented information on population and economic trends and the central role that county commissioners play in economic development. Approximately 45 persons attended the workshop, including 9 candidates for Huntingdon County Commissioner and 2 candidates for Huntingdon County Register and Recorder.

WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Department receives an average of four inquiries per day concerning:

- ⇒ Municipal Contacts and Ordinances
- ⇒ Census Data
- ⇒ Flood Plain Data
- ⇒ Planning Studies
- ⇒ Grant Availability
- ⇒ Recycling Information

Most of these requests are from municipal officials, realtors, professional market analysts, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2011, the Planning and Development Department published the *Huntingdon County Citizen Survey 2010 Results and Analysis*, the *2010 HCPC Annual Report* and the *2011 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services; and various planning studies.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Alexandria Borough - Staff attended a special public meeting to review the draft FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Birmingham Borough - Staff met with representatives of Grier School to discuss funding needs for the Grier/Birmingham Water system, and staff conducted an income survey to determine CDBG eligibility.

Henderson Township - Staff met with the Supervisors to review a proposed subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO) based on the County Model and staff attended a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed SALDO.

Mapleton Borough - Staff worked extensively with Borough Council to administer a C2P2 grant to complete upgrades to Riverside Park.

Miller Township - Staff met with the Planning Commission and Supervisors to review the County Model SALDO and to assist with customizing it to the needs of the Township.

Morris Township - Staff met with the Planning Commission to review their current subdivision ordinance and to draft Ordinance revisions.

Springfield Township - Staff met with the Supervisors to review changes to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Tell Township - Staff attended a public meeting concerning the closing of the Blairs Mills and Neelyton Post Offices and to present an analysis demonstrating the considerable distance to the next available post office.

Todd Township - Staff met with the Supervisors to review National Flood Insurance Program regulations and maps.

Warriors Mark Township - Staff assisted the Township in updating their website, and began meeting with the Planning Commission to update the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Map.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various State and federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program.

CDBG funded activities that were substantially completed in 2011 include Mapleton Borough Affordable Housing Demolition, Mapleton Borough Main Street Sidewalk Replacement, Penn Township Turkey Farm Road Sewer Main Replacement, and the Shirley Home for the Aged Energy Efficiency HVAC Improvements.

CDBG Revitalizes Main Street in Mapleton Borough

As part of a comprehensive, multi-year effort to revitalize Mapleton Borough, a two block section of Main Street received a new look in 2011 when sidewalks were replaced from Sugar Street to Church Street. In addition to creating a modern and well maintained image in the center of the community, the project improved handicapped accessibility and stormwater drainage. A Community Development Block Grant of \$89,000 funded project design and construction.



Main Street in Mapleton Borough before and after improvements were installed in August 2011.

Mapleton Borough supplemented the budget by demolishing the previous walks. Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. designed the project built by Hickes & Associates, Inc. Homeowners were not in favor of planting trees; however, a grass strip allows for future plantings.

COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review and Subdivision and Land Development Review.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Section 502 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act.

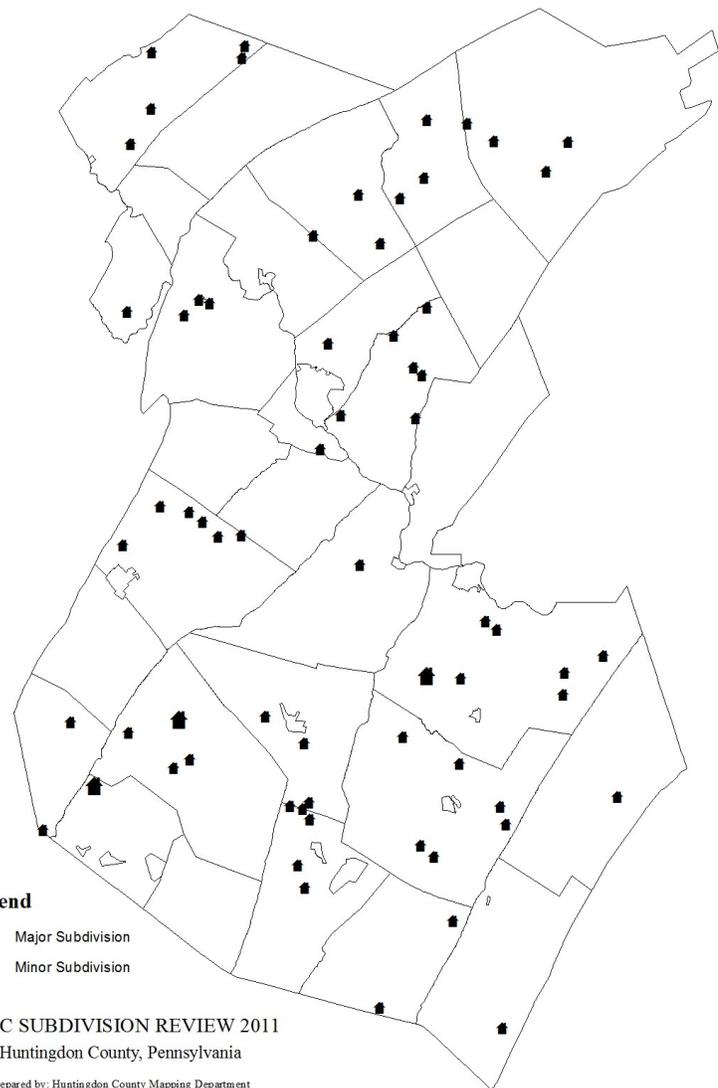
The Commission reviewed 74 subdivisions in 25 municipalities in 2011, down by 6 since 2010. These included 3 major subdivisions, 64 minor subdivisions, 4 major land developments and 3 minor land developments encompassing 118 lots and 2,815.6 acres. Maps illustrating distribution of these proposals are located on pages 8 and 9.

