TOWN OF ALMA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Allegany County, New York
An Economic Development Roadmap
July 2016

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Prepared for:
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I. OVERVIEW
In order for the Town of Alma to be a strong, vital township, we must have strong and sustainable infrastructure, utilities, communications and transportation, as well as adequate financial resources. The Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan (TACP) addresses these specific needs. TACP is reliant on continued federal, state, county and local government support coupled with enhanced engagements of the town’s individual citizens and its volunteer service organizations.

1. BRIEF HISTORY OF TOWN OF ALMA
The Town of Alma is located at the center of the County’s southern edge which borders Pennsylvania. The hamlet of Alma located at the town’s southwestern corner at the junction of county routes 18 and 38, and the hamlet of Allentown located at the northwestern corner along N.Y.S. RT. 417, represent three of the 37 sq. miles of the town leaving the remaining area to large expanses of forest mingled with farmland.

The town of Alma is endowed with scenic hills, meandering streams, creeks and the uniquely beautiful Alma Pond. Alma Hill, the wide rise which dominates the southern half of the town is the highest point in the county with an elevation of 2,548’ above sea level. This is the highest point west of the Catskill Mountains in New York State. The forests and fields, Honeoye Creek in the south, Knights Creek in the north and the town’s many streams and ponds support a large variety of wild life. Outdoor recreation opportunities available year round include hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, four wheeling, hunting and fishing. Our dark sky gives the amateur astronomer and simple astronomer nights of wonder.
This area of Allegany County was first settled around 1833, the Town of Alma being established in 1854 as a product of the oil boom. It was on November 23, 1854 that the town was officially established from what was formally part of the Town of Willing.

Initially, farming and the lumber industry supported the population. During the lumbering period small centers of activity sprung into being in Alma, Pikeville and Allentown. Alma had fine farms and much lumber but its importance and wealth came principally from the mineral treasures under its surface. It was here in Alma that the Allegany oil field was first shown to exist.

During the oil boom from 1881 to January 1893 several of the settlements in the Township, most notably Allentown, were on the Wellsville-Eldred Main Line of the Bradford, Eldred and Cuba Railroad (BE&C). The BE&C was built to serve the Allegany County oil boom. During this period of prosperity shops, stores, and hotels were rapidly built of wood. With the end of the boom and loss of passenger and freight traffic, the railroad went into bankruptcy and was abandoned. Although oil production continues to exits, the once bustling streets of Allentown are now quiet and much more characteristic of a bedroom community.

With the modern trend toward the consolidation of schools, the Allentown Union Free School - which was opened 1905, became part of the Scio Central School System in 1959. Classes 7-12 were transferred to Scio Central School beginning with the 1959-60 school year. The Allentown School remained open as a K-6 elementary school through the end of the 1979-80 school year. The school was officially closed and sold to private investors that same year. Not unlike the school, several of the Alma churches became unsustainable until now the United Methodist Church in Allentown is the sole remaining worshiping community.

Over the years the Town of Alma has experienced the high-highs and low-lows of prosperity, deep depression, resignation and pride. Much has changed since 1833 but the spirit of adventure and hope in the future remain. Today the Town of Alma is characterized by fifth and sixth generation families as well as new people who can see and value what the town and this area has to offer. Remembering our history and opening ourselves to new ideas can pave the way to a bright tomorrow.

Supporting this rural lifestyle are: the Allentown Methodist Church; the Alma and Allentown fire companies; our emergency first responders; the town and county road crews; and the New York State Police. Together with our neighbors, these organizations help to keep us to maintain continued faith and keep us safe through speedy access to the County’s Heath care facilities. The rural character of the Town of Alma is a concept that needs to be preserved into the future. The people that live here have chosen to live here due to the country living and the attributes that go along with this lifestyle.

Agriculture, forestry, other natural resources, and the history and culture of our township are of paramount importance.
2. TOWN OF ALMA LAND USE

The land in the Town of Alma is very hilly. The highest elevation west of the Catskill Mountains in New York is on Alma Hill which is 2,548 feet above sea level. Other hills in the Town include White Hill, Meservey Hill, Bow Ridge, Cleveland Hill, and Allen Hill.

Streams within the Town include: Hog Brook, Ford Brook North Branch and South Branch, Hunt Creek, and Honeoye Creek. The lowest point in the Town is in the southwest corner on Honeoye Creek at 1,522 Feet above sea level. Beaver Lake (Alma Pond) is on the Honeoye Creek. There is a small DEC controlled boat access there for non-motorized boating and fishing.

