Upcoming Events:

- **January 8**: Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council
- **January 24**: Berks Municipal Partnership Meeting
- **February 1**: Municipal Roundtable
- **February 12**: "Local Government in Berks" on BCTV
- **February 21**: "Creative Parking" Workshop
- **February 23**: PA-Land Use Institute
- **February 28**: Subdivision and Land Development Course (first class)
- **March 7 & 14**: Subdivision and Land Development Class – Feb. 28, 2013
- **March 10**: 11:00 a.m. (snow date: March 2, 2013): Pennsylvania Land Institute - Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
- **March 21**: Berks Municipal Officials Dinner
- **April 5**: Municipal Roundtable
- **April 9**: "Local Government in Berks" on BCTV
- **April 9**: Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council
- **April 13**: Flexible Zoning Workshop
- **April 25**: Berks Municipal Partnership Meeting
- **April 26**: Berks Municipal Partnership Commissioners Breakfast
- **May 3**: Municipal Roundtable
- **May 9, 16, 23**: Community Planning Course

Developing Skills for Effective Leadership

"Zoning Basics" Course: Thirteen local officials became more familiar with the relationship of zoning to comprehensive plans and the need for consistency, the terms used in zoning, key issues in drafting the zoning ordinance and map, procedures for adopting and amending ordinances, zoning ordinance administration, and joint municipal zoning, planned residential development and traditional neighborhood development options in ordinances.

The Municipal Law Forum: Due to Hurricane Sandy, the law forum, originally scheduled for Oct. 30, 2012, was rescheduled for Nov. 29. One-hundred twenty-three originally registered; 95 attended the rescheduled event presented by Kooloff Stout. Topics included financing infrastructure improvements, social media, recent court decisions, do’s and don’ts of minute books, and Act 90.

**Berks Municipal Official Dinner – March 21, 2013**: One-hundred fifty-four officials attended the dinner in 2012, and Center Director Emeritus John Kramer received the first annual Richard C. Trolste Award for intergovernmental cooperation. Watch for nomination forms for the second Trolste Award, which will be given in March.

**Pennsylvania Land Institute – Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, 8:30 a.m. (snow date: March 2, 2013)**: Participants will learn about recent court decisions on planning, zoning, and other land-use issues and new issues related to flood plain management.


**Community Planning Course – May 9, 16, 23, 2013**: The course includes in-depth instruction on the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and the technical components of land-use planning and regulation to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities and understanding the land-use planning process.

Fostering Intergovernmental Cooperation

**Berks Municipal Partnership**: The partnership helped to facilitate two breakfast meetings for 108 local officials with the Berks County Commissioners to discuss issues of local and county concern. The partnership also convened a committee of representatives from each region of the partnership to meet with Berks County officials to ask questions and receive written responses to issues affecting the implementation of the Berks County Emergency Radio System. The group met twice and distributed questions and answers to issues related to the project’s implementation.

**Berks County Sewer and Water Regionalization Study**: The updating of the study was initially encouraged by the Berks Municipal Partnership and conducted under the direction of the Berks County Planning Commission. At the behest of the County Commissioners and as a result of the 2010 update to the Berks County Water and Sewer Study, the authorities and providers in the county are looking to create an association and the center is working with the steering committee to host and staff the association. The various members would also participate in training, and the center would provide the venue for cooperation and independent analysis and study.

**Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council**: Council members entered into new contracts to jointly purchase gasoline, composting services, line stripping, heating oil, diesel fuel, rock salt, furniture, bond paper, road signage and fire extinguishers.

**Municipal Workshop on the Market Value Analysis (MVA)**: Forty-five municipal officials attended the session to discuss MVA, its data, how it can be used to make redevelopment decisions and how to program existing services to react to issues in neighborhoods related to market values.

**Governor Mifflin Area Coordinating Council**: The council’s five municipalities and school district jointly undertook a peer-to-peer study to identify regional recreation opportunities, which are currently proceeding through the municipal approvals for a unified web site listing all recreation assets in the Governor Mifflin School District.

Enhancing Citizen Involvement

“Local Government in Berks” Program on BCTV: Center Director Paul Janssen produced and hosted programs on the MVA and the “Detroit Experience” and a retrospective with Center Director Emeritus John Kramer on his career and successes through his work with the center.

**Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy**: Center Director Emeritus John Kramer assisted officials from the five communities and school district in the Governor Mifflin area in developing an educational program for local residents on the organization and operation of local units of government. The information is now available on the municipal and school district web sites in the area.

**Leadership Berks Presentation on Changing Demographics**: Center Director Emeritus John Kramer and Center Director Paul Janssen discussed the changing demographics and socioeconomic trends with the 23 members of the Leadership Berks Class of 2012.

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