



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## Bradford County Budget and Chairman's Report Released

By: Michelle Shedden

The Bradford County budget for the fiscal year of 2010 is \$56,202,433. The 2010 budget is built on last year's budgetary decisions, and reflects the difficult decisions made in 2009 to keep the finances of the county under control and sustainable

over the long term without a tax increase. In the "State of the County Report", Commissioner Smith discusses the challenges of working with the shortfalls from the state budget, the rising cost of healthcare to employees and the opportunity for

the county to make some major improvements in our infrastructure. You will find an agenda for the next year, clearly and concisely discussing the major initiatives we will make progress.

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**View it Online.....**  
[Bradford County Budget](#)  
[Chairman's Report to the Taxpayers](#)

## Employee Appreciation Day for Bradford County Employees

By: Mark Smith



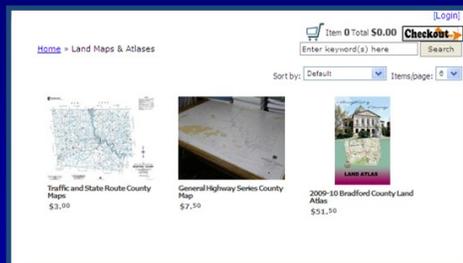
We all like to hear the words thank you and to have our deeds, whether big or small noticed and appreciated. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the many county employees whose hard work and dedication keep everything running smoothly. The contributions of each employee are crucial for our success in being able to meet the needs of our citizens. On December 17, 2009 the Commissioners will

recognize county employees for their years of service. There are some who have just begun their work with the county and many who have given more than 30 years! Thank you to everyone for your devotion and commitment to Bradford County.

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*  
 Helen Keller

## Bradford County Launches Online Store

We are happy to announce that our online store is now up and working. We are happy to offer small and large Bradford County maps and the new Plat Book online.



**[View Online Store Here](#)**

## Community Workforce Inmate Program

By: Mark Smith

The Bradford County Prison Board recently approved the creation of a new program. The Community Workforce Inmate Program (C.W.I.P.) will be available to community groups, charitable organizations and local governments within Bradford County. The program will provide labor to community groups and local governments via approved work release inmates from the Bradford County Correctional Facility. The types of projects that workforce inmates may be involved with include; Public work projects, painting, graffiti removal, special events, maintenance and general public property

clean-up. The C.W.I.P. will have a positive impact on both the inmates and the communities in which they work. This will be an opportunity to use the unproductive time of those who have broken the laws of our communities to give something back. Communities will gain the advantage of added manpower to complete projects in their community and give inmates the chance to gain work experience while incarcerated. By helping the community and accomplishing work in their communities it will promote a sense of accomplishment and self respect. It will allow local governments and groups to

do projects at a low cost and save all local taxpayers money and will provide the opportunity for the taxpayers to see results from those individuals who would normally be unproductive members of the jail population. To utilize the program the applicant will be required to submit an application to the Bradford County Prison Board for approval. Once approval of the application is granted, a contract for work will be entered into between Bradford County Commissioners and the submitting entity. The contract will be an agreement of the terms of which the work will be completed and will be based

upon the information provided in the application. The contract will also specify the insurance and liability requirements of both parties. Inmates that enter this program will be approved for work release by the Bradford County Courts. Inmates will be approved as physically fit by Bradford County Correctional Facility medical personnel. The records of each inmate will be reviewed to ensure that they have no history of violent crime. The inmates will also be screened taking into consideration the type of work that needs to be accomplished and the skills that they possess. Applications will be available in January.

## Reminder: PA Dog Licenses Online

By: Becky Clark



On December 1, 2008 the Bradford County Treasurer's Office

went live with a new dog license software program called PADogLicense.com. Dog owners may still purchase their license(s) just as they always have, which is through the regular mail, over the counter in the Treasurer's

office or at an outside issuing agent. What is really exciting about the new program is the dog owners now have the opportunity to purchase their license over the internet from the convenience of their own homes. All one has to do is log onto PADogLicense.com and follow the easy instructions. Another great advan-

tage of the internet program is that if a pet is lost you can post your pet's information and a digital picture for free at PALostPets.com. License fees are \$8.00 for male or female dogs, \$6.00 if spayed or neutered. Senior citizens aged 65 or older or disabled persons who qualify are eligible for the reduced fee of \$6.00 for male or female or \$4.00 for spayed and neu-

tered dogs. To apply through the mail send to Becky Clark, Bradford County Treasurer, 301 Main Street, Towanda PA 18848 or to purchase over the internet log onto [www.PADogLicense.com](http://www.PADogLicense.com)

## Building Purchased by Bradford County

By: Mark Smith

For years Bradford County has been exploring office space options for the District Judge Clark. In 2008, and throughout 2009, this Board of Commissioners continued to look at options which included renting, buying or building a facility. We have chosen an option which will include moving

other offices to alleviate space issues within the courthouse and library as well as eliminate the use of another county run building. The County purchased a building in Towanda Borough which will require renovations to house the district judge and various other county offices to alle-

viate space issues. The building was purchased for \$140,000.00 and will cost \$300,000.00 to renovate.

Renovations will begin at the onset of 2010.

