

# PROGRESS

*A Newsletter Dedicated to Economic Opportunities in Susquehanna County*

**Central Bradford Progress Authority: Resources for Development, Progress for People**  
Spring 2007

## Enterprise Zone Approved for Susquehanna County

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development recently announced the approval of the Central Bradford Progress Authority's Enterprise Zone application for Susquehanna County. In order to implement the Susquehanna County Enterprise Zone, the CBPA has gone through a planning process to identify areas within the County with both economic need and the potential for future growth. These areas need to be consistent with local planning and land use initiatives, and there should be local support for business growth. An Enterprise Zone does not override any local statutes or regulations.

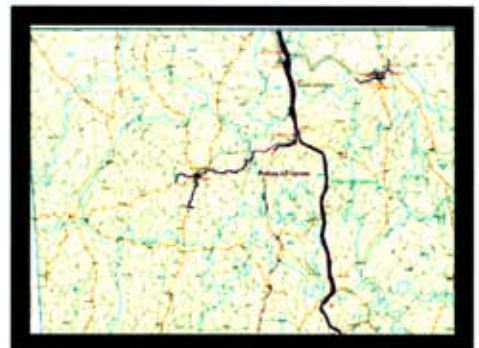
The Enterprise Zone takes in geographic areas along infrastructure nodes within Susquehanna County, particularly along major roadway corridors. The Susquehanna County Enterprise Zone includes portions of



*Jointly announcing the Susquehanna County Enterprise Zone were DCFD Representative Cindy Campbell, Commissioner Roberta Kelly, Senator Lisa Baker, Commissioner Mary Ann Warren, Commissioner Jeffrey Loomis, Senator Roger Mudge, Jim Bradla, Representative Sandra Major, Janet Hamilton, and Paul Mackowski of Congressman Chris Carney's office.*

the following municipalities: Bridgewater Township, Forest City Borough, Great Bend Borough, Great Bend Township, Hallstead Borough, Harford Township, Lanesboro Borough, Lenox Township, Montrose Borough, New Milford Borough, New Milford Township, Oakland Borough, Oakland Township, and Susquehanna Depot Borough.

The Enterprise Zone status provides enhanced access to local economic development funding and priority consideration for state business funding programs. Through competitive funding programs, the CBPA will be able to develop a locally controlled revolving loan fund to offer as a business development incentive for existing businesses and new businesses relocating into the Zone. The CBPA will administer the Enterprise Zone on behalf of Susquehanna County.



# From the Director

*With the publishing of the first issue of a separate newsletter for Susquehanna County, we are excited about the economic development program opportunities and cooperation that exists in Susquehanna County.*

*Due to the dynamics and the ground work established, it was clear that a newsletter targeted at Susquehanna County projects was warranted and necessary. This individual and unique effort will inform all those who read it of the economic development team projects and opportunities available and established in the county.*

*In mid-2005, the Susquehanna County Commissioners committed to a new direction for the County Economic Development Program. The CBPA staff have focused on past, existing and future economic development challenges and opportunities. The learning curve is over and with the support of our Susquehanna County Commissioners and Countywide Economic Development Board, I assure you that the CBPA will aggressively pursue all aspects of economic development, facilitate investment and job enhancement to improve the quality of life in the best interest of those who live in Susquehanna County.*

*With a strategic focus, work program and newly designated state Enterprise Zone in place, we are putting the creative tools to work to maximize our efforts. We are appreciative of the opportunity to assist Susquehanna County with a local emphasis to have a hand in the economic future of the County.*

*Please consider myself or Brian Driscoll of our staff available to discuss your views and ideas to strengthen the economic growth of Susquehanna County via the information provided in the newsletter.*

*Anthony J. Ventello*  
Executive Director

Central Bradford Progress Authority  
One Progress Plaza, Suite 3  
Towanda, PA 18848  
Toll Free: 888-263-0937  
Phone: 570-265-0937  
Fax: 570-265-0935  
Email: [cbpa@epix.net](mailto:cbpa@epix.net)  
Web: [www.cbprogress.org](http://www.cbprogress.org)



