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# Shared Service Success Stories



### Success Story Number One: VALLEY REGIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The reality of limited community budgets finally proved to be too much for Butler Township and Conyngham Borough. Finding the available funds to help their respective volunteer fire companies survive was becoming nearly impossible.

To solve their problems, Butler Township and Conyngham Borough turned towards each other. The two municipalities formed the Valley Regional Volunteer Fire Company. The partnership, of the two departments, is a perfect example of the benefits of inter-municipal cooperation.



By joining forces, the Valley Regional Volunteer Fire Company has an increased coverage area—which in turn increases the company's chance of future grants. According to Maryanne Petrilla, Butler Township Manager, the Valley Regional Volunteer Fire Company is already working towards the purchase of a new ladder truck, which before the merger, would have been impossible.

### Success Story Number Two: MOUNTAINTOP AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Recently, Fairview and Wright Townships formed the MOUNTAINTOP AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (MACOG) and are working together to open a compost site which is now under construction for the two municipalities. With the help of Representatives John Yudichak and George Hasay and Senator Charles Lemmond, funds were secured to help get this project started. Phase I will be completed by October 31st.

The compost facility will be comprised of 5 acres of an 11-acre parcel in the Crestwood Industrial Park. The property is owned by the MACOG and it was donated by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry. The facility will accept leaves, grass, branches and Christmas trees from Wright and Fairview residents.

Recently Dorrance Township has joined the MACOG hoping to work together on salt and fuel prices.

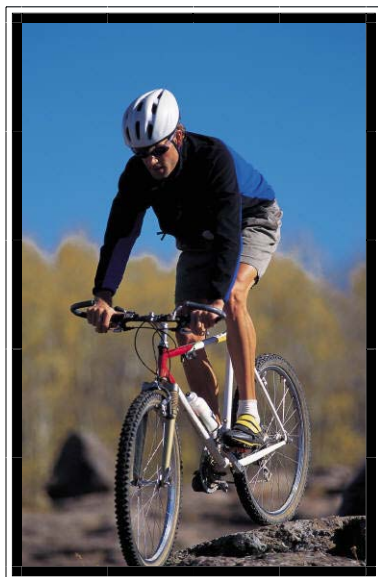
### Success Story Number Three: SOUTH VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

The South Valley Partnership, a non-profit community organization dedicated to regional solutions, is developing a regional land use and economic development plan for Nanticoke City, Newport Township and Plymouth Township. The three municipalities have recently signed a cooperation agreement with the South Valley Partnership and endorsed the group's effort to chart a new path of revitalization for the region. The members of the South Valley Partnership include: Randy Rushton, President; Bill O'Malley, Vice-President; Jeff Barton, Treasure; Joe Lach, Esq., Secretary, Pete Wanchisen and John Dinelli.



Funding for the plan has been secured through the Governor's Center for Local Government, the Nanticoke Area Development Corporation, the office of State Representative John T. Yudichak and PNC Bank. The South Valley Partnership has contracted with Facility Design & Development to create a regional master plan which is expected to be unveiled in the fall of 2005.

**Success Story Number Four: GREATER HANOVER AREA RECREATION PARK**



On September 20, 2003, at a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners, an ordinance was passed, creating the Greater Hanover Area Recreation Park Commission.

The Commission consists of Hanover Township, the Borough of Sugar Notch, and the Borough of Warrior Run. The Commission was created to own, govern, direct, administer, supervise, maintain, operate and conduct recreational programming of the Greater Hanover Recreation Park.

The 63-acre park is located adjacent to Route 29 in Hanover Township. The park was developed by Earth Conservancy, before being conveyed to the Commission. The development of the park was outlined in three phases.

Phase One was a ten-acre area consisting of two multi-purpose athletic fields, one basketball court, walking trail, playground area and parking area.

Phase Two was approximately 12-acres, which consisted of one baseball field, and extension of the existing walking trail and the parking area.

Phase three was another 12-acre area consisting of two little league/softball fields, one multi-purpose athletic field, extension of walking trail and community facility.

**Success Story Number Five: WEST SIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Luzerne County Boroughs of Edwardsville, Larksville and Plymouth have created a Regional Police Commission for the purpose of establishing the West Side Regional Police Department. The elected leaders of these communities recognize the importance of a well-trained, professional police department.

Considering police services are the single largest component of their current municipal budgets, these communities have determined the successful creation of a regional police department will offer the most financially responsible approach to provide future police service to citizens.



The West Side Regional Police Department will serve nearly 17,000 residents and represent the first regional police department in Luzerne County. Representative John Yudichak estimates the total cost of running the department at \$666,000—a savings of about \$73,000 per community each year.

The new West Side Police Department, which would include 12 full-time officers, would look to strengthen the police presence during busy times.

Luzerne County's  
Municipal Cooperation  
Community Toolkit  
2005



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