



Bradford County Newsletter

Your Government Working for You!

Important: Poll Workers Needed for Election Day **Take Part in Your Democracy!**

The Bradford County Election Bureau is in need of poll-workers in the following districts:

Monroe Township

Inspector, Clerk

Sayre Boro, 4th Ward

Inspector

Athens Boro, 2nd Ward

Inspector

Athens Boro, 3rd Ward

Judge, Inspectors and Clerk

These positions are paid positions. Judges receive \$100.00 for each election. Inspectors receive \$95.00 for each election, and their clerks are paid \$90.00 for each election. You must be a

registered elector of the municipality/precinct to be eligible for a position. For further information please contact the Bradford County Election Bureau as soon as possible at 570-265-1717.

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Commissioner Smith Addresses Key Legislators on Natural Gas Issues

Press Release

Bradford County Commissioner Mark Smith took part in a discussion forum recently that included four key Pennsylvania legislators, Jay Costa, (D - Allegheny), Senate Minority Leader; Patrick Browne, (R - Lehigh, Monroe, Pike), Senate Majority Whip; Michael Hanna, (D - Centre, Clinton), House Minority Whip; and Donna Oberlander, (R - Clarion), representing the House Majority Leader.

Commissioner Smith used his time to discuss the impact of natural gas drilling on Bradford County. During the discussion Smith de-

scribed some of the impacts associated with the development of natural gas. In his remarks he stated, "We all know there is positive economic benefit to natural gas drilling but there are also serious issues that come along with the development that we need to deal with. Everything from social services, courts and corrections, to road use and road maintenance is affected. We as local governments and emergency responders need resources to maintain our communities." Smith continued by asking legislators about what their plans were to get communi-

ties a revenue stream to offset local impacts on such things as local roads, social services, and the environment. After the forum Commissioner Smith said he was pleased to hear that all the legislators were in favor of ensuring that local communities do get some sort of revenue to deal with natural gas impacts saying, "It was very encouraging to hear legislators from both sides of the political aisle acknowledge that our communities need additional resources in relation to natural gas development. Communities across Bradford County are seeing huge increases in traffic and acci-

dents, there are residents with well water issues, and our emergency responders are being called on at ever increasing rates. There shouldn't be anyone left, especially government officials, who can say that these impacts are somehow negligible. It is time that both the gas companies and the legislators get serious about taking care of our local communities." The discussion took place at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania spring conference in Harrisburg. Smith also attended a speech by Governor Tom Corbett.

Veterans Memorial Park in Towanda

By: Michelle Shedden, Administrative Assistant

A project that began a year ago with a dream of one man has progressed to the governor's desk for approval. Joe Doherty had a vision of a classical memorial park honoring all of the veterans of our armed forces who live or who have lived in Bradford County. Joe quickly gained support from other interested citizens

and formed the Bradford County Veterans Memorial Park Association, also known as the BCVMPA.

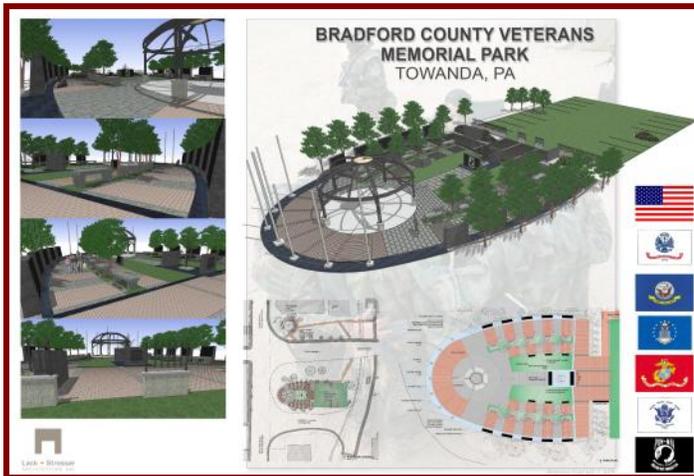
This project is supported by the Borough of Towanda Council. The Borough owns the land that the park will be built on and has final say as to what is included in the

park and the stages BCVMPA must follow to get the job completed. They have been tentatively granted \$200,000 from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

The grant is contingent upon completing more paperwork but Senator Gene Yaw, who initiated the grant, is very confident the money will be received. Future funding for this project will come from other areas. One way that you can be involved is the purchase of a honorarium brick. These bricks, referred to as "pavers", will not be the normal clay-brick. They will be made of solid granite; they will not erode over time. These pavers are only \$50.00 each.

