

CONTACT: **Ashley Vidale** | Communications Associate  
[avidale@co.westmoreland.pa.us](mailto:avidale@co.westmoreland.pa.us) | 724.850.4289

## **New Florence Borough and East Huntingdon Township Most Recent Additions to Westmoreland County Land Bank**

**Greensburg, PA (November 21, 2022)** – The Board of Directors of the Westmoreland County Land Bank announced that East Huntingdon Township and New Florence Borough are the latest two municipalities to join the countywide Land Bank. This brings the Land Bank's total member count to 29 municipalities and 15 school districts across Westmoreland County.

Alexandria Torock, East Huntingdon Township Secretary/Treasurer and Open Records Officer, was quoted as saying "East Huntingdon Township Supervisors are excited to partner with the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority/Land Bank to help fight blighted and abandoned properties in the township. Great things can be accomplished when working together with a common goal of making East Huntingdon Township one of the best communities in Westmoreland County!"

New Florence Mayor Ed Craft added, "...[with New Florence] being a small town of fewer than 700 residents, things can be tough to change on our own. We finally have what is almost unheard of, a council and mayor that are on the same page. We all have a similar mindset and have been working hard together to get things accomplished. With the addition of the Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank, we hope to utilize their resources and successful tactics to turn the town back to what we all once knew of as a beautiful place to call home. We have several blighted properties that will benefit from either demolition, or revitalization. We hope to soon have revitalized and available properties that will attract new residents and possibly new businesses to our small community as well as new and updated homes, and green space. The council and mayor are extremely eager to build a partnership, work together, and get things back to what they once were: a beautiful place to call home."

Acquiring blighted properties in areas in need of redevelopment can prove difficult and thorny as well as time and resource consuming to municipalities; joining the Land Bank can offer municipalities with the tools and powers necessary to make blight remediation, and the neighborhood revitalization that follows, possible. The Westmoreland County Land Bank in coordination with its unified agency, the Redevelopment Authority of Westmoreland County, helps to build healthy and whole communities through blight demolition, rehabilitation, acquisition and the repurposing of vacant, tax-delinquent structures.

"Blight and tax delinquency is not just a problem felt by our cities and towns, but villages and patches across the County. Welcoming New Florence and East Huntingdon into Land Bank membership is a reminder that the organization is committed to eliminating blight in all corners of Westmoreland County. Local officials should be applauded for making a worthy investment into the built environment of their communities, that will have tangible effects on residents' well-being." Westmoreland County Land Bank Executive Director Brian Lawrence said.

To learn more about the projects of the Westmoreland County Land Bank and to view development opportunities, please visit [www.westmorelandlandbank.com](http://www.westmorelandlandbank.com).