

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Borough of Tamaqua South Ward Neighborhood - Elm Street Plan

Pennsylvania's Elm Street Program assists municipalities in rejuvenating residential and mixed-use areas adjacent to their central business district. Pennsylvania based its Elm Street Program on its successful Main Street Program, which targets downtown commercial districts. Central commercial areas and the neighborhoods that surround them are linked. Vibrant neighborhoods provide customers and a labor pool for downtown businesses. In turn, a healthy downtown improves the quality of life in nearby neighborhoods. The idea behind the Elm Street Program is that communities should plan the future of these two types of areas together, instead of treating them like separate entities.

The area under study in this plan is the South Ward Neighborhood, which lies adjacent to the Borough's West Broad Street and South Center Street Business District. This area is defined on the east by the border of Rt. 309 (Center Street), on the west by the Borough of Tamaqua boundary, on the north by West Broad Street (Route 209), and on the south by the properties bordering Orwigsburg Street. The exact boundaries can be seen on the project map.

The Elm Street Program also provides three types of state grants to municipalities, which are planning grants to prepare five-year revitalization strategies, operational grants for hiring a professional Elm Street Manager to oversee implementation of the five-year strategy, and reinvestment grants to fund physical improvements recommended in the five-year strategy. The Borough received a planning grant to prepare an Elm Street Neighborhood Plan and has hired Ogden Consulting, LLC, and Daniel Schroeder Historical Restoration and Design Consultant as the planning consultant for this project.

Mission

The South Ward Neighborhood Committee established the following mission statement:

The South Ward Neighborhood Committee is dedicated to working with and supporting existing community organizations in efforts to promote home ownership, reconnect with Downtown Tamaqua and address neighborhood safety issues. The Committee will work with current and former neighborhood residents and community organizations to improve the neighborhood park, assist neighbors and make improvements to the make the neighborhood a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Vision

Residents of the South Ward of Tamaqua have roots that run as deep as the coal veins that once sustained our community. We look to the past with an eye on the future, dedicating ourselves to improving our corner of the world through the following steps:

- 1) Re-establish the South Ward Playground as the heart of the community.
- 2) Promote safety and security, working towards a drug free environment and assisting our volunteer fire department.
- 3) Encourage our neighbors to take pride in our community, establishing a greater sense of responsibility.
- 4) Create a pro-family environment.
- 5) Develop a partnership with the Tamaqua Area School District and Lehigh Carbon Community College, encouraging residents of all ages to become life long learners.

Goals

- Within this neighborhood, the goals of the Elm Street Program are:
 - To improve physical appearances by enhancing exterior building conditions and the local streetscape;
 - To connect with revitalization activities happening in nearby commercial areas;
 - To create and sustain neighborhood organizations that will help prevent decline; and
 - To devise a vision for neighborhood revitalization and a comprehensive strategy to carry out that vision.

The Plan

In order to develop as successful of a project as possible, the Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee and the consultants held a series of public meetings to solicit public input into the plan development process. A housing inventory was completed; existing programs, systems, resources and current municipal codes were reviewed. Volunteers developed a photographic inventory of their likes and dislikes. Through this process, the neighborhood assets and challenges were identified. These have been translated into goals, objectives and specific tasks consistent with the five elements of the Elm Street Plan: Clean, Safe, & Green; Design; Image & Identity; Neighbors and Economy; and Sustainable Organization.

The Elm Street Plan for neighborhood improvement includes the following goals and objectives. A copy of the complete Plan can be obtained at the Borough of Tamaqua office.

Clean, Safe and Green Goal

Create an area where every resident and visitor can feel safe on neighborhood streets, take pride in the neighborhood, and live in a well-maintained environment.

Objectives:

- a) Improve the South Ward Playground – address inconsistent maintenance, safety hazards, deteriorated basketball court, and create better playground design.
- b) Create Community Gateways at the corner of Spruce and Hunter and the western entrance of Stadium Hill to present welcome entrances to the neighborhood and eliminate perceived problem areas.
- c) Maintain a clean environment through the cooperative effort of municipal employees, public service groups and school district.
- d) Increase public awareness of recreation facilities/programs in the neighborhood.
- e) Increase availability and access to walking trails.
- f) Improve lighting on streets and walkways.
- g) Improve residential parking, particularly in winter.
- h) Improve curbs, sidewalks and walkways to downtown.
- i) Establish South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and Tamaqua Salvation Army as neighborhood emergency shelter.
- j) Consistent house numbering; street signage.
- k) Consider traffic calming methods to improve traffic flow and lower speeds.
- l) Seek cooperative strategies to support shared rides and local transportation.

Design Goal

Encourage partnerships of existing resources to create a neighborhood design that provides for a safe, attractive and economically viable community for its residents.

Objectives:

- a) Create a system to provide consistent code enforcement of all properties and rental inspection program.
- b) Implement programs to entice property owners to restore and improve existing properties.
- c) Develop standard rehab guidelines for 'typical' South Ward properties.
- d) Develop programs to encourage general property maintenance (painting, pressure washing, weeding) and assist persons unable to complete regular maintenance.
- e) Encourage Borough to focus capital improvements and pilot programs in South Ward.
- f) Develop a property review committee to encourage redevelopment appropriate to the neighborhood needs.

Neighbors and Economy Goal

Enhance and promote initiatives to improve existing housing; increase opportunities for personal, family and neighborhood growth.

Objectives:

- a) Strengthen relationships with local organizations and institutions to further develop potential of residents.
- b) Strengthen partnerships with development organizations to promote commercial opportunities.

Image and Identity Goal

Seek opportunities to improve the image of the South Ward as perceived by the neighborhood and others.

Objectives:

- a) Develop a consistent theme for the neighborhood.
- b) Conduct annual Homecoming Events to promote community pride.
- c) Establish South Ward newsletter to create awareness.
- d) Develop neighbor helping neighbor campaign.
- e) Encourage and promote positive media awareness of neighborhood initiatives.
- f) Actively participate in and promote in the Blueprint Community program.

Sustainable Organization Goal

Create a sustainable organization responsible for the management of volunteers, development and dissemination of information and fund raising strategies to achieve the goals of the South Ward Neighborhood.

Objectives:

- a) Establish an Elm Street Coordinator with a clear, concise management structure.
- b) Develop resources to enhance presentations, improve communications, and manage information effectively.
- c) Establish sponsorship programs to help fund community projects.
- d) Establish recognition programs to reward performance.

The development of the South Ward Plan would not be possible without the dedication and support from numerous volunteers, organizations, businesses, elected officials and employees of the Borough of Tamaqua, PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), PA Downtown Center and most importantly, the South Ward Neighborhood Committee and residents.

Letters of Support

In addition to the support of the South Ward Neighborhood Committee Volunteers and residents, the following organizations, individuals and agencies offered their support in letter-form:

| Name | Title | Organization | Located in or adjacent to Neighborhood? | Pledge of Local Match or Assistance? |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| David G. Argall | State Representative | PA House of Representatives | | |
| James J. Rhoades | State Senator | PA State Senate | | |
| Jason Boris | Director | Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission | Yes | |
| Pat Freeh Stefanek | Chairwoman | Tamaqua Area 2004 | | Yes |
| Fred Bausch | Superintendent | Tamaqua School District | Yes | |
| Ann Bieber | VP Community Services | Lehigh Carbon Community College | Yes | |
| Frank Kane | President | Kane Lumber Company | Yes | |
| Grace DiMarco | Tamaqua Gallery Director | Everhart Museum | Yes | |
| Andrew Whetstone | Commander | American Legion Post 173 | Yes | |
| Kenneth Smulligan | President | Tamaqua Borough Council | Yes | |
| Diane Heburn | Major | Tamaqua Salvation Army | Yes | |
| Benjamin Shafer | Vice President | St. John's UCC | | |
| Richard Hadesty | Mayor | Borough of Tamaqua | | |
| Charles Hartung | Chief | Tamaqua Police Department | | |
| Cameron Moore | President | Northeast PA Alliance | | |
| William Yost | Lion President | Tamaqua Lions Club | | |
| Donald Williams | | M&T Bank | Yes | Yes |
| Mary Meredith | Secretary | Tamaqua Rotary Club | Yes | |
| Ted Dreisbach | Exec. Director | Schuylkill Community Action | | Yes |
| Gus & John Depos | Proprietors | The Chili Dog | | |
| Jackie Jones & Margie Kline | | South Ward Playground Association | Yes | |
| Stephanie Gursky | | | Yes | Yes |
| Air Products & Chemicals | | Local Business | | Yes |

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SECTION ONE

Tamaqua Borough: Yesterday and Today

(Composed from information taken from the Ruth Steinart Novel "A Hill To Climb," Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau website, History of Schuylkill County 1881, Community Profile and the Blueprint Community Profile of Tamaqua)

Tamaqua is the largest borough located in eastern Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The nearest city with a population greater than 50,000 is Reading, which is 31.7 miles from Tamaqua. Philadelphia is located 79.1 miles to the southeast.

In 1799, Swiss-German Revolutionary War veteran Burkhardt Moser settled Tamaqua. The log cabin he built in 1801 still stands. The town is noted for many firsts, including the first commercial railroad, which hauled coal with a steam engine; the nation's first fish hatchery; the 1885 Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Tamaqua, which was one of the country's first electric plants; and the 1830 Tamaqua Primitive Methodist Church, the nation's oldest church of that denomination.

Tamaqua is an active community rich in history. Billed as the 'Gateway to the Anthracite Region,' Tamaqua showcases its heritage as a coal mining and railroad center. The Borough has launched a multi-faceted approach to revitalizing the community that consists of historic preservation, downtown revitalization, recreation, neighborhood revitalization and economic development. Tamaqua has worked to promote its historic resources including the Tamaqua Railroad Station, a major attraction in the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area. Many of these efforts were born out of a ten-year visioning effort that started in 1994. In 2002, the Tamaqua Community Action Plan was developed.

Residents and visitors are attracted to Tamaqua for a variety of reasons, which includes relatively low housing costs, compared to its neighboring areas, the borough's recreational amenities, the accessibility to state parks and trails, as well as its historic sites. In addition to these attractions, the Tamaqua School District offers an added incentive to current high school graduates. Due to an endowment established by the late industrial inventor John E. Morgan, a trust was formed to provide full tuition for two years of post secondary education at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) to all students graduating after 2002 from the school district.

South Ward

The mountainous tract of land was originally utilized by bands of the Tuscarora Indians for farming and grazing. The area now known as the South Ward, held the best farming areas. The South Ward elevation begins at the west side of the current Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad line and rests on the south side of West Broad Street, forming a rim supporting the South Ward Hill. Settled by mainly German descendents, the South Ward grew steadily in population and became a center for education. The South Ward was home to the first permanent school building and the first public library in Tamaqua. It continues to remain home to the library, high school, middle school, and local community college.

Through the early half of the twentieth century, the railroad remained a permanent means of transportation and excellent source of income. Railroad engineers were among the highest salaried employees of the local mining and railroad community. By the second half of the century, the county experienced the demise of the railroad and coalmine industry. By 1960, South Ward residents, along with many areas of Schuylkill County, relied heavily on the textile and manufacturing industry as a means of supporting their families. By the early 2000's, much of the area textile industry moved to overseas operations. The current South Ward economy relies heavily on commuting out of the immediate area for employment. The major employers located in the South Ward are education-based, including the Tamaqua Area School District, Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC), and St. Jerome's Parochial School.

Neighborhood Demographics

To enable an assessment of the present and future needs of the South Ward, a broad analysis of demographic factors is presented. Reviewing population trends and estimates, age distribution, housing stock, educational levels and employment opportunities enables the committee to better understand the needs and concerns of the neighborhood. The data also provides an understanding of its position as compared to the Borough of Tamaqua, its position within the county, state and country.

All data used in the profile is extracted from the 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census unless otherwise noted.

Trends and Forecasts

(Tamaqua Blueprint Communities Profile)

Over the past 100 years Schuylkill County's population has changed significantly. Early in the twentieth century, Schuylkill County's population increased from 1900 to 1920) 20.6 percent. Over the twenty-year period from 1930 to 1950, the county's population declined after having peaked at 228,831 in 1940, falling to its lowest point of the century in the 1950's at approximately 100,577. Having gone through a substantial population increase from 1950 to 1960, Schuylkill County's population began to decrease again. From 1960 to 2000, it decreased 15.2 percent. Schuylkill County's 2000 population of 150,336 is predicted to decrease further by 4.5 percent from 2000 to 2020.

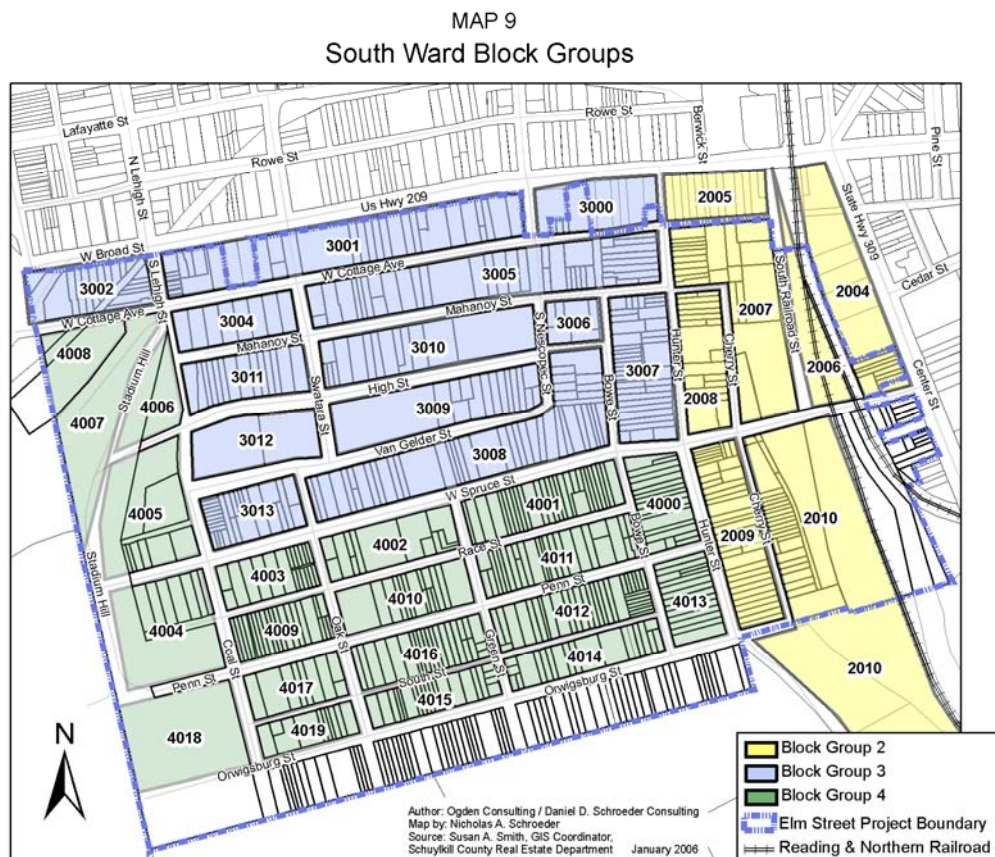
The population of the Borough of Tamaqua decreased 23.3 percent from 1980 to 2000; a percent decrease which was considerably higher than Schuylkill County for the same period. The extent to which the projected future decline in the county's population cannot be predicted with certainty

Current Demographics – Who Lives Here Now?

The South Ward Neighborhood population, currently at 1,357, has remained fairly consistent over the past 10 years. Using comparable areas with the 1990 Census, there is a net loss of about 100 people in the South Ward. This is comparable to the net loss in population throughout Schuylkill County, which experienced a 1.5 percent decrease in population between 1990 and 2000.

The South Ward Neighborhood consists of Census Block Groups Three (3) and Four (4) and a small section of Block Group Two (2). Figure 1-1 outlines the delineation of the South Ward Block Groups.

Figure 1-1 – South Ward Block Groups



The chart below lists the demographic statistics for the 2000 Census:

Figure 1-2 – Population Breakdown

| | United States | Pennsylvania | Schuylkill County | Total Tamaqua Borough | S O U T H W A R D | |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Block Group 3 | Block Group 4 |
| POPULATION | | | | | | |
| Total Population, 2000 | 281,421,906 | 12,281,054 | 150,336 | 7,174 | 555 | 802 |
| GENDER | | | | | | |
| % Males | 49.0% | 48.3% | 49.7% | 47.9% | 49.7% | 45.8% |
| % Females | 51.0% | 51.7% | 50.3% | 52.1% | 50.3% | 54.2% |
| AGE COHORTS | | | | | | |
| Total Population, 2000 | 281,421,906 | 12,281,054 | 150,336 | 7,174 | 555 | 802 |
| % Under 5 Years Old | 6.8% | 5.9% | 4.9% | 5.0% | 5.4% | 6.4% |
| % 5 to 9 Years Old | 7.3% | 6.7% | 5.8% | 5.6% | 6.5% | 7.4% |
| % 10 to 14 Years Old | 7.3% | 7.1% | 6.3% | 6.9% | 6.5% | 10.0% |
| % 15 to 19 Years Old | 7.1% | 6.9% | 5.8% | 6.2% | 5.0% | 7.5% |
| % 20 to 24 Years Old | 6.8% | 6.1% | 5.3% | 4.9% | 5.8% | 4.0% |
| % 25 to 29 Years Old | 6.8% | 5.9% | 6.1% | 7.0% | 7.0% | 8.9% |
| % 30 to 34 Years Old | 7.2% | 6.7% | 6.9% | 6.7% | 7.6% | 8.0% |
| % 35 to 39 Years Old | 8.2% | 7.8% | 7.7% | 7.4% | 8.5% | 8.0% |
| % 40 to 44 Years Old | 8.1% | 8.2% | 7.6% | 7.2% | 7.6% | 6.4% |
| % 45 to 49 Years Old | 7.2% | 7.4% | 7.4% | 6.2% | 4.9% | 5.4% |
| % 50 to 54 Years Old | 6.2% | 6.4% | 6.6% | 6.0% | 3.2% | 5.9% |
| % 55 to 59 Years Old | 4.8% | 5.0% | 5.1% | 4.8% | 5.2% | 5.6% |
| % 60 to 64 Years Old | 3.8% | 4.2% | 4.6% | 4.7% | 6.3% | 3.9% |
| % 65 to 74 Years Old | 6.6% | 7.9% | 9.7% | 10.3% | 12.6% | 6.7% |
| % 75 Years Old & Older | 5.9% | 7.7% | 10.2% | 11.0% | 7.9% | 6.2% |
| % Under 18 Years Old, 2000 | 25.6% | 23.8% | 20.8% | 21.8% | 22.3% | 29.2% |
| % 65 Years Old & Older, 2000 | 12.4% | 15.6% | 19.9% | 21.2% | 20.5% | 13.0% |
| Median Age, 2000 | 35.3 | 38.0 | 40.9 | 40.0 | 38.9 | 33.8 |

The South Ward Neighborhood is a mixed age population consistent with the average population of Schuylkill County and the State of Pennsylvania. Figure 1-3 represents the comparison age groups of Schuylkill County, Tamaqua and the South Ward as represented in the 2000 Census. The South Ward has a slightly higher population in the 25-40 age groups and a lower elderly population than the average Schuylkill County communities. The average age of the South Ward neighborhood is 36.3 compared to 40 for the Borough and 40.9 for the County.

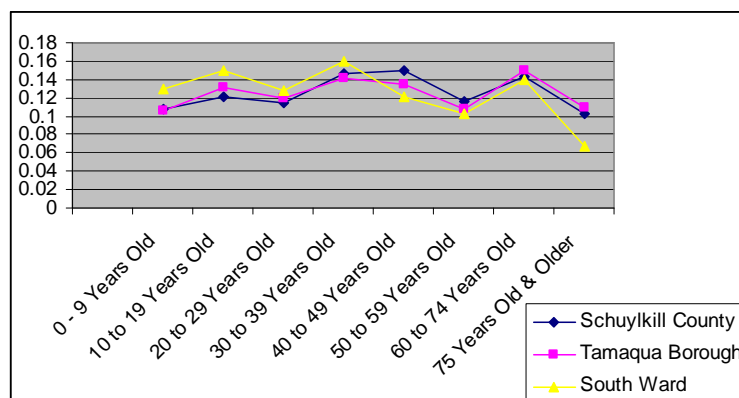


Figure 1-3 – Population Categories

High Homeownership and High Vacancy Rates

The highlighted sections of the Census information show that the South Ward neighborhood has a higher than state and national average for percent of vacant or unoccupied housing units. At the same time, the neighborhood has much higher than average percent of owner-occupied housing units. The South Ward has **14.7%** and **13.8%** vacant or unoccupied units, while **77.3%** and **80.6%** of units are owner-occupied. The vacancy rate indicates housing available for potential homeownership projects or expansion of greenspace. The high rate of owner occupied units indicates an ‘investment’ in the neighborhood and greater stability.

The 2000 Census stated 47 units were vacant in Block Group 4. The neighborhood assessment completed in Fall 2005 indicated 34 vacant units, indicating a positive trend.

The advanced age of the housing stock is a major challenge in the South Ward. Nearly nine out of every ten homes in the south Ward were built before 1940. Well-constructed homes that are carefully maintained often provide very desirable housing. More often, older neighborhoods indicate a need for housing rehabilitation.

Figure 1-4 – Housing Characteristics

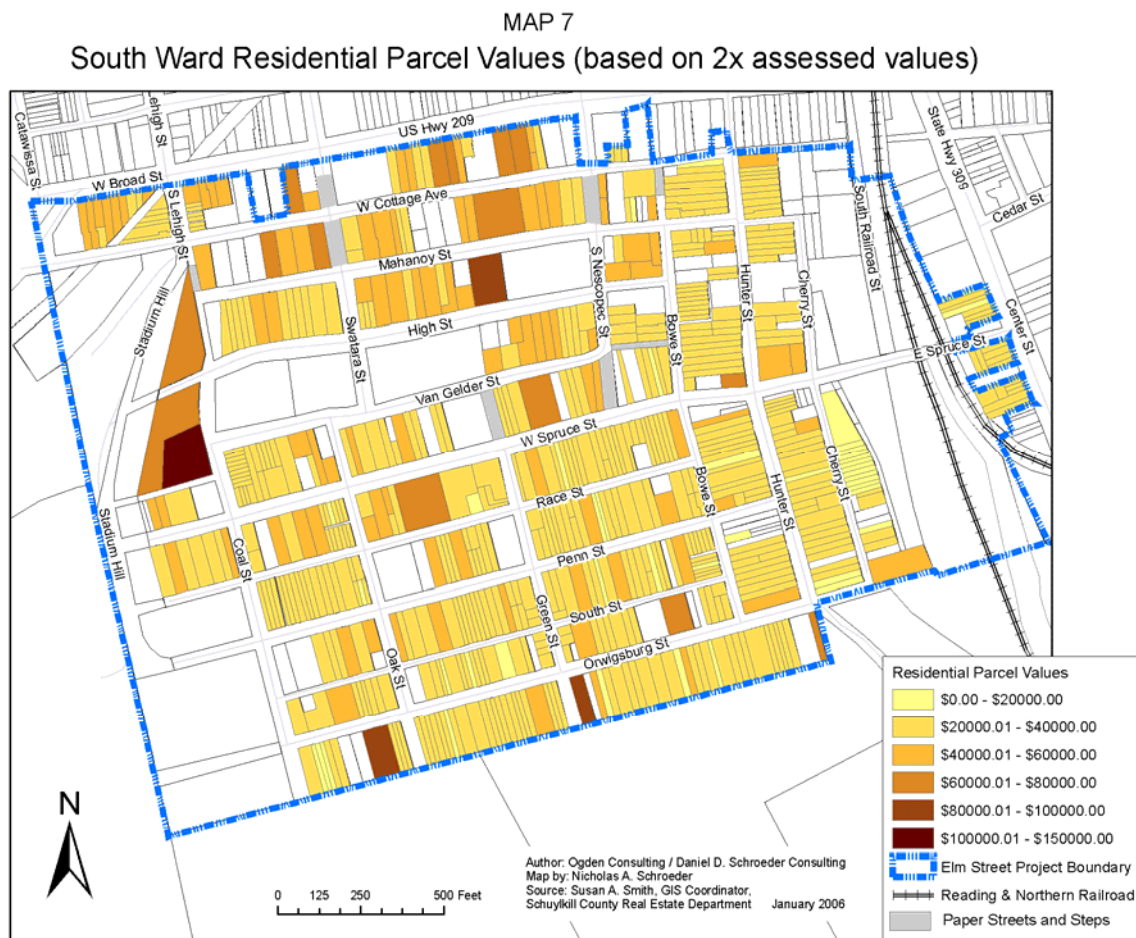
| | United States | Pennsylvania | Schuylkill County | Total Tamaqua Borough | S O U T H W A R D | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | Block Group 3 | Block Group 4 |
| HOUSING UNITS | | | | | | |
| Total # Housing Units, 2000 | 115,904,641 | 5,249,750 | 67,806 | 3,602 | 273 | 341 |
| # Vacant or Unoccupied Units | 10,424,540 | 472,747 | 7,276 | 423 | 40 | 47 |
| % Vacant or Unoccupied Units | 9.0% | 9.0% | 10.7% | 11.7% | 14.7% | 13.8% |
| HOMEOWNERSHIP / RENTERS | | | | | | |
| Total # Occupied Housing Units, 2000 | 105,480,101 | 4,777,003 | 60,530 | 3,179 | 233 | 294 |
| % Units that are Owner-Occupied | 66.2% | 71.3% | 77.9% | 68.3% | 77.3% | 80.6% |
| % Units that are Renter-Occupied | 33.8% | 28.7% | 22.1% | 31.7% | 22.7% | 19.4% |
| AGE OF HOUSING UNITS | | | | | | |
| Total # Housing Units, 2000 | 115,904,641 | 5,249,750 | 67,806 | 3,602 | 274 | 333 |
| % Built After 1989 | 17.0% | 10.4% | 7.0% | 2.2% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| % Built Between 1980-89 | 15.8% | 10.1% | 6.6% | 1.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| % Built Between 1970-79 | 18.5% | 13.5% | 10.7% | 6.2% | 0.0% | 1.5% |
| % Built Between 1960-69 | 13.7% | 11.4% | 6.4% | 2.0% | 0.0% | 1.5% |
| % Built Between 1950-59 | 12.7% | 14.3% | 7.6% | 6.5% | 1.8% | 5.7% |
| % Built Between 1940-49 | 7.3% | 10.0% | 8.9% | 11.2% | 8.0% | 7.2% |
| % Built 1939 or Earlier | 15.0% | 30.3% | 52.9% | 70.4% | 90.1% | 84.1% |
| HOUSING VALUES | | | | | | |
| Median Contract Rent, 2000 | \$602 | \$438 | \$316 | \$372 | \$352 | \$316 |
| Median Values of Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units, 2000 | \$119,600 | \$97,000 | \$63,300 | \$46,700 | \$38,700 | \$35,800 |

Housing Values

The existing housing units, in addition to having higher vacancy rates and higher owner-occupied housing rates, also have a lower median value compared to state and national averages. The South Ward neighborhood, with median housing values of \$38,700 and \$35,800 are extraordinarily low compared to the national and state medians of \$119,600 and \$97,000. Renovation of existing homes, and façade and sidewalk programs are highly recommended to improve the median values of homes. Affordable housing prices eliminate the need for construction of ‘subsidized housing units.’ The South Ward Neighborhood is ideally suited for first time homeownership programs.

Figure 1-5 represents the Residential Parcel Values, based on Schuylkill County Assessment records. The average Median value of Owner Occupied Housing is \$9,450 less in the South Ward than the Borough. The lower values are consistent with values associated to the high volume of smaller, row homes.

Figure 1-5 – Block Groups with Residential Parcel Values Map



Streetscape design should be consistent with designs adopted by the Tamaqua Main Street Program and Tamaqua Partnership. Review of existing zoning regulations, coupled with consistent code enforcement and enforcement of rental unit inspections will improve the affordable housing units in existence.

Older/Historic Homes

The age of the housing units are much older than the state and national averages. Approximately 25% of the neighborhood is in the local and national historic district. Portions of Hunter Street, Cottage Avenue, Mahanoy Street, High Street, South Lehigh Street, Swatara Street, and South Nescopeck Street are part Tamaqua's National Register Historic District.

Homes of distinction include the Benjamin Yost House, the Daniel Shepp House, the James C. Fitzpatrick House, and the Ormrod House, along with an original stable/garage at 416-416 West Broad Street.

The most predominant housing styles are Folk Victorian (34 %) and Queen Anne (12.6 %), with an equal amount of Second Empire, Vernacular, and Victorian.

The majority of housing units are wood construction with aluminum, aluminum and shingle, stone facing (31%), vinyl siding (22%), or a combination of brick siding, as well as a small amount of clapboard and stucco finishes. Asphalt shingles are the most commonly used roofing material (58%), followed by built up or rolled roofing (14%). (63%) of the properties are bordered by sidewalks.

A complete pictorial inventory of housing units with detailed property information is included on CD.

Education

Schuylkill County lags behind the nation and the state with the percentage of persons who have attained a high school degree, largely in part due to the high rate of elderly residents. In contrast, the South Ward has a higher than average number of persons with a high school degree or equivalency than Tamaqua and the county, and almost double the national average. As of the 2000 Census, the South Ward still lagged behind the county and Tamaqua in its efforts to reach higher levels of education beyond a high school diploma.

Figure 1-6 – Educational Levels

| | United States | Pennsylvania | Schuylkill County | Total Tamaqua Borough | SOUTH WARD | |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Block Group 3 | Block Group 4 |
| HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADULT EDUCATION ATTAINMENT | | | | | | |
| Total # Persons 25 Years Old & Older, 2000 | 182,211,639 | 8,266,284 | 108,010 | 5,127 | 422 | 500 |
| % With No High School Degree | 19.6% | 18.1% | 22.8% | 22.7% | 20.9% | 20.8% |
| % With High School Degree or Equivalency | 28.6% | 38.1% | 48.3% | 51.0% | 59.7% | 52.6% |
| % With Some College, No Degree | 21.0% | 15.5% | 12.4% | 12.6% | 9.0% | 11.4% |
| % With Associate Degree | 6.3% | 5.9% | 5.8% | 6.2% | 3.3% | 7.4% |
| % Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 24.4% | 22.4% | 10.7% | 7.4% | 7.1% | 7.8% |

Access to Education

A key attribute of the South Ward neighborhood is easy pedestrian access to both secondary and higher education. The Tamaqua Area Middle School and the Tamaqua Area High School, along with their accompanying facilities, are located in the South Ward neighborhood within close walking distance.

In 2003, the Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) opened the John E. Morgan Center for Education, a community college campus facility in the South Ward. This state-of-the-art facility offers immediate access to college level courses, various trainings, and other educational opportunities within a few blocks of each location in the South Ward. This facility was constructed through the generosity of the late John E. Morgan, a local industrialist and prominent philanthropist.

In addition to constructing a new facility, the Morgan Charitable Trust has endowed a scholarship program that offers **FREE COLLEGE TUITION** to all academically qualified Tamaqua Area High School graduates to attend Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC). To our knowledge this is the only such scholarship program of its kind in the country, offering the South Ward a unique asset that will benefit the quality of life for existing residents. The community college currently is assisting in marketing the neighborhood to new residents.

The *PA Department of Education 2003-04 Public High School Graduates and Postsecondary Education Rates* display the dramatic increase of college-bound Tamaqua area students pursuing post-secondary degrees with the inception of the Morgan Charitable Trust. Tamaqua now surpasses the state average of 72.1%, and county average of 68.7%, with a remarkable 91% of students attending a two or four-year college.

