

MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Summer Issue - August 2019

Volume 18 Issue 2



A Message from the Executive Director



We are hopeful that everyone is having a great summer. It's pleasing to see the local festivals in the area including those in Osceola Mills,

Sandy Ridge, Houtzdale and Philipsburg. The festivals help to instill pride in the communities that comprise the Moshannon Valley region.

A terrific article about the revitalization of the Philipsburg area recently appeared in the August edition of Town and Gown magazine based in State College. Local resident Teresa Mull authored the article about the positive changes that are happening in the downtown area of Philipsburg. The Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation has been doing a great job of helping businesses find the right home in the downtown area. Eric Kelmenson, President of the PRC Board, the crew and leadership of Philipsburg Borough, and Faith Maguire deserve a lot of the credit for the positive developments that are taking place in the downtown.

The industrial/commercial real estate market has been quiet the past few months which is a bit strange given the fact that the economy continues to

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MVEDP's State Certification Renewed

In early June, the MVEDP learned that the PA Department of Community & Economic Development had approved the certification of the MVEDP as an economic development organization. This designation is important because it enables us to administer the low interest loan program that is available through the PA Industrial Development Authority. The MVEDP can now administer the PIDA loan program to businesses located throughout all of Centre County, as well as in the Moshannon Valley region.

PIDA Announces Low Interest Rates

The state loan program through the PA Industrial Development Authority offers very low interest rates on their loans. PIDA's interest rates are announced quarterly. The rates for July through September are as low as 2%.

All types of businesses are now eligible for PIDA loan financing and for all types of projects. PIDA will only provide 50% of the financing for a business's project so there is a partnership with the banks in most cases. PIDA is willing to

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- Membership Renewals

Executive Director's Message

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grow and unemployment rates are low. We just aren't seeing companies looking for additional building space for their projects. We are regularly asked about the former Philipsburg Hospital site as we know there is a special place in the hearts of many residents here for that site. A local company has asked if we would be willing to sell them a portion of the site and the MVEDP's board of directors will be reviewing that proposal at their meeting on August 20th.

We continue to try and keep area businesses informed about funding and training opportunities that are offered by other service providers. Contained elsewhere in this newsletter are a number of notices regarding these opportunities. We have always believed that one of our most important jobs is to keep area businesses informed about sites, building space, financing and training opportunities. Business retention is Job One.

We also included in this edition of our newsletter an article that we produced for the Pennsylvania Business Central publication. It is a good article because it provides a summary of our history and identifies our mission. Key to our work is the availability of sites, building space, and low interest loan financing. We can help private sector companies because we have the tools that companies need for their projects.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and thank you for your continued support of the MVEDP.

PIDA

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subordinate their lien position to the banks to make the deals work. Funds can be used for land and buildings, machinery and equipment, working capital and lines of credit.

Recent PIDA loan recipients include Homeland Manufacturing, Genna Ice, Organic Climbing, and the MVEDP for the purchase of the former Philipsburg Area Hospital site.

The MVEDP: A Reminder About Our Mission

For 31 years, the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership (MVEDP) has been providing economic development, community development and chamber of commerce services within the greater Philipsburg area. Philipsburg is located in the heart of the Moshannon Valley region which includes areas of eastern-Clearfield County and the western-Centre County region.

Our mission from day one has been to diversify the regional economy of the Moshannon Valley by assisting entrepreneurs, existing businesses, and attracting outside businesses to the area. We have worked diligently over the years to develop the "tools" that entrepreneurs and business owners need to develop and grow. The tools of economic development include ready-to-go sites, building space for rent or for sale, loan program financing, access to state loan programs, and a qualified workforce.

The MVEDP's specific tools that are available to help entrepreneurs and existing businesses include: our Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center, Moshannon Valley Regional Business Center, Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park, Moshannon Valley Revolving Loan Fund Program, and our Philipsburg Area Commerce Park. The bottom line is that we have building space, sites and access to financing to help business owners with their projects. We

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DEP Small Business Advantage Grant Program

The Department of Environmental Protection has announced the availability of its **2019 Small Business Advantage Grant Program**. This grant provides Pennsylvania small businesses the opportunity to acquire energy efficient or pollution prevention technologies with a 50% reimbursement matching grant for equipment or materials.