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## Bradford County Technology Department Getting a Facelift

By: Michelle Shedden



**Above:**  
Work continues on the I.T. office

The I.T. (Information Technology) Department today employs six full-time employees who service over 300 personal computers, 26 servers and 300 email accounts at all county offices including the Courthouse, Manor, Prison, Human Services, District Justices, EMA, 911 Center, STAR, Airport, and Library. In the early 80's Bradford County was using word processors in the courts. In 1983 the VAX System, a mainframe computer was purchased and the I.T. Department employed 3 full-time employees. All programs for the Assessment Office, Domestic

Relations, Courts, Tax Claim, Accounting Dept, Retirement Account and Dog Licenses were designed in-house by these three employees. In 1986 some county offices began adding personal computers. With the introduction of personal computers came the first dial-up thru modem, followed by pockets of networks being established to provide internet service. In the late 90's the I.T. Department began pulling those pockets of networks together to form a county-wide network. With the new network came the increase of personal computers in all departments and the addition of email accounts. The VAX (*Virtual Address eXtension*) system which has been the workhorse of the county's computer system has

become obsolete. With the unavailability of parts and the high cost of service, the VAX system must be replaced, but this has been a hard system to replace. With all of the programming being done specifically for each department it was extremely detailed and the programmers were able to make changes as the departments requested. Some of these services have been hard to duplicate in the new software system. The process began with the purchase of a new accounting program in 2008, followed by new software for the Sheriff's Office and Assessment Office in 2009. The county is currently working toward getting the Prothonotary Office converted by the end of 2010. Over the years the duties of the staff have increased but the workspace has not been

upgraded. To meet the new obligations that come with so many personal computers and servers. In November the Maintenance department began to renovate the I.T. Department. They are installing new carpet, fresh paint, adding new wiring, and workstations with counter space for each employee. All changes should be completed by the end of this year.



**Above:**  
New workstations being installed.

## Veterans Day at Bradford County Manor

By: Lori Foust

In honor of Veterans Day, Paula Strong, Bradford County Manor Assistant Recreational Therapy Director, set up a photo display in the lobby area recognizing twenty-one Veterans who currently reside at The Manor. The staff and residents at Bradford County Manor would like to thank these outstanding members of the community for their service to our Country:

**Martin Finnerty, U.S. Army, WWII**  
**Joe Cost, US Navy, WW II**  
**Keith "Bill" Haight, US Marines, Korea & Vietnam**  
**James Fulda, US Army, Korea**  
**Donald Spears, US Air Force, WWII**  
**Michael Sakers, US Navy, Vietnam**  
**Elwin Barnes, US Army, WWII**  
**William Walker, US Army Rangers, WWII**  
**John Bradley, US Navy**  
**Marvin Deskins, US Army/Air Force, WWII**  
**Richard Williams, US Army, Korea**  
**John Altieri, US Air Force, WWII**  
**Ken Mosier, US Army, Vietnam**  
**James Wandell, US Army, Korea**  
**John Pazzaglia, US Army**  
**Tom Ryan, US Navy, Vietnam**  
**Ted Calkins, US Army, WWII**  
**James Harrigan, US Army, Korea**  
**William Ritzel, US Navy, WWII**  
**David McBratney, US Air Force**  
**Vickie Dudwitt, US Army, 30 years of service.**



**Shown in the photo L to R are:** Paula Strong, Joe Cost, Martin Finnerty, Bradford County Manor LPN and US Army Veteran, Virginia Freeland; Michael Sakers.

## Quick Updates....

The Parks Committee held a public meeting at Troy Vets Club on November 9, 2009. Our consultant on the project presented different scenarios for each of three county parks and answered questions from the public concerning their suggestions.

Human Services proposals were awarded to Northern Tier Counseling, Mental Health Associates, Concern, Inc., Allied Services, and Northwest Human Services.

Bradford County accepted the proposal from Black Box to upgrade the NEC 2400 phone system which is End of Support from the manufacturer to the latest hardware and software level of NEC SV8500 for a total cost of \$40,199.95

## Commissioners Award Grants to County Organizations from Tourism Board

Bradford County Parks Committee-SIGNS	\$4,200.00
Bradford County Parks Committee-BROCHURES	\$1,700.00
Bradford County Tourism Committee WEBSITE	\$4,500.00
Bradford County Tourism Committee-BROCHURE	\$3,000.00
Bradford County Heritage Association	\$5,000.00
Endless Mountains Heritage Region-SIGNS	\$1,000.00
Northern Tier Cultural Alliance	\$3,000.00
LeRoy Heritage Museum-SIGNS	\$2,000.00
Northern Tier Cultural Alliance-HERITAGE DAY	\$1,000.00
Bradford County Historical Society-SIGNS	\$3,000.00
French Azilum Inc. -PROMOTION	\$3,000.00

Rekindle the Spirit Inc. and Canton Township-SIGNS	\$4,800.00
Rekindle the Spirit Inc. and Canton Township-FESTIVAL	\$3,000.00
Endless Mountains Antique Tractor & Machine Assoc.	\$1,000.00
Copper Tree Shop-BROCHURES	\$800.00
Wyalusing Valley Museum Assoc. Inc.-WINE FESTIVAL	\$6,000.00
Second Chance Wildlife Center	\$1,000.00
Alparon Community Park, Inc.-MAPLE FESTIVAL	\$3,000.00
Troy Fair/Alparon Community Park, Inc.-TROY FAIR	\$10,000.00
Home Textile Tool Museum-BROCHURE	\$1,000.00
Greater Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce-BROCHURE	\$3,000.00

## County Government Directory

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



**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)