REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 1, Issue 4

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission Fall 2004

FEDERAL EDA FORUM IN WEIRTON BRINGS FINANCIAL PARTNERS CLOSER

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BY: JOHN BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



(l-r) Ann Pope (Federal Co-Chairman, Appalachian Region Commission), Steve Fennel (Sal Chemical), Dewey Guida (Guida Enterprises) and Don Donnell (Starvaggi Enterprises)

ment, some 65 attendees participated in panels on fulfilling a regional vision and targeting investments.

Dr. Sampson was an active panel participant and suggested the following three guidelines for regional growth:

Create a positive business climate. Leadership through a positive belief in a regional future is essential. Investment and innovation are key leadership components.

Work as a region. A region must jointly articulate a forward vision and not idealize the past. Fragmentation on a political basis creates diseconomies and is counterproductive. Forge linkages and look for leverage points.

Develop a skilled work force. Post-secondary and K-12 school education must be integrated with work force development.

On September 15th, the U.S. Economic Development Administration Also in attendance was Anne Pope, Federal Co-Chair for the Appalaheld a regional chian Regional Commission. She noted ARC's strong support role forum to provide with EDA and the success of ARC through access to capital for small opportunity business and the support of brownfield redevelopment.

> for private sector Key state and local participants were David Satterfield, Executive representatives, Director for the West Virginia Development Office; Don Donell, officials President of Starvaggi Enterprises; Steve Fennel, President of Sal and other eco- Chemical; Dewey Guida, President pf Dewey Guida Enterprises and nomic develop- Mike Jacoby, Executive Director for Progress Alliance.

> holders to talk The EDA Forum was hosted by the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metabout ways to ropolitan Planning Commission (BHJ), Dr. John Brown, BHJ Execuincrease opportu- tive Director, stated "on very few occasions do we get a first-hand nities to create, visit from chief executive officials such as Dr. Sampson and Federal and Co-Chair Pope. Their agencies are key financial partners. The more busi- one-on-one time we get, the better our possibility for success."

> During the Forum lunch, Bill Miller, Mayor for the City of Weirton, Dr. formally acknowledged EDA's commitment of \$891,000 to the City David Sampson, of Weirton for its downtown investment project. With a comparable U.S. Undersecre- funding match from the City of Weirton, this investment will provide of Com- essential parking and utility infrastructure related to the State Office merce for Eco- Building and is projected to create a minimum of 251 jobs.

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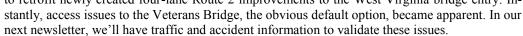
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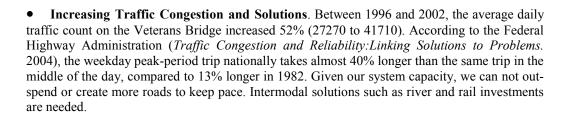
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ur regional landscape is changing right in front of us. Look for the subtle signs and imagine how they are altering our future.

- Changes in Leadership. Our first newsletter was published in spring 1996 and the front cover had a photograph of our eight (8) Executive Committee members. Only two of these eight are present members of our Executive Committee. The passing of leadership has occurred.
- Road Access Deficiencies at the Veteran's Bridge. On October 11th, the Market Street Bridge was closed for a two week period to retrofit newly created four-lane Route 2 improvements to the West Virginia bridge entry. In-





- Entrepreneurship. 75% of all new jobs are created by existing businesses. If economic diversification, as referenced in so many of our future growth strategies, is our future then the nurturing of existing businesses and expansion of these businesses through entrepreneurship should be our key job growth investment.
- Magnitude of Mahan's Lane Project in Brooke County and Route 2. Project in Hancock County. In the next two years, the Brooke and Hancock Public Service Districts will invest \$39 million to provide 4050 people with sewer infrastructure.

John C. Brown, AICP jbrown@bhjmpc.org



THE CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

ummer certainly ended with a bang and I hope that you and your families were not affected by the recent flooding. The cooperation of the state, county, and local governments, the various volunteer and paid fire departments, police agencies, emergency management agencies, and citizens should not go unnoticed. Everyone involved did an excellent job. They helped save many lives and are now working diligently to cleanup the mess left behind. In times such as these, the good folks of the Ohio Valley put their best foot forward and come to the aid of those in need.

burgh, Pa. to Columbus, Oh.

