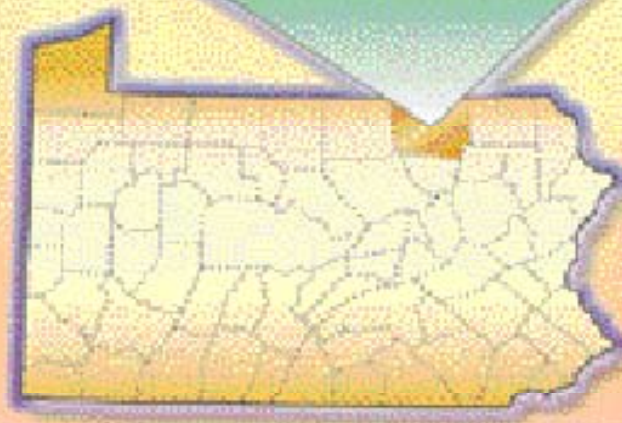
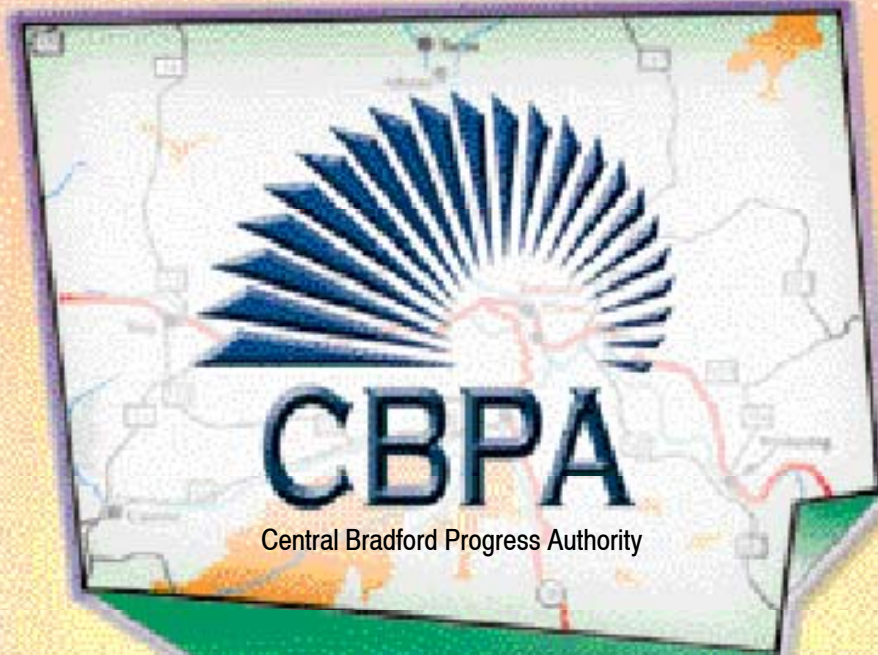


Central Bradford Progress Authority

CBIDC/IDA



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This past year's events have been nothing short of amazing. Our efforts to deliver economic development services are in ever-increasing demand. The unification of support throughout Bradford County has enabled the Progress Authority to effectively empower and implement full service economic development programs.

The year's events were intense and involved both negative and positive experiences, which impacted job support and investment. Through it all, the continued commitment from the CBPA Board of Directors, County Commissioners, local economic development groups, local public officials and businesses has been phenomenal. It is anticipated that the recent creation of a countywide economic advisory board will reinforce the CBPA mission.

Beyond the cooperation of community officials is my sincere appreciation of Paul Kreischer, our board president, who coordinates daily with our staff. Additionally, I am extremely grateful for the hard-working CBPA staff, which includes Kim Kulick, our administrative assistant (Radar O'Reilly) and our most recent addition, Brian Driscoll, the Countywide Economic Development Manager (he doesn't have a nickname yet.)

The opportunities to Bradford County are substantial and our commitment is strong. I look forward to a positive and bright future – but only if we continue to work together.

Anthony J. Ventello



Message from Board President Paul Kreischer



The past twelve months have proven to be extremely busy and rewarding for the Central Bradford Progress Authority. CBPA accepted the challenge of the Bradford County Commissioners and entered into a formal agreement to provide full economic development services for the entire county. The staff, including Countywide Economic Development Manager Brian Driscoll, have worked diligently to meet the development needs of many areas of the county.

Tony Ventello, CBPA Executive Director, has directed the overall efforts of the authority in the critical areas of new infrastructure facilities and upgrades as well as using his "hands on" approach to job creation and retention. The efforts of Tony and Brian have resulted in numerous successes, which have long-range benefits to our region.

