



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## Understanding Bradford County Planning & Grants

### Part 1: An introductory Overview

By: Ray Stolinias

The Office of Community Planning and Grants has evolved over time and acts as the administrative agency for the Bradford County Planning Commission under the direction of the Bradford County Commissioners. The Office currently retains a seven member staff that includes the Planning Director, County Planner, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator, Community Planner, CDBG/Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator, CDBG/Housing Rehabilitation Assistant and Administrative Assistant. During the 1970s, county planners were employed through the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, which is the five county regional planning agency located in Towanda. In 1996, the Bradford County Commissioners officially joined County Planning Staff with Community Development Block Grant staff to make it a planning and community development office. All staff plays a significant role in providing community development and planning services to a host of individuals that include developers, land-

owners, state and regional agencies and township supervisors and borough councils.

The Bradford County Planning Commission is a nine member board, appointed by the Bradford County Commissioners to advise for the coordinated development of the County based on physical, social, economic, and governmental conditions and trends, and to provide for and protect the health, safety and general welfare of residents. One of the main planning tools the Commission utilizes to organize growth and development is the 2003 Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that is enforced throughout 45 of the 51 municipalities. Six municipalities retain their own ordinance, which is separate and apart from zoning regulations. The County Planning Commission conducts a public meeting once a month, on the third Tuesday, and sets an agenda for multiple development issues.

The County Planning Commission has played a major role

in developing the 2004 *Bradford County Comprehensive Plan*. This is the first official Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the County Planning Commission and Bradford County Commissioners. The County Comprehensive Plan outlines components related to Population, Housing, Transportation, Land Use and implementation strategies for projects associated with the plan's overall goals and objectives. Shortly thereafter, the Commission also administered the development of the 2005 *Natural Areas Inventory* and the 2006 *Bradford County Open Space, Greenways and Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Other duties the office provides include the Bradford County Bridge Replacement and Inspection Program, municipal comprehensive planning assistance, technical advice on subdivision and zoning, Agricultural Security Areas, storm water management, various county recreation projects, Community Development Block Grants, housing rehabilitation for low to

moderate income homeowners, transportation initiatives and the Twelve-Year Program, and overall GIS mapping data management and distribution.

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## Thank You: Veterans Appreciation Day

By: John Sullivan

The Bradford County Commissioners would like to extend their deepest appreciation to those who planned and volunteered in this years Veterans Appreciation Day held at Hornbrook Park. The yearly event draws veterans and family from across the region and is a great asset to our county. A very special thanks to the Veterans Appreciation Day Committee for all their hard work.

## 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!\*\*](#)

## Update: Bradford County Parks

By: Mark Smith & Michelle Shedden

### Advisory Committee

The first meeting of the Bradford County Parks Advisory Committee occurred on June 23, 2008. There were 15 people present with various park interests. After much discussion the group suggested that the commissioners appoint a main Parks Committee of 7 members. That committee will then

work with remaining members to create sub-committees to represent each of the county's three parks, Hornbrook, Mt. Pisgah and Sunfish Pond. The Committees will be responsible for providing input and guidance to the Bradford County Commissioner's in regards to development, operation and future of our county parks.

### Work to start on Hornbrook Park Upgrades

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn DOT) will begin construction of the additions to Hornbrook Park this week.

The work will include the road leading to the new boat launch that will be installed this summer. The boat launch was ac-

quired through a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant.

The other work that will be completed consists of a new road which will pave the way for 10 more campsites at Hornbrook Park.

**The next meeting of the Parks Committee will be July 16, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.**

## State Passes Clean Indoor Air Law

By: Lorie Radney

For many years tobacco control coalitions, community members and legislators across Pennsylvania have made attempts to get a new Clean Indoor Air Law passed.

Coalitions have recruited community members to write Blue Cards telling their legislators why they want Pennsylvania to be smoke-free. Various associations such as the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco and the American Lung Association

have worked closely with legislators to inform them of the benefits of Pennsylvania going smoke-free.

On June 13, 2008, Governor Edward G. Rendell signed Senate Bill 246, Clean Indoor Air Act, to make it law. Pennsylvania's workplaces have 90 days from that date to implement a smoke-free environment within their workplaces.

The new bill has exemptions that allow smoking in certain

places, but for the most part, smoking will be banned in all public places where the public is invited including and not limited to educational facilities, health care related facilities, mass transportation (train, subway, bus, chartered bus, plane, taxicab, limousine), train stations, subway stations and bus stations, sports or recreational facilities, theater or performance establishments and workplaces such as restaurants, nightclubs, public meetings and any indoor area serving as a place of employment, occupation, business, trade, craft, profes-

sional or volunteer activity. Please visit [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) for the full bill and exemptions.