Each community in the Tri-County Area must pool, Oh. to Wheeling, W.Va. realize that future development, and their individual economies, will be affected by the The BHJ staff is working hard to coordinate



As the lazy days of summer become just a tion system is vital to the economic develop- in the proposed project would create a link for memory and our thoughts turn to the beautiful ment and growth of the entire area, as is evi- commercial traffic between Pittsburgh, Pa. colors of fall, we also must continue to condenced by the growth around Interstate 70 and Columbus, Oh. Even though much of this centrate on the many issues facing the Tri- near St. Clairsville. U.S. Route 22, Ohio system would be located outside of BHJ's County Area that BHJ represents. Dr. Brown Route 7, and West Virginia Route 2 are our three-county area, the development of this and his staff are diligently working on many versions of Interstate 70. Two of the three project would provide great benefits for those projects, such as brownfields projects, eco- bridges located in Steubenville are old and in three counties. It is believed that this route nomic development issues, community im- need of repair and it is not unrealistic to be- would become a reliever for truck traffic usprovement projects, and the many transporta- lieve that the possibility of one or both of ing Interstate 70. As the traffic pattern shifts, tion issues facing each of its counties. Three these older bridges may not be in operation in development along the corridor would follow. major issues need constant attention. They the next 20 years. The recent weight limit As of this date, this proposal is not included in are funding of the next phase of the Bridge reductions on the Fort Steuben Bridge are the future plans of the Ohio Department of Study, the maintenance of the Fort Steuben already having an impact on the commercial Transportation. Again, the BHJ staff is workand Market Street bridges in light of the re- truck traffic to the Half Moon Industrial Park ing with the ODOT contacts to have this corduction of weight limits on the Fort Steuben in Weirton, W.Va. One can only imagine the ridor included as one of the top issues in the Bridge, and the U.S. 22 Corridor from Pitts- adverse effect that would result to the entire future of the local transportation system. area if the Veterans' Memorial Bridge were the only operating bridge from East Liver- Your support and influence is essential in

outcome of these issues. A good transporta- efforts between the local government entities

and the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation. However, the support of each and every governmental entity in Brooke, Hancock, and Jefferson is essential to assure a satisfactory outcome. Emphasis is being placed on obtaining funding from the two states to fund the next phase of the Bridge Study and on ensuring that the states continue to fund the necessary appropriations to maintain the Fort Steuben and Market Street Bridges until the two proposed Ohio River bridges are completed.

The U.S. 22 Corridor is another vital piece in the local transportation system. Widening and upgrading of the various routes included

promoting these key infrastructure projects to the powers that be in your respective states.

Gary R. Folden

12:00

| November 3 | BHJ Executive Committee | 12:00 |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| November 11 | BHJ Office Closed—Veteran's Day | |
| November 17 | TAC Full Commission | 10:30 12:00 |
| November 25- November 26 | BHJ Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday | |
| December 24 | BHJ Office—Christmas | |
| December 31 | BHJ Office Closed—New Years | |
| January 19 | TAC | 10:30 |

BHJ Full Commission—Reorganization Meeting; Election of Officers



WEIRTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—A PARNER IN BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BY ED POWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The the Weir-Cove Chamber chartered

word 'Area' was added to the name to acknowledge members who were located The Chamber sponsors seven Business After Luncheons and an Annual Membership Banthroughout Hancock, Brooke, Jefferson, and Hours networking opportunities including a quet help in providing two-way communica-Washington Counties. Today, the Weirton 400 business owners or professionals who a Holiday Social in December. employ approximately 10,000 people.

Commerce is: "Business and professional people working together to make your community a better place for everyone to live and work."

The Chamber strives to create a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of people within the business community and Each spring, the Chamber co-hosts the Home business community and representing them in and political affairs; and preventing or adthe community.

"fabric of life." respected programs that develop leadership preneurship. and entrepreneurship in both youth and adult segments of our community. The Chamber The Chamber's staff includes Office Mancontinually strives to improve the quality of ager, Brenda Mull, and Member Services/ life in this area. The following is a sample of Programs Coordinator, Lynnellen Realiour programs.

from five local high schools are represented speakers, sponsors, and coordinators. in this year's class. The candidates partici- current Chairman of the Board of Directors is

Weirton pate in seven sessions ranging from a Simu- John Newbrough. Area Chamber lated Society exercise to a teambuilding Board include: William D'Alesio, J.J. Bernaof Commerce, workout on the Leadership Challenge Ropes bei, Cathie Caranda, Lisa Conti, Richard originally called Course at Franciscan University.

of Leadership Weirton, which has a similar cur-Commerce, was riculum, is open to adults. This year's class in represents a cross-section of individuals from 1936 with ap- the business community. Upon completing proximately 122 members. The name was Leadership Weirton, the participants are en- memo goes out each Monday morning via echanged to the Weirton Chamber of Com- couraged to become a part of one of the many mail and a printed "Town Crier" newsletter is merce in 1948 to coincide with the formation active Chamber committees and/or assist with mailed each month. Each of these publicaof the City of Weirton. In the late 1980s, the the Weirton United Way's fundraising efforts.

