

MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

Fall Issue

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A Message from the Executive Director



Development happened in a given region when there is the support and cooperation of government at all levels. When a developer, or private non-profit development organization like the MVEDP is considering a land development project, many different government agencies will be required to weigh in and/or approve the project.

We are lucky to have cooperative local governments in this area that support development projects. Most of the future land development projects in this region will happen in the outlying townships. There is very little property in Philipsburg Borough left to develop, most of the work needed there is revitalization of existing properties.

One township that has stood out the past few months when it has come to supporting local development is **RUSH TOWNSHIP**. I want to recognize the Township supervisors and township engineer for their recent support of two local development projects: Graystone Philipsburg to be located at the Philipsburg Area Commerce Park (former hospital site),

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MVEDP Prepares for Board of Directors Election

In September every year, the MVEDP staff prepares for the annual board of directors election. The staff first identifies the current board members who have a term that will expire on November 30th. Those board members are then asked if they would like to be on the ballot for the election that is held in late September/early October. For the 2021/22 election, four of the five board members whose terms expire in November have expressed their interest in running for

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Area Businesses Locate to Enterprise Center

The MVEDP was recently able to assist two area businesses with their building space needs: Cutting Edge Bullets of the Drifting area, and the Central Intermediate Unit 10 of West Decatur.

Dan and Kim Smitchko contacted the MVEDP staff looking for a new but temporary home for one of their businesses Cutting Edge Bullets. They sold their other business, Cutting Edge Machining Solutions but maintained their ownership of CEB. The MVEDP

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Special points of interest:

- Free Advertising In The Spotlight
- Membership Renewals

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and the Diamondback Truck Covers expansion that is now being considered for land that is adjacent to the Regional Business Park.

Rush Township was asked to rezone properties so that these two development proposals could move forward. In both cases, public hearings were held and the public given an opportunity to comment on the rezoning requests. The Rush Township Supervisors approved both proposed re-zonings and now these two projects can continue to evolve. It is just terrific when development groups have government support. Thank you Rush Township, and to our other local government members: Philipsburg Borough, Decatur Township, Chester Hill Borough, and Morris Township. Community revitalization and job creation/retention: always a priority.

GEO Group Continues to Work to Find a Reuse of the GEO - Moshannon Valley Facility

The Partnership continues to track the efforts to reopen the now-closed GEO Moshannon Valley facility. A Zoom meeting was held on March 5th that included close to 30 area officials. The Partnership's board of directors and staff, like most people here in this area, want to see that facility reopened and people back to work there. The GEO Moshannon Valley facility had been a very important employer in this area for many years.

An article appeared in the Progress newspaper that stated that GEO Group had issued a press release stating that the facility will be reopened. GEO officials have since said that the press release did not originate from their corporate office. The talk is of the creation of an ICE-contracted (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) operation at the GEO property.

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Board of Director's Election Continued from Page 1

re-election: Rusty Christoff, Josiah Jones, Jim Pollock, and Wanda Ryen.

We are asking all members to inform the MVEDP by Monday, September 20th if they would be interested in running for a seat on the board, or if you have another name to submit to us. A draft ballot with the names of the candidates will be presented to the MVEDP board of directors on Tuesday, the 21st. Once the ballot is approved, the election will be held and results released at the November board meeting. Thank you.

Area Businesses Locate to Enterprise Center Continued from Page 1

was able to provide them the space that they were looking for, a 3,330 square foot area formerly occupied by Diamondback Truck Covers. The plan is for the company to lease the space for a short time period and then move on to other space in the western USA.

Central Intermediate Unit 10 is led by Dr. Francine Endler. Dr. Endler and her team have been dealing with a bad weather-induced roof collapse at their headquarters in West Decatur. The MVEDP was first able to provide 2,000 square feet of warehousing/distribution space. The CIU10 has now proposed to lease an office area of 4,600 sf. If the lease addendum is approved, CIU10 will lease a total of 6,600 sf. of space at the MVEC.

Time and time again, the MVEDP has been able to help area companies with space needs through the availability of the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center. Since 1989, this facility has been the key component of the MVEDP's economic development efforts. To date, there have been 84 businesses located at the MVEC.

Lot #3 Being Developed at the Regional Business Park



Construction is underway on the new Sewer Catt, LLC facility located on Lot #3 in the Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park. The company does business as Roto Rooter and is owned by John Moore, Tim and John Decker. The MVEDP sold the land to Sewer Catt, LLC in 2020. This new building will be an operations center and office facility for the company.

