

PROGRESS

A Newsletter Dedicated to Economic Opportunities in Susquehanna County

The Progress Authority: Resources for Development, Progress for People

Summer 2009

Grant Funding Supports EMHS

With the assistance of Congressman Carney, the Progress Authority has been designated for funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The \$292,050 appropriation will be utilized to assist Endless Mountains Health Systems in Montrose with expansion opportunities at the hospital.

The funding will specifically be utilized to purchase a new radiology and fluoroscopy suite. The new equipment will be used in the process of diagnosing fractures and detection of disease process in soft tissues. Upgrades to key equipment are a portion of EMHS plans to dramatically improve health services in Susquehanna County, including the proposed construction of a new critical access hospital in Bridgewater Township.

Congressman Carney and the Progress Authority both recognize health care as a vital economic driver as part of a rural economic development program. Small community hospitals, in particular, are critical to the communities they serve by providing quality health care, personal well being, employment opportunities, and an overall enhanced quality of life to their surrounding areas.



Local Communities Benefit from H2O PA Funding

Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Financing Authority recently announced infrastructure grants for sewer and water projects throughout the state through the H2O PA funding program. Communities in Susquehanna County received three of these grants to assist with critical infrastructure development projects.

The Hallstead-Great Bend Joint Sewer Authority was awarded \$4,816,000 to make improvements to its central sewage treatment facility.

The Bridgewater Township Municipal Authority was approved for \$1,149,454 for a sewer line extension as part of its 3 Lakes sewer project.

Forest City Borough will receive \$2,807,894 to assist with construction costs involved in a sanitary sewer replacement project.

These infrastructure projects will positively impact existing businesses and residents in these communities and will provide future opportunities for business growth.

KOZ Benefits Extended at Vision 2000 Industrial Park



Recent state legislation allowed for a 7-year extension to the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) program for undeveloped properties as an effort to increase marketing opportunities for these parcels. The KOZ program is a tax abatement program designed to promote business development in targeted areas. A KOZ site receives a waiver of selected taxes during its time in the program.

The Vision 2000 Industrial Park in Forest City was previously set to expire from the program in 2013, but thanks to a cooperative effort by the Susquehanna County Commissioners, Forest City Regional School District, and Forest City Borough, it has been extended in the KOZ program through 2020.

The impacted property is approximately 30 acres located in Forest City Borough's industrial zone and owned by Greater Forest City Industries. This site was nearly developed by JEC Technologies prior to the project's collapse when the economic downturn eliminated their sources of financing. The Vision 2000 Industrial Park is a great example of a shovel-ready industrial development site with all infrastructure in place. The KOZ extension will be a marketing enhancement to promote future development of the property by a private business.

Natural Gas Development Accelerating in Susquehanna County

With the national economy bogged down in the current recession, the local Susquehanna County economy has been recharged by exploration in the Marcellus Shale, a subsurface geologic layer that contains tremendous quantities of natural gas. In total, Penn State University geologists have determined that the Marcellus formation could contain up to 515 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Susquehanna County is considered a "core" region of this natural gas formation due to its ideal thickness in this location. Marcellus gas is a key component to the future of energy in the U.S. due to its high quality, low emissions, and proximity to East Coast population center consumers.

Energy companies with active permits in Susquehanna County include Cabot Oil & Gas, Chesapeake Energy, Turm Oil/Epsilon Energy, Alta Resources, Exco North Coast Energy, Southwestern Energy, and Chief Oil & Gas. Cabot Oil & Gas was the first company to put a horizontal Marcellus well into production in the region, and this took place in Susquehanna County.

Future Impacts

As a way to better understand the natural gas industry and potential future impacts, Progress Authority staff coordinated a trip to Wise County, northwest of the Dallas/Fort Worth region in Texas. Wise County has a similar demographic profile to Susquehanna County and has been involved in the Barnett Shale natural gas field for approximately eight years. Progress Authority officials were involved in a 3-day series of meetings with public officials, private business owners, and industry representatives. Several natural gas drilling/production operations were also toured. The trip was hugely beneficial as a way to understand the natural gas production process and to gain insight on potential future opportunities and challenges in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Progress Authority has also been participating in studies measuring expected outcomes of the Marcellus gas play. Penn State and Pennsylvania College of Technology, through the Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center, have compiled a workforce assessment for the workforce region that includes Susquehanna County. Penn State and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute are also conducting separate socioeconomic studies of the region so that future impacts can be projected.



Claverack
Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.claverack.com

"Powered by Excellence"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**Your Bank
For Life!**

Offices in:
New York State:
Binghamton-Corkin-Deposit
State of Pennsylvania:
Hallstead-Hop Bottom-Susquehanna
Montrose-Nicholson-Tunkhannock
Meshoppen
Member FDIC

**Peoples
National
Bank**



Business Growth Opportunities



As a way to expand opportunities in the energy sector, the Progress Authority successfully applied for state funding on behalf of Susquehanna County, in partnership with Bradford, Sullivan, and Wyoming Counties. The Regional Investment Marketing (RIM) grant that was awarded to the Progress Authority was utilized to support a marketing trip to Calgary. Progress Authority officials attended the GO Expo, a large natural gas-related trade show, and provided a seminar focusing on investment opportunities in the Marcellus Shale region. The investment seminar and direct company meetings have resulted in strong leads for businesses seeking to expand into the area.

