

# MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Fall Issue

Volume 17 Issue 3



## Holly Thompson of CBT Bank/a Division of Riverview Bank Joins MVEDP Board of Directors



**Holly Thompson,**  
Community Office Manager

The MVEDP is pleased to welcome Holly Thompson of CBT Bank/a Division of Riverview Bank to the board of directors. In October each year, the MVEDP holds its annual board of directors election.

September is spent soliciting names of board candidates to run in the annual election. Holly immediately submitted her name as she had previously expressed her interest in serving

Current president of the board

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## Organic Climbing Manufacturing Facility Nears Completion



Organic Climbing - Located in the Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park

The new Organic Climbing manufacturing facility is nearing completion on Lot #5 in the Regional Business Park. Josh Helke is the owner of Organic Climbing. The company has been renting space within the Partnership's Moshannon Valley Regional Business Center since October 2010.

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### Special Points of Interest:

- Membership Renewals  
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## Executive Director's Message



From October 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, I was fortunate to be in Erie attending the Fall Conference of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. I say fortunate because there were a couple of guest speakers at the conference that offered some excellent information

about economic development work in today's world.

On Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> we heard from a very colorful guy named Joe Max Higgins of Mississippi who in 2016 was featured on CBS News 60 Minutes. Joe Max is an economic development professional who has been able to lead a total economic transformation of a small rural area in what is called the Golden Triangle area of Mississippi. Many corporations have located there and thousands of jobs created. A few of Higgin's remarks:

- don't ever be a one-company town, diversify
- get all local governments and authorities on board with infrastructure development
- believe that you can win in economic development and know what your competition is doing
- the "Achilles Heel" for most areas today concerns workforce issues
- prove that a company can operate in your area at a lower cost

Also on Tuesday, we heard from Dennis Burnside of Juniper Solutions, a site selection consultant. Like other site selection consultants, Burnside works with companies to determine the best locations for their corporate client's expansion projects. He too stressed the importance of proving that companies can locate within an area and operate at lower costs.

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## MVEDP's Certification Expanded by State PIDA Board

On Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) approved the expansion of the Partnership's certification which will now enable the staff to administer the PIDA loan program throughout all of Centre County.

The Partnership was previously certified to administer this state loan program in the Moshannon Valley which includes eastern Clearfield County and western Centre County. Only certified economic development organizations are permitted to administer the PIDA program. The Partnership is one of approximately fifty certified organizations in the state, and the only certified agency located in Centre County.

The Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority has provided matching loan financing to businesses in the state since the mid-1950s. It started as a program that targeted manufacturers with their land and building projects. The program has since been completely restructured to include all businesses and all uses including machinery and equipment projects and for working capital.

The PIDA loan program is a partner with local banks and other lending institutions as it provides just 50% of the funding that a company might need for their project. There must be a commitment letter or loan offer from a bank/financial institution in order for the PIDA staff to consider a project loan application. Job retention and job creation are key requirements of the program. Very low interest rates on the loans are available in exchange for the company retaining and adding new employees. The PIDA loans are most often in a subordinate lien position to the bank financing that is involved in the deals.

Some previous recipients of PIDA loan financing include Lee Industries, Walker Lumber, Nearhoof machine, Penn Pallet, Sinterstahl/PMG and Cutting Edge Machining Solutions, to name a few. Two PIDA loans approved most recently include Organic Climbing/Ridge and Valley Holdings, and Homeland Manufacturing.



## Improvements Completed at Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center

The Partnership's Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center has been an invaluable economic development tool and asset to the region. This 210,000 square foot multi-tenant facility has been the home to 75 businesses since 1989. Keeping up with 210,000 square feet of rubber roof, 3 acres of asphalt driveway and parking areas, and 77 rooftop heating units is no small task.

The staff and board of directors pursued a number of renovations to the Enterprise Center this year: asphalt repairs completed by Earl Smith and Company, asphalt sealing work by Coleman's Asphalt, rubber roof repairs by American Roofing and MVEDP staff, sanitary sewer line repairs by Insight Pipe Company of western-Pennsylvania, and man-hole replacement by GEI of the Morrisdale area.

