



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

# Happy New Year!

## Veterans History Project

By: Gene Osmun

The Veterans History Project is still moving forward. Our small group of dedicated volunteer interviewers are contacting and meeting with veterans across the county. Of course we are always looking for more interested veterans that want to share their stories. The stories that many of our veterans tell and the events that they took part in is, to say the least, incredible. Often, even family members don't know too much about the details, unless they

have asked. Our Veterans have experienced history firsthand. The information is being catalogued and organized and prepared for not only our historical records, but for submission to the Library of Congress in Washington. We recently received word that the State Historical Commission is going to provide a small grant of \$5,000 to assist this effort in order to provide equipment and other tools to further the project. The grant was obtained through

the assistance of Legislators Tina Pickett and Matt Baker.

Anyone who would like to be interviewed, or knows of someone either family or friend who ought to be interviewed, should call the Bradford County Library at 297-2436, or the Bradford County Veterans Affairs Office at 265-1704. Volunteers for these types of projects are always needed and we encourage anyone interested to also contact the numbers referenced above.

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## Important: Veterans Information

By: Gene Osmun



The Bradford County Veterans Affairs Office would like to notify returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans as you are getting re-

acquainted with being back home, decompressing from the stresses of service, travel and being in unfamiliar surroundings, this office remains available. The Veterans Affairs Office is here to assist you. We recommend you stop in, register your discharge

documents, file for health care with the VA Outpatient Clinic, get your paperwork going on educational benefits and most important file a claim with the VA benefits Administration if you have any medical issues that continue to be a problem and need attention. We will assist

you in getting the paperwork moving and attending to your needs. The VA has a great deal to offer, and it is important to take the steps necessary to obtain and utilize the benefits that are available to you.

# Bradford County Resident Returns Home to be Administrator of the Bradford County Manor

By: Jim Shaddock

I moved back to Bradford County to take the leadership role of the Bradford County Manor on October 20, 2008. I have been a Nursing Home Administrator, Regional Marketing Director and Director of Operations of Nursing Home and Assisted Living in Idaho for the past 20 years.

I grew up in the northeast corner of Bradford County in Warren Center. My summers were spent throwing hay bales, cutting wood and working on my grandfather's farm. Driving tractors, plowing fields, painting houses and milking cows taught me a strong work ethic and an appreciation for doing a good job. In High School I played sports for Northeast Bradford and enjoyed hunting and fishing. In my opinion Bradford County was a great place to grow up and I returned here to give my children the same opportunity. After high school I attended College at the University of Pittsburgh in Bradford, PA where I played baseball, soccer and basketball. I graduated from there with a Bachelors

degree in Business Management in 1986.



Manor Administrator  
Jim Shaddock

After that I spent some time working in Connecticut and upstate New York, then about 20 years ago I moved to Idaho. In Idaho I worked in Nursing Homes, became a Nursing Home Administrator, was a Regional Marketing Director and most recently ran 48 Assisted Living facilities as the Director of Operations.

My family consist of my wife, Misty, my son, Kyle, who is a junior at Northeast and my daughter, Hannah, who is in 3<sup>rd</sup>

grade at the elementary school. Hannah can tell you hilarious stories of how an 8 year old perceives a move to Bradford County after living in Boise, Idaho, which is a city of almost 500,000 people. She has really enjoyed the horse and buggies on the dirt roads.

The Manor is a building I remember driving by while growing up. Now that I am here on a daily basis I have been very impressed with the cleanliness and the caring staff. There have been amazing remodeling projects to the inside of the building and we have a great staff. In the last two months we have seen our census increase by 6% and have started to stabilize our Caregiver staff. The Manor offers to families' quality care, rehab and provides 24-hour care when required.

If you are out please feel free to stop by and visit the Manor. We have great volunteers that are here every week providing church services, music and many other services. Each month we have volunteers who give over 1,000

hours of services in our building, bringing hope and encouragement to each resident. If you would like to become a volunteer feel free to contact



Jim Shaddock warms up in prison Stripes for the Toys for Tots Charity Basketball Game Organized by the Bradford County Correctional Facility.

Edie Smith at the Manor.

I would like to thank all employees and residents for a warm welcome to the Bradford County Manor.

## As work on New County Website Concludes, it has been a Pleasure

By: Michelle Shedden

It has been a pleasure to have worked on the new Bradford County website over the past year.

