



**Annual Report**  
*Susquehanna County*  
**August 25, 2017**



*Progress Authority*

## **Jonathan Fritz - Guest Speaker**

Jonathan Fritz represents the 111th Legislative District, comprising parts of Susquehanna and Wayne counties.

Jonathan Fritz serves as Secretary of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, as well as Children & Youth, and Commerce Committees for the 2017-18 legislative session.

Prior to his service at the state level, Fritz served two terms as mayor of Honesdale and two terms as a Wayne County Commissioner, serving as vice chair.

As mayor, Fritz dedicated himself to bettering the way of life in his community; furthered initiatives to combat drug dealing, battled absentee landlords and focused on removing blight while working to strengthen public safety, improve traffic flow and expand business and cultural opportunities. In his role as county commissioner, Fritz and his fellow commissioners worked hard to prevent

tax increases and regulations from stifling families and local businesses.

Jonathan is a product of the



**Jonathan Fritz**  
*Guest Speaker*

private business sector. For many years he was general manager and head of sales for a local tractor and farm machinery dealership, rising to rank in the top 1 percent of salespeople for New Holland North America, Ag Tractor Division.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University.

His legislative priorities include supporting small business growth, enhancing the state's natural gas industry, strengthening area emergency response organizations and protecting local economies from environmental over-regulation.

Jonathan lives on Irving Lake with his wife, Donna, and their three children; Azlyn, Bennett and Lucas.

**2017 Annual Report Sponsor**



# **Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation**

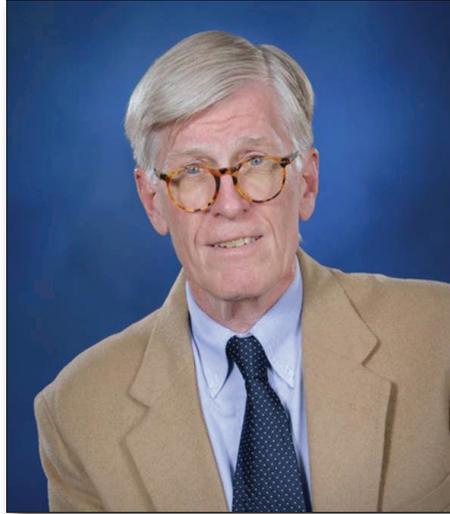


# Economic Development at the Harford Fair

By George Conner, President, Susquehanna County Economic Development Board

For many people in Susquehanna County the last weeks of August mean Harford Fair time. A magical, circus-come-to-town moment for children. A back-to-school, end-of-summer-vacation time. A celebratory time for adults who feel the first chill in the air that marks the change of seasons. "The Fair"(no need to tell a true Susquehanna County resident where to find it) marks a 160 year tradition of bringing folks together and proclaiming that farm life is good and that the agricultural community has a next generation of farm loving, young adults ready to take their places on the farm.

So much has changed during those 160 years it is a wonder that the Fair has managed to survive and adapt. It is the power of the combined energies of generations of Fair people that has kept the Harford Agricultural Society moving forward and prospering. We know about this success because of the Fair and the message that goes out each year: "Life is good and we want to show you some of it." The Fair is a community showcase, painted, and spiffed up, and newly expanded each year.



**George Conner, Chairman**  
*Susquehanna County Economic Development Board*

Borrowing a slogan from our County Commissioners, we might proclaim that Susquehanna County farms are "Open For Business". So celebrate the Fair, and the many folks who make it happen, as an example of continuing economic success in the county. Take them up on the invitation to "Come to the Fair!". Don't miss the potato pancakes!

The Economic Development Advisory Board just recently created

a task force to increase small business awareness in the county. Like the Fair, we want to show off the best of what entrepreneurs are doing in our county. The goals are to further encourage, mentor and celebrate small business success. By calling attention to and publicizing businesses that are just starting or recently expanding, we hope to increase awareness of what the Progress Authority can offer with the Revolving Loan Fund, infrastructure improvements, and state government incentives. We are still exploring how to accomplish these goals. If you would like to contribute with suggestions or active participation, we will gladly accept your thoughts and efforts.

And finally, virtual Blue Ribbons go out to our County Commissioners for their continued active and enthusiastic support of the Advisory Board and the Progress Authority. Grand Champion awards go to the Board members for so willingly volunteering their time to monitor, advise, and encourage economic development in Susquehanna County. Working together we can enhance economic growth in our county.

## Susquehanna County Director's Message



**Anthony J. Ventello**  
*Executive Director*

This past year's efforts culminated into much needed state investment into infrastructure for Susquehanna County. As a result, investment in water lines, sewer lines, and natural gas distribution paved the way for new business investment and economic growth for Susquehanna County. Continued work with all business concerns has remained paramount to leverage private investment and enhance job opportunities. The knowledge and guidance of the County Commissioners and Economic Development Advisory Board is

proven leadership for the economic development of the County. Ongoing efforts to assist small business, promote value-added natural gas, agricultural businesses, improve countywide connectivity and strengthen infrastructure all remain top priorities towards creating more opportunities and wealth in Susquehanna County.

The Progress Authority is privileged to work with the County Commissioners, Advisory Board and citizens to accomplish the economic development objectives of the County.

*(cont. page 3)*

## Director's Message

(cont.)