There is space available to rent at the Enterprise Center:



**Suite  
130  
15,000 sf.**



**Suite  
190  
10,000 sf.**



**Suite  
113  
11,000 sf.**

## Sites Available at the Regional Business Park

Lot #	Total Acres	Developable Acres	Asking Price
Lot #3	8.5	1.2	\$30,000
Lot #6	4.9	2.2	\$55,000
Lot #11	4.9	4.9	\$123,075



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## MVEDP Assists State College Area Company to Secure State PIDA Loan Financing



### HOMELAND MANUFACTURING SERVICES, Inc.

On Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority approved a loan of \$900,000 to Homeland Manufacturing Services located in the State College area. MVEDP staff worked closely with John Bonislowski, owner and president of this company to secure the state PIDA loan financing for his project which will involve the construction of a new 12,500 square foot manufacturing facility in the Benner Commerce Park.

The state PIDA board’s September decision to expand the MVEDP’s certification to include all of Centre County enabled the MVEDP to submit the application to PIDA on behalf of Homeland Manufacturing.

The Homeland Manufacturing project is expected to cost \$1.8 million. Fulton Bank approved a loan of \$900,000 to match the PIDA loan of \$900,000. Twenty jobs will be retained and ten new jobs will be created within three years. The company builds electronic circuit cards and cables for a wide range of customers including military and defense, medical, industrial sensor, agricultural and alternative energy providers. The company ships their products all over

the United States, Canada, South Korea and Ireland.



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## Congratulations Hope Fire Company on Recent Hope Fest & Truck Raffle Event

Congratulations to the team at Hope Fire Company on their recent Hope Fest & Truck Raffle held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. A 2018 Chevy Silverado truck was given away as well as cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$500, and a gift card assortment donated by local businesses.



The Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation previously held a Wing Ding Fling the day of the truck raffle but were unable to do so due to a lack of interest from chicken wing vendors. There weren’t any vendors who could be present on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, there was just enough time for the Hope Fire Company team to put the new Hope Fest & Truck Raffle event together. The MVEDP is hopeful that this event will be held again.





# Manufacturers in the Moshannon Valley Recognized

The MVEDP staff enjoys working with all types of businesses located both within the Moshannon Valley region (and now all of Centre County with the new PIDA certification).

One particular sector of the business community that the staff especially enjoys working with is the manufacturing sector. The week of October 1<sup>st</sup> was designated by the Commonwealth as Manufacturers Week and Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> was Manufacturers Day. The staff wishes to recognize the manufacturers located within the Moshannon Valley region:


Lee Industries  
 Nittany Laser Tech.  
 Walker Lumber Co.  
 Navaco  
 Custom Castings  
 UMI Performance  
 PolyK Technologies  
 Glen-Gery Brick  
 G-O Metric Inc.  
 Harpster of Philipsburg

Holt Precision Tool  
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 Pre-Cut Lumber  
 Kitko Wood Products  
 Bock Industries  
 Cutting Edge Machining Solutions  
 Drucker Diagnostics  
 Nearhoof Machine  
 Dura-Kan

REICH Drill  
 Organic Climbing  
 Advanced Powder Products  
 Genna Ice  
 Diamondback Truck Covers  
 Polymics, Ltd.  
 EC Power  
 Chem Station  
 Grauch Enterprises

## MVEDP Lowers Interest Rate on Revolving Loan Fund Program

The MVEDP has lowered the interest rate on its Revolving Loan Fund Program to **3%**. The RLF program is available to all businesses including manufacturers, service, retail, professional and warehousing/distribution. The program will provide 50% of the funding for a project up to \$100,000. The minimum project size can be \$30,000 and the minimum RLF loan amount at \$15,000. One of the most important aspects of the program is the MVEDP's willingness to take a subordinate lien position to the banks that are involved in the deals. In exchange for the very low interest rate and subordinate lien position, the MVEDP is interested in seeing the loan recipients retain and create new jobs.



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## Holly Thompson of CBT Bank/ Riverview Bank

Continued from Page 1

Jared Ricotta has decided to step aside from the board and the rest of the board is sorry to see him leave. Jared and his wife have a growing family with baby number three on the way. Jared said that he has been very pleased to serve on the board and as president the past year.