The land in this Town has been heavily drilled for oil and gas over the last 130+ years. The USGS maps show dozens of oil and gas wells as well as other industry related infrastructure. According to the 2013 report from NYSDEC on Oil & Gas Production, the Town has 281 existing wells. 130 produced some oil, 70 produced some natural gas and a total of 159 were producing reportable quantities of either. 126 reported no product. Other land use types are shown in the table below.

3. TOWN OF ALMA DEMOGRAPHICS

Population in 2010: 842. Population change since 2000: -0.6%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males: 448</th>
<th>Females: 394</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(53.2%)</td>
<td>(46.8%)</td>
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Median resident age: 41.7 years
New York median age: 40.7 years

Estimated median household income in 2012: $41,139 (it was $32,063 in 2000)
Alma: $41,139  NY: $56,448

Estimated per capita income in 2012: $17,487

Estimated median house or condo value in 2012: $54,025 (it was $43,100 in 2000)
Alma: $54,025  NY: $280,900

Median prices in 2011: All housing units: $63,335; Detached houses: $65,452; In 2-unit structures: $80,144; In 3-to-4-unit structures: $71,966; Mobile homes: $48,465

4. TOWN OF ALMA EDUCATION

Kindergarten – High School Education in the Town of Alma is split between three Central School Districts. The western parts of the Town students attend the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District located approximately five miles away. A small area in the northern part of the Town attends Scio Central School approximately seven miles to the northeast.
The remainder of the Town attends the Wellsville Central School District located in the Village of Wellsville up to about eight miles away.

The nearest college campus is located at the SUNY Alfred sub-campus in Wellsville [7 miles]. Other nearby colleges include Alfred University [21 miles], SUNY Alfred – Alfred campus [21 miles], Houghton College [31 miles], Jamestown Community College’s Olean campus [24 miles] and St. Bonaventure University [26 miles] located in the Town of Allegany just west of Olean.

II. **TOWN OF ALMA COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Over the years community planning was primarily performed by the Town of Alma Board. Due to the rural nature of the town, much of the Town Board’s planning efforts centered on the town’s physical characteristics – maintenance and upkeep of highways, cemeteries and other town owned real estate. Co-ordination and planning for the town’s economic development, recreation, community activities and volunteerism was typically facilitated by individuals and families associated with the town’s schools, churches, fire companies and local businesses. As a result of the consolidation and ultimate closing of the Allentown School, much of the town’s fraternal structure is now fragmented. In addition the town’s oil industry faded away and one-by-one its retail establishments gradually closed. Only one or two businesses remain today. As we look to the future, it is abundantly clear that new approaches to town planning and growth are vital.
With this in mind, the Town of Alma Board appointed a committee of several volunteers to develop a comprehensive town plan to create new strategies, objectives and action plans that will drive and perpetuate town-wide population and economic growth for ultimate review and approval by the Town of Alma Board. The plan resulted from the study of the opinions of a diverse group of citizens and leaders from both inside and outside of the Town of Alma. The studies included public community meetings in the hamlets of Alma and Allentown along with several task force meetings. In addition, numerous contributions came from other individuals involved in the project.

In mid-2013, members of the original committee decided to formally organize and pursue establishment of a non-profit community development organization. As a result, the Town of Alma Community Development Organization, Inc. (TACDO) was formally chartered by New York State on January 7, 2014 as a certified 501(c)(3) non-profit with both Federal and State tax exempt status. Following the approval of the TACDO charter, notice was given to the Town of Alma Board with the understanding that the original committee would complete the comprehensive plan. Once completed, the committee was then asked to present the plan to the TACDO Board for approval and formally present the plan to the Town of Alma Board. The TACDO Board approved the final draft of the comprehensive plan on Monday, December 7, 2015 and presented the plan to the Town of Alma Board on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

The Town of Alma subsequently partnered with the Allegany County Planning Department and completed all state/federal required processes and procedures. The Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan is hereby declared an official town document as of the date and seal affixed to this document.

III. TOWN OF ALMA VISION

We the people of the Town of Alma...hereby, set forth and pledge our commitment to achieve a common vision for the future of our township. Our vision is drawn from scores of hopes and dreams offered by interested citizens responding to an open invitation to imagine our community in the future.

From these hopes and dreams emerge the central values which we as a community hold in common:

- We believe that the essence of a prosperous and vibrant township is found not in its structures but in the collective spirit of its community members – regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or gender.
• We hold that the built aspects of a community—its agriculture, buildings and other facilities—should not be considered as ends in themselves, but as means for enhancing the quality of life.

• We believe that we have a responsibility to ourselves and to future generations to seek and maintain a mutually supportive balance between the diverse opinions and collective goals of all who reside in the township.

