

PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Focusing on Planning in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2012—Volume 10, Issue 4



Congratulations to our 2012 Montgomery Award Winners!

Five outstanding projects have received a 2012 Montgomery Award. Our annual awards program recognizes the best in planning and design and revitalization in Montgomery County and acknowledges the high-quality work and commitment of communities, organizations, and professionals. We celebrated with our winners at a November 14 awards ceremony.

2012 Award Recipients

[Cold Point Manor](#), located in Whitemarsh Township, was awarded for extensive collaborative efforts, effective site design, and important community transportation improvements. This outstanding project involved a successful public/private partnership that resulted in a well-designed townhouse community and the realignment of Flourtown Road, a major township transportation goal. Cold Point Manor has created an appealing neighborhood and has greatly benefitted the community.

[Germantown Academy, Phase I](#) in Whitemarsh Township received the award for environmentally sensitive site planning, sustainable building design, and restoration of natural features. The academy successfully integrated its natural environment into the campus design, creating a new sustainable upper and middle school, athletic complex, and natural preserve. This exceptional project demonstrates Germantown Academy's commitment to sustainable design, environmental stewardship, and the education of future community leaders.

[Cynwyd Heritage Trail](#) in Lower Merion Township was awarded for an innovative planning concept, open space preservation, and extensive collaboration. This exceptional project transformed an abandoned rail line into a popular trail and linear park that connects the community with its heritage and other natural and recreational amenities. Cynwyd Heritage Trail demonstrates how successful collaboration can result in enjoyable open space and an important future link in a regional trail system.



Cold Point Manor (Photo: Sal Paone Builder)



Germantown Academy, Phase I (Photo: Wallace Roberts & Todd)



Cynwyd Heritage Trail

[Cannon Square](#), a new townhouse community in Lansdale Borough, was awarded for successful re-development efforts, infill housing, collaboration, and positive community impact. This outstanding project successfully transformed a former industrial property into 28 market-rate townhomes that fit seamlessly into the neighborhood. Cannon Square has brought many benefits to Lansdale, including new residents, jobs, and an economic boost to the downtown.

The [Glenside Commercial District](#), an important corridor in the heart of Glenside, received the award for effective streetscape enhancements, commercial revitalization, and strong community involvement. The appealing streetscape enhancements on Wesley Avenue and Easton Road have attracted new businesses, increasing the sustainability of the district and the quality of life of the surrounding neighborhood. This successful project has reinvigorated the district, creating an enjoyable destination for residents and visitors.

Visit [www.planning.montcopa.org/Montgomery Awards](http://www.planning.montcopa.org/MontgomeryAwards) for more on the 2012 winners, the awards program, and previous recipients.

Ron Feick Joins MCPC to Form New GIS Team

Ron Feick has recently joined the planning commission staff as part of an effort to improve the development and maintenance of the county's geographic information system (GIS). Ron has been with the county for over 28 years and had been serving as the county GIS coordinator working in the information and technology solutions (ITS) department. Ron brings a variety of skills and experience to the planning commission. At The Pennsylvania State University, he earned both an undergraduate degree in the man-environmental relations program and a master's degree in public administration. In addition to his GIS work at the ITS department, Ron worked on the development of various software applications for county departments and taught computer classes.

Ron will join William McLay and Robert Cartier to form the new GIS team in the planning commission. They will be working with other county departments and local government, expanding the use of GIS to streamline government and improve decision making.



Cannon Square



Glenside Commercial District Streetscape Enhancements



Introducing our new GIS



(L to R) Meredith Curran, Brandon Rudd, Marley Bice.



Meet Our Three New Planners

Our commission currently provides planning services to 30 municipalities and four regional planning commissions under the community planning assistance contract program. We recently added three new community planners to the staff.

Meredith Curran joined MCPC in September. Meredith is a graduate of the College of William & Mary. She earned an M.C.P. degree in urban studies and regional planning from the University of Maryland. Meredith will be a planner for Pottstown Borough, Ambler Borough, Douglass Township, and the Pottstown Metropolitan Region.

Brandon Rudd also joined the planning commission in September after receiving a master's degree in urban affairs and public policy, urban and regional planning at the University of Delaware. Brandon received both a bachelor of science and a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio University. He will serve as the planner for Lower Salford Township, Lower Frederick Township, Red Hill Borough, and the Indian Valley Region.

Marley Bice began her career at MCPC on October 31 after Hurricane Sandy closed down the county for two days. She received a master of city and regional planning degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Marley also earned an undergraduate degree from the College of William & Mary where she focused on environmental science and geology. She will be working in East Greenville and Lansdale Boroughs and with both the Upper and Central Perkiomen Valley Regions.

MCPC Model Ordinance Series Receives Award

On October 16, the Montgomery County Planning Commission received a certificate of merit for the model ordinance series prepared by our staff over the past several years. The award was presented at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) in Erie, Pennsylvania. Staff members Brian O'Leary, section chief of county planning and president of the PA Chapter of APA, and Michael Stokes, assistant director, presented a technical workshop on the model ordinances. A large gift basket filled with many donated Montgomery County products was raffled off along with several other county-donated baskets at the conference to raise \$1,300 in planning scholarship funds.



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