



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## A Look at the Office of Chief Clerk

By: Michelle Shedden

In June of 2005 Gayle Kershner was appointed Chief Clerk of Bradford County. Gayle has worked for Bradford County for over 28 years, first as the receptionist in the Commissioners' Office and then in 1982 she moved to the position of secretary to the Commissioners. She not only brings her years of experience to the job but also her wisdom from working with many different boards throughout the years. The office of Chief

Clerk is unique in Pennsylvania and varies as much as the 66 county governments. Depending on county size the duties and responsibilities of chief clerk can vary but they are almost always the hub around which the complex machinery of county government revolves. Chief Clerks are appointed by the County Commissioners and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners. Duties of Chief Clerk may include execution of policy, orders, ordinances, and resolutions or



**Gayle Kershner Chief Clerk**

regulations promulgated by the Board of Commissioners. Gayle is the backbone of the meetings; she makes

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## Bradford County Hires New Director of Public Safety

By: Michelle Shedden



**Gary Wilcox  
Director of Public Safety**

Bradford County is pleased to welcome Gary Wilcox to the position of Director of Public Safety. Gary is a graduate of Towanda High

School, served in the United States Navy and has been employed by a local industry for over 15 years. The implementation and creation of this new position was necessary to unify and improve the coordination of the 911 center and emergency management agency. This job will provide leadership, planning and organizational development to Emergency Management, 911 Communications, Public Emergency Services, and Emergency Radio Communications Systems concerned with the preservation

of life and property in Bradford County. Gary comes to the job with 15 years experience in emergency services with various accredited certifications and positions of responsibility, including Fire Chief of the North Towanda Fire and Rescue Volunteers. He is a graduate of Lackawanna College with an AAS in Industrial Manufacturing and a BS in Business Administration. This position will coordinate efficient response to various disaster scenarios and lead the county and its citizens in preparing for, mini-

mizing the effects of, and responding to disaster conditions. He will serve as a liaison between the County government and the emergency response community as well as be the direct supervisor of Emergency Management Agency preparedness staff, 911 PSAP personnel and volunteers serving to support County Public Safety. We look forward to working with Gary in his new position.

# Register and Recorder Office Beyond Capacity

By: Michelle Shedden



**Shirley Rockefeller,  
Register & Recorder**

If you have been in the courthouse lately you have probably noticed the hum of activity at every table and available space in the rotunda. This activity revolves around an office back in the corner of the second floor called the Register and Recorder office. Shirley Rockefeller is one of the county's longest serving elected officials and is currently in her 8<sup>th</sup> term as Register and Recorder. Thru the years Shirley has certainly seen a

growth in her duties but none so incredible as the increase since 2008 with the beginning of gas exploration in Bradford County. In 2007 oil lease recordings were 1,245, in 2009 it was 4,043. Total count of all transactions which includes assignments of mortgage, marriage licenses, recording of deeds, orphans court, oil and gas leases, and numerous other recordings in her office in 2007 was 39,136 and in 2009 was 78,263. Local title searchers and realtors have found it extremely hard to work in the courthouse in the

past year due to such an increase of oil company title searchers who must all share the computers and deed books in their search for ownership of property and mineral rights. Researchers must go back 150 years on every deed to determine ownership. This requires not only hours in the recorder's office but also time at the Bradford County Historical Society in search of papers which have been moved there for historical



**Judy Kisner, Register & Recorder Staff**

reasons. In an effort to ease some of this congestion, the register and recorder has begun moving records to an online site called [Landex](#). In the beginning there were only



**Gas companies employees and public searching deeds**

3 users registered for this service, with an income to the county of about \$25.00 a month. It has steadily increased every month until the county's share of online income is now over \$5500.00 per month. This service requires a \$25.00 fee to become a registered user, which gives you access to all Bradford County records which are available online, as well as any other counties in Pennsylvania who have the Landex service. Eventually Shirley hopes to have all the records available online.

## Chief Clerk Cont'd from page 1

all the arrangements and plans for all regular meetings of the Commissioners as well as overseeing the preparation of the agenda. She keeps records of all the Board of Commissioners' meetings and makes the preparation of the meeting minutes. She must prepare reports upon the direction of the Commissioners and with

general policy guidance provide objectives to officials and departments heads. Gayle submits to Commissioners an annual budget delineating and justifying requests for expenditures for all new programs. She is also in charge of reviewing and approving all requests for budgeted purchases of materials supplies and equipment to carry out the business of the County. Gayle is the infor-

mation resource officer for the county and is also the Right to Know Officer. She is also the Secretary of Retirement Board and handles all retirement information for county employees. As you can tell this position carries a great deal of responsibility and requires a person with great communication and facilitation skills. Gayle brings all of these and more to this office.



**Gayle works through county contracts**

## County Holds Auction



On February 19, 2010 Howard Visscher Auction and Realty Co. held an auction at the old South Towanda

Day Care facility to sell surplus county day care equipment and supplies. There were over 260 items listed in the catalog, with more than 200 people in attendance. The total amount of money received after advertising and auctioneer fees was \$11,707.72. Many local day care facilities enjoyed the chance to purchase much needed supplies and equipment at reasonable prices.

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1600**

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# Natural Gas News

News in Relation to Bradford County's Emerging Industry

## Northern Tier Marcellus Shale Business to Business Expo



The Northern Tier Marcellus Shale Business to Business Expo is being planned for Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> at Alparon Park in Troy. The event is intended to bring together the oil and gas industry and local business entrepreneurs to explore the opportunities that abound within the gas play. Local businesses may benefit

from this opportunity to help grow their business and provide more good jobs.

The Business to Business Expo will provide an opportunity for local business owners, energy companies and support service providers to connect and learn about the opportunities that have been created because of the recent interest and activity in the Marcellus Shale play.

The Expo is being planned and coordinated by a committee with representatives from both the public and private sectors. The committee formed out of a mutual interest and desire to coordinate efforts to educate local businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs on the significant resources and assistance available to maximize the opportunities which exist in our communities due to the Marcellus Shale play. Informa-

tion on sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor space will be available in the near future. A website [www.ntmarcellusexpo.com](http://www.ntmarcellusexpo.com) is also under development.

Mark your calendars now and plan to be at the **Northern Tier Marcellus Shale Business to Business Expo on June 26, 2010** in Troy, Pennsylvania!

## Quick Updates....

Commissioners are seeking a person to act as an independent contractor at Sunfish Pond County Park. Duties will include but are not limited to the operation of the store, collection of fees and accepting reservations. Deadline to submit an application for this contract is March 15, 2010. If interested please call Mike Jones, Parks Director at 570-265-1719.

Recently Opened Bids: Bids for South Towanda building were opened on Thursday February 25, 2010 with the following bids received: Wysox Equities: \$201,000.00 Tungsten Sources: \$205,000.00, Stephen Schmeckenbecker: \$225,050.00 and Randy Williams: \$156,611.00

Community News: 2010 Grant Money available from Autism Hearts.

Please visit [www.AutismHearts.org](http://www.AutismHearts.org) to download an application. This money is available to anyone with autism or caring for someone on the autism spectrum within our community. Deadline for application is March 17, 2010.

Bradford County received two applications for the Community Workforce Inmate Program. Both applications will be reviewed by the Prison Board at their next meeting.

## 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 Justice (Troy)	297-3880
Jury Commissioners	265-1732	District Justice (Towanda)	268-5057
Personnel	265-1722	District Justice (Wysox)	265-9393
Probation	265-1706	District Justice (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](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)