Figure 1-7 – Schuylkill County Postsecondary Education Rates 2003-04

| School | Total Graduates | College Bound (2 or 4 year) | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| Blue Mountain | 225 | 181 | 80.4 |
| Mahanoy Area | 109 | 70 | 64.2 |
| Minersville Area | 97 | 63 | 64.9 |
| North Schuylkill SD | 154 | 100 | 64.9 |
| Pine Grove Area | 126 | 74 | 58.7 |
| Pottsville Area | 253 | 149 | 58.9 |
| Schuylkill Haven Area | 89 | 56 | 62.9 |
| Shenandoah Valley SD | 82 | 46 | 56.1 |
| Tamaqua Area | 166 | 151 | 91 |
| Tri-Valley SD | 73 | 58 | 79.5 |
| Williams Valley SD | 92 | 59 | 64.1 |
| County Total | 1,466 | 1,007 | 68.7 |
| State Total | 123,473 | 88,991 | 72.1 |

Income/Economy

The Median Family Income in the South Ward neighborhood is **\$36,625** and **\$35,606** compared to the national and state medians of \$50,046 and \$49,247. The poverty rates differ within the South Ward neighborhood with one block group at **5.4%** and the other at **22.3%** compared to national and state rates of 12.4% and 11.0%, respectively. Likewise, the poverty rates for children vary greatly within the neighborhood at **4.5%** and **35.9%**.

Table 1-8 delineates the breakdown of block groups in the South Ward Neighborhood. Block Group 3 is represented by areas beginning with '30'; Block Group 4 begins with '40.'

Table 1-8 – Income, Poverty, and Source of Income

| | United States | Pennsylvania | Schuylkill County | Total Tamaqua Borough | S O U T H W A R D | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | Block Group 3 | Block Group 4 |
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Median Household Income, 2000 | \$41,994 | \$40,106 | \$32,699 | \$27,899 | \$35,000 | \$31,667 |
| Median Family Income, 2000 | \$50,046 | \$49,184 | \$41,279 | \$36,406 | \$36,625 | \$35,606 |
| POVERTY RATE | | | | | | |
| Total # Persons Below Poverty Level, 2000 | 33,899,812 | 1,304,117 | 13,612 | 1,066 | 31 | 178 |
| Poverty Rate, 2000 | 12.4% | 11.0% | 9.5% | 14.9% | 5.4% | 22.3% |
| # Children (Under 18 Years Old) Below Poverty Level, 2000 | 11,746,858 | 421,745 | 3,730 | 397 | 6 | 79 |
| Poverty Rate for Children | 16.6% | 14.7% | 12.1% | 26.0% | 4.5% | 35.9% |
| SOURCES OF INCOME | | | | | | |
| Total # Households With Income, 2000 | 105,539,122 | 4,779,186 | 60,500 | 3,178 | 224 | 288 |
| % Households With Income from Wage or Salary | 77.7% | 74.3% | 67.4% | 61.4% | 83.5% | 74.7% |
| % Households With Income from Self-Employment | 11.9% | 9.9% | 8.7% | 7.5% | 3.6% | 5.9% |
| % Households with Income from Interest, Dividends, or Rent | 35.9% | 40.4% | 38.4% | 33.7% | 31.3% | 22.6% |
| % Households with Income from Social Security | 25.7% | 30.4% | 38.7% | 43.8% | 32.1% | 31.3% |
| % Households with Income from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | 4.4% | 4.3% | 4.3% | 7.0% | 9.8% | 2.4% |
| % Households with Income from Public Assistance | 3.4% | 3.1% | 1.9% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 7.6% |
| % Households with Income from Retirement Sources | 16.7% | 19.7% | 23.0% | 25.3% | 21.4% | 15.6% |

Availability of Employment

Schuylkill County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2005 was 6.2% compared to the state rate of 5%. Statistical data specific to the South Ward neighborhood is not available.

Employment opportunities within a thirty-mile radius of Tamaqua continue to grow at a healthy pace, with the expansion of the logistic/warehousing, plastics, health/life science, and energy related industries. Figures 1-9, 1-10, and 1-11 represent major employment opportunities in relationship to the South Ward.

Table 1-9 Graphic Representation of 10, 20 and 30-mile radius of Tamaqua

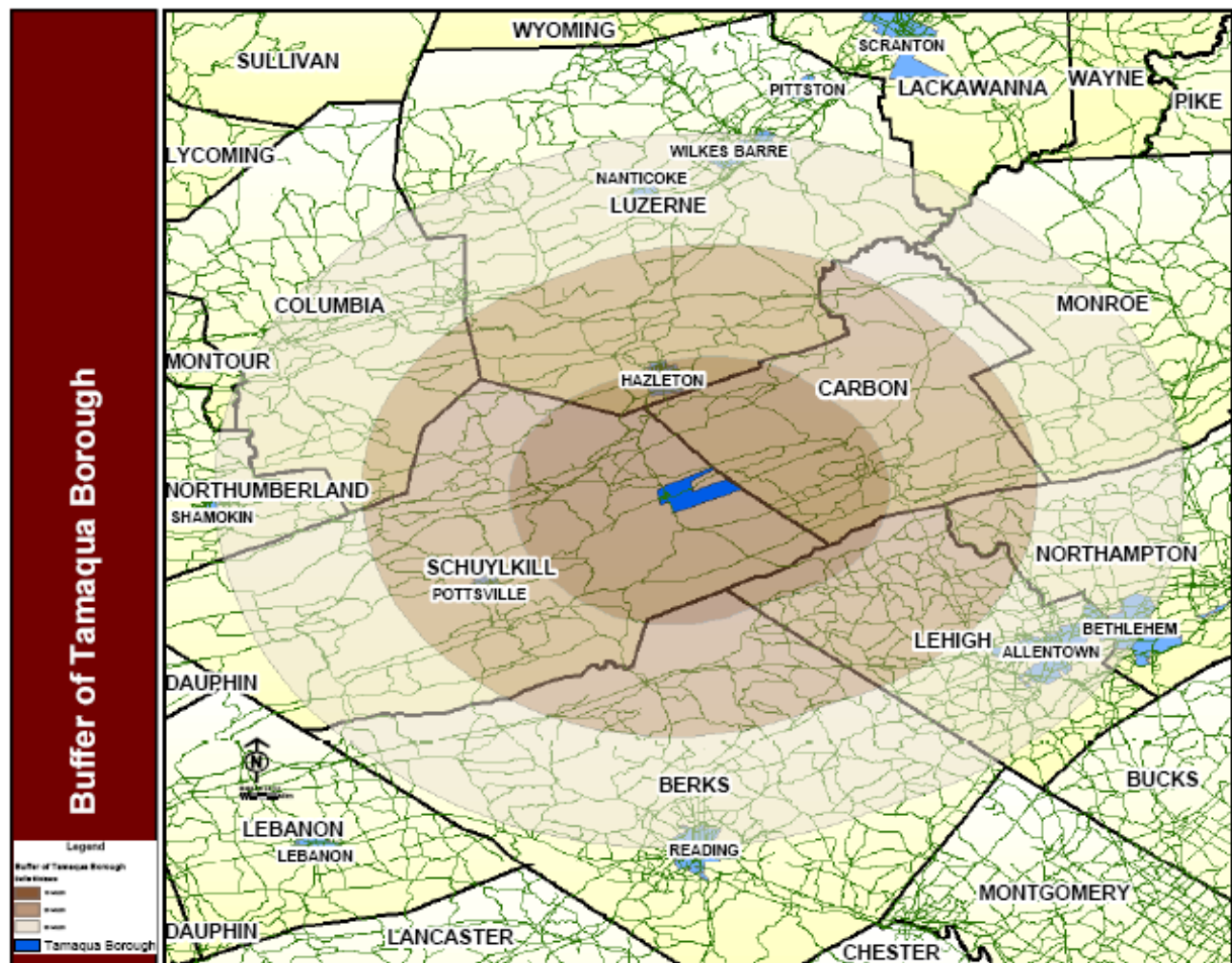


Table 1-10 – Employment Centers Listing within Radius Circles of Tamaqua

| Industrial Park | # of Employers | Avg. # of Employees | County | Radius Circle |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| MAJIC Industrial Park | 6 | 328 | Schuylkill | 10 |
| Mahanoy Twp Industrial Park | 2 | 145 | Schuylkill | 10 |
| Tidewood Industrial Park | 8 | 592 | Schuylkill | 10 |
| Renaissance Center | 5 | 19 | Luzerne | 10 |
| McAdoo Industrial Park | 5 | 482 | Luzerne | 10 |
| Humboldt Industrial Park | 45 | 5261 | Luzerne | 10 |
| Green Acres | 6 | 125 | Carbon | 10 |
| McAdoo Industrial Park/Banks Township | 5 | 438 | Carbon | 10 |
| Frackville Industrial Park | 12 | 785 | Schuylkill | 20 |
| Deer Lake Industrial Park | 7 | 277 | Schuylkill | 20 |
| St. Clair Industrial Park | 15 | 633 | Schuylkill | 20 |
| Highridge Industrial Park | 7 | 1700 | Schuylkill | 20 |
| Tremont Industrial Park | 2 | 400 | Schuylkill | 20 |
| Shenandoah Industrial Park | 2 | 35 | Schuylkill | 20 |
| Valmont Industrial Park | 5 | 3112 | Luzerne | 20 |
| Hegins Industrial Park | 6 | 398 | Schuylkill | 30 |
| Pine Grove Industrial Park | 6 | 653 | Schuylkill | 30 |
| South Carbon Business Park | 2 | 78 | Carbon | 30 |
| 512 Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Allentown Business Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Allentown Commerce Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Arcadia East Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Arcadia West Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Bethlehem Business Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Bethlehem Commerce Center | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Bethlehem Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Boulder Business Center | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Brodhead Industrial Campus | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| D & C Spinosa Company Site | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| East Allen Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Forks Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Glendon Business Center | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Hecktown Road Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Iron Run Corporate Center | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| LV1P1 | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| LV1P 11 | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| LV1P 111 | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| LV1P IV | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| LV1PV | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| LV1P VI | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Lehigh Drive Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Lehigh Valley Corporate Center | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Lehigh Valley Corporate Center 11 | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Lehigh Valley South Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Lehigh Valley West Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Lehigh Valley West/2 Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| MacArthur Industrial Park | | | Lehigh | 30 |
| Meadows Business Center | | | Lehigh | 30 |

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| Mill Run Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| NAPA Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| Nancy Run Industrial Center | Lehigh | 30 |
| Newburg Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| North Whitehall Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| Northampton Development Center | Lehigh | 30 |
| Northampton Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| Northwood Business Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| Palmer Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| Portland Industrial Park LP | Lehigh | 30 |
| Route 100 The Corporate Center | Lehigh | 30 |
| Slate Belt Industrial Complex | Lehigh | 30 |
| Spring Creek Industrial Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| Springside Industrial Acres | Lehigh | 30 |
| Stabler Executive Center | Lehigh | 30 |
| The Crossings (Haaf Tercha Industrial Park) | Lehigh | 30 |
| West Park Business Center | Lehigh | 30 |
| West Park 11 | Lehigh | 30 |
| Whitehall Business Park | Lehigh | 30 |
| William Perm Business Center | Lehigh | 30 |

**Data obtained from Carbon County Economic Development Office, SEDCO, www.HazletonCANDO.com, Berks Economic Partnership, and www.LehighValley.org*

Table 1-11 – Top 10 Employers

| Employer | County | Estimated # Employees | Radius from Tamaqua |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sealy Components | Schuylkill | 180 | 10 |
| TransWestern Polymers | Schuylkill | 243 | 10 |
| Air Products & Chemicals | Schuylkill | 150 | 10 |
| Kovatch Enterprises | Carbon | 750 | 10 |
| Ametek, Inc. | Carbon | 200 | 10 |
| Silberline Mfg. Co. Inc. | Carbon | 120 | 10 |
| Sovereign Bank | Berks | 1,359 | 20 |
| Jetson Direct Mail Services | Berks | 1,000 | 20 |
| Sovereign Bank | Berks | 1,359 | 20 |
| Alcoa | Schuylkill | 1000 | 20 |
| Guilford Mills, Inc. | Schuylkill | 600 | 20 |
| Lowe's Companies | Schuylkill | 600 | 20 |
| Guolds Pumps | Schuylkill | 430 | 20 |
| City Shirt | Schuylkill | 270 | 20 |
| Ashland Shirt | Schuylkill | 265 | 20 |
| Craftex Mills | Schuylkill | 250 | 20 |
| Tri-State Envelope | Schuylkill | 250 | 20 |
| Honeywell | Schuylkill | 400 | 20 |
| Big Lots | Schuylkill | 400 | 20 |

| | | | |
|--|------------|-------|----|
| Wenco Inc of PA | Schuylkill | 285 | 20 |
| OmNova | Schuylkill | 275 | 20 |
| Yuengling Brewery | Schuylkill | 230 | 20 |
| Shoeneman Beauty | Schuylkill | 200 | 20 |
| Hexcel Pottsville | Schuylkill | 179 | 20 |
| Shalmet Corporation | Schuylkill | 175 | 20 |
| Tamaqua Cable Products | Schuylkill | 160 | 20 |
| JDM/Jetson Direct Mail | Schuylkill | 135 | 20 |
| Ateco, Inc/Mrs. T's Pierogies | Schuylkill | 130 | 20 |
| Wegmans Food Markets | Schuylkill | 108 | 20 |
| Sears Logistic Services | Schuylkill | 100 | 20 |
| Pencor Services | Carbon | 1000 | 20 |
| Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital | Carbon | 620 | 20 |
| County of Carbon | Carbon | 566 | 20 |
| Scotty's Fashions | Carbon | 300 | 20 |
| Weatherly Castings & Machine | Carbon | 100 | 20 |
| Walmart | Carbon | 250 | 20 |
| Carbon Training Center | Carbon | 105 | 20 |
| J&R Slaw Inc. | Carbon | 100 | 20 |
| Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network | Lehigh | 7,300 | 30 |
| Air Products & Chemicals | Lehigh | 4,246 | 30 |
| US Government | Lehigh | 2,740 | 30 |
| PPL Corporation | Lehigh | 2,351 | 30 |
| Giant Food Stores Inc. | Lehigh | 2,217 | 30 |
| Manpower Inc. | Lehigh | 2,182 | 30 |
| County of Lehigh | Lehigh | 2,150 | 30 |
| Mack Trucks Inc. | Lehigh | 2,100 | 30 |
| PA State Government | Lehigh | 2,000 | 30 |
| B. Braun Medical | Lehigh | 1,998 | 30 |
| Allentown School District | Lehigh | 1,950 | 30 |
| Wood/Sodexo Dining Services | Lehigh | 1,923 | 30 |
| Agere Systems, Inc. | Lehigh | 1,900 | 30 |
| Sacred Heart Hospital of Allentown | Lehigh | 1,671 | 30 |
| Wal-Mart Associates Inc. | Lehigh | 1,620 | 30 |
| The Guardian - Guardian Life Insurance Co. | Lehigh | 1,591 | 30 |
| KidsPeace | Lehigh | 1,587 | 30 |
| Wegman's Food Markets, Inc. | Lehigh | 1,460 | 30 |
| FL Smith | Lehigh | 1,243 | 30 |
| Lutron Electronics Co. Inc. | Lehigh | 1,200 | 30 |
| Reading Hospital & Medical Center | Berks | 4,872 | 30 |
| East Penn Manufacturing | Berks | 4,148 | 30 |
| County of Berks | Berks | 2,658 | 30 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|----|
| Boscov's Department Store | Berks | 2,087 | 30 |
| Reading School District | Berks | 1,898 | 30 |
| Carpenter Technology | Berks | 1,800 | 30 |
| St. Joseph Medical Center | Berks | 1,512 | 30 |
| Reading Area Community College | Berks | 1,450 | 30 |
| Redner's Markets Inc. | Berks | 1,364 | 30 |
| Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. | Berks | 1,300 | 30 |
| Met-Ed/First Energy | Berks | 1,278 | 30 |
| Boyertown Area School District | Berks | 1,200 | 30 |
| Associated Wholesalers, Inc. | Berks | 1,051 | 30 |
| Carpenter Technology Corporation | Berks | 1,800 | 30 |
| Associated Wholesalers, Inc. | Berks | 1,051 | 30 |
| Michael Foods Egg Products | Schuylkill | 320 | 30 |
| MI Home Products | Schuylkill | 142 | 30 |
| Pine Grove Manufacturing | Schuylkill | 120 | 30 |
| Horsehead Resources | Carbon | 225 | 30 |
| Palmerton Hospital | Carbon | 376 | 30 |
| Blue Ridge Pressure Casting | Carbon | 155 | 30 |
| Vacation Charters, Ltd. | Carbon | 600 | 30 |

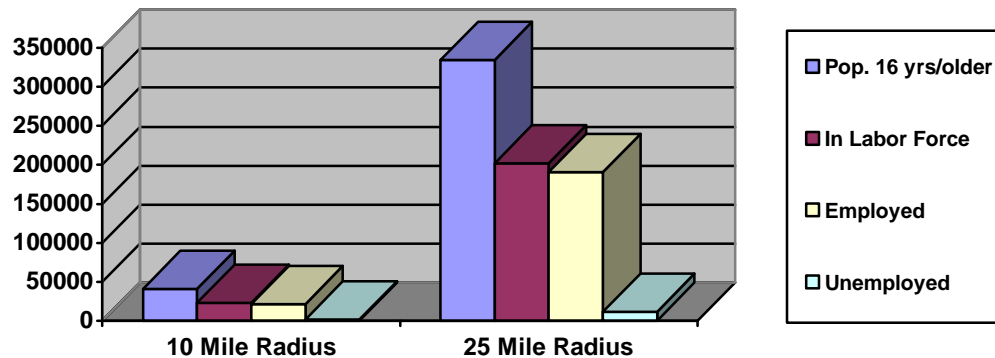
**Data obtained from Carbon County Economic Development Office, SEDCO, www.HazletonCANDO.com, Berks Economic Partnership, and www.LehighValley.org*

Availability of Workers

The average commute time for a worker to a place of employment is 23 minutes.

The unemployment rate ranges within an annual average of 6.2% to 6.8%. Table 1-11 represents the labor force from the geographical center of Highridge Business Park, located at exit 119 of Interstate 81, approximately 19 miles from Tamaqua. Highridge is the largest and fastest growing industrial park in Schuylkill County with the greatest source of new employment.

Table 1-12 - Population of Work Area/Availability of Workers from the geographic center of Highridge Business Park, Schuylkill County, PA



Union vs. Non-Union

Of the top 30 largest industrial/manufacturing businesses in the area, 25 are non-union shops. There are no union distribution operations in the area. The leading industries in Schuylkill County are services at 31%, followed by manufacturing and industrial operations at 27%.

Table 1-13 - Median Wages for Production Occupations

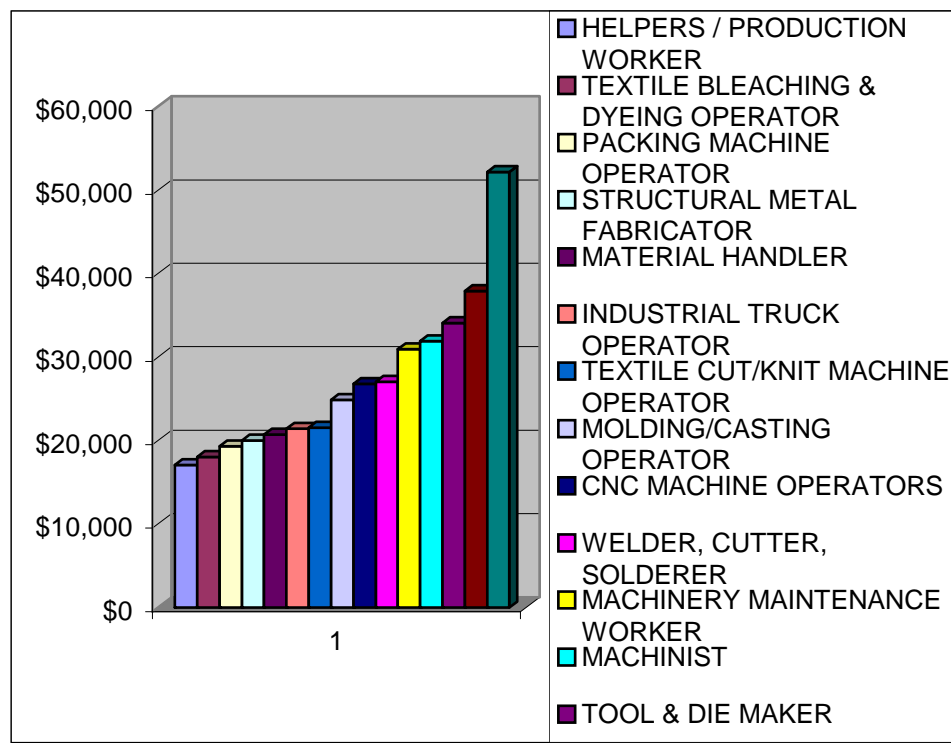
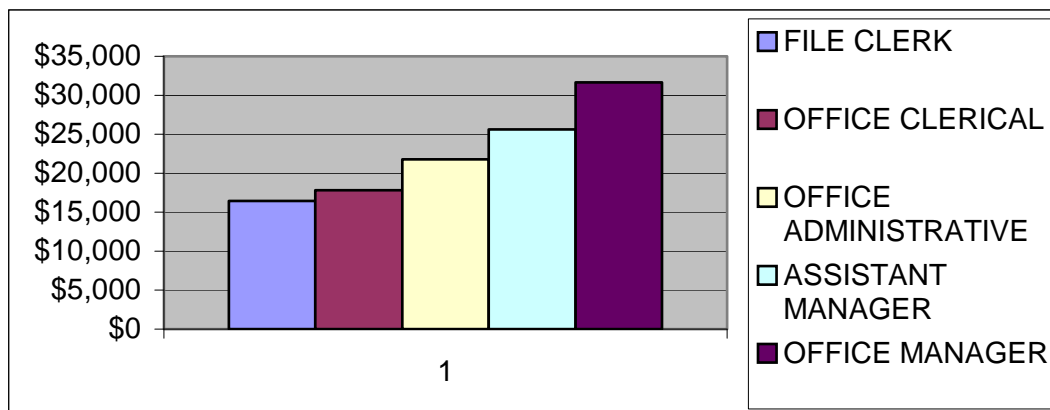


Table 1-14 - Median Wages for Office and Administrative Occupations



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics / Schuylkill County; US Department of Labor; 2000 Area Occupational Employment and Wage Survey

SECTION TWO

South Ward Neighborhood Plan

In 2004, the Borough of Tamaqua selected the South Ward neighborhood of the borough to be designated as a Pennsylvania Elm Street District. The South Ward is blessed with residents and former residents with a genuine commitment to the neighborhood. This strong sense of 'place' is evident in the South Ward playground and its volunteer association. The playground is the geographic, social, and recreational center for the neighborhood. The playground association is comprised of active volunteers that partner with social service agencies and community groups to provide a wide array of events, services, and activities at the playground. In addition, the South Ward Fire Company boasts an expanding volunteer base of neighborhood residents, and former residents, who are active in the company, and in other community associations. The South Ward is a recognized and accepted residential neighborhood within Tamaqua with clearly identified geographic boundaries and streets. (*excerpt from the South Ward Neighborhood Elm Street Application*)

After receiving approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) as a designated Elm Street District, the planning process moved to the next level. In June 2005, the Borough of Tamaqua advertised for a consultant to complete a neighborhood plan. In August 2005, the plan was awarded to the partnership of Ogden Consulting, L.L.C. and Daniel D. Schroeder Construction & Historic Restoration Consulting. Both consulting firms are based in Schuylkill County.

The neighborhood public meeting schedule was developed to avoid conflict with regularly established meetings, and in coordination with the key partners and Neighborhood Committee Chairperson Kathy Kunkle. Minutes and sign in sheets are included in *Appendix B* of this booklet.

Meeting dates were held:

- September 14, 2005– General information and comment
- October 13, 2005 – Youth focus
- October 17, 2005 – Recreation focus
- November 17, 2005 – Business linkages
- December 15, 2005 – Draft plan presentation (*cancelled due to inclement weather*)
- January 19, 2006 – Presentation draft plan

Additionally, the South Ward Neighborhood Committee met on the 4th Tuesday of each month, with the consultants participating at each meeting.

Participation varied each month with a mixture of neighbors, business, school and fire company representatives, as well as youth involvement. Media coverage for meetings was excellent. State Representative David Argall (R-124) assisted in creating neighborhood awareness by sending personal letters to all residents of the South Ward with the upcoming meeting schedules. Flyers were posted in the neighborhood announcing the public meetings and the local newspapers, *The Times News* and *The Republican* carried notices of the meetings. Additionally, the Tamaqua School District provided mailing labels for a mailing directed at the families with junior and senior high school age children.

The youth meeting was held in the Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) lounge area, which is open to the public and the consultants served refreshments. LCCC students, who are also residents of the area, stopped by the meeting to listen and/or add comments during class breaks. Although the turnout of youth was less than anticipated, it was also discovered that there is only a small number of high school age youth living in the South Ward. A diverse representation of students provided honest feedback on the positive and negative aspects of the South Ward. The youth that were present offered to get involved in various activities, particularly at the playground and through school-based community service projects. Some of the students continued to attend subsequent community meetings.



South Ward Chairperson Kathy Kunkel, behind table on right, and Lorrie Ogden, Ogden Consulting, LLC, behind table on left, both explain the South Ward Neighborhood Committee Elm Street planning process to local residents.

Library, recreation, and community organizations were present at the meetings, however there was minimal representation and involvement from the faith-based organizations with the exception of the Salvation Army. However, the message carried by all was fairly consistent and priorities were easily established by mutual agreement.

The South Ward Neighborhood Committee and the plan consultants also participated in Tamaqua's 21st Annual Heritage Day, held on October 9, 2005. This provided an opportunity to explain the Elm Street Program concept to various residents and former residents of the South Ward, Tamaqua, and neighboring communities as thousands of people attended the annual event. Names, mailing addresses, and e-mails were collected to provide information for future mailings.



One of the many photos taken by the Schuylkill County Afterschool Network (SCAN) youth group.

The South Ward Neighborhood Committee provided a unique opportunity for residents and organizations to actively express their likes and dislikes of the neighborhood. Disposable cameras were provided to any resident wishing to take pictures of the sights of the South Ward. Well over 200 pictures were received. The Salvation Army created a PowerPoint demonstration with two differing views. Schuylkill County Afterschool Network (SCAN) youth group created a view of the South Ward as seen through the eyes of 10-14 year old students. The second pictorial show was created by the Golden Girls, a group of women over the age of 60. Other pictures and comments received were included in a community slide show prepared by Bud Kunkel. (A copy of the slide shows is included on the Community CD, located at the end of this booklet). The pictorial history will provide an excellent measurement tool as improvements to the South Ward are implemented.

Pennsylvania's Blueprint Communities

On August 9, 2005 Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell announced that Tamaqua was chosen to be one of Pennsylvania's Blueprint Communities. For this selection



Tamaqua will receive comprehensive training, technical assistance, and funding opportunities for hometown revitalization as part of the Blueprint Communities Initiative. Tamaqua is one of 22 communities around the state to receive the initiative. It will help community leaders develop a comprehensive, long-term community vision, specific revitalization plans including sources of funding, and a timeline for putting concrete plans into action. Members of the South Ward team are also members of the Blueprint Community team. The training that they have received will assist in the accomplishment of the South Ward Neighborhood Plan.

To date, team members have received training in housing development via the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. Team members attended a one-day seminar at Hidden Valley Resort, Donegal, PA. The training offered the opportunity for the team members to look at the capacity of Tamaqua, and to evaluate the community's need for housing. It also afforded the opportunity

to take an in-depth look at the housing development process and give real-life examples on how to make deals work for both affordable and market-rate housing.



The South Ward committee plans to work very closely with the Blueprint Community Initiative team.

From left to right: Fred Banuelos, Alliance for Building Communities; Linda Yulanvage, Downtown Manager; Micah Gursky, South Ward Neighborhood Committee; Jason Boris, Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission; and Serge Chrush, Sovereign Bank.

South Ward Neighborhood Committee (SWNC)

| Name | Title | Organization |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kathy Kunkel | Chairperson | SWNC |
| Stephen Tertel | Vice Chairperson | SWNC |
| Louise Howells | Secretary | SWNC |
| Jim Knowles | Councilman | Tamaqua Borough |
| Ann Simard | Borough Manager | Tamaqua Borough |
| John Trudich | Council Member | Tamaqua Borough |
| Kevin Steigerwalt | Borough Manager | Tamaqua Borough |
| RJ Skasko | Borough Manager | Tamaqua Borough |
| Bill Willing | Borough Manager | Tamaqua Borough |
| John Handler | Chairperson | Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) |
| Charlie Whitehead | Officer | Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) |
| Thomas Schlorf | Chief | Tamaqua Fire Department |
| Lindsey Poncavage | Councilman | Pottsville Republican |
| Shawn Hessinger | Manager | Pottsville Republican |
| Margaret Klein | Manager | South Ward Playground Association |
| Jackie Jones | Chairperson | South Ward Playground Association |
| Michele Mehallic | | South Ward Playground Association |
| Linda Yulanavage | | Downtown Tamaqua, Inc. |
| Eileen Barron | | Downtown Tamaqua, Inc. |
| Frank Kane | | Planning Commission |
| Sally Newman | | 2004 Steering Committee |
| Jacquelyn Shafer | | Tamaqua Public Library |
| Captain Sharon Cupp | | Tamaqua Salvation Army |
| Dina Depos | | Tamaqua Salvation Army |
| Shelly Bonser | | Resident |
| Mark Bower | | Resident |
| Lucile Fala-Brenan | | Resident |
| William Brobst | | Resident |
| Jayne Bruno | | Resident |
| Karen Burrell | | Resident |
| Jillian-Jessica Datchko | | Resident |
| Jean George | | Resident |
| Joe Griffin | | Resident |
| Micah Gursky | | Resident |
| George Haldeman | | Resident |
| Francis Hill | | Resident |
| Larry Kabana | | Resident |
| Samuel & Theresa Koch | | Resident |
| Harold Kunkel | | Resident |
| Donald Krell | | Resident |

| | | |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| Joanne Love | | Resident |
| James Major | | Resident |
| John Marcin | | Resident |
| Theodore& Edie Moyer | | Resident |
| Kathy Nunemacher | | Resident |
| Joe Plasko | | Resident |
| Gordon Tonkin | | Resident |
| Jim Pieracini | | Resident |
| Leonore Rutman | | Resident |
| Donald Serfass | | Resident |

SECTION THREE

Readiness Assessment and Strategies

Clean & Green¹

Throughout the public meetings, neighbors and youth were consistent in their concerns and priorities to increase overall cleanliness, and improve recreational areas and opportunities. At each meeting, many positive comments were heard about the South Ward playground and the apparent pride in the neighborhood. The residents are determined to see the playground remain as the cornerstone of the community. At one point, the South Ward was the envy of Tamaqua for diverse recreational activities. In recent years, the South Ward Playground has experienced a degree of decline. Recreational sites (basketball, sledding, baseball) on the grounds of the Tamaqua School District were converted into buildings during the most recent school expansion. The Borough of Tamaqua has a unique system for playground management. The land is owned by the Borough (so that the parks are eligible for grant funding), however all maintenance and improvements to the park are the responsibility of the neighborhood recreation association.

In September 2005, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., located in Hometown, PA, presented a \$25,000 check to the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, of which a portion is dedicated for playground improvements. The funds will be used to leverage additional grants to redesign the playground to meet current safety regulations and enhance visibility.

Residents, particularly the youth, expressed a great deal of concern about the southwest corner of Spruce and Hunter Streets. The corner is currently the site of a dilapidated residence and a small green space with park benches. Additionally, it is implied that illegal activity regularly takes place at this site. Residents agree that the adjoining property should be razed, so the park can expand with public parking and better lighting installed to curtail negative behavior. The park could also serve as the eastern ‘gateway’ to the neighborhood.

