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## **Chester County pumping funds to Modena, South Coatesville**

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COATESVILLE—Two of the smaller urban centers in the Coatesville area, the boroughs of Modena and South Coatesville, are moving forward with infrastructure enhancement projects that received funding through the Chester County Community Revitalization Program this year.

Chester County Commissioners Michelle Kichline, Kathi Cozzone, and Terence Farrell awarded the Borough of Modena \$248,000 in Community Revitalization Program grants for rehabilitation of its South Brandywine Avenue Bridge this summer. This will bring the total amount the borough received in this Community Revitalization Program funding to \$713,347. The borough had requested assistance with this project in the past, but required additional 2019 funding and will now be able to get it started with the help of the new grant.

“My initial reactions to the borough receiving this award was that of relief, gratitude and excitement,” said Modena Borough Council President Jennifer Daywalt. “We received these funds through two different grant cycles. The additional funds awarded this year make it possible for us to move forward with the plans we have for replacing an important bridge within our community without the financial burden and stresses we were facing. As a small community, we are always grateful when we receive help for the projects we find important.”

Daywalt said this project will have a big impact on the small community of about 500 residents.

"It allows us to increase the safety of a major intersection for our students as they wait for busses with the installation of a community bus shelter," she said. "The replacement of the bridge on South Brandywine Avenue will allow safe passage to many neighborhood homes, and it also provides access to two of our pocket parks. These parks located on the West Branch of the Brandywine will allow for direct access to the waterway along with open space for the community to enjoy. With direct access to the water, it will be an inviting area for those that wish to enjoy the water for fishing, swimming, and tubing, kayaking or canoeing. We hope to see those from surrounding communities come out and enjoy the beauty that is Modena."

In South Coatesville, a streetlight improvement project is underway with the help of a 2017 Community Revitalization Program grant of \$300,000.

"The Commissioners' generous grant has allowed the Borough Council and Councilors to begin to fulfill a constant request from residents to provide better and working lighting in the borough," said South Coatesville Borough Council President Renee' Carey.

Carey said the purpose of this project is to make borough residents feel safer while walking in the streets at night. She said areas in the borough will "now be properly lit, while creating a safer and more enjoyable walking environment."

"Our borough... is more than 100 years old, with a little more than 1,300 residents," said South Coatesville Borough Council President Renee' Carey. "The borough still has the majority of the original lights that were previously installed in areas, at that time designated in need more than 40 years ago! As years passed, many lights of the lighting systems on the poles, became faulty, or functioning not all. This left many major areas of the borough dark and a safety issue."

Carey said former and current borough officials and staff are very appreciative of the funding from the county. The revitalization of the borough will provide lighting beautification to the street appearance and a sense of security for the residents, she said.

Since 2002, Chester County has awarded more than \$68 million in Community Revitalization Program and Community Development Block Grant program grants to the 16 urban centers (the 15 boroughs and the City of Coatesville) for infrastructure improvements, according to Pat Bokovitz, director of Chester County Department of Community Development.

*This article is part of the third segment from a series about the Chester County Revitalization Program that has been featured in the Daily Local News this fall.*