The largest subdivisions reviewed in 2011 were:

- the Biddle Family Partnership (Paradise Point) Subdivision with 73.719 acres and 17 lots in Todd Township;
- the John and Nance Glantz Subdivision with 29 acres and 12 lots in Carbon Township; and
- the Edsel F. Hamman, Sr. Estate Subdivision with 130 acres and 6 lots in Shirley Township.

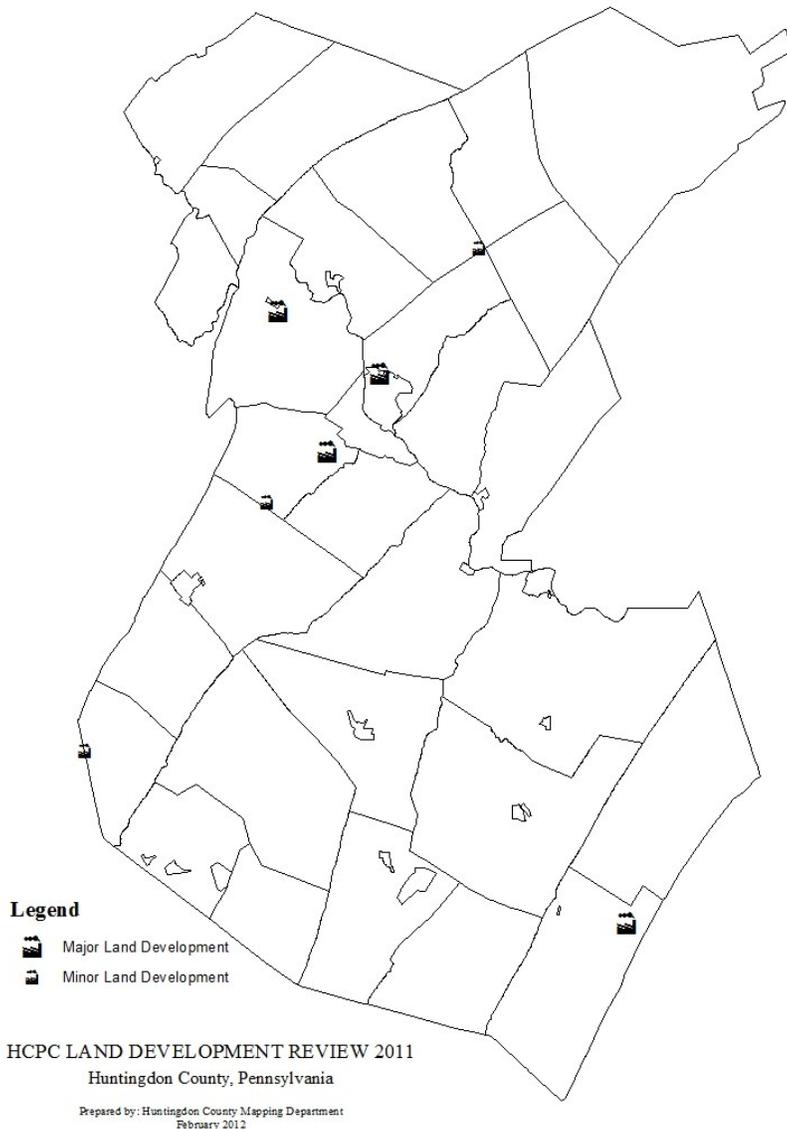
The four major land development reviews conducted in 2011 included:

- Alexandria Borough - Porter Township Joint Municipal Authority, Porter Township - wastewater treatment plant upgrades;
- Huntingdon Regional Fire and Rescue, Walker Township - construction of a 20,223 square foot building and associated utilities;
- Westminster Woods Fitness Center, Huntingdon Borough - expansion of existing three-story



apartment building to include fitness center, offices and six additional apartments; and

- Tyler J. Snider, Dublin Township - construction of a 20,049 square foot barn to house a 2,400 animal swine operation.



AGENCY LIAISON

The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.

Agricultural Land Preservation Board

The Planning Director ended nine years of service on the Huntingdon County Agricultural Land Preservation Board as an appointee of the County Commissioners. The

Huntingdon County Agricultural Land Preservation Program was created by the Board of Commissioners in 2001. Planning staff works closely with the staff of the Huntingdon County Conservation District, who administer the program.

County Planning Directors Association

The Planning Director finished his term as Chair for the County Planning Directors Association (CPDAP), an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The CPDAP provides input on State policy on environmental and land use issues to

both the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania and to the Commonwealth.