"Member-To-Member" in September, Area Chamber of Commerce consists of about "Toys for Tots" Campaign in November, and

The motto of the Weirton Area Chamber of Chamber playing host to and coordinating cock Counties. This was a joint effort be-Weirton's Christmas Parade. Chamber mem- tween the Business Development Corporation ber businesses also help the Salvation Army of the Northern Panhandle, the Hancock by contributing money to purchase gifts from County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Angel Tree. Last year the Chamber mem- the Commissions of both counties. The book bership purchased over 40 bicycles and nearly called "Northern Panhandle Life" can be \$2,000 of Angel Tree presents.

concern for their problems; educating the and Garden Expo with Weirton Medical Center and sponsors "Ladies Day at the Chamthe city, county, state and national legislative ber" during Administrative Professionals Week. Both are well received and well atdressing controversies which are detrimental tended events. The Chamber also coordinates to expansion and growth of business within community blood drives and provides flu shots for Chamber member employees.

While the Chamber is essentially a "board of In April a High School Business Symposium trade" that supports the business entities in is conducted teaching juniors interviewing Weirton and surrounding areas, it also strives techniques, marketing, product development, to assist these businesses in "giving back" to quality assurance and teambuilding skills. the community and to nurture our existing MarketPlace for Kids Summer Camp teaches We have solid, well- middle school students many facets of entre-

Schloss. The success of the Weirton Chamber rests not only with the office staff but also Youth Leadership Weirton is open to high with the many community leaders who step school sophomores. A total of 35 students up to assist in of the form of facilitators,

Other member of the Crofton, John Frankovitch, Don Gianni Jr., Sharon Bogarad, John C. Greco, Nancy Kowalski, Glenda Robinson, and Rex Fisher.

Communications plays a key roll in the success of the Weirton Chamber. An electronic tions reaches approximately 500 people. New Member Breakfast Meetings, Focus Group a tions between the staff and the membership.

The Chamber recently published a quality of life book highlighting tourism, economic de-The holiday season is a busy time with the velopment, and housing in Brooke and Hanviewed on the Chamber website at www.weirtonchamber.com.

> The Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce partners with many other organizations such as the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the West Virginia Small Business Development Center, Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board, WV Job Services, West Virginia Northern Community College, and the City of Weirton. Recently, the Chamber formed a "Healthy Collaboration" partnership with Carelink Health Plans to offer discounted health care insurance for Chamber membership employees.

Business development, business retention, promoting tourism, and community development are major goals of the Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce. The Weirton Chamber will work towards these goals and strive to improve the quality of life in our communities and hopefully make this area a better place to live and work!

n Fiscal Year 2004, BHJ's funding for all categories— condition and location. In the meantime, maintenance and inspection Transportation, Community Development, ARC, EPA and Eco- costs of \$200,000 will maintain a safe level of service. nomic Development — totaled \$496,120. Transportation alone accounted for 54% of that amount.

The *Regional Bridge System Study* has been perhaps the most notable. Considering the age and condition of both the Fort Steuben and Market Street bridges, the need for a new bridge is becoming increasingly more evident.

At the request of Mayor Bill Miller, City of Weirton, the BHJ Transportation Study (BHJTS) held a special meeting on August 18 at the MBS Warehouse located in the Half Moon Industrial Park in Weirton. The businesses located in the industrial park rely on the bridge and have legitimate concerns about its future. Officials from both the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation discussed the future of the Fort Steuben Bridge as well as the planned improvements to access the US 22 highway network from the park.



bridge received an overall poor condition rating. Substantial deterioration below the bridge decking necessitated posting load limits which will be closely monitored. Further restrictive action could be public safety will not be jeopardized.

Will the bridge be closed? According to officials, this is the first step. On August 3, a meeting of political, economic and transportation obsolete" and does not meet the current AASHTO standards for study. bridges and roadways. It cannot be rebuilt to standards in its current

The Commission agreed several "next steps" should be taken: (1) BHJ staff, in coordination with ODOT and WVDOT will provide The administration of these dollars covers a wide range of activities. quarterly reports to the Commission; (2) Senators Bowman and McKenize and Delegate Ennis will provide letters of support to expedite road improvements at Freedom Way and Main Streets and (3) BHJ and ODOT District 11 will support a \$600,000 (Ohio Transportation Review and Advisory Committee (TRAC) application to prepare a location and environmental study for the preferred bridge alternative. The funding request to TRAC will be presented on Thursday. October 21 in Columbus.

