

# Governor Mifflin School District

10 South Waverly Street, Shillington, PA 19607

September 26, 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, please contact:

Keri Morton, Office of Public Information, 610-775-1312

## **GOVERNOR MIFFLIN HOSTS CITIZENS ACADEMY**

SHILLINGTON, PA, SEPTEMBER 2011 - The Governor Mifflin School District, in conjunction with the district's five boroughs and townships as well as the Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government, will hold a GM Citizens Academy to help community members learn about the organization and operation of our local governments.

The Academy will consist of four sessions running from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and will be held in the Governor Mifflin Middle School large group instruction room, 130 East Lancaster Avenue in Shillington on the following dates:

**Session I: Wednesday, November 9, 2011** - Overview of Organization, Structure, Authority and Responsibilities of Local and Municipal Government

**Session II: Wednesday, November 16, 2011** - Public Safety and Public Works

**Session III: Wednesday, November 30, 2011** - Community Services and School District Involvement

**Session IV: Wednesday, December 7, 2011** - Finance and Dialogue With Elected Officials

The Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy is designed to help local residents gain a better understanding of township, borough, and school district governments and how the services provided by these public bodies impact the overall community. In addition, the Academy will discuss the growing complexity of local issues, changing federal and state laws and regulations that affect the delivery of local services, and the growing interest of local governments in working together to reduce operating costs and address issues that require collaborative efforts.

The speakers for the sessions will include local elected officials, department directors, municipal managers and school administrators, and other local and academic officials.

The fee for all four sessions of the Academy is \$40.00 per person, payable to Albright College, which covers all program materials. The Academy is supported through a grant from the Russell L. Hiller Charitable Trust Fund of Berks County Community Foundation.

Class size is limited, and pre-registration for the Academy is required. Interested parties may register online at: [www.albright.edu/localgov](http://www.albright.edu/localgov).

The media is welcome to report on the Governor Mifflin Citizens Academy taking place at the GM Middle School. For more information, please contact Keri Morton at 610-775-1312 or [kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us).

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# Governor Mifflin Area CITIZENS ACADEMY

*Presented by:*

Brecknock Township  
Cumru Township  
Governor Mifflin School District  
Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government

Kenhorst Borough  
Mohnton Borough  
Shillington Borough

## Learn ● Understand ● Participate

Different units of local governments (townships, boroughs, school district) provide many of the services most essential for our daily life, such as public education, public safety, water and sewer facilities, roads and bridges, parks and playgrounds, public libraries, and other public services. Yet, many residents are not familiar with the organization and operation of our local governments.

The Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy is designed to help local residents gain a better understanding of township, borough, and school district governments and how the services provided by these public bodies impact the overall community. The program will address:

- Which public services are provided by our local governments? Which of these services are mandated by the state or federal governments?
- How much do the services cost, i.e., what are the current budgets? What are the primary sources of revenue?
- How are our local units of government organized and what are their functions?
- What are the responsibilities of the elected officials?
- What authority do local officials have in determining which services to provide, and what are their primary sources of authority?
- What opportunities do local residents have to become more involved in the local decision-making process?

Academy participants will enhance their general knowledge of local government operations and be better prepared to become more involved in local affairs. In addition, the Academy will discuss the growing complexity of local issues, changing federal and state laws and regulations that affect the delivery of local services, and the growing interest of local governments in working together to reduce operating costs and address issues that require collaborative efforts.

## Academy participants will gain a better understanding of:

- Population growth trends in the region.
- The organization, structure, authority, and responsibilities of local governments.
- The public services provided by boroughs, townships, and school district.
- The major sources of revenue and operating budgets.
- The relationship of local governments to municipal, state and federal governments.
- Opportunities to participate in local affairs.

While the focus of the Academy will be on local governments within the Governor Mifflin area, the program will include general information on other units of local government in Berks County.

The Academy will consist of four sessions from **6:30 – 9:30 PM** and will be held in the **Governor Mifflin Middle School Large Group Instruction Room**, 130 East Lancaster Avenue in Shillington on the following dates:

**Session I:** Wednesday, November 9, 2011

**Session II:** Wednesday, November 16, 2011

**Session III:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011

**Session IV:** Wednesday, December 7, 2011

**Instructors:** The speakers for the sessions will include local elected officials, department directors, municipal managers and school administrators, and other local and academic officials.