Boomtown Committee

The Planning Director serves on the Boomtown Committee, chaired by Huntingdon Mayor Dee Dee Brown. The Boomtown Committee was formed to implement a strategy to make Huntingdon a 'boomtown.'

Jack Schultz, author of "Boomtown USA, the 7-1/2 keys to Success," spoke in Huntingdon in the spring of 2007, encouraging the community to become a successful community, or boomtown.

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee.

The TTC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCBI)

The Planning Director serves on the HCBI Infrastructure Committee. Two principle goals of this Committee are development of the Riverview Business Center and completion of Appalachian Corridor M. The Planning Director also serves as an ex-officio member of the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Committee.

Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (JCEL)

Staff works closely with JCEL to implement the *Huntingdon County Economic Development Strategy*.

Juniata College has taken a proactive approach to business and community development through JCEL partnering with the County Commissioners and HCBI.

COUNTY-MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 303 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247) gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision and other land development ordinances. In addition, Acts 67 and 68 of 2000 provide an opportunity for local municipalities and counties to comment on the consistency of State funded projects with county and municipal planning and zoning.

Local government and State agencies submitted 16 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2011, including 2 DCNR grant applications, 1 water improvement project letter of support, 1 PENNVEST grant application, 1 IFIP grant application, 1 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy grant application, 1 USDA Community Facilities grant application and 9 DEP permit requests:

1. Water Improvement Project, Huntingdon Borough
2. Driveway Pipe Replacement, DEP Water Obstruction Permit, Lincoln Township
3. Grading and Building Reconstruction, DEP NPDES Permit, Hopewell Township
4. Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area Management/Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway Plan Implementation, \$275,000 DCNR Grant Application
5. Small Flow Treatment Facility, DEP WQM Part II and NPDES Permits, Tell Township
6. Culvert Replacement, DEP Water Obstruction Permit, West Township
7. Mount Union Borough Skate Park, \$30,000 DCNR Grant Application

8. Cromwell Township Sewage Treatment Plant and Collection Facilities, PENNVEST application
9. Fish habitat structures, three DEP GP-1 Permits, Springfield Township
10. JC Blair Memorial Hospital Expansion and Renovation Project, \$880,000 IFIP grant request (\$5.6 million total)
11. Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, building renovation (\$350,000 total), Walker Township
12. Forcey Coal, Inc. (Permit No. 05753004), DEP Coal Mining Activity Permit Transfer, Carbon Township
13. Agricultural BMP Projects (\$76,478 grant application), Huntingdon County
14. Remove incidental and necessary coal and reclaim abandoned mine land, DEP, Small Projects Permit, Shirley Township
15. Huntingdon Regional Fire and Rescue, construction of a 20,223 sq. ft. building, DEP NPDES Permit, Walker Township
16. Juniata College, replace natural turf football field with synthetic turf, DEP NPDES Permit, Huntingdon Borough

Additionally, Act 14 requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits or air quality permits to notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for State permits. The Commission received 11 State permit activity notices in 2011.

FEDERAL-STATE PROJECT REVIEW

The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan, under the authority of Executive Order #12372.

Under the State-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission reviewed the following 23 projects in 2011:

1. Saint Francis University Small Business Development Center - Central Pennsylvania Small Business Academy Program, \$73,360, USDA Rural Development
2. Saint Francis University Small Business Development Center - Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program Grant, \$40,000, USDA Rural Development
3. FFY 2011 - Chesapeake Bay Non-Tidal Monitoring, \$355,667, EPA
4. FFY 2012 - NOAA Project of Special Merit, Lake Erie Marine Spatial Plan, \$181,000, EPA
5. FFY 2011 - National Dam Safety Program, \$148,252, Department of Homeland Security
6. FFY 2011 - Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program, \$2,666,819, EPA
7. FFY 2012 - Nonpoint Source Implementation 391(h), \$4,670,000, EPA
8. FFY 2011 - State Energy Program Formula, \$1,528,000, Department of Energy
9. Saint Francis University Small Business Development Center - Rural Business Opportunity Grant, \$50,000, USDA Rural Development
10. FFY 2012 - Air Pollution Control Grant (Section 105), \$4,358,605, EPA
11. FFY 2012 - Brownfield State Response, \$549,000, EPA
12. FFY 2011 - State Indoor Radon, \$463,767, EPA
13. FFY 2012 - Water Quality Management Planning, \$654,119, EPA
14. FFY 2012 - Water Pollution Control 106 Grant - Base-TMDL, \$6,186,940, EPA
15. FFY 2012 - Water Pollution Control Section 106 Supplemental Monitoring Initiative & Lakes, \$1,316,897, EPA
16. FFY 2012 - State Capacity for Implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in PA, \$199,958, EPA
17. FFY 2011 - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, \$27,154,000.00, EPA
18. FFY 2011 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund, \$58,492,800, EPA