Additionally, Susquehanna County is updating their comprehensive plan to identify specific goals and objectives that best represent and impact the residents' needs of Susquehanna County. The end result will clarify a development strategy to allow for and manage desired economic growth. We desire to play a part in this effort.

We are excited about the opportunities

that are culminating for Susquehanna County and continue to recognize the framework of small businesses that primarily employ and feed the county's economy. We will continue to provide necessary resources to build and expand existing and new business.

I am extremely thankful to the Susquehanna County Commissioners – Alan Hall, MaryAnn Warren and

Elizabeth Arnold – and the Economic Development Advisory Board – George Conner, Joe Andre, John Kameen, Bill Kelley, Deb Dissinger, Craig Benson, Brian Hinkley, Rick Ainey, Steve Tourje, Bill Owen, and Ken Bondurant – for their input and continued support. The Progress Authority remains dedicated to improving the economic future of Susquehanna County.

# Progress Authority Provides Testimony to US Congress

The Progress Authority was recently asked to provide testimony before the US Congressional Committee on Science, Space and Technology in Washington, DC. In September 2016, Executive Director Anthony Ventello was requested by the US Congress to provide testimony regarding the economic impacts of natural gas development; specifically, in our region of the Marcellus Shale development.

The hearing, held in the Rayburn Building in Washington, DC was attended by the Subcommittee on the Environment by the 114th Congress. The hearing focused on impacts and environmental regulation. Mr. Ventello was one of four witnesses, and provided a powerpoint to the Congressional Committee specifically focused on value-added natural gas utilization and the economic benefits experienced in the shale gas development. He was allotted additional time by the committee as they were enlightened regarding local economic and community impacts.

Additional testimony was provided by Mr. Erik Milito, Director of Upstream and



*The United States Capitol Building in Washington DC*

Industry Operations with the American Petroleum Institute; Dr. Bernard Weinsten, Professor and Associate Director, Maguire Energy Institute, Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University; and Mr. Elgie Holstein, Senior Director for Strategic Planning, Environmental Defense Fund. Mr. Ventello's testimony was well received

and several members of Congress were interested in the success of natural gas investment in our region.

As a result, it cannot be assumed that our region's economic impact received from natural gas drilling is well known. This emphasizes the importance of continued presentation and recognition of Susquehanna County.



# Rural Vitality: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone reading this newsletter that rural areas across the country are experiencing a large variety of negative social and economic issues – declining populations and outmigration of youth and young families, aging infrastructure, loss of industry, increasing health issues such as substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity, amongst other things – while at the same time facing increasing competition for dwindling state and federal tax dollars to address these issues.

While the effects of the decline are easy to see around us, the solutions are not. These complex and interconnected issues, often called 'wicked' problems, cut across multiple economic and social sectors and too often defy our traditional approaches to addressing them.

So what can we do to combat wicked problems? The following is my perspective on one approach we can use.

First, a little about me. I was recently hired into the agricultural entrepreneurship/economic and community development educator role with Susquehanna County Cooperative Extension in Montrose. I cover Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming Counties as well as support programming across the entire state. Prior to joining Penn State, I operated a small woodworking business out of my former home in Wellsboro, PA.

A Pennsylvania native, I've been fortunate to have spent a large portion of my career living in and working in rural areas in Pennsylvania and Alaska. Academically, I have a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment and a MS in Community and Economic Development. Perhaps more importantly, I bring nearly 20 years of experience in community



**Jason L. Weigle, PhD.**  
*Extension Educator*

and economic development, unconventional gas development, environmental regulation, grassroots organization, volunteer and board experience, and academic research and outreach to the position.

My approach to the problems facing rural areas has been heavily influenced by my personal experiences and a concept called Rural Vitality. Emerging from the rural mid-west, Rural Vitality (sometimes also called Community Vitality) starts with the belief that the best and most cost effective way to address rural America's challenges is by building solutions locally, and, in the process, developing the internal capacity of communities to address future challenges as they arrive.

Sounds like what we already do, right? Yes and no.

Research indicates our approach to addressing wicked issues tends to be one dimensional, that is, focusing on addressing a specific aspect of a problem but often failing to address the broader, interconnected, and underlying causes of the problem. This one dimensional focus often fails to establish the social and economic infrastructure necessary to prevent wicked issues from re-occurring or build the internal capacity of rural

communities to address new problems which arise in the future.

This isn't to downplay or criticize what we are currently doing to combat problems in rural areas. There are a lot of organizations, such as the Central Bradford Progress Authority, doing great work and getting things done despite the overwhelming number of problems they face and the funding and staffing shortfalls they have.

I believe we can do better. We need to rethink the 'problems' facing our rural areas as 'challenges': challenges which drive social and economic innovation and entrepreneurship; challenges which make us rethink what we consider leadership to be and how we govern ourselves and our communities; and challenges which allow us to build the capacity of our communities to grow and adapt despite the constant force of change around them.

Following the Rural Vitality approach, we can focus these challenges into four different emphasis areas:

- Rural and downtown revitalization;
- Agricultural and Rural Business Development;
- Agricultural and Rural Leadership Development; and
- Youth Entrepreneurship and Civic Engagement.

