

## Community Action Awarded \$50,000 For Oakland Proj.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development announced yesterday that the Garrett County Community Action Committee is among the fiscal year 2017 Community Legacy grant awardees. The local nonprofit agency will receive \$50,000 for the Oakland Façade Project to assist businesses in making improvements to their buildings. The initiative is an integral part of the town's revitalization efforts.

In all, the housing department will provide \$3.47 million in Community Legacy awards for 49 projects in 18 counties, plus \$3.2 million in Strategic Demolition Fund awards for 15 projects in 12 counties.

"The Community Legacy and Strategic Demolition Fund programs are two of the department's most powerful programs for building healthier neighborhoods in

Maryland," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "Whether it's improving the façades on Maryland main streets, preserving historic buildings, or removing blight, these projects will enhance neighborhoods across the state."

### The Community Legacy

program provides local governments and community development organizations with essential funding and gap financing for "important projects that will strengthen local communities, supporting housing and homeownership goals, and attracting and

Continued on Page A-12

retaining businesses."

Projects include improving commercial façades, "greening" and streetscaping activities, renovating historic buildings for conversion into service or community centers, and rehabilitating blighted properties in downtown areas.

"It is one of Maryland's most effective programs for promoting neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, tourism, and economic growth," Holt said.

He added that the Strategic Demolition Fund "catalyzes" activities that accelerate economic development and job production in existing Maryland communities by clearing the way for redevelopment and revitalization. Awarded activities include those projects that can have a high economic and revitalization impact in their existing communities.