- 19. FFY 2011 - Pollution Prevention Grants Program, \$179,960, EPA
- 20. FFY 2011 - Heidelberg Township Property Acquisition, Preservation of Chesapeake Bay Watershed, \$400,000, Department of Commerce
- 21. FFY 2011 - Hunters Crossing/Camp Security Acquisition, Preservation of Chesapeake Bay Watershed, \$946,000, Department of Commerce
- 22. FFY 2011 - Lake Erie Watershed/Elk Creek Acquisition and Public Access Easement Project, \$330,750, Department of Commerce
- 23. FFY 2011 - PM 2.5 Air Monitoring Network, \$1,220,595, EPA

Sustainable Housing through Energy Conservation is Goal of Shirley Home Improvements

A broad spectrum of energy conservation improvements was completed at the Shirley Home for the Aged, a 154 year old, 42 bed personal care facility, owned by Huntingdon County, and operated by the Shirley Home for the Aged, Inc. Conservation measures consisted of:

- Steam heat system rehabilitation to evenly distribute heat throughout the facility;
- Energy Recovery Ventilation to exhaust all restrooms and return regulated fresh air;
- Mini-split heating and air conditioning on third floor to replace 14 window air conditioners;
- 51 windows and 9 exterior doors replaced to eliminate outside air infiltration;
- New propane water heater to eliminate firing boiler during warm weather for hot water; and
- Three energy efficient refrigerators and one freezer to replace old appliances.

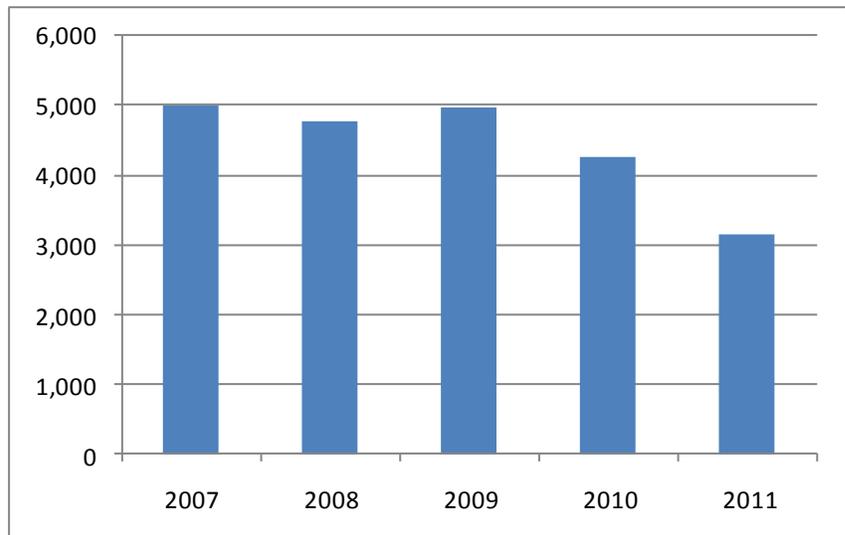
These investments are designed to help prepare the Shirley Home for the future when anticipated energy costs increase and potential Social Security income decreases may limit the ability to house residents of Huntingdon County regardless of income. Staff and residents also noted unintended benefits realized by the project. New windows make the facility quieter and can safely remain open to allow pleasant cross breezes. Kitchen staff is cooler since overhead heating pipes are insulated. Air quality is noticeably improved by the ERV system.

The chart below illustrates a 36% reduction in oil consumption from 2009 to 2011, some of which may be attributed to the windows and doors installed in 2010 and the balance of the work completed in 2011. County staff will continue to monitor energy consumption to assess program effectiveness.



Energy Recovery Ventilation

Two Energy Recovery Ventilation units located in the attic of the Shirley Home remove exhaust air from restrooms and supply fresh, filtered “make-up” air to the facility. The ERVs transfer heat from the exhaust air to the incoming air in the heating season and from the incoming air to the exhaust air in the air conditioning season.



Funding was gathered for this \$415,776 project from six different sources including the PA Conservation Works! Program (\$219,556); CDBG-Recovery funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (\$80,320); CDBG funds from Huntingdon County (\$83,900) and Smithfield Township (\$5,000); and General Funds from both the Shirley Home for the Aged, Inc. (\$10,000) and Huntingdon County (\$17,000).

COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are Countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally. Some activities are done to assist the County Commissioners in non-planning areas. Major planning projects in 2011 included:

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

The Recycling Coordinator provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.

Since 2008, SKILLS has agreed to allow residents to drop off electronics at their S. 5th Street office in Smithfield Township free of charge.

In 2011, SKILLS recycled 12.64 tons or 25,287 pounds of electronics from Huntingdon County residents.

During 2011, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2011 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

The Tri-County recycling program marketed 1,097.54 tons of recyclables with only 15% contamination. Huntingdon County sites collected 542.79 tons, 50% of the total. The Huntingdon County voluntary curbside recycling program collected 284.97 tons.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the Fall collection bringing 6,870 pounds or 3.4 tons.

In addition to these activities, 22.38 tons of office paper were recycled from various County offices.

The Recycling Coordinator continues to be an active member of the

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee; and is an active member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful.

BAILEY BUILDING ELEVATOR

In order to minimize the expenditure of local tax dollars, the Board of Commissioners budgeted \$354,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to install an elevator and stair tower at the newly renovated Bailey Building. This is being matched with an additional \$118,000 in County funds. Altoona Architect James Kasun prepared architectural plans and the construction contract was awarded to C.E. Wood Construction.

