



MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Winter 2011

Volume 10 Issue 4

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff and board of directors of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership. The MVEDP completed fiscal year 2011 on November 30th and we are now officially 23 years old as an organization.

The MVEDP is looking forward to what we hope will be an improved economic climate in 2012. Since the start of the Great Recession in 2007, we have experienced a significant decrease in the level of business interest in sites and

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PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZES OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS



The Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership recently recognized two outgoing board members: Dave Cassler and Paul Springer. Both are long-time board members with Mr. Cassler having served since the founding of the Partnership in 1988, and Mr. Springer since 1991.

"It says a lot about these two men that they were re-elected by our dues-

Continued on Page 3

MVEDP MEMBERSHIP ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS

At their regular November meeting the results of the 2012 Board Elections were presented to the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership Board. Elected by the dues-paying membership, six vacancies were filled. Three incumbent board members were selected to serve another term including: Jerry McKinney (Clearfield Bank and Trust), Dr. Robert Steward (Clear-Med Primary Care), and Dr. Mark Nartatez (Moshannon Valley Orthopedic). Three new members were elected including Michael Conte (Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District), Mike Curtorillo (M&T Bank), and Steve Luncha (Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic).

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**2011 GENERAL ELECTION
RESULTS**

The MVEDP would like to congratulate the winners of the 2011 General Election races. This election resulted in some changes on the board of the Centre County Commissioners, but the status quo was maintained on the board of the Clearfield County Commissioners. Commissioners from both counties serve as ex officio members of the Partnership Board of Directors. Welcome newly elected Centre County Commissioners Michael Pipe and Chris Exarchos and welcome back Steve Dershem. Welcome back Mark McCracken, Joan McMillen, and John Sobel from Clearfield County! Congratulations!



THANK YOU

The staff and board of The Partnership wish to extend our sincere thanks to long time board members who left the board this year.

David Cassler served the MVEDP as a board member since its beginning in 1988. Due to health issues, Dave decided not to seek re-election to the board. Dave was an original member of the Philipsburg Association of Commerce. He also served on the South Hills advisory committee.

Paul Springer served the MVEDP as a board member since 1991 and most recently as President. Paul is the owner of Philipsburg Marble and Granite. He also serves on the advisory board at South Hills, the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation Board, the Philipsburg Cemetery Association Board, Friends of Black Moshannon, First Presbyterian Church Session, and Santa Claus Committee.

Jeff Mitchell served the MVEDP as a board member since 1994 and is a Past President. Jeff is the owner and co-president of Christoff Mitchell Petroleum, President of MSS Enterprises and owner of U-Stor-It Philipsburg. He currently serves on the board at Cen-Clear Child Services.

Gene Wardo served the MVEDP as a board member since 1998. He is the owner of B&G Trees in Houtzdale, Wardo Financial Services, Big Rock Swing and Ping Golf range. He is a member of the Osceola Mills Free 7 Accepted Masons and the Altoona Jaffa Shrine.

Rusty Christoff of Christoff Mitchell Petroleum joined the board by appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jeff Mitchell. We welcome Rusty to the Board of Directors!

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Moshannon Valley YMCA Merges



Mel Curtis, Moshannon Valley YMCA Site Director, Lee Conte, President of the Moshannon Valley YMCA Board

made sense now, particularly after the two organizations have been advising each other for the past year under an informal management partnership. She said her board saw the wisdom of strength in numbers. “We are excited about the long-term vision and how this decision will help improve our ability to meet the needs for the YMCA’s service, programming, membership and facility,” she said. “The will be mutually beneficial, the continued sharing of best practices and resources, such as when the Bellefonte branch provided equipment for the Moshannon Valley’s cardio room expansion this year. Our facility offers an established youth theater group, which the Bellefonte and State College branches lack. We have found on both sides, they bring something special to the table, and it was time to make it a round table so we’re all sharing,” she said.

The Moshannon Valley YMCA, a hub of the Philipsburg area for 38 years, will merge with the YMCA of Centre County to become a branch of the organization effective January 1, 2012.

The change comes three years after the Bellefonte Family YMCA and the State College Area Family YMCA merged to form the county organization. Bellefonte became a branch.

“So we’re going from a two-branch Y to a three-branch Y,” said Neely, a county YMCA board member. Lee Conte, president of the Moshannon Valley YMCA board of directors, said it

Continued on page 11

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Continued from Page 1

paying members to the Partnership board every three years for twenty years and more,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the Partnership. “Both of these gentlemen have been directly involved in our projects over the years including the recruitment of the South Hills School of Business & Technology to the Philipsburg area. They both continue to serve on the South Hills Advisory Committee,” said LaFuria.

“These two men have been dedicated board members over the years and we are sorry to see them leave the board,” said LaFuria. “We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors,” he said.