The Progress Authority is also working to arrange a business expo in the Northern Tier that will allow local companies to form stronger relationships with energy companies and their key subcontractors that might require locally available services. Some entrepreneurs have already found opportunities to become involved in providing services to the natural gas industry, but this expo will be designed to further expand local business opportunities.

Value Added Opportunities

Another project under development by the Progress Authority is an energy study considering options for local industries to manage energy demands as full electric deregulation looms in Pennsylvania. The study is also exploring the feasibility of local electric generation, potentially from local Marcellus gas reserves. This is an opportunity to stabilize energy prices moving forward while also adding value to an emerging natural resource in Susquehanna County.

Pipeline infrastructure will need to be expanded in order to get the local natural gas to market. The Tennessee Gas Pipeline is a major interstate transmission line that runs through Susquehanna County and is operated by El Paso Corporation. There are plans underway to expand the capacity of this pipeline through the construction of 30-inch loops alongside the existing line. This endeavor is known as the 300 Line Expansion Project, and it will help to accommodate Marcellus Shale gas traveling in the Tennessee Gas Pipeline.


The development of the Marcellus Shale is providing a dynamic opportunity for Susquehanna County in otherwise tough economic times. The Progress Authority is striving to better understand the industry, to establish long-term working relationships with the companies involved in this area, and to maximize economic impacts for local businesses and residents.



570-278-5238
1-800-982-4045

10 Public Avenue
PO Box 366
Montrose PA 18801

TREHAB
Helping People
Building Communities
A Community Action Agency

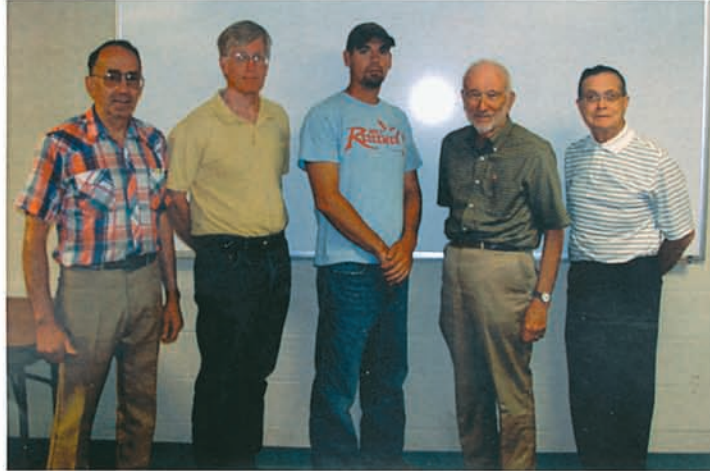


LACKAWANNA COLLEGE
Tomorrow Starts Here

P.O. Box 316
New Milford, PA
18834
570-465-2726
fax: 570-465-2726

Member Profile:
Joe Andre

Malcolm Scott Andre, better known as Joe, was born and raised in Montrose. After graduation from high school, he attended Penn State University and attained a degree in Agronomy. He then entered the U.S. Army and served as an officer in Korea. Joe returned to Montrose in 1965 and joined the family business, Andre & Son, Inc. He is still active in the business today, serving as President of the company. Joe and his wife Kathy have three children and eight grandchildren. Joe's hobbies include hunting and collecting agricultural items of the past, many of which are displayed at the Andre & Son farm store. Joe has served in many positions in his church and has a sincere interest in his community. When the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board was first formed, Joe was appointed as a representative of the Montrose Area Industrial Development Authority. He has participated on the board ever since, and his business and community knowledge are a true asset to the Susquehanna County economic development program.



Susquehanna County Economic Development Board Members, from left: Joe Andre, George Conner, Adam Diaz, Jim Bralla, John Kameen. Missing: Bill Owens.

Member Profile:
John Kameen

John Kameen has served on the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board since its formation. He is a lifelong resident of Forest City and a graduate of the University of Scranton, with a Bachelor of Science degree in electronics. John has served as the Publisher of The Forest City News since 1967. John is a board member for the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) and the Secretary of Greater Forest City Industries Inc. He is a member of the Forest City Commercial Association and a past Forest City Councilman. He is also the former Chairman of the Susquehanna County Republican Committee. He and his wife Carole have a daughter and two grandchildren. John is active in his church, enjoys golfing, and is an avid worldwide big game hunter. In fact, he has written articles about hunting for numerous national hunting magazines. John's dedication to the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board and to the Forest City community are unquestioned, and his service is greatly appreciated.

Progress Authority Staff

Executive Director: Anthony J. Ventello
Economic Development Manager:
Brian Driscoll
Administrative Assistant: Kim Kulick

Susquehanna County Commissioners

MaryAnn Warren
Leon Allen
Michael Giangrieco

The Progress Authority
One Progress Plaza, Suite 3
Towanda, PA 18848