An exterior stair tower and elevator are located on the east side of the Bailey Building, replacing a previous stairway. Structural details such as brick and windows have been carefully chosen to match existing materials. Work began in September, with plans to complete the project before the summer of 2012.

By the end of 2011, the Bailey Building housed the offices of the County Commissioners, Mapping Department, Tax Assessment Department and County Treasurer. District Magisterial Court 20-03-02 will move in after the first of the year.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

The Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) developed new goals as part of a strategic planning process. These goals include:

- Create a Third Prison or Rebuild SCI Huntingdon;
- Capital Fund Drive for Business Development;
- Cell Phone/Broadband Connectivity;
- Build Secondary Education Programs to Meet Employer Needs;
- Targeted Market Campaigns – Promoted Outside the Alleghenies;

- Target Efforts to Help Grow Crossover Businesses;
- Improve Visibility of Huntingdon County in Local/Regional Media; and
- Lobby for Roadway Improvements.

The Planning Director and Secretary continued to provide support to the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) during the year. The County Commissioners chair this committee.

According to the PEP Strategic Plan, *"It is the vision of the Huntingdon County Partnership for Economic Progress to improve the economic health and the quality of life of Huntingdon County residents by fostering and enhancing community education and innovation, agency communication and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the County"*.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

While the Local Governmental Grant program was eliminated by the State, municipal and County contributions totaling \$4,600.00 were administered for the Huntingdon County Arts Council in 2011.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

In 2011, the Huntingdon County Planning and Development Department administered a total of \$1,930,234 in State and Federal grants, including \$211,957 in Smithfield Township Entitlement CDBG funds.

Tables on page 14 detail each miscellaneous grant awarded and CDBG usage and planned allocations.

Miscellaneous grants received in 2011 included Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation funds for energy efficient lighting at the Huntingdon County Library; Housing Preservation funds from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Housing Services Program; and Emergency Shelter Grant funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

FEMA SUBMITS DRAFT FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS, MANDATES ORDINANCE UPDATE

FEMA officials presented information concerning new Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FIRMs to approximately 65 municipal officials at a workshop on January 12, 2011. The workshop was coordinated by the Planning and Development Department.

Huntingdon County municipalities were sent draft FIRMs in October 2010. They were asked to review the maps for errors and to make comments as necessary. The new FIRMs are drawn on aerial photos and are considerably easier to read than the old maps, most of which date to the 1980's. The new FIRMs are based on two foot contour maps.

Municipalities were strongly encouraged to conduct outreach to their citizens affected by changes to the Maps.

FEMA officials explained that municipalities had 90 days from the

date of the workshop to submit an official appeal questioning map accuracy.

It was also explained that all municipalities will be required to adopt new floodplain ordinances within six months of notification that the new maps have been approved. This notification is expected in the spring or summer of 2012.

Planning Director, Richard Stahl offered to continue to work with County municipalities on the Model Development Permit Ordinance. The principle change needed in municipal ordinances is a specific reference to the new FIRMs.

Following the January workshop, Richard Stahl posted important floodplain information on the County website, www.huntingdoncounty.net. The Mapping Department assisted by posting the preliminary FIRMs to the Web Map.

The National Flood Insurance Program was established by Congress in 1968 due to escalating costs to taxpayers for flood disaster relief. The Program is based on the premise that, if a community implements sound floodplain management, the Federal government will make flood insurance available to residents in that community.

Officials participating in the workshop included representatives from FEMA, DCED, Gannett Fleming, as well as Huntingdon County representatives Adam Miller (EMA), Andy Patterson (Conservation District) and Richard Stahl (Planning Department).

Huntingdon County Library Lighting Grant

The Huntingdon County Library completed a major energy conservation project in 2011, implementing ideas suggested in an energy audit of Huntingdon County Buildings done in 2011 by CM3 Consultants with the assistance of Planning staff.

D.C. Goodman and Sons replaced approximately 99 light fixtures in the Huntingdon Library with more energy efficient fixtures. For example, T-8 bulbs are 50% to 60% more energy efficient than the older T-12 fluorescent bulbs and produce more light per bulb. The final cost of the project was \$13,204, with the grant paying half of the cost.

The Planning and Development Department applied for and administered a Keystone Library Grant on behalf of the Library Board and the Huntingdon County Commissioners. The project is expected to save \$2,076 in electric costs.

Shirley Home Strategic Plan

On June 29, 2011, the Shirley Home for the Aged Board of Directors adopted its first Strategic Plan. The Plan was developed with the assistance of County Planning Director, Richard Stahl. Strategic planning is designed to formulate an organizational vision along with implementing goals and objectives. A strategic plan is designed to be implemented over a three to five year period. The new vision for Shirley Home is as follows: "Shirley Home seeks to be the preferred personal care facility in Huntingdon County, providing residents with compassionate care, ensuring better health, safety and spiritual well-being in a homey country setting".

The *Shirley Home Strategic Plan* identifies goals in the following areas: organization, physical plant, financial and marketing. Major objectives of the Plan include: develop a board reorganization plan, develop a communication plan, maintain and enhance the physical plant, develop and maintain adequate financial resources, develop and implement a marketing plan and develop and promote a new image for Shirley Home.