This is a great opportunity for veteran families and patriotic persons in our county to honor their loved ones in the park. Applications for the "honorarium" brick sales are available now by visiting www.bcvmpa.org.

The committee is also looking for volunteers. Anyone who would like to give their time to help see this project completed is welcome to contact Joe Doherty at 570-596-3224 or email joe.doherty77@gmail.com



Above: Architectural design for proposed Veterans Memorial Park to be located in Towanda.



Above: Solid granite "Paver" available for purchase.

Meet Bradford County Children's Librarian

By: Jeff Singer, Bradford County Library Director

Meet Sarah Stody, the Children's Librarian at the Bradford County Library. She is relatively new to Bradford County after beginning her position in March 2010, and is originally from the Columbus, Ohio area. She currently lives in Waverly, NY.

While earning her Masters of Library Science degree from Kent State University, Ms. Stody worked part-time at the Columbus Metropolitan Library as a Customer Service Associate in the Outreach Services Department. Part of her job duties included assisting

the department's Early Childhood Specialist. It was at this time that she became interested in Youth Services at the library. "I always loved to read as a child. Every year our school had a program called Books and Beyond. I participated and completed the program every year. Reading was such a great part of my childhood and I decided that I wanted to instill the love of books in other children."

As the Children's Librarian, she is a big fan of children's literacy and at an early age



by using Ready to Read skills. These include phonological awareness (sounds), letter knowledge (knowing letters and their sounds), print motivation (enjoyment of books and reading), vocabulary (ability to learn new words), narrative skills (ability to tell a story in order, tell what is

next) and print awareness (children notice printed words around them). "I try to incorporate some or all of these skills in our weekly story time at the library. I want every child to be Ready to Read." On her job so far she says, "I have enjoyed having the chance to work with the customers at the library, especially the children. It has been a great experience so far. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity."

Important: Veterans of Vietnam War

By: Gene Osmun, Bradford County Director of Veterans Affairs

This is a brief notice which seems to me to be very much needed at this point in time. The Bradford County Veterans Affairs office is seeing many Vietnam veterans who are having potential problems with either diabetes type II, prostate cancer, or other related cancers, and some are not aware of what the veterans' administration recognizes and provides in the way of care and benefits.

Many do not even know that the county office is available

to them for claims work for potentially service connected issues. The Veterans Affairs Office does federal, state, and local applications for veteran's benefits as well as provides information on a broad range of veterans' issues.

We strongly urge that any veterans of the Vietnam conflict get annual checkups, contact the VA offices in Sayre, Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport, Elmira, Bath, or Mansfield for agent orange registry, and for primary

care checkups, check your local phone book for the number of the nearest clinic.

There is nothing more disheartening than to see a veteran who is dealing with these issues and who does not know what is available. It is much easier and much more promising to submit claims in the initial stages rather than later.

Prevention or early detection is important. Get annual checkups; follow up with medical care, especially if

symptoms are indicating problems.

VA health care is readily available and claims are easily filed to begin the process for medical care.

You may contact this office, in the Bradford County Courthouse, by calling 570-265-1704 for information on any of these issues. We are also available VA Outpatient Clinic at 1537 Elmira Street in Sayre for appointments if travel is a problem from the Sayre area.

Natural Gas

News in Relation to the Emerging Industry in Bradford County

2nd Annual PA & NY Natural Gas Task Force Forum a Success

By: Mike Lovegreen, Bradford County Conservation District Director

The Bradford County Natural Gas Advisory Committee teamed up with TING (Tioga Investigates Natural Gas) to host around 60 representatives from natural gas task forces or advisory groups from PA and NY at the Owego Treadway on March 26, 2010.

Dr. Kathy Brasier, Penn State University, and Rod Howe, Assistant Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, kicked off the day with overviews of values, organization, and functions of natural gas task forces.

The purpose of the forum, initiated last year at the Best Western in Sayre, by the Bradford County Natural Gas Advisory Committee with TING's partnership, is to serve as an idea swapping and educational event for existing and proposed county level natural gas task groups.

"Many of our Bradford County Advisory Board members were being frequently asked by representatives of other counties for information on what we were doing, so we thought that a forum of this nature

would benefit many groups at the same time," commented Commissioner Mark Smith, chair of the Bradford County Committee. The format of the day centered around presentations from some existing groups on their organization and activities and then a general discussion period by the participants.

