



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## Announcement: County Parks Committee to be Formed

By: Mark Smith & Ray Stolinas

### Announcement:

The Bradford County Commissioners are announcing that they would like to form a County Parks Advisory group to aid in the development of our parks. The commissioners are requesting that any citizens interested in being a part of the advisory committee to contact the Bradford County Commissioners Office at **570-265-1727**. Any citizen is welcomed and encouraged to get involved. The committee structure will be set up as one main committee that will be responsible for advising the direction of all three county parks. Subcommittees will be formed for each specific park.

Bradford County owns three parks-Sunfish Pond, Mt. Pisgah and Hornbrook Parks.

### Other County Parks News:

On April 18, 2008, the Bradford County Commissioners received notice that the county will be receiving two grant awards in the amount of \$35,000 and \$64,900 under the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources *Community Conservation Partnerships Program (CCPP)*. First, Bradford County garnered \$ 35,000 in Growing Greener II funds to establish Handicap Accessible Composting Restroom Facilities at both Mt. Pisgah and Sunfish Pond County Parks. Bradford County will provide a 50% cash match and in-kind work associated with landscaping and associated improvements at both parks. These restroom facilities will not only provide a sensible environmental alternative to typical restroom facilities, but also provide modern, accessible facilities to visitors with special physical challenges.

In addition, \$ 64,900 has been awarded for Bradford County to develop a County Parks Master Plan for the County Parks. The development of a County Parks Master Plan was an Implementation Action Item in the 2006 *Bradford County Open Space, Greenway and Outdoor Recreation Plan*. The Commissioners will be developing a Request for Proposals for services related to the plan's development. Balancing emphasis on each park's needs and existing qualities and amenities will be considered through the planning process.

Lastly, work is progressing steadily towards the completion of the Hornbrook Park Boat Launch in Sheshequin Township. In April of 2005, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources *Community Conservation Partnerships Program (CCPP)* awarded Bradford County \$ 25,000 for improvements at the park. Other agencies that have provided in-kind

work include PENNDOT and the PA Fish & Boat Commission. Bid requests for the remaining improvements will be advertised in coming weeks.

The staff of the Bradford County Office of Community Planning and Grants provided technical guidance and assistance on all three grant applications.

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## Interim Warden Starts at Correctional Facility

By: Mark Smith

On Tuesday May 27, 2008, Wayne Gavin started his work as the Interim Warden of the Bradford County Correctional Facility. Warden Gavin is working under a paid contract with Bradford County from the Pennsylvania State Department of Corrections. While working at the facility Warden Gavin will be bringing in other professionals from the state to assist the county in evaluating and improving the facility. Areas

of improvement may include maintenance, staff training, scheduling, etc. Gavin is a veteran of the Armed Forces and has been with the D.O.C. since 1982. He will assist Bradford County in both the day to day operations of the facility and suggest improvements. It is expected Mr. Gavin will work with the county for 2-3 months while the county searches for a permanent warden.

## 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!**

## PCoRP Rates for 2008-09 Drop for Bradford County

By: John Sallade & Gayle Kershner

### What is PCoRP?

The Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) program was started in 1987 by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) as a result of the "hard market" in liability insurance in the mid 1980s. Many Pennsylvania counties could not obtain liability and other insurance coverage from the standard insurance companies, or if coverage was found, the cost was usually prohibitive. Counties turned to their association for assistance and PCoRP was formed. PCoRP is a unique combination of self-insurance, reinsurance and risk management.

Insurance coverages provided by the program include property, crime, general liability, law enforcement liability, auto and public officials liability. Forty-two counties and four county related entities presently participate in PCoRP. Bradford County has been a PCoRP member since October of 1991.

### Bradford County Costs

Bradford County will renew its property and liability insurance coverage on June 1, 2008, with PCoRP program and has received some good news! The county's renewal costs are down nearly 11% over last year's costs. The

2008 premium is \$336,732 versus last year's cost of \$373,590. Also, for this year's renewal, many insurance coverages provided by the program have been enhanced. For example, the property insurance limit has increased to \$350 million per occurrence, up from last year's limit of \$300 million.