Two workshops were held in March involving both board members and key staff. While the Home is owned by the Huntingdon County Commissioners, it is operated by a non-profit board of directors that includes one County Commissioner. The Shirley Home Personal Care Home houses approximately 40 elderly and indigent individuals.

The Shirley Home is now in the implementation phase. The first step in implementation was development of new bylaws that were adopted on December 12, 2011. Recently, the Board was expanded by two members and a fund raising committee was initiated.

Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
HOME Investment Partnership	2008 - Housing Rehabilitation	\$306,000.00
Housing Preservation Grant	2009 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$60,000.00
PA Conservation Works!*	2009 - Shirley Home Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$206,405.00
Emergency Shelter Grant	2009 - Huntingdon House	\$56,992.00
Neighborhood Stabilization Program*	2009 - Mapleton and Mount Union Boroughs	\$171,000.00
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2009 - Entitlement CDBG	\$102,015.00
New Communities Program	2010 - Enterprise Zone Basic Grant	\$50,000.00
Smithfield Township Entitlement	2010 - Entitlement CDBG	\$109,942.00
Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund	2011 - Huntingdon County Library Energy Efficient Lighting	\$6,602.00
Housing Preservation Grant	2011 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$42,397.00
Emergency Shelter Grant	2011 - Huntingdon House	\$44,515.00

*funds originating from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds)

CDBG Usage - Past Three Years	2009	2010	2011
Dudley Area Water System Improvements *	73,500.00	0	0
Mount Union Borough Building Accessibility	80,000.00	0	0
Mapleton Borough Revitalization **	39,000.00	50,000.00	0
Rockhill Stormwater	30,000.00	0	0
Huntingdon County Bailey Building Accessibility *	0	54,000.65	68,000.00
Porter Township Sewer Laterals *	0	35,276.00	0
Cromwell Township Tap Fees	0	28,000.00	0
Cromwell Township Sewer Laterals	0	64,000.00	0
Orbisonia Rockhill Joint Municipal Authority *	0	0	138,800.00
Past Three Years Totals	\$222,500.00	\$231,276.65	\$206,800.00
* activity underway ** activity complete			
CDBG Usage - Next Three Years	2012	2013	2014
Huntingdon County Facilities (Bailey Building) Accessibility *	82,000.00	0	0
Mary Alexander Outreach Shelter	118,000.00	0	118,000.00
Mount Union Borough Building Phase II Accessibility	0	104,500.00	0
Bricktown Senior Citizen Center Rehabilitation	0	72,000.00	0
Wood Township Stormwater Improvements	0	23,500.00	0
New Projects	0	0	62,000.00
Next Three Years Totals	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$180,000.00

DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes:

- ◆ Building and Subdivision Activity
- ◆ Deed Transfers
- ◆ Municipal Contacts
- ◆ Municipal Land Use Ordinances
- ◆ Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics

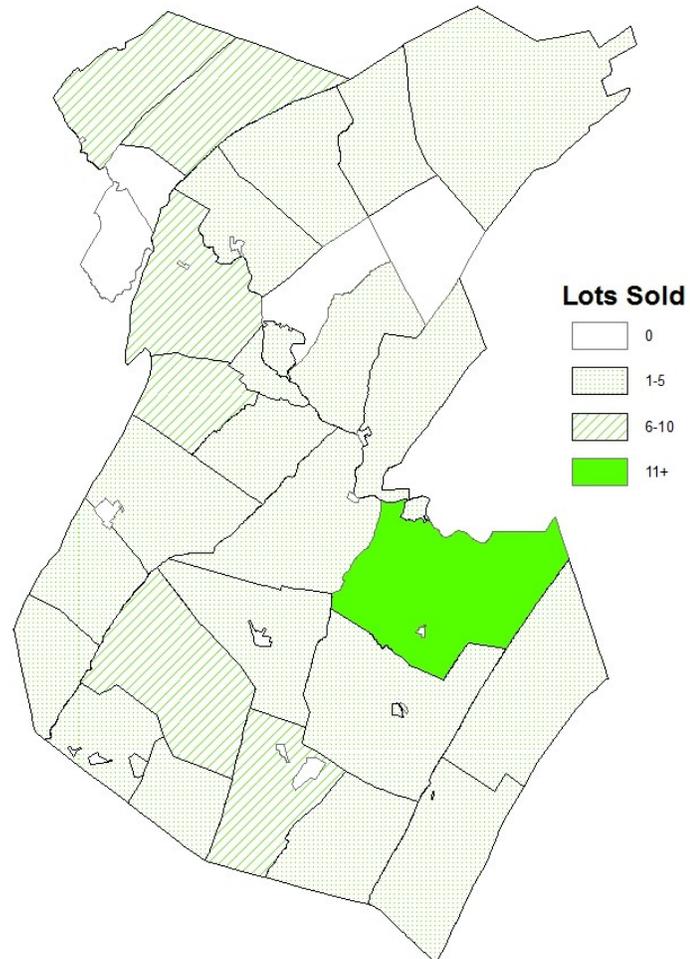
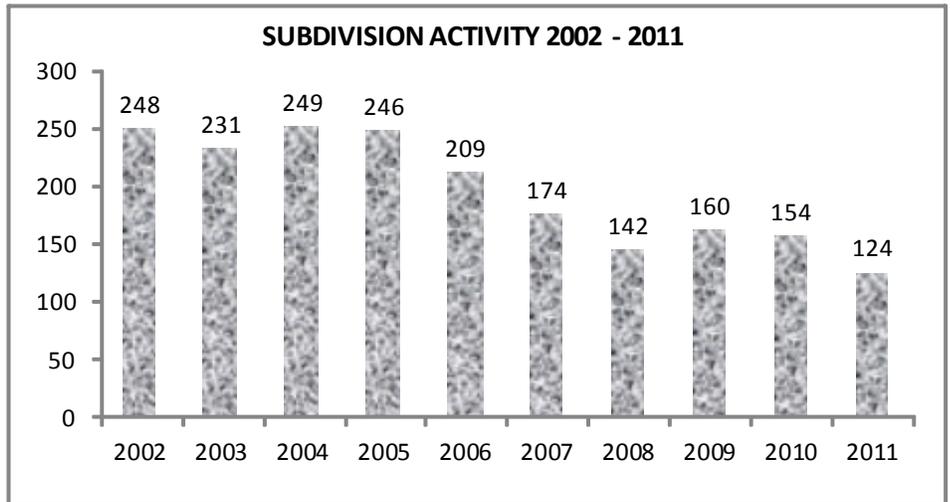
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

