



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Forty-two Municipalities Designated as 2015 Banner Communities

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) officials, along with Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, today announced that 42 municipalities have been selected as 2015 Banner Communities, indicating that those municipalities implement best practices in all aspects of their operations and that govern in an inclusive, collaborative manner. Of these municipalities, 17 have received this recognition in each of the three years it has been presented. Another 13 municipalities are receiving re-designation for the second year and 12 will receive the honor for the first time.

“Local government is the level of government that is closest to its residents and its officials are more likely to know about local issues and where help is needed. The municipalities recognized in the Banner Community Program are the best of the best,” said County Executive Fitzgerald. “These 42 communities have set a standard for how government should function and have proven themselves as models through their commitment to effective and efficient government principals. Their officials are accountable to the residents, engaged in their communities and believe in challenging themselves to continue to learn and grow for the benefit of their municipality.”

The new Banner Communities for 2015 are Avalon Borough, Brentwood Borough, East Deer Township, Edgewood Borough, Green Tree Borough, Harrison Township, Kilbuck Township, Shaler Township, Verona Borough, West Deer Township, West View Borough and Wilksburg Borough.

Being recognized for a second year as a Banner Community are Baldwin Borough, Bethel Park, Castle Shannon Borough, East McKeesport Borough, Heidelberg Borough, Millvale Borough, Mt. Lebanon, O’Hara Township, Pine Township, Port Vue Borough, Scott Township, Sharpsburg Borough, and South Park Township.

Those municipalities who have been designated as Banner Communities since the program’s inception in 2015 are Collier Township, Etna Borough, Hampton Township, Indiana Township, Leetsdale Borough, McCandless Township, North Fayette Township, Ohio Township, Reserve Township, Richland Township, Ross Township, Sewickley Borough, Tarentum Borough, Upper St. Clair Township, Whitehall Borough, and Wilkins Township in Allegheny County and Cranberry Township in Butler County.

In order to be eligible for consideration for the Banner Communities Program, the municipality’s elected and appointed officials must:

- Participate in educational or training programs through ALOM, the Local Government Academy or the PA Department of Community & Economic Development or participate in a governing mentoring program
- Be active members in good standing with ALOM and the county municipal associations, and have a representative attending at least a minimum of 50% of county association meetings
- Be active members in good standing in a COG and attend COG meetings, participate in a COG

- cooperative purchasing program and participate in at least one shared municipal service
- Conduct a Local Government Week activity by conducting a local activity promoting local government or communicating with the community about delivery of services
- Conduct an effective Citizen Communication Program by offering a municipal newsletter or web-based communication effort, and participate in a class discussion on local government or conducting a shadowing program for junior or senior high school students
- Promote and implement long term sustainable governing practices by earning certification through Sustainable Pittsburgh, managing employee pensions at funding levels of 90% or above, participating in the annual ALOM Wage and Salary Survey Program, and implementing goals of an up to date Municipal Comprehensive Plan

“In these challenging times for local government, officials must work together to continue to deliver services in cost effective and efficient ways. These communities are the most accountable, effective and efficient in their efforts and have displayed a commitment to the quality of life for their residents and visitors,” said Richard Hadley, Executive Director of ALOM. “Whether educating themselves, working with others on creative solutions for their communities, or looking for ways to innovate and communicate with their residents, these municipalities are the best of the best and we are proud to recognize them as 2015 Banner Communities.”

The Allegheny League of Municipalities is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, umbrella organization of municipalities in Western Pennsylvania. Founded in February 1963, the organization began in response to a request made in the 1960s by the Allegheny County Commissioners which resulted in the Allegheny Seminar. While recognizing the tradition of statutory municipal independence and self-government, the League was established to coordinate the needs of the area’s local government officials.

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