Early in 2004, Pennsylvania reopened the Keystone Opportunity Zone program. This comprehensive program provides exciting incentives for employers wishing to establish new facilities or those wishing to expand an existing business. The KOZ designation can enable this area to compete favorably with incentives offered by other states. The hard work of the CBPA staff paid off tremendously with the designation of 4 KOZ sites within the county. In addition to the work of Tony and Brian, the authority's administrative assistant, Kim Kulick, did a masterful job of pulling all of the numerous pieces together necessary for success.

The year in review for the Central Bradford Progress Authority can be summed up by stating that the significant efforts have resulted in changes that will benefit the citizens of Bradford County for many years to come.

Paul Kreischer

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Business Development and Job Creation Projects:

Enterprise Zone Basic Grant

- Secured \$50,000 grant for Enterprise Zone program
- Implemented ongoing business development/outreach strategy

RBEG RLF Grant

- \$99,000 grant received from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant program
- Loans made to small rural businesses
- CBPA is an equal opportunity lender.

Area Businesses Expand with CBPA Assistance:

Metadyne, Inc.

A \$250,000 PIDA loan was obtained to assist with the costs of a \$700,000 expansion project that created 2 new jobs and retained 40 positions.

OSRAM Sylvania

A \$1 million Opportunity Grant was received from the state for new high-technology equipment upgrades. Additionally, \$500,000 in employee training funds and \$500,000 in low-interest MELF funds were received. The project will retain 900 jobs and create 100 new employees in Towanda.

E. I. DuPont

The state awarded DuPont a \$2 million Opportunity Grant and \$15 million in capital budget funds to assist in new product line development.



This project will ultimately lead to \$65 million in investment as the company develops new technology in the fields of fuel cells and flat panel displays. 500 jobs will be retained. 9 acres of the DuPont campus were designated as a Key-stone Opportunity Zone to aid in this project.

Bryan's Meat Cutting & Country Butcher Shop

Bryan's purchased a new sausage-processing machine with the help of a \$25,000 USDA RBEG loan through the CBPA.

Troy Skateland

A \$25,000 USDA RBEG loan was secured through the CBPA to aid in the replacement of the skating surface at the facility in Troy's Alparon Park.



DeCristo, Inc.

\$24,000 in USDA RBEG funds helped enable DeCristo, Inc. to acquire a new oil truck and tanker to expand its business.

Lubbering Corporation/County Recovery Service

In cooperation with NTRPDC, the CBPA has worked with both Lubbering Corporation and County Recovery Service to help expand their global markets. The CBPA helped facilitate meetings between these two companies and the U.S. Department of Commerce in an effort to help them secure more export contracts.

New Businesses Open With CBPA Assistance:

Holdren's Precision Machining

Utilizing a \$25,000 USDA RBEG loan through the CBPA, Howard Holdren

continued on next page

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CBPA Review 2003

opened a small machining shop in the former Wagon Wheel apartment complex in Ulster.

Cuddle Time Day Care

With the help of \$20,000 of Enterprise Zone RLF funds, Helen House has opened a day care facility in a portion of the former Ames building in Towanda Township.



Red Rose Diner

Gordon Tindall is opening an old-time railcar diner in downtown Towanda. The Red Rose Diner project received Enterprise Zone RLF funds in the amount of \$40,000.



Infrastructure Projects Enhance Business Development:

River Street

Construction is underway on the River Street traffic relief route in downtown Towanda. Some sections of the roadway have been completed, and construction is expected to be finished by fall of 2004.



Valley Business Park Road C

Preliminary engineering funds have been secured through the Appalachian Regional Commission for the Road C access road to provide a direct link from Valley Business Park to Interstate 86. The CBPA provided testimony for this project at the state Transportation Hearings in October of 2003. This project includes the extension of water and sewer lines along the path of Road C.

Route 706 Relocation

The CBPA has been working with Taylor-Excel to find a solution to a problem with excessive truck traffic in downtown Wyalusing. A project that would relocate Route 706 to provide Taylor-Excel with an

alternate access to Route 6 was discussed at the Transportation Hearings.

Canton Manufacturing Access Road

ARC grant funds have been secured to aid in a project to construct an industrial access road for Canton Manufacturing. The project would allow truck traffic to be diverted from residential Brann Street in Canton Borough.



Route 220 Connector at Towanda High School

Testimony was provided at the state Transportation Hearings for a proposed project that would provide access to the Route 220 bypass at Towanda High School as part of a traffic relief effort in downtown Towanda.