The number of new subdivision lots recorded indicates the level of land development occurring within the County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services. Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced in the Coordination section.

During 2011, 124 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 19.5% from the 154 lots created in 2010.

In 2011, the highest level of activity, 22 new lots, occurred in Shirley Township. The table below shows the highest levels in 2011 and the map on this page illustrates the intensity of development experienced in each municipality in 2011.

Municipality	New Lots
Shirley Township	22
Warriors Mark Township	9
Porter Township	8
Clay Township	6
Franklin Township	6
Todd Township	6
Walker Township	6
Dublin Township	5
West Township	5



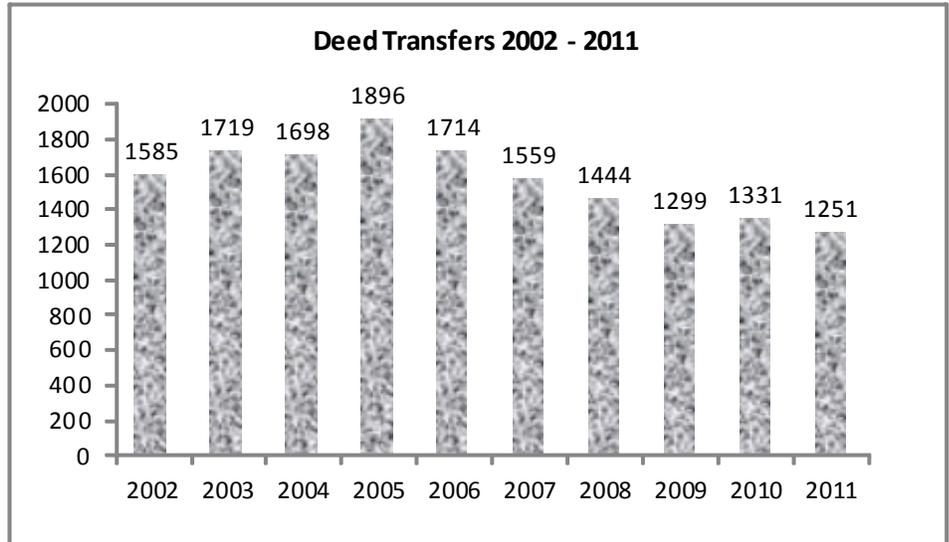
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 2011

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well being of the County. The chart on this page illustrates the number of deeds transferred over the past ten years.

