



MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Winter 2013

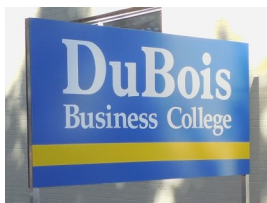
Volume 12 Issue 4

SEASON'S GREETINGS

DUBOIS BUSINESS COLLEGE OPENS IN PHILIPSBURG

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The new year will bring new opportunities for Philipsburg area residents who want a college

education. DuBois Business College has announced it will open a location in Philipsburg at 200 Shady Lane. Classes will begin there on January 3, 2014. Advanced information sessions are already attracting interested students.

DuBois Business College president, Jackie Syktich, noted, "Things are happening quickly. The remodeling will soon be complete, and we're planning a grand opening and ribbon cutting to show the building to the public. In the meantime we've begun meeting with prospective students, explaining our degree and diploma programs, and accepting enrollments.

It's not too late to apply now and start classes on January 2."

DBC will be holding another advance info session on Thursday, December 12 from 3 to 7PM. The session will be held in the conference room of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership offices, 200 Shady Lane.

MVEDP executive director, Stan LaFuria, is pleased to welcome DuBois Business College to Philipsburg. "DBC brings an excellent reputation and a real passion for helping students to succeed. It offers very practical programs, and we think it will fill a real need in our local community."

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MVEDP Secures HOME Grant For Philipsburg Borough

Philipsburg Borough today announced the approval of a HOME Program grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$350,000.00. Through collaboration with the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership, this grant will assist homeowners in a targeted

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MVEDP Board Election Results & Officers Installed

Officials of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership announced today that five candidates for seats on the Partnership's board of directors have been elected for three-year terms on the board.

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Special points of interest:

- Free Advertising In The Spotlight
- MVEDP Staff

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Contact: Stan LaFuria, Exec. Dir

814-342-2260

Email: slafuria@mvedp.org

DBC

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“Many young people - and adults too - are looking for a way to complete their education without having to travel to State College or Altoona. Having DuBois Business College right here, close to home, is a real economic advantage.” LaFuria concluded.

DuBois Business College offers Associate in Specialized Business degree and diploma programs. Popular majors to be offered in Philipsburg include Accounting and Business Management, IT and Computers, Clinical Medical and Medical Assistant, Legal Assistant, and Graphic Arts. Many of these programs can be completed in as little as 18 months.

“Everyone has been so cordial. We are excited to be in Philipsburg,” said Jackie Skytich. “Please stop by to say hello and have a look around. Maybe someone in your family would like to become a DBC student, or maybe your business would like to hire a DBC graduate.”

MVEDP to Again Participate In PREP Program

The Partnership is pleased to announce that it will continue to participate in the state’s PREP Program. PREP, or Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance, was created by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide a seamless network of business assistance services to current and potential business owners. Partners in the program include chambers, industrial development organizations like the MVEDP, Industrial Resource Centers, Small Business Development Centers, and the regional planning organizations such as SEDA-Council of Governments and the N. Central PA Regional Planning & Development Commission.

The most fundamental aspect of the program is the individual interviews that the MVEDP will set up with businesses throughout the Moshannon Valley. The interviews with business officials are meant to provide the business owner or leader with an opportunity to identify to the Commonwealth the biggest issues faced by the business. For example, a local manufacturer might identify that they need to generate sales to foreign companies. MVEDP staff will then contact the export professionals at either SEDA-COG or NCRPDC and have them work with the local company official. Coordination of services and getting the right professionals to the table to help our local companies is of utmost importance.

Interviews with local business leaders will be set up within the next couple of months.

Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center Update

The MVEDP continues to market the 45,000 sf. of space that is available at the Enterprise Center. In an effort to lease this space sooner than later, the MVEDP board of directors recently voted to enter into a contract with a professional commercial/

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Philipsburg Borough

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neighborhood area of both Philipsburg Borough and Rush Township.

“Without a doubt economic growth and community stability go hand-in-hand and play an important role in determining the success of our economy,” said Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary C. Alan Walker. On behalf of Governor Corbett I am pleased to announce the award of a \$350,000 HOME grant to support revitalization efforts and growth in these two communities.”

“We want to thank Philipsburg Borough for agreeing to be the official applicant for the HOME Program funding,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the MVEDP.

John Shimko, President of the MVEDP’s board of directors was pleased to learn of the grant offer. “The MVEDP has been involved in housing rehabilitation work since 1996,” said Shimko. “This new grant of \$350,000 puts the total grants secured figure at just over \$2.9 million. It is our eighth grant approval. At the completion of this new project, we will have assisted over 175 families with housing rehabilitation work,” he said.