It's helpful (but not necessarily accurate) to think of the four emphasis areas as the 'one dimensional' focus areas I mentioned earlier. As evidenced by the names, there is (or can be) a lot of overlap between the 'bins'. It's the overlaps the Rural Vitality approach is interested in because these are areas where new businesses, programs, and funding streams can be developed to help tackle wicked issues.



### To help illustrate this concept, let's put the emphasis areas into a Venn diagram:

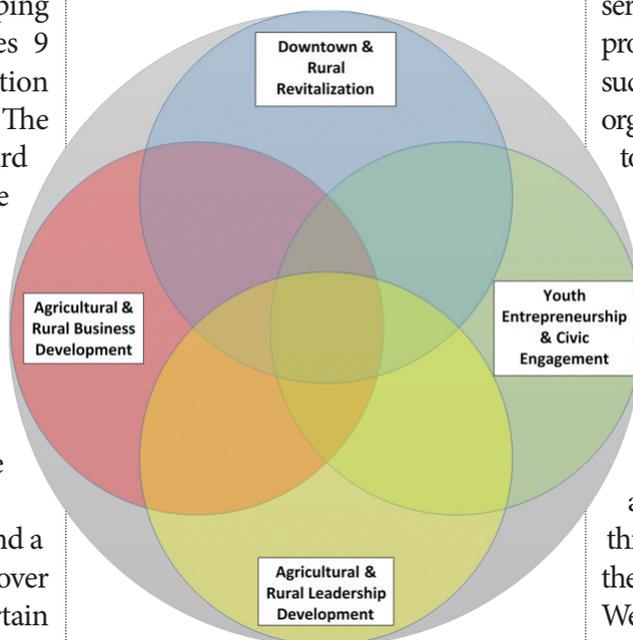
As you can see, the overlapping of the four emphasis areas creates 9 different spaces of potential interaction amongst the emphasis areas. The effectiveness of programming toward addressing wicked issues can be measured by how they address these overlaps. The big gray circle around all of the other circles are what I call universal challenges, that is, challenges interwoven through and impacting all of the other areas (e.g. core infrastructure like roadways and bridges).

We could (and arguably do) spend a lot of time and resources squabbling over 'turf wars' - which of the spaces certain programs go into or who should be doing what within which space. While it is important to consider what we bring to the table, it is more important to think about the challenges which exist within each area of overlap and where we fit in, along with others, to address them.

In doing this, we need to consider the broader picture. We need think about how we make residents and constituents aware of challenges facing our communities (i.e. how do we educate them about the complexity of issues they face without scaring them under the porch!) and where they fit into opportunities for solutions. We also need to consider how our existing assets (our programs, projects, and funding) work toward addressing the challenges we've identified, how they might be redundant, conflicting, or outdated, and/or how they can be more effectively utilized to address key challenges.

And, perhaps most importantly, we need to consider how we engage with each other - regardless of what entity or community to which we belong - in building capacity within people, our communities, our organizations, and our governments to better address challenges both now and in the future.

And to not forget that challenges are



really nothing but opportunity in disguise!

As I already mentioned, we already have a lot of tools in our toolbox - we simply need to connect entrepreneurs and innovators to those tools. But we do have a lot of challenges yet to be addressed - and that's where the approach I've outlined above, the thinking underlying it, and Penn State Cooperative Extension can help.

Extension has a wide variety of programs in its portfolio which we offer to those seeking ways to address the challenges facing them. The First Impressions and Marketing Hometown America programs were developed by Extension programs in the mid-west as a way for communities to document their current assets and needs with an aim toward marketing their community to prospective businesses and residents.

The Entrepreneurial Communities program offers assistance to communities looking to keep and grow existing businesses as well as enhance their attractiveness to new entrepreneurs and businesses. The Six Steps program is geared toward developing both board and organizations to allow them to function better, improving their ability to provide

services within their community. We also provide a variety of 'on demand' trainings, such as grant writing workshops, to help organizations develop their own capacity to do good work within our state.

On the agricultural entrepreneurship side, the Food for Profit program provides a comprehensive seminar on what it takes to start a small business around food processing and sales, on the farm or off of it. The Ag Alternatives and AgrAbilities factsheets help new and existing agricultural enterprises think about various aspects of farming they might want to add to their portfolio. We also have programs for prospective agricultural entrepreneurs (Exploring the Small Farm Dream) and for agricultural enterprise operators wanting to improve their financial recordkeeping (Farm\$en\$e). Cooperative Extension's 4-H program provides youth with many opportunities to develop their interests and capacity for learning, leadership, and entrepreneurship.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Cooperative Extension, Extension is a collaborative partnership between Penn State, the US Department of Agriculture, and state and county governments to provide science based programming, resources, education, and support to residents of the Commonwealth. Beyond Community and Business topics, we offer information and programming on Animals, Plants and Pests, Natural Resources, Food and Health, and Youth and Family. Check out our website at <http://extension.psu.edu> for up to date information and resources.

If you want to learn more about how I can assist you or just want to chat with me about a project you are working on, please feel free to stop by the Susquehanna County Extension Office at 88 Chenango Street in Montrose, call me at 570-278-1158, or email me at [jlw211@psu.edu](mailto:jlw211@psu.edu).