Last year, the session featured the activities of Bradford County, PA and Tioga County, NY. This year there were four presentations, two from each state, and included: Chemung County Executive's Advisory Commission on Natural En-

ergy Solutions (NY); Potter County Natural Gas Task Force (PA); Chenango, Madison, Otsego Natural Gas Task Force (NY); and Centre County Natural Gas Task Force (PA).

When attendees asked if these forums should continue, every hand went up. Many of the participants expressed appreciation for the forum and the information that was shared.

SRBC makes Presentation to Bradford County

The Bradford County Natural Gas Committee met on March 15, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Conference Room. After updates from the sub committees, Chairman Mark W. Smith turned the meeting over to Susan Obleski and Jim Richenderfer from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for a presentation to the committee on the SRBC's procedures in regulating the water withdraw in the basin.

Jim Richenderfer spoke about the current status of the total amount of water consumptively used by the gas companies since it began in 2008 is 1.6 billion gallons. That is a lot of water but not as much as you might think. If you calculate it as 1000 days of activity the amount of water being withdrawn per day is 1 to 1 ½ million gallons. It is not so much the quantity of water being consumed as it is the location of the withdrawals. For everyone except the gas companies, water is regulated for anything over 100,000 gallons or more a

day. With respect to the gas companies SRBC changed the rules to regulate water withdraws at the first gallon. Because the gas business was new and it was not known how it was going to work the SRBC decided to set the standards very high and have as much control as possible.

The Commission manages the amount of water that is consumed during low flows, something that no other agency in the basin addresses. They review all proposals for large withdrawals from surface and ground water. Both of these functions help to ensure that all water users and the Chesapeake Bay will receive a sufficient amount of water. This not only protects the environment, but promotes economic development and progress for businesses and industries that depend on water.

Among the key resources on its web site, there is a section devoted to the commission's regulation of natural gas well development in the Marcellus Shale Region at www.srb.net. You may also visit the Water Resource Portal at

www.srb.net/wrp/Default.aspx for information on approved projects and pending applications for natural gas development and all other regulated water uses.

SRBC established this portal in 2010 to enhance the public's access to information on projects regulated by SRBC.

Through the portal, viewers can: (1) find the status of pending and approved projects; (2) be able to view and download certain pending applications; (3) be able to view and download all SRBC approvals; (4) find the list of approved water sources for the natural gas industry, by project sponsor; and (5) sign up via RSS Feed to receive electronic notices of pending projects by county, municipality, and project sponsors or for all projects. The RSS Feed is a web-based tool to provide updated information.

Between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2010, the SRBC has approved 141 surface water withdrawals and 27 public water supply systems to sell water for drilling. There have been two approvals for lesser quality water from wastewater effluent or

untreated abandoned mine drainage. Of the water injected underground for drilling and hydrofracturing, about 8% on average is returned of that 8% the natural gas industry is recycling/reusing about 65-75%.

The SRBC has four commissioners. The governors from the states of NY, PA, and Maryland appoint one each and the President of the United States appoints one. The staff for SRBC does not approve applications. The Commissioners meet on a quarterly basis and the staff makes recommendations to the Commissioners at that meeting and the Commissioners then make the decision to approve or reject applications.

Water withdrawal is regulated by the SRBC inspector who goes out at different times every day to check the water withdrawal sites.

The SRBC representative concluded by saying that they "feel that the industry can be accommodated by the basin if we follow good sound practices of regulation".

County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	Treasurer	265-1700
Assessment	265-1714	Veterans Affairs	265-1704
Auditors	265-1716	Victim Witness	265-1759
Human Services	265-1760	Penn State Agricultural Extension	265-2896
Bradford County Manor	297-4111	Area Agency on Aging	265-6121
Collections	265-1746	Airport	265-4900
Commissioners	265-1727	Library	297-2436
Courts	265-1707	Correctional Facility	297-5047
District Attorney	265-1712	911 Center	265-9101
Domestic Relations	265-1718	Conservation District	265-5539
Elections	265-1717	Coroner	297-0720
Hearing Master	265-1711	District Judge (Troy)	297-3880
Jury Commissioners	265-1732	District Judge (Towanda)	268-5057
Personnel	265-1722	District Judge (Wysox)	265-9393
Probation	265-1706	District Judge (Athens)	888-6324
Prothonotary	265-1705	Emergency Management	265-5022
Public Defender	265-1713	Planning	268-4103
Register & Recorder	265-1702	Grants	268-4193
Sheriff	265-1701		



Bradford County Court House
301 Main St.

Towanda, PA 18848

Phone: 570-265-1727

Fax: 570-265-1729

www.bradfordcountypa.org