



MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Winter 2014

Volume 13 Issue 4

SEASON'S GREETINGS

A Message from the Executive Director

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff and board of directors of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership!

Many thanks to our board members for the time and effort that they make to assist the staff in our economic and community development work.

During the past few months, our level of work activity increased to pre-2007 Great Recession levels. One very bright spot in our region is the success of our manufacturers. We are hearing reports about big time increases in orders and sales.

Continued on Page 2

Polymics, Ltd. Expands to Philipsburg Area

Polymics, Ltd., located in the State College region, has signed a lease agreement with the MVEDP to expand their manufacturing operations within the Philipsburg area.

“I am pleased to report that we recently established a new manufacturing facility within the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center,” said Dr. Tim Hsu, President and Chief Executive Officer of Polymics, Ltd.

“We explored various building options and decided that the Enterprise Center in Philipsburg best met our expansion needs,” said Dr. Hsu.

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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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Game Changing Solutions Moves to Regional Business Center

Ryan Scaife, owner of Game Changing Solutions, also known as Senergy Marketing Group, has moved his business to the Partnership’s Regional Business Center.

Continued on Page 3

Special points of interest:

- *Free Advertising In The Spotlight*
- *Thank you!*

COMCAST High Speed Internet Now Available at All Partnership Facilities

During the month of November, Comcast technicians installed new high speed internet cabling to the Partnership's Enterprise Center, Regional Business Center and the Regional Business Park. Any business located within any of these three facilities will now have access to the fastest Internet service available in the area.



Executive Director Message Continued from Page 1

We are fortunate to have some excellent manufacturers located in this area.

In the Fall 2014 edition of this newsletter, I identified the serious issue that we have in this region with the abuse of illegal drugs and prescription painkillers.

On October 29th, a public forum was held at the Gethsemane United Methodist Church in the Allport area. Thanks go to Representatives Tommy Sankey and Scott Conklin for organizing this forum. A second forum will be held on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. also at Gethsemane. I am very troubled by the drug problem as I have seen what it has done to families in this area. Employers in the area have been talking about it for at least the past four to five years. We are hoping that by bringing this issue out into the open, some success will be achieved in lowering the percentage of our youth that are involved with drugs.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a number of great articles about some of the successes that we have experienced over the past few months. Businesses are once again seeking loan financing, building space and land. We continue to be very proud of our work to assist local businesses with their projects. Much success to all in 2015.

Polymics

Continued from Page 1



"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Hsu and Polymics, Ltd. to the Moshannon Valley," said Jeff Herr, President of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership.

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Hsu and Polymics, Ltd. to the Moshannon Valley," said Jeff Herr, President of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership. "The staff of the Partnership was competing against building facilities located in the State College region. We knew that we had a great space within our Enterprise Center that we thought might work perfectly for Polymics so we were very hopeful early in the recruitment process that Polymics would choose that space," he said.

Polymics was founded in 1994 by Dr. Tim Hsu as a polymer consulting and testing company. Today, Polymics Ltd., is the world's premier developer and manufacturer of ultra-high performance engineering polymers. The company has a wide range of manufacturing capabilities and offers a variety of products and services.

"One of the buzz words in economic development today is "reshoring" which is when American manufacturers re-establish manufacturing operations back in the United States from foreign countries," said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the Partnership. "Polymics, Ltd. has now reshored manufacturing to the Moshannon Valley from Taiwan. We couldn't be more pleased to be working with Dr. Hsu and his team to help them establish their manufacturing operations within our Enterprise Center," said LaFuria.

Game Changing Solutions

Continued from Page 1

“We are pleased to welcome Ryan and his team to the Regional Business Center,” said Stan LaFuria of the Partnership. “Ryan had explained to us that he had outgrown the space that he was leasing elsewhere and he needed to find new space that could accommodate his growing business. We only had one office facility available within our two multi-tenant buildings and lucky for us, it was just what Ryan was looking for,” he said.

Game Changing Solutions is an award winning marketing design agency that works for businesses located nationwide. The business focuses on creating customized design solutions that fit with their customer’s marketing objectives. The staff provides professional expertise in marketing, branding, graphic design, web development, advertising, and communications.

The Moshannon Valley Regional Business Center is a 30,000 square foot multi-tenant building located within the Partnership’s Regional Business Park. The building was completed in 2006. Currently, there are six businesses located at the Center and the facility is 100% occupied.