# PREP Region: Northern Tier

SUBMITTED BY: KIM BARNES, NT PREP COORDINATOR

• NTRPDC, in collaboration with our PREP partners, conducted semi-annual outreach meeting in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to network. The November meetings brought together nearly 50 local and regional service providers, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, local elected officials and other civic groups to discuss current initiatives and opportunities to better serve the region.

• NTRPDC, in collaboration with our PREP partners, conducted semi-annual outreach meetings in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to network. The May series of meetings brought 35 local and regional service providers, local elected officials and others together to discuss current initiatives and opportunities for the region.

• The Progress Authority continued its work with PA American Water and Leatherstocking on extending needed infrastructure along Route 29 South in Montrose, Susquehanna County. The waterline extension is complete, and is ready for businesses to hook up. Leatherstocking was approved for \$442,000 under the Pipeline Assistance Grant program, and

construction will start in the fall of 2017. This will bring gas service along the same corridor, and allow for a number of existing businesses and potential industrial sites, as well as the county jail, to be served.

• The Progress Authority submitted a Small Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of Harford Township, Susquehanna County and received approval for \$300,000 grant for grinder pumps.

• Value Added Natural Gas Presentations: The Progress Authority has put together a presentation highlighting the various advances that our area has been able to achieve, with presentations to: PA Envirothon; Bradford County Home Builders Association; Clavaerack Rural Electric Board; Towanda Rotary; Montrose Rotary and Borton Lawson Natural Gas Roundtable.

• The Progress Authority submitted a Small Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of Harford Township, Susquehanna County and received approval for \$300,000 grant for grinder pumps.

• The Progress Authority is working with representatives on sighting a very large urea operation in Bradford or Susquehanna County. Assistance to the site selection team to locate a site that meets their needs, as well as contracting with gas companies to supply the tremendous amount of natural gas needed for the project to continue.

• Congressional Hearing on EPA regulations regarding Natural

Gas Exploration: The Progress Authority testified before the US House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology sub-committee on the environment, extolling the many benefits that natural gas has brought to the area.

• The Progress Authority worked closely with Bradford County Commissioners and Joe Hunt and Associates to conduct an engineering study for the former Ingersoll Rand production facility in Athens to make the site more marketable to potential buyers.

• The University of Scranton SBDC and NTRPDC served as expert panelists at the PA Route 6 Alliance's workshop "Downtown Summit: Sharing Ideas for Successful Downtowns Across PA Route 6." They presented PREP programs and services to the Chambers of Commerce, economic development groups and businesses in attendance. The 45 attendees received suggestions on how to make their downtowns more exciting, fill empty storefronts and recruit new businesses.

• NEPIRC secured an OEA/DoD Grant for RSJ Technologies so they can become compliant with the new AS 9100-Rev. D standard. Without this certification, they could not conduct business in the Aerospace Industry which is 95% of their business.

• NEPIRC secured WEDnet funding for Mestek to provide training to 45 new employees.



# Resources For Development, Progress For People

The Progress Authority's Revolving Loan Fund was set up as an economic development tool to assist businesses with their financing needs. The intention of the fund is to strengthen a financing package while taking a subordinate lien position behind a primary lending institution. Special consideration is given to projects that have more job creation. The rate is usually advantageous and the term is dependent on the type of collateral. The Progress Authority is a certified Area Lending Organization (ALO) as an Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and General Purpose Authority. We have a 20 member board who were appointed by our member municipalities and

wear 3 hats representing the 3 separate entities. Our board is the same for the IDC, IDA and General Purpose Authority.

## General Guidelines

**Loan Size:** \$25,000 to \$100,000  
(Special consideration is given to projects with larger job creation)

**Collateral:** Subordinate Lien Position on Real Estate, Equipment, Personal Guaranty is customary.

**Term:** Equipment- up to 5 years  
Real Estate- up to 10 years

**Rate:** Based on collateral and term.  
Range 3.0% - 3.75%

The Loan Committee underwrites each loan request and makes

a recommendation to the Executive Committee and Full Board of Directors for a final vote. If the loan is approved, the borrower's legal counsel coordinates closing with the authority's legal counsel when all closing requirements have been met. Loan payments are subsequently made to a local bank that administers the Authority's loan fund. Applications are available online at [www.cbprogress.org](http://www.cbprogress.org).



## Susquehanna County Business Promotion Task Force Forms

The Susquehanna County Economic Development Advisory Board is pleased to announce the formation of a new task force, Susquehanna County Business Promotion Task Force. The group's key purposes are to identify small businesses that are starting up or moving into the County and which are starting or expanding into new product lines or areas. They also will reach out to those businesses to welcome them to the community and discuss resources available to assist them in their business needs.

They will work with the local press to announce the new business ventures to increase exposure. The members will be available to support



and mentor the new businesses. In their efforts, they will be reaching out to existing organizations such as the chamber of commerce or local economic development or community development groups to identify the new business owners.

The Advisory Board looks forward

to working with the Task Force in their efforts to promote new and existing small businesses in Susquehanna County. Task Force members are George Conner, Rick Ainey, Craig Benson, Frank Finan, Staci Wilson, Jason Weigle and commissioners Alan Hall, MaryAnn Warren and Elizabeth Arnold.

