

2009

Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence

April 15, 2009

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Edward G. Rendell, Governor

**Department of Community
& Economic Development**

George E. Cornelius, Acting Secretary
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GOVERNOR'S CENTER FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES



The Governor's Center for Local Government Services sponsors the Local Government Day Luncheon and Awards Program to honor local governments and officials who serve their communities and improve their quality of life.

In partnership with:

- County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments
- Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities
- Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
- Pennsylvania Planning Association
- Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

Somerset County

The Somerset County Water System Quemahoning Pipeline has improved the economy, the environment and the quality of life for residents of Somerset County.

This project was a collaborative effort between two county governments and five municipal governments, Boswell and Somerset Boroughs and Conemaugh, Lincoln and Somerset Townships. In 2000, the Cambria-Somerset Authority purchased the Quemahoning Reservoir from a private corporation to supply 62 million gallons of water per day throughout the north-central region of the county. The five municipalities will sell this reliable, abundant, safe source of water to their customers. Negotiations are ongoing with other municipalities along the line to provide them with this valuable water supply.

Information Technology

Cambria County

Cambria Connected provides innovative high-speed wireless broadband services to all portions of Cambria County, including many areas that had no access to broadband previously. Furthermore, this project demonstrates that funding for one project can effectively be used to enhance others and provide great benefit to the entire county.

With Cambria Connected network's open-access design, new private-sector competition has been introduced in the county for broadband services, with the effect of both lower costs and increased availability of high-speed Internet and data services to businesses and residential customers.

Individual Award Winners

John Callahan, Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Mayor Callahan entered office during a time of great change in Bethlehem. Following the closing of the City's largest industry and employer Bethlehem Steel, the City had entered a period of economic uncertainty. During his tenure, the mayor has stimulated an economic and cultural renaissance in the City; has added new police officers; and has worked with the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council to identify strategies to conserve energy and reduce Bethlehem's carbon footprint through innovative recycling programs, developing brownfields, and educating citizens on the importance of addressing climate change.

Mayor Callahan has also been very active in the PA League of Cities & Municipalities serving as a Board Member & currently its president.

For his dedicated service, Mayor John Callahan receives the 2009 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.