> In other bridge-related news, representatives of the BHJTS staff and Policy Committee, as well as Progress Alliance and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, attended an introduction of ACCESS Ohio in Columbus. Jefferson County community leaders were afforded the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding plans to complete the proposed Columbus, Ohio/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Interstate Corridor via US 22 through Steubenville. The corridor between Steubenville and New Philadelphia is becoming a high freight route and major traffic gateway into West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Indiana. The ODOT Freight Study completed in 2001 indicates the combined freight tonnage traveling over both the Fort Steuben Bridge and the Veterans Memorial Bridge ranks as the 20th highest gateway for freight tonnage entering and exiting the State of Ohio.

ODOT traffic count surveys indicate that the combined average daily Mr. Dan Moeglin, ODOT District 11, said that upon inspection the traffic over both the Veterans Bridge and the Fort Steuben Bridge increased from 33,180 in 1996 to 47,250 in 2002. The surveys also indicated the combined average daily truck traffic (ADTT) over both bridges grew from 3,670 in 1996 to 4,810 in 2002. By comparison taken if the load limits are not adhered to. Mr. Moeglin stressed that the combined ADTT crossing on the I70/470 bridges near Wheeling, WV remained static from 12,660 in 1996 to 12,490 in 2002.

towards a permanent closure. The bridge is listed as "functionally leaders met to discuss the next steps needed for a corridor planning

TRAFFIC COUNTS

"Tis the season" - for traffic counts, that is! Since May, BHJ staff has conducted over 100 counts in various locations throughout the region. According to Shawn Price, BHJ senior technical engineer, this is a record number.

Traffic counts are normally done each year beginning in May through mid-October depending on the weather. This year, BHJ staff did counts for Steubenville, Toronto, Mingo Junction, Tiltonsville, Wellsburg, Beech Bottom, Weirton and Wintersville.

Mr. Price initiated a new program this year to update traffic counts on a continuous three-year cycle. For example, locations at Lovers Lane and Sunset Boulevard in Steubenville and State Highway 27 in Wellsburg were updated from 2000-2001.

BHJ Technical Engineer Greg Nodurft lays down traffic counters in Weirton, WV



BHJ'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST IS KEPT BUSY WITH NUMEROUS WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS IN THE BROOKE-HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA AREA



BHJ's development special- moving forward." ist, is responsible for iects in Brooke and month. Hancock counties.

coordinate each project from inception to completion.

The Route 8 Sewer Project in Hancock County is one such project. IJDC grant. Plans for this \$14,436,620 project began a little over a year ago. Congressman Alan Mollohan showed his support by providing a In Beech Bottom, West Virginia, final design is ongoing for a water \$4,850,000 State and Travel Appropriation Grant (STAG). Other line extension and upgrade that would extend water service to an ad-



Section of Route 8 project area in New Manchester

funding was obtained through a Hancock County EDA Grant (\$1,500,000); Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC) Grant (\$1,426,000); IJDC Loan (\$6,468,620) and tap fess (\$192,000). When completed, sewer service will be provided to approximately 650 residents along Route 8 from New Cumberland to Smith Road. Sewage will flow to a treatment plant to be constructed in the Deep Gut Run area.

The PSD anticipates going to construction by next fall. Final design is currently underway, and a Phase One Archaeological Survey will begin shortly at the treatment plant site. Easement acquisition is ongoing. If the project stays on schedule, it should be completed within According to Ms. Zimnox, future projects will be developed based on two years from now.

Much of the success of the project can be attributed to the Hancock Zimnox, County Commissioners. Ms. Zimnox said, "The Hancock County community Commissioners have been a force in getting this project funded and

the administration of Another Hancock County project that's moving forward is the Route almost \$25,000,000 2 Sewer Line Extension. The project will add 21 residential customin project funding for ers and 5 businesses to the existing system from Ergon north to Newwater and sewer pro- ell. It is currently under construction and should be finished within a

Ms. Zimnox works The Hammond Public Service District has a project that's ready to go closely with the fund- to the Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Convenience ing agencies, public service districts and local officials to successfully and Necessity. The Hukills Run and Greens Run Water Line Extension will add approximately 39 households to the existing PSD system. This \$1,415,636 project is funded by an IJDC loan as well as an

> ditional 9 residences and 4 businesses to the northern end of the Village. The project will also upgrade the existing system providing improved fire protection, better quality of water service and an adequate water supply for future development.