# The Governor's Action Team

Can Save You Time and Money

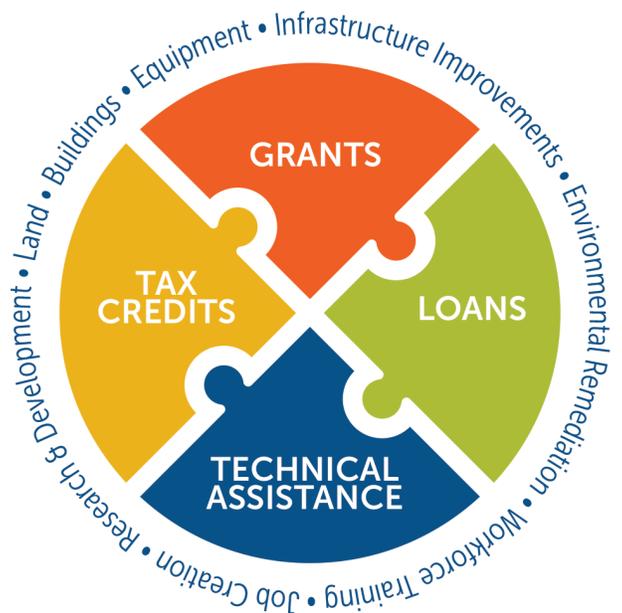


"Time is money." In 1748, Benjamin Franklin — who grew *his* businesses in Pennsylvania — penned this timeless expression that has continued to remain relevant to businesses throughout history. The Governor's Action Team can save you *time* and *money* by convening resources to help take your project from concept to reality as quickly as possible.



## We Want Your Business in PENNSYLVANIA

We understand that a strategic investment in your qualified business will not only increase your profitability and strengthen your balance sheet, but will also boost Pennsylvania's local economies and raise the standard of living for our residents. With direct access to the governor, the Governor's Action Team will work with you to assemble an assistance package tailored to the specific needs of your business.



## THE GOVERNOR'S ACTION TEAM CAN...

### IDENTIFY



The best potential locations throughout the state that meet your specific business needs

### INFORM



Your decisions with relevant, comparable demographic and economic insights

### ENGAGE



Participation from other state agencies, stakeholders, and resources as necessary

### ASSEMBLE



An assistance package tailored to the specific needs of your business

# The Governor's Action Team-Continued



## Start the Conversation

The Governor's Action Team is ready to assist you in implementing your business growth strategy. Take a closer look at Pennsylvania and give us a call at 570.963.4573 or visit [dced.pa.gov/GAT](http://dced.pa.gov/GAT).

### Northeast Regional Office

2 N. Main Street  
Pittston, PA 18640

### Robert Watts

Regional Director  
[robewatts@pa.gov](mailto:robewatts@pa.gov)  
570.963.4598

## RECENT BUSINESS INVESTMENTS

COMPANY NAME	TOTAL PROJECT COST	TOTAL JOBS
Adaptimmune LLC	\$4,123,000	124
Alcoa	\$51,878,740	3,085
Axalta Coating Systems	\$47,000,000	563
BrandYourself.com, Inc.	\$900,000	101
Cook Myosite	\$26,000,000	139
Crystal Window & Door Systems, Ltd.	\$26,000,000	320
FedEx Ground Package System, Inc.	\$227,500,000	2,332
Jones Lang Lasalle	\$5,000,000	486
Nasdaq, Inc.	\$30,000,000	161
Paychex, Inc.	\$1,316,000	544
Saks & Company LLC	\$52,500,000	598
SalonCentric, Inc.	\$5,800,000	185
Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC	\$1,000,000,000*	400*
SunOpta Grains and Foods, Inc.	\$32,100,000	105
Voith Holding Inc.	\$825,000	614
WNS Global Services	\$2,000,000	375

\* Reflects minimum investment required for funding. Actual capital investment is expected to be approximately \$6 billion, with 600 new jobs created.



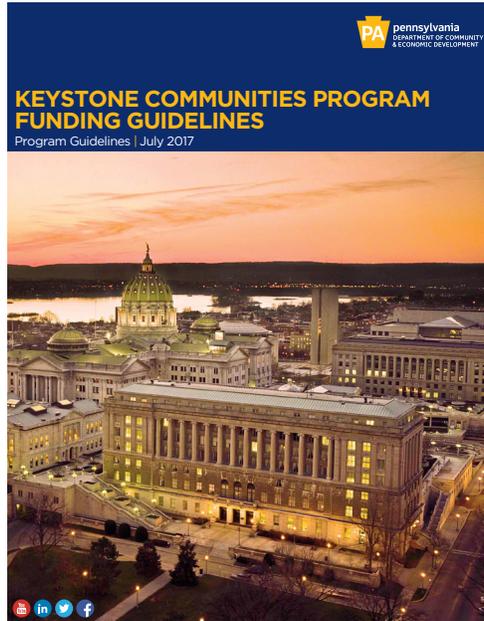
*"I was extremely impressed by the Governor's Action Team. In particular, the Department of Community and Economic Development provided very specific guidelines and feedback in order to expedite our decision to locate our ecommerce facility in Pennsylvania. The Governor's Action Team provided the commonwealth with a competitive advantage to secure our long-term commitment, investment and employment generator."*

— Kurt W. Schneider, SVP – Hudson's Bay Company

# Grant Programs to Become Available in Susquehanna County

Small Sewer and Water Grant Program – This program, which was previously open, proved to be very popular with municipalities, and will re-open in the near future. Eligible sewer and water projects are those which have a total project cost of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$500,000, and cannot be part of a larger project. Activities to assist with the construction, improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation or repair of a water supply or sanitary sewer system are among the eligible projects. We will notify interested municipalities when the program is re-opened.