MVEDP Provides Assistance to Other Non-Profit Organizations in the Area

At the August 17, 2021 meeting of the MVEDP’s board of directors, the staff mentioned to the board members in attendance that we are providing very valuable assistance to other area non-profit organizations. Through the availability of building space at the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center, the MVEDP is currently assisting: Centre County YMCA Food Program, YMCA Theatre Program, Philipsburg Area Disaster Preparedness Committee, and the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation. It is just terrific that the Partnership can offer this asset to the community and region at large. We are all partners in the efforts to keep the Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region strong.

CREOTEK, LLC Expands at Regional Business Center

In December 2018, Clay Passarelli of the Bald Eagle Valley region contacted the MVEDP to say that he was interested in setting up a new machine shop within the MVEDP’s Regional Business Center. The MVEDP was able to get Mr. Passarelli’s business, Creotek, LLC set up in 4,000 square feet of space at the MVRBC.

Fast forward to June/July 2021: the MVEDP learned that Centipede/Orkin would be leaving the MVRBC and vacating a 3,822 square foot area. Mr. Passarelli contacted the MVEDP again, this time to say that he would like to expand Creotek into that building space.

Creotek, LLC is now occupying 7,822 square feet of space at the MVRBC and adding machinery and employees. The MVEDP is very pleased to be working with Mr. Passarelli to help him grow his manufacturing business here in the Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region.

Centre County Businesses and County Grant Program

Businesses located on the Centre County side of the creek may be eligible for grant funding through Centre County government. The county has made available a new grant program of between \$2,000 and \$20,000 grants to businesses who are eligible and apply for the funding. Funds are available on a first come, first serve basis and a total of \$3.0 million has been made available. Funds were provided by the federal government through the American Rescue Plan. If you have a business that might be eligible for this funding, then contact Betsy Lockwood at SEDA-Council of Governments, 570-522-7265 or lockwood@seda-cog.org.

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Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services Continues to Work Diligently on Their Building Project



The staff and board of the Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services continue to work diligently on the effort to move their proposed building project forward. Wes Cart-

wright, Jim Pollock and Stan of the MVEDP comprise a small committee that is working to find potential sources of funding needed to accomplish this important project. The new facility will be located on 2.3 acres of land formerly the Philipsburg Area Hospital site and now the Philipsburg Area Commerce Park.

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Congratulations Philipsburg Historical Foundation

The Philipsburg Historical Foundation does an excellent job of preserving the history of the Philipsburg area. Congratulations to the PHF as their Old Union "Mud" Church will be celebrating its 200th anniversary this month.

Thank You Members!

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

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Area Municipalities Tackling Dilapidated Housing Issue

The MVEDP is pleased to see the area municipalities getting involved in clearing abandoned, dilapidated properties. Clearfield County government is involved through its Redevelopment Authority under the administration of Lisa Kovalick, a long-time county employee. Morris Township is one area community that is addressing the problem. It is always disappointing when a property owner quits maintaining a property and the house or building crumbles to a dangerous condition. Governments are stepping in and targeting the worst properties with the goal of clearance and future reuse, an effective use of taxpayer dollars.

MVEDP's Revolving Loan Fund Program Released from Federal Oversight

The Moshannon Valley Revolving Loan Fund Program has been released from any further federal oversight. The MVEDP's RLF program was founded in 1989 with a \$400,000 initial capitalization: \$200,000 from the federal government/Economic Development Administration, and \$200,000 from the MVEDP. Because of that federal funding, the EDA had continuous oversight of the RLF Program. This oversight was never an issue as the staff worked diligently with EDA officials to make sure that the loan program was in compliance with all requirements and at all times.

Due to COVID 19 and the problems that it has caused for families and communities, the federal government made a decision that it should release all or most revolving loan fund programs from their oversight to instead allow local loan program administrators to possibly use the money to target COVID 19-related issues. The MVEDP learned in early June that its application to be released from future federal oversight had been approved.

MVEDP Approves Loan to Walker Lumber Company

The MVEDP's Revolving Loan Fund Committee recently approved a loan of \$100,000 to Walker Lumber Company of the Woodland area. This is the third loan made by the MVEDP to this local company. Walker Lumber provided company equity to match funding from both the MVEDP and the Clearfield County Industrial Development Authority. The CCIDA approved a loan of \$160,000.00. The funding will allow for the development of a new Green line of wood processing. A building will be constructed and all necessary machinery and equipment will be installed there. Mr. Nick Ince is the owner and president of Walker Lumber Company

Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services Continued from Page 6

The team has enlisted the support of area elected officials including Scott Conklin who is hoping to find a matching state grant for the project. That state funding is critical to the project, the total estimated cost of which is \$2.0 million. The funding scene is very uncertain due to the COVID 19 issues across the country. But with some hard work and luck, the funding will hopefully be found.

GEO Group Continued from Page 2

Area officials are watching these developments closely as the jobs at GEO are very important to the region. Every effort will be made by area officials to assist GEO in their efforts.

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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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