

Bradford County Newsletter

Your Government Working for You!

Welcome to the Bradford County E-Newsletter

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Welcome to your first issue of the "The Bradford County Newsletter." The intention of this newsletter is to provide the citizens of Bradford County with information on the issues that we are facing as a County and to raise the awareness on the various services the county can provide. This publication will be sent to you on a monthly basis.

Each issue will provide details and facts regarding current projects that Bradford County is working on, information and updates on issues that concern our citizens, and a complete listing of county offices and

contact numbers.

We would like to encourage you to share this with family and friends who may sign up for their subscription by going to the Bradford County website www.bradfordcountypa.org today and click on the "Sign up here for our New County Newsletter." New subscriptions will arrive at the beginning of each month. Remember all that is required is a valid e-mail address. Although we are expecting the roll out of this to go as planned, we encourage anyone who has problems to please report them via the newsletter sign-up page. This will en-

sure that we are aware of and can fix any issues immediately.

The Bradford County Commissioners would like to express a thank you to CQ Services for the design and maintenance of the Bradford County Website and special thanks for their help in creating our email newsletter sign up page.

Bradford County government looks forward to your participation in this effort to share the issues that concern us all.

Important Elections Updates!

By: Marie Zbyszinski

The Bradford County Board of Elections announces that the last day for civilians to submit absentee ballot applications, for the Primary Election to be held on April 22nd 2008, is **April 15th**. The last day Absentee Ballots will be received in the office of the

County Board of Elections will be any time prior to 5:00 p.m. on **April 18th, 2008**. Absentee ballot application forms are available at the Election Bureau Office, Bradford County Court House (Annex Building), 301 Main Street, Towanda, PA

18848, or call 570-265-1717 or 1-888-270-VOTE. Absentee ballot applications are now available on our website, www.bradfordcountypa.org and select the Election Office Link. Applications downloaded should be mailed to the Election Office at 301 Main Street, Towanda, PA 18848.

Remember the Dates!

Absentee Ballots for Primary Election by: April 15th

Primary Election: April 22nd

General Election: November 5th

[Complete List Here!](#)

Voting System Demonstrations

By: Marie Zbyszinski

Bradford County Election Bureau announces that new electronic voting machines will be demonstrated at the following locations: **Wednesday, April 9th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the Athens Recreation Center, Main & Satterlee Streets, Athens. **Thursday, April 10th from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.** at the Troy Baptist Church, Canton Street, Troy. Voters are also welcome to stop in the Elections Office in Towanda, Monday – Friday to test and familiarize themselves with the new electronic voting units.

Sheshequin Polling Location

By: Marie Zbyszinski

Please be advised that the polling location of the Hornbrook Methodist Church, Sheshequin Township has been changed.

The new polling location for the residents of Sheshequin Township will be at the **Trinket Community Building**, Grange and Sportsman Club Roads in the Township of Sheshequin.

Repair & Restoration of Courthouse Dome

By: Mark Smith & Michelle Shedden, Photos Courtesy of John Milner & Assoc.

The repair & restoration of the courthouse dome will soon be underway. It is the Commissioner's goal to get this project underway and finished by this summer.

The bid for the paint conservation was awarded to Evergreene Studios of New York City. Their bid for the project was \$59,125.

The paint conservator comes with great recommendations from entities such as the New York Public Library, Michigan State Capitol and many others. Evergreene is currently working in Elmira, NY, on the Clemens Center. A bid conference for the scaffolding portion of the project was held on February 15th. This was an opportunity for interested

bidders to examine the project. Interested bidders assessed the different ways they can approach a project of this scope. Evergreene Studios and our architect for the project, John Milner & Assoc. were in attendance so bidders would have the opportunity to ask questions about the project.

The scaffolding is a challenging project in the courthouse because of the space and the low loads that are able to be placed on the floors. The scaffolding will need to be in place for approximately two months. While in place it is required that the scaffolding allows for normal courthouse operations while painters are working 90 ft. above the first floor of the courthouse. Scaffolding bids are now scheduled to be opened April 3rd.

The dome which along with the courthouse was constructed in 1897 has never been painted or repaired. The painting is of a sky full of clouds. Over the years portions of plaster have

fallen down. The work to repair the plaster will require Evergreene Studios to examine the remaining plaster and remove any loose pieces. Then they will recast the parts of the plaster and replace them.

The paint will be chemically cleaned and Evergreene Studios will "touch up" the dome and the decorative trim around the dome. Work such as the window frames will be done by county maintenance workers. Their work includes the window trim on all the windows that surround the base of the dome.