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Your BIG IDEA Contest

CENTRAL PA – There’s up to \$50,000 on the line! You don’t need to be an inventor, scientist, or historic statesmen like Ben Franklin in order to win this year’s BIG IDEA contest. Ben Franklin Technology Partners is looking for tech entrepreneurs, developers, or small manufacturers who are creating innovative new products, processes, or software applications. It’s easy to qualify and even easier to apply. Visit BigIdea.BenFranklin.org for the details and entry form. Check out our last BIG IDEA award event held in Erie, PA <https://youtu.be/cm3C94GruBc>

In addition to the money, the winner will receive:

- Access to seminars offered by **Ben Franklin’s eMarketing Learning Center** and the **Clarion Small Business Development Center**
- A free consult on applying for federal R&D grant money from the **Innovation Partnership**
- Executive business and technology growth services assistance offered by the **Northwest Industrial Resource Center**

For questions about the contest or application process, phone John Siggins at 814-865-2879 or email Jill Edwards at jilledwards@psu.edu

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS 5:00 PM / SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

About Ben Franklin: The largest early-stage investor in our region, Ben Franklin Technology Partners/CNP, (an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and funded by the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority) provides investment capital, operational assistance, and business support services to emerging tech-based companies and small, existing manufacturers to create and retain jobs in Pennsylvania. Visit Ben Franklin’s website at www.cnp.benfranklin.org or phone 814-863-4558.

The First Step to Small Business Success

Tuesday, September 10

9:00 a.m.—noon

200 Technology Center, Innovative Park

Sponsored by **SPE Federal Credit Union** and **SCORE**

Have you always had the dream to start your own business but didn’t know where to begin?

This free workshop will help aspiring entrepreneurs begin the process of owning a successful business, including evaluating business ideas, developing a business plan, and exploring financing options.

"PA MAKES" Manufacturing Mini-Grants Available

The “Pennsylvania Manufacturing Assistance for Keystone Entrepreneurial Success” or “PA MAKES” initiative seeks to use matching mini-grants to grow and strengthen existing manufacturing companies with an “economic gardening” approach that provides targeted and direct assistance to companies to help diversify markets, leverage new opportunities in emerging sectors and develop robust industry clusters around these sectors. The project will support small and medium manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) in targeted coal-impacted counties in the 52-county ARC region that are experiencing the most deleterious impact of the change in the Appalachian coal market.

Company Mini-Grant Eligibility:

- Located within ARC’s 52 County PA Region (Includes all of Catalyst, NWIRC, IMC and NEPIRC plus Carbon, Schuylkill, Perry and Fulton)
- 250 employees per location or less
- Privately held
- Have not previously received an ARC POWER mini-grant

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Central Intermediate Unit #10
345 Link Road West Decatur PA 16878 • 814-342-8884 or 1-800-882-3375 (PA only)

The CIU #10 offers the following services to Centre, Clearfield and Clinton Counties:

- Customized educational services to business and industry
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PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Earn an annual dividend—11 % dividend declared the 2nd year to eligible policy holders
- Must be a member of the MVEDP
- Must have business insurance with Penn National

Want to know more? Contact Charles A. Jones Insurance Agency at **814-342-1880** or visit PennNationalInsurance.com



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800-462-1519 OR 814-342-3223

SALES HOURS
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WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY
9:00 – 5:00

PARTS HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY
8:00-5:00
CLOSED SATURDAY

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TAKING DEALS THE OTHER GUY'S WON'T!!
GUARANTEED!!

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Clearfield County Comm.

John Sobel

Mark McCracken

Antonio Scotto

MVEDP STAFF

The MVEDP staff is always here to help the people in our region. Please contact us with any questions and with any business development leads that you might have. Our staff can be reached at:

Stan LaFuria, Executive Director

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slafuria@mvedp.org

Sherrie Beals, Office Manager

Phone: 814-342-2260

sbeals@mvedp.org

Sharon Yingling, Admin. Assistant

Phone: 814-342-2260

sharonf@mvedp.org

MOSHANNON VALLEY REGIONAL BUSINESS PARK



- Tax Free Keystone Opportunity Zone
- 3 Lots Still Available
- Located Along PA Route 322 One Mile East of Philipsburg
- Complete With All Utilities

Contact: Stan LaFuria, Executive Director

Phone: 814-342-2260,

Email: slafuria@mvedp.org

WWW.MVEDP.ORG

DEP Grant Program

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Pennsylvania businesses with fewer than 100 full-time equivalent employees are eligible to apply. Applicants must be for-profit entities, be located in Pennsylvania, and registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State. Eligible projects must save the applicant a minimum of \$500 annually and reduce their costs by a minimum of 25%. Applications are reviewed and awarded on a First-Come, First-Served basis. I recommend applying as soon as possible.

New this year is the opportunity for small businesses to implement solar thermal (hot water) projects. Solar hot water systems must function to serve the hot water needs of the small business. Solar projects generating electricity (PV) are not eligible.

We've created short instructional videos to assist small businesses with completing the application. The videos are project specific (**Lighting Upgrades, Medical Equipment, Natural Resource Protection, Solar Hot Water and All Other Projects**) and will make the application process easy for you. I highly recommend viewing the videos before starting the application process.