I have been working diligently with the developer, CQ services, gathering and providing information.

It is amazing to think that it has taken months of effort and the project is coming to a close. It has been with a lot of hard work from all the staff at CQ Services, here in the Commissioners Office and across county departments.

There have been changes, additions, deletions, new ideas, new pictures, new ways of interacting with information and online services development.

What has developed is a comprehensive, informational and interactive site. It is user friendly for the people of this county and also to those visiting. Keep watching for the official launch date sometime this month. We will be issuing a press release in the near future.

## Forward this to your Friends

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.

**Subscriptions to Date: 925**

**Sign Up Here!**

# County Bridge Replacement Program

By: Ray Stolinas

Bradford County encompasses 1,152 square miles of land area in Pennsylvania, ranking it as the second largest county in the Commonwealth. To traverse this large county, among its 51 townships and boroughs, one would travel a total of 2,051 miles of state and local roadways. Coupled with the existence of over 6,000 acres of surface water in Bradford County, one may ponder the actual number of bridges that are traveled upon everyday. That number may surprise most people, but it is what PENNDOT, Bradford County and municipalities deal with everyday maintaining and prioritizing over 625 structures, consisting of bridges, culverts and the like. Bridge maintenance and repair has been an endless amount of work for all levels of government and has become even more important in light of the bridge collapse tragedy in Minneapolis, Minnesota in late summer of 2007. Moreover, the replacement of bridge structures has become an even more expensive proposition for local governments in this current economy, considering the lack of state and federal funds that assist municipalities with bridge replacement projects.

Out of the more than 600 structures within Bradford County, the County owns, oper-

ates and maintains 52 structures in townships and boroughs across the county. Some notable structures the county owns include the Lockhart Street Bridge in Sayre Borough, the Taylor Bridge in Wyalusing Twp. and Knapp's Covered Bridge in Burlington Twp. Out of these 52 County-owned bridges, 39 are posted with a weight restriction and 1 is closed to all traffic. Bradford County maintains and replaces bridges through what is called the Liquid Fuels budget, which is separate and apart from the County taxpayers monies. Liquid Fuels funding is allocated through a state formula that includes the amount of fuel purchased within a county. Currently, Bradford County receives Liquid Fuels Allocation from the Commonwealth twice each year; once in July and once in December. At this point, the Bradford County averages approximately \$ 200,000 each period. The current Liquid Fuels Budget amounts to \$773, 879 to maintain, inspect, design and replace bridges. Bradford County Commissioners have traditionally been aggressive at replacing bridge infrastructure due to increases in rural traffic on local roads and the simple fact that many bridges the county owns are aging rapidly. Since 1991, Bradford County has replaced approximately nine (9) bridges at costs of between \$ 600,000.00 to over \$ 1,200,000.00.

Bradford County has prioritized bridge projects in conjunction with our bridge inspection engineer, Larson Design Group of Williamsport, input from our County Maintenance Department, our Planning Department, the County Commissioners and Fiscal Department. There are several players



## County Bridge #7

### Knapp's Covered Bridge in Burlington Township

that assist the Commissioners in the decision-making process due to the complexities of finding available funding, findings in the latest inspection report, existing homes, businesses and farms in proximity to the structure and potential design and replacement costs.

Bradford County replaces bridges in one of three ways. First, a bridge may be eligible for federal funding depending on its location and the amount of traffic it receives on a daily basis. If eligible, the county receives (80%) Federal and (15%) State funding and the county is responsible for a (5%) cost share from its Liquid Fuels funds. A second method of funding is initiated between the Commonwealth and County when a bridge is not eligible for Federal funding, where the Commonwealth contributes a (80%) cost share and the County is responsible for (20%) cost share. Lastly, the county can initiate a project through Retroactive Reimbursement. This method does not involve Federal funds, however, it gives the county the advantage of initiating a bridge

design and replacement project and then prioritizing funding on the TIP (Transportation Improvements Program) under PENNDOT's Twelve Year Program and eventually requesting reimbursement of funds after bridge construction. The county recently completed two Retroactive Reimbursement projects, namely Bridge #2 on T-382 (Albany Twp.) in 2006 and Bridge #32 on T-544 (N. Towanda Twp.). Bradford County will be initiating its third Retroactive Reimbursement project in 2009 at County Bridge #37 on T-751 in Wells Twp. A Scope of Work meeting is scheduled between the county, PENNDOT, Larson Design Group and Township Officials in early January 2009. Two Federal Aid projects are in the works currently with County-owned bridges. Bridge #17 on T-328 in Leroy Twp. is currently the only closed structure and will be replaced within the next 2-3 years. The County Commissioners recently contracted with CECO Associates of Scranton, PA to initiate the design and replacement of that bridge. In addition, Bridge #16 and the Route 414 Corridor