The 2018/19 board of directors includes: Steve Lyncha, Bryan Bennett, Dustin Minar-chick, Laura Holden, Jim Pollock, Rusty Chris-toff, Jeff Herr, Bill Jones, Karen Blair, Tom Scott, Dr. Bob Steward Jr., John Shimko, Jim Richtscheid, Wanda Ryen, and new board member Holly Thompson.

## Thank You!

The Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership thanks you for your support of our economic & community development efforts!

### Renewals 3rd Quarter

Advanced Powder Products  
 Beard Law Company  
 Big Rock Swing & Ping  
 Blaise Alexander Chevrolet & Buick  
 Casteel Chiropractic Clinic, Inc.  
 CBT Bank  
 Certified Builders Wholesale  
 Chester Hill Borough  
 Children's Aid Society  
 Choice Bumper, Inc.  
 Clearfield County Career & Technology Center  
 Clearfield Co. Recreation & Tourism Authority  
 CMT Laboratories, Inc.  
 Custom Castings Northeast

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## Organic Climbing

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Organic Climbing

The Partnership assisted Mr. Helke in applying for and gaining approval of an \$800,000 loan through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority. The loan was approved in late 2017 and included a low interest rate of 2% for fifteen years. Juniata Valley Bank was the participating bank on this project.

Organic Climbing is a manufacturer of high quality bouldering crash pads, backpacks, clothing and tote bags for rock-climbing enthusiasts. Mr. Helke moved the business to the Philipsburg area from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The company currently has sixteen full-time employees.

With the departure of Organic Climbing from the MVRBC in the next sixty days, that will result in 6,000 square feet of space available to rent there. The staff is working now to find new businesses to rent that space.

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## P-O School, Rush Township, and Centre County Continue Economic Development Efforts In Moshannon Valley

Since 1999, the Philipsburg-Osceola School District, Rush Township and Centre County government have partnered to stimulate economic development in the Philipsburg region. That partnership has taken the form of their continuing support of the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) program, a state initiative that allows tax breaks on property development that will result in new investment, job creation and job retention. Companies that receive KOZ tax breaks will eventually pay full taxes to these taxing bodies once the KOZ term expires.



Advanced Powder Products

Advanced Powder Products is a company that was formed by Don Heaney and Tracy Potter in 2000. The company started with two full-time employees. Sales were at \$500,000/year. In April 2018, the company had 52 full-time employees and 2017 sales of over \$8.4 million. The company is planning to add 50 new jobs over the next three years, and in both 2017 and this year, the company made Inc. Magazine's list of the top 5000 fastest growing companies in America.

Don Heaney is now the sole owner of Advanced Powder Products and he is planning a building expansion on Lot #10B of his property. The company's manufacturing plant is located on Lot #10A

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## P-O School, Rush Township, and Centre County Continue

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in the Regional Business Park and the employee parking lot is located on Lot #10B. An additional manufacturing facility is now planned for Lot 10B. The taxing authorities have approved Lot #10B for a KOZ extension to December 31, 2025. The MVEDP herewith recognizes the Philipsburg-Osceola School District, Rush Township, and Centre County government for their continued commitment to economic development efforts in this region.

## Thank You

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- Decatur Township
- Health Funeral Home
- Keller Engineers
- King Coal Sales, Inc.
- Lewis Paving & Sealing, Inc.
- Philipsburg Electric Supply
- Philipsburg Marble & Granite
- Philipsburg True Value
- Ricotta Jewelry
- The Philipsburg Journal
- UMI Performance, Inc.
- Walter Hopkins & Company



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## Executive Directors Message

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He said today, it is important to have amenities to keep workers, and areas must have workers with the skills needed by companies.

We continue to hear about workforce issues over and over again. The Clearfield County Career and Technology Center, and the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology in Centre County are critical to the future success of this region. Philipsburg-Osceola School District, West Branch, Moshannon Valley, and the other schools in our region must be involved in the effort to steer young people to training in the job occupations where there are openings.

There are a number of new internship and training initiatives that have been developed over the past year. If you are a company owner or manager in this region and you are having difficulty finding and retaining workers, please contact the Partnership office. We will do our best to help you improve your employment situation.

**When our community succeeds, we all succeed.**

At M&T Bank, we know how important it is to support those organizations that make our communities better places to live and work. That's why we offer both our time and resources and encourage others to do the same.

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