Residents did not express a need for additional green space areas. There was more concern for keeping the existing areas clean, well maintained, and improving existing sites.

The public meetings provided a forum for residents to develop a list of neighborhood concerns, along with positive comments that will help in the implementation of a solution to each concern. The concerns were then developed into a project list with a proposed timetable, sample designs, and estimated costs. Each project was rated by ease of implementation to provide a realistic guideline in selecting projects. Projects are listed by priority:

1. South Ward Playground – inconsistent maintenance, safety hazards, need for improved basketball areas, better playground design.
 - + South Ward playground has traditionally had a strong Association
 - + New playground addition recently installed
2. Corner of Spruce and Hunter – perceived crime zone, poor lighting, dilapidated structure; presents unwelcome gateway to the community.

¹ Clean and Green has no reference to the Clean and Green Tax Abatement Program.

- + Dilapidated structure provides opportunity to demolish and increase lighting, parking, create 'community gateway.'
3. General cleanliness, maintenance, and placement of trash receptacles – general neighborhood maintenance is not regularly addressed. Weeds and litter are present throughout the neighborhood in curbs and gutters. Additional trash receptacles should be placed throughout the neighborhood with regular maintenance. Also noted was that trash increases on school routes during school season.
 - + Borough ordinances address weeds in yards; borough responds positively when problem spots are reported.
 - + School district willing to place/maintain additional trash cans near school properties.
 - + South Ward Committee has started regular neighborhood cleanups.
 - + Tamaqua High School Youth Community Service Project potential labor force.
 4. Perceived decrease in open areas for recreation due to construction/expansion of school district facilities.
 - + School district has public use policy.
 - + Salvation Army Complex, Tamaqua YMCA and ESRC, which are community-based organizations, provide multi-generation recreation activities.
 5. High school parking lot – gathering area for youth with minimal, poorly placed trash receptacles. Parking lot is gravel, unattractive, and does not make best use of parking spaces, increasing parking in residential areas.
 - + School district willing to place/maintain additional trash cans near school properties.
 - + School district is willing financial partner for parking lot renovations.
 6. Stadium Hill & Stadium Entrance – Western entrance to the South Ward has the highest numbers of visitors due to school sporting events and activities. Inconsistent railings, poor stadium entrance image.
 7. Lack of walking trails.
 - + South Mountain via Orwigsburg Street
 - + Orwigsburg Street path to Rabbit Run following 'pipeline'
 - + Strong ESCR organization.

SYMBOL KEY

Codes:

- ☑ - Easy to accomplish with minimal partners and little or no cost.
- ▲ - Three months planning requires partners and funding.
- * - Six months or more extensive planning, partners and/or funding are required.

| Task 1: South Ward Playground Improvements | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Partners: SW Playground Association, Tamaqua Borough, DCNR, Air Products, TASD | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | Ongoing | South Ward Playground Committee to conduct regular maintenance, inspections. Assign members specific areas and/or time frames for maintenance. |
| ☑ | 2006 | Develop maintenance volunteers using high school community volunteer program. (Kerry Quick TAHS) |
| ▲ | 2006 | Develop/approve plan for playground improvements |
| * | 2006 & 2007 | Apply for grant funding for playground improvements in coordination with the Borough (ie: Borough CDBG, DCNR, private contributions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCNR funding round Fall 2006 – meet with DCNR prior to submission |
| * | 2007 | Oversee renovation of playground. |
| ☑ | 2007 | Review volunteer maintenance plan to coincide with new playground design. |

| Task 2: Corner of Spruce and Hunter Streets | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Schuylkill County Demolition Program, funding partners | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2006 | Approve/revise redevelopment plan. Plan to compliment Tamaqua Streetscape Plan. |
| * | 2006 | Condemnation & ownership of properties (parcels 65-16-131.000 & 65-16-132.000) |
| | 2007 | Secure funding to renovate into community park and increased parking (ie: DCNR, Gateway Gardens, CDBG, Wachovia NRI) |
| * | 2007 | Implementation/construction |

| Task 3: Litter/Trash Receptacles/Weeds | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Main Street Program, TASD | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | Ongoing | Coordinate placement of additional trash receptacles with school district and Borough; Develop regular maintenance schedule |
| ☑ | Ongoing | Use Neighborhood Block Captains and Elm Street Manager as conduit to report problem spots to Borough to control weed growth in public areas. Develop ongoing maintenance plan to address problem areas. |
| ▲ | 2006 | Youth Awards program for collecting 'most littered items' ie: drink containers, soda cans (gift certificates or Main Street Bucks) |
| ▲ | 2007 | Adopt-A-Receptacle program for purchase of permanent trash cans. Requires annual inspection and recruitment of new sponsors to replace damaged cans. |

| Task 4: Increase availability/awareness of existing recreation opportunities | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Partners: School District, South Ward Playground Association; ESRC, Salvation Army | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | Semi-annually | Develop/distribute brochure and awareness campaign of recreation opportunities highlighting all partner activities and availability. |
| ☑ | Annually | Schedule special events to highlight playground activities. |
| ▲ | 2007 | Develop local summer leagues – various age groups |
| ▲ | 2007-2008 | Partner with ESRC and Salvation Army to sponsor 'Over 18' winter league (basketball, volleyball, etc). |
| ▲ | 2008 | Host basketball tournaments for summer league players |
| ▲ | 2008-2009 | Develop plans for Annual 'Fun Day' that highlights recreation activities available in the community. Include the school district facilities, Salvation Army and ESRC. |

| Task 5: School District Parking Lot | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Partners: TASD, South Ward Neighborhood Committee | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ✱ | 2007 | Approve/revise design to increase parking spaces with best aesthetic design |
| ✱ | 2007 | Apply for funding. School district to provide matching funds |
| ✱ | 2008 | Implement plan |

| Task 6: Stadium Hill & Stadium Entrance | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, TASD, Borough | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | Ongoing | Regular cleanup – part of school volunteer program, neighborhood cleanup. |
| ▲ | 2006 | Trim trees on west side of Stadium Hill. |
| ✳ | 2008 | Develop design for Stadium Hill improvements (railing, walkways, and entrance). Coordinate design with Tamaqua Streetscape plan and School district parking lot improvements. |
| ✳ | 2009 | Secure funding for project & project implementation. |

| Task 7: Develop Additional Walking Trails | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Partners: ESRC, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Borough | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2007 | Review existing trail linkages with ESRC |
| ✳ | 2008 | Apply to DCNR for feasibility study of potential trail sites |
| ✳ | 2009 | Complete feasibility study. |
| ✳ | 2009-2010 | Develop plan for implementation of study recommendations. Develop maintenance plan. |
| ✳ | 2010-2011 | Apply for acquisition and construction funds. |

Safety

Safety is measured by crimes committed in a neighborhood, police protection, and feeling of safety in a home. It is also measured by walking through a neighborhood, parking a vehicle, and confidence in emergency responders.

Residents of the South Ward neighborhood expressed a very secure feeling of safety, one of the main reasons for residing in the neighborhood. Residents over the age of 50, in particular, felt very safe in their homes, including walking through their streets. The youth did express concerns for safety at specific problem areas (considered to be crime zones) and lack of lighting in walking areas. All expressed a concern regarding the condition of sidewalks and lack of sidewalks in some areas.

South Ward residents take great pride in supporting the efforts of the South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and the Salvation Army. Residents recognize the important role the volunteers play in community organization, spirit, pride, and most importantly, their response in times of emergency. The South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and Salvation Army are not only integral social hubs of the neighborhood, but integral facilities for the safety of the residents.

Weather is always a factor in terms of individual safety, especially in northeastern Pennsylvania. Recently numerous ice storms causing major power outages throughout many communities, left many people without heat and electricity for periods that extended up to four to five days. It is critical that the South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and the Salvation Army be established as emergency shelter locations. Each facility should be equipped with an emergency generator to provide safe havens for local residents in time of emergency.

Safety also involves ease in identifying properties for emergency services and navigating the neighborhood. Proper street signage and consistent house numbering are critical for emergency responders. Signage also creates a feeling of continuity within the neighborhood. Residents expressed growing concern over parking, especially during winter. Accumulated snowfall constricts already tight parking. Residents also suggested creating additional public parking areas whenever possible. Parking areas should be well lit and accessible.

Residents expressed concern of the timing of the light fixtures at Spruce and Hunter Streets and Spruce Street and Route 309. Traffic is frequently congested, especially at the end of the school day or sporting event. Residents requested that the speed limits on Route 209 near Hopes (northwestern edge of the neighborhood) be reduced as traffic enters the Borough. Traffic signals should provide for safe passage and flow of traffic.




Elderly residents sparked an interest in 'shared rides' or shuttle service to better access the downtown to patronize the local businesses. Youth also expressed an interest in more forms of transportation to neighboring communities.

Projects are listed by priority:




1. Improve corner of Spruce and Hunter Streets (addressed in Clean & Green section)
2. Improve lighting emitted from streetlights.
 - + Borough has adopted a streetscape plan for the downtown.
3. Improve residential parking situation, particularly in winter
4. Neighborhood sidewalk improvement program.
 - + Borough has low interest loans for sidewalk improvements
 - + Guidelines have been recently revised for sidewalk installation
5. Improve walkways to downtown.
6. Establish South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and Salvation Army as emergency shelters.
7. School parking lot perceived as a hangout; change image and maintenance of area.
8. Consistent house numbering; street signage.
9. Traffic flow and speed limits.
10. Shared rides/shuttle transportation.

SYMBOL KEY

Codes:

-  - Easy to accomplish with minimal partners and little or no cost.
-  - Three months coordinated planning, requires partners and funding.
-  - Six months or more extensive planning, partners and/or funding are required.

| |
|--|
| Task 1: Improve corner of Spruce and Hunter Streets (addressed in Clean & Green Task 2) |
|--|

| Task 2: Improve lighting emitted from street lights | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), PA DOT Safe Routes to Schools | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
|  | Ongoing | Track electric cost savings through installation of updated, energy efficient lighting. |
|  | 2007 | Develop street lighting design consistent with Borough of Tamaqua Streetscape Program. Prioritize blocks for renovation based on school routes and sidewalk replacement programs. Lampposts should not exceed 12 feet in height for maximum illumination. |
|  | 2007-2011 | Apply for funding from PADOT, CDBG and other identified sources. |

| Task 3: Improve residential parking situation, particularly in winter | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, TAHS | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2006-2011 | Review current street maintenance/snow plowing procedures for South Ward provided by Borough of Tamaqua. Establish, post and enforce snow emergency routes with parking regulations. Develop 'odd/even' parking on specific streets following each plowable snowfall to allow for curb to curb plowing, thus eliminating large snow piles between vehicles, which limits parking spaces. Start with major thoroughfares (ie: Hunter Street). Add two new streets each year, prioritizing by population, availability of parking. |
| ▲ | 2007 | Develop short term parking agreement with school district for residential use during snowstorm parking restrictions. |
| ▲ | 2008 | Consider implementation of 'Residential Parking Only' in areas adjoining school properties. |
| ✳ | 2008-2011 | Identify additional areas that may be converted to residential public parking as dilapidated structures are razed. |

| Task 4: Neighborhood sidewalk improvement program | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, homeowners, funding sources | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2007 | Inventory and rank sidewalks in need of replacement, repair. |
| ☑ | 2007-2011 | Provide information to residents on sidewalk replacement programs. |
| ✳ | 2007-2011 | Develop additional incentives to Borough loan programs to entice residents to participate ie: grant match for 50% of more of homeowners in the block participating in sidewalk replacement; link sidewalk replacement to Safe Routes to School Program. |

| Task 5: Improve walkways to downtown | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, TASD, funding sources | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2005-06 | Submit application to Safe Routes To Schools for replacement of Iron Steps. <i>Note – application was submitted 9/30/05.</i> |
| ✳ | 2008 | Develop & implement plans for improvements to Stadium Hill (<i>see Design</i>). |

| Task 6: Establish South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and Salvation Army as emergency shelters | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Volunteer Fire Company, Salvation Army, homeowners, funding sources | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2007 – Ongoing | Develop agreement with South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and Salvation Army for ongoing maintenance program, training and policy/procedures for utilizing the generator for community emergencies. |
| ☑ | 2007 | Secure funding for generator purchase - <i>Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. community grant for safety improvements.</i> |
| ✳ | 2007 | Purchase emergency generators for South Ward Volunteer Fire Company and Salvation Army. |

| Task 7: School parking lot perceived as a hangout | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Police Department, TASD, residents | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2006 | Increase police patrols in area to reduce potential of criminal mischief. |
| ☑ | 2006 | Increase trash receptacles on grounds, and insure regular maintenance. |
| ▲ | 2006 | Recruit youth volunteers for regular parking lot cleanup (removing glass, liter, etc). Youth participation is critical for continued maintenance. |
| ☑ | 2007 - Ongoing | Create neighborhood watch program to monitor activities in parking lot, in cooperation with police and youth groups. Enforce curfews. |
| ✳ | 2008 | Renovate parking lot to increase lighting. |

| Task 8: Consistent house numbering; street signage | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Lions, Schuylkill 911 Communications Center | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2008 | Inventory streets with missing/inappropriate signage; coordinate house numbering to coincide with 911 numbering. |
| ▲ | 2009 | Recruit Tamaqua Elks for House numbering/signage project, joint fundraising. |

| Task 9: Traffic flow and speed limits | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, PADOT, Schuylkill Township | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2006 | Review traffic patterns to reduce congestion on Hunter and Spruce Streets; Spruce Street and Route 309. Review speed limits on Route 209 as it enters West Broad Street. |
| ☑ | 2007 | Increase patrols in area, post speed reduction signs as needed. |
| ✳ | 2009-2011 | Install traffic lights with vehicle sensors to better control traffic patterns (in conjunction with Route 309 improvements). |

| Task 10: Shared rides/shuttle transportation | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, STS, ESRC | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2007 | Review current transportation system with STS. Discuss possible shuttle services to increase access to business district on select days (3-5 of the month; 1 day per week, etc.) on trial basis. |
| ▲ | 2008 | Assess shuttle service; review 'shared ride' concept through neighborhood block chairman. |
| ▲ | 2009 | Explore option of providing shuttle service (youth-based) for recreation events to encourage greater participation and expansion of services. |

Design

The South Ward Neighborhood is a diverse mixture of single family, semi-attached, and row homes. Approximately 25% of the neighborhood is located in the Tamaqua Historical District. The most predominant housing styles are Folk, Victorian, and Queen Anne. The majority of the homes have a combination of aluminum or vinyl siding. The positive impact of the HARC

board can be seen in the historic district.



A home on Cottage Avenue in the South Ward of Tamaqua that highlights beautiful architecture.

Consistent code enforcement, rehab guidelines for homeowners and businesses, and activities to compliment the Downtown Streetscape plan are important steps in creating a neighborhood design that is unique to the South Ward. Public improvement efforts (sidewalk improvements, street paving, infrastructure upgrades) should be targeted to the South Ward to improve the overall effect of the Elm Street Program. As property owners witness the commitment of the Borough to improve the South Ward, more residents will participate. Programs and incentives to assist property owners in general maintenance will be welcomed and can further increase the desirability of homeownership in the neighborhood.

Development of a property review committee can assist Borough officials in making important neighborhood decisions regarding vacant structures. Determining the best use of a property – renovation, demolition, green space or parking – can have a long- term impact on residents.

Design recommendations:

- Provide a review of current Borough Zoning, Comprehensive Plan, HARC guidelines.
- Establish a vacant property review system where the Borough and South Ward Committee determines if vacant homes are blighted and decides if: a) the homes should be condemned and resold, b) demolished with a lien on the property to help recoup demolition costs, or c) converted to public parking.
- Include realtors association representative on all Design Committees.
- Cluster capital projects such as park renovations, street reconstruction, repaving and other infrastructure improvements in the South Ward to heighten the impact of the Borough's investment in the neighborhood.
- Establish incentives for neighbors to coordinate façade improvements through increased grant subsidies, or reduced interest rates by percentage of participation.
- Increase the Borough's stepped up emphasis on code enforcement, the early intervention necessary to prevent blight.

The South Ward residents identified the following priorities:

1. Create a system to provide consistent code enforcement of all properties and rental inspection program.
2. Implement programs to entice property owners to restore and improve existing properties.
3. Develop standard rehab guidelines for 'typical' South Ward properties.
4. Develop programs to encourage general property maintenance (painting, pressure washing, weeding) and assist persons unable to complete regular maintenance.
5. Encourage Borough to focus capital improvements and pilot programs in South Ward.
6. Identify vacant/unoccupied properties for property review.

SYMBOL KEY

Codes:

- ☑ - Easy to accomplish with minimal partners and little or no cost.
- ▲ - Three months coordinated planning, requires partners and funding.
- ✳ - Six months or more extensive planning, partners and/or funding are required.

| Task 1: Create a system to provide consistent code enforcement of all properties and rental inspection program | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | Ongoing | Immediate implementation of rental unit inspection per Borough Code. |
| ☑ | 2006 | Review existing process of reporting and investigating code violations. |
| ▲ | 2006 | Utilize SW Elm Street Manager as point of contact for neighborhood complaints of possible code violations including weeds, working without permits, etc. Elm Street Manager completes initial report and forwards to Code Enforcement Department for investigation. Code Enforcement provides follow up measures to Elm Street Manager. |
| ▲ | 2007 | Develop a brochure explaining process for investigating code violations, follow up procedures, court process and penalties for violators. Hold informational meetings for residents to increase understanding of the process, limitations and responsibilities of the Borough and property owner. |
| ✳ | 2008 | Purchase and implement GIS Data Management System to systematically track housing changes, code violations, etc. (See Appendix A) |

| Task 2: Implement programs to entice property owners to restore and improve existing properties | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Schuylkill Community Action, various state, federal and local funding programs. | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2006 | Review and inventory existing housing assistance programs currently available to residents of the South Ward. Develop a resource manual for existing programs. Identify gaps. |
| ✳ | 2007-2011 | Create additional programs for homeownership, renovation/restoration, and façade improvements. |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| ▲ | 2007 | Develop a brochure explaining process for investigating code violations, follow up procedures, court process and penalties for violators. Hold informational meetings for residents to increase understanding of the process, limitations and responsibilities of the Borough and property owner. |
| ▲ | 2007 – and Annually | Sponsor Annual Homeowner Workshop providing seminars on home maintenance; homeownership and renovation programs; façade programs; weatherization services; financial management; transportation; rent/mortgage/food/utility assistance; education; employment; etc. |
| ✱ | 2007 - 2008 | Identify and apply for Neighborhood Improvement Programs – Wachovia, Sovereign, etc. |

| Task 3: Develop standard rehab guidelines for “typical” South Ward properties | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, HARC | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| | 2006 | Review current Zoning, Comprehensive Plan, HARC Guidelines. (See Appendix B) |
| ▲ | 2006-2007 | Review, revise and adopt South Ward Rehabilitation Guidelines (See Appendix B) |
| ▲ | 2007 | Provide copies of Guidelines with all construction permits, post on South Ward Elm Street website. |

| Task 4: Develop programs to encourage general property maintenance (painting, pressure washing, weeding) and assist persons unable to complete regular maintenance | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Schuylkill Community Action, Tamaqua Area High School, Adult/Juvenile Probation | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2007 | Review and inventory existing housing assistance programs currently available to residents of the South Ward. Develop a resource manual for existing programs. Identify gaps. |
| ▲ | 2007-Ongoing | Utilizing Block Captains and South Ward Elm Street Manager, identify residents who are unable to perform specific maintenance functions. |
| ▲ | 2007 | Partner/coordinate with Tamaqua Partnership and Downtown Manager for South Ward “Golden Broom” award program. |
| ▲ | 2008 | Partner with School District Youth community Service and Adult/Youth probation to assist in minor maintenance (weeding, painting projects, snow removal, litter removal) |
| ✱ | 2009 | Create “community tools” program providing basic maintenance equipment for resident’s use at reduced fee (ie: pressure washer, ladders, air compressor, etc) |
| ✱ | 2009 | Sponsor summer faith based youth groups to assist resident in basic maintenance programs. |

| Task 5: Encourage Borough to focus capital improvements and pilot programs in South Ward | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | Ongoing | Review annual capital improvement plans with Borough. Identify potential funding sources that can be partnered for greater impact. |
| ☑ | 2007 - Ongoing | Target specific areas to implement pilot projects (curb-to-curb plowing, sidewalk improvements, etc.). |

| Task 6: Identify vacant/unoccupied properties for property review | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Schuylkill Community Action, HARC, Tamaqua Partnership, Downtown Tamaqua | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2007 | Establish a vacant property review system where the Borough and South Ward Committee determines if vacant homes are blighted and decides if: a) the homes should be condemned and resold/renovated, b) demolished with a lien on the property to help recoup demolition costs or resold to adjacent property owners or c) converted to public parking. |
| ✳ | 2007- Ongoing | Partner with County Housing Authority, Schuylkill Community Action, Schuylkill Redevelopment Authority and Borough to secure funds and implement recommendations of the Property Review Board. |
| ✳ | 2008 - Ongoing | Utilizing GIS system, providing consistent monitoring of property status with annual update of tax delinquent and vacant structures; properties participating in revitalization programs, new homeowners and other Elm Street and Main Street activities. |

Neighbors and Economy

The most common concern of the South Ward neighborhood residents were expressed in discussions regarding the condition of housing, and ability of residents to provide regular maintenance to properties. Housing is a family's biggest investment and in many cases, its source of pride and identity. Suitable housing is a basic need and a key to quality of life. A wide choice of housing styles and price ranges can be a major community asset. The South Ward neighborhood does provide a reasonable choice of home selections, including single family, semi attached, and row homes. Housing is very reasonably priced and homeownership rates are high in the neighborhood.

The South Ward's housing stock is a diverse mix of owner-occupied and rental units with a variety of styles, conditions, and values. 84 to 90% of the South Ward's housing was built prior to 1940, which presents a challenge. Carefully constructed, well-maintained homes are desirable purchases and offer great aesthetic and construction value, as noted in the historic areas of Cottage Avenue. More often, older neighborhoods indicate a need for housing rehabilitation. Renovation of existing homes, façade and sidewalk programs are highly recommended to improve the median values of homes. Affordable housing prices eliminate the need for construction of 'subsidized housing units.' The South Ward neighborhood is ideally suited for first time homeownership programs.

Fortunately for the South Ward, the Borough of Tamaqua, along with non-profit organizations in the county, can provide experience with implementing housing assistance programs for homeowners and landlords. The main task of the South Ward Committee is to partner existing programs, create additional incentives to reinvest in the neighborhood, and create a thorough understanding of the opportunities to ALL residents of the neighborhood.

Residents expressed a concern in the changing economy of the area. In the past five years, Tamaqua was hard hit with the closing of J.E. Morgan, one of the major employers. Although training programs were made available to retrain employees, many residents were unaware of the various new employers that have since located to the area, or expanded their operations. Most residents travel 20 minutes to one hour to receive higher wages. The youth, in particular, felt that there 'were no good jobs close to home' and would be forced to move to get a good job. Job fairs to explore the positions/careers in the area, along with the education/training required, will assist residents and students realize the opportunities that are available within the area.

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Goals

- Stabilize the housing stock of marginal, 'borderline' neighborhoods.
- Reduce blight and disinvestment.
- Ensure that municipal services fully complement the South Ward's housing-related initiatives.
- Provide job/education fairs for residents to expose new opportunities.

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Recommendations

- In coordination with Schuylkill Community Action (SCA), institute an Elm Street-sponsored program to assist low and moderate-income, first-time homebuyers pay their closing costs.

- Partner with Schuylkill Housing Authority to address Section 8 renters. Program provides opportunities for families to purchase through units through Rent-To-Own Program managed by Schuylkill Housing Authority.
- Work with Schuylkill County government to target a portion of Act 137 recording fee revenues for housing rehabilitation, and homebuyer assistance programs in the South Ward.
- Adopt an ordinance under Pennsylvania state law that abates real estate tax increases that result from an increased assessment due to housing rehabilitation; encourage the county and school district to do likewise to make the program meaningful.
- Encourage job-training agencies to work with the South Ward Neighborhood Committee and others to help train local residents through work on housing rehabilitation projects in the South Ward.
- Ask local banks to investigate Neighborhood Assistance Tax credits that can be received from the state of Pennsylvania for donating money, goods or services to low-moderate income housing assistance efforts.
- Encourage residents to take advantage of Schuylkill Community Action's financial counseling, and other educational assistance helpful in buying a home and avoiding homelessness.
- Ask local banks to investigate the feasibility of reverse mortgages, under which older people who have accumulated equity in their homes can sell this equity back to a lender in return for monthly payments that can help pay for home improvements and repairs.
- Work with local realtors association to highlight the benefits of purchasing a property in the South Ward.

The South Ward residents identified the following priorities:

1. Strengthen relationships with local organizations and institutions to further develop potential of residents.
2. Strengthen partnerships with development organizations to promote commercial opportunities.

SYMBOL KEY

Codes:

- ☑ - Easy to accomplish with minimal partners and little or no cost.
- ▲ - Three months coordinated planning, requires partners and funding.
- ✳ - Six months or more extensive planning, partners and/or funding are required.

| Task 1: Strengthen relationships with local organizations and institutions to further develop potential of residents | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Schuylkill Community Action, Schuylkill Communities That Care, Salvation Army, Tamaqua Area School District, Lehigh Carbon Community College, various state, federal and local funding programs. | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2007 | Review and inventory existing programs to assist residents. Categorize by type of activity and target group. Develop resource manual. Highlight each organization and their activities in quarterly newsletter. |
| ✳ | 2007 | Develop strategic business plan with LCCC for use of the former South Ward Fire Company facility. Partner funding and programs to enhance education and community needs. |
| ▲ | 2007-2011 | Develop partnership with 21 st Century Learning Communities and Schuylkill After School Network (SCAN) to promote activities, encourage partnerships and coordinate funding efforts. |

| Task 2: Strengthen partnerships with development organizations to promote commercial opportunities | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Partners: Tamaqua Borough, South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Schuylkill Redevelopment Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Tamaqua Area School District, Lehigh County Community College, various state, federal and local funding programs. | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2007 | Annual review of inventory of properties with commercial zoning. Determine feasibility |
| ✳ | 2007-2011 | Create additional programs for homeownership, renovation/restoration, and facade improvements. |

Image

The image of the South Ward neighborhood varies from individual to individual. When developing the plan a variety of people were interviewed about their impression of the South Ward. These groups included Main Street/downtown business owners, residents of adjacent neighborhoods, employees within the South Ward, county residents, and local officials. The three most common answers from each group are listed below.

The South Ward neighborhood as viewed by the following groups:

Main Street/downtown business owners:

- Stable community
- Average family income as compared to local area
- Community has poor access routes

Adjacent Neighborhood:

- Family oriented community
- Community disorganization as noted by trash in areas, unattended lots
- Unattractive entrances to the community (overgrown trees, poor walkways)

Daytime Workers:

- Poor parking availability
- Poor walkways
- Unattractive neighborhood gateways

Regional Citizens:

- Crowded and narrow streets
- Unattended public areas
- Declining properties

Local Officials:

- Strong neighborhood
- Good volunteer fire department
- High density neighborhood with narrow streets create maintenance issues

Identity

South Ward residents have an identity defined by their strong family bonds. Many of the residents of the South Ward have long standing family ties to the community. At a number of the planning meetings leading up to the development of the plan, the community's strong sense of volunteerism, and sense of pride in the safety of their neighborhood, was very obvious. The South Ward also has an expressed identity of friendliness among its members. Many of the residents who have attended the public meetings have expressed that they feel the following attributes of their community:

- Desirable community to live in
- Great neighbors and volunteer spirit
- Proud community, neighbors are willing to help

Attached as Appendix C is a photo pictorial of what the residents like and dislike about their community. This project was a collaborative effort between the Salvation Army, the Schuylkill County After School Network (SCAN) (youth prevention project), Tamaqua Senior Citizens, and the South Ward Neighborhood Community. This pictorial depiction of the likes and dislikes of the community creates a clear understanding of the community's identity.

SYMBOL KEY




Codes:




- ☑ - Easy to accomplish with minimal partners and little or no cost.
- ▲ - Three months coordinated planning, requires partners and funding.
- ✳ - Six months or more extensive planning, partners and/or funding are required.




| Task 1: Establish a consistent campaign theme | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC, Salvation Army | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ☑ | 2006 | Establish a committee within South Ward Neighborhood Committee to establish criteria and utilization policy of volunteers. |
| ▲ | mid 2006 | Develop memorandum of understanding between South Ward Neighborhood Committee and TASD on utilization of community service volunteers. |
| ▲ | mid 2006 | Establish theme and logo to develop identification and recognition of the South Ward Volunteer Team. (i.e. develop theme contest in TASD) |

| Task 2: Establish South Ward Newsletter | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC, Salvation Army | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | Late 2006 | Establish a committee within South Ward Neighborhood Committee to develop a quarterly newsletter |
| ▲ | Late 2006 | Develop newsletter that informs residents of opportunities and accomplishments |
| ✳ | 2007 | Publish first South Ward Neighborhood Annual Report |

| Task 3: Conduct Annual Homecoming Event | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC, Salvation Army | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ✳ | 2007 | Establish planning team |
| ✳ | 2007 | Begin planning and pick dates for event |
| ✳ | 2008 | Conduct first Annual Homecoming Event |

| Task 4: Develop neighbor helping neighbor campaign | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
|  | 2007 | Develop program and advocacy network for citizens, particularly senior citizens |
|  | 2007 | Train and recruit volunteers |
|  | 2007 | Continue to recruit and retain active volunteer pool |

| Task 5: Encourage and promote positive media awareness of neighborhood initiatives | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
|  | 2007 | Establish boilerplate for press releases |
|  | 2007 | Develop policy and procedures for all media communications |
|  | 2007 | Establish media relation point of contact for committee |

| Task 6: Actively participate in and promote the Blueprint Community program | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Blueprint Community Committee, Borough of Tamaqua | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
|  | Ongoing | Attend Blueprint Community Meetings |
|  | Ongoing | Begin coordination and planning with Blueprint Initiative |
|  | Ongoing | Coordinate South Ward Neighborhood efforts to compliment Blueprint Community Initiative |

Sustainable Organization

The goal of the South Ward Neighborhood Committee as an Elm Street Community is to strengthen and revitalize the neighborhood. To achieve this goal, the committee is well aware that it must continue its history of volunteerism, develop other strategies to receive funding, and coordinate with other existing projects to have successful outcomes.

An integral aspect of the organization relies on the management and implementation of the South Ward Neighborhood Plan. The management of the project could utilize the following scenarios:

Option 1:

Hire a part-time coordinator who would be responsible for the management of volunteers, dissemination of information, providing referrals to various departments/programs, implementation of fund raising strategies and coordination with Main Street activities. Approximate personnel cost \$17,200/year. (Salary - \$15/hr X 20 hrs/wk X 52 wks; \$1,600 payroll taxes).

Pros:

- Cost effective – requires no full time benefits, hours can be structured by financial constraints
- Can be filled by a neighborhood resident (with suitable training)

Cons:

- Would require substantial training, may lack specific skill sets.
- Initial implementation stages may require additional hours.
- Relies heavily on community volunteers.
- May require additional consultants for specific tasks.
- Would require coordination with existing borough staff.
 - Direct partnership with existing housing/rehabilitation program administrators.
 - Direct partnership with Code Enforcement Officers.
 - Substantial involvement by Borough Manager/Council.

Option 2:

Hire a full-time coordinator who would be responsible for the management of volunteers, development and dissemination of information, providing referrals to various departments/programs, development and implementation of fund raising strategies and coordination with Main Street activities. Approximate personnel cost \$40,000/year. (Salary - \$30,000/year; \$2,500 payroll taxes; \$7,500 benefits).