Bradford County Bridge #32  
North Towanda Township

Study has been Federally funded to study bridge needs within the S.R. 414 Corridor that include both State and County-owned Bridges. This study also includes the closure of Bridge # 16 on T-330 in Leroy Twp. Within this corridor, between Powell and Canton, the County owns eight (8) bridges and the Commonwealth owns three (3). On the average,

bridges within this corridor are almost 1½ miles apart from one another. The Corridor Study will guide county and state officials in prioritizing appropriate, cost effective projects for the future. State, County and local bridge infrastructure is an important part of the overall transportation system, especially in a large, rural county like Bradford. It is

essential that our elected officials work together on prioritizing projects in today's economy, keeping in mind that garnering funds from the state and federal level is becoming more competitive considering other transportation needs across this large Commonwealth. Bradford County has strived to be proactive with limited funds, repairing

and replacing bridges that affect the everyday movement of residents, farmers, goods and services.

## Quick Updates

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

### Bradford County Parks Master Planning By: Michelle Shedden

The Bradford County Parks Advisory Committee will meet on January 16, 2009 to begin the Parks Master Planning process.

### Bradford County 911 Re-addressing By: Mark Smith

The Bradford County 911 Re-addressing project has been progressing according to plans and has met all deadlines to date for questionnaire delivery and road name changes. Bradford County would like to thank all the townships and boroughs for their efforts and their urgency in producing the needed road name changes. Also, we would like to thank residents for their cooperation in returning the questionnaires in a timely manner.

### Bradford County Tourism Committee By: Michelle Shedden

The Bradford County Tourism Committee has received a grant to re-design their current website. The website will be launched at the beginning of this year. Also the Committee has been awarded a grant to work on promotional literature to promote tourism in Bradford County.

## County Government Directory

|                                   |          |  |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| Accounting                        | 265-1723 | Area Agency on Aging   | 265-2896 |
| Assessment                        | 265-1714 | Airport  | 265-4900 |
| Auditor                           | 265-1716 | Library  | 297-2436 |
| Bradford County Human Services    | 265-1760 | Correctional Facility  | 297-5047 |
| Bradford County Manor             | 297-4111 | 911 Center   | 265-9101 |
| Collections                       | 265-1746 | Conservation District  | 265-5539 |
| Commissioners                     | 265-1727 | Coroner  | 297-0720 |
| Courts                            | 265-1707 | District Justice (Troy)  | 297-3880 |
| District Attorney                 | 265-1712 | District Justice (Towanda)   | 268-5057 |
| Domestic Relations                | 265-1718 | District Justice (Wysox)   | 265-9393 |
| Elections                         | 265-1717 | District Justice (Athens)  | 888-6324 |
| Hearing Master                    | 265-1711 | Emergency Management Agency  | 265-5022 |
| Jury Commissioners                | 265-1732 | Planning   | 268-4103 |
| Maintenance                       | 265-1719 |  |          |
| Information Technology            | 265-1720 | <b>Bradford County Court House</b>                                     |          |
| Personnel                         | 265-1722 | 301 Main St.   |          |
| Probation                         | 265-1706 | Towanda, PA 18848  |          |
| Prothonotary                      | 265-1705 | Phone: 570-265-1727  |          |
| Public Defender                   | 265-1713 | Fax: 570-265-1729  |          |
| Register & Recorder               | 265-1702 | <a href="http://www.bradfordcountypa.org">www.bradfordcountypa.org</a> |          |
| Sheriff                           | 265-1701 |  |          |
| Treasurer                         | 265-1700 |  |          |
| Veterans Affairs                  | 265-1704 |  |          |
| Victim Witness                    | 265-1759 |  |          |
| Penn State Agricultural Extension | 265-2896 |  |          |

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