Keystone Communities Grant Program - The Keystone Communities (KC) program is designed to encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors that jointly support local initiatives such as the growth and stability of neighborhoods and communities; social and economic diversity; and a strong and secure quality of life. The program allows communities



to tailor the assistance to meet the needs of its specific revitalization effort.

Communities may wish to consider designation through the KC program as a Keystone Main Street, Keystone Elm Street, Keystone Enterprise Zone, or Keystone Community. Designation is an opportunity for targeted investment and development including the identification of specific needs for

investment and/or development and the design and implementation of a strategy to address those needs.

Small Business Advantage Program - The small business community is critical to Pennsylvania's – and Susquehanna County's – economic health and vitality. Well-designed pollution prevention and energy efficiency projects can help small businesses operate more efficiently and save money while improving the environment.

This grant is designed to assist small businesses in employing pollution prevention or energy efficiency measures into their operations. Eligible are Pennsylvania-based businesses with less than 100 employees. Examples of eligible projects include HVAC and boiler upgrades, high-efficiency lighting, solvent recovery systems, and waste recycling systems.

Local matching funds may vary from program to program, and a \$500 application fee to the DCED is required.



*Construction of the Route 29 Waterline*

The long-awaited Route 29 waterline project is complete. The project began with a feasibility study conducted by Pennsylvania American Water Company to extend approximately 3,500 feet of public waterline in Bridgewater Township. Project engineering detected substantial

## Route 29 Waterline Extension Completed with \$446,000 PA First Grant

rock formations in the corridor, delaying construction. However, collaborative efforts between the Susquehanna County Commissioners, PA American Water Company and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development helped to fund the 1.5 million dollar new infrastructure investment.

The project now supplies much needed public water to residents, businesses and public properties along the corridor. It also has positioned public water for future development of approximately 150 acres of existing industrial property. The waterline will attract new investment for job growth. The

line is also positioned for future extensions.

The cooperation and partnership of securing the funding for the project is what made the waterline's completion a reality. We wish to acknowledge and thank the Susquehanna County Commissioners, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Pennsylvania American Water Company for their funding contributions. Additionally, cooperation with Bridgewater Township, the Susquehanna County Conservation District and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation all made this project a reality and smoothly coordinated effort.

# Momentum Continues to Build in Support of Atlantic Sunrise

## ATLANTIC SUNRISE

The Susquehanna County Economic Development Advisory Board unanimously agreed to authorize a letter of support for the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline. Atlantic Sunrise continues to surpass key regulatory milestones, moving the nearly \$3 billion project closer to construction and operation to expand consumer access to affordable, domestically produced natural gas. Most recently, the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity, authorizing the Atlantic Sunrise.

Key to the project's success is the collaborative approach of listening to and working with local stakeholders. Throughout the planning and development of Atlantic Sunrise, their outreach team met regularly with stakeholders in communities throughout the project footprint,

including small business owners, first responders, union leaders, local landowners, county commissioners and local elected officials.

We are excited that there is tremendous local support throughout the Atlantic Sunrise footprint and beyond. This momentum of strong support continues at public meetings and through phone calls, emails and letters to the governor as well as state and federal regulators.

## Harford Township Receives DCED Grant Funds



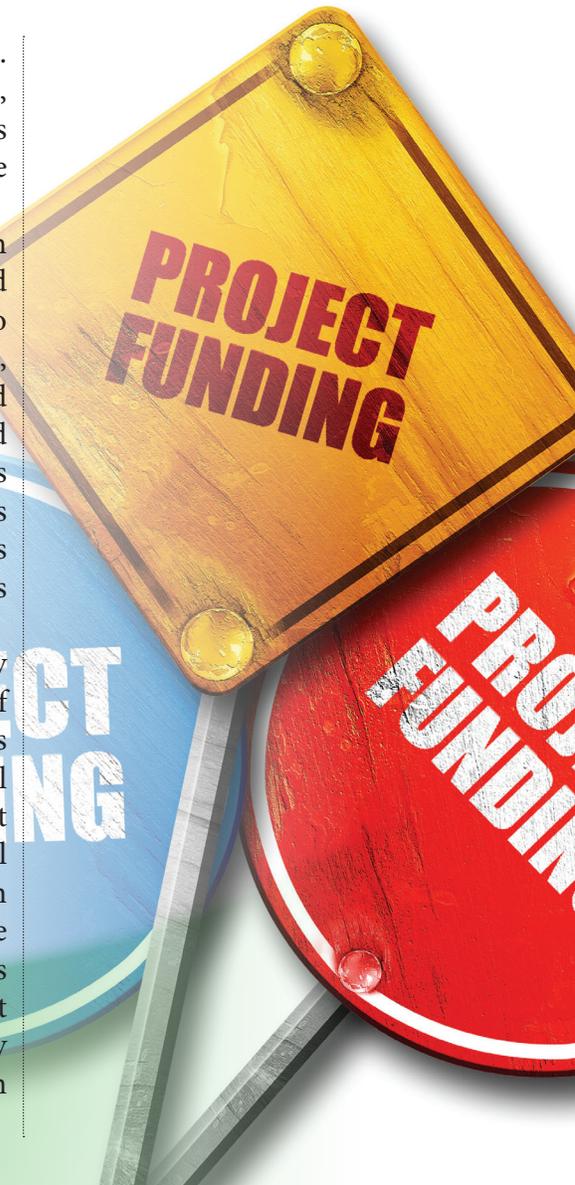
The Progress Authority recently assisted Harford Township Supervisors in obtaining a \$303,380 grant to replace grinder pumps throughout their sewer system through the Small Sewer and Water Grant program.