Pros:

- Ability to hire a highly qualified, trained individual with required skill sets.
- Reduces need to hire additional consultants for specific tasks.
- Increases opportunities to raise funds, create sponsorships.
- Provides full time coordination of activities.
- Requires less coordination from Borough Manager/Council.
- Requires less use of Borough employee resources.

Cons:

- Cost – requires full time benefits

Option 3:

Contract with an existing organization to provide full or part time project management. The coordinator can be shared with other programs such as the Main Street Program, Chamber of Commerce, ABC, Schuylkill Community Action, Salvation Army, etc. and can coordinate programs that provide a greater good for the community. Cost can vary by contract requirements.

This option has great merit due to the great amount of coordination that already exists within certain programs. The Main Street Manager and Chamber of Commerce have a thorough understanding of community development and have a proven track record of success. ABC and Schuylkill Community Action have developed expertise in housing and homeownership programs. Salvation Army has strong community support and understanding of the neighborhood.

This option has the advantage of true coordination and could eliminate duplication of services. Another attractive element to this option is that much of the infrastructure needed to implement the plan would already be in existence.

Pros:

- Ability to access highly qualified, trained staff with required skill sets.
- Eliminates need to hire additional Borough staff.
- Reduces need for consultants.
- Increases opportunities to raise funds, create sponsorships.
- Provides full time coordination of activities.
- Requires minimal oversight from Borough Manager/Council.
- Service contract can be negotiated annually.

Cons:

- Cost – contingent upon hours required, level of skill and management fees.
- Loss of direct supervision.
- Inconsistent time directed at the Elm Street objectives.

Option 4:

Utilize existing Borough employees to manage the South Ward Elm Street Program. Duties could be distributed among existing housing, code enforcement, and administrative staff. Supervision could be provided by the Borough Manager. No additional cost to the Borough. Elm Street management funds may be used to offset staff salaries.

Pros:

- Cost effective – requires no additional personnel
- Certain staff members are knowledgeable about specific programs.
- Borough maintains complete control.
- May help supplement existing Borough salaries.

Cons:

- All staff involved would require substantial training, may lack specific skill sets.
- Initial implementation stages may require more hours than staff can provide.
- May requires reallocation of duties for various staff members.
- Relies heavily on community volunteers.
- May require additional consultants for specific tasks.
- May impair ability to get neighborhood “buy-in” – seen as Borough program.

Consultants Note: *The South Ward Neighborhood Committee voted to recommend Option 1 to the Tamaqua Borough Council as the most feasible, cost effective and neighborhood supported method to sustain the South Ward Neighborhood revitalization effort.*

Volunteer Plan

The South Ward Committee will need to develop an ongoing recruitment and retention plan to keep the synergy of the plan moving forward. The goal of this plan will be to lay the foundation for an on-going effort to be initiated by the South Ward Committee and its numerous partners.

Objectives:

- Create a public awareness of the recruitment challenges currently and continually faced by the community through a multi-media advertising and editorial campaign.
- Offer an outreach program that:
 - Increases the public's understanding of the Elm Street Project – its history and accomplishments
 - Provides the training and hands-on skills to citizens helping them make their communities safer places to live and work
 - Provides the host project a captive audience from which to identify and recruit potential volunteers
- Develop tools for utilization by the South Ward Committee that will empower them to continue the effort on a local level making them more self-sufficient
- Leverage available resources to enhance presentations, improve communications and the management of information regarding recruitment and the South Ward Committee
- Offer hands-on training to the various partners that provides effective recruitment, retention, and recognition techniques, and basic human relations skills to deal with the challenges associated with working with volunteers
- Support and coordinate with partnering organizations and programs that compliment community sponsored recruitment and retention efforts such as the American Hose Company, The Downtown Tamaqua Main Street Program
- Enlist the assistance of corporate sponsors in creating the sustaining financial support required to fund an on-going recruitment and retention effort.

Tactics:

1. Planning
 - Establish a volunteer coordinator with an associated phone, web and e-mail address as the clearinghouse for all recruitment inquiries.
 - Establish a consistent campaign theme that:

1. Identifies the key qualities to look for in a volunteer
 2. Is attractive to target audience – high tech, fast moving, action packed
 3. Incites the target audience to react to the campaign
 4. Create a list of potential corporate sponsors and level/means of involvement
 5. Create a printed and on-line directory of recruitment and retention resources and tips for volunteer organizations.
2. Sponsorships
- Involve media outlets (print, TV, radio, outdoor) in the solicitation of corporate sponsorships for donations of advertising space, underwriting tactics, etc.
 - Solicit corporate sponsorships to underwrite the cost of executing specific program tactics, and/or provide the product service required to fulfill each objective
 - Recognize media outlets and corporate sponsors by including their name and/or logo in appropriate promotional material
3. Technology
- Web site creation, hosting and maintenance services
 - Clearinghouse for an on-line recruitment information and application requests
 - Cross reference of county-wide/regional training opportunities
 - Presentation grade laptop and LCD projector
 - High quality booth display to display opportunities and explain the committees mission and accomplishments
4. Multi-Media Campaign
- TV/Radio/Outdoor Advertising
 - Web site banner ads
 - Print Ads - Focus on Community Newspapers and Penny Savers
 - Recruitment Videos
 - Community events advertising at community points of congregation
5. Public Outreach Program
- Course Materials and Outside Resources - instructors, consumables, etc.
 - Offered through Continuing Education programs through local college and/or borough/control hosted

SYMBOL KEY

Codes:

- ☑ - Easy to accomplish with minimal partners and little or no cost.
- ▲ - Three months coordinated planning, requires partners and funding.
- ✳ - Six months or more extensive planning, partners and/or funding are required.

| Task 1: Establish a volunteer coordinator (South Ward Manager) | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC, Salvation Army | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2006 | Establish clear concise management structure. |
| ▲ | mid 2006 | Establish office with phone, web and e-mail address to serve as a clearinghouse for all volunteer activities |
| ✳ | Ongoing | Establish training schedule for volunteer coordinator to include topics such as: management of volunteers, interviewing techniques, media training, and recruitment techniques. |

| Task 2: Develop resources to enhance presentations, improve communications, and manage information effectively | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | early 2006 | Develop a needs assessment for all equipment necessary to present effective presentations to community. |
| ▲ | early 2006 | Conduct assessment of volunteer strengths and weaknesses to insure efficiency and assist in keeping volunteers motivated. Offer training to team members on effective communication skills, human relations, |
| ▲ | mid 2006 | Offer training to team members on effective communication skills, human relations, and effective presentation skills. |
| ✳ | Ongoing | Recruit team members to deliver presentations in community about the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, accomplishments, and volunteer opportunities. |

| Task 3: Establish sponsorship programs | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | Late 2006 | Develop presentations specific to corporate sponsors. Discuss different types of sponsorship to include man hours/ products or services, cash support, and underwriting events. |
| ▲ | Early 2007 | Conduct a “Volunteer Fair” to highlight successes to date and further recruiting efforts. |
| ✳ | Ongoing | Ongoing grant writing and development efforts to attract additional training, funding and technical support. |

| Task 4: Establish recognition programs | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Partners: South Ward Neighborhood Committee, Tamaqua Borough, Tamaqua Partnership (Main Street), Schuylkill County Volunteers in Action, LCCC, TASD, ESRC | |
| Level | Year | Activity |
| ▲ | 2007 | Establish recognition program for volunteers (i.e. Points of Light, Governors Award of Excellence, National Volunteer Day) |
| ▲ | 2007 | Annual Dinner and recognition event to highlight successes and partner recognition |
| ▲ | 2007 | Development of quarterly newsletter to community. This can be utilized as a means to recognize sponsors by using logos in promotional materials. |
| ▲ | 2007 | Provide state-wide training opportunities for volunteers |
| ▲ | 2008 | Establish “Volunteer of the Year Award” |
| ✱ | 2008 | Conduct first annual “South Ward Day” |

SECTION FOUR

A REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ZONING, LAND USE, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, AND HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCES

A REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The current Comprehensive Plan for the Borough of Tamaqua was published in March 1964, based on data and statistics available at that time. Needless to say, many things have changed since then.

- The Tuscarora and Locust Lake State Parks have been completed, and their flood control dams have spared the town of the disastrous floods of past generations.
- Many of the scars created by strip mining on the mountains to the north and south of Tamaqua have been or are being reclaimed.
- The Interstate Highway System has been completed; opening vast, formerly inaccessible, land to development, and allowing ready access to most of Eastern Pennsylvania.
- Extensive shopping malls and superstores have sprung up at many locations within 20 miles of Tamaqua.
- Large corporations, which provided lifetime jobs to so many Tamaqua residents in the past, no longer exist, or are currently sending manufacturing jobs overseas. The computer age has made it possible for the elimination of countless office jobs, but it has also allowed for many individuals to create their own businesses in their own home.
- Massive distribution centers have taken the place of the lost manufacturing companies, and provide jobs, although at a relatively lower salary than those lost.
- Almost all of the people questioned at the South Ward Elm Street Planning Meetings stated that they liked Tamaqua and their immediate community. They have made many suggestions for the improvement of their community, but these suggestions indicated a need to improve by rehabilitating and restoring most structures, rather than demolishing and rebuilding new.
- An ever-increasing appreciation of history and art has led to a greater interest in historic restoration and has resulted in a proportional increase in tourism. This has greatly altered the perspective with which the public views the future of Tamaqua. There are few who espouse the proposals found in the current Comprehensive Plan to demolish about 540 substandard housing units (or about 30 acres), and replace it with a 'multi-family garden apartment development' resulting in about 900 new housing units. The Comprehensive Plan calls for the 'clearance and structural restoration of one block on both sides of Hunter Street for the construction of high density garden apartments, or low rent public housing, as well as the 'complete rebuilding of a major portion of the Central Business District in Tamaqua.'
- Rehabilitation and restoration of the historic nature of Tamaqua has been embraced by the public, as evident in the many restored facades found throughout the Borough.

- The Downtown Business District is currently on the rebound, as opposed to the decline lamented in the 1964 Comprehensive Plan.
- The railroad through Tamaqua has found new life and cannot be expected to decline, providing new acreage for development as was envisioned in the current Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to those changes noted above, many others have taken place in Tamaqua, the surrounding region, state, country, and indeed, the world since 1964. These changes have made the current Comprehensive Plan virtually obsolete. A new Comprehensive Plan is currently being prepared by the Borough Engineer and should be a great asset to the Borough when completed. It is hoped that these issues be addressed in the new plan.

A REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH'S ZONING PLAN ZONING ORDINANCE #565

The Borough of Tamaqua Zoning Ordinance #565 has been periodically revised to adapt to the changing needs and concerns of the Borough. The ordinance allows various home occupations, (as listed in paragraph 5.302), upon review of the Planning Commission and authorization of the Zoning Hearing Board. It is recommended that 'computer/internet based home occupations' added to this paragraph, due to the great benefits that these occupations can provide to the community. Some of these benefits are:

- Potential high paying jobs
- No disturbance of neighbors
- Reduced need for driving (less traffic)
- Reduced need for gasoline (less pollution, fewer expenses to worker)
- Beneficial to people with many types of physical challenges
- Ability to serve needs of people within the community and beyond without the need of an office, or to travel to an office
- Promotes inventiveness, ingenuity, and financial independence
- Flexibility of schedules
- More time at home with family

Also, the following can be added to Schedule 1, C-1 Commercial, Permitted Uses:

'Computer/Electronic Equipment sales, service, or repair'

Zoning should also address the great need for off-street parking throughout Tamaqua. The Zoning Ordinance should promote the development of private, for profit, parking lots on vacant lots, and as an alternate to renovation or restoration of badly deteriorated, non-historic properties. Parking lots should be paved with asphalt and should be provided with sidewalks and safe, approved access to secondary streets.

A REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH'S SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

A review of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance finds a non-complicated, but thorough document. The Ordinance requires thorough and accurate planning and documentation of all-land development, and sets reasonable standards that should not hinder development of acceptable sites. There are no recommendations to modify this document.

A REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE

Ordinance 582 of the Borough of Tamaqua adopted and provided several additions, insertions and changes to the 2003 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code. The Code provides for the regulations and governing of the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings, and structures located in the Borough. This Code also provides for the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use, and the demolition of such existing structures.

The 2003 version is the most current of the International Property Maintenance Code and is utilized throughout the United States. It is very thorough and provides standards which, when enforced, will ensure public health, safety, and welfare in so far as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of structures and premises. Existing structures that do not comply with the Code should be altered or repaired to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required by the Code.

It is recommended that paragraph '302.4 Weeds' (first paragraph, first sentence) be revised to read: "All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of six inches in height."

It is recommended that a program be put in place to assure periodic inspections of all properties to verify compliance with this Code.

A REVIEW OF THE TAMAQUA BOROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

The Tamaqua Borough Historic Preservation Ordinance provided for the creation of the Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC).

The design guidelines, which are used in determining the recommendations to be made to the Tamaqua Borough Council concerning the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, requires that the HARC consider only those matters that are pertinent to the preservation of the historical and/or architectural aspect and nature of the buildings, sites, areas, or districts certified to have historical significance.

It is recommended that the following be added at the bottom of page 14:

(7a) Relationship of color-restoring the colorful facades which were prevalent at the time of original construction of the individual homes in the community, using colors from the HARC palate, or as otherwise approved by the HARC.

It is recommended that the following be added to item (8) on page 15 of the Ordinance:" also, the installation of the above to enhance the Building's Historic Image."

Overall, the Ordinance is not overly restrictive but provides guidelines, which if used, will create a more livable community.

It is also suggested that these considerations be recommended by the South Ward Committee to be followed by the entire South Ward, not just the Historic District, to improve the aesthetics of the South Ward and create a more interesting, colorful place in which to live.

REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH OF TAMAQUA'S RECORD KEEPING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Borough of Tamaqua currently utilizes a combination of several systems for its record keeping and information management.

- The Borough has ten computers, most of which are networked. Two of these computers are one year old. The other eight are more than six years old, as is the network server.
- A DOS-based, municipal software package from Business Management Systems, Inc. (BMSI) is utilized for finance and billings. This program is currently being converted to Windows, as the DOS version is no longer supported. Several years ago, the Borough purchased 'ArcGIS' (Geographic Information System) data from the County, however the Borough's software (Map Info) allowed the data to be viewed in a 'read-only' format, thus it is not possible to revise, update, or add to this data. Eventually, the data quickly became obsolete.
- The Borough relies on various maps and drawings, which were developed for a variety of projects for locating utilities. Some of these maps are quite old and are obsolete. Some maps overlap and some areas are not covered.
- Excel spreadsheets are utilized for data management.
- The Borough has recognized the need for an improved data management system and has, in the recent past, unsuccessfully applied for grants to purchase ArcGIS. This program works with Excel spreadsheets and allows for the mapping and/or charting of data, geographic data, utility locations, etc. This allows for clear and efficient use of comprehensive maps and charts.
- ArcGIS is the data management program used by the Schuylkill County Real Estate Department. The use of ArcGIS by the Borough of Tamaqua would allow for the exchange of data between the Borough and the County, thus allowing for more current and complete data at each location.
- ArcGIS also can be tied into the Global Positioning System (GPS), by utilizing a GPS receiver. A GPS receiver can be used to locate and map, geographic features and utilities, and is able to record elevations. This system would have many applications for the Borough's Water, Sewer, Fire, and Police Departments.

REVIEW OF LCCC ANNEX – FUTURE USE

The Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) Annex is located at the former site of the South Ward Fire Company, on the corner of Van Gelder and High Streets, immediately adjacent to the John E. Morgan Center. The South Ward Neighborhood Committee and Borough of Tamaqua expressed an interest in relocating the Tamaqua Arts Center (formerly associated with the Everhart Museum) to the LCCC Annex.

The Annex currently serves as an extension of the LCCC bookstore for a three-week period at the start of each semester and at the last week of the semester. The bookstore occupies approximately ¼ of the usable square footage. The building is in fair condition, with major renovations required for full-time occupancy. The administration of LCCC has expressed an interest in working with the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, and the Borough of Tamaqua, to find a use for the building that will compliment both the college and the neighborhood, as well as preserve the existing parking.

Ideas discussed include:

- Arts/Cultural Center
- Child Care facility
- Fitness Center
- Community Center

The Tamaqua Arts Center recently relocated to 114 West Broad Street (northern border of the South Ward Neighborhood). The current site is in the Historic District of Tamaqua. The Arts Center is under the management of the Tamaqua Partnership and is operating with a part-time contracted manager. The successful move to West Broad Street concluded further conversations with LCCC regarding relocation of the Arts Center to the Annex.

LCCC has initiated discussions with Child Development, Inc., the county Head Start provider, to pursue a possible connection between the Early Childhood Education Program, and relocation of the existing Head Start program. The facility does not meet the square footage needs for program relocation, but may be suitable for expansion of the Head Start program. This option is currently being assessed by the administration of Child Development Inc.

The neighborhood residents felt that a community center was not a viable option, as the Salvation Army Building, Tamaqua Library, South Ward Fire Company, LCCC, and the Tamaqua Community Center provided ample space for meetings and other social activities.

In November 2005, the Station Fitness Center opened at the corner of Hunter Street and West Cottage Avenue. The residents agreed that another fitness center, in such close proximity, would not be feasible. The upscale fitness center is located in the South Ward and provides new life to a three-story historic commercial structure. Its décor compliments the historic district. Business is thriving at the center, and is strongly supported by the community.

Recommendations: Pursue development of a childcare center in coordination with the LCCC Early Education program. The partnership between education, child care, benefit to low-income families, and impact on the community, combines elements that have a substantial probability of receiving funding to develop a community based program, AND provide much needed facility repairs.

Improve partnership with the South Ward Neighborhood Committee and the Tamaqua Partnership/Main Street Program, in further development and support of the Arts Center. Links should be developed with the Schuylkill County Council for the Arts and Lehigh Carbon Community College – Baum School of Art to share ideas, increase visibility, and expand program offerings at the center. Explore the opportunity to link credit classes with the Arts Center. Pursue combined grant applications to partner resources and impact a larger service area.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

South Ward Elm Street Facade Improvement Program Design Guidelines and Building Standards

These design guidelines are to be used as standards for improvements made to building facades in the South Ward neighborhood. The guidelines only apply to projects that use the residential reinvestment grants provided by the Elm Street Program. These guidelines were developed and approved by the Elm Street Advisory Committee.

Note: Improvements made to buildings located within the Tamaqua Historic District must be done according to the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings and shall meet the requirements of the Tamaqua Borough Historic Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 553), rather than the "International Property Maintenance Code, 2003 Edition" and shall obtain approval by the Tamaqua Borough Council (after Council receives recommendations from the Tamaqua Borough Historical Architectural Review Commission (HARC), prior to beginning work.)

A few general standards apply to all types of improvements:

- Improvements should be done in such a way that maintains the architectural appearance of the building and street, and does not detract from the historic character of the neighborhood.
- No materials may be removed from building facades that are not repaired and/or replaced in some way.
- Damaged surfaces must be treated and prepared before application of new materials.
- All work must meet the standards of the "International Property Maintenance Code, 2003 Edition", as published by the International Code Council, and as adopted by the Borough of Tamaqua, except that Paragraph 302.4 shall be modified to read: "All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of six inches in height."
- The Provisions of the "International Property Maintenance Code, 2003 Edition" shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures designated as historic buildings, when such buildings or structures are judged by the code official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare. NOTE: Exterior Property maintenance requirements of this code are applicable to all properties, including those located in the Historic District.
- It is recommended that wood siding be maintained and repaired when possible.
- Vinyl siding may be installed over or in place of wood siding when damage is too great or budget is too limited to maintain original wood.
- Vinyl siding shall match the profile and width of the original wood siding of the structure.
- The color of the siding should be chosen from a palette available at the local HARC office and should not be the same color as the immediately adjacent structures. It is recommended that owners of properties which are located in the same structure, coordinate siding materials, windows, doors, trim, architectural details, as well as colors same, to maximize the historic look of the entire structure.

- Rotted or damaged wood siding shall be patched prior to installation of vinyl siding to provide a sufficient surface for attaching the new siding.
- Severely damaged insulbrick siding should be removed prior to installing vinyl siding.

Masonry

- Brick, if originally painted, may be re-painted or cleaned to the original finish, following the appropriate procedures. (see painting section below)
- Masonry should be cleaned by the gentlest means possible.
- Repointed masonry shall be done with an appropriately soft mortar, and be the same size joint and color as the original mortar.

Painting

- Paint colors (for wood siding, cornice, trim, brick, windows, doors, and porches) should be chosen carefully with the architecture in mind, or closely match original color if known.
- A palette of appropriate color choices is available at the local HARC office. Colors other than those from the palette may be allowed only after review and approval by the South Ward Elm Street Committee (HARC in the historic portion of the South Ward).
- All painted surfaces shall be repaired and prepared through scraping and sanding before new paint is applied. (Paint that may contain Lead shall be carefully removed using paste-type paint remover and shall be disposed of properly, all according to latest applicable local, state, and federal standards.)

Porches

- Original porches and stoops shall not be removed or enclosed.
- When a number of elements such as balusters or railings are missing or severely deteriorated and budget does not permit replacement in kind, straight stock of approximate dimensions of original features may be substituted.
- When an entire porch is extensively deteriorated, replacement material may be straight stock in dimensions that approximate those of original features.
- Decorative features such as trim and fretwork that is damaged and must be removed should be replaced with new decorative material of a similar style and dimensions.
- All new porch features must be painted and not left bare unfinished wood.

Cornices & Trim

- Cornices and trim shall not be removed or covered over with siding or other material.
- Decorative cornices and trim should be repaired and should maintain an appearance as close to the original as possible.

Doors & Windows

- Repairing historic windows and doors is recommended.
- The size and shape of window and door openings shall not be altered, except to return altered openings to their original size and shape.
- It is recommended that only when budget constraints are an issue, should doors and windows be replaced in standard stock sizes.

Roofing

- Roofing on porches and roofs with slopes greater than 3:12, that are visible from the street, may be repaired, or replaced with 20-year asphalt shingles or painted metal standing seam roofing as applicable to the historic nature of the structure.

South Ward Elm Street Facade Improvement Program Guidelines

PROGRAM GOALS

- Improve the exterior appearance and condition of properties in the South Ward neighborhood;
- Correct exterior blight of properties in the neighborhood;
- Assist low and moderate income neighborhood residents to improve their homes;
- Regain and maintain the historic integrity and architectural appearance of the neighborhood.

ELIGIBLE AREA

- Only properties within the South Ward neighborhood (Census Block 3, most of Census Block 4, and a small portion of Census Block 2), which are NOT located in the Tamaqua Main Street Program, are eligible to receive the Elm Street grants. This is the area between the south side of West Broad Street and the area east of Center Street (Route 309), the Tamaqua School District property on the west and east to properties bordering Orwigsburg Street.

ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES

- Residential properties;
- Mixed-use commercial/residential properties;
- Occupied properties; vacant properties that are structurally sound as determined by a structural engineer, and the owner has a building permit and the means to make the property habitable are eligible; all other vacant properties are not eligible.
- Commercial properties which are not located in the Tamaqua Main Street District;

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Homeowners, Property Owners;
- Rental property owners (Note: property OWNER must apply for grant, tenants are not eligible).

PROPERTY STANDARDS

- Properties must be structurally sound; rental property owners must demonstrate proof of fire insurance and may not have any outstanding municipal debt, including city and school district taxes, utilities, or other municipal liens on the building referenced in the grant application.
- Homeowners / Property Owners may not be delinquent on city taxes.

TERMS OF GRANT

- Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants for eligible facade improvement projects. Grants may only cover a maximum of 90% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$2,500 per property;
- Property owner is responsible for all project costs over and above maximum grant amount. Property owner will pay match share of the project cost first directly to

the contractor. Elm Street grant will pay the balance amount not to exceed the total grant amount directly to the contractor; Property owners with a household income above 80% of the area median income (see attached chart for exact figures) must pay 10% of the project cost;

- Owners of rental properties must pay 10% of the project cost;
- Property owners with a household income at, or below 80% of the area median income may perform volunteer work or community service to cover 10% of the project cost. The following standards for volunteer work apply:
 - Work is credited towards project cost at a rate of \$ 10 per volunteer hour;
 - Work must be approved by the South Ward Elm Street Committee and should benefit a local community non-profit, the South Ward neighborhood, or the Elm Street Project in some way;
 - A relative, community group, or church may perform volunteer work on behalf of property owner if property owner is unable to perform work due to health concerns or physical limitations;
 - Volunteer hours must be completed within 6 months of the improvement project start date;
 - Hours, type of work, and persons performing the work must be recorded on a form available from the South Ward Elm Street Committee.

ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Note: grant money only covers improvements made to the main face of the building on elements that are visible from the street. Corner properties may use funds to improve both sides which face the street, however the maximum grant amount will still not exceed \$2,500;
- Repair of exterior deterioration;
- Cosmetic improvements - painting, cleaning, vinyl siding, etc;
- Exterior structural improvements - porches and masonry repair;
- Removal of modern elements - metal awnings, insulbrick, asbestos siding, etc;¹
- Improvements must comply with program design guidelines, available from the South Ward Elm Street Committee.

INELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Removal of historic features;
- Structural improvements;
- Sidewalks and masonry steps (a separate funding source will be available for sidewalk and streetscape improvements);
- Landscaping.

PROCESS

1. Applications can be obtained at the South Ward Elm Street Committee, or Tamaqua Borough
2. Submit completed application to the Elm Street Manager.
3. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, neighboring property owners who submit applications as a group will receive priority.

South Ward Elm Street Facade Improvement Program Application Instructions

Thank you for your interest in the South Ward Elm Street Improvement Program! This program provides grants to help neighborhood residents cover the cost of improvements to the front of their homes. Funding for the grants comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development through the Elm Street Program grant.

Only properties within the South Ward neighborhood (as identified on the attached map) are eligible to receive the Elm Street grants. This is the area between the south side of West Broad Street and the area east of Center Street (Route 309), the Tamaqua School District property on the west and east to properties bordering Orwigsburg Street.

The Elm Street grants can provide up to \$2,500 per property, and the property owner must pay 10% of the project cost. However, if you have a limited income (please see attached income chart to see if you qualify), you can perform volunteer work to cover your 10% instead of paying cash. Only property owners can apply, so if you are a tenant in a rental property, please have your landlord complete this application. The grants can only be used for exterior renovations on the front of your property.

The facade improvement grants will be targeted in areas where several houses on a block or along a street are interested in doing improvement projects. Please make an effort to get as many of your neighbors as possible interested in doing improvements. If you know a number of your neighbors are applying for the grants, please return your applications as a group.

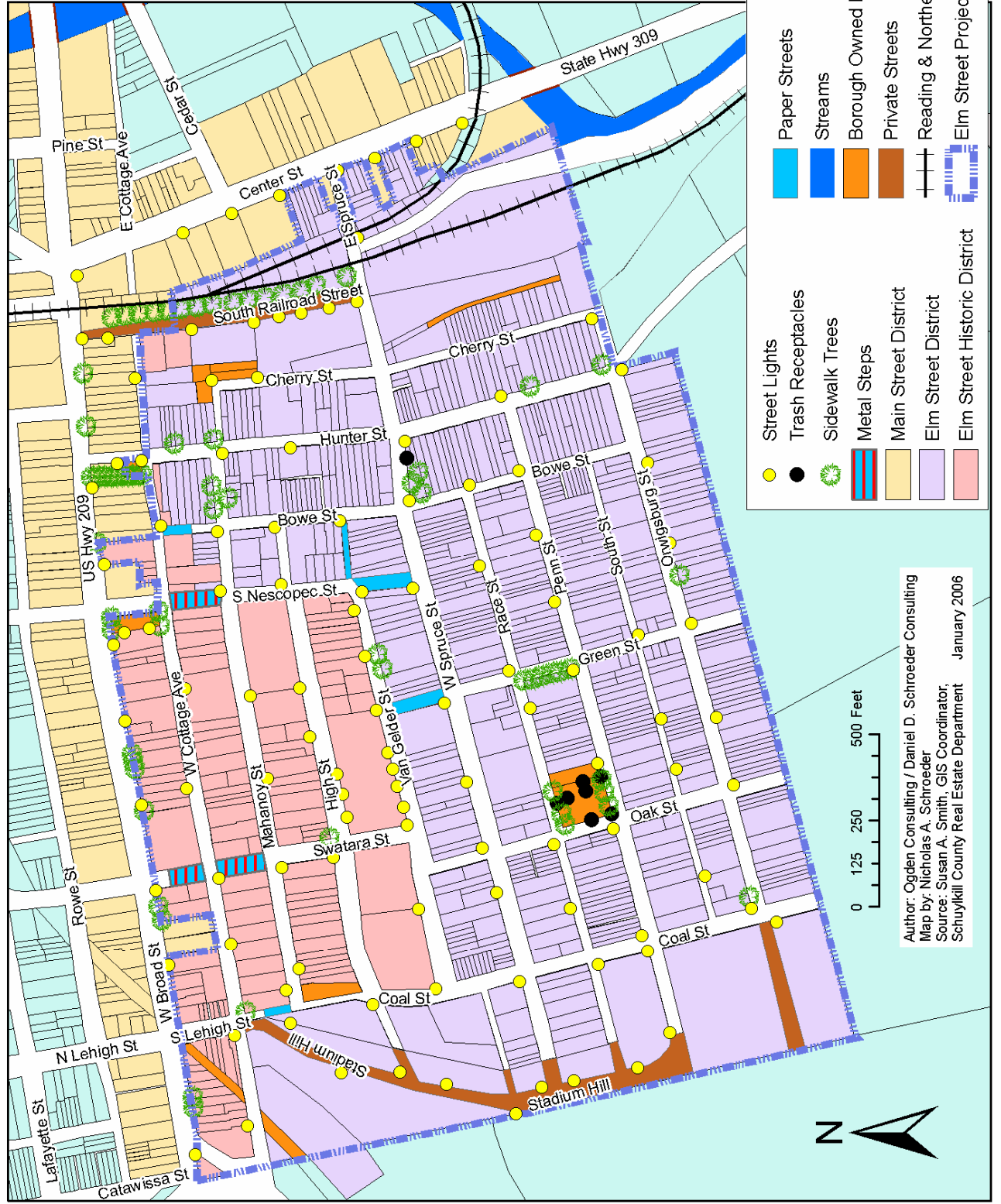
Please include the following with your completed application:

1. Copy of most recent property tax bill or water/sewer bill for proof of ownership.
2. Copy of pay stubs from past two months, SSI statement, or W2 income tax return for ALL members of the household over 18 for income verification **only if** you qualify to do volunteer work to cover the 10% match required by the grant.

Detach application form (page 2) and return to:

Elm Street Program Manager
C/o Borough of Tamaqua
320 East Broad Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252

MAP 1 South Ward Overview Map



OFFICE USE ONLY Date Received:

Tamaqua South Ward Elm Street Facade Improvement Program

Grant Application Form

Please provide the following information:

Address of property for grant work: _____

Property Owner's Name(s): _____

Owner's Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ *(Work)* _____

Building Type: _____ *Single Family* _____ *Multi-Family* _____ *Commercial*

_____ *Owner-Occupied* _____ *Tenant-Occupied* _____ *Mixed-Use*

Number of dwelling units: _____ *Number of tenants:* _____

Date Purchased: _____

_____ *Based on my household's income, I qualify to do volunteer work to cover the 10% match required by the grant (if so, please provide the information below).*

Household income (annual income): \$ _____

Number of People in Household: _____

Briefly describe the proposed improvements (final projects will be determined through a meeting between homeowner and contractor):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I certify that the information provided above is complete and true to the best of my knowledge and it is submitted to the South Ward Elm Street Committee for the purpose of the Facade Improvement Program application.