> The Beech Bottom water line extension is a \$1,192,101 project. Congressman Mollohan supported the project with an SAP grant in the amount of \$554,355. By early November, the Village will find out if the \$637,746 SCBG funds applied for will be available.

Construction on the Colliers Water and Sewer Line Extension Project is now complete. The project came in under budget enabling the PSD to explore the possibility of purchasing needed equipment for each side of the project with the remaining funds.



Route 2 in Beech Bottom

The Hammond Public Service District submitted and

received approval upon funding an application to the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council for a water project in the Lazear's Lane (Wellsburg) area. If the project is funded, water service will be extended to approximately 10 residences and 5 business. Congressman Mollohan generously introduced \$55,000 in his funding bill to be earmarked for this project. Remaining funding is being sought through a Governor's Partnership Grant application.

the water and sewer facilities plans.

6

COMMUNITY PROFILE: STRATTON, OHIO

With a land area of just 0.5 square miles, you may not notice this tiny village of approximately 276 residents (as of July 2002) as you drive north along Ohio State Route 7 just 9 miles from Steubenville, Ohio. Instead, you are more apt to notice the New Cumberland Locks & Dam on the Ohio River or looking straight ahead you see the towering smoke stacks of the Ohio Edison Sammis Plant.



New Cumberland Locks & Dam

The lock & dam, located on the right bank of the Ohio River, is just two miles downstream from New Cumberland, WV, which was originally planned to be the site of the lock and dam. The dam is a 1,200 by 100–ft main chamber that enables large tows to make passage through the lock.



Stratton Municipal Building

ables large tows to make The municipal building not only houses village offices, but also has a passage through the lock. room available to rent for showers, receptions and other parties.





Ohio Edison Sammis Plant

If you take a closer look, you will find the Village of Stratton is a closely-knit community where neighbors still look out for one another. It is a community of mostly retired folks—the median age is 44.6— who can enjoy all the advantages of small-town living while still having close access to shopping in Steubenville, Youngstown or Pittsburgh. According to statistical information found on the Internet, the length of stay since moving in is significantly above the state average.

Within the community is a park, a library and a swimming pool as well as a senior center. Most of these amenities are the result of the hard work of the citizens working together to make life just a little more pleasant.

For example, when Lola Kakasic Swanagan first moved to Stratton, there was a library. Actually, there was a building everyone called the library—but, there were no books. Lola searched for a way to get books to fill the shelves, and found it. She read about a larger library that gave books away each year. She got in her truck and went after them. A real library came into existence.

There are two pools that serve the community. One is an outdoor pool located at the park and open during the summer months. The municipal pool is open all year round. It is used by some area high school swimming teams—Steubenville Catholic Central, Edison and Wellsville—as a home base for practice and meets. The Stratton Sea Cats, coached by Darlene Sperry, is a group of swimmers ages six and up who also use the pool for swim meets. The senior citizens have a designated day each week for their use. Open swimming is available on Saturday and Sunday from 12-8.

The entire length of the Village is less than a mile long. Within that area is a group of people who take pride in their surroundings and enjoy a life that is reminiscent of by-gone days. It's a place where you can walk down the street and know your neighbors. It's a community that works together and cares about one another.

Stratton, Ohio may be small in appearance, but it offers a large dose of satisfaction for small town life.



Mayor John Abdalla wears many hats—one being "Chef." Abdalla's Tavern located along Route 7 in Stratton is considered by many to have the best steaks around.

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Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission Fall 2004

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Related Web Sites

Appalachian Regional Commission www.arc.gov

Brooke Pioneer Trail Assoc. Inc www.brookepioneertrail.org

Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle www.bhbdc.org

CHANGE, Inc. www.changeinc.org

City of Steubenville www.cityofsteubenville.us

Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau www.hancockcvb.com

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce www.jeffersoncountychamber.com

Ohio Department of Transportation www.dot.state.oh.us

Progress Alliance www.progressalliance.com State of Ohio Government Information www.state.oh.us

State of West Virginia Government Info. www.state.wv.us

State Route 2 & Interstate 68 Authority www.route2andi68.com

U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation www.dot.gov

Village of Wintersville www.wintersville.net

Weirton Chamber of Commerce www.weirtonchamber.com

West Virginia Department of Transportation www.wvdot.com

West Virginia Development Office www.wvdo.org