Bradford's costs for coverage through PCoRP are calculated based on the county's exposures (property values, payroll, number of officers, number of autos, etc.) and on the county's claims experience. The county's property values for 2008 increased by 10% over 2007 values for a total of

\$68,884,562. It is significant to note that the county's renewal premium still went down considerably even with the increase in property values and the enhancement of coverages.

## Human Services Director Search Committee Holds First Meeting

By: Michelle Shedden

At the May 15, 2008, meeting of the Bradford County Commissioners, the board approved the appointment of the following individuals to a committee to review applications for the Human Services Director-MH/MR Administrator position: Desiree Spencer, Director of Partners in

Family and Community Development, Doug Ulkins, Superintendent for Athens Area School District, Darla Bortz, Sullivan County Commissioner, Doug Johnston, Director of Futures, Don Black, Director of Serve, Inc. Terry Butler, Director of MR Depart-

ment for Bradford County, Elly Smith, Director of CYS for Bradford County and Doug McLinko, Bradford County Commissioner. The first meeting of the committee was held on Friday May 23, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. This meeting was held to establish the purpose

of the committee and discuss qualifications and characteristics of the new director. Applications and resumes are due in by June 6, 2008, at which time a meeting will be called to review the resumes of the applicants.

## New Bradford County Website Upgrade & Redesign Getting Underway

By: Michelle Shedden & Mark Smith

Bradford County Commissioners recently approved a contract with CQ Services to upgrade and redesign the county Website.

The agreement is partly a donation on behalf of CQ services to Bradford County. This provides a great financial benefit to Bradford County by saving money and getting an up to date

and user friendly website at the same time. The County Commissioners would like to extend a sincere thank you to Jody Hilliker and the rest of the CQ services staff for making this possible.

The new site will include many upgrades and a fresh

new look. New features will include the ability to use forms and documents off of the site to conduct your county business. Public documents such as the county budget, minutes from meetings, agendas and a complete schedule of county related events will also be available. Other additions such as recorded public meet-

ings, tax assessment information and geographical information from our planning department will also be available. At this point the county should have preliminary designs to start working with CQ Services in 4-6 weeks. The county intends to go live with the new site before the end of the year.

# Update: Courthouse Dome Repair and Restoration

By: Mark Smith

The scaffolding for the repair and restoration is in place and work has commenced on the repair of the dome. The images included below tell the story of how the project is progressing. They also give some insight into our courthouse that many do not get to enjoy.

*Below: Scaffolding from the bottom up.*



*Below: The small stairway one must climb to reach the catwalk.*



*Below: A view from the top of the courthouse, absolutely beautiful!*



*Left: Looking up at the scaffolding.*

*Right: A small cleaned section shows the contrast between clean and filthy. In reference to the picture directly above, it is obvious it is meant to mimic our beautiful sky here in Bradford County.*



*Left: Scaffolding in place to repair the plaster.*

*Right: Paint conservators, the architect and the Bradford County Maintenance Director discussing the progress.*



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

## County Library Update By: Michelle Shedden

Rick Bowra, a Library Consultant from Harrisburg, PA will be visiting Bradford County on July 21, and July 22, 2008, to assist the Commissioners in evaluating the issues associated with the proposed expansion of the Bradford County Library. Mr. Bowra will be identifying the need for a new facility, goals of the facility, review the plans for the facility, rationale for the location of a new facility, funding for the project and the relationship of the Bradford County Library with the other public libraries in the county. Mr. Bowra will be meeting with the Commissioners, Bradford County Library Director, Bradford County Library Board members, and administrators and board members of other public libraries in the county. Bradford County will pay Mr. Bowra \$2000.00 plus expenses. Expenses will include mileage at \$.50/per mile, one night lodging, and meal expenses.

## New Accounting System to go Live Next Week

On Monday June 2, 2008, the financial management module of Bradford County's new accounting system will go live. The module includes purchase orders, accounts payable and general ledger. Department heads and elected officials recently received training on the new system. The rest of the package is scheduled to go into use in mid September.

## Bridge 17 Replacement, Leroy Township

The Bradford County Selection Committee for the evaluation of engineering services met on Wednesday May 14, 2008, to finalize their recommendations to the Commissioners for the selection of three engineering firms for the Bridge #17 replacement project. The three selections recommended by the committee were Ceco Associates, Inc, McTish, Kunkle & Associates and Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc.

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# 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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