Rynone Manufacturing Water Line

Sayre Borough has approved the utilization of \$25,000 in CDBG funds to extend a public water line to serve Rynone Manufacturing, which suffers from contaminated wells. This project will retain

continued on next page



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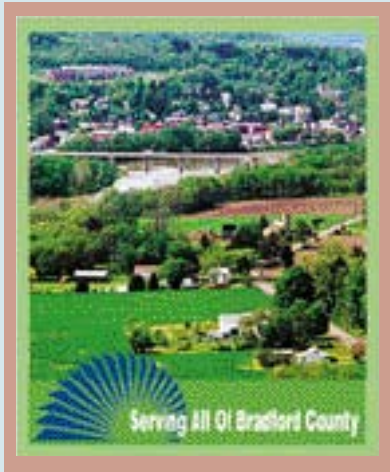
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CBPA Review

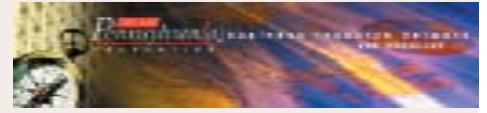
Central Bradford Sewer Project

The CBPA remains involved in the Central Bradford Sewer Project. In the past year, sewer has been extended in Wysox, and bids have been accepted to continue the project into Monroeton.



New Relationships Established as Part of Countywide Outreach Program:

- Rynone Manufacturing
- G.E. Railcar
- Guthrie Health System
- Paxar Corporation
- Mill's Pride
- Leprino Foods
- Ingersoll-Rand
- G. Webster Construction
- Ajax Foundry
- Clare Printing
- Cornell Industrial Corporation
- Arrow United
- Taylor-Excel
- Canton Manufacturing
- R & T Technologies
- Parker Hannifin
- Lubbering Corporation
- Penn-Troy Machine
- B & P Stone



Team PA Business Expansion & Retention Interviews Completed:

- Taylor-Excel
- Hess Farm Equipment, Inc.
- Lubbering Corporation
- Shangri-La Publications
- Arey Lumber
- Mountain Lake Electric/
Mountain Lake Construction
- Farley Financial Services
- Williams Oil Company
- Hawk Engineering
- Troy Community Hospital
- Charlie's Family Food & Fun
- DeCristo, Inc.
- Parker Hannifin
- G.E. Railcar
- Arrow United
- Stiffler, McGraw & Associates
- BLaST IU 17
- Leprino Foods Corporation
- R & R Lawrence Trucking

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CBPA Reviews

Community Development Projects Enhance the Quality of Life:

Gateway Plaza

The CBPA has partnered with Towanda Borough to install an aesthetic welcome center at the southern entrance to Towanda, next to One Progress Plaza.



Trail Project

As part of the River Street project, the CBPA has been involved in the design of a pedestrian trail. When completed, it will run along both sides of the Susquehanna River in Towanda and Wysox.

DCNR Task Force

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has requested the CBPA to be part of a strategy to better utilize the natural recreational resources offered in Bradford County.



Bradford/Sullivan Youth Leadership Program

As part of an effort to retain young people in the area, the CBPA coordinates a Youth Leadership program for high school juniors to help them develop key leadership skills necessary for them to become future leaders in local communities. 9 public school districts are involved in the program, and 27 students will graduate from the 2003-2004 program. 10 leadership sessions were held at locations throughout the region.



Technical Assistance Offered:

Asylum Township Park

The CBPA offered assistance to the Asylum Township Supervisors in the preparation of an application to DCNR for funding for a municipal park project. The Supervisors hope to install a park next to the Susquehanna River on the site of the old Homet's Mill.

Joint Comprehensive Planning

An effort is underway to bring together the four member municipalities of the CBPA to create a comprehensive plan pertinent to all of Central Bradford County. This will be a joint effort among North Towanda Township, Towanda Borough, Towanda Township, and Wysox Township.



Western Bradford Development Corporation

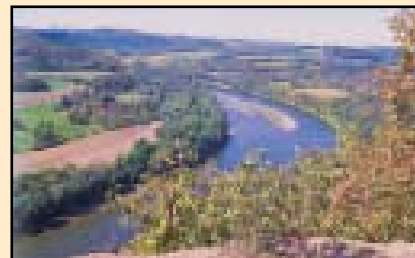
The CBPA continues to work closely with the WBDC in project development in the Troy and Canton areas. Monthly meetings with the Board of Directors of WBDC enable the CBPA to have strong local contacts that facilitate strong projects in Western Bradford County.

Valley Economic Development Association

VEDA is an agency in the Valley area that works with economic development projects in both Bradford County and Tioga County, NY. In the past year, VEDA has requested assistance for projects located in Bradford County.