Our vision is one which:

• Celebrates and respects its picturesque setting by achieving harmony between the built and natural environments;

• Fosters the fulfillment of human potential through an assortment of educational, recreational and cultural activities available to individuals and families of all ages, incomes and ethnic backgrounds;

• Demonstrates an uncompromising commitment to the conservation of scarce resources through the actions of residents, businesses and local government leaders while protecting, preserving and enhancing those features of the natural environment most sensitive to human activities;

• Maintains itself as a strong township through appropriate public investments in physical improvements and through public support for efforts to protect itself from intrusion by incompatible uses;

• Honors its past and provides a perspective for the future by preserving significant historic buildings and other links to the early years of the township;

• Promotes protection of native wildlife habitats, recognizing that the human species is but one of many within the Town of Alma;

• Provides a diversity of active and passive recreation opportunities through recreation programs and parks, open spaces and interlinking trails;

• Provides necessary utility services including clean water supply, electricity, telephone, natural gas, storm water drainage, and disposal of sewerage and solid waste in a manner which is fiscally and environmentally responsible;

• Ensures the safety and security of all township residents and visitors by developing and maintaining the support of area police, fire and emergency medical aid personnel and related services;
• Continually strives to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of all township services and is thereby an attractive place for small businesses to locate and reside;

• Recognizes that decisions have differing effects on individual residents depending upon their physical locations and personal views, and therefore works closely with local township leaders and volunteer groups to ensure that township-wide goals are achieved;

• Earns and maintains a public reputation as a “go-to-model” for the “best practices” in organizing, planning and implementing small town revitalization strategic initiatives;

• Through realization of the preceding components of this vision statement, fosters a unique sense of belonging and pride in the community and a broad feeling of well-being.

IV. TOWN OF ALMA MISSION

“To provide superior community development, public health, and safety services at the lowest possible cost in order to consistently achieve pre-planned levels of tourism and population growth.”
## V. STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND TACTICAL ACTIONS

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<td>Parks, recreation, technology and culture</td>
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<td>Artisan and agricultural festivals and tours initiatives</td>
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<td>Technology and broadband services initiatives</td>
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<td>STRATEGY III</td>
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<td>STRATEGY V</td>
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1. STRATEGY I - BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE AND POPULATION GROWTH

Objective 1. Business and Residential Growth
To enhance the value of business and residential investments by increasing economic revenue and employment opportunities resulting in corresponding improvements in the quality of life for our town.

Actions include:
A. Add restaurants, bed/breakfast locations.
   - Status – objective not started.
B. Open new retail establishments.
   - Status – objective started. Added one new business in 2014.
C. Attract additional seasonal camps and new homeownership.
   - Status – objective not started.

Objective 2. Seasonal Recreation
To capitalize on the town’s rural character to promote seasonal recreational activities.

Actions include:
A. Create and promote creative uses of playgrounds, Alma Pond, recreational kayaking and fishing.
   - Status – objective started. Monthly meetings and grant applications being pursued.
B. Promote snowmobiling and ATV riding, equestrian activities – horseback riding, wagon trail rides.
   - Status – objective not started.
   - Create and promote seasonal festivals – Sky Party/Dark Sky events and fall foliage hiking tours.
   - Status – objective not started.

Objective 3. Cultural Marketing
To preserve and promote the rural character of the town; protect the written record of the town’s rich history – particularly oil production and farming; and, improve, expand and promote cultural offerings.

Actions include:
A. Collaborate with other townships and villages to schedule cultural events.
   - Status – objective started. The Allegany County Fire Convention will hold its 2016 convention in Allentown.
B. Seek grants to promote cultural events and support artisans with their events.
Objective 4. Agricultural Marketing
To maintain and improve the agriculture of the Town of Alma and to guide housing and recreational development in ways which do not conflict with the town’s farming plans and current operations.

**Actions include:**
A. Promote the economics of our agricultural industry – including but not limited to dairy, beef, other livestock, fruit/vegetable production, cash crops (hay/grain).
   - **Status** – objective not started.
B. Expand the markets for maple syrup and the use of land to produce food and fiber.
   - **Status** – objective not started.
C. Capitalize on the services provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension and SUNY Alfred.
   - **Status** – objective not started.

Objective 5. Hospitality Marketing
To strongly market our receptivity for new business and homeownership by significantly capitalizing on effective uses of the town’s diverse human resources.

**Actions include:**
A. Increase the marketing of homecoming and alumni association annual gatherings.
   - **Status** – objective started. Events have been merged and the organization is receiving record level donations.
B. Create welcoming committees to continuously attract and demonstrate hospitality.
   - **Status** – objective not started.
C. Expand the scope and public awareness of the town’s historical society.
   - **Status** – objective started. Allegany County Historical Society is promoting awareness through their website and the County Historical Society Board.
2. STRATEGY II - PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Objective 1. Community Playgrounds and Children’s Recreation
To provide multiple recreational opportunities for the town’s children and young adults by upgrading existing and adding new playgrounds in the hamlets of Allentown and Alma.

