



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## “The Opportunities and Challenges of Natural Gas in Bradford County”

Bradford County Press Release

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The Bradford County Gas Exploration Advisory Committee in conjunction with Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Central Bradford Progress Authority would like to announce “The Opportunities and Challenges of Natural Gas in Bradford County”. The presentation will be held October 6, 2008 from 6-9 P.M. at the Towanda High School Auditorium. This event will present residents of Bradford County with information regarding the recent acceleration of Natural Gas exploration and drilling in our county. It will include what the Bradford County Commissioners and others learned while visiting Texas to further explore the

impacts of the industry. Impacts and topics to be covered will include drilling operations, possible economic impacts, environmental impacts and current and proposed legislation.

Commissioner Kevin Burns from Wise County, Texas will also be speaking about the impacts he has experienced since becoming a Commissioner and also as a Texas landowner. Commissioner Burns has experience and knowledge dealing with the impacts in the Barnett Shale of Texas, which is the hottest area of the country for natural gas drilling. Commissioner Burns organized the presentations and tours provided for the Bradford County group while in Texas. Also, Tom

Murphy from Penn State Cooperative Extension will present what Penn State is doing to provide services and information to residents living within the Marcellus Shale region. Natural gas drilling companies have been invited to the event to make information available about their companies to citizens. Fortuna, XTO Energy, Chief Oil and Gas and Chesapeake Appalachia LLC, will be having booths and have graciously donated the refreshments for the event.

The sponsors of the event would like to encourage residents to attend this session.

## Important Update: Elections

Attention Bradford County Voters, Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 is Pennsylvania’s General Election Day. To be sure that you have the opportunity to vote here are a few reminders and deadlines:

**If you are not registered to vote you must do so by no later than October 6th, 2008.**

**To change your party, address or other information, the deadline is October 6th, 2008.**

You can also take this opportunity to register or change your registration electronically. Just stop by the Election Office located behind the Court House in Towanda and register on our SURE PORTAL System. The Voter Registration/Election Office is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Absentee Ballot Applications are available and must be submitted by no later than **October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. The actual ballot is due by no later than **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008**. The law includes expanded definitions of "Duties, Occupations or Business," to include "Leave of Absence for teaching, vacations, sabbatical leaves, and all other absences associated with the elector's duties, occupation of business, and also includes an Elector's spouse who accompanies the elector."

Should you have any questions or would like to check the status of your registration, please feel free to contact the Elections Office at 570-265-1717 or 1-888-270-VOTE. Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications are available for download on the Bradford County website: [www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)

