



# Bradford County Newsletter

*Your Government Working for You!*

## Bradford County Airport

By: Michelle Shedden

The Bradford County Airport, formerly known as Towanda Airport began as a grass strip. The airport is located in Towanda Township and was owned by Towanda Borough.

In 1986 the borough sold the airport to the Towanda Area Joint Municipal Airport Authority. The Authority is now known as the Bradford County Airport Authority and over the years has made dramatic changes to the airport. These changes include: Two large parking aprons with tie downs, three T-Hangars which park 30 aircrafts, a metal arch bldg. which houses two aircraft, the

Neiley Complex which is the main terminal bldg and serves to house larger aircraft, helicopters and a mechanic shop. The runway is 4300 ft. in length by 75 ft. wide with full lighting and markings.

Taxiways are provided at the areas of the aprons and at the southern most area of the runway. Eventually the



runway will be extended to a full 5000 ft. for larger aircraft and this will have a full parallel taxiway. The airport has both 100LL aviation fuel and Jet A fuel for turbine engine aircraft. A portion of the

Cont. on page 2

### Inside this issue:

Bradford County Airport Community Workforce I	1
Absentee Ballot Deadline Announced Crime Victims' Week proclaimed	2
Pinwheels on the lawn at Courthouse Natural Gas News	3
Quick Updates: Valley Walk for Autism Deadline for Absentee Ballots Friday Night at the Museum	4



## Inmates Go to Work in the Community

### Community Workforce Inmate Program Begins

By: Mark W. Smith

The Community Workforce Inmate Program through the Bradford County Correctional Facility has begun its first operation within the community.

Ridgebury Township is taking advantage of Bradford County's Community Workforce Inmate Program. The county prison board had previously approved their application to the program which detailed

the type of work the township wanted done. The township is utilizing the inmate labor to paint the interior and exterior of some of the township properties.

The Community Workforce Inmate Program (C.W.I.P.) is available to community groups, charitable organizations and local governments. The program will provide labor to community groups and local governments

via approved work release inmates from the Bradford County Correctional Facility. The types of projects that workforce inmates may be involved with include; Public work projects, painting, graffiti removal, various public works projects, special events, maintenance or general public property clean-up.

The county prison board also has several other applications to utilize the program under consideration.



**As part of the Community Workforce Inmate Program work gets done at Ridgebury Township Building**

**Airport Cont. from page 1**



Secretary-Clerk and Sean Rowland, the Maintenance Director.

The Bradford County Airport Authority has 5 members who are appointed by the Bradford County Commissioners and serve a 5 year term. The current board members are: Dr. Robert Bowen, Chairman, James Smith, Vice Chairman, Tom Marett, Treasurer, Craig Chaffee, Secretary, Mark Watkins, Member.

The airport serves not only Towanda but all of Bradford County and surrounding areas. The days of the airport

building is also used for office personnel and flight training; both VFR and IFR training are given. Aircraft rental is provided for those that qualify. There is on site weather that can be accessed by phone or computer.

The airport staff consists of Carl Laby, who is the Airport Manager, Heather Blokzyl, the

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being used by just the few who could afford an airplane have disappeared and now the airport is a vital transportation means for doing business in the county. The need for a modern facility became apparent with the increased activity from the natural gas business.

Business professionals from all over the United States and Canada utilize the airport for business, and some are choosing to vaca-

tion here as well. Towanda Area Pilots Association is also located at the airport and meets on a monthly basis. This group of people provide two fly in breakfast per year, the second Sunday of June and the second Sunday of October. each year. Money made from this function goes toward enhancement of aviation within the area. For more information visit: [BCAA](#)

## Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclaimed in Bradford County

By: Michelle Shedden

"Imagine that as you approach your home one evening three men rob you, beat you, and leave you unconscious in the street. Your neighbors call an ambulance and the police. You survive but you spend months in the hospital, then lose your job and can't pay your bills. Your attackers are released on bail and for more than a year you get no information on your case. Then the prosecutor accepts a plea bargain without notifying you, and the judge bans you from the hearing where he sentenced your attackers to just one year to prison. Would you feel that you had been treated with fairness, dignity and respect by the criminal justice system or that your voice had been heard?" said Francine Griffin, Victim Witness Coordinator.

Stories just like the one told here have been told many

victims, until 1986 when Lois Haight Harrington led the Presidents Task Force on victims of crime to change the laws.

With this landmark report came new hope. The victims gained the right to apply for compensation, to be present in court, to be heard at sentencing and parole hearings and to receive information about their rights, criminal proceedings, release and escape of the offenders and other available services.

In 2007 the VOJO (Victims of Juvenile Offenders) restitution fund was put into place in Bradford County and in 2008 [SAVIN](#) (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification) began. This service enables victims to be notified when an offender is released from jail.

Today every state has passed victim rights laws, but we still need to have "Victims' Rights Week" in order to continue to educate the public on the victims needs. Victims need help rebuilding their lives and it is the job of [Victim Services](#) to do just that.. Francine said "It is not about the defendant, it is about the victim ."

