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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS USE OF GIS TECHNOLOGY

(CARLISLE, PA) – During the Commissioners’ public meeting today, Justin Smith, GIS Coordinator, gave a presentation on ArcGIS, a geographic information system (GIS) used to map the 550 square miles of Cumberland County. The software is used for creating and using maps; compiling geographic data; analyzing mapped information; sharing and discovering geographic information; and managing geographic information in a database. With a location, picture, and description of a site, GIS can tell a story with a map.

Cumberland County’s GIS is responsible for maintaining and providing spatial data to government agencies, providing maps to agencies as requested, maintaining the Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) and associated 9-1-1 data, and providing Internet mapping applications to the public. GIS staff also uses this technology to support various County Government operations including:

- Public Safety 9-1-1 response maps and emergency preparedness;
- Planning Commission with development of a zoning layer to better manage the growth within the County, as well as support for economic development, recreation, and farmland preservation;
- Vector Control to administer the West Nile and Gypsy Moth programs in conjunction with the State;
- Bureau of Elections with proposing new precincts and polling places and with assigning new voters to voting precincts;
- Assessment to maintain a visual record of the tax base of the County.

The ArcGIS system has been beneficial to departments in managing workloads. Caseworkers in the Early Intervention (EI) Office use GIS maps to regionalize caseloads according to service areas. It allows managers to identify the closest EI service coordinator to a client. The result is a more efficient process with reduced staff travel time yielding a significant cost savings to the County. The Vector Control Office recently implemented the ArcGIS system for mobile data collection of the West Nile Mosquito Control using the online maps to track trap locations and treatment routes. Again, the use of the ArcGIS system has improved the workflow processes resulting in savings of time and money.

Whether its identifying parks and trails located in the County for recreational use, a floodplain, or agriculture easements, the public can access a variety of information through the use of ArcGIS. For more information on the GIS Office and ArcGIS visit the County’s website and map gallery: <http://www.ccpa.net/index.aspx?nid=116> / <http://ccpa.maps.arcgis.com/home/gallery.html>

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