Property Owner's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

**South Ward Elm Street Facade Improvement Program
Income Chart**

If your household income is **equal to or less than** the figure in the chart below, based on the number of people in your household, then you can perform volunteer work to cover your portion of the facade improvement project cost. If your income is greater than that figure, you must pay 10% of the project cost.

Income should be calculated using income from ALL members of the household over the age of 18.

Schuylkill County Median Income: \$ 48,100

| Household Size | 80% of Area Median Income |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | \$27,150 |
| 2 | \$31,050 |
| 3 | \$34,900 |
| 4 | \$38,800 |
| 5 | \$41,900 |
| 6 | \$45,000 |
| 7 | \$48,100 |
| 8 | \$51,200 |

MEETING MINUTES

South Ward Planning Committee – Elm Street Neighborhood Plan
Wednesday, September 14, 2005
7:00 PM - LCCC

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathy Kunkel at 7 PM. In attendance: Michael W. Ogden, Lorrie A. Ogden, Jason Arbacheski, Louise Howells, Ken Stauffenberg, Tara Stauffenberg, Micah Gursky, Stephen Tertel, John Trudich, Jr., Joe Griffin, Scott Shilko, Kathy Kunkel, Lynn Myers, Gary S. Myers, Mark Bower, Tom Schlorf, Harold Kunkel, Shawn A. Hessinger, John Handler, P. Pappas, Dan Schroeder.

Kathy Kunkel made the following announcements:

1. The neighborhood cleanup is scheduled for Saturday September 17 at 8:30 AM. Funding is available through PADOT Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Ideas were discussed and it was decided to list all ideas later in the meeting and vote on the priority needs.
2. A local business will have a check presentation on September 23 at 11 AM at the South Ward Playground (Air Products - \$25,000 over 2 years)
3. Tamaqua is looking to be a “Blue Print Community” – Micah Gursky will be attending seminar in Lancaster 2 day – 15th & 16th. Anyone interested can join him.
4. Looking into “Operation Good Neighbor” to apply for additional funding.

The group discussed methods of notification for the South Ward Neighborhood plan ie: Mail, notices, listserv, cable bulletin board. The more people involved, the more successful the committee can be. Each person was encouraged to bring a friend to the next meeting.

Dan Schroeder presented the completed photo inventory of South Ward properties and the method used in collecting the data. 2 photos were taken of each property. Data required– GIS data, historic district data, actual physical inventory, style of building, materials made of, sidewalk trees, trash receptacles, not presently available – but will be collected and a database will be developed to allow us to color code by category.

Dan reviewed the maps supplied by the Borough and the County. He recommended looking at “paper streets” for options of green space, additional parking, lighting, mini-parks or passive recreation areas. Examples: the properties behind the Borough owned steps/ramps from Cherry Street could create a direct route to the library. The committee had a mixed reaction to the suggestion; the majority did favor the possibility.

Discussion was held on the sidewalks – would it be better to have more narrow sidewalks on some streets to create a wider street? Mixed reaction – would like wider streets, concerned about pedestrian safety. The neighborhood had many comments regarding snow plowing and the plow packing the snow against the house. A discussion was held on recommending alternate curb-to-curb snow plowing as a possible solution to difficult parking. Parking becomes even more difficult when school is in session. Students park in front of the residential areas.

The group was asked to list buildings of interest in the community: Cy’s Barbershop, Persini’s, former Anchor Deep building, Old Fire Company – now LCCC Bookstore, Old St.

Jerome's Cemetery (high school) w/ John Kehoe grave – existing Historical marker – boy scout project.

Best locations to display public information: Library, Borough hall, college, web site link

The group, led by Michael Ogden, of Ogden Consulting, reviewed the priorities of the Elm Street Program. Participants were asked to list and prioritize problems, assets and discuss solutions.

Clean Safe & Green

- Good street lighting in most places
- Parking available on only 1 side of street on some streets
- Trash – notice increase of trash since kids are back in school on school routes
- Get school involved
- People litter!
- Parks are littered
- 1. Maintenance of trash receptacles
 - a. Will they be picked up?
 - b. Possible volunteer organizations to help with trash pickup/cleanups and emptying of receptacles
 - c. Playground is Borough owned and SW association managed
- 2. Update playground safety
 - a. Nice new addition for tots has recently been installed
 - b. Main section is lacking equipment
 - c. Address maintenance issues

Benches on Hunter and Spruce – who owns house next to this lot to allow expansion of “park”; school bus stop.

SAFETY

Graffiti ordinance recently passed by Borough has corrected potential problems

- 3. Minimal Parking spaces – fighting in winter
 - a. Curb to curb plowing
- 1.
- 2. Sidewalks
 - a. Poor condition
 - b. Lack of handicap access
 - c. Shorten/narrow sidewalks on Hunter street for better flow of traffic – may present pedestrian walkway problems
- 3. Illegal Activity Areas – Spruce & Hunter
- 4. A lot of cars at school parking lot at night – kids hangout
 - a. Increase police patrols at hangouts
 - b. Provide alternative place for kids OR keep area patrolled, free of litter
 - c. Broken bottles around school property
- 4. Label South Ward Fire Co as Emergency Center

DESIGN

Badly maintained properties
Highlight good examples of “clean up”
Lack of systematic upkeep
Standard house/lot – ½ double vinyl/aluminum siding
Develop “standard rehab” for typical house

Clean, paint, trim, pressure wash, etc
Rental units are in poor care
Weeds, bad front porches
Code enforcement issues mixed results; some people “play the system”
List/address unoccupied properties in South Ward – contact owners for status

South Ward Neighborhood Elm Street Planning – Youth Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2005
LCCC

In attendance: Michael Ogden, Lorrie Ogden, Daniel Schroeder, Kathy Kunkel, Harold Kunkel, Micah Gursky, Mae McKeever, Donna Ketring, Gordy Tonkin, Linda Yulenavage, Scott Shilko, Robert Guth, Isaiah Pops, John Zaplazny, P. Pappas, and Joe Plasko.

Michael Ogden opened the meeting discussing the 5 major design elements of the Elm Street Program – Clean Safe & Green; Design; Neighborhood and Economy; Image and Identity; and Sustainability.

In discussing the 5 major design elements, the following points were considered the neighborhood priorities:

Clean, Safe & Green:

- Limited economy prevents full upkeep of properties
 - Can committee “assist” neighbors in correcting minor residential problems?

Trash and weeds on streets – it was noted that when this problem was mentioned to Boro Council, they immediately started discussing ways to initiate weed control. Many times boro employees/officials don’t realize the problem until it is brought to their attention.

Audience strongly suggested that Boro needs to take the lead by maintaining their own properties – such as lots and playgrounds. It was noted that the South Ward Playground had lots of old boards (with nails), weeds, and other potential safety hazards.

- Improve communication with Boro regarding standard maintenance.

Addressing Trash – what possible solutions?

- Place trash receptacles in strategic locations
- Trash receptacles MUST be emptied on a regular basis
- School personnel would be willing to empty (Superintendent Bausch)
- Perception of UNSAFE areas due to lack of lighting and overgrown trees on boro streets and walkways.
- “Golden Broom” type awards for residents keeping their properties clean – make it competitive
- Suggestion – lower lampposts to 12’ height for better lighting – also less expensive to operate and maintain
- Mini-park at Spruce & Hunter – “illegal stuff” – happens in that area. Suggest improved lighting and increase lot size by acquiring/demo next property; Increase police patrols.
- Have school youth activity groups adopt parking lot for regular clean up.
- Use a neighborhood watch group for crime & litter

How can properties be fixed up?

75% of housing used the Boro CDBG properties – check if there is a time limitation for reuse.
Program should be marketed better – many people still unaware of program
Develop system to get residence welcome brochure with available programs
Lack of overall knowledge of programs available.

Could you identify 1 person on each block to distribute information or entice people to get involved – neighbor-to-neighbor?

Education and communication is needed.

Must develop marketing campaign to make new and existing residents aware of program and possible incentives.

Clash of design on duplex houses – can there be a financial incentive to work together to keep continuity of design? – Many did not feel this would be feasible, hard to get neighbors to cooperate in many cases.

Areas to work on:

Hunter and Penn – possible lot for development

Lack of sidewalks on many streets

South Ward Playground basketball court needs improvement – sloped and resurfaced.

Is there anything special or embarrassing about your neighborhood?

No – boring, but safe.

Lack of public transportation

Would like Internet café

Pool hall like Alexandria's in Pottsville

Heard taxi from Pottsville may be coming to Tamaqua.

Field for tag football, more basketball courts, track

Used to be a great variety of sports available in the neighborhood. There is still a large variety available in Tamaqua in other neighborhoods.

How can the youth help?

- Using youth for volunteer “labor pool”
- Tie into school community service program
- Block chair could organize/determine who needs assistance (grass cutting/snow shoveling/minor chores)

Who would be school liaison/SPOC?

- Elm street manager
- Kerry Quick organizes school program
- Liability – who's responsibility

What would draw you back to the neighborhood?

- Job opportunities
- Low crime rates/drugs use – concern for raising family
- Better recreation areas (basketball courts)
- Better access to school recreation facilities
- Current must travel to other areas of town for recreation
- Need to have places for sledding – nothing to do in the area in winter. Used to use school hill (now school)

Where do you spend your time?

- Bowling alley (Hometown)
- School parking lot
- Shooting hoops at various local parks – not at South Ward due to too many roots, needs resurfacing, sloped. South Ward USED to have the most/best basketball courts, baseball courts and sledding hills. Many were closed with the expansion of the Tamaqua School District facilities.

- Don't access library – use school library or internet

How do you get there?

- Steps – really dark, need trees trimmed and better lighting
- Drive – self, friends
- Spruce is the major road used.

Fear of speaking out at public meetings – feel that their opinion doesn't mean anything.

IMAGE & IDENTITY

Cynicism is prevalent; Not my problem – apathy

Positive – there is a “front porch feeling” in many neighborhoods

Develop neighborhood ambassadors; Bum roast

Need to get 75-100 persons engaged in the process

Particular areas of interest – beautification, crime watch

Reasons to Stay:

- comfort level
- financial, affordable housing
- family, close to work
- good neighborhood
- Invested time and energy in house, concerned about detonation; born and raised.
Family in area. Can see large-scale improvement in town, but the little things are bothersome.
- Roots in fire company; strong members – 40 strong members, 10 active cadets due to selective recruiting and acceptance of members
- Inertia and affordability
- Comfort zone
- Born and raised, family within 2 blocks
- Born & raised, like house, neighbors, neighborhood and family

Neighbors & Economy

+ Percinis – great food, service, great people

-Need another grocery store in town (Boyer's is only store in town)

More retailers needed – types

- Chain stores
- Don't want specialty shops – want chain stores with basic needs (clothes, household goods, groceries)
- Entertainment – Coaldale nearest movie

Work zone – Discussion was held on “lack of jobs” what is a reasonable distance to travel for what pay scale?

- \$5-\$10/hr – travel 0-12 milers
- \$10 - \$15 – up to 20 miles
- \$15 and up – up to 30 miles

Obtain level of workforce

- *breakdown of income levels vs. education level and age groups*

++ Unique opportunity – Morgan Scholarship

+High level of owner occupied units

A group discussion was held and the attendees voted for ideas for Safe School, Safe Routes – PADOT funding submission:

1. Iron steps – Spruce & Van Gelder and replace existing steps
2. Sidewalks near railroad tracks – Spruce and South Railroad
3. Stadium Hill Sidewalks
4. ----- House to Van Gelder, new sidewalk on Hill St.
5. Sidewalk by Fire Co.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct 13 – Youth, October 17 – South Ward Recreation. Both meetings will be held at LCCC Morgan Center.

**South Ward Neighborhood – Elm Street Plan
Public Meeting – Recreation Focus
Monday, October 17, 2005**

Note: There was no representation from the Southward Playground Committee at the meeting, although they chose the meeting date. Additionally, it was noted that the meeting was held the same time/date as the Boro Recreation Board. An additional meeting will be held with key South Ward Playground Committee members to review ideas.

South Ward Playground

- Tot lot area is nice
- Lack of maintenance
 - Sandbox top is pushed in and full of water
 - Construction debris out in open (2x4's with nails); 5 gal container of used cooking oil
 - Needs weekly /periodic oversight
- Rides are old and no longer safe
- Steel post protruding from ground 3' – easy to miss it and cause injury
- Raised merry-go-round for small children - easy to get injured
- Basketball courts need improvement

Playground Maintenance:

- The Willing family provided most of the maintenance for the South Ward Playground
- PTA Association used to operate/manage facilities
- 3 key members make all the decisions.
- Need to revitalize the playground association
- Could have more trees in tot lot
- Boro was on a rotating basis to update playgrounds, unsure where that stands.
- Suggest fully fencing basketball courts.
- Improve access to tot lot
- Many tripping hazards in lot

Playground UPDATE –

- Lumber and construction materials are 80% removed by neighbor and youth
- Steel pipe removed
- Playground is now locked up for winter – except for special events
- Oil cleaned up – 90% of containers removed
- Hauled ½ ton of garbage from playground, still more to go.
- Current Recreation committee was very active, leader is ill and they are now taking a backstage. When the current committee was very successful, other volunteers backed off. How can we reengage new volunteers without offending current members?
- Unaware of playground budget.

School Facilities

- School baseball & tennis courts not available to general public
- Work with school to have all facilities open to public
- Publicize pool hours – YMCA holds regular swim times

Overall it was agreed that Tamaqua has a lot of recreation opportunities in the areas. There are a number of parks in each neighborhood equipped with good facilities. It appears that the South Ward is now lagging behind.

- Salvation Army building – provides lots of social opportunities, Internet room, lunch program, after-school programs, etc.
- Library – activities for youth and adults
- Work with Kerry Quick (as Single Point of Contact) to develop listing of all school facilities that are open to the public with policies
- Focus on public awareness!

First Impression

- More people come to the South Ward neighborhood than any other, due to the presence of the high school i.e. athletic events, etc.
- Improve school parking lot with paved spaces (may decrease use of students parking in front of residences)
- Increase lighting, install grassy islands
- Renovate athletic field ticket booths to look “vintage”
- Missing rail on walkway up Stadium Hill
- Discuss all weather track
- Partner school funds with neighborhood funds for total renovation

Other opportunities:

- Walking trails – South Mountain via Orwigsburg Street
- Orwigsburg path to Rabbit Run following “pipeline”.
- Spruce and Hunter – well lit parking lot with trees and benches

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES:

1. South Ward Playground – would like to see total restoration – consider tearing down basketball court and look at alternate location within facility. Is it better to start fresh or save what is in existence with improvements? Discuss options with Playground and Recreation Committees.
 - Revitalize playground association by reenergizing existing members and recruiting new members.
2. Spruce & Hunter
 - a. Acquire and demolish adjoining structure. Create parking for neighborhood with well-lit area and park benches.
3. School /west entrance to South Ward improvements
4. Walking trails
5. Paper street green spaces.

Fundraising ideas!

- Ballroom dance and show at Lakeside Ballroom. Wanted to tie into Dorsey event planned for November, not enough time. Would like to hold dance at Lakeside. Group from Allentown would perform. Lakeside agreed to donate space. Committee will pursue ideas further.

South Ward Neighborhood Elm Street Planning Meeting
Thursday November 17, 2005
7:00 PM – LCCC

The Elm Street Planning Meeting focus was on “Downtown Connections” – how do we increase the ties to the Downtown Business Community? Present at the meeting were:

Due to the physical makeup of the South Ward Neighborhood, much of the neighborhood is geographically separated from the downtown. The neighborhood borders the downtown on the north and east sides. On the north side, residential South Ward properties are interspersed with commercial establishments on West Broad Street. West Broad Street (Route 209), is an integral part of the Tamaqua Main Street program.

The following questions were posed to the audience to spark discussion. As discussion was started, the group continued moving through different areas of concern and linkages:

How do you feel we could better link us to the downtown and Main Street program?

- Link façade programs – keep a similar feel as you leave the downtown and enter the neighborhood. It is important to use the same look that is used for the downtown streetscape programs.
- Better jobs – try to increase the types of positions that are available.

What services are important to you?

- Historic preservation of existing properties
- Promotion – marketing of the downtown and the neighborhood
- Organizational structure – insuring that there is a sound organizational structure to keep of the efforts of both the South Ward Neighborhood and the Main Street program.
- Facades – continue to implement programs that improve the facades of the buildings.
- Handicap access – building, sidewalks
- Buddy Transportation (shared rides); subsidized taxis for seniors, STS shuttle bus to take us to the downtown on a regular schedule (even once a week).
- Handicap access from library to Cherry Street? – not a viable project due to lack of use and geographic features of land.
- Sidewalks leading to Broad Street should be accessible.
- More parking will be needed if we increase the amount of residential units in the area.
- Medical – appears to be a good number of doctors in area.
- Traffic congestion – timed light at Spruce & Hunter; slow traffic on 209 on West Broad Street by Hopes – requires cooperation of Township and Borough.

What management duties of the Main Street program could be tied into the South Ward program?

- Use the Main Street Program as a way to spread the word. We need a central location to get more information on the program. Partner with the Chamber and Main Street.
- Blueprint Community – use the experience of the Main Street program to help guide us on the Elm Street and Blueprint Community implementation efforts.
- South Ward Newsletter – help with development
 - Distribute through block captains
 - Email distribution or post on website
 - Use school students to disseminate via flyers
- Coordinate sidewalk sales, clean ups, “Golden Broom” program. Main Street could provide sponsorship of the Golden Broom of SW and assist in developing a committee or

shared governance of a committee to sponsor Golden Broom. Use gift certificates from Main street businesses as prizes to encourage local shopping.

- Help develop a recycling campaign as part of the Golden Broom – may be able to use money from recycling to help purchase more garbage cans.
 - Approach Guers for funds relating to number of containers collected
 - Develop a competition for number of containers collected – use downtown bucks as a prize
- More parking management – increase parking off Broad Street

How does the potential construction of Wal-Mart in Hometown affect the downtown and South Ward?

- More job and shopping opportunities
- Feel the businesses in downtown are smart enough to compete with Wal-Mart and utilize the increase traffic to their advantage
- Additional off street parking is needed near Broad Street
- Improve the existing traffic patterns on Broad Street
- Create additional one-way streets to increase the flow of traffic through Tamaqua.
- Remain competitive with reasonable purchase prices and service.

What are the shared priorities for Main Street & South Ward?

- Access
- Appearance – prefer repair of structures to demolition
- Historic preservation – about ¼ of homes are in historic district (approx. 200 homes on Cottage Ave and High Street)
- Traffic Management – coordination of efforts to best benefit residents and businesses.

What are the South Ward Priorities?

- Spruce & Hunter – remove 2 buildings on corner, improve parking with larger off street parking and seating.
- Stadium Hill view – need lighting and landscaping
- Existing iron steps need lighting and landscaping
- Entering Coal Street – can it be widened to increase access?

What are the best features of living in the South Ward?

- Neighborhood support
- Family closeness
- Comfortable, quiet, relatively clean
- Playgrounds

MEETING SIGN IN SHEETS

SOUTH WARD NIEGHBORHOOD ELM STREET PLANNING MEETING

September 14, 2005 - 7 PM

LCCC - MORGAN CENTER

SIGN IN SHEET

| NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE | EMAIL |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| M. W. Ogden | 24 Maple St Ashland, PA 17921 | (570) 874-7546 | mogden@ptd.net |
| Lennie Ogden | " " | " " | Lugden@ptd.net |
| Jason Arbachosi | " " | " " | |
| Louise Howells | 218 S. RA. / ROAD ST TAMAGUAPA | 570-668-6912 | lfrs175 at hotmail.com |
| Kenneth Stauffenberg | 135 Penn St. | 668-4689 | stauff24@hotmail.com |
| Michael Grusky | 237 W Broad | 668-1240 | — |
| Stephen Terkel | 252 Mahanoy Ave | 668-5153 | stephenw2@verizon.net |
| JOHN TRUDICHT JA | 195 OWL CREEK RD | 668 0549 | — |
| Joe GRIFFIN | 213 ORWIGSBURG ST | 668-0417 | |
| Scott Shilko | 309 Race St | 668-4624 | — |
| Kathy Kunkel | 420 Spruce St | 668-0638 | |
| Lynn Myers | 307 Spruce St | 668-0630 | lgrm3@ptd.net |
| Gary S. Myers | 307 Spruce St. | 668-0630 | |
| MARK BOWER | 204 Lombard ST | 668-1828 | |
| Tom Schlarf | 223 ORWIGSBURG ST | 668 0514 | |
| HAROLD KUNKEL | 420 W. SPRUCE ST | 668-0638 | HKUNKEL@PTD.NET |
| Shawn G. Heringer | 133 West Broad St. | 668-4986 | sheringer@republicanherald.com |
| John Handley | 246 W. Broad St. | 668-5828 | republicanherald.com |
| P. PAPPAS | 302 RACE ST | | P=P2PP25@DodgeIT.com |
| Daniel W. Schroeder | | | |
| Nicholas Schroeder | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Meeting Date 10/13/03

Location: LCCC

Time: 7 PM

[illegible]

October 17 ~~September 14, 2005~~ - 7 PM
LCCC - MORGAN CENTER
SIGN IN SHEET

99

SOUTH WARD NIEGHBORHOOD ELM STREET PLANNING MEETING
November 17, 2005 - 7 PM
LCCC - MORGAN CENTER
SIGN IN SHEET

| NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE | EMAIL |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| John Trudick | 195 Owl Creek Rd | 576-668-0549 | — |
| B. Wally | 46 Hunter St. | 668-6176 | — |
| MARK BOWER | 204 Lombard St | 668-1828 | — |
| Scott Spilko | 309 Race St. | 668-4624 | — |
| Arthur Mack | 162 Penn St | 668-1253 | — |
| Deborah Jones | 200 Cherry | 668-6960 | — |
| Michaela Mellich | 688 Penn | 668-2813 | — |
| Kathy Kunkel | 400 Spruce St | 668-0638 | — |
| Bird Kunkel | 400 Spruce St | 668-0638 | — |

| NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE | EMAIL |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Kerri Quick | Tamaqua Area School Dist. Box 112 Tamaqua, PA | 570-668-2570 | kquick@tamaqua.k12.pa.us |
| DAVE SCHROEDER | | 467-3962 | |
| Elmer Baron | 317 Delineta St | 668-0604 | tamaqua chamber@verizon.net |
| May Louise Ryan | 112 Hunter St | 668-5925 | — |
| John Boyl | 410 West Bond | 668-1845 | — |
| Meredith Boyle (Student) | " | " | — |
| Lincoln Gulianavaga | Dunbar Tanager | | |
| Lucie Horden | Ogden County | | |
| Michael W. Widen | Ogden County | | |
| William A. Schrock | | | |

South Ward Meeting Sign-In

Thank You

NEWS MEDIA

01/11/2006

Council sees South Ward plan

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

Tamaqua Bureau Chief

shessinger@republicanherald.com

TAMAQUA — A preliminary plan for improvements to the borough's South Ward community was presented before the council on Tuesday.

A slide show by the firm Ogden Consulting showed lighting, green space and brightening the parking in many areas of the community and improvements to home facades.

"There isn't much color," said construction and historic consultant Daniel D. Schroeder, who also worked on the plan that could be complete by month's end.

Schroeder and Ogden Consulting's Michael Ogden, a former Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission administrator, and his wife Lorraine A. Ogden, the county's former grant writer, showed how that could change with a series of before and after photos.

Photos of homes improved with conceptual computer enhancements showed a shift toward brighter colors, different siding and spindled porches.

Meanwhile other before and after photos showed increased parking, more trees and better lighting at the corner of Spruce and Hunter streets, improving an area residents claim is often known for clandestine drug activity.

A flight of iron steps near the intersection of West Broad Street and Swatara Street also had extra lighting for more safety after dark.

A dirt and gravel lot across the street from the Tamaqua Sports Stadium had acquired improvements transforming it into a landscaped parking area.

Among the largest proposed improvements were a new basketball court, equipment and other improvements to the South Ward Playground.

However, Michael Ogden stressed the plan, which will soon be submitted to the state Department of Community and Economic Development for funding under the Elm Street Program, is only conceptual.

"It's going to change quite a bit over time," Ogden insisted, saying the blueprint would need to evolve with community priorities.

The consulting group developed the plan with input from several public meetings held late last year where residents had a chance to discuss their likes and dislikes about their community.

The consulting firm also supplied volunteers with cameras instructing them to crisscross their community photographing what they liked most about where they lived and what they believed should change.

The Elm Street program could make available up to \$250,000 a year over four years, a potential total of \$1 million, in residential reinvestment grants to be used for anything from streetscape to facade improvements.

The borough could apply for an additional \$50,000 of state funding to hire an Elm Street Manager who would work full-time to implement the plan created for community revitalization.

However, the program would need to be self-sufficient at the end of five years sustaining itself entirely on grants and private donations independent of Elm Street funding.

Ogden said the borough could elect to hire a full-time manager, a part-time manager for less cost but possibly greater need for training and supervision or contract with an existing community agency to manage the program.

In December 2004, the borough was awarded \$25,000 to help prepare a work plan that would allow the community to apply for inclusion in the program.

07/26/2005

Group to pick advisers

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

Tamaqua Bureau Chief

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TAMAQUA — The South Ward Neighborhood Committee is weighing the qualifications of two consultants after their recent presentations.

The selected consultant will begin helping the group with the planning stages of an Elm Street program that could bring \$1 million in residential reinvestment grants into the borough over the next few years alone.

"If you folks in Tamaqua don't make decisions about what your community is going to look like, somebody else will," David L. Taylor of Taylor & Taylor Associates Inc., Brookville, Pa., told 11 volunteers gathered at the Tamaqua campus of Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC).

Taylor was the representative of one of two firms that addressed members of the Southward committee. There was also a presentation from Ogden Consulting, a county-based firm including former Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission administrator Michael Ogden and former county grant writer Lorraine A. Ogden, who left the county to take a grant writing position with LCCC earlier this year.

The consulting firm has partnered with Daniel D. Schroeder, Construction & Historic Restoration Consultant, Barnesville, best known in the community for his work at the newly renovated Tamaqua Train Station, to seek the Elm Street consulting position.

The borough was awarded the first \$25,000 in December to help prepare a work plan that would allow the community to apply for inclusion in the program.

Elm Street would also make available up to \$250,000 a year over four years, a potential total of \$1 million, in residential reinvestment grants to be used for anything from streetscape to facade improvements.

Taylor estimated the plan would be completed, once a consultant is selected, in about four to five months and involve three to five public meetings plus housing rehabilitation and historic preservation workshops.

He said he and his wife, Cinda, his partner in the historic preservation and community development firm, would bring their combined experience as former main street managers, local business and municipal leaders to the project.

Taylor showed slides of the team's work in its home base of Brookville in Jefferson County, and said their projects have included work in West Virginia, New York and Kentucky.

But Michael Ogden also touted his group's ability to bring to the project a hometown touch.

"We have a pretty intimate understanding of the community. I think that's the one thing that separates us from someone who is not local," Ogden said.

Similar to the state's Main Street Program aimed at downtown business districts, the current program would seek to revitalize the neighborhood west of Route 309 and south of Route 209 in the borough.

Once the plan is completed, the borough could apply for an additional \$50,000 of state funding to hire an Elm Street Manager.

08/02/2005

South Ward committee made its choice

BY LINDSEY PONCAVAGE

TAMAQUA — Plans for the South Ward's revitalization should begin to take shape now that the neighborhood committee has determined which of two community planning firms it will recommend the borough hire as a consultant.

At a recent meeting, the South Ward Neighborhood committee members, along with residents of the community, discussed the strengths of the firms and voted to recommend Ogden Consulting after hearing the presentations that each firm offered for consideration.

Although many voiced opinions that either of the firms could benefit the community with their various forms of expertise in the planning field, others saw definite advantages to Ogden Consulting, which is based in Schuylkill County and is considered to be the more locally accessible of the two.

"Ogden said they would work with us hands on in the process to get it started," resident Ken Stauffenberg said.

He said that Taylor & Taylor Associates Inc., the other firm under consideration, possessed an impressive list of statewide planning achievements, but his final vote rested with Ogden.

Downtown Manager Linda J. Yulanavage agreed.

"My feeling is that the local group, Ogden, brings with it a familiarity of the area. They have a vested interest, not just in getting the plans completed, but in creating real, lasting community solutions," she said.

A letter will be drafted to formally express the committee's wishes to the Tamaqua Borough Council.

When the council weighs the recommendation, a final vote on the matter is expected to take place at its meeting tonight.

Once the council has made a final choice of a consultant, the selected firm will facilitate the public meetings and planning sessions that will determine a specific course of action for community revitalization.

Guest speaker Micah J. Gursky stressed that now is the time for members of the community to consider what changes and improvements need to be made, since the grants under the Elm Street Program can be used for any number of projects ranging from the beautification of streetfront facades to the correction of code violations.

The Elm Street program would make available to the borough up to \$250,000 a year over four years, a potential total of \$1 million, in residential reinvestment grants.

08/03/2005

Council approves consultant

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

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TAMAQUA — The borough council has appointed a local consultant headed by former county grant writer Lorraine A. Ogden and former Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission administrator Michael Ogden in spite of concerns voiced by some members.

The firm of Ogden Consulting, partnered with Daniel D. Schroeder, Construction & Historic Restoration Consultant, Barnesville, will help with the planning stages of a new Elm Street Program aimed for the borough's South Ward.

"I'm here to support my committee no matter what my personal opinions are. Please don't let politics get involved in this," urged South Ward Neighborhood Committee chairwoman Kathy A. Kunkel.

However, some council members expressed their concerns with the committee's choice prior to the 5-1 vote in favor of Ogden Consulting despite Kunkle's urgings.

Kunkle and two council members, Ann M. Simard and Stephen P. Tertel, the board's only Democrat, said they had felt a second consultant, Taylor & Taylor Associates Inc., Brookville, Pa., had greater experience for the project.

But Kunkle said the vote of the committee had been overwhelmingly for Ogden Consulting.

"They have no experience running a Main Street Program, much less an Elm Street Program. If I hired someone to build my house, I'd want someone who has experience in building houses," Simard said before rendering the board's only no vote.

At a July 20 meeting, David L Taylor showed slides of his firm's work in its hometown of Brookville, Jefferson County, and said the company's projects have included work in West Virginia, New York and Kentucky.

He said he and his wife, Cinda, his partner in the historic preservation and community development firm, would bring their combined experience as former main street managers, local business and municipal leaders to the project.

Michael Ogden also touted his group's ability to bring to the project a hometown touch.

"We have a pretty intimate understanding of the community. I think that's the one thing that separates us from someone who is not local," Ogden said at the July 20 meeting.

Tertel said he too felt the presentation by Taylor had been more professional and that the company had more experience in the kind of project being proposed, but voted to abide by the committee's decision.

The borough was awarded the first \$25,000 in December to help prepare a work plan that would allow the community to apply for inclusion in the program.

Elm Street would also make available up to \$250,000 a year over four years, a potential total of \$1 million, in residential reinvestment grants to be used for anything from streetscape to facade improvements.

08/24/2005

South Ward Committee plans effort

BY LINDSEY PONCAVAGE

TAMAQUA — In light of the generous state funding potentially available to the community through the Elm Street Program, residents and members of the South Ward Committee met with consultants Tuesday evening to focus their efforts in the areas that would most help the community become part of the program.

"This is an Elm Street Planning Community, but that doesn't mean that the south ward is already in the Elm Street Program," said William S. Fontana, Harrisburg, executive director of Pennsylvania Downtown Center, who provided considerable moderation for the meeting.

He cautioned planners to remember that there are an estimated 25 other communities in the area in the same planning cycle as Tamaqua's South Ward.