**Actions include:**
- **A.** Secure new playground equipment grants.
  - **Status – objective started.** Grant writing resources have been identified. The Town of Alma Community Development Organizations has raised over $30,000 in the last 12 months through various fund raising events.
- **B.** Establish TACDO as a 501(c)(3) organization to support tax incentives for all TACDO community development associations.
  - **Status – objective completed.** Fund drives and solicitations are producing record level in donations.
- **C.** Utilize 501(c)(3) association to sponsor young adult recreational activities.
  - **Status – objective not started.**

Objective 2. Recreational Tours
To create and market local recreational tours and events that capitalizes on more effective and efficient uses of the town’s human and natural resources.

**Actions include:**
- **A.** Market our local craftsmen and artisans for ongoing tours to their locations.
  - **Status – objective started.** Local artisans realizing record levels of sales and tourist visits.
- **B.** Develop events to coincide with recreational events in contiguous communities.
  - **Status – objective not started.**
- **C.** Create innovative approaches to significantly expand tourism (e.g., Tough Mudders).
  - **Status – objective started.** Allentown Fire Company hosting Allegany County 2016 Firemen’s Convention.

Objective 3. Artisan and Agricultural Festivals and Tours
To create and promote attendance to seasonally-based local farm market and theme-based festival events - capitalizing on both local and non-local agricultural and artisan vendors.

**Actions include:**
- **A.** Establish annual Fall/Spring Farm Markets in the hamlets of Allentown and/or Alma.
  - **Status – objective not started.**
B. Identify and promote local farming operations to host farm operation tours in the Town of Alma.
   • Status – objective not started.

C. Identify and promote local artisan contractors that host tours of their operations.
   • Status – objective started. Local artisans realizing record levels of sales and visits tourist visits.

Objective 4. Dark Sky Community Ecotourism
To certify the Town of Alma through the International Dark-Sky Association (IDS) as a town that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting codes, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies.

Actions include:
A. Plan, develop and conduct annual dark sky awareness festivals and events.
   • Status – objective not started.
B. Sponsor inclusion of dark sky education – partnering with our local high school and the three Allegany County universities and college.
   • Status – objective not started.
C. Develop programs for the Town of Alma to earn International Dark-Sky Association’s “Fixture Seal of Approval” certification.
   • Status – objective not started.
Objective 5. Technology and Broadband Services
To bring wireless internet and broadband capacity to all residents and businesses in the Town of Alma – including internet “peer-to-peer” training opportunities for all age groups.

Actions include:
A. Effectively and efficiently communicate the town’s broadband needs to county officials.
   - **Status** – **objective started.** Town of Alma included in $1,000,000 county-wide broadband internet expansion.
B. Coordinate inclusion of broadband internet training and education in local schools.
   - **Status** – **objective not started.**
C. Create a “Center of Technical Excellence” to facilitate delivery of advanced technological learning
   - **Status** – **objective not started.**

3. STRATEGY III - COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Objective 1. 501 (c)(3) Community Development Organization Certification
To certify TACDO as a local volunteer-based non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation to more effectively develop financial aid and implement initiatives that attract and retain businesses and households.
Actions include:

A. Incorporate a non-profit community development organization including 501 (c)(3) Federal and NYS tax exempt status.
   - Status – objective completed. Federal and state tax exemptions granted.
B. Offer volunteer assistance in preserving historical landmarks and other links to town history.
   - Status – objective started. Local volunteers are currently revitalizing the former Allentown School.
C. Offer volunteer assistance to execute various individual and business related community and property improvements.
   - Status – objective started. One business and one residential property utilizing volunteer-based revitalization.

Objective 2. Natural Resources Preservation

To promote community-based natural resource management programs and policies that identify and describe our most important natural features and resources in the Town of Alma and guide the town’s natural resources conservation plans and actions.

Actions include:

A. Conduct a natural resource inventory including, but not limited to, wetlands, agriculture lands, forest lands and tree farms.
   - Status – objective not started.
B. Protect our water resources by defining the methods, levels and degrees of oil and gas drilling and hydro fracking.
   - Status – objective not started.
C. Protect our wildlife by making conservation areas as large as possible and incorporate each with habitats for rare species.
   - Status – objective not started.
Objective 3. Historical Landmarks Preservation
To protect areas which represent the Town of Alma’s cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the Town’s historic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks for the benefit of our residents.

