



#### MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Spring 2016 Volume 15 Issue 1



### Special points of interest:

- Free Advertising
- Thank You

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## This Years Award Winners at the MVEDP 28th Annual Awards Luncheon



From Left to Right: Stan LaFuria, Executive Director, MVEDP, Ted Long, Owner Long Motor Buses, Felicity Cower, Owner of Night & Day Salon & Spa, Gary Macioce, President, Penn Highlands Clearfield, Rusty Christoff, President of the MVEDP Board of Directors.

### A Message from the Executive Director

The Partnership was recently involved in two events that featured local folks who are making a difference here in the Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley area: the first was the MVEDP's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards luncheon, and the second was the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Philipsburg Business Incubator.

The MVEDP staff and board of directors has always very much enjoyed its annual awards event because it provides us the opportunity to recognize

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#### **Former PAH Site**

The MVEDP continues to work to gain control of the site that was formerly the Philipsburg Area Hospital. An Agreement of Sale has been executed between the MVEDP and the PA Department of General Services. However, the sale of any state taxpayer owned property must be approved by the state house and senate. State Senator Jake Corman recently secured unanimous approval of the sale from the State Senate. State Representative Scott Conklin is now working with his fellow members of the House to get

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#### PAH

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this land sale transaction approved. It is hoped that the House will approve this sale within the next 30-60 days.

The MVEDP has some options concerning the site: it can leave the site as one large lot of 14.77 acres and try to market it as such, or, it can subdivide the site into smaller parcels of 2-4 acres. Since 2001 and the opening of the MVEDP's Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park, the market demand for sites indicates the strongest interest is in sites of 2-4 acres. The MVEDP is working to determine the cost of developing the site with a road, sewer, water, stormwater, and natural gas line extensions. Once the costs are determined, the staff will then work to determine if any funding can be secured to cover the cost of the project.

### Diamondback Plans Groundbreaking



Leadership of Diamondback Automotive Accessories continues to move forward with

their plan to construct their own manufacturing plant in the Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park.

Diamondback has been located within the MVEDP's Enterprise Center since 2003. When the company was started up at that time, they started leasing just over 2,700 square feet of space.

The company currently leases 26,800 sf. of space. Their new facility will be over 35,000 square feet and will be able to accommodate future growth. The company was started by two Penn State-trained engineers and now has over 35 employees. It is anticipated that Diamondback will be able to occupy their new facility in early 2017. The groundbreaking ceremony will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Philipsburg Business Incubator Holds Ribbon Cutting



The Philipsburg Business Incubator, located within the space of DIXONCOM, 220 N. Front Street held a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Annette Bickle and Ethan Dixon created the incubator as a tool to help area entrepreneurs move their business ideas forward. The MVEDP contacted Mark Higgins, Centre County Commissioner to determine if assistance could be provided to make it even easier for entrepreneurs to get set up within the incubator. From the time that he first learned about the new incubator, Commissioner Higgins has been behind it 100%. Proof of that support is the grant funding that has now been made available.

Some of the officials who attended the ribbon cutting event included: Centre County Commissioners Michael Pipe, Mark Higgins and Steve Dershem, State Representative Scott Conklin, officials of the Ben Franklin Partnership Program, SCORE, SBA-Pittsburgh, and the Small Business Development Center at Penn State. It will be the professionals at Ben Franklin, SCORE, and the SBDC that provide mentoring services to area entrepreneurs.

The MVEDP congratulates Annette and Ethan for their vision and entrepreneurial spirit in creating the new Philipsburg Business Incubator.



### Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership, Inc. FY 2016 Priorities

#### Philipsburg Borough Housing Rehabilitation Program

- --complete the project on schedule
- --determine if the target area should be expanded to include all areas
- --meet DCED requirements
- --decide whether the MVEDP should pursue a new housing rehab project

#### **Diamondback Automotive Accessories**

- --close on the sale of Lot #8
- --prepare and secure approval of a PIDA loan for the project
- --begin to recruit another company to that space at the MVEC

#### **American Home Patient**

- --work to keep this company in the Moshannon Valley region
- --work with the Governor's Action Team
- --if they decide to move from the MVEC, begin work to recruit another company to the space

#### **Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center**

- --continue to work with Polymics to resolve any indoor air quality issue
- --recruitment and continued capital improvements

#### Genna Ice, Inc.

- --continue working with company officials on the acquisition of MVSB
- --complete a PIDA application for this project
- --close the RLF loan

#### Former Philipsburg Area Hospital Site

- --continue working with local and state officials on a strategy for the MVEDP to acquire the property
- --pursue preliminary engineering work to design a subdivision with related improvements
- --work with the national site location consultant through the CBICC