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Newly Elected Board Member Orientation



Left to right: Steve Lyncha, Herbert Rowland & Grubic, Mike Curtorillo, M&T Bank, and Michael Conte, P-O School District.

Newly elected board members attended an orientation session on December 14, 2011 in the MVEDP conference room. Their new 3-year term started December 1, 2011.

MVEDP Elects

Continued from Page 1

The board members will elect a slate of officers to serve for the fiscal year 2012 at their upcoming board meeting. Other Board members include: John Shimko (First Energy), Jeff Herr (CNB Bank), Jim Pollock (Retired), Bill Jones (Jones Insurance), Dr. William Harkins (Harkins Family Dentistry), Rick Kistler (Primerica), Tom Scott (Retired), Karen Blair (Penn State), and Rusty Christoff (Christoff Mitchell Petroleum).

Board members of the MVEDP serve a three-year term and then run for re-election if they are interested in continuing to serve on the board. The business community is also asked each year for nominees to fill the director seats. The dues-paying membership of the Partnership elects the directors, usually in October of each year.

“The Partnership’s board of directors has always been very dedicated to improving the quality of life in our region. We are grateful for their service,” said LaFuria.

PRC ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

The Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation invites you to attend their annual public meeting. The meeting will be held at Noon on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at The Gaslight Café in Historic Downtown Philipsburg. There is no cost to attend. However, guests may order off the menu at their own expense.



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“MVEDP SELECTS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS”



Left to right: Jeff Burris, SHSB&T Director, Bradley Guiher, John Corman, Dave Cassler, and Paul Springer

The Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership announced today the recipients of its South Hills School of Business & Technology scholarship funding for fiscal year 2012.

“Each year, the Partnership provides funding to deserving students of the South Hills Philipsburg campus,” said Paul Springer, President of the Partnership and founding member of the Partnership’s South Hills advisory committee. “Any new student of the Philipsburg campus may apply for the scholarship funding in the Fall each year,” he said.

“We are pleased to announce that John Corman and Bradley Guiher are the recipients of the scholarship money for this year,” said Springer. Each will receive a scholarship of \$500.00. Guiher is enrolled in the Criminal Justice program while Corman is enrolled in the Information Technology program. Both are residents of Clearfield County

and are expected to graduate in 2013.

“Since 1997, the Partnership has provided over \$61,000 to deserving students at the South Hills Philipsburg campus,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the Partnership. “This institution is very important to our efforts to help residents of this region to learn skills that will serve them well as they seek future employment opportunities. A number of the students at the South Hills Philipsburg campus might not have decided to attend school were it not for the availability of this campus,” said LaFuria.

The South Hills School of Business & Technology – Philipsburg campus has been located within the Partnership’s Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center since 1996. It was the first expansion of the South Hills main campus which has been located in State College since the early 1970s. The school has since established branch campuses in Altoona and Lewis-town.

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MVEDP Staff Attends Business Expo



Partnership staff recently participated as a partner and vendor at the 2011 CBICC Regional Business and Industry Expo. 15 regional chambers partnered to bring this event to Centre County. Hundreds of vendors and attendees attended the event, which is held each November. It features local business and industries at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Be a 2012 Business After Hours Host!



Host our popular, monthly networking event and get members of the business community into your business! We are now enlisting hosts for the 2012 Business After Hours events. Business After hours is,

in essence, a two hour long "open house". Some of our 2011 hosts include: The Philips Hotel, ProCare, Moshannon Valley Super Bowl, Waterwise Pools and Spas, Retro Eatery, the Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District and The Closing Company. You host the event and we do all the marketing to get people in your doors. Sign up to host today! Call Emily 814-342-2260 or email Emily@mvedp.org.

Shift Your Shopping

This Christmas season, the Main Street Program is determined to make each and every resident of the Moshannon Valley think about where their shopping dollars are going. Small Business is the lifeblood of our community.

We aren't unique, there is a national campaign right now focusing on the impact of shopping local. As customers, we are about to collectively spend a large portion of our annual shopping budget between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31. On average, that is amount is about \$700 per person, annually. But, do you ever think about where that money goes? People complain that "you can't get ___ this here" (fill in the blank). So they go online or they drive out of town to a big box, chain store.

The fact is that when you buy something at a chain store or online, 95% or more of that money leaves our community. Go to a big box. Go wherever it is you think they have "everything", but know that you are not doing yourself or your community any favors. When your favorite coffee shop closes. Or when your favorite restaurant isn't serving. Or when you wish your town had a movie theatre... remember- we all play a part in that! Our local economy depends on us! If you join us in shifting those dollars to locally owned, independent businesses, we'll all generate 2-3 times as much economic activity in our community than if we had spent our money at a national chain. Across North America, that could mean billions of dollars of economic impact.