Cathy Keeney spoke about the impact on her life when she witnessed her husband become the victim of a crime which changed both of their lives forever. Cathy spoke

about her happiness at receiving a letter from Francine Griffin and knowing that there was someone out there who cared about what had happened and that they really did "have a voice" Cathy has become a speaker at the Victim Impact Panels, where she said she feels that people are changed after they listen. Her parting words were " You can make any choice you want to make but the consequences are many times paid by somebody else."



**Commissioner, Doug McLinko, Victim Witness Coordinator, Francine Griffin, Cathy Keeney and Commissioner, Mark Smith**

## Pinwheels on the Courthouse Lawn?

The Children's Advocacy Center at the Children's House created a display of blue and silver pinwheels in front of the Bradford County Courthouse to bring attention to the issue of child abuse in Bradford County. The pinwheels are part of a statewide child abuse prevention campaign being coordinated by the organization Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania.

The pinwheels are a call to action to recognize that we all



CYS Caseworker Misty Ackley and Children's House Coordinator Katina Sites place pinwheels on the lawn.

play a role in children's lives, healthy child development and the prevention of

child abuse and neglect in our community. Each pinwheel represents a child that has been involved in a forensic interview at the Children's House.

The funding required for the continued operation of the Children's House comes from local donations, fundraising efforts and through the support of the Bradford County

United Way.

If you have any questions about the Children's House, please do not hesitate to contact Katina Sites at (570) 265-4132.



# Natural Gas News

News in Relation to Bradford County's Emerging Industry

## Water Monitoring and Protection Near Gas Well Drilling Seminar to be held

Press Release



On May 12, 2010 Penn

State will be sponsoring a seminar on "Water Monitoring and Protection" as it relates to natural gas drilling. The program will be held at the Wyalusing High School from 7-9 P.M.

The program will include a presentation on the "drilling process related to water resources" by Penn State Extension Educator Mark Madden. "Water testing, monitoring and strategies" will be covered by Bryan Swistock the Penn State Wa-

ter Resources Extension Associate.

An overview of Susquehanna River Basin Commission Real-time Water Quality Monitoring Network" will be presented by Andrew J. Gavin the Chief of Restoration and Protection Section of the SRBC. Joe Umholtz the Client Service Manager at MWH Global will speak about waste water recycling.

The program will offer a great opportunity to learn, ask questions and share information as this emerging industry continues to

develop in our county. To pre register for the event you may call 570-928-8941.

This program is for educational purposes only. No part of this presentation is to be considered legal advice. Please consult with your attorney before signing any legal document.



**To Register Call  
570-928-8941**

## Quick Updates....

**Valley Walk for Autism: Sunday May 16 ,2010 from 11 a. m. to 3 p.m. at Athens High School Track, Athens PA. Registration begins at 11:15 a.m. Proceeds to benefit Autism Hearts. Featuring a bake sale, door prizes, face painting,, balloons and games. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Register and download pledge form at [www.AutismHearts.org](http://www.AutismHearts.org)**

**The Bradford County Board of Elections announces that this year's General Primary Election will be held on May 18, 2010. The last day Civilian Absentee Ballot Applications will be received in the office of the County Board of Elections is May 11, 2010. 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 May 14, 2010.**

## "2010 Friday Night at the Museum" Season Begins

By: Matt Carl, Bradford County Historical Museum Curator

The Bradford County Historical Society announces the beginning of its 2010 Friday Night at the Museum programming season. Friday Night at the Museum is a monthly series of free educational programs which are held on the third Friday of each month in the Great Room at the Bradford County Historical Society.

This is the third year that the Society has conducted this programming series. Last season saw capacity crowds at many of the Friday events. The 2010 season kicks off on

Friday, May 21, with the program, "A Glimpse Into the Past" presented by David Lenington that will also include the performance of two songs composed by Bradford County's own Stephen Foster and P.P. Bliss. Music will be provided by soprano soloist, Carrie Hooper.

The program features a slide presentation which will include postcard views of Bradford County and photographs of residents from the past. See slides of Towanda, Ulster, Athens, Sayre, Troy,

Canton, New Albany, Rome, Wyalusing and other communities. Each Friday Night at the Museum program begins at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. allowing visitors to tour the museum prior to the program. Free refreshments are provided at the conclusion of the program. Although each event is free, participants are asked to register by calling 570-265-2240 or by email at [info@bradfordhistory.com](mailto:info@bradfordhistory.com) to guarantee a seat. Reservations are now being accepted for the May 21<sup>st</sup> event.

Other programs scheduled for 2010 include: The Music of World War II, June 18; The Barns and Agriculture of Pennsylvania's Northern Tier, July 16; Stephen Foster: Father of American Music, August 19 (note this program will be held on a Thursday evening); Canton: Circus Capitol of the East, September 17; and The Frisbie Family of Orwell Township: A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Saga of Bradford County and Beyond, October 15. The Bradford County Historical Society is a recipient agency of PHMC and the Bradford County United Way. For more information about the society and its programming schedule, visit [www.bradfordhistory.com](http://www.bradfordhistory.com).

## 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**  
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