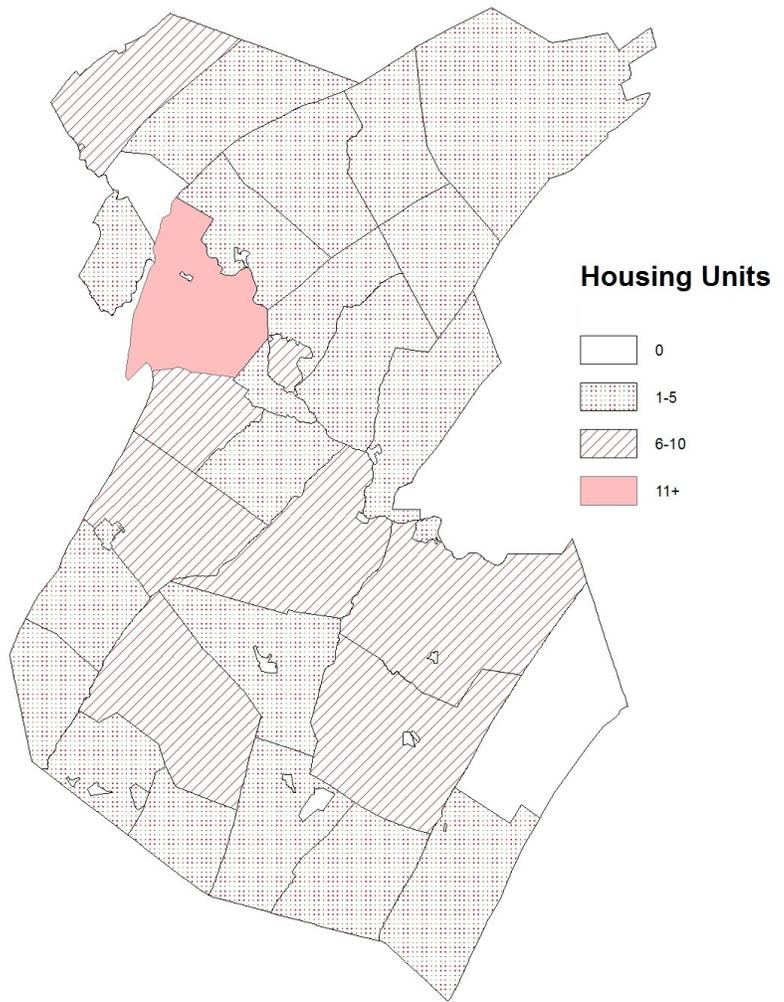
The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2011, both existing and new, showed a 6% decrease from 1,331 in 2010 to 1,251 in 2011.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

In 2011, the construction of new houses decreased 10% from 2010, with 127 versus 141 in 2010. The number of new houses constructed is estimated annually. The Department uses electrical permits, from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and building permits to estimate new housing starts. Year-round housing activity decreased by 21%, from 125 units in 2010 to 99 units in 2011.

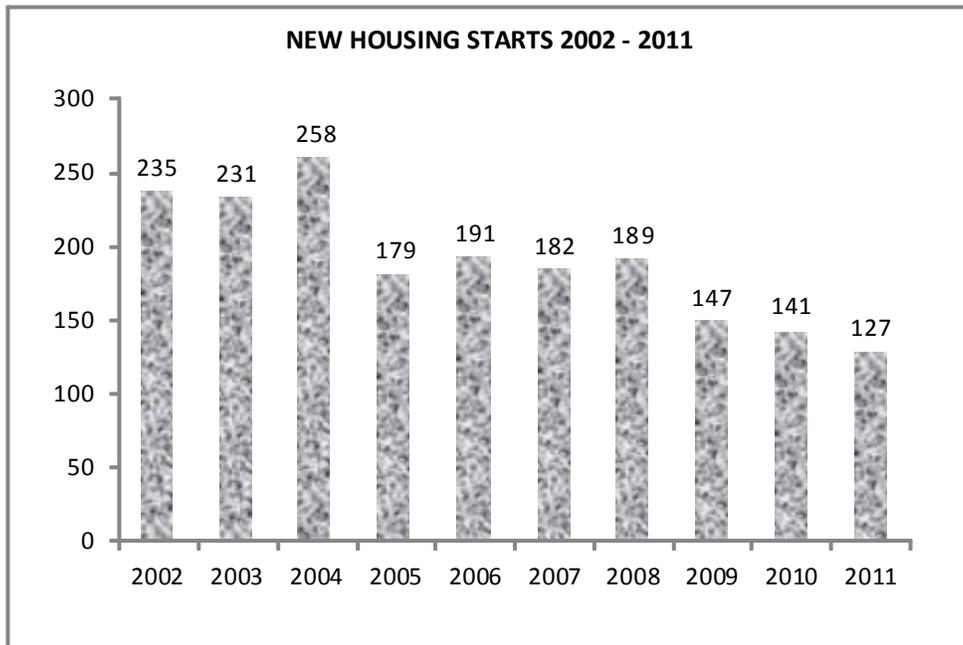
The map on this page illustrates the level of building activity in each municipality in 2011. A ten-year housing starts trend is illustrated in the chart on page 17. Following are the municipalities that led the County in new housing starts:



Municipality	New Homes
Porter Township	13
Todd Township	9
Union Township	9
Warriors Mark Township	9
Cromwell Township	7
Penn Township	7
Shirley Township	7
Huntingdon Borough	6
Walker Township	6
Dublin Township	5

NEW HOUSING STARTS 2011

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania



SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

Valley Rural data also allows a comparison between seasonal and year-round housing starts. Based on this data, 28 units, or 22% of all new housing activity in 2011 involved seasonal housing. This data reveals an increase of 75% from 16 seasonal units in 2010.

Mobile homes comprised 25%, or 28 units, of Valley Rural and Commonwealth Code housing permits in 2011.

Following are the municipalities that led the County in seasonal and year-round housing starts:

Year Round Housing: Municipality	New Homes
Porter Township	13
Warriors Mark Township	9
Huntingdon Borough	6
Walker Township	6
Penn Township	5
Shirley Township	5

Seasonal Housing: Municipality	New Homes
Todd Township	5
Union Township	5
Cromwell Township	3
Cass Township	2
Penn Township	2
Shirley Township	2

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R. Dean Fluke, Vice Chairman
Jeff Thomas, Secretary

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