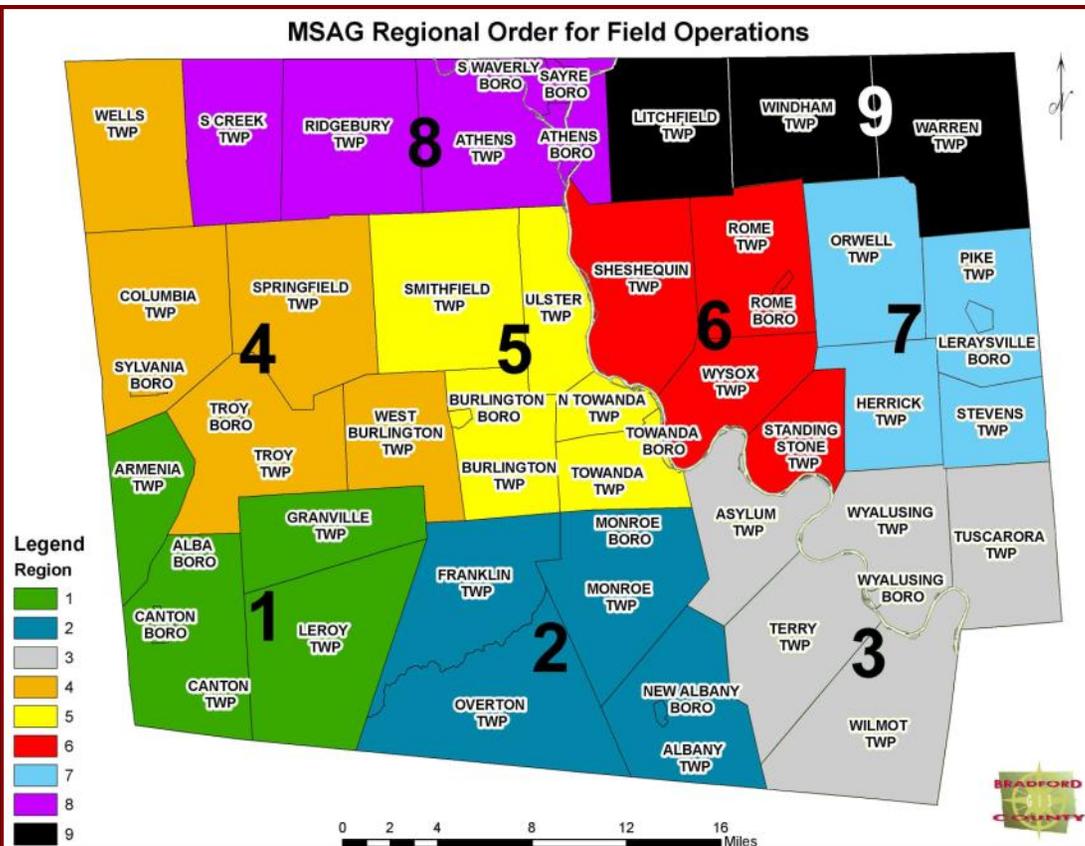
# 911 Readdressing Project to Resume

Bradford County Press Release

On September 25, 2008, the Bradford County Commissioners signed a contract amendment with the 911 readdressing contractor MSAG, LLC. The amended contract is the product of months of renegotiating the process, payment schedule and project timeline between the County, MSAG and the U.S. Post Office. Beginning on October 27, 2008 the readdressing project will resume in Bradford County.

Addressing will resume on a region by region basis. MSAG will begin in Region 1. Questionnaires delivered to each residence will be requesting current resident name, mailing address and telephone numbers. **It is very important that each resident receiving a questionnaire promptly return the postage paid information card to MSAG.** It is very important to get a match-up of old and new addresses and a telephone number for each address. The county must match-up 95% of the county's addresses with a phone number before 911 can move into the "enhanced" phase of 911 responses.

Enhanced 911 is an enhanced version of a typical Caller ID system but with more information provided to 911 dispatchers. Instead of just a name and phone number, Enhanced 911 displays the caller's name, phone number, street address, apartment or space numbers, the type of phone, additional phone numbers at that location, and a recommendation for police, fire, or paramedic response. It also keeps numbers from being blocked, even if they are unlisted. Having the location immediately displayed on each 911 call-screen allows the dispatcher to quickly confirm the location where help is needed. The



## Questionnaire Delivery

- November '08- February '08. Delivery of questionnaires in regions 1-3
- March '09-July '09. Delivery of questionnaires in regions 4,5,6,7
- August '09- September '09. Delivery of questionnaires in regions 8

## Final Address Delivery

- August '09- September '09. Delivery of final address in regions 1-3
- December '09 - January '10. Delivery of final address in regions 4,5,6,7
- February '10 - March '10. Delivery of final address in regions 8-9.

sooner our dispatchers can verify a location, the sooner they can send help to you.

Much of the work to date has been in the way of coordinating road names with municipalities and supplying our consultant with data that the county has collected over the past few years. The time has come for the more "public" phase to begin, where field crews will actually be visiting

each and every structure in the county. Field crews with MSAG Data Consultants will begin delivering questionnaires to residents throughout the county, region by region. The map shows the regions into which the county is divided.

For each questionnaire that is not returned, the county will be charged additional fees to follow-up and get the information by other means.

**It is very important that each resident receiving a questionnaire promptly return the postage paid information card to MSAG.** Each and every resident in Bradford County has the power to move the county through this process quickly, efficiently and cost effectively. Providing the most up-to-date 911 system to Bradford County residents is our ultimate goal and we must have the cooperation of Bradford County residents to accomplish this goal.

# Understanding the Community Development Block Grants in Bradford County

by: Robyn D'Anna

The CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds community development projects each year. Other than Historic Preservation projects, funding must benefit Low to Moderate Income (LMI) persons, families, or geographic areas. Some groups are presumed LMI including, the disabled, the elderly, homeless and abused persons. The LMI designation may be determined through a survey.

Types of eligible projects benefiting Low to Moderate Income persons include but are not limited to; road improvements, water, storm water or sewer system development or improvements, handicapped access improvements, sidewalk replacement, water or sewer lateral hookups, housing rehabilitation, improvements to public facilities, demolition to remove slum/blight conditions and recreation projects in LMI service areas or municipalities. Interested municipalities or groups looking for grant funding should contact the Grants Office at: 570-268-4103 to check on the eligibility and fundability of any project ideas.

Bradford County's approximate award amount is between \$300,000 and \$350,000 per year. Some project highlights since 2003 include some handicapped access as well as some historic preservation work at the Wyalusing Community Corporation building in Wyalusing Borough, the Stevensville Community Club building in Stevens Township, the Manley-Boylar Farm for ReKindle the Spirit, Inc. the home of the Apple 'n Cheese Festival in Canton Township and the LeRoy Heritage Museum. Road and storm water upgrades took place in Troy Borough, sidewalk replacements in Towanda, Canton and Wyalusing Boroughs and the East Smithfield .

The CDBG/Housing Rehab Coordinator administers the CDBG program for Bradford County. Any time during the year inquiries on any project ideas to the grants office on the eligibility and fundability of a project are welcomed and encouraged.

Each August an information packet including an application for county funding is sent to all municipalities and any non-profit agencies who have requested the information.

In November, press releases are placed in all area papers for more complete notification for non-profits not on the mailing list. Early and frequent contact is encouraged to ensure the best possible preparation for organizing projects to be ready to present at a public meeting held each December. Projects presented must be ready to move forward to be considered for funding.