These 25 communities, he said, are all vying for a maximum of 14 open slots for acceptance into the Elm Street Program.

Throughout the planning process, the role of Pennsylvania Downtown Center will be to provide guidance and advice to communities and their consultants to help keep them on track.

Fontana cited some specific points that reviewers would scrutinize to determine a community's suitability for the program, such as the interaction of Elm Street and Main Street districts, the effectiveness of residential vision, and especially the sustainability of financial and human resources.

"When the Elm Street funding from the Commonwealth goes away, it'll be difficult for many communities to continue effectively. They have to plan for the financial future by determining how they'll pay for things like the salary of their manager," said Fontana.

Community planners Lorraine A. Ogden and Michael Ogden from Ogden Consulting also attended the meeting and took note of specific points to help the community attain success.

In conjunction with Daniel D. Schroeder, Construction & Historic Restoration Consultant, Barnesville, Ogden Consulting has been hired to formulate a comprehensive plan as part of the Elm Street Project.

To date, Ogden Consulting is in the process of facilitating further planning by setting up community meetings, the first of which is slated to begin in September.

Ogden's completed plan is scheduled for completion by the end of January 2006, at which time it will be presented as part of the community's application for inclusion in the Elm Street Program.

09/15/2005

Group discusses challenges, hopes

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

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TAMAQUA — Residents had little trouble identifying problems in their community from high crime areas to narrow streets to lack of jobs to lack of property upkeep.

However, discussions at an initial meeting meant to develop a comprehensive plan for a potential Elm Street program for Tamaqua's South Ward also included a discussion of the possibilities.

"It's all going to be up to you," Barnesville construction and historic restoration consultant Daniel D. Schroeder told 15 residents and interested members of the community who met in the community room of the Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) Morgan Center Wednesday.

One of the greatest challenges the community faces, facilitators and members of the community agree, is gaining the participation necessary from the community to make the planning process work.

"Now you're seeing that everyone gathered together here to talk about improving the community is a good neighbor," said South Ward Neighborhood Committee chairwoman Kathy A. Kunkle.

Former Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission administrator Michael Ogden, who heads up Ogden Consulting with wife and former county grant writer Lorraine A. Ogden, agreed.

Looking around the room, Ogden noted that out of an estimated population of 1,300 in the community, a representative group of 75 to 100 would be a better number to provide input.

"If you look around a lot of your neighbors aren't here," Ogden said.

He said greater involvement with the community would require a greater understanding of how the process before the group could impact everything about the community, from property value to safety.

Residents spoke for almost two hours about their expectations for the kinds of jobs they hoped to import to the community, the kinds of retailers and other businesses they would like to see and what they might establish as the norms for property upkeep.

The sessions will be used to formulate a comprehensive plan for the neighborhood in anticipation of an application for an Elm Street Grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) by January 2006.

The borough was awarded the first \$25,000 in December to help prepare a work plan that would allow the community to apply for inclusion in the program.

Last month Tamaqua borough council appointed the firm of Ogden Consulting, partnered with Schroeder, to assist the committee in the planning stages.

Elm Street would also make available up to \$250,000 a year over four years, a potential total of \$1 million, in residential reinvestment grants to be used for anything from streetscape to facade improvements.

Similar to the state's Main Street Program aimed at downtown business districts, the current program would seek to revitalize the neighborhood west of Route 309 and south of Route 209 in the borough.

Once the plan is completed, the borough could apply for an additional \$50,000 of state funding to hire an Elm Street Manager who would work full-time to implement the plan created for community revitalization.

Facilitators plan a minimum of five more meetings for development of a community plan and are also identifying other funding opportunities for community projects.

A meeting to discuss recreation needs for the community has been set for 7 p.m. Oct. 17 also at LCCC.

Facilitators also hope to set up meetings with community youth to gather input and are currently looking for the best possible venue for the sessions.

09/24/2005

Grant aides South Ward

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

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TAMAQUA — Funding from a local corporate neighbor may help provide the seeds for a community dream to come true.

Air Products Hometown Plant Manager Howard Kuritzky presented South Ward Neighborhood Committee Chairwoman Kathy A. Kunkel with the first installment of a \$25,000 grant from the company Friday morning.

"Getting something like this lets us know that maybe we can make dreams like ours come true," said Kunkel, receiving the first year's installment of \$10,000.

The setting chosen for the presentation, the community's South Ward Playground at Penn and Oak streets that is just a block from Tamaqua Area High School, may be one of the recipients for the funds.

Here, community members say by late Friday afternoon young people from the community would be enjoying the local basketball court, and during the summer, children from the Tamaqua Area School District take part in a free lunch program.

"We think it's one of the best community playgrounds around," said Kunkel.

The money could also aid a newly established Tamaqua Salvation Army Computer Lab Program and a plan for an emergency generator to be placed in the Salvation Army Community Center, which could act as an additional shelter during blackouts and other community emergencies.

Long-term, however, community officials hope the money will serve as a local match for an even bigger allocation to include all these projects and more.

The funds could be used as matching money when Tamaqua applies for an Elm Street Grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) expected by January 2006.

The borough was awarded the first \$25,000 in December to help prepare a work plan allowing its South Ward community to apply for inclusion in the program.

Last month, Tamaqua Borough Council appointed the firm of Ogden Consulting, partnered with Barnesville construction and historic restoration consultant Daniel D. Schroeder, to assist the committee in the planning stages.

Elm Street would also make available up to \$250,000 a year over four years, a potential total of \$1 million, in residential reinvestment grants to be used for anything from streetscape to facade improvements.

Similar to the state's Main Street Program aimed at downtown business districts, the current program would seek to revitalize the neighborhood west of Route 309 and south of Route 209 in the borough.

Once the plan is completed, the borough could apply for an additional \$50,000 in state funding to hire an Elm Street Manager who would work full-time to implement the plan created for community revitalization.

"When Air Products came to (us) and told us they wanted to do more and (asked) did we have any ideas for other projects, it took us about three-tenths of a second to respond," said Rep. David G. Argall, R-124, who also attended the presentation Friday at the playground.

Upcoming community workshops to gain input on the new community plan for the borough's South Ward include a neighborhood youth meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, and a South Ward Public Workshop 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, both at the Lehigh Carbon Community College Morgan Center on High Street in the heart of the South Ward community.

10/05/2005

Hamburg, Tamaqua picked as Blueprint Communities

BY MARIA HERNE Staff Writer
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Hamburg and Tamaqua are among the 22 select Pennsylvania communities that will receive tools they need to become better.

Under the Blueprint Communities Revitalization Training Program, designated communities will receive comprehensive training, technical assistance and funding opportunities for revitalization.

A team of chosen leaders from each community will receive four days of leadership and community development training by high-quality, nationally known trainers, including instruction by the Heartland Center for Leadership Development, materials, meals, and lodging — an estimated market value of at least \$7,500.

The Callowhill section of Reading, Berks County, will also be included in the 2005 program.

Richard Boyd, a member of the Hamburg Blueprint Communities team, explained the goals of the program during a recent borough council meeting.

"We're taking the pulse of the community," he said. "We're putting together a vision for the future of Hamburg. We're asking ourselves. 'Where do the people of Hamburg want to go in the future?' "

Gov. Edward G. Rendell announced the cities, towns and neighborhoods that have been selected to participate in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh's (FHLBank's) new Blueprint Communities initiative at a press conference in the Rotunda of the State Capitol in August.

Blueprint Communities is the creation of the FHLBank, which announced its initiative earlier this year with the support of 15 strategic partners, including the Governor's Office of Housing and Community Revitalization, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and other government agencies, corporations and universities.

FHLBank, with assets of \$61 billion, serves nearly 340 financial institution members in Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The Blueprint Community initiative was launched to help local community leaders develop comprehensive, long-term community visions and specific revitalization plans, identify sources of funding and construct a timeline for putting concrete plans into action.

A diverse group of municipalities — which also include Berwick and Lebanon — were chosen as 2005 Blueprint Communities.

In announcing the program, Rendell commended the partnership between the public and private sectors.

"Blueprint Communities provides the leaders of nearly two dozen Pennsylvania communities with the active support of more than a dozen public and private partners as they seek to build a better future," Rendell said.

"The progress these teams display over the next few months will inspire others to mobilize for meaningful change, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family by family," Rendell said. "We look forward to witnessing the positive results of their collective efforts."

During the next few months, a leadership team from each community will participate in comprehensive training, funded by the FHLBank and its strategic partners.

Team members include representatives of local government, community nonprofit groups, banks, businesses and, in some cases, students.

Members of the Hamburg team will include Boyd, who is also secretary of the Greater Hamburg Business Association; Hamburg borough manager Lynda G. Albright; Councilman Charles Figard; Kristen Gangwere, community banking manager of Sovereign Bank; Kay Greenawalt, a member of the Northern Berks Chamber of Business and Industry; Roy Heffner, a member of the Hamburg Planning Commission; Deena L. Kershner, program

manager of the Hamburg Our Town Foundation, and Allen Shollenberger, a Hamburg resident and borough solicitor.

Members of the Tamaqua team will include Linda J. Yulanavage, downtown manager; Fred Banuelos, president and CEO of Alliance for Building Communities; Jason Boris, Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission; Serge Chrush, manager of Sovereign Bank; Dale Freudenberger, president of the Tamaqua Historical Society; Micah J. Gursky, treasurer of the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, and Councilwoman Patricia Freeh-Stefanek, borough property manager.

10/13/2005

Tamaqua's South Ward group wants input from borough youth

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

Tamaqua Bureau Chief

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TAMAQUA — A group planning a revitalization project for the borough's South Ward said it wants the opinions of residents 12 to 25 years of age.

And the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, now with its first major donation of \$25,000 from Air Products and Chemicals, Hometown, is springing for free pizza and soda today to get it.

"Their ideas on what the ward should be, what they'd like to see to balance out our perspective," said South Ward Neighborhood Committee Chairwoman Kathy A. Kunkel of the reason for the meeting.

It will be held at 7 p.m. at the Morgan Center, operated by Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC).

Kunkel and other organizers hope for a good turnout at today's session and at least two sessions yet to come. The group wants enough public input gathered to develop a plan for the next stage of the revitalization effort.

Another public planning session for the community is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday also at the Morgan Center on High Street.

"The next planning meeting (after Monday) will be in November and then the draft plan will be presented sometime in December," Kunkel added.

She said exact dates for the November and December meetings have not yet been set.

At an initial meeting in September, residents had little trouble identifying problems in their community, ranging from high crime areas to narrow streets to lack of jobs to lack of property upkeep.

However, discussions at the meeting meant to develop a comprehensive plan for a potential Elm Street program for Tamaqua's South Ward also included a list of possibilities for the area.

Facilitators and members of the community agree that one of the greatest challenges the community faces is gaining the participation necessary from the community to make the planning process work.

With only 15 community members in attendance at that session, former Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission Administrator Michael Ogden, who heads Ogden Consulting with his wife and former county grant writer, Lorraine A. Ogden, said more input is needed.

The sessions will be used to formulate a comprehensive plan for the neighborhood in anticipation of an application for an Elm Street Grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) by January 2006.

11/09/2005

Tamaqua develops Blueprint Community plan

BY SHAWN A. HESSINGER

Tamaqua Bureau Chief

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TAMAQUA — Community leaders are touting a new program they hope will fuse community revitalization on several levels and combine efforts in three distinct portions of the community.

The borough is one of 22 Blueprint Communities competitively selected across the state that are receiving special training to help them create a new plan for the future.

"The training is action-oriented. While we're not going to write them a check, we are introducing them to people who can help them do the kinds of things they want to do," said David W. Buches, community investment consultant for Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh.

A lending institution covering Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia, the Federal Home Loan Bank created the program to help integrate the kinds of projects the company has seen in communities over the last few years.

"What we're doing now is promoting the idea that Tamaqua is a Blueprint Community," said Micah J. Gursky, an aide for state Rep. David G. Argall, R-124, and part of the team involved in the Blueprint Communities project.

Gursky said the program would focus on redevelopment in three basic intersecting portions of the community including the downtown business district, the borough historic district and the borough's South Ward.

The South Ward community is currently developing an application to participate in the state's Elm Street program, a revitalization effort seeking to apply similar techniques in residential communities that the state Main Street program has with downtowns across the commonwealth.

Sovereign Bank Manager Serge Chrush, another member of the team receiving the training, said part of the group's focus would include funding for low- to moderate-income housing and small business expansion.

"Blueprints are a big part of everything we do," Chrush insisted.

To that end, the team has partnered with a powerful ally in Alliance for Building Communities (ABC), the nonprofit organization that now owns and operates the Tamaqua High Rise and is seeking development of a new \$3 million housing project in a former industrial building in the borough.

"It's a cohesive group. Everybody's energetic about working together," said ABC president and CEO Fred Banuelos, who is also a part of the Blueprint Community's team.

By then, group members hope to have assembled a multiyear plan to attack development issues and choose projects in the community.

During the training, group members have had the opportunity to interact with funding agencies including the state Department of Community and Economic Development and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Buches said.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tamaqua, Panther Valley

Tamaqua's South Ward receives \$25G in state Elm Street funding

By JOE PLASKO

December 22, 2004

"Elm Street" is coming to Tamaqua's South Ward, along with the opportunity for revitalization.

That neighborhood is the recipient of \$25,000 in grant funding as part of the commonwealth's New Communities Elm Street Program.

The funding, which includes a \$22,500 planning grant, will lead to the completion of a Neighborhood Improvement Plan that is expected to spur the investment of \$335,000 in projects for the South Ward over the next five years.

Jackie Parker, acting deputy secretary for Community Affairs and Development for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announced the grant Tuesday at Lehigh Carbon Community College's Morgan Center, which is located in the South Ward.

The funding is part of a \$7-million package signed by Governor Ed Rendell in February for the new initiative, a counterpart to the Main Street Program.

While Main Street focuses on downtown revitalization, Elm Street centers on improving residential neighborhoods as gateways to downtowns, noted Parker.

"We have seen the progress in Tamaqua, and it is one of the first recipients of this money because of its commitment to improving its community and the quality of life of its residents," said Parker.

Currently there are four Elm Street communities in Pa. that are implementing the program: York, Kennett Square, West Chester and Harrisburg. Parker said 40 others have received funding for the initial planning stage.

The Elm Street Program was created through the efforts of Democratic State Representative Bob Freeman of Easton. State Rep. David Argall (R-124) explained he had hosted Freeman during a visit to Tamaqua to see some of the revitalization efforts the community had undertaken.

"Rep. Freeman had this idea that, to spur the revitalization of our older towns, we can't just improve our business districts. "Instead, we must do the same for our residential neighborhoods that are connected both physically and historically to the downtown," said Argall, who co-sponsored the legislation and mentioned it is the first of its kind in the U.S.

The name "Elm Street" has a residential feel to it, although, ironically, Tamaqua's Elm Street isn't located in the South Ward.

One attractive aspect of the five-year program is that it matches funds invested by communities on a 90-10 basis, said Micah Gursky, an aide to Argall and a South Ward native who has served as one of the principal architects of the plan.

Tamaqua is already a Main Street Community and its South Ward is a good prospect for Elm Street funding, given that it suffers from low housing values, high vacancy rates and has a good portion of its residents working outside the borough.

At the same time, there has been investment, with the LCCC's Morgan Center as well as a new middle school and a new South Ward Fire Company building, said Tamaqua Council President Ken Smulligan.

"This will be a real shot in the arm for the South Ward, which is probably the oldest neighborhood in the borough," said Smulligan.

The South Ward Neighborhood Committee was formed to put together the grant application and has gained support for the program, ranging from the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Lions Clubs to the borough and school district, Northeastern Pa. Alliance (NEPA) and businesses such as M&T Bank, Kane Lumber and the Chili Dog.

Among the other partners are the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission, American Legion Post 173, the Everhart Gallery, Tamaqua Police, Tamaqua Public Library, Schuylkill Community Action and the South Ward Playground Association.

The goal of the Elm Street program is stressed in its mission statement, which mentions efforts to promote home ownership, reconnect with Downtown Tamaqua and address neighborhood safety issues..

Gursky said as the program is implemented, certain benchmarks will be observed, such as annual police calls, tax sales, delinquent water bills and shut offs, mortgage foreclosures and the time residents travel to work. Efforts will be made to reduce those figures over time.

In addition, the program will strive to increase home ownership rates, housing values and median family incomes as well as reducing vacancy and poverty rates.

Some of the projects that have been discussed by the committee include library and playground improvements, a firefighter volunteer recruitment program, Crime Watch, a South Ward "reunion" of former residents, neighborhood welcome signs and brochures, marketing, a residential facade program, parking improvements, sidewalk and lighting improvements, financial assistance for homebuyers, organizing a volunteer "fix-up" crew and promoting and supporting existing programs.

Ann Simard, who chairs council's Housing and Neighborhood Committee, said through a statement that the program "will provide an opportunity for those elderly residents and younger families in the South Ward with limited income to repair, rework or replace portions of their exteriors that need work.

"It is a long awaited blessing for a part of the community that deserves it," added Simard.

"This is going to be an excellent program, especially if it helps the elderly to fix their homes," said Cecilia "Jackie" Jones, a member of the South Ward Neighborhood Committee.

Since the program is in its planning stage, it hasn't been decided whether there will be an Elm Street Manager, much as Linda Yulanavage serves as Tamaqua's Main Street Manager.

'Extreme Makeover' planned for Tamaqua's South Ward

Elm Street Project presentation held for council members, citizens

By KERRI QUICK
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Tamaqua Borough Council members and citizens were treated to a slide show at Tuesday night's workshop meeting.

Pictures of the positive and negative aspects of Tamaqua's South Ward, taken by students in the Schuylkill County After School Network, were used as the backdrop for the presentation of the Elm Street Project.

The project corresponds with Pennsylvania's Main Street Program, in an effort to connect the downtown commercial areas with the residential areas, in this case, the South Ward.

Michael W. Ogden, of Ogden Consulting, presented what he called a "static plan" for the general improvement of the South Ward. Through a series of meetings with the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, five goals were determined:

- 1. Create an area where every resident and visitor can feel safe on neighborhood streets, take pride in the neighborhood and live in a well-maintained environment.
- 2. Encourage partnerships of existing resources to create a neighborhood design that provides for the safe, attractive and economically viable community for its residents.
- 3. Enhance and promote initiatives to improve existing housing; increase opportunities for personal, family and neighborhood growth.
- 4. Seek opportunities to improve the image of the South Ward as perceived by

the neighborhood and others.

•5. Create a sustainable organization responsible for the management of volunteers, development and dissemination of information and fund raising strategies to achieve the goals of the South Ward Neighborhood.

One of the areas of particular concern is the South Ward Playground. As design consultant Daniel D. Schroeder commented, a lot of the equipment is broken, dangerous and/or obsolete.

As part of the presentation, a sketch of a possible remodeled playground was included. The sketch showed the relocation of the concession stand and basketball court, as well as newer, updated equipment.

Schroeder added that any of the existing equipment that could be improved or made safer can be kept, such as the spiral slide and the kiddie basketball hoop.

Parking and sidewalk conditions also arose issue in the South Ward. Some improvements suggested were paving and lining the parking lots at the top of Stadium Hill and creating a parking lot at the corner of Spruce and Hunter Streets.

Schroeder discussed improving the facade of homes in the South Ward by adding color, siding and spindles to bring out the historic features. Suggestions were made to develop a volunteer organization to assist the elderly with painting, pressure washing and weeding.

Michael Ogden added that there were three options for assuring the sustainability of

this project: hiring a South Ward resident as a part-time coordinator at a salary of approximately \$18,000; hiring a highly qualified full-time coordinator at a salary of approximately \$40,000 plus benefits; or contracting with a current organization to provide coordination of this effort.

Resident Clyde M. Robertshaw was concerned about the possibility that this project will increase taxes. He wanted to know how many homes would have to be demolished for the parking areas and where the money was coming from to pay for the coordinator.

Schroeder explained that only two homes on Hunter Street would be taken down and that the Elm Street should provide funding for several years, until the community is in a position to continue it on its own.

Resident Raymond Bonet-sky asked what would happen if they did not receive enough grant money to do what the project set out to do, and would there be an increase in taxes?

Lorrie Ogden, of Ogden Consulting, explained that although the focus is on the South Ward right now, the objective is to pull in other sources to cover what the Elm Street project does not, not to tax the local people.

Resources such as Air Products and the Tamaqua Area School District may be able to pool their funds to match with state monies. Becoming a Blueprint Community also opens Tamaqua up to funding opportunities.

The Elm Street Project can

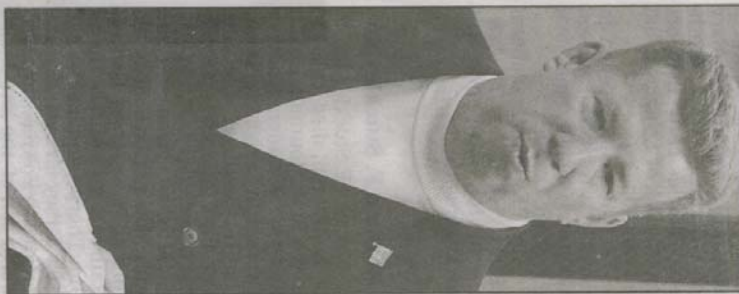
provide up to \$250,000 for implementation (with local match funds) and up to \$50,000 for administration, approved by the Pa. DCED.

Lorrie Ogden added that the Tamaqua Borough owns the plans to the Elm Street Project and therefore they could know the cost associated with any changes before it would be approved, so there is the possibility taxes could be affected. However, the end result would be the building up of the community so that taxes could be collected from every property.

Mayor Christian Morrison said that he liked the idea of having someone from the South Ward neighborhood serve as the project coordinator, but questioned whether property taxes may increase if changes are made to homes.

Councilman Micah Gursky responded that painting your house or picking up garbage won't trigger a reassessment of your property.

The Ogdens stressed that nothing in this plan is set in stone and that it could take between 5-10 years to fully implement.



Michael W. Ogden, of Ogden Consulting, a consultant to the South Ward Neighborhood Committee, explains a proposal for improvements to Tamaqua's South Ward through the state's Elm Street Program to borough council.

APPENDIX C

FUNDING SOURCES

| Name of Program | General Description of Program | Administering Agency |
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| Act 137 | Assistance for programs that impact home ownership rates for low-income families. | Schuylkill Community Action for the County of Schuylkill |
| Blueprint Communities | <i>Blueprint Communities</i> is a new initiative to help community leaders plan for, and carry out effective and comprehensive community revitalization efforts. The initiative is designed to serve as a catalyst to revitalize older communities and neighborhoods by fostering strong local leadership and collaboration, focusing on planning and goal-setting strategies, and building local program capacity to sustain community growth. The initiative emphasizes a team approach to community development. Each participating team is comprised of a banker, developer, community representative, local elected official, and two additional representatives. | FHLB of Pittsburgh |
| Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) | Offers grants for a wide variety of activities, provided the applicant proves, by survey or census, that the project will benefit 51% low and moderate income persons, handicapped persons, or eliminate "blighted" conditions in officially designated areas. For example, funds can be used for water and sewage improvements, storm drainage, handicapped accessibility, housing rehabilitation, parks and recreation, street and sidewalk improvements, code enforcement, community planning, and historic rehabilitation. | Borough of Tamaqua |
| Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program | Funds a wide variety of recreation, greenway, rivers conservation and open space preservation activities with 50% matching grants. Four main categories of grants are: a. Planning and Technical Assistance b. Acquisition Projects c. Development Projects d. Federally Funded Projects C2P2 is a restructuring and combination of separate grant programs including the former Keystone, Rails-to-Trails, River Conservation and other programs. | PA DCNR |

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| Conservation Corps, PA. | Provides funding for work crews for community projects, such as trail improvements. | PA L&I |
| Communities of Opportunity | Provides grants to municipalities, redevelopment authorities, and housing authorities for community revitalization, economic development, and low-income housing development and rehabilitation. | PA DCED |
| Community Development Bank, PA. | Provides capital and capacity building grants to 'Community Development Financial Institutions' (CDFIs). The CDFIs are then allowed to assist with small-scale business expansions, new business starts, non-profit facilities and very small businesses. | PA DCED |
| Community Facilities Loan Program, Federal | Offers low-interest loans to construct, enlarge, or improve essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and towns with population less than 50,000. Also offers guarantees of loans by private lenders. | U.S. Dept. of Ag. Rural Housing Service |
| Community Revitalization Program | Very broad grant program. Officially intended to promote community stability, increase tax bases and improve quality of life. Applications may be made by municipalities, authorities, economic development organizations, and non-profit corporations. Public/non-profit/profit partnerships are encouraged. Generally can be used for infrastructure, community revitalization, building rehabilitation, demolition of blighted structures, public safety, and crime prevention. | PA DCED & Governor's Office |
| Community Revitalization Programs | The First Federal Charitable Foundation believes it has a special responsibility to support worthwhile community causes. The Foundation provides financial assistance to agencies and organizations in categories such as: arts and cultural, civic and economic development, community development, education, general welfare, health and human services, home ownership opportunities. | First Federal Charitable Foundation |
| Community Revitalization Programs | Foundation contributions will be used to meet the needs of all segments of the community -- especially low and moderate-income households, businesses and neighborhoods -- to enhance the non-profit organizations community service functions and to support the interest of Sovereign Bank and its team members. The Foundation focuses its charitable giving in four major areas: community investment and economic development; youth and education; human service programs that improve the social needs of low- and moderate-income communities and individuals; arts and culture. | Sovereign Bank Community Foundation |

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| Customized Job Training | Provides grants to businesses (other than retail) to train new employees, and retrain and upgrade existing employees. Up to 100% of eligible costs may be paid for new job creations, and up to 70% for other eligible training. | PA DCED Businesses apply through a State-licensed Educ. Agency |
| Downtown Pennsylvania Program | Offers full-time management to organize and implement a Business District Authority that provides financing for additional services in a commercial area. The Commercial Revitalization program funds physical improvement projects that are consistent with an action plan. Projects may include site improvements, facade renovations, and adaptive reuse of downtown buildings. See also 'Main Street Program' in this table. | PA DCED |
| Economic Development Administration Loan Guarantees | Guarantees business loans made through private lenders. Available for up to 80% of project cost. Primarily intended for manufacturers, but commercial businesses may qualify. An equity contribution is required by business. Must show job creation. | U.S. EDA Philadelphia Office |
| Economic Development Administration Public Works Grants | Offers grants to distressed municipalities to assist in attracting new industries and encourage business expansion. Projects typically involve water and sewage improvements primarily serving industries, industrial access roads, and business incubators. A 50% local match is typically required. | U.S. EDA Philadelphia Office |
| Economic Development Administration Economic Adjustment Grants | Provides grants to design and implement strategies to adjust to serious job losses to a local economy, such as natural disasters and defense spending reductions. | U.S. EDA Philadelphia Office |
| Elm Street Planning Grants, Designation Grants, Residential Reinvestment Grants | Elm Street aims to improve the situation of Pennsylvania's urban neighborhoods while linking revitalization efforts to those in adjacent/nearby Main Streets/downtowns. Planning Grants: Communities must have a plan that meets the program's requirements—it must address all five facets of the approach, for example—to be eligible for Elm Street designation. Thus, most communities will apply for and receive planning grants first. | DCED/PA Downtown |

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| | <p>Elm Street Designation: An application to PA DCED and the submission of an Elm Street plan make up the package required for designation. The majority of communities will have completed an Elm Street Plan with an Elm Street planning grant, but some will submit plans created independent of Elm Street funding. Designation carries administrative and staffing funds, including support for an Elm Street Manager position.</p> <p>Residential Reinvestment Grants: These grants provide funds for physical improvements in neighborhoods. Elm Street designation is not currently required for grant eligibility, but these grants are generally targeted for Elm Street communities. As more Elm Street communities are designated, competition for the Residential Reinvestment Grants will grow, making it more and more difficult for non-designated neighborhoods to acquire these funds.</p> | |
| Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Program | Grants for a very limited number of pilot demonstration projects for cleanup of contaminated underused industrial sites. | U.S. EPA Philadelphia Office |
| Emergency Services Loan Program | Provides low-interest loans to fire and ambulance companies to acquire vehicles, or to renovate or acquire buildings to house vehicles. | PA Emergency Management Agency |
| Keystone Opportunity Zone | State program provides a range of benefits to locally nominated, state-designated areas that are financially distressed. One major benefit involves greatly reduced local real estate taxes for an initial set of years. | PA DCED |
| Enterprise Zone Program, PA | Encourages investment in ‘enterprise zones’ that are distressed areas designated by the State. The main benefits include: low-interest loan pools (mainly for building acquisition, construction, renovation and machinery), local technical assistance in connecting with financing and technical resources, and preferences in certain state grant and loan programs. A priority is placed upon assistance to industrial businesses. Grants are also available for the initial planning of proposed enterprise zones, and for program administration. See also ‘E.Z. Tax Credits’ below. (This program is completely separate from the Federal Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community program.) | PA DCED |
| Enterprise Zone Tax Credits | Provides State tax credits to businesses located within state-designated Enterprise Zones for new building construction and rehabilitation of existing buildings. | PA DCED |

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| Flood Control - Army Corps and NRCS Watershed Programs | Various types of projects to manage flooding. Typically, the Army Corps is involved in larger watersheds, while NRCS has primary responsibility for smaller watersheds. | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program | Provides 75% funding to relieve imminent hazards from flooding, such as voluntary buy-outs and demolitions of highly flood-prone properties. | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| Flood Protection Program, PA | Offers design and construction of flood protection projects. The project must be deemed economically justifiable under the state capital budget process. | PA DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering |
| Historic Preservation Tax Credits | Offers Federal income tax credits for a percentage of the qualified capital costs to rehabilitate certified historic buildings, provided the exterior is restored. The program is generally limited to income-producing properties. | National Park Service |
| Historic Preservation - Certified Local Government Grants | Provides modest-sized matching grants to provide technical assistance to municipalities that have official historic districts and meet other criteria to be 'certified.' | Federal, administered by PA Historical and Museum Commission |
| Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Grants | Matching grants for historic surveys, historic preservation planning, and National Register nominations. Available to municipalities and non-profit organizations. Cannot be used for construction. | Federal, administered by PA Historical and Museum Commission |
| Heritage Parks Program | Provides grants up to 75% of costs for projects within state-designated 'Heritage Parks' to preserve and interpret the significant contribution that certain areas made upon the industrial heritage of the State and nation. Funds may be used for four types of projects: feasibility studies, a management action plan, special purpose studies, and implementation projects. Projects are intended to conserve natural, historic, and recreational resources relating to industrial heritage to stimulate regional tourism. | PA DCNR |

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| Housing Programs - mainly including Federal HOME Program (Home Investment Partnerships Program) | <p>Provides grants for expanding the supply of housing for low-income persons, including new construction, acquisition and rehabilitation. Local governments may apply, which may be on behalf of public agencies, or for-profit or non-profit developers. PHFA administers Federal HOME funds for financing five or more units. These projects are usually coordinated with Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits.</p> <p>Other federally funded housing programs include: Emergency Shelter Grants, Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Section 202), Single Room Occupancy Housing Program, Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS.</p> <p>See also HOME Partnerships below.</p> | Borough of Tamaqua; Schuylkill Community Action |
| Housing Closing Cost Assistance Program | Provides loans to income-eligible first-time homebuyers for assistance with closing costs. Loans may not exceed 4% of the home's acquisition cost. The loans are at no interest and repayable when the subject home is resold. The home must be located in Schuylkill County. | Schuylkill Community Action; PHFA |
| PA Industrial Development Authority Financing (PIDA) | Provides low interest loans for construction, renovation, and site preparation of buildings for new employers. Primarily funds industrial projects. | PIDA and PA DCED |
| Industrial Sites Reuse Program, PA ("Brownfields") | Provides grants of up to 75% and low interest loans for assessment of environmental contamination and remediation work at former industrial sites. Available to private companies, non-profit economic development agencies, or authorities that own the land. Mainly targeted towards cities. Financing is not available to the company that caused the contamination. | PA DCED in cooperation with PA DEP |
| Infrastructure Development Program, PA. (replaced BID Program) | Provides grants and low-interest loans for public and private infrastructure improvements needed for a business to locate or expand at a specific site. Financing is also available for infrastructure to redevelop industrial sites that have been idle more than 6 months, such as acquisition and demolition. Primarily available for industries, research facilities, company headquarters and business park developments. A 2:1 private to public match is typically required. A commitment is required to create jobs as a condition of funding. Generally applicants must be municipalities or economic development organizations. | PA DCED |

