



Bradford County Newsletter

Your Government Working for You!

Next Phase of Landscaping at the County Library

By: Lynda Warner, Building and Grounds Chair at the Bradford County Library

The Bradford County Library is looking forward to spring and the next phase of the landscaping renovation.

In particular we are anxious to see how our rhododendrons adapt to their new home at the east end of the library.

The original landscaping was done by Marilyn Bok and David Brown. Marilyn was a member of the library Board of Trustees and David was the Maintenance Director for the county. Marilyn and David planted all of the shrubs and trees at the library when it was built.

According to information given to Brown by Dave Terrell there is a layer of blue clay, which is very dense and solid, in the hillside behind the library and this clay was used to fortify the foundation for the slab the building is constructed on.

When the rhododendrons did not do as well as hoped Dave Brown discussed possible soil problems with Terrell and learned of the blue clay about two feet down under the library.

I am hoping our selection of the new bed will suit the plants better. I have re-

placed the rhododendrons with plants that have a more shallow root requirement.

We are waiting with great anticipation to see the selection of plants for birds, bees, and butterflies that Claire Borits is planning for the west end of the building where we have installed stone seating and a bird bath.

Also the Building and Grounds Committee has agreed that a variety of hostas would add charm and we are willing to accept donations from anyone dividing hostas this spring.

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County Convention on Impact Fee

On February 14, 2012, Governor Corbett signed House Bill 1950 into law as Act 13 of 2012 or the Unconventional Gas Well Impact Fee Act M which amends Title 58 (Oil & Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. This bill provides for an impact fee, Oil and Gas Act amendments, and standards for local ordinances. The Act allows counties to pass ordinances to impose an impact fee on unconventional gas well producers or alternatively allows

municipalities to override the counties decision and adopt a resolution compelling the imposition of fees themselves.

Before the Bradford County Commissioners vote on whether to impose the Gas Well Impact Fee under Act 13, they scheduled a meeting with all municipalities. The purpose of this meeting was to seek the input of all of the elected officials in all of the county's municipalities.

The meeting was held on Monday, March 19, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at

the Keystone Theater, at 601 Main Street Towanda, boroughs, townships, and the public were invited to attend

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The invocation was given by Don Hauser, pastor of the Independent Baptist Church in Towanda, PA.

A welcome was given by Commissioner Doug McLinko, and he introduced the mediator for the eve-

ning Matthew Brann, Esquire.

Opening remarks were given by elected representatives, Senator Eugene Yaw, Representative Tina Pickett, and Representative Matthew Baker. Raymond Stollinas, Jr., AICP Planning Director, Bradford County Office of Community Planning & Grants gave a presentation on what a SPUD well is.

Commissioner Pamela Witmer, from the Public Utility Commission, was in attendance

to answer questions, and give handouts on the collection, distribution, auditing and enforcement of the Act.

The municipal officials were invited to participate in a question and answer period, followed by comments from the public.

There were 109 registered local officials and 44 of the 51 municipalities were represented.

Irish Music in Honor of St. Patrick's Day

By: Jeff Singer, Director of Bradford County Library

The Bradford County Library invited the public to a program of Irish Music in honor of St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 17, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. Sherry Spencer, Program Director of the Bradford Wyoming

Counties Literacy Program, played a selection of Irish jigs and traditional folk tunes on flute.

Sherry Spencer began playing flute in seventh grade and played with the Pulaski Heights Junior High

Band under the direction of Merel D. Boyce in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Currently, she plays flute and piccolo with the Kirby Band of Nichols, NY.

This concert was free and open to the public.

The Bradford County Library is located on US Route 6, about one quarter mile west of the town of Burlington.

General Primary Election

By: Renee Smithkors, Director of Elections

The Bradford County Board of Elections announces that this year's **General Primary Election will be held on April 24, 2012**. Those wishing to register to vote or change their address or party affiliation may do so by mail or in person. The deadline to register to vote is **March 26, 2012**.

The last day to submit your application for an Absentee Ballot is **April 17, 2012**. All voted ballots must be received in the office of the County Board of Elections prior to **5 o'clock on April 20, 2012**.

Forms may be obtained by contacting the office at (570)

265-1717 or 1-888-270-8683, or by logging on to www.bradfordcountypa.org.

The forms are also available in the Voter Registration office located in the Annex Building behind the Courthouse.

Polling Place Changes

By: Renee Smithkors, Director of Elections

Attention Athens Borough 2nd Ward Residents:

Please be advised that the polling location of the Chemung View Apartments in Athens borough is being changed. The new **temporary** polling location for the residents of **Athens Borough 2nd Ward** will be at the **Athens United Methodist Church, located at 118 South Main Street in the Borough of Athens in the County of Bradford in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**.

Attention Towanda Borough 1st Ward Residents:

Please be advised that the polling location of the SCI Community Building (YMCA) in Towanda Borough 1st Ward is being changed. The new polling location for the residents of **Towanda Borough 1st Ward** will be at the **Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 908 S. Main Street in Borough of Towanda in the County of Bradford in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**.

Attention Monroe Borough Residents:

Please be advised that the polling location of the Monroe Hose Co. in Monroe Borough is being changed. The new polling location for the residents of **Monroe Borough** will be at the **Monroe Public Library, located at 149 Dalpaiz Drive in the Borough of Monroe in the County of Bradford in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**.

Poll- Workers Needed

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

**Athens Borough 2nd Ward
Athens Borough 3rd Ward**

The positions are paid; 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 Bradford County Election Bureau as soon as possible at (570) 265-1717.