Awarded projects are included in the County's CDBG Entitlement Application to the state and must be carried out to completion within the first three (3) years of funding. The application is submitted, usually in February or March, the county waits for the state to approve the application, supplying additional information, if requested. The preliminary parts of an Environmental Review are prepared during this time including maps of project areas illustrating location, soils, flood zones, topography and wetlands. Project Abstracts for each project are developed to accompany the maps, which are sent to appropriate agencies for review once the state sends the county a contract.

Comments are received from the consulted agencies and the county planner reviews agency comments to determine

adverse or beneficial effects on the environment and any actions that must be taken by the awarded project groups for environmental clearance. Once this phase of the review is complete the Environmental Review Record composed of all the above stated components, is posted for eighteen (18) days at the Bradford County Commissioners Office and the Planning and Grants Office for public review and comment.

The county then files an environmental Finding of No Significant Impact/Request of Release of Funds (FONSI and RROF) with the state. Once received by the state a 15-day review period begins. During this period the state, through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has the opportunity to comment on the findings of the county's environmental review. Once the state has completed their fifteen (15) day review DCED issues a Release of Funds Notice to the county. At that time the Grants Office holds Project Leader Meetings to inform the contact persons for each project on requirements, regulations, the process, bid documents and the sub recipient agreements between the municipality or non-profit and the county. Once all sub recipient agreements are signed and returned to the county the agreements go to a Bradford County Commissioners' Meeting and are signed by the Commissioners. At that time and not before, the projects may get underway.

Assistance and guidance for projects during the procurement process is also a part of the work done in the county's Grants Office to assure compliance with all the

state and federal regulations advertising and bidding out the awarded projects, paying invoices for the work done under the grant and timely completion of projects.

Since housing rehabilitation is such an important part of our office activities through the Bradford County Housing Rehabilitation Program and it is identified as a component in the 2004 Bradford County Comprehensive Plan, the Grants Office is represented in the coordination of a county wide housing study. The study is being developed to support Bradford County's newly developed Regional Housing Consortium. The housing study will help the consortium understand what current housing conditions are and where there are deficiencies in types of housing, costs of housing rents and purchase prices, and availability for different groups of persons for purchase or rent such as first time home buyers, families, persons with disabilities or group homes. The study will assist the group in gaining funding to correct current deficiencies.

The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) has opened its first office. They are in place to assist in searching out unrestricted funds for projects in Bradford, Sullivan and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania and Tioga County, New York. Their website is:

<http://www.twintierscf.org> and provides useful information including a simple form explaining how to apply for funding.

## Quick Updates

...keep up to date with what's going on!

### Bradford County Parks

The Bradford County Parks Committee met at the Planning department on September 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. The committee reviewed the RFP's from nine different consultant firms and narrowed the list to their top three choices. The committee has set up interviews on October 15, 2008 with the Commissioners to let each consultant demonstrate what they will provide Bradford County. The Committee expressed pleasure with both the quality of consultants that responded to the RFP and the committee's short list.

### Bridge Updates

At the end of the 2007 Bradford County presented Penn Dot with a list of our top priorities for bridge repairs. Two of the top priorities were Bridge # 22 in Monroe Township and Bridge #26 in Sheshequin, both of these were moved to the TIPP Program (Transportation Improvement Program) which is a federally funded program with funding slated for Bridge #26 in 2010 and Bridge # 22 in 2011. Both of these bridges have been removed from the county bridge program, and Bridge #37 in Wells Township has been added to the retroactive reimbursement program.

Ray Stolinas received a rough draft of the 414 corridor study done by Larson Design and hopes to begin design for bridge #17 in Leroy Township by the end of the year.

## We Need Your Help!

We would like to remind all the recipients of this monthly E-mail newsletter to help us add to our growing list of subscribers. We encourage all of our readers to pass the newsletter on to friends and family. Keeping you informed is one of our responsibilities as public officials and we would like to share the issues we are facing with as many residents as possible.

**Sign Up Here!**

## County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	Library	297-2436
Assessment	265-1714	Correctional Facility	297-5047
Auditor	265-1716	911 Center	265-9101
Bradford County Human Services	265-1760	Conservation District	265-5539
Bradford County Manor	297-4111	Coroner	297-0720
Collections	265-1746	District Justice (Troy)	297-3880
Commissioners	265-1727	District Justice (Towanda)	268-5057
Courts	265-1707	District Justice (Wysox)	265-9393
District Attorney	265-1712	District Justice (Athens)	888-6324
Domestic Relations	265-1718	Emergency Management Agency	265-5022
Elections	265-1717		
Hearing Master	265-1711		
Jury Commissioners	265-1732		
Maintenance	265-1719		
Information Technology	265-1720		
Personnel	265-1722		
Probation	265-1706		
Prothonotary	265-1705		
Public Defender	265-1713		
Register & Recorder	265-1702		
Sheriff	265-1701		
Treasurer	265-1700		
Veterans Affairs	265-1704		
Victim Witness	265-1759		
Penn State Agricultural Extension	265-2896		
Area Agency on Aging	265-6121		
Airport	265-4900		

**Bradford County Court House**  
301 Main St.  
Towanda, PA 18848

Phone: 570-265-1727

Fax: 570-265-1729

[www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)

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