**Fee:** The fee for all four sessions of the Academy is \$40.00 per person, which covers all program materials. Please make your check payable to “**Albright College**”.

The Academy is supported through a grant from the Russell L. Hiller Charitable Trust Fund of Berks County Community Foundation.

**Registration:** Pre-registration for the Academy is required, since class size is limited. Please return the registration form to **Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College, PO Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612**. To register online, please visit our website [www.albright.edu/localgov](http://www.albright.edu/localgov).

**Confirmation:** Program registrants will receive confirmation of their registration by e-mail, fax, or mail. If confirmation is not received within one week prior to the date of the event, please contact Andrea Weist at (610) 929-6503 or [aweist@alb.edu](mailto:aweist@alb.edu) to ensure that your registration has been received.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations must be received at least three working days prior to the date of the program to be eligible for a refund.

If emergency cancellation of any program becomes necessary, an advisory will be broadcast on AM Radio Station WEEU 830 AM, and will be recorded on John Kramer's voice mail, which may be accessed at 610/921-7246.

**For More Information:** Contact Andrea Weist at (610) 929-6503 or [aweist@alb.edu](mailto:aweist@alb.edu).

<b>Registration Form</b>	
Name:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
Phone:	Fax:
E-mail Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy (\$40 per person) <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me directions to the meeting facility	

<b>Payment Method</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check made payable to Albright College <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (Please complete the following)	
Name on Card :	Phone #:
Billing Address:	
Card Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	Amount:
Card #:	Expiration Date:
Signature:	

*The Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy is made possible through a grant from the Russell L. Hiller Charitable Trust Fund of Berks County Community Foundation.*

*Registrants are admitted to workshops without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, political affiliation, national origin or disability.*

# Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy

All sessions will be held at the –  
Governor Mifflin Middle School Large Group Instruction Room  
130 East Lancaster Avenue, Shillington

Week 1: Wednesday, November 9, 2011  
6:30 – 9:30 PM

**I. Welcome and Overview (6:30 – 6:45 PM):**

*Jeff Fiant, Chairman, Governor Mifflin Area Coordinating Council,*

Overview of the Academy

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

**II. Overview of Municipal Government (6:45 – 7:00 PM)**

*John Kramer, Center for Excellence in Local Government*

- General Purpose vs. Special Purpose Units of Government
- Number and type of local governments in Berks County and PA
- Historical development of local government in Berks County
- “Creatures of the State”
- Recent mergers

**III. Overview of the Region (7:00 – 7:20 PM)**

*John Kramer, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

- Demographic and socioeconomic trends in the region

**IV. General Overview: Organization, Structure, Authority, and Responsibilities of Local Government (7:20 – 7:35 PM)**

*John Kramer, Center for Excellence in Local Government*

- Generic organization
- Sources of authority (state constitution and statutes, court decisions)
- General powers and duties (finance, employees, property, regulation)

BREAK (7:35 – 7:50 PM)

**V. Organization, Structure, Authority, Responsibilities–Governor Mifflin Region (7:50–8:40)**

Township of the First Class: *Jeanne Johnston, Township of Cumru*

Township of the Second Class: *Jeff Fiant, Township of Brecknock*

Borough: *Jeri Diesinger, Borough of Kenhorst*

School District: *Daniel Bulinski, Superintendent, and Eric Wolf, Assistant Superintendent, Governor Mifflin School District*

- Governing Body and committees
- Key administrative personnel
- Departments and personnel

Solicitor: (8:40 – 9:05 PM): *Michael Setley, Setley, Rauch, and Bucolo LLC*

- Open meetings and records management/right-to-know laws
- Ethics/Conflict of Interest (legal and operational)

**VI. Questions and comments (9:05 – 9:25 PM)**

**VII. Closing – John Kramer (9:25 – 9:30 PM)**

**Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy**  
**Week 2: Wednesday, November 16, 2011**  
**6:30 – 9:30 PM**

**Site: Governor Mifflin Middle School Large Group Instruction Room**

**I. Introduction (6:30 – 6:40 PM)**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

**II. Public Safety and Public Works**

**A. Police Services (6:40 – 7:40 PM)**

*Jed Habecker, Chief of Police, Township of Cumru*

*Kevin Smith, Director of Safe Schools, Governor Mifflin School District*

- Types of department (municipal department, contract)
- Services provided and hours of coverage
- # of personnel and annual budget
- Key issues