Wyalusing Industrial Development Corporation

The CBPA has begun a relationship with WIDCO. The two organizations hope to work together to help create job development projects in the Wyalusing area.



Project Grizzly

This year, a major national retail chain was performing a site search for an East Coast distribution center. This search, dubbed "Project Grizzly" included consideration of the Valley Business Park in Athens Township. The CBPA worked with Township officials in an effort to secure the project. In the end, the project was terminated due to a shift in economic trends impacting the company.

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Sites Prepared for Future Development:

Keystone Opportunity Zone Program

The KOZ program was reopened by the state in early 2004. The KOZ program is an economic development tool designed to encourage job creation on underutilized properties. Sites that are designated as a KOZ are exempt from local realty tax and several state business taxes through 2010. Sites in Bradford County that were approved for this status were 9 acres of DuPont's campus in North Towanda Township, 10 acres at the Bradford County Airport in Towanda Township, the Paper Magic Building in Canton Township, the Cornell Industrial Corporation Building in Tuscarora Township, and 175 acres of the Valley Business Park in Athens Township.

Site Development Incentive Grants

NTRPDC offers Site Development Grants up to \$5,000 in order to prepare properties for business development activities. In the past year, the following companies received grant funds for site development projects:

- Trehab
- Bryan's Meat Cutting & Country Butcher Shop
- Brown's Pharmacy
- SCS Wireless Communications
- Wysox Animal Clinic
- Dunkin Donuts
- Holdren's Precision Machining
- Troy Skateland
- G. Webster Construction
- World of Wood

Brownfields Projects

The CBPA has worked with both Athens Township and Sayre Borough to facilitate their acquisition of contaminated sites within their municipalities. The Cohen Scrapyard in Athens Township is targeted for future athletic fields and a fire-training center. The CBPA has submitted a grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency for funds to clean up this site. Additionally, the CBPA is working to secure funding for the contaminated Sayre Rail-yards KOZ site in Sayre Borough. This site will be targeted for future business development after the environmental problems are remediated.

Efforts to Market Bradford County for Development:

Select Sites Program

The state of Pennsylvania has developed a detailed online listing of business development sites throughout the state. The hope is to provide companies interested in locating in Pennsylvania access to all sites that fit their needs.



The CBPA has entered many Bradford County sites into this database to encourage business development on available properties.

CBPA Hosts Visits to Bradford County

In order to help secure funding and future projects in the county, the CBPA has hosted visits from several key figures. Dennis Yablonsky, the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, John Blake, the Governor's Northeast Representative, John Ormasa of Congressman Sherwood's staff, and Steve Yokimishyn of the Governor's Action Team have all visited Bradford County in the past year to become more familiar with the area and its key issues.

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listing agent for the property, in order to market the site. The hope is to quickly reoccupy the building with a company that will help offset the job losses.

CBPA Organizational Advancements:

Impact Advertising

The CBPA has worked with NTRPDC and Impact Advertising of Williamsport to develop marketing tools for Bradford County. The folders and inserts developed by Impact Advertising highlight the strong workforce of Bradford County.

Paper Magic Building

The 133,000 square foot Paper Magic Building in Canton Township has been abandoned by the company. As a result, over 175 jobs were lost in the Canton and Troy areas of Western Bradford County. The CBPA has been working very closely with Mericle Commercial Real Estate of Williamsport, the

IDA Formed

The CBPA now has another administrative arm to more effectively deliver economic development services. The CBPA has formed an Industrial Development Authority to allow for tax-free financing capabilities in business development projects. As a Municipal Authority, Industrial Development Corporation, and Industrial Development Authority, the CBPA is now truly a full-service economic development organization.

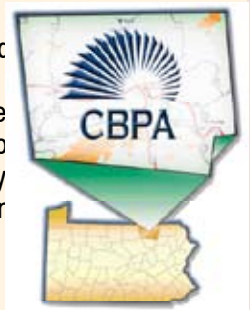
Countywide Outreach Program Finalized

The Bradford County Commissioners have decided to contract with the CBPA to provide professional economic development services to all of Bradford County.

The CBPA is now the primary economic development organization for the county and will receive funding from the county to help facilitate business development. As part of the agreement between the county and the CBPA, the Commissioners will be appointing a Countywide Economic Development Advisory Board to assist the CBPA in project identification and prioritization.

Countywide Economic Development Manager Hired

To help handle the additional responsibilities associated with serving all of Bradford County, the CBPA has hired Brian Driscoll of Canton to fill a new staff position. Brian will focus on furthering the CBPA's goals of job development and investment in Bradford County. He will work directly with Executive Director Tony Ventello assure that the county economic developer needs are met.



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