The Harford Township Board of Supervisors, located in Susquehanna County, requested PA Small Water and Sewer program assistance to help in financing to replace failed grinder pumps as possible throughout its municipal sewer collection system. As a separate project, Harford Township has engineered and upgraded the existing wastewater treatment plant to

meet current environmental standards. However, the antiquated, obsolete, unrepairable grinder pump system is near failure as it could no longer be patched and makeshift repaired.

Harford Township is rich with history, settled in 1790 and incorporated in 1808. It is home to the historic Harford Post Office, congregational church and Harford County Fair, hosted by the Harford Agricultural Society. The fair has been celebrated for 159 years and is one of the only true agricultural fairs left. It hosts nearly 70,000 visitors as a late August event.

The project will primarily secure the health and safety of the Harford Township residents by finalization of the municipal sewage collection system via best management practices for a rural community. The system has been systematically upgraded to meet the long-term sewage collection needs of the municipality; however, it must be developed cost effectively to manage maintenance and system and user fees.



# Susquehanna County Requests RACP: Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Funds for Emergency Services and Court System



**911**  
Emergency

The Susquehanna County Commissioners have requested RACP funding facilitated by the Progress Authority for the new Susquehanna County Public Safety and Continuation of Government Program. Considering the recent storm damage to the current 911 system, this project and funding is now more necessary than ever. This project will be the construction of a new complex that will house 911 operations, Emergency Management, County Coroner, undercover detectives, District Magistrate, and will be the facility to allow the continuation of Government.

In 2013, Susquehanna County had a feasibility study done in regard to its 911 center. The study revealed many issues, including lack of space, outdated equipment,

and a shortage of dispatch stations, among other issues. This project will relocate the 911 center with the EMA in a user friendly best practice facility. The facility will be “state of the art” including not only for the internal needs, but also will include meeting and training space for first responders and other state agencies. Undercover detectives, magistrates and the court system will be housed in the new facility, coordinating services.

Additional consoles will meet not only the County’s needs but will also allow sharing with other Counties. The new phone system is a five-county shared system to provide the latest technology while emphasizing cost affective approaches. There will be a 9 County shared Broad Band Internet which will lead to shared services

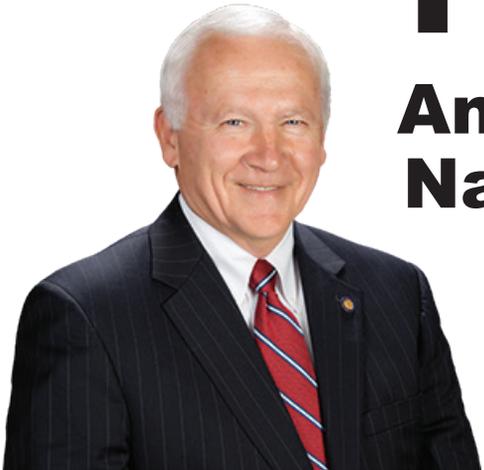
like CAD services. A new licensed microwave frequency will be used to insure operations. Undercover Detectives operation will be in a more secure nonpublic area allowing for the security and safety of their programs. The Coroner will be able to meet with families in a more professional setting being more dignified for all involved. The Magistrates current facility is a rental property in disrepair and poor design. The new facility will be County owned reducing rental cost, but will be designed in compliance with the AOPC for efficiency and safety. The Court area will also serve as a location for continuation of Government for the Court system. In addition, the meeting rooms will also allow for continuation of government for all of County Government. The server room at this facility will house a virtual backup for the County allowing redundancy between the new center and the existing Courthouse.

This project will not only create construction jobs, but will also create other positions in 911, Detectives, and maintenance to mention a few.

This project is not only beneficial to the residents of the County, it also will be beneficial for all of Pennsylvania. The benefits will be to all taxpayers in the state with reduced costs with shared systems with other Counties and State Agencies. With a state of the art facility it will provide better services to the public including travelers through the County on Interstate 81.

# Fritz, Yaw

## Announce Grant for Natural Gas Line in Susquehanna County



Senator Gene Yaw



Jonathan Fritz

MONTROSE – Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne) and Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) today announced a \$442,274 grant to be awarded to Leatherstocking Gas Company for the installation of a natural gas line in Bridgewater Township, Susquehanna County. The grant is awarded through the Commonwealth Financing Authority’s Pipeline Investment Program.

The proposed project will extend the existing natural gas line an additional 7,300 linear feet along Route 29 serving the borough of Montrose and the township of Bridgewater. The project will provide low-cost natural gas to homes and will service 130 acres of commercial/industrial property, as well as create 100 jobs and retain 80 jobs.

