

Blueprint Communities Essay
“Revitalizing Etna, Pennsylvania”

My blueprint for making Etna a better place to live begins at the top with the boro officials. The boro officials and the police have to work together to strengthen and enforce the laws that are already in place. Starting at the top, I would recommend that the boro abide by their own laws thus setting an example to all who live in Etna. No one wants to live in a town that has run down houses, overgrown weeds, recreational areas that are falling apart, garbage littering the streets, abandoned buildings, animals roaming the streets, trees that are over grown, and kids vandalizing properties. Because the boro doesn't have the resources to maintain all of their property, I would recommend that they get together more often with church groups, scouting groups and community volunteers who want to help clean up the boro. This would help give the community a sense of ownership and pride. I would also recommend to council that they go after delinquent landlords who don't live in the town but who take the rent money and don't maintain their properties. These landlords should be cited and the boro given the power to hire a contractor to maintain the land and bill the property owner. I would recommend new ordinances be put in place in order to do this.

I would recommend that we have more police presence and a curfew that is enforced year round. Years ago, all of the police lived in Etna. This appeared to help them build better

relationships with homeowners which strengthened the community. This also gave the town a sense that the police were more concerned. Today, none of the police live in Etna so why would they care about our town? If they lived in Etna, they would take pride in their town and work harder to enforce the laws.

After living through the flood last year, I experienced first-hand how a community can be torn apart but because of pride and ownership come together to rebuild their town. Even though these are only my ideas, if you start with one of them it may be enough to get the ball rolling to revitalize Etna.