BREAK (7:40 – 7:55 PM)

**B. Fire Services (7:55 – 8:25 PM)**

*Scott Brady???, Governor Mifflin Fire Protection Study Committee*

- Organizational structures
- Services provided
- # personnel and annual budget
- Key issues

**C. Public Works Services (8:25– 8:55 PM)**

*Michael Mountz, Manager, Borough of Shillington*

- Services provided
- # personnel and annual budget
- Key issues

**D. Planning, Zoning, and Codes (8:55 – 9:25 PM)**

*Terry Naugle, Chair, Kenhorst Borough Planning Commission*

- General goals of planning and zoning
- Roles of GB, PC, ZO, ZHB
- Housing trends

**III. Closing (9:25 – 9:30 PM)**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

**Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy**

**Week 3: Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

**6:30 – 9:30 PM**

**Site: Governor Mifflin Middle School Large Group Instruction Room**

**I. Introduction (6:30 – 6:40 PM)**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Community Leadership, Albright College*

**II. Community Services**

**A. Water and Sewer Services (6:40 – 7:10 PM)**

*Shannon Rossman, Intergovernmental Affairs Planner, Berks County Planning Commission*

- Who provides the services
- Functions of municipality
- Annual budget
- Key issues

**B. Storm Water Services (7:10 – 7:25 PM )**

*Shannon Rossman, Intergovernmental Affairs Planner, Berks County Planning Commission*

- Function of municipalities
- Key issues and trends

**BREAK (7:25 – 7:40 PM)**

**C. Emergency Management Services (8:25 – 8:55 PM)**

*Jeff Weidner, Local Government Liaison, Berks County Emergency Services Department*

- Emergency management responsibilities of local governments
- # personnel

**III. Community–School District Interaction**

**A. School Services (8:10 – 8:45 PM)**

*Kristine Rosenberg, Director of Curriculum, Governor Mifflin School District*

*Rick Wolf, Assistant Superintendent, Governor Mifflin School District*

- Overview of curriculum requirements, guidance services, food services, transportation

**B. Recreation Services and School Extra-Curricular Activities (8:45 – 9:10 PM)**

*Sam Gausch, Director, Cumru Township Parks and Recreation Department*

*John Althouse, Principal, Governor Mifflin High School*

*Pat Tulley, Athletic Director, Governor Mifflin School District*

- Overview of services provided
- # personnel and annual budget

**C. Library Services (9:10-9:25 PM)**

*Helen Flynn, Director, Mifflin Community Library*

*John Althouse, Principal, Governor Mifflin High School*

- Services provided, annual budget, source of funding,

**V. Closing – John Kramer (9:20 – 9:30 PM)**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Community Leadership, Albright College*

**Governor Mifflin Area Citizens Academy**

**Week 4: Wednesday, December 7, 2011**

**6:30 – 9:30 PM**

**Site: Governor Mifflin Middle School Large Group Instruction Room**

**I. Introduction – John Kramer (6:30 – 6:40 PM)**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

**II. Finance (6:40- 7:55 PM)**

*Jeff Fiant, Chair, Brecknock Township Board of Supervisors*

*Jeri Diesinger, Manager, Kenhorst Borough*

*Mark Naylor, Business Manager, Governor Mifflin School District*

- Summary of annual budgets (operating and capital improvement)

BREAK (7:55 – 8:10 PM)

**III. Dialogue with elected officials (8:10 – 9:10 PM)**

*Jeff Fiant, Chair, Brecknock Township Board of Supervisors*

*Barry Rohrbach, Chair, Cumru Township Commissioners*

*Frank Quattroco, President, Kenhorst Borough Council*

*Kerry Hoffman, President, Mohnton Borough Council*

*Ronald Dunkelberger, President, Shillington Borough Council*

*James Ulrich, President, Governor Mifflin School Board*

- Roles of elected officials
- Open dialogue

**IV. Volunteer opportunities and involvement**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

**V. Closing – John Kramer (9:25 – 9:30 PM)**

*John Kramer, Director, Center for Excellence in Local Government, Albright College*

- Final evaluation