#### **Business Retention**

--assist area businesses with their expansion projects

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### A Message

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people and organizations that are making the area a great place to live and do business. This year, we had three award winners: Felicity Cowfer of Night and Day Salon and Spa (Beautification Award) for her project which completely revitalized their location on North Front Street, Penn Highlands Clearfield (Award for Contribution to the Quality of Life) for their medical center project along the Rt. 322 bypass, and our Small Business of the Year award to Ted Long of the Long Motor Bus Company. Ironically, this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation for the company. Felicity, Ted, and the leadership of Penn Highlands have made outstanding contributions to the Moshannon Valley region and our hats are off to them.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the new Philipsburg Business Incubator facility located on Front Street. This new incubator was created by Annette Bickle and Ethan Dixon of DIXONCOM, LLC and it is located within the DIXONCOM space. The Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation, the Centre County board of commissioners, and the MVEDP are strong supporters of this entrepreneurial development initiative. We want to especially thank Mark Higgins, Centre County Commissioners for his work to secure county assistance for the new incubator.

Entrepreneurial development is all about new business formation and job creation. Paul Silvis is a well-known entrepreneur from Centre County who has started two successful companies: Restek and SilcoTec. Silvis started in a small office incubator facility much like the new Philipsburg Business Incubator. A handful of the local companies started by entrepreneurs who had great vision include Custom Castings NE, Inc., Advanced Powder Products, DuraKan, Cutting Edge Machining Solutions, TMMData, and Diamondback Automotive Accessories.

We believe that the new business incubator will result in new business formation here in the Moshannon Valley region.

### Thank you to this years Membership Luncheon sponsors!







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# Ribbon Cutting held at Philipsburg Super Bowl



From Left to Right: Rusty Christoff, Tom Scott, Stan LaFuria, Jake Genna, Paul Brimmier, and Greg Dixon

Genna Ice owners Gene Genna, Jake Genna and Paul Brimmeier were successful in purchasing the former Moshannon Valley Super Bowl property located at the entrance to the Regional Business Park. Now named the Philipsburg Super Bowl, this is one of the finest bowling and indoor family entertainment facilities in all of central Pennsylvania.

The MVEDP was pleased to be able to assist these local businessmen in their efforts. A loan from the Revolving Loan Fund program has been approved for the project and the staff assisted with the completion and submission of a loan application to the PA Industrial Development Authority. Finding local companies the best possible financing is a key duty of Partnership staff.

The MVEDP wishes Gene, Jake and Paul the best of luck in this new business venture and is pleased to be able to say that it had a hand in getting this outstanding facility reopened.

### MOSHANNON VALLEY REGIONAL BUSINESS PARK



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# Get Paid for Helping the MVEDP!

The MVEDP helps the private sector to generate new employment opportunities by providing sites and building space to businesses. Anyone who brings a lead (business owner) to the MVEDP that buys a lot in our Business Park, or rents space in either of our two multi-tenant buildings will be paid a 5% finder's fee. For example, if a new lease is signed and \$30,000 in rent will be paid over a two-year period, the "finder" will be paid a lump sum fee of \$1,500.00! The MVEDP considers everyone in the community to be its partner in working to enhance the economy of this region. Bring us a new business tenant or business owner that purchases land in our Regional Business Park and **GET PAID!** 

## MVEDP Has Low-Cost \$\$ to Lend

The MVEDP's Revolving Loan Fund program has been available to local businesses since 1988. The matching loan funding can be used for working capital, machinery and equipment or land and buildings. The current interest rate is 3.5%! One of the most outstanding features of the loan program is the quick turnaround time. Once a reviewable application is received, the loan committee will meet and if the loan is approved, the money provided to the borrower in less than 30 days. Contact the MVEDP at 342-2260 if you have a business seeking loan financing.

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### MVEDP Readies Amended Housing Rehab Program



The MVEDP, in partnership with Philipsburg Borough, has amended its ongoing Philipsburg/ Rush Township housing rehabilitation program. The key change in the program

is the expansion of the target area to include all areas within Philipsburg Borough. The target area within Rush Township remained the same. That area is the area near the township building, along Loch Lomond Road and then out to the Enterprise Center on Shady Lane Drive.

The key reason that the target area was expanded was to generate additional interest in the program. A formal request to expand the target area was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) and that request was approved.

Income eligible homeowners may be able to secure up to \$22,000 for improvements to their homes that bring those homes up to code. Roofs, electrical, plumbing, heating, and structural repairs may be completed under the program.

Because of the delays in getting new applications for the housing rehabilitation assistance, the MVEDP and Philipsburg Borough have submitted a request to extend the project completion deadline by one additional year to August 2017.

The MVEDP wishes to express its thanks to Philipsburg Borough Council and Borough Manager Joel Watson for their cooperation in getting the target area expansion approved by DCED.



#### Thank You

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