Actions include:
A. Identify and designate historic properties throughout the township.
   - Status – objective not started.
B. Maintain a comprehensive historic resources inventory.
   - Status – objective not started.
C. Research and Implement state guidelines regarding historic properties.
   - Status – objective not started.

Objective 4. Community Revitalization and Beautification
To organize and lead volunteering efforts for identifying acting upon various community revitalization and beautification opportunities, including but not limited to, abandoned properties, tax foreclosed properties, recreational properties and community properties.

Actions include:
A. Organize staff and deploy a township recreation committee to oversee efforts for recreation and beautification.
   - Status – objective ongoing. Committee operational with beautification and fund raising initiatives underway.
B. Organize staff and deploy a township playground committee to oversee ongoing efforts to upgrade and maintain community playgrounds in the hamlets of Alma and Allentown.
   - Status – objective started. Committee actively seeking revitalization grants, property donations, and implementing ongoing maintenance initiatives. TACDO has already received one house donation.
C. Organize staff and deploy a revitalization committee to oversee efforts to revitalize the Allentown School.
   - Status – objective started. Committee operational with hopes that TACDO can maintain efforts towards improvements/enhancements to the physical property.

Objective 5. Seasonal Decorations, Parades and Spring/Fall Clean-up Days
To organize and lead volunteering efforts for identifying and acting upon seasonal decoration opportunities, seasonal festival and parade opportunities, and township-wide spring and fall cleanup clean-up initiatives.
Actions include:
A. Organize staff and deploy a seasonal decoration committee to oversee ongoing efforts to seasonally decorate the hamlets of Alma and Allentown during the four seasons including major religious and patriotic holidays.
   - **Status** – **Objective started**. Ongoing Christmas, fall and patriotic holiday decorations are being displayed.
B. Organize staff and deploy a committee to organize and oversee efforts to bring festivals and parades to the township.
   - **Status** – Objective not started.
C. Organize staff and deploy a committee to oversee spring and fall fund raising clean-up activities.
   - **Status** – **Objective started**. There have been three successful drives netting over $5,000 in non-profit donations.

4. STRATEGY IV - FINANCIAL RELIEF GRANTS, FOUNDATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL ENDOWMENTS

Objective 1. Corporate Foundation and Individual Endowments
To capitalize on the strengths and networks of current and former residents and business leaders to seek funds from corporate foundations and individual endowments.

Actions include:
A. Incorporate a non-profit community development organization including 501 3 (c) and NYS tax exempt status.
   - **Status** – **objective completed**. Federal and state tax exemptions granted.
B. Conduct fundraising campaigns through our annual homecoming and alumni association annual gatherings.
   - **Status** – **objective started**. Homecoming and alumni events merged with record level donations realized.
C. Seek grants to promote cultural events, artisan’s tour events and community improvement initiatives.
   - **Status** – objective not started.

Objective 2. State and Federal Grants for Housing, Highway and Safety
To actively apply for various state and federal grants to assist “low income families” with housing energy and safety improvements and “assist all taxpayers” with grants for highway, water and sewage infrastructure improvements.

Actions include:
A. Seek grant opportunities to assist financially depressed residents with home energy and safety improvements.
Objective 3. State and Federal “Agricultural” Grants
To actively apply for various state and federal grants to assist the Town of Alma’s “agriculturally focused residents and business leaders” as they pursue creative solutions for the expansion of the agriculture industry throughout the Town of Alma.

Actions include:
A. Seek grants to assist local farmers with initiatives for “retention and perpetuation” of their various agriculture and farming based businesses and activities.
   - Status – objective not started.
B. Seek grants to assist local farmers with initiatives to “expand” their various agriculture and farming based businesses.
   - Status – objective not started.
C. Utilize local township agriculture subject matter experts to strategically align with the Allegany County Cornell Co-Op Extension team to develop a comprehensive agriculture plan for the Town of Alma.
   - Status – objective not started.

Objective 4. State and Federal “Recreation” Grants
To actively apply for various state and federal grants to assist the Town of Alma’s “recreation and sporting based residents” as they pursue creative solutions for the advancement of sports and recreation for all ages throughout the Town of Alma.

Actions include:
A. Train and identify and contract grant writers to procure grant solutions for recreation based programs, activities and facilities.
   - Status – objective started. One local grant writer trained and KHEOPS organization identified as a key resource.
B. Identify and acquire land to build and maintain a new playground in the hamlet of Alma.
   - **Status – objective completed.** The Dickerson family donated the land to the Town of Alma.

C. Revitalize the Allentown playground with new equipment and transform the present location into a hamlet park.
   - **Status – objective started.** KHEOPS in process of identifying the grants that are available.