“This substantial grant will provide much-needed economic growth and development to Susquehanna County,” said Fritz. “I am so pleased to see the public and private sectors working together to create jobs, fuel business growth and enhance our community.”

“Improving the accessibility and availability of natural gas service throughout our region will give more residents the opportunity to benefit from this low-cost, more environmentally friendly fuel,” said Yaw. “As sponsor of legislation establishing the Pipeline Investment Program, my colleagues and I continue working to ensure that locally produced natural gas stays local for the benefit of area residents, businesses, hospitals and schools. I congratulate

Leatherstocking on receiving this state investment and it will serve as a benefit to the entire county.”

Pipeline Investment Program funds will be used for the construction of the gas line, engineering and inspection costs. Total project cost is \$884,548 and Leatherstocking Gas Company will provide matching funds in the amount of \$442,274.

Michael German, president and CEO, stated, “LGC is moving forward to acquire the necessary easements and permits in order to begin construction. We are encouraged by the support of state and local officials, the local customer response to date, and believe this gas line will be a stimulus for future economic growth and job creation in the area.”



# 2 Dogz and a Guy Brewing LLC



Montrose Area Industrial Development Authority (MAIDA), with the cooperation of The Progress Authority, has extended a loan to Jim and Chris Shuster of 2 Dogz and a Guy Brewing LLC to start a small-scale microbrewery in the heart of the Montrose Business District. Located at the former Masonic Lodge at 224 Church St. in Montrose, the microbrewery will offer a variety of exceptionally brewed craft beers to its customers in a relaxed and casual setting. Jim and Chris have

had a passion for home brewing for many years and have developed recipes that appeal to a variety of beer drinkers. Customers can sample the various beers, purchase by the glass, or purchase growlers to take home. The Shuster's also plan to offer locally produced wine from the area's excellent wineries. This microbrewery will be a great addition to the Montrose downtown. The grand opening is scheduled for September 29, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

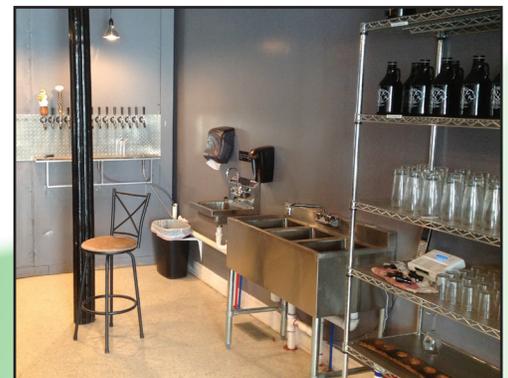
The Progress Authority has partnered with MAIDA to make this loan possible. The Authority managed the underwriting and closing of the loan while MAIDA approved and funded the loan. MAIDA is a local economic development organization that was looking for ways to help downtown Montrose with their limited resources. This project was small scale yet it could have a large impact on the downtown.



*Lounge Area*



*Storage Area*



*Tap System*

# Scholarships for Our Military Personnel

A new scholarship fund is now available to assist veterans, reservists, and National Guard members.

The Veterans Education and Training Support Fund (VETS) has been established at the Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains. Scholarship recipients will attend the Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center (SCCTC) located at the Elk Lake school campus. Together, these two entities represent an unquestionably sound partnership.

The objective is to offer vocational training...a career base, a long term, even lifetime benefit. Attendees to SCCTC are only limited by their commute. This is truly a local endeavor.

We need both donors, and prospective students.

**DONORS** - The initial goal is to reach \$200,000.00. This would allow for scholarships of \$10,000.00 each year. Unlike many other veteran organizations that charge high administrative fees, 99% of donations to the VETS Fund directly benefit a veteran you may know. When considering a charitable contribution, please make the support of our local vets, a **top priority**. The first \$50,000.00 in donations will be matched 100%. And, all donations are taxed deductible.

**Founding Donors** at the \$1,000.00 level have the option to specify an honorarium or memorial, the individual's name will be added to recognition plaque, which will be in the SCCTC lobby.

**PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**  
- Any interested individual should

contact SCCTC directly. The school researches the availability of other financial resources and verifies all qualifications. With a resulting SCCTC recommendation, the application is reviewed for final approval by the VETS advisory board of local veterans.

Looking at the VETS initiative, a sound, perpetual, operation base is in place. Now, everyone's help is needed to achieve this first financial goal. **To that end, your support would be gratefully appreciated.**

*Thank you,*

*M.S. "Joe" Andre  
Chairman*



Veterans Education and Training Support Fund is a component of the Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains.

2270 Lake Ave., Montrose, PA 18801

(570) 278-3800

[community-foundation.org](http://community-foundation.org)

[vets@community-foundation.org](mailto:vets@community-foundation.org)



## **Susquehanna County Commissioners**

Alan Hall..... Chairman  
MaryAnn Warren..... Commissioner  
Elizabeth Arnold ..... Commissioner

## **Susquehanna County Economic Development Advisory Board**

William Kelley  
Brian Hinkley  
Debra Dissinger  
George Conner  
Joe Andre  
John Kameen  
Steve Tourje  
William Owens  
Kenneth Bondurant  
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The Progress Authority is an equal opportunity lender.



# 2017