CBPA Staff: Brian Driscoll, Kim Kulick, Anthony Ventello

***CBPA is an Equal Opportunity Lender***



# Meet the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board Members: Jack Ord



*The Susquehanna County Economic Development Board poses with Commissioner Roberta Kelly, V. R. Commissioner Kelly, Janet Haddon, Jack Ord, Joe Andes, John Kamen, and Jim Bralla.*

The Chairman of the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board is Jack Ord. Jack is a resident of Hallstead and recently retired as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Peoples National Bank, where he had worked for 46 years. Since his retirement, he has continued serving as the Chairman of the Board for Peoples National Bank.

Jack and his wife Pat have two children and three grandchildren. His interests include traveling and golfing. He also serves as the Secretary of the Susquehanna County Industrial Development Authority and as the Chairman of the Hallstead-Great Bend Joint Sewer Authority.

As a community leader in Susquehanna County and through his years of experience in the banking industry, Jack has seen much change locally. By way of his involvement with the Economic Development Board, he is committed to seeing future positive change through economic growth in the County.



## Site Profile: Former Bendix Facility

The Bendix building is an 180,000 square foot facility located on 64 acres in South Montrose, Bridgewater Township. Unfortunately, the former manufacturing facility created environmental contamination on the site, and it was designated as a Superfund project. Through remediation activities and ongoing monitoring, the building can be reused for manufacturing operations. The CBPA is collaborating with the property owner to seek a company to utilize this facility.

# NEP Telephone Initiates Wireless Network

On January 31, 2007, the North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company held a ribbon cutting at its headquarters in Forest City to launch its new wireless network. The company's NEP Wireless division is now providing a cellular frequency and services in portions of Susquehanna, Wayne, and Lackawanna Counties. This project represented a major investment of approximately \$8.5 million in order to provide wireless infrastructure across the region, as numerous towers were constructed or leased.

In Susquehanna County, the network covers virtually the entire eastern portion of the County and as far west as Montrose. NEP Telephone is currently working with the Northern Tier Coalition to explore a second project that would extend the wireless network across western Susquehanna County as well.

The expanded cellular service area provided by NEP Wireless should greatly enhance business development efforts in Susquehanna County. This is an exciting investment in communications infrastructure and is a definite benefit to our region.





# Grant Secured for Lackawanna College



Lackawanna College has announced plans to establish a satellite center to provide postsecondary educational opportunities for Susquehanna County residents. Lackawanna College plans to open a facility in New Milford in time for the Fall 2007 semester. This center will provide both certificate and degree programs.

\$50,000 in state Community Revitalization Program grant funds have been approved to assist Lackawanna College in the establishment of a branch campus in Susquehanna County. Senator Roger Madigan was instrumental in helping to secure the funding, which will be used to provide equipment for a new center. Congressman Chris Carney has also been aggressive in pursuing federal funds for this effort.

Susquehanna County native Ryan Stalker has been named Director of the Susquehanna Center of Lackawanna College. The local educational opportunities provided by Lackawanna College should provide an enhancement for workforce development. This is an exciting venture for Susquehanna County's residents and businesses.



# Site Profile: Vision 2000 Industrial Park

Greater Forest City Industries is the owner of a shovel-ready business park located on Route 247 in Forest City Borough. Five graded lots totaling approximately 27 acres are available for business development. Infrastructure components available include public water, public sewer, natural gas, 3-phase electric, and telecommunications infrastructure. The site also benefits from a tax-free Keystone Opportunity Zone designation and is part of the Susquehanna County Enterprise Zone. Greater Forest City Industries and the CBPA are working jointly to market the property.



# Site Profile: Former Schils Facility

The former Schils building is located approximately five miles east of Interstate 81 along Route 171 in Oakland Township. The property offers a 15,768 square foot existing industrial building with five loading docks on approximately 30 acres. There are on-site water and sewer and 3-phase electric. The CBPA has been marketing this property for business use and has included the site in the newly-designated Susquehanna County Enterprise Zone.