**Objective 5. State and Federal “Technology” Grants**

To actively apply for various state and federal grants to assist our “technology-based residents” in advancing their technical knowledge.

**Actions include:**

A. Train and deploy grant writers to identify and procure grant solutions for technology-based training programs including, but not limited to personal computing hardware and word processing, data, email and social media software.
   - **Status – objective started.** KHEOPS in process of identifying the grants that are available.

B. Utilize a local “Center for Technical Excellence” volunteer organization to host user learning groups for residents to cross train on social media sites including, but not limited to, Facebook, Myspace, Skype, FaceTime, Pinterest, LinkedIn, etc.
   - **Status – objective not started.**

C. Partner with Allegany County to capitalize on the $1,000,000 NYS broadband expansion grant for providing high-speed “rural” internet access throughout the county.
   - **Status – objective started.** Allegany County Planner is coordinating the project for all county villages and towns.

5. **STRATEGY V - PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**Objective 1. Safety and Security Communications**

To partner with local, state and federal fire and emergency care organizations to reach out and effectively communicate information before, during and after emergency and disaster situations and events.

**Actions include:**

A. Develop and formalize a Town of Alma safety and security communication plan.
   - **Status – objective not started.**
B. Insure that the local Alma and Allentown Fire Department emergency personnel and services are properly staffed and trained at all levels.
   • **Status** – objective not started.

C. Partner with the local Alma and Allentown Fire departments to insure that the appropriate levels of recruitment and training of qualified safety and security personnel is being accomplished.
   • **Status** – objective not started.

**Objective 2. Fire and Emergency Services Coordination**
To partner with countywide fire and emergency services organizations to enhance the level of emergency services for our residents.

**Actions include:**
A. Routinely update and communicate the Town of Alma’s emergency management action plans to all residents.
   • **Status** – objective not started.

B. Maximize community outreach by expanding the utilization of social media, email, traditional radio, newspaper and TV.
   • **Status** – objective not started.

C. Partner with the local Alma and Allentown Fire departments to insure that appropriate levels of the recruitment and training of qualified fire and emergency services personnel is being accomplished.
   • **Status** – objective ongoing.

**Objective 3. Natural Disaster Recovery Plans and Procedures**
To partner with local, state and federal fire and emergency services organizations to reach out and effectively communicate information before, during and after natural disasters.

**Actions include:**
A. Develop and formalize a Town of Alma natural disaster recovery communication plan.
   • **Status** – objective not started.

B. Maximize outreach by appropriately conducting periodic public natural disaster training and communication meetings.
   • **Status** – objective not started.

C. Partner with local, county, state and federal natural disaster recovery organizations to insure that the Town of Alma’s natural disaster recovery plans are up to date and appropriately synchronized.
   • **Status** – objective not started.
Objective 4. Public Health Protection
To partner with the countywide health protection medical and emergency care organizations to enhance the level of healthcare services for the Town of Alma residents.

Actions include:
A. Seek ways to partner with medical care organizations to promote and extend increased accessibility for our elderly, disabled and low income residents to have rapid access to emergency care and to remain in their home settings.
   Status – objective not started.
B. Encourage existing medical entities in Allegany County to include the Town of Alma in their facility modernization, expansion and geographic location plans.
   Status – objective not started.
C. To insure that both the hamlets of Alma and Allentown have Mercy Flight medical helicopter transport access/services.
   Status – objective started. Allentown playground has been formally assigned as a Mercy Flight destination.

Objective 5. Roads and Walkway Maintenance and Upkeep
To coordinate with Allegany County to develop, implement and maintain up-to-date roads and walkways in the Town of Alma.

Actions include:
A. Utilize the Town of Alma Board and Highway Department personnel to oversee the coordination, implementation, maintenance and upgrading of all Town of Alma highways and walkways.
   Status – objective ongoing.
B. Establish volunteer road and walkways clean-up committees to conduct ongoing seasonal clean-up activities that insure that the public appearance of the Town of Alma is appropriate.
   Status – objective not started.
C. Utilize annual trash and metal collection fund raising events to fund township beautification efforts including, but not limited to, patriotic holidays, religious holidays and seasonal events.
   Status – objective ongoing. Committee is operational with beautification and fund raising initiatives underway.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION
In order to be a strong and vital town we must have strong and sustainable community development, public health, safety services, and adequate financial resources at all levels. Accomplishing a few tasks early on will begin to provide the momentum and confidence
necessary to undertake the larger and more ambitious projects. The Town of Alma Board has formally recognized the Town of Alma Community Development Organization, Inc., as an appropriate volunteer-based organization to oversee implementation of the strategies, objectives and actions outline in this 5-year comprehensive planning document.