“We want to thank Philipsburg Borough for agreeing to be the official applicant for the HOME Program funding,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the

MVEDP. “The borough and Rush Township are our partners in the effort to help income-eligible families with needed improvements to their homes,” he said.

“The target area of this project is consistent with the Elm Street neighborhood area as developed by the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation,” said LaFuria. “That neighborhood area extends from North Centre Street out to the Fifteenth Street area, with Presqueisle Street the south border and the Cherry Street area to the north. The target area then extends into Rush Township to include the neighborhood areas near the Rush Township building and then out to the Enterprise Center on Shady Lane Drive,” he said.

Improvements that can be done to the home include: new roofs, furnaces, electrical and plumbing work, foundations, windows and doors and siding. The most important work items are completed first and all code violations must be addressed.

Residents of the target area should contact the MVEDP to determine if they are eligible for housing rehabilitation assistance. HUD income guidelines are used to determine eligibility. Contact Sherrie Beals at the MVEDP at 342-2260.

Merry Christmas!



Happy New Year!

Advertising Opportunity

Reserve your space in the **“Moshannon Valley Progress.”** Take advantage of absolutely **free** advertising for your business. Contact the Partnership for details. Contact Sharon Yingling at 814-342-2260 or send an email to sharonf@mvedp.org.

Advertising is free to Partnership members only. Limited space available so call today.

Do you want to Start a Business?

The Small Business Development Centers at Clarion University and Penn State will be holding a workshops from January through June 2014 on how to start and finance a new business. There will be monthly seminars that provide overviews on the steps to start a business along with an in-depth look at a business plan. Topics include business registrations, licenses, business structures, taxation, research tools, and what to expect in financing your business. Registration is required. Contact information: www.clarion.edu/sbdc/training/; (814) 393-2060 or toll free at (877) 292-1843. SBDC/Penn State: www.sbdc.psu.edu; (814) 863-4293.



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 Email: slafuria@mvedp.org

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

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Decatur Township
DuBois Business College

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MVEDP Staff

The MVEDP staff is always here to help the people in our community. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Our staff can be reached at:

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slafuria@mvedp.org

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sbeals@mvedp.org

Sharon Yingling, Admin. Assistant

Phone: 814-342-2260
sharonf@mvedp.org

Dave Baughman,
Maintenance Supervisor
Phone: 814-342-2260

Ross Williams, Maintenance
Phone: 814-342-2260

MVEDP Election

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“In late-October, the MVEDP held its annual board of director’s election,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the Partnership. Eight people were running for the five available seats on our 15-member board of directors. We received back 88 of the 181 ballots that were mailed for an excellent response rate of 49%. We are pleased to announce that the four candidates that either retained or won a seat on our board include: Jeff Herr, Bill Jones, John Shimko, Karen Blair, and Rick Kistler,” he said.

Other MVEDP board members include: Rusty Christoff, Steven Lyncha, Michael Conte, Jerry McKinney, Jim Pollock, Mark Nartatez, Tom Scott, Robert Steward, Jared Ricotta and Michael Kovalcin.

“Michael Kovalcin is also a new MVEDP board member having been appointed by the board for a two-year term to fill the seat of a departing board member,” said LaFuria.

At their board of directors meeting on November 19th, the Partnership installed new officers. **The new officers include: Jeff Herr, President, Rusty Christoff, 1st V.P., Steven Lyncha, V.P., Michael Conte, V.P., Jerry McKinney, Treasurer, and Jim Pollock, Assistant Treasurer.**

The MVEDP is a private, non-profit economic development organization that is dedicated to working with both the public and private sectors to stimulate new investment and improvements throughout the Moshannon Valley region.

Thank You!

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Enterprise Center Update

Continued From Page 2

industrial real estate firm. The space is divided into two areas, one of 23,000 sf. and the other of 22,000 sf. The space can be subdivided into smaller areas if there is a business that only requires a smaller space in which to operate.

There will soon be a public announcement about the arrival of a new business tenant within the Enterprise Center.

Update: Former Philipsburg Area Hospital Site

At their board meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, the MVEDP's board of directors voted to move forward with applying for state funding for a project that involves demolition and site clearing at the site of the former Philipsburg Area Hospital. The MVEDP is now working with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

and Secretary, C. Alan Walker to arrange the funding that will be needed to make the site ready for new development. Without funding from DCED, the project will not be possible.

Pennsylvania taxpayers are currently paying \$250,000 per year for full-time security and grass cutting at the former hospital site. The MVEDP does not believe that this is a good use of public funds. If funding is approved for the redevelopment of the site, the MVEDP will then work with local elected officials and the PA Department of General Services on the transfer of the property to the MVEDP.

The hospital property is 14.77 acres. There is every possibility that the site could be subdivided and multiple developments located there. One key attribute of the property is the availability of natural gas. This will be the only ready-to-go development site in the entire region with natural gas availability.



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Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!