## Update: Correctional Facility

The Act 195 Interest Arbitration between Bradford County and Teamsters Local 529 (Corrections Officers) has been awarded. Mr. Michael Zobrak (Arbitrator) issued the Award on June 17, 2008. Attorney Michael Palumbo for Bradford County signed the award as authorized by the County Commissioners. The agreement will be effective retroactive to January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009. Some of the changes to the contract include a fixed shift schedule that provides five

8-hour days with rotating scheduled days off, full-time Corrections Officers will placed on the Bradford County annual salary schedule at a Pay Grade 14 and part-time officers hourly wage will be increased from \$9.75 per hour to \$10.00 per hour, and the County will add an additional uniform supplier to its list of approved vendors. Bradford County will proceed to implement the provisions of the award.

## Newsletter Now Available as Download from County Website

By: Michelle Shedden

In response to requests we received the Commissioners Office has added the Bradford County Newsletter to the county website for those who do not have email access. It is now available by going to our website and clicking on the Newsletter link. In the future all newsletters will be added to provide residents access to all past newsletters.

[www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)

# Planimetric GIS Layers Project Moves Forward

By: Scott Molnar

At the June 26, 2008, meeting of the Bradford County Commissioners, bids for Planimetric GIS (Geographic Information Systems) were opened. Three bids were received and on June 30, 2008 the Bid was awarded to Kimball Associates of Ebensburg, Pa. Layers included in this project are Parcels, Road Centerlines, Road Edges, Building Footprints, Streams, Ponds, Rivers and Railroads. These layers will be upgraded to accuracy levels necessary to share with the State. These upgraded layers will be used in the county's GIS system, located in the county's Planning Department.

## What are Planimetric GIS layers?

Planimetric Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layers are points, shapes and lines in GIS systems that represent the entities they are mapping. For exam-

ple, points may represent things such as a fire hydrant, a line would represent roads and a shape would represent parcels. Positioning them properly with the help of accurate aerial photography is the key to pinpointing their exact location.

Bradford County entered into an agreement with the State's PAMAP program in which the state provides the county with color aerial photography of the entire county every three years. In exchange, the county provides updated GIS layers back to the state program. The state receives layers from counties across Pennsylvania and provides them to the public through an online library at [www.pasda.psu.edu/](http://www.pasda.psu.edu/).

Bradford County received the first set of aerial photos in 2006 for flights that took place

in the spring of 2005. The flights are scheduled for springtime to avoid leaf and snow cover and to allow more ground features to show through. The county is scheduled to receive the next set of aerial photos in the spring of 2009 from flights that were flown earlier this spring.

Since all layers scheduled for upgrade will enhance the operations at the 911 Center, the county applied for and received the money to finance the project utilizing 911 wireless funds. As the 911 Center works toward Enhanced 911 (E911) capability, dispatchers will have more accurate tools at their disposal to provide even better and more accurate dispatching than we currently enjoy.

Although the improvements for 911 are substantial, the county will reap the benefits for a wide

range of applications. Departments such as Planning, Grants, EMA, Elections and Assessment currently use the GIS in their daily workflow and will see the increased value of these layers immediately upon completion. These enhanced layers, when completed, will be viewable by county residents on the Internet as well as through upgrades to the GIS system itself.

## Update: Courthouse Dome Repair and Restoration



*Left: Looking up at the results of the repair and restoration. Far left is when work first began. The immediate left is a snapshot of the progress made since then. Below: Ongoing work.*



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

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Adopted By: Michelle Shedden

On June 19, 2008 the Commissioners adopted the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A committee of several different county agencies was formed in 2004 and has worked diligently to present a plan to the Commissioners for their approval. This plan was developed in accordance with the requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and in cooperation with municipal, county, state and federal efforts to develop an awareness of the hazards facing the 51 municipalities of Bradford County and to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies to lessen the impact of these hazards on these communities. Hazard mitigation planning is the key to reducing loss of life and property, assumes a long-term time horizon, and assesses a community's vulnerability to all hazards to provide specific strategies for reducing disaster losses.

## This week, June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, has been declared National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. By : Jim Vajda

With summer arriving, it is a great time to review the hazards associated with thunderstorms. The goal of this week is to help the public learn more about the dangers of lightning. It is also a time for emergency management, public and private planning officials, and residents to review their own preparedness plans, and understand what to do, and not do, before and after a lightning strike. For more information go to <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

## County Website Design Moving Forward

On June 19, 2008 CQ Services met with the Commissioners office to discuss the plan for our new website. We are in the process of collecting information from department heads and elected officials and deciding what services they would like to see made available to the public. We will have this information gathered within the next week and let CQ get started on the first phase of the project.

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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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