1. REFERRALS

- The Comprehensive Planning Board shall, by resolution, recommend such proposed plan or amendment to the Town of Alma Board.
- The Town of Alma Board shall, prior to adoption, refer the proposed comprehensive plan or any amendment thereto to the Allegany County Planning Board for review and recommendation as required by section two hundred thirty-nine-m of the general municipal law.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE

- The Town of Alma Board shall hold one or more public hearings and such other meetings as it deems necessary to assure full opportunity for citizen participation in the preparation of such proposed plan or amendment, and in addition, the Town of Alma Board shall hold one or more public hearings prior to adoption of such proposed plan or amendment.
- The Town of Alma Board shall conduct public hearings within ninety days of receiving the Comprehensive Planning Boards recommendations on the proposed plan or amendments, and prior to adoption of such proposed plan or amendments.
- Notice of a public hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the town at least ten calendar days in advance of the hearing. The proposed comprehensive plan or amendment thereto shall be made available for public review during said period at the office of the town clerk and may be made available at any other place, including a public library.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan, and any amendment thereto, is subject to the provisions of the state environmental quality review act under article eight of the environmental conservation law and its implementing regulations. The Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan may be designed to also serve as, or be accompanied by, a generic environmental impact statement pursuant to the state environmental quality review act statute and regulations. No further compliance with such law is required for subsequent site specific actions that are in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the generic environmental impact statement and its findings.
4. AGRICULTURAL REVIEW AND COORDINATION
The Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan and any amendments thereto, for a town containing all or part of an agricultural district or lands receiving agricultural assessments within its jurisdiction, shall continue to be subject to the provisions of article twenty-five-AA of the agriculture and markets law relating to the enactment and administration of local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations. A newly adopted or amended Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan shall take into consideration applicable county, agricultural and farmland protection plans as created under article twenty-five-AAA of the agriculture and markets law.

5. ADOPTION
The Town of Alma Board may adopt by resolution the Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan or any amendments thereto.

6. PERIODIC REVIEW
The Town of Alma Board shall undertake a review of this plan on a maximum interval of five years from the date which the plan was adopted.

7. EFFECT OF ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF ALMA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
- The comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to this section shall be in accordance with all town land use regulations.
- All plans for capital projects of another governmental agency on land included in the Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan adopted pursuant to this section shall take such plan into consideration.

8. FILING OF THE TOWN OF ALMA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
The adopted Town of Alma Comprehensive Plan and any amendments thereto shall be filed in the office of the town clerk and a copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the county planning agency. The Plan shall be submitted to NYSDOS with the copy of the resolutions approving the Plan.
APPENDICES

I. COUNTY REGIONAL CONTEXT
II. COUNTY, TOWN AND VILLAGE BOUNDARIES
III. COUNTY POPULATION BY TOWN
IV. COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
V. ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICTS
VI. COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
VII. COUNTY HISTORICAL DISTRICTS
VIII. COUNTY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATIONS
IX. ALMA PROPERTY CLASSIFICATIONS
X. COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM
XI. ALMA ROAD SYSTEM
XII. COUNTY RAILROADS
XIII. COUNTY RIVERS AND STREAMS
XIV. ALMA RIVERS AND STREAMS
XV. COUNTY OIL AND GAS
XVI. ALMA OIL AND GAS
XVII. COUNTY LAND USE AND PROPERTY COVER
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XIX. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICES
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XXI. COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS
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XXV. COUNTY EXISTING AND PLANNED SEWER AREAS
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XXVII. COUNTY FLOOD PLAINS
XXVIII. COUNTY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
XXIX. COUNTY PRIME FARMLANDS
XXX. COUNTY TRAILS
XXXI. COUNTY STEEP SLOPES
XXXII. COUNTY COMP PLANS BY TOWN
I. COUNTY REGIONAL CONTEXT
II. COUNTY, TOWN AND VILLAGE BOUNDARIES

TOWN AND VILLAGE BOUNDARIES

Allegany County Town and Village Boundaries

Notes: ESRI, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, US Census Bureau, County Planning

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http://www.alleganyplanning.com

29 Towns
10 Villages
40 Viabie Hamlets
50 Historic Names of Hamlets

McKean County, PA
Potter County, PA

0 1 2 4 MILES

TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
III. COUNTY POPULATION BY TOWN
IV. COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
V. ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Town of Alma
Comprehensive Plan
VI. COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
VII. COUNTY HISTORICAL DISTRICTS AND SITES
VIII. COUNTY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATIONS

Land Use:
Existing Land Use

Legend:
- Agricultural
- Govt, Non-Profits
- Residential
- Industry
- Utilities
- Commercial/Industrial
- State Forest, Conservation Club/Lake/Stream
- County Boundary
- Potter County, PA

Property Classifications based on local Assessor determinations. Not all properties classified.