State Severe Weather Drill Scheduled

By: Carmon Flynn, Executive Director, Bradford Sullivan American Red Cross

The Red Cross along with local Emergency Management and PEMA will be participating in the March 29, 2012, State Severe Weather Drill. As the time grows closer, we will provide a scenario and practice accomplishing the five main objectives we need to concentrate on during the onset of a disaster.

- Provide initial sheltering.
- Staff the local government Emergency Operations.
- Initiate fixed and mobile feeding.
- Report key information.
- Coordinate public affairs and fund raising activity.

We will be coordinating with and manning the Bradford and Sullivan County EOC that participate in the drill along with our Red Cross Disaster Response station in Towanda. Our shelter trailers will be prepositioned based on the scenario. Since this drill happens in the middle of the week, it gives us a better sense as to our true readiness in the event of a real disaster.

The local EMA office has asked the Red Cross to take the lead on recruiting and organizing other Volunteer Organization Active in Disas-

ters (VOAD) groups for the operation. This will give us a chance to work together in a disaster scenario with ample time to observe, plan, and improve. We will be sharing ideas on feeding stations, health, and welfare of clients, along with other services our groups offer.

A series of calls and meetings will be planned for those participating.

If you would like to be a part of this exercise please call the Bradford Sullivan County American Red Cross, 800 South Main Street, Towanda, PA, or by calling (570) 265-2797, for

March Is American Red Cross Month

By: Sheri McHenry, Administrative Assistant

The Bradford County Commissioners proclaimed the month of March 2012, as American Red Cross Month, and encourages all citizens to continue to recognize and support the invaluable contributions of the American Red Cross.

A proclamation was read by Carmon Flynn, Executive Director of the Bradford-Sullivan American Red Cross at the March 1, 2012, commissioners meeting.

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by dedicated volunteers, provides relief to victims of disaster and helps prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. The American Red Cross does this through services that are consistent with its Congressional Charter and the principals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

The proclamation states that the Red Cross was inaugurated in Bradford County in 1916. At that time each "large town" had its own chapter within the county. In July 1917, the various chapters were consolidated to form the Bradford County Chapter. The Bradford-Sullivan Chapter was



Carmon Flynn, Executive Director of the Bradford County American Red Cross reading the proclamation announcing March is American Red Cross Month. Photo courtesy of The Daily Review.

finally chartered on October 27, 1958. For more than 96 years, the citizens of Bradford County have relied on the expertise of the American Red Cross in disaster relief. Each year the Bradford-Sullivan County Chapter responds to disasters including house and apartment fires, hurricanes, and other natural and human causes disasters.

The American Red Cross is the leading voluntary agency meeting the needs of thousands of individuals and families affected by emergencies and disaster. The American Red Cross annually provides a worldwide emergency communications link and other casework services to members of the United States Armed Forces and their families 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

The proclamation also states the American Red Cross also trains and certifies residents in vital lifesaving skills that include CPR/AED, first aid, water safety, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

The American Red Cross Bradford-Sullivan Chapter provides the gift of life, in the form of units of blood, and blood products to hospitals in the commonwealth area and throughout the country.

Without the help of volunteers the Bradford-Sullivan County Chapter of the American Red Cross would not be able to fulfill the humanitarian mission that is the cornerstone of the organization, and for this we pay tribute to the tireless hours of the volunteers and employees.

For information on becoming a Red Cross volunteer please contact:

Bradford Sullivan American Red Cross

800 S. Main Street

Towanda PA 18848

OFFICE: 570-265-2797; FAX: 570-265-7704

Quick Updates....

Bicentennial Celebration plans are underway, Saturday March 24, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. There will be an Open House and Bicentennial exhibit throughout the rotunda area in the court house. At 1:00 p.m. a program begins at the Bradford County Historical Society in the Great Room.

T-shirts are still available to order commemorating the Bicentennial. Please contact: Joyce D'Allesandro, in the commissioners' office (570) 265-1727.

Welcome to Bradford County Parks

By: Rod Manley, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Welcome to the 2012 camping season. We hope to have a great year of fun and camping at the county parks. The rates have changed this year due to increased operational expenses. We are going to upgrade some of the

electrical service at Hornbrook, and this will be a great improvement for the park. Many new things are in the works, currently we are getting the new vault toilet buildings installed, they will be in place for camping

season. Jim Cobb has signed on as campground manager for Hornbrook Larnard Park. Cindy and Ron Chaapel have signed on as campground managers for Sunfish Pond. Once again, Mt. Pisgah County park is closed to over-

night camping. We are working to improve the appearance and function of the park. We have a parks master plan that will address camping, as well as other issues pertaining to getting Mt. Pisgah back on the map.

Sunfish Pond 2012 Event Schedule

May 26, 2012	June 23, 2012	July 21, 2012	August 18, 2012	September 22, 2012	Tickets go on sale for Pig Roast September 1, 2012. Tableware will be provided at each event. BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverage).
Chicken BBQ Dinner 50/50 drawing. Must pre-pay and pre-order by May 18th at the Sunfish Pond store. Eating at 1:00 p.m.	Pot Luck Dinner 50/50 drawing. Eating at 1:00 p.m. Dish to pass.	Christmas in July & Fish Fry 50/50 drawing. Eating at 1:00, Dish to pass	Thanksgiving Dinner 50/50 drawing. Eating at 1:00 p.m.	Pig Roast 50/50 Drawing. Eating at 1:00 p.m., Dish to pass.	

For more information on the Bradford County Parks contact:
Rod Manley, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, (570) 265-1719.

County Government Directory

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



Bradford County Court House
301 Main St.
Towanda, PA 18848
Phone: 570-265-1727
Fax: 570-265-1729
www.bradfordcountypa.org