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Hospital Demolition Begins – Commemorative Bricks Available

The Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS) has now initiated the demolition and site clearing project at the site of the former Philipsburg Area Hospital. Phase One Development Corporation is the company that was hired by DGS and they have a subcontractor Three Rivers Dismantlement that is doing the actual demolition work.

Thousands of area residents were born at the hospital so there is sentimental value to the former hospital site. Recognizing this, the Partnership contacted officials of DGS and have secured permission for residents to stop by the site and talk to the project manager (Rich) located within the job trailer to secure a commemorative brick. Local resident Tony Petulla of Osceola Mills is the manager of the project representing DGS.

MVEDP Approves Loan to UMI Performance

The Partnership recently approved a loan of \$65,000 to UMI Performance of the Philipsburg area. The company is owned by Ryan Kirkwood and is located at the site of the former Shain/Shop-Bilt plant in Rush Township.

UMI Performance officials contacted the Partnership to explain their interest in purchasing the property from the former occupant. The Partnership worked with SEDA-Council of Governments on the financial package to enable UMI to purchase the property.

UMI Performance began in 2003 under the leadership of Ryan and his father Dennis. Together, this father and son team developed a large variety of products for many makes and models of GM vehicles as well as the Ford Mustang. The company has grown to become one of the largest aftermarket suspension parts manufacturers in today's market place.

MVEDP Election

Continued from Page 1

“In early-October, the MVEDP held its annual board of director's election,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the Partnership. Nine people were running for the five available seats on our 15-member board of directors. We received back 82 of the 182 ballots that were mailed for an excellent response rate of 45%. We are pleased to announce that the five candidates that either retained or won a seat on our board include: Robert Steward, Jerry McKinney, Steven Lyncha, Bryan Bennett, and Laura Holden,” he said.

Other MVEDP board members include: Jeff Herr, Rusty Christoff, Jim Pollock, John Shimko, Bill Jones, Karen Blair, Tom Scott, Jared Ricotta, Rick Kistler, and Michael Kovalcin.

At their board of directors meeting on November 18th, the Partnership installed new officers. **The new officers include: Jeff Herr, President, Rusty Christoff, 1st V.P., Steven Lyncha, V.P., Michael Kovalcin, 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.

MVEDP Now Accepting Housing Rehab Applications

In the Spring 2015, the Partnership will significantly ramp up the Philipsburg Borough/Rush Township housing rehabilitation program. Through a federal HOME Program grant of \$350,000 that was awarded to Philipsburg Borough, eligible residents within a specific target area of the borough and Rush

Continued on Page 8

MVEDP Selects DuBois Business College Scholarship Recipients

The Partnership recently selected two DuBois Business College students as the recipients of its scholarship funding for fiscal year 2014/15. Amanda Hubler and Hope Maines were selected to receive the scholarships of \$1,000 each. The DuBois Business College operates a first class educational facility within the Partnership's Enterprise Center.

New Legislation Impacts Delivery of Loan Programs

The state legislature and governor have recently passed legislation that impacts the manner in which five different loan programs will be administered by local economic development professionals. In the House of Representatives, the house bill HB 1550 passed by a vote of 192-0.

The funding programs involved are generally targeted to manufacturing companies but there are cases when non-manufacturing firms are eligible for the loan programs too. Five state programs have been merged: Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund, Small Business First, Community Economic Development, Export Financing, and the Pollution Prevention Assistance Account program. These five programs have been merged into the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA).

The loan application process will now be streamlined through the creation of a "one-stop-shop" for businesses. Because of the new legislation, busi-

nesses will be able to apply through a **single certified economic development organization**. Moshannon Valley area businesses interested in low-interest loan financing for their machinery/equipment, working capital or land/building projects **will be able to apply through the Partnership** rather than have to deal with multiple organizations. The Partnership has been a certified economic development provider since the certification process was first developed four years ago.

Housing Rehab Continued from Page 7

Township may apply for grant funding of up to \$22,500 to bring their homes up to code. The Partnership plans to assist a minimum of 14 homeowners with improvements to their homes.

Within the borough, the target area is bounded on the west by Third Street, on the south by Presqueisle Street, on the east by 15th Street, and on the north by the Route 322 bypass. The project area extends into Rush Township out Lochlomond Road to Shady Lane, Jesse and Richard Streets.

Improvements to owner-occupied, single-family homes may include new furnaces, roofs, electrical systems, window and doors. The MVEDP has been administering housing rehab programs since 1996/97 and has now worked to secure just over \$2.9 million to help area residents bring their homes up to code.



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Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!