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Allegany County
Comprehensive Plan
For more maps: http://www.alleganypalanning.com
IX. ALMA PROPERTY CLASSIFICATIONS

Town of Alma
Comprehensive Plan
X. COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM
XI. ALMA ROAD SYSTEM

Town of Alma
Comprehensive Plan

Road System

Legend:
- Expressway
- NYS Road
- County Road
- Village Street
- Paved Town Road
- Gravel Improved Town Road
- Gravel Unimproved Town Road
- Seasonal, Trail or Drive
- Ramp I-86

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TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XII. COUNTY RAILROADS

[Map of Allegany County showing railroads and towns]

Notes: ESRI, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, US Census Bureau, County Planning

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10 Towns Served
6 Villages Served

TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XIII. COUNTY RIVERS AND STREAMS

Natural Environment: Surface Water Features

Legend:
- Ponds & Lakes
- Town Lines
- Large Streams
- County Boundary
- Streams
- New York State

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Sources: Eari, USGS, NOAA

TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XIV. ALMA RIVERS AND STREAMS
XV. COUNTY OIL AND GAS

Resources: Oil, Gas & Storage Wells

Legend:
- Oil well
- Gas well
- Storage tank
- Caswell Reserve Well
- Other Well

0 1 2 4 Mies

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TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XVI. ALMA OIL AND GAS

Town of Alma
Comprehensive Plan

Natural Resources
Oil & Gas Wells

Legend:
- <all other values>
- Confidential
- Dry Hole
- Gas Well
- Gas Well Plugged
- Other Well
- Other Well Plugged
- Oil Well
- Oil Well Plugged
- Storage Well
- Solution Brine Well
- Solution Brine Well Plugged
- Storage Well Plugged

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XVII. COUNTY LAND USE AND PROPERTY COVER
XVIII. ALMA LAND USE AND PROPERTY COVER

Town of Alma
Comprehensive Plan

Land Use:
Existing Land Cover

Legend:
- Unclassified
- Open Water
- Developed Open Space
- Developed Low Intensity
- Developed Medium Intensity
- Developed High Intensity
- Bareland
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Grass/Grassland
- Herbaceous
- Cultivated Crops
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

Potter County, PA

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TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XIX. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICES
XX. COUNTY BUS SERVICES
XXI. COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS

Facilities: Fire Districts

[Map of Allegany County showing fire districts]

Legend:
- Fire Department
- Villages
- Town Lines
- County Boundary
- New York State

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TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XXII. COUNTY POLICE COVERAGE

[Map of Allegany County showing police coverage areas with towns and village names labeled.]
COUNTY ELECTRIC SERVICES

Built Environment: Electric Providers

Legend:
- Andover Municipal
- Allegany Municipal
- NG&E
- National Grid
- RG&E
- RG&E/NYSEG

Notes: The Town of Alma is claimed by both RG&E and NYSEG on their respective websites.

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http://www.alleganyplanning.com
COUNTY WATER SERVICES

Legend:
- Existing Water Systems
- Proposed Water Systems
- Villages
- Cuba & Rushford Lakes
- County Boundary
- New York State

Existing Water Systems data based on Village & Town Southern Tier Water, Allegany County CSD/UP information.
Proposed areas are conceptual for future growth and health needs.

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http://www.alleganyplanning.com

TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XXV. COUNTY EXISTING AND PLANNED SEWER AREAS
XXVI. COUNTY AGRICULTURE DISTRICTS

Agricultural Districts

Legend:
- District 1: Town Lines
- District 2: County Boundary
- District 3: New York State

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Allegany County Comprehensive Plan
For more maps:
http://www.alleganyplanning.com
XXVII. COUNTY FLOOD PLAINS

[Image of Allegany County flood plains map]

Legend:
- 100 Year Flood Zone
- 1000 - 5000 Year Flood
- More than 5000 Year Flood
- ALI - Not Mapped
- County Lines
- New York State

Source: Esri, USGS, NOAA

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Allegany County Comprehensive Plan
http://www.alleganypolanning.com
XXVIII. COUNTY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

[Map of Allegany County showing natural environment features]

Sources: Ear, USGS, NOAA

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TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XXIX. COUNTY PRIME FARMLANDS
XXX. COUNTY TRAILS

[Map of Allegany County trails and recreation areas with various trail markings and town names.]

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2016 TOWN OF ALMA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

TOWN OF ALMA, ALLEGANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
XXXI. COUNTY STEEP SLOPES
XXXII. COUNTY COMP PLANS BY TOWN