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| TEA 21 Transportation Enhancements Program / Safe Routes to School (Part of Federal Transportation Efficiency Act) | Provides grants of up to 80% for: facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, safe routes to schools, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, development of scenic or historic route programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification along highways, historic preservation, restoration of historic transportation facilities (such as canals), preservation of rail corridors (particularly for bicycle/walking routes), control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff. All projects must have a direct relationship to transportation. | U.S. DOT funds administered by PADOT |
| Intermunicipal Projects Grants | Promotes cooperation between neighboring municipalities so as to foster increased efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of municipal services at the local level. | PA DCED |
| Job Creation Tax Credits, PA | Provides state tax credits to businesses that commit to create new jobs in PA within the next 3 years. Must create 25 new jobs or 20% of the existing work force. The jobs must pay over a certain minimum income. The business must explain how it exhibits leadership in technological applications. | PA DCED |
| Keystone Historic Preservation Funds | Provides 50% matching grants to fund analysis, acquisition or rehabilitation of historic sites. The site must be on the National Register of Historic Places, or officially determined to be eligible for listing. The site must be accessible to the public after funding. The grants can be made to public agencies or non-profit organizations. | PA Historical and Museum Commission |
| Keystone Rec., Park & Cons. Program - Land Trust Grants | Grants to well-established non-profits, trusts, conservancies to plan for, and acquire critical natural areas. Additionally must be open to the public. | PA DCNR |
| Keystone Rec., Park & Cons. Program - Community Grants | Provides 50% matching grants to municipalities to fund: overall planning for park and recreation, master plans for individual parks, acquisition of parkland and nature preserves, countywide natural area inventories, and rehabilitation and improvements to public recreation areas. Grants up to \$20,000, without a local match, are available for material and design costs in small municipalities. | PA DCNR Regional Offices |
| Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program | Assists local governments and counties to prepare comprehensive plans, downtown plans, special community development studies and development regulations. Typically provides 50% of the eligible costs. | PA DCED |

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| Local Government Capital Projects Loan Program | Provides low interest loans to municipalities with populations of 12,000 or less for the purchase of equipment and the purchase, construction, renovation or rehabilitation of municipal facilities. Priorities are given to projects that are necessary for public health and safety or involve intergovernmental cooperation. | PA DCED |
| Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Federal | Offers federal income tax credits to non-profit and for-profit developers of housing for low-income persons. Non-profits can then sell their credits to investors. | PA Housing Finance Agency |
| Main Street Program | In the downtowns of designated "Main Street Communities," provides initial planning grants and administrative grants over a three-year period to pay a large share of the costs of a professional manager to coordinate downtown revitalization efforts. May receive matching grants for facade restoration and other design improvements. Usually limited to municipalities of 5,000 to 50,000 persons. | PA DCED |
| Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund | Provides low-interest loans to acquire, or upgrade machinery and equipment, and related engineering and installation for industrial, agricultural, processing and mining businesses. The business must agree to create or preserve jobs as a condition of the financing. | PA DCED |
| Minority Business Development Authority, PA | Provides low-interest loans for businesses owned and operated by minorities. Can generally be used for industrial, international trade, franchise, retail and commercial uses. Can be used for site acquisition, building construction and renovation, machinery and working capital. | PA Minority Business Development Authority & PA DCED |
| Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, PA | Provides technical advice and grants for special purposes (such as studies to improve service efficiency) within municipalities that have been officially designated as financially distressed. After application and designation, the municipality must follow a Financial Recovery Plan. | PA DCED |
| Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program | Authorizes state corporate income tax credits to private companies to donate funds for services to low-income persons or impoverished neighborhoods. The services typically include neighborhood revitalization, job training, education, social programs to reduce welfare dependency, or crime prevention. The tax credit usually equals 50 to 70% of the eligible donation. Partnerships are required between the business and a neighborhood organization. | PA DCED |
| Neighborhood | This Foundation provides grants to eligible tax-exempt | Wachovia |

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| Revitalization | organizations in two primary-focus areas, education and community development, as well as two secondary-focus areas, arts and culture, and health and human services | Foundation |
| Neighborhood Revitalization, Public Safety | The foundation funds efforts that strengthen housing, eliminate poverty, build neighborhoods, promote community development and create jobs. Over the last decade, \$10 million dollars has been contributed toward these objectives. | Air Products and Chemicals |
| Opportunity Grant Program (replaced Sunny Day Fund) | Offers grants to create or preserve very substantial numbers of jobs. May be used for job training, infrastructure, land and building improvements, machinery and equipment, working capital, or environmental assessment and cleanup. | Can only be applied for through the Governors Action Team |
| PEDFA Financing | Provides low-interest rate financing of business growth. Projects that can be funded with bonds that are exempt from Federal income tax have a lower interest rate than other types of projects. The lower rate financing is limited to activities such as site acquisition, building construction and rehabilitation and new equipment - for manufacturing and certain transportation and utility uses. The higher rate is available to a broader range of businesses and a much wider variety of expenditures. | PA Economic Financing Authority-- Applications are made through a local Industrial Development Corp. or Authority |
| PennCAP | Provides a guarantee of loans to businesses made by participating banks. | DCED-- Apply through a participating bank |
| PENNVEST | Offers low interest loans for construction and improvement of drinking water and wastewater systems. Outright grants may be available for highly distressed communities. Mainly intended for public systems, but some private systems may be approved. Water projects are funded through the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Sewage projects are funded through the Clean Water Revolving Fund. In addition, PennVest is authorized to provide loans for projects to control existing stormwater problems, such as separating stormwater from sanitary sewage. The 'Advance Funding Program' provides low-interest loans for feasibility studies and engineering of systems if the utility cannot fund such work itself. | PA Infrastructure Investment Authority and PA DEP Bureau of Water Supply Management-- Involves both U.S. EPA and State funds |
| PIDA - PA Industrial | Makes available low-interest financing to businesses and industrial development agencies to create or retain business | PIDA and PA |

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| Development Authority (PIDA) Programs | jobs. Can be used for industrial, research, agricultural processing and major office uses. Can be used for site acquisition, building construction or renovation, multi-tenant spec buildings and industrial park development. A lower interest rate is available for advanced technology projects and in enterprise zones and areas of high unemployment. | DCED Applications are typically made through a local Industrial Development Corp. or Authority |
| Nutrient Management Plan Development Incentive Program | Grants of \$4 per acre are available to farmers to cover up to 75% of the cost of preparing nutrient management plans. Low interest loans are also available through the State to assist in implementing nutrient management-related best management practices. | Schuylkill County Conservation District |
| Rural Economic and Community Development Programs, U.S. | <p>Federal programs available in rural areas:</p> <p>Business & Industrial Guaranteed Loan Program: Provides partial guarantees of loans by lenders for working capital, machinery, buildings, land and certain types of debt refinancing. Loans can be made to businesses, municipalities or non-profit organizations.</p> <p>Intermediary Re-lending Loans: Provides very low-interest loans to non-profit organizations to reloan for businesses and community development projects.</p> <p>Rural Business Enterprise Grants (former Ind. Dev. Grants): Provides grants for acquisition of land and construction of buildings and utilities to facilitate development of small businesses.</p> <p>Home Ownership Loans: Aids low and moderate-income rural residents or buy, build, or repair their dwelling.</p> <p>Rural Rental Housing Loans: Assist individuals or organizations to build, or rehab rental units for low and moderate-income residents in rural areas.</p> <p>Home Improvement and Repair Loans and Grants: Assist very low-income rural homeowners to remove health and safety hazards in their homes or to improve handicap accessibility.</p> <p>Rural Housing Site Loans: Assist in purchasing sites for housing development by private, public or non-profit organizations.</p> <p>Housing Preservation Grants: Assist non-profits and public agencies with grant funds to assist low-income owner-occupants and owners of low-income apartments with repairing homes in rural areas.</p> | U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development Administration (former Farmers Home Administration) |

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| Recycling Market Development Loan Fund | Provides low-interest loans to businesses to purchase recycling source-separating equipment. | PA DEP Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management |
| Recycling Grants (under Act 101 of 1988) | Grants for up to 90% of municipal costs to develop and implement recycling programs, such as the purchase of recycling bins and composting equipment. Grants are also available to counties for a recycling coordinator, waste management plans and pollution prevention education. | PA DEP Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management |
| Rental Unit Rehabilitation Program | Low interest loans (up to 4%) for owners of rental units. Maximum of up to four units for up to \$10,000 assistance per unit or \$20,000 for just one unit. | Borough of Tamaqua |
| Residential Rehabilitation Program | Low interest loans (0-4%) and proportional grant for owner occupied units. Maximum of \$15,000 assistance 5 to 20 year payback. | Borough of Tamaqua |
| Rural Utilities Service Financing | <p>Offers low-interest loans for drinking water and sewage projects for rural areas and small towns. The 'Water and Water Disposal Loan Program' provides loans for water supply, wastewater disposal, solid waste disposal and stormwater management systems for rural areas and towns with a population less than 10,000 persons. Available to municipalities, authorities, and non-profit corporations. Grants up to 75% of project costs may be available for highly distressed areas. Also guarantee loans by private lenders.</p> <p>Also provides grants to non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance to rural communities, or for a circuit rider to serve several rural water systems. Also offers emergency grants to communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water.</p> | U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service |
| Shared Municipal Services | Provides modest-sized 50/50 matching grants to promote cooperation among municipalities, in order to increase the efficiency of public services. Two or more municipalities may apply, or a council of governments. | PA DCED |
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| Small Business First | Provides low-interest loans for projects by businesses that generally have less than 100 employees. Generally, the funding can be used for site acquisition, building construction, machinery, working capital, environmental compliance, defense-cutback impacts, recycling, technology, export and computer activities. This is also one of the few sources of funding that can be used for restaurants, hotels and motels. The recipient must agree to create or preserve jobs. | PA DCED An application can be made through an "Area Loan Organization" |
| Small Business Incubator Program | Provides loans and grants for facilities in which a number of new businesses operate under one roof with affordable rents, sharing services and equipment and having equal access to a wide range of professional, technical, and financial programs. | PA DCED |
| SBA Financing | Offers low-interest financing for smaller businesses, including: - micro-loans and micro-enterprise grants - Section 7(a) Guaranteed Business Loans - Section 504 Loans to allow certified development organizations to make long-term loans for real estate and other fixed assets | U.S. Small Business Administration |
| Schuylkill Community Action | A variety of programs (most programs have eligibility requirements) to provide services to persons of low-income to promote self-sufficiency. Programs include: Outreach Programs (information and referral) Case Management (self sufficiency goals) On Track and Operation HELP (utility assistance) Winter Relief Assistance Program (PPL Electric) Food Assistance (includes emergency assistance and food pantries) Homeless Assistance Supported Engagement Program (employment and training) Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance (crisis and budget counseling) Family Savings Account (matched savings program) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (free tax prep) Better Lives Always Start Today (BLAST) - Youth Summertime program Budget Counseling (short and long term financial stability) Bridge House (transitional housing) Affordable Housing Program (homeownership and closing cost assistance) Housing Counseling HEMAP Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance | Schuylkill Community Action |

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| | Program Reverse Mortgages for Seniors (HECM) Rural Housing Service – Approved ‘packager’ for USDA Rural Development Homebuyer Education Countywide Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Senior or Disabled Housing Repair Home Weatherization Rental Development | |
| Sewage Facility Planning Grants | Grants to pay up to 50% of the costs to prepare a new sewage facilities plan or update an existing plan, under State Act 537 of 1966. | PA DEP |
| Sidewalk Repair/New Sidewalk | Low interest loans (-5% interest rate, contingent on income) for repair or replacement of sidewalks. | Borough of Tamaqua |
| Small Communities Planning Assistance Program (SCPAP) | Provides grants up to 100% of the costs to eligible municipalities to prepare comprehensive plans, development regulations and special strategies for development. Generally, 51% of the municipality's residents must be low or moderate-income, according to the census or a survey. Limited to municipalities under 10,000 population. | Federal CDBG administered by PA DCED |
| Small Water System Regionalization Grants | Provides grants for feasibility studies concerning the merger of small drinking water systems. | PA DEP Bureau of Water Supply |
| Solid Waste Facility Programs | Programs provide grants for municipalities to review proposed solid waste facilities within their borders. Programs also provide funding for municipal inspectors of facilities and for host fees from operators. | PA DEP Bureau Land Recycling and Waste Management |
| Stormwater Management Grants (Under State Act 167 of 1978) | Grants for cooperative efforts at the watershed level among municipalities for stormwater planning and ordinances. Grants are typically made to counties, but may be made to municipalities. | PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Conservation |
| Stream Improvement Program | Provides design and construction assistance to eliminate imminent threats to flooding and streambank erosion. | PA DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering |

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| Tire Pile Cleanup Grant | Grants to municipalities to provide reimbursement for costs of cleaning up large piles of used tires. | PA DEP Bureau of Land Recycling & Waste Management |
| 21 st Century Community Learning Center | 21st Century Community Learning Center grants help community-learning centers provide additional academic and life-skills-development instruction to children and youth when they are not in school. Organizations eligible for CCLC funding are schools and school districts, community-based organizations, city or county government agencies, faith-based organizations, family centers, higher education institutions, for-profit corporations and consortia of two or more organizations. | PA Department of Education |
| Urban Forestry Grants | Provides grants for tree planting projects. Is also a Federal 'America the Beautiful' grant program for tree planting. | PA DCNR |
| Water Supply Plan & Well-Head Protection Grants | Provides grants to counties to plan for water supplies at the county level, and to implement programs to protect the wellheads of public wells. | PA DEP Bureau of Water Supply |

Sources: Publications and Internet sites of various agencies and corporations, in addition to Pennsylvanian magazine.

Abbreviations:

DCED = PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development
 HUD = U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
 NRCS = U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service
 DCNR = PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
 DEP = PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
 L&I = PA Dept. of Labor and Industry

TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY USE APPLICATION

Name of Facility_____

The use of the above facility shall be subject to the provisions, which follow:

1. Eligible according to conditions stated in sections 8530.2, 8530.3, 8530.5, 8530.6 & 8530.8 of the official Policy Manual of the Tamaqua Area School District.
2. Agree to abide by all conditions as stated in the 8530 sections of the official Policy Manual of the Tamaqua Area School District.
3. For rental purposes, your organization is classified under which of the following groups:
(PLEASE CIRCLE)

GROUP A:

Tamaqua Area School District affiliated groups such as classes, clubs, school board, booster clubs, P.T.A., school-age athletic groups, Boy and Girl Scout organizations, church youth groups, functions sponsored thereby and funds generated therefrom benefit the membership and/or participants, the primary makeup of which are youth living within the Tamaqua Area School District's attendance area.

GROUP B:

Community groups from the Tamaqua Area School District that are civic, charitable, or service in nature, and charging admissions.

GROUP C:

All others.

4. The applicable rental fees are as follows:

| | GROUP A | GROUP B | GROUP C |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Senior High Cafeteria | FREE | \$20.00 | \$40.00 |
| Senior High Gymnasium | FREE | 75.00 | 250.00 |
| Middle School Auditorium | FREE | 75.00 | 150.00 |
| Middle School Cafeteria | FREE | 20.00 | 40.00 |
| Middle School Gymnasium | FREE | 150.00 | 350.00 |
| Stadium (with lights) | FREE | 150.00 | 800.00 |
| Stadium (without lights) | FREE | 25.00 | 300.00 |
| Rush Elementary Cafetorium | FREE | 10.00 | |
| Tamaqua Elementary Cafetorium | FREE | 10.00 | 20.00 |
| West Penn Elementary Cafetorium | FREE | 10.00 | 20.00 |
| Classrooms | FREE | 5.00 | 8.00 |
| Natatorium: | FREE | 40.00/hour | 40.00/hour |

**The services of a lifeguard must be provided by the group using the natatorium.
The services of the stage crew must be utilized by groups using the auditorium.**

5. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all requests and to revise any portion of this policy.

DATE AND TIME REQUESTED _____

PURPOSE FOR USE _____

RENTAL FEE INSURANCE _____

I accept the conditions listed above and will assume all responsibilities.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF
ORGANIZATION _____

SIGNATURE DATE _____

•Tamaqua Area School District is to be named as the additional insured.
(4/17/01)

TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY USE INFORMATION

TENNIS COURTS

Open from March 1 to November 1. Must fill out form and pay one-time fee of \$5.00. Will be given key to open gate, yours to keep. Court usage is first come, first serve

TRACK

Open during school year from 7a.m. to 3p.m. May be used when not in use by students/staff.

GYM

Can be rented out if scheduled in advance. During the winter, availability is limited due to use by several youth athletic leagues.

POOL

Can be rented out for parties, must schedule in advance. Cost of lifeguard is not included in rental price. Open swim run by YMCA.

APPENDIX D

COST ESTIMATES

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The following cost estimates were developed from estimates from several local Contractors, recent construction bids, and from standard cost estimating handbooks. They are meant to give the reader an estimate only, and are in no way represented to be actual quotes. Actual costs may vary greatly due to the many factors, which influence labor and material costs.

DRAWINGS NO. 01, 02, 03, & 04 – PLAYGROUND

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| DEMOLITION: | \$20,000.00 |
| BASKETBALL COURT: | \$13,800.00 |
| PLAYGROUND APPARATUS & RUBBER BASE: | \$60,000.00 |
| REFRESHMENT STAND: | \$48,000.00 |
| LIGHTING (15 LIGHTING STANDARDS): | \$58,500.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL: | \$200,300.00 |
| CONTINGENCIES: | \$20,000.00 |
| TOTAL: | <u>\$220,300.00</u> |

DRAWING NO. 05 – HOUSE STYLE NO. 1

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| PAINT FACADE * (DO-IT-YOURSELF): ...APPROX. \$3.20/ SF | \$1180.00 |
| PAINT FACADE * (CONTRACTOR):.....APPROX. \$9.00/ SF | \$3320.00 |
| NEW VINYL SIDING ON FACADE ** (DO-IT-YOURSELF):..... | |
| APPROX. \$5.00/SF | \$1580.00 |
| NEW VINYL SIDING ON FACADE ** (CONTRACTOR):..... | |
| APPROX. \$14.15/ SF | <u>\$5240.00</u> |

* includes: scrape loose paint, primer, paint (2 coats), shutters, spindle railing, roof brackets, trim-board at roof brackets, turned porch posts

** includes: siding removal & disposal, vinyl siding w/ Tyvek draft stop, scrape loose paint at trim, primer, paint (2 coats), shutters, spindle railing, roof brackets, trim-board at roof brackets, turned porch posts

DRAWING NO. 06 – HOUSE STYLE NO. 2

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| PAINT FACADE * (DO-IT-YOURSELF): ...APPROX. \$2.35/ SF | \$900.00 |
| PAINT FACADE * (CONTRACTOR):.....APPROX. \$5.45/ SF | \$2100.00 |
| NEW VINYL SIDING ON FACADE ** (DO-IT-YOURSELF):..... | |
| APPROX. \$4.50/ SF | \$1740.00 |
| NEW VINYL SIDING ON FACADE ** (CONTRACTOR):..... | |
| APPROX. \$12.40/ SF | <u>\$4770.00</u> |

* includes: scrape loose paint, primer, paint (2 coats), shutters, spindle railing, roof brackets, trim-board at roof brackets, turned porch posts

** includes: siding removal & disposal, vinyl siding w/ Tyvek draft stop, scrape loose paint at trim, primer, paint (2 coats), shutters, spindle railing, turned porch posts

DRAWING NO. 07 – HOUSE STYLE NO. 3

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PAINT FACADE * (DO-IT-YOURSELF): ...APPROX. \$2.50/ SF..... | \$939.00 |
| PAINT FACADE * (CONTRACTOR):.....APPROX. \$7.15/ SF..... | \$2715.00 |
| NEW VINYL SIDING ON FACADE ** (DO-IT-YOURSELF):..... | |
| APPROX. \$3.70/ SF..... | \$1410.00 |
| NEW VINYL SIDING ON FACADE ** (CONTRACTOR):..... | |
| APPROX. \$10.40/ SF..... | \$3950.00 |

* includes: scrape loose paint, primer, paint (2 coats), shutters, spindle railing, roof brackets, trim-board at roof brackets, turned porch posts

** includes: siding removal & disposal, vinyl siding w/ Tyvek draft stop, scrape loose paint at trim, primer, paint (2 coats), shutters, spindle railing, roof brackets, trim-board at roof brackets, turned porch posts

DRAWING NO. 08 – STREETScape – SCHEME # 1

SPRUCE AND HUNTER STREET PARK & 24-CAR PARKING LOT

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| ASPHALT PAVING @ \$29.50/ SY X 875 SY = | \$25,800.00 |
| CONCRETE SIDEWALK @ \$65.00/ SY X 240 SY =..... | \$15,600.00 |
| CONCRETE CURB @ \$30.00/ LF X 400 LF =..... | \$12,000.00 |
| PAINTED LINES @ \$1.00/ LF X 560 LF =..... | \$560.00 |
| CONCRETE BUMPERS @ \$30.00 X 24 = | \$720.00 |
| VICTORIAN LIGHT STANDARDS @ \$3900.00 X 15 = | \$58,500.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 9 =..... | \$2700.00 |
| BENCHES @ \$300.00 X 8 = | \$2400.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 300 SY = | \$6900.00 |
| TREE REMOVAL @ \$400.00 EA X 3 =..... | \$1200.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 3 = | \$900.00 |
| PURCHASE 2 PROPERTIES @ 2X ACCESSED VALUE =..... | \$68,110.00 |
| DEMOLISH 2 PROPERTIES @ \$15,000.00 = | \$30,000.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 400 LF = | \$3200.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$230,490.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$23,050.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$253,540.00</u> |

DRAWING NO. 09 – STREETSCAPE – SCHEME # 2
LIGHTING AT METAL STEPS
SWATARA ST., Mahanoy St. to Cottage Ave. (shown)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 6 =..... | \$23,400.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 150 LF = | \$1200.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 200 SY = | \$4600.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 6 =..... | \$1800.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$32,900.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$3290.00 |
| TOTAL:..... | <u>\$36,190.00</u> |

SWATARA ST., Cottage Ave. to Broad St. (not shown)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 5 =..... | \$19,500.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 125 LF = | \$1000.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 167 SY = | \$3840.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 4 =..... | \$1200.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$32,900.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$3290.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$27,440.00</u> |

NESCOPEC ST., Mahanoy St. to Cottage Ave. (not shown)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 6 =..... | \$23,400.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 150 LF = | \$1200.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 200 SY = | \$4600.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 6 =..... | \$1800.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$32,900.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$3290.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$36,190.00</u> |

GRAND TOTAL.....\$99,820.00

DRAWING NO. 10 – STREETScape – SCHEME # 3
STADIUM HILL & TOP OF STADIUM HILL
PARKING LOTS & LIGHTING

24 CAR PARKING LOT (STADIUM HILL, NORTH OF SPRUCE ST.)

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 6 =..... | \$23,400.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 240 LF = | \$1920.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 67 SY = | \$1540.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 6 =..... | \$1800.00 |
| ASPHALT PAVING @ \$29.50/ SY X 756 SY = | \$22,300.00 |
| CONCRETE SIDEWALK @ \$65.00/ SY X 75 SY =..... | \$4880.00 |
| CONCRETE CURB @ \$30.00/ LF X 488 LF =..... | \$14,640.00 |
| PAINTED LINES @ \$1.00/ LF X 400 LF =..... | \$400.00 |
| CONCRETE BUMPERS @ \$30.00 X 24 = | \$720.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 2 = | \$600.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$74,100.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$7410.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$81,510.00</u> |

42 CAR PARKING LOT (STADIUM HILL, BETWEEN SPRUCE & RACE STS.)

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 6 =..... | \$23,400.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 310 LF = | \$2480.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 67 SY = | \$1540.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 6 =..... | \$1800.00 |
| ASPHALT PAVING @ \$29.50/ SY X 1280 SY = | \$37,760.00 |
| CONCRETE SIDEWALK @ \$65.00/ SY X 166 SY =..... | \$10,790.00 |
| CONCRETE CURB @ \$30.00/ LF X 570 LF =..... | \$17,100.00 |
| PAINTED LINES @ \$1.00/ LF X 800 LF =..... | \$800.00 |
| CONCRETE BUMPERS @ \$30.00 X 42 = | \$1260.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 2 = | \$600.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$99,430.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$9940.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$109,370.00</u> |

LIGHTING ALONG STADIUM HILL

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 27 =..... | \$105,300.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 860 LF = | \$6880.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| CUT / PATCH SIDEWALK..... | \$2000.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 4 = | \$1200.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$117,280.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$11,720.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$129,000.00</u> |

LIGHTING AND TREES ALONG STADIUM FENCE

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 20 =..... | \$78,000.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 600 LF = | \$4800.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 20 =..... | \$6000.00 |
| CUT / PATCH SIDEWALK..... | \$2000.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 4 = | \$1200.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$93,900.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$9390.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$103,290.00</u> |

LIGHTING AROUND EXISTING, PAVED, SCHOOL PARKING LOT

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 30 =..... | \$117,000.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 900 LF = | \$7200.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 30 =..... | \$9000.00 |
| LANDSCAPED AREAS @ \$23.00/ SY X 100 SY =..... | \$2300.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 4 = | \$1200.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$138,600.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$13,860.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$152,460.00</u> |

DRAWING NO. 09 - STREETScape – SCHEME #4**TYPICAL BLOCK, SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS****(BOTH SIDES, HUNTER ST., SPRUCE TO ORWIGSBURG ST.)****(600 LF BLOCK LENGTH, FIGURE 10' SIDEWALK WIDTH, EACH SIDE)****NOTE: ACTUAL SIDEWALK WIDTH VARIES**

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| VICTORIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES @ \$3900.00 EA X 20 =..... | \$78,000.00 |
| TRENCHING FOR ELECTRICAL @ \$8.00/ LF X 1200LF = | \$9600.00 |
| POLE W/ METER BASE & PANEL @ \$1900.00 EA X 1 =..... | \$1900.00 |
| LANDSCAPE TREES @ \$300.00 X 40 =..... | \$12,000.00 |
| CONCRETE SIDEWALK @ \$65.00/ SY X 1333 SY =..... | \$86,650.00 |
| BRICK PAVERS @ \$20.00/ SF X 12,000 SF = | \$240,000.00 |
| CONCRETE CURB @ \$30.00/ LF X 1200 LF =..... | \$36,000.00 |
| TRASH RECEPTACLES @ \$300.00 EA X 2 = | \$600.00 |
| SUB-TOTAL..... | \$464,750.00 |
| 10% CONTINGENCIES = | \$46,480.00 |
| TOTAL..... | <u>\$511,230.00</u> |

= \$852.00 PER LINEAR FOOT X 10 FEET IN WIDTH**TOTAL WITH CONCRETE SIDEWALKS IN LIEU OF
BRICK.....\$247,250.00****= \$412.00 PER LINEAR FOOT X 10 FEET IN WIDTH**

Recommended Improvements for the Borough of Tamaqua's Record Keeping & Information Management System:

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 8 | Computers @ \$1000.00 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| 1 | Server & software @ \$4,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| 7 | ArcView 9 single user for windows @ \$1167.00 | \$ 8,169.00 |
| 7 | "Getting to know ArcView" manuals @ \$60.00 | \$ 420.00 |
| 1 | Introduction to ArcGIS 1, 2-day instructor-led training (up to 12 participants) | \$ 7,000.00 |
| 1 | Introduction to ArcGIS II, 3-day instructor-led training (up to 12 participants) \$10,500.00 | |
| 1 | Promark 3, by Thales Navigation – GIS 2 receiver system w/ Mobile Mapper and GNSS Solutions software with 8 hr. onsite training | <u>\$ 6,746.00</u> |

Total Estimated Cost
\$44,835.00

Alternate: Hire GIS Professional for 3-6 months to get initial setup & teach employees in lieu of two training sessions listed above @ est. \$20,000.00

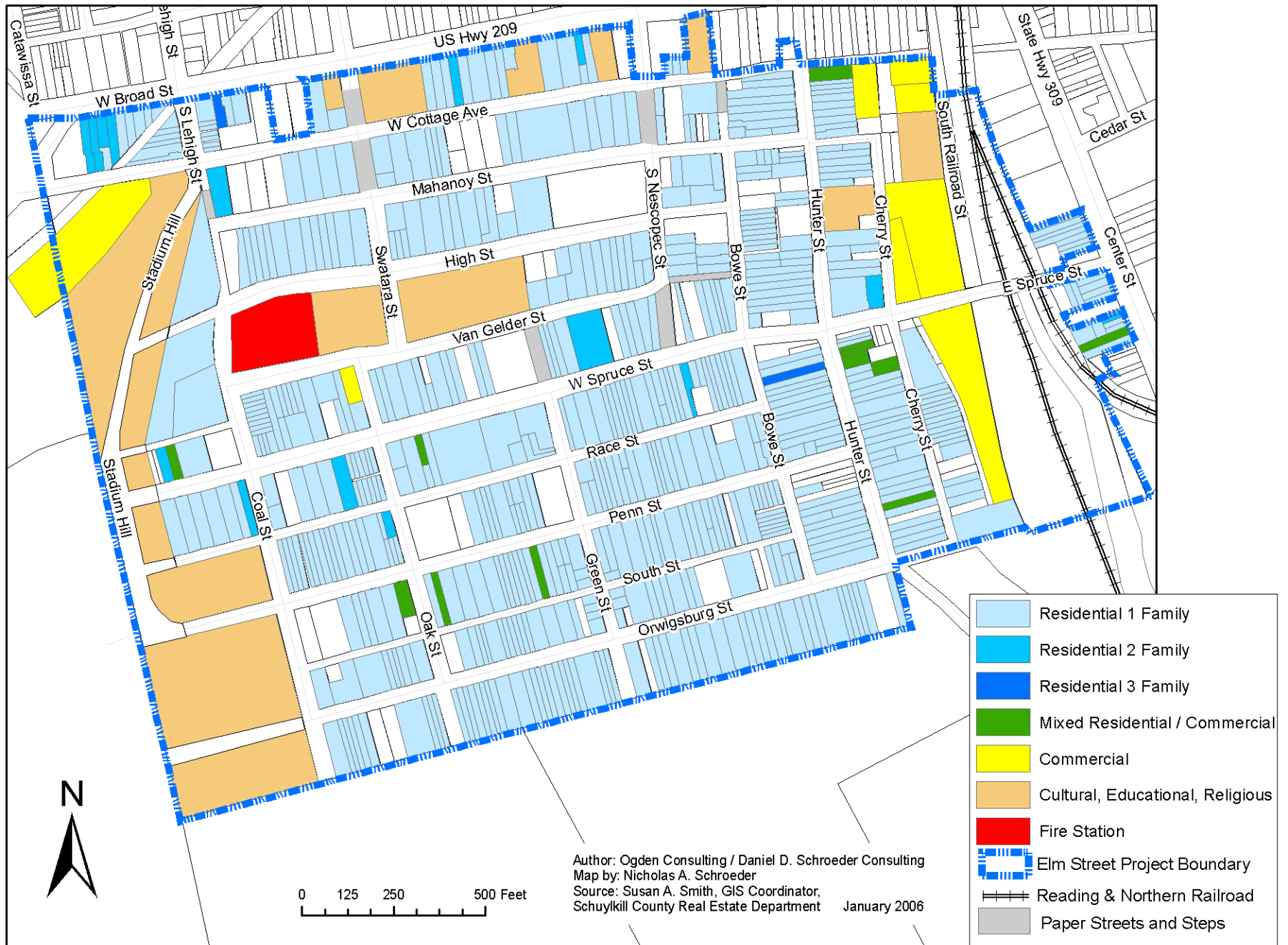
Total Estimated Cost with Alternate \$47,335.00

