

Macungie Borough is Our 2018 Community of Distinction

Macungie Borough's municipal neighbors have added thousands new homes and millions of square feet of warehouse space in the past decade.

That left borough leaders with a dilemma: Continue on their own track and hope the impact of thousands more trucks and cars didn't overwhelm the borough, or get proactive in protecting the borough's quality of life and historic character.

The borough chose the proactive approach by taking steps to insulate its historic downtown and make Route 100 – its literal Main Street – safer, while partnering with five neighboring communities in southwest Lehigh County to construct a roadmap for the future.

For those reasons, Macungie Borough was named the LVPC's 2018 Community of Distinction, Wednesday during the 5th Annual Lehigh Valley Gala + Awards at DeSales University.

"Macungie Borough did not give up in the face of substantial growth around them," said County Executive Phillips Armstrong from the stage during the event. "Instead they stepped up, making a series of strategic policy and investment decisions. This is a very definition of leadership and integrity. Congratulations Macungie Borough on being named the 2018 Community of Distinction and thank you for your inspiration and example you have set for the region."

The award was among 190 given during a ceremony that recognized 28 projects in 11 categories for excellence in planning, innovation and cooperation.

"That's an incredible number of worthy projects with an amazing number of partners, all pulling together to make those communities better places to live," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "We hold this event each year because it shows just how many people who are dedicated to good planning it takes to make the Lehigh Valley what it is today."

The 5th Annual Lehigh Valley Awards + Gala was a networking, community-honoring, plan-celebrating success attended by nearly 280 government, business leaders and community leaders from across the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Congratulations to all of the entrants on another landmark year of regional planning and governance.

Here's a rundown of the winners and honorees in each category:

- **Community of Distinction -- Macungie Borough.** Other honorees were Bath Borough, Plainfield Township and Weisenberg Township.
- **Multi-municipal Cooperation – Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority** with partners Northern Lehigh School District, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Slatington Borough, Walnutport Borough and Washington Township Lehigh County.
Honorees are Slate Belt Regional Branding, 4th of July Fireworks Show and Northampton County and Easton Home Investment Partnership.
- **Plan, Planning Policy or Ordinance – Bethlehem Blight Betterment Initiative** by partners Bethlehem Housing Authority, City of Bethlehem, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Fifth Street Capital Partners, Greater Lehigh Valley Realtors, HDC MidAtlantic, Lehigh University, Mount Airy Neighborhood Association and The Reinvestment fund.
Honorees are Enterprise Overlay Zone, Student Residence District Expansion, Easton Vulnerability Study and Tomorrow’s Palmer-2018 Comp Plan.
- **Land Development – Strata Flats** (West, East and Symphony) with partners City Center Allentown, Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority, City of Allentown, Harkins Builders Inc., MacIntosh Engineering, North Star Construction Management Inc., Pennrose Properties LLC, T&M Associates and WRT LLC.
Honorees are Health Center at Easton with LVHN, Nitschmann Middle School and Moravian College Health Science Building.
- **Revitalization –Bath Borough Municipal Building** by partners Bath Borough, Ashwood Construction, Bath Supply Company Inc., BDA Architects, Dun-Rite Electrical Services Inc, JH&Sons Paving Inc., KCBA architects, Keystone Consulting Engineers Inc., Krause Concrete, Meyers Concrete Contractors, Northampton County, Pasquariello Property Management Services LLC and Snyder Hoffman Associates Inc.
Honorees are SouthSide Arts District and the Fowler Community Wellness Center.
- **Outdoor Recreation Project – ArtsWalk Extension Phases II and III,** by partners City Center Allentown, City of Allentown, David Rubin Land Collective, Focus Lighting Inc. and Rettew.
Honorees are the Charles Chrin Community Center Improvements and the Jordan UCC Peace Garden.
- **Outdoor Recreation Program – Tail on the Trail Program** by partners Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Bucks County, Carbon County, Lehigh County, Northampton County, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, St. Luke’s University Health Network and Weidenhammer Creative.
- **Open Space – Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Fund** by partners The Conservation Fund, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Friends of Cherry Valley, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Walmart’s Acres for America Program), National Park Services, Northampton County Open Space Program, Open Space Institute, Pen Argyl Pennsylvania American Water, Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Plainfield Township, The Nature Conservancy, Upper Mount Bethel Township, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Wind Gap Borough and the William Penn Foundation.

Honorees are Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Program and the Tekening Trail Acquisition.

- **Environmental Project – New Bethany Ministries Energy Makeover** by partners Sustainable Energy Fund, Bergey’s Electric Inc., City of Bethlehem, M.C.H. Equipment Inc., New Bethany Ministries and Richards Energy Group Inc.
The honoree is the Color of Nature Program.
- **Transportation Planning – Bicycling Education for Youth** by partners Coalition for Appropriate Transportation, Action Wheels Bike Shop, Bethlehem Area School District Calypso Elementary, Boys & Girls Club of Easton, City of Bethlehem, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley East Ward Neighborhood Partnership, Cutters Bike Shop, Easton Area School District Cheston Elementary, Easton fire Department, Easton Police Department, East Penn School District Willow Lane Elementary, Forks Township, Genesis Bicycles, Greater Valley YMCA, Lower Macungie Township, Palmer Township, Palmer Township Police Department, PennDOT District 5-0 and Trek Bicycle.
- **Transportation Infrastructure – Pennsylvania Turnpike Northeast Extension Accelerated Bridge Replacement Project** with partners Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, HDR, Larson Design Group, Lehigh County, PennDOT District 5-0, Road-Con Inc., South Whitehall Township and STV Group.
The honoree is the Philip J. Fahy Memorial Bridge.