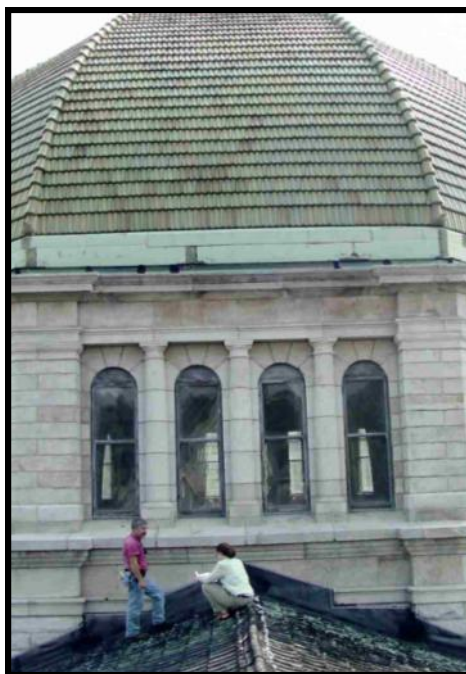
Besides the paint and plaster repair the other portion of this project is cleaning the backside of the dome. This will also be done by Evergreene Studios. After the paint and plaster repair is done they will vacuum the other side of the dome. Since it's construction in 1897 dirt has built up on the backside of the dome. The build up contributes to the discoloration



Above: Looking up at the dome. It is easy to see the discoloration. The spots of bright white in each picture are areas where the plaster has fallen.

Right: County maintenance worker and the architect for the project on the roof of the courthouse inspecting the dome.

Far Right: The "cat walk" around the dome.





of the paint. This is caused by moisture that migrates through the paint from the back side carrying dirt with it. Over many years this, along with smoking that was allowed at the courthouse, has caused the dome to become severely discolored.

The paint and plaster repair is estimated to take 8-9 weeks to complete with some time to be added for the construction and dismantling of the scaffolding.

When the project is finished we will have a clean and structurally sound courthouse dome. In the future the Commissioners

may be investigating ways to insulate the dome. This may be a major area of heat loss for our Courthouse. As we move forward looking at ways to address our energy costs the Commissioners hope this is something they can address at that point.

Right: A view looking up shows the large chandelier suspended from the center of the courthouse dome.



Left: The two square bright spots are an indication of how badly the paint has become stained over the years. This area was cleaned 3 years ago as a test to reveal the true color of the paint.



Left & Right: A view inside the dome. This is an open area that is between the interior and exterior. This open area houses the wench system that raises and lowers the large chandelier to allow for cleaning and replacement of light bulbs. As part of the repair and restoration this area will be professionally cleaned by the paint conservator.



Treatment Court has First Graduate

By: Phil Cusano

Three years ago this January a committee was formed to develop a Treatment Court in Bradford County. The committee was comprised of Common Pleas Judges, Magisterial District Judges, Probation, Public Defender, District Attorney, County D&A and other providers. Treatment Court is a restrictive intermediate punishment program, which uses intensive treatment, intensive probation supervision, urine screening

and regular court appearances in lieu of extended incarceration. Sentencing to Treatment Court is a minimum of two years.

There are numerous courts of this type throughout the Commonwealth as well as the United States. They take the form of Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Mental Health Courts and Juvenile Courts. The goal of these problem-solving courts is to reduce incarceration

days and to reduce recidivism by addressing the underlying problem that sets up the antisocial or problem behavior. These systems have over the years been the most researched programs in history and have been found to be effective and economical. The cost of incarceration goes well beyond the cost of room and board at the jail. The cost of incarceration reaches every corner of public funding includ-

ing medical assistance, child welfare, food stamps, income maintenance and housing.

Bradford County Treatment Court currently has 27 participants in various levels of recovery. Our first offender was accepted into the program two years ago. The Treatment Court Team is very proud to announce our first graduate from the program.

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

County 911 Re-addressing Moving Forward By: Mark Smith

On March 19th the County Commissioners had a meeting with MSAG, the consultant previously hired to re-address Bradford County. The county is currently receiving road names from townships and boroughs across Bradford County. As these road names are received by MSAG they will begin implementing the new addresses. It was communicated to the Commissioners that the project will begin to make significant progress this April and should be able to be finished by the end of the year.

Human Services Offices get Security Upgrades By: William Lavelle

Stemming from an on site inspection of the Human Services office conducted by Bruce Mitchell, C.C.A.P. (County Commissioners Assoc. of PA) Loss Control Director, emphasis was placed on security issues concerning accessibility and occupancy of the Human Services office. The inspection resulted in a detailed report offering suggestions to increase safety and security. As a result of these recommendations renovations to the Human Services office began on February 19, 2008.

The reception area will be enclosed with security walls, which are bullet proof, and will not be accessible from the exam rooms. A second security door will be installed outside the exam room with access being limited to authorized personnel. The entryway to the reception area will be within the office suite with access being limited to authorized personnel. Security mailboxes will be installed to increase confidentiality and privacy. The improvements were made possible in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Accounting Implementing New Software By: Joan Sanderson

The County's Accounting Department is currently implementing a new software package. All the County financial data such as payroll, the budget, purchase orders and all other things financial are being set up and converted over the next few months. The new software is internet based. This provides easy access to all department heads and elected officials. Elected officials and Department heads will be able to view their employees accumulated time and the financial status of their departments. This will also allow the county to produce more publicly accessible financial documents that will be available on the County website. The goal is to implement the new system in June 2008. The software is a product of New World Systems of Troy, Michigan. This was an investment of over \$300,000 for the county.

County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	911 Center	265-9101
Assessment	265-1714	Conservation District	265-5539
Auditor	265-1716	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	Planning	268-4103
Hearing Master	265-1711	Grants	268-4193
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		
Library	297-2436		
Correctional Facility	297-5047		

Bradford County Court House
301 Main St.
Towanda, PA 18848

Phone: 570-265-1727

Fax: 570-265-1729

www.bradfordcountypa.org

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