All documents needed to apply for the grant, as well as the instructional videos, can be found at the [Small Business Advantage Grant](#) webpage. If you have any questions, please contact me at the number below, or Caroline Zepp at (717) 772-5160.

Diamondback Selected as Small Business of the Year

Congratulations to the team of Diamondback Automotive Accessories for their selection as Small Business of the Year by the Small Business Administration for the State of Pennsylvania.

Thank You!

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

Renewals 3rd Quarter

Belding & Mull, Inc.
 Big Rock Swing & Ping
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 Larry's Saw Shop
 Lee Industries, Inc.
 Long Motor Buses, Inc.
 Mike Baron
 Moshannon Valley Pharmacy
 Nor East Mapping, Inc.
 Penelec, A First Energy Company

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Thank You

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Penn Highlands General Surgery
 Penn Highlands of Philipsburg
 Philipsburg Beverage, Inc.
 Philipsburg Journal
 Philipsburg Kiwanis Club
 Philipsburg Marble & Granite
 Philipsburg True Value
 PMG Pennsylvania
 RC Bowman, Inc.
 Sherwin-Williams
 The GEO Group, Inc.
 Walter Hopkins Company

MVEDP

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strive to keep the costs of operations lower for our business clients so that their businesses will flourish and grow. Their growth results in both job retention and job creation.

The MVEDP is a Certified Economic Development Organization as designated by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. This CEDO status allows the MVEDP to assist DCED in the administration of their PA Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) loan program. The PIDA loan program is most often used by companies to build new production facilities, but can also be used for machinery and equipment purchases and working capital.

Recent state PIDA loan recipients include: Homeland Manufacturing of the State College region, and Genna Ice, and Organic Climbing, both from the Moshannon Valley. The MVEDP is now permitted to administer the state PIDA loan program throughout all of Centre County. This state loan program is another tool to help companies with their projects. The below market interest rate that is offered through PIDA is meant to save the company money so that job retention and job creation will result. Our local elected officials and federal/state agency

professionals have been very supportive of the MVEDP's efforts. Using both grants and loans from federal and state agencies, the MVEDP was able to create the tools that we have to offer to private sector businesses. We have received tremendous support from DCED, the United States Dept. of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration.

The Moshannon Valley regional economy has changed a great deal from the pre-1988 economy that was dominated by the coal industry. Coal was king in this region until the start of its demise in the 1980s. Today, we have a large Walmart Distribution facility, State Dept. of Corrections facility in the Houtzdale area, the only privately owned corrections facility that exists in Pennsylvania: the GEO Moshannon Valley facility, the Cen Clear Child Services organization that now employs over 500 people, and the numerous manufacturers that are located here now including: PMG Pennsylvania, Advanced Powder Products, Drucker Company, Lee Industries, and Diamondback Truck Converters, to name a few.

U.S. Census data has revealed that there are almost as many people who travel IN to the Moshannon Valley to their jobs each day, as there are that commute out of this area to their jobs. The 2015 data revealed that 2,765 residents left the Valley each day to their jobs, but 2,639 people traveled IN to the Moshannon Valley each day for their work. Along with our other partners in development, we can say together that we are doing our part to diversify and grow our regional economy.

The MVEDP and the Moshannon Valley have a key niche in economic development here in central Pennsylvania: that is the availability of low cost building space, low cost financing, and very low priced business park land. We are partners with the CBICC in Centre County, the Clearfield County economic development organizations, Innovation Park officials, the leadership of the Ben Franklin Partnership program, SEDA-Council of Governments, and with the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation. Working with these groups, with our elected officials, and state/federal agencies, we have been able to make a measurable difference here in the Moshannon Valley and that difference is a more diversified and robust area economy.

Mini-Grants Available

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Priority Given to:

- ◇ Coal impacted companies and communities that have seen significant economic impacts from changes in the coal industry
- ◇ New Clients – ARC’s request is 60% of the mini-grants go to New Clients

See the attachment for additional information about the opportunity.

If your business is in Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Northumberland, Mifflin, Montour, Snyder, or Union Counties, please reach out to Lauri Moon, IMC, LauriM@imcpa.com, for more information.

If your business is in Columbia County, please contact Dale Parmenteri, NEPIRC, dale@nepirc.com for more information.

Welcome New Members!

Fulton Bank

209 North Atherton St., Suite 300
State College, PA 16803
Lana Walker, Vice President
Phone: 814-234-1864

Shaner Hotels

1965 Waddle Road
State College, PA 16803
Lance Shaner
Phone: 814-278-7539

Clemmer Fire Protection, Inc.

2449 Wallaceton Morrisdale Road
Morrisdale, PA 16858
Jesse Clemmer, Owner
Phone: 814-343-6110



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