## Sewer Project Receives Funding

The Hallstead-Great Bend Joint Sewer Authority is finalizing plans for the next phase of its sewer project. Phase I of the project extended public sewer along the Route 11 corridor from Hallstead to New Milford. The upcoming Phase II of the project will implement needed improvements to the Sewer Authority's central treatment plant. Additional capacity and treatment capabilities will be added to the treatment plant, and work will be done to protect the plant from future flood damage.

\$2,819,000 in low interest loan financing has been secured for the project through USDA Rural Development. Additionally, \$300,000 in grant funding has been identified through the Appalachian Regional Commission to assist in the project and is currently in the final application stages.

This is a critical infrastructure project to enhance economic development opportunities along the Route 11 and Interstate 81 corridor between Hallstead and New Milford. The Susquehanna County Economic Development Board has prioritized this as a key project for business development efforts within the County.





# Susquehanna Depot Implements Elm Street Program

The Trehab Center, working with Susquehanna Depot Borough, has secured an Elm Street designation for Susquehanna Depot. The Pennsylvania Elm Street program focuses on older, historic residential neighborhoods surrounding a downtown's business district. The goal of the program is to link revitalization efforts in the downtown to correlated investment in adjoining residential areas.

This designation is related to efforts associated with the Main Street renewal program in Susquehanna Depot. The Elm Street program now provides resources to impact the residential districts of the Borough as well. Trehab is to be commended for supporting revitalization and investment in Susquehanna County's communities.



## Lisa Baker to Represent Susquehanna County in PA Senate

The CBPA welcomes the opportunity to work with Lisa Baker, who was recently elected Senator to represent the 20th legislative district in Pennsylvania, including eastern Susquehanna County. Senator Baker is no stranger to representing the interests of Susquehanna County. She held the position of Deputy Chief of Staff for the administrations of Governors Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker and was the Director of the Northeast Regional Office of Governor Ridge. She has also held staff positions for Senator Charles Lemmond and Senator Robert Jubelirer. More recently, Senator Baker worked to promote health initiatives as the Executive Director of the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

Senator Baker is very involved in community functions, and she indicates that her top priorities are her husband Gary and son Carson. In the legislature, she is serving as the Chair of the Veterans' Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee and is also a member of the Senate Communications & Technology; Community, Recreational & Economic Development; Education; and Public Health & Welfare Committees. The CBPA is excited about the experience with economic development that Senator Baker brings to her position.

# Endless Mountains Health Systems



Endless Mountains Health Systems is a nonprofit organization formed in 1997 to serve the health care needs of Montrose and surrounding areas of Susquehanna County. EMHS operates a critical access hospital and medical clinic in Montrose. The 21-bed hospital admits an average of 1,000 patients each year and provides full emergency services. 150 employees work at this location.

modernized healthcare complex is being planned by EMHS. The new hospital will be built along Route 706 just east of Montrose and will represent an approximately \$22 million investment. The community will be provided with a new 25-bed hospital with cutting-edge technology and patient care capabilities.

As EMHS is the primary medical provider for a large rural area in Northeastern Pennsylvania, upgrades to allow it to provide the highest possible level of care are essential to the surrounding community. Due to the importance of this project, state and federal funds are being sought to assist in the effort, and a private fund-raising campaign will be implemented to help with local match funding.

The organization is poised to grow. A new hospital will be built along Route 706



This project is being coordinated in collaboration with the Bridgewater Township Municipal Authority, which is planning a major sewer extension along Route 706 east of Montrose. This infrastructure project will augment Endless Mountains Health Systems' efforts by allowing the new hospital to utilize public sewer. The planned upgrades represent an exciting enhancement to the region.

#### CBPA Staff

Executive Director: Anthony J. Ventello  
Economic Development Manager: Brian Driscoll  
Administrative Assistant: Kim Kulick  
Solicitor: Mark Smith  
Board President: Paul Kreischer

#### Susquehanna County Economic Development Board

Jack Ord, Chairman  
John Kameen, Vice Chairman  
Joe Andre  
Jim Bralla  
Janet Haulton

Central Bradford Progress Authority  
One Progress Plaza, Suite 3  
Towanda, PA 18848