APPENDIX E

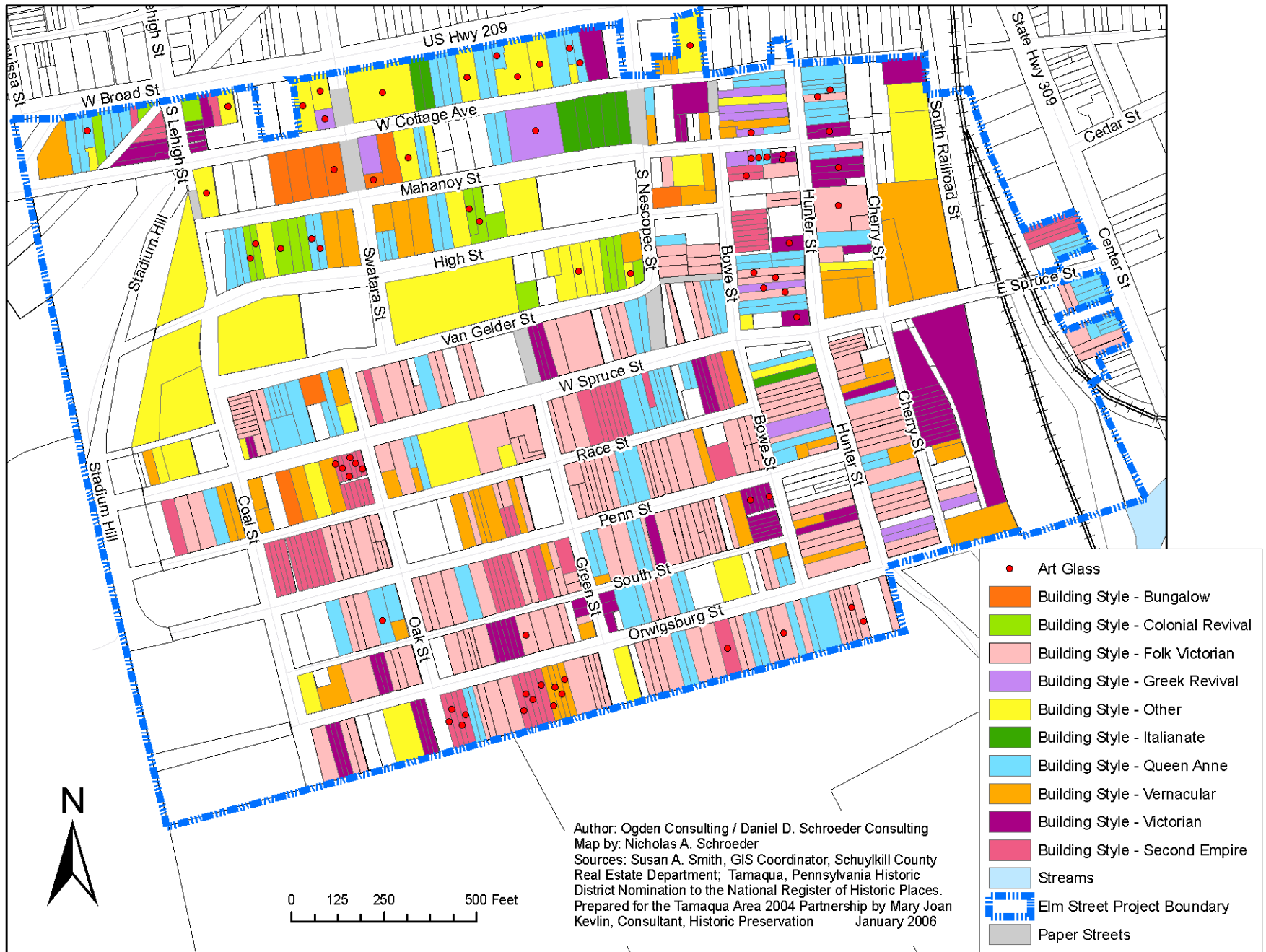
GIS DATA MAPS

INSERT TOPOGRAPHY MAP

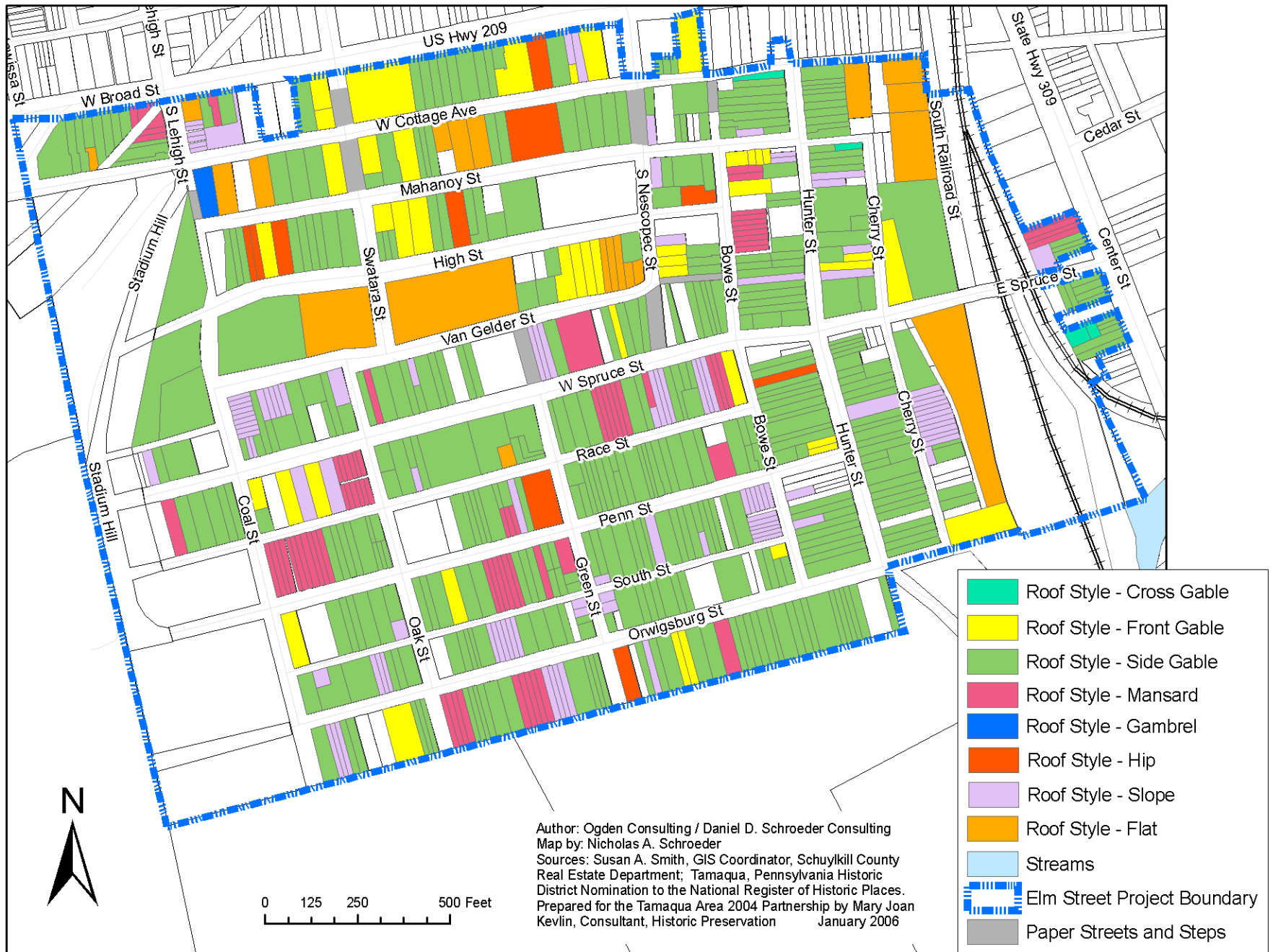
MAP 2 South Ward Building Types



MAP 3 South Ward Building Styles



MAP 4 South Ward Roof Styles

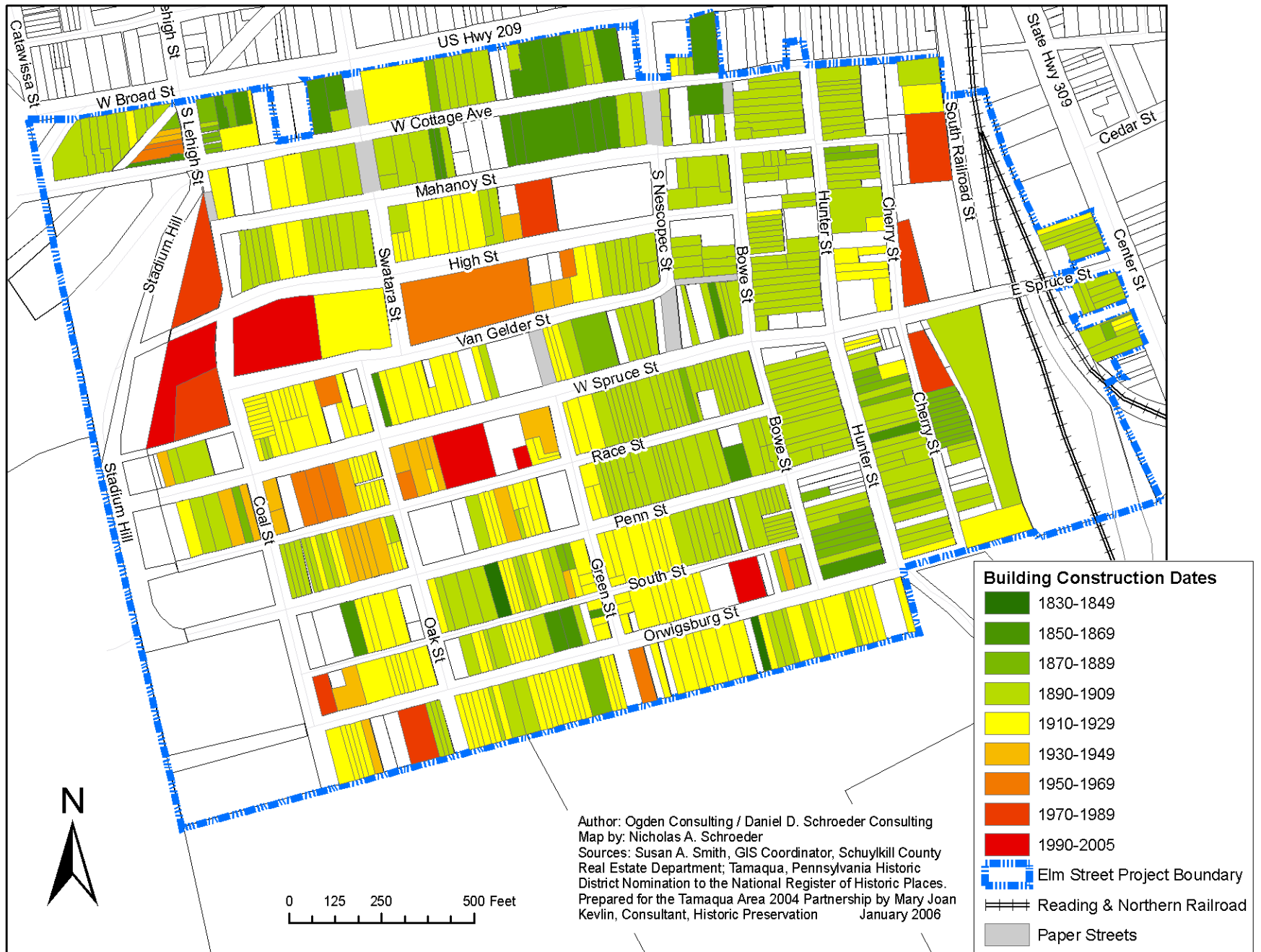


MAP 5 South Ward Building Heights



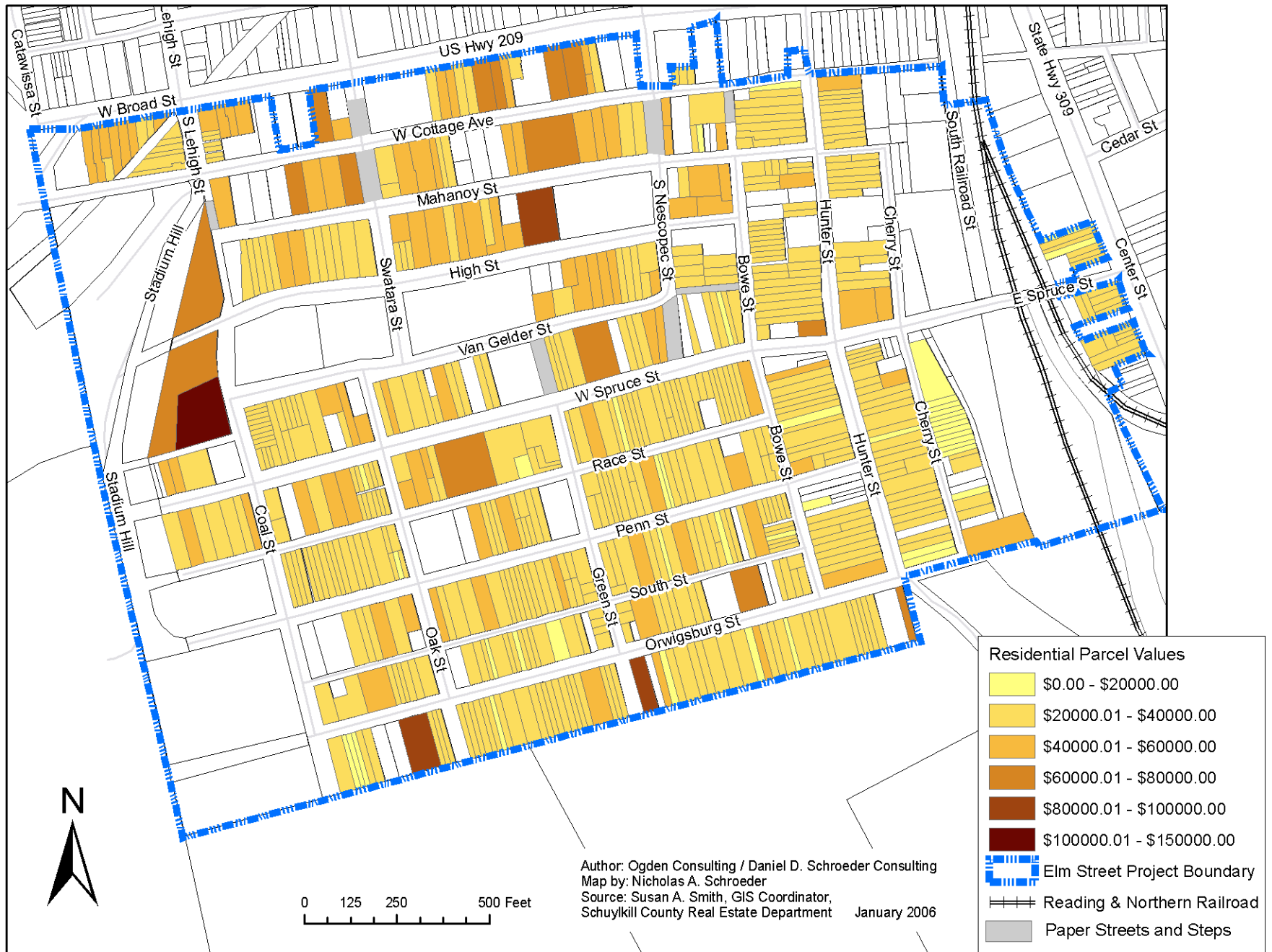
MAP 6

South Ward Building Construction Dates



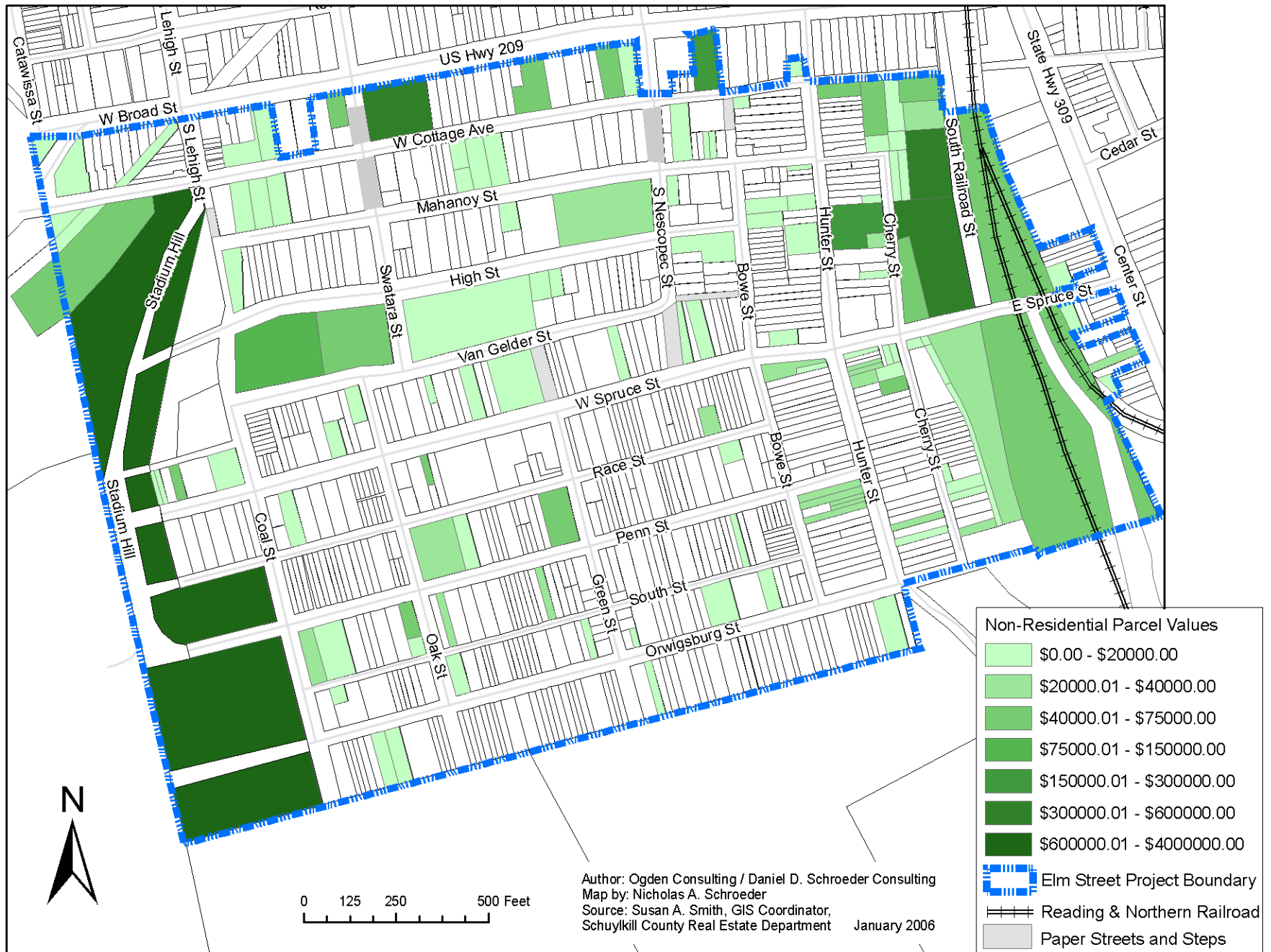
MAP 7

South Ward Residential Parcel Values (based on 2x assessed values)



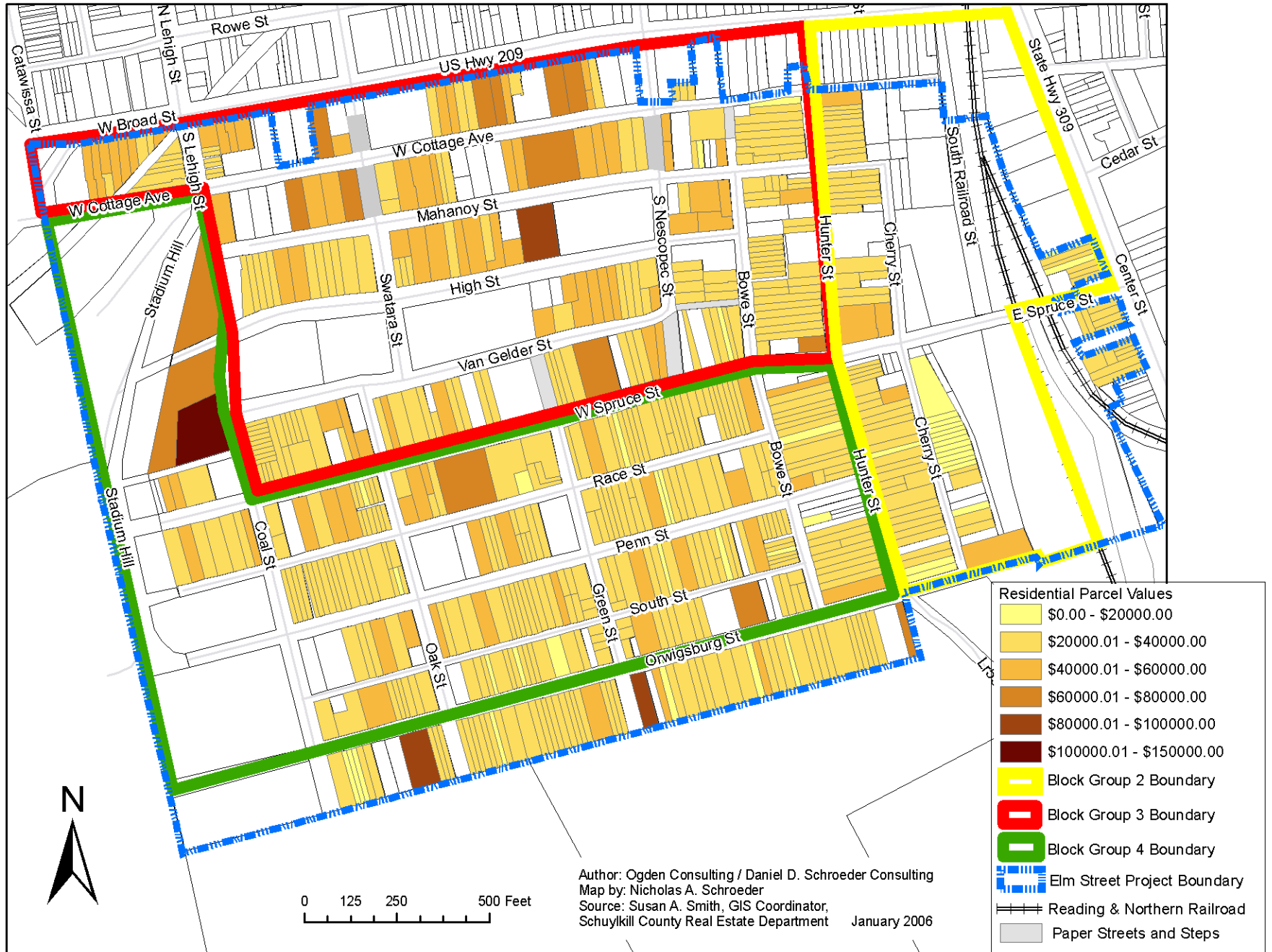
MAP 8

South Ward Non-Residential Parcel Values (based on 2x assessed values)



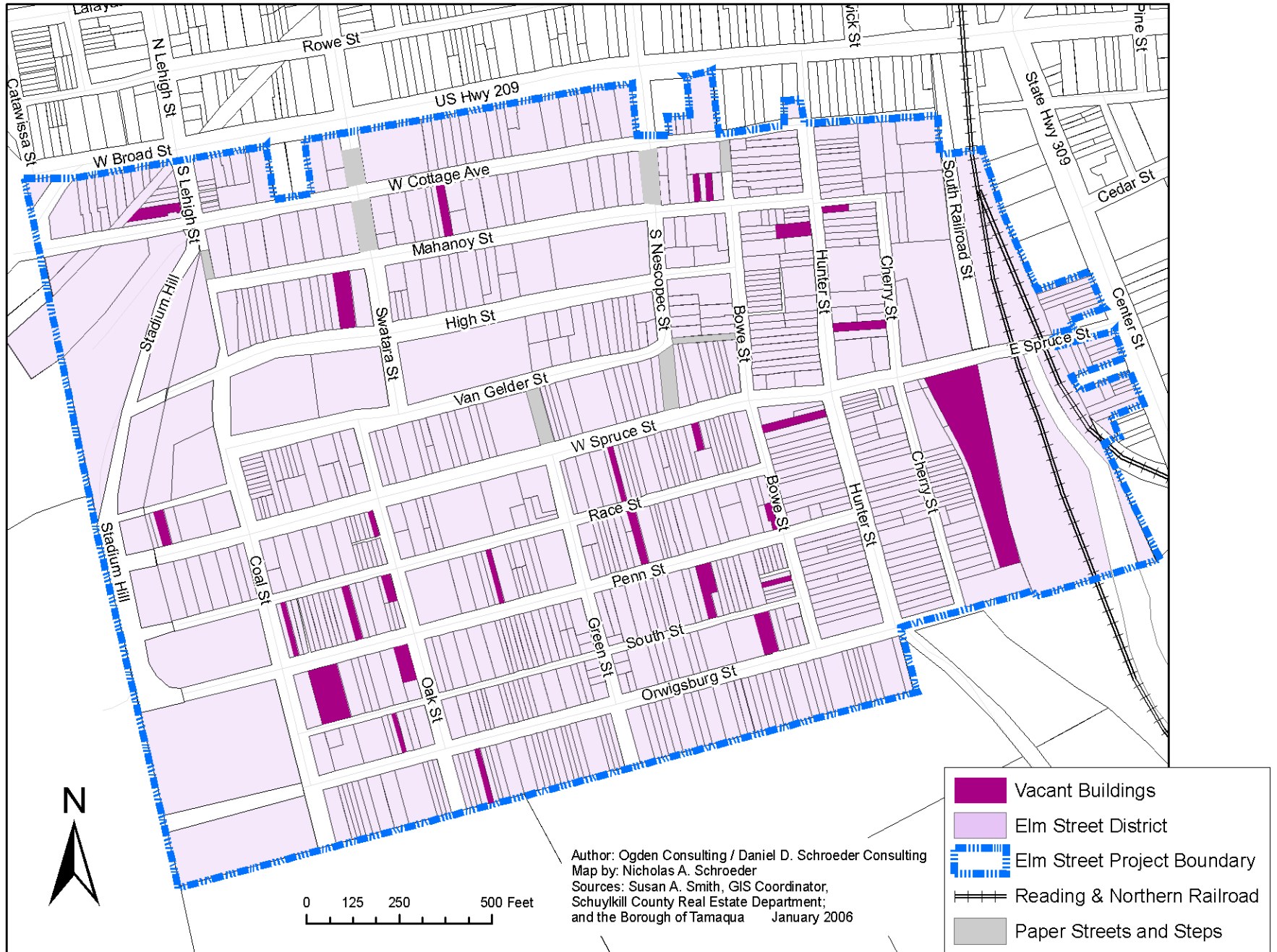
MAP 10

Block Groups with Residential Parcel Values



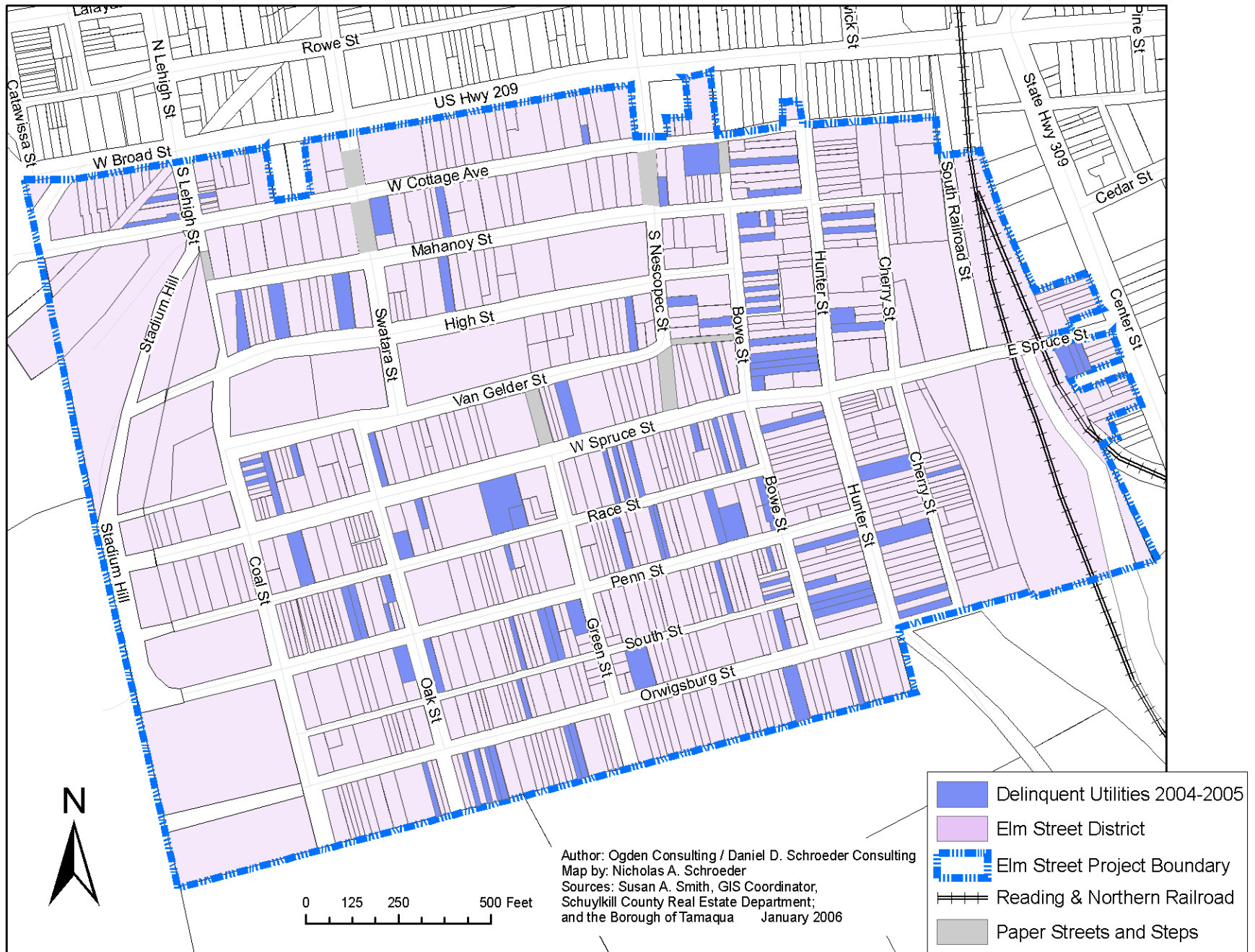
MAP 11

South Ward Vacant Buildings



MAP 12

South Ward Delinquent Utilities 2004-2005



Quadrant A

Quadrant B

Quadrant C

Quadrant D

BACK PAGE