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SHOPPING CHOICES AND COMMUNITY

Compared to mass demonstrations by Occupiers, the anger of Tea Partiers or communities rising up against corporate personhood, focusing on consumer choices may seem a bit dull, even trivial. But, how we chose to spend and invest our hard-earned dollars has a direct bearing on the concentration of wealth and political power and the weakening of the bonds of community and local self-reliance.

We constantly make choices of whether to patronize absentee-owned chains, internet giants or independent community-based businesses (including privately-owned, co-ops, credit unions, and more) for our needs and wants. Choosing large remote businesses concentrates wealth and power into few hands, usually far from our homes. Doing business with locals, however, helps decentralize wealth and power, and creates opportunities to build trust and cooperation in our communities.

We write on behalf of Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation, with an overwhelmingly positive approach to help advance a broader Localization Movement working to revitalize communities, downtowns and independent businesses of all kinds. As a Main Street Program we've joined forces with other key organizations and launched the first national campaign to Shift Your Shopping, which urges residents to integrate our values into purchasing decisions.

The campaign's mission statement is hardly radical: "By shifting the focus of holiday shopping to locally owned, independent businesses, we seek to build an annual tradition that strengthens local economies, expands employment, nurtures a sense of community, and provides a more relaxed, fun, and rewarding gift-buying experience." The impact of shifting even 10% of the billions of dollars in holiday spending to community-based enterprises, however, would create seismic shifts in our economy, while building community wealth and cohesiveness.

We're not advocating for needless consumption. Gifts of meals at local restaurants, lessons to learn a new skill or activity, and countless others often are

Continued on Page 11

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RELAY DATE & TIME: June 16th - 17th, 2012 8:00 AM - 8:00 AM

PLACE: Geisinger Medical Group Parking Lot, Philipsburg, PA

THEME: "Book Theme - Turning The Page On Cancer"

ALL MEETINGS: 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm
 Jan. 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5
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For more information contact: Gary Williams at 342-4364 or 342-0665 or Susan Babik at 800-458-3856 - Ext. 3507 or susan.babik@cancer.org

Thank You!

The Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership & the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation thank you for your support of our economic & community development efforts!

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Moshannon Valley YMCA Merges with Centre County YMCA

Continued from Page 3

Formed in 1973 as a branch of the Clearfield YMCA, the Moshannon Valley YMCA moved from downtown Philipsburg to its present site 16 years later. Since then, it has grown into the pride of the town, a bustling athletic, cultural and artistic center serving hundreds of families. Recently, the YMCA launched what it hopes will become an annual fundraising campaign, mainly in support of its open-door policy of not turning away disadvantaged children. Conte said the YMCA, which will retain the Moshannon Valley name, did not feel financially compelled to merge, but rather decided it was a chance to grow.

“Our membership is really not going to notice any changes in the YMCA as it is now,” she said. “It’s simply to make us stronger.”

For more information visit www.ymcaofcentrecounty.org.

Shopping Choices

Continued from Page 9

more welcomed than another necktie. Giving durable (often American-made) goods to fill known needs might even reduce overall consumption.

Purchasing goods and services locally also provides a vital benefit to many of our neighbors: creating jobs.

Whereas chains may minimize costs by off-shoring production and cutting labor costs, each local business employs people (whether in-house or by contracting with others) for their ad design, websites, legal and accounting services, copywriting and many other tasks. As citizens we have many ways to influence the system: we can cast our vote in the electoral booth, we can raise our voices and use the freedom to associate, and we can choose to shift 10% of our purchasing power to benefit our communities directly. Our power lies in purposeful concerted action.

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Season's Greetings

Continued from Page 1

building space. We are hoping that there will be much more real estate activity in the new year. Fortunately for our region, we now have new Marcellus Shale natural gas business activity that is expected to continue to grow.

For the first time in our history, we have four new board members coming on to the board of directors at one time: Rusty Christoff, Michael Conte, Michael Curtorillo, and Steve Lyncha. We are pleased to welcome these professionals to our board. Congratulations are also in order to Dr. Bob Steward, Jr. and Jerry McKinney for being the two top vote-getters in our annual board of directors election.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you read the story about Paul Springer and Dave Cassler leaving the MVEDP Board of Directors after many years of service. I just want to say again what a tremendous accomplishment it was for these two men to

be re-elected to the board every three years for over twenty years! These men attended approximately 240-300 MVEDP meetings as unpaid volunteers. Thank you for your service!

In January, the MVEDP will hold an annual planning meeting at which we will establish the program of work for FY 2012. We are also considering participating in a full-day strategic planning session with an outside facilitator that will help us determine longer-term strategies for effective economic and community development.

I want to thank all of our members for your continued support, and we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!



Seasons

Greetings!



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Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!