REGIONAL REVIEW

Volume 13, Issue 4

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson **Metropolitan Planning Commission** Fall /Winter 2012

2012 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER HONORS VICTOR GRECO, JOHN CHERNENKO AND DR. THOMAS GRAHAM

ourteen years ago in 1998, BHJ held it's first awards din- Northern District of West Virginia. At the time of his appointner at the Williams Country Club in Weirton, WV. Since ment, he was the youngest marshall serving. that time, 44 awards, including one media award, have been given to well deserving individuals who have given of their During the 1980's and 1990's, he was elected three times to the time and talent to serve the tri-county area. This year's West Virginia State Senate for Brooke, Hancock and Ohio awardees are no exception.



Award, is well known dith, complete the family. throughout Brooke County. He has served as Victor Greco, the recipient ern Panhandle Fellowship volvement. Home, Tri-State Council

on Alcoholism, Wellsburg Fourth of July Committee and the Victor moved to Weirton in Brooke County Committee on Aging.

He also belongs to the American Legion, VFW, Kiwanis, Fraternal Order of Police, Independent Guard Union-Weirton WVU with a B.S. Degree in Steel Corporation.

His life of service, however, has not been limited to Brooke County. He served his country in the Army during World War II. He fought at the Battle of the Bulge and was a member of the "Lost Battalion." He was taken as a prisoner of war after being captured at Mortain, France. He received the Purple Heart with cluster, the Bronze Star and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He is a founding member of the West Virginia Barbed Wire Post Number 1 and the local chapter of the American Prisoners of War Association. He is on the Board of Directors of the Brooke County Veterans Memorial Foundation. In 2009, he was recognized as the Brooke County Veteran of the Year. In the 1960's, John served in the administrations of John F.

Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson as U.S. Marshall for the

counties and served on more than eight committees.

John Chernenko, the re- John is married to the former Kathryn Smith. They have three cipient of the Bernie children: Gary of Charleston, Marc of Wellsburg and Janet Kazienko Public Service Mears of Huntington. Two grandchildren, Cullen and Mere-

an officer and/or held of the Volunteer Award, membership in numerous was born and raised in Fairlocal and state-wide or- mont, WV, He loves meetganizations including the ing people and has always Wellsburg BPOE, North- led a life of community in-

> 1951 and joined his brothers in the plumbing business after graduating from Business and Economics . (continued on page 4 & 7)



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After reading our short excerpt on Brooke Glass, you'll better understand how and why people like Ruby Greathouse from the Brooke County Historical Society, Jerry Barilla and Judy Bratten from Historic Fort Steuben and Dennis Jones from the Weirton Museum and Cultural Center has committed extraordinary time to preserve our regional heritage. Unfortunately, in the case of the 4 acre site in Wellsburg's South End, the Brooke Glass Company closed several decades ago; however, its contribution as the first glass factory in West Virginia continues to shine and is illustrated in our short perspective. I encourage you to step back and remember the 30+ glass factories once domi-



nantly our regional landscape. Over the past year, the Brooke-Hancock Council, the Wellsburg Redevelopment Committee and the Northern Brownfield Assistance Center have committed time and money to resurrect this strategic site to a new use. It's a continuing brownfields story and exemplifies our effort to honor but redevelop mothballed strate-gically located commercial-industrial properties.

The lead transportation article ("New Ohio River Bridge Reaches Financial Milestone") provides a moment to celebrate. After 18 years of need statements, public information meetings and preliminary engineering, a means to finance a new Ohio River Bridge has been adopted. Since 1994, a new Ohio River Bridge has been BHJ's #1 regional transportation priority. While we have "miles to go before we sleep", this two-state mammoth project has momentum and direction. The Fort Steuben Bridge was demolished in early 2012. The Market Street Bridge, reopened in December 2011, has an expected life-cycle of another nine years. The Veterans Bridge is the only local bridge with a heavy load capacity. Time is truly ticking.

Finally, in November, the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council adopted a five year investment plan called a "CEDS" or Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. No different than the private investor, our dollars and those of our federal and state partners need to be wisely spent. Skepticism frequently follows grand plans, especially documents with a five-year title. However, investors, partners and volunteers want to know the who, what and where of their effort. Recently, I had a CEDS participant state "Henry Ford never had a five-year plan." Actually, Henry Ford did have a five-year plan to answer investor questions and guide his expansion. Our challenge is to hold to our mutual priorities, amend when necessary and communicate successes from this "hold the course" agreement.

John C. Brown Executive Director Jbrown@bhjmpc.org

NEW OHIO RIVER BRIDGE REACHES FINANCIAL MILESTONE

Since 1994, the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission has designated the construction of a new Ohio River Bridge as its #1 regional transportation priority. On November 28th, after 18 years and at the direction of the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), the BHJ Commission confirmed the financial means to fund the project. The financial tool called a Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) advances upfront funding in anticipation of a federal-aid grant. This funding is a major funding milestone. WVDOT and ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) should be acknowledged for their achievement. The proposal would structure the release of two bonds totaling \$90 million in 2015 and 2016.

In 2003, supported by two need studies and the initial evaluation of eight construction options, a preferred bridge touchdown between Brilliant, Ohio and Wellsburg, West Virginia, was adopted by the Commission. In 2005, US Senators Byrd and Rocke-feller set aside \$18 million to move the project forward. Since that time, the Coast Guard has run barge simulations, environmental reviews have been completed and numerous local information meetings have been held. The most recent local meeting was held in August 2012 and allowed the general public to comment upon the impact of the project.

BROOKE-HANCOCK COUNCIL & ITS PARTNERS PRIORITIZE A FUTURE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

On November 19th, the Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council (BH) adopted a five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to prioritize investments in infrastructure for West Virginia's true Northern Panhandle. Representing the Region's West Virginia communities, the approach targets investments in "rising star" industries like transportation logistics, energy and education. A full copy of the CEDS may be found at <u>www.bhjmpc.org</u>

Regional Statistics	Brooke-Ha	ancock Re	pion to Me	tro Area to	West Virgi	nia	
					, trest ting.	ma	
					West		
			BH Region	Metro	Virginia		
Population 2011			54,415	123, 243	1,855,364		
Growth (%) Since 2000		-6.3%	-6.6%	2.6%			
Growth (%) Since 1990		-12.5%	-13.5%	3.5%			
Unemployment Rate (2011)			11.7	11.4	8		
Per Capita Personal Income (PCP) (2010)			\$29,737	\$30,079	\$32,042		
10 Year PCP Growth (%) adj. for inflation			4.4%	6.5%	15.5%		
Manufacturing - % of all jobs			25.9%	15.7%	7.0%		
Total Labor Force			23,955	55,247	799,883		
5-year % change			-5.5%	-3.6%	-1.7%		
10-year % change			-9.9%	-5.8%	-0.1%		
Workers Who do Commute		50.6%	40.6%	11.2%			

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Later that year, he teamed up with Louis Capito and others to form the first Weirton Cable TV Company serving downtown Weirton from an antenna on Marland Heights. He also went into the TV and appliance business.

He joined the Weirton Rotary in 1956 and remains a member today. He became president of the organization in 1961, Rotarian of the Year in 1972 and District 7530 Governor in 1996. Victor and his wife, Marjorie were "Ambassadors" in the Rotary's Student Exchange Program throughout the years.

In 1983, he was named "Citizen of the Year" being described as the "backbone of the business community" and "spine of civic organization. In 1998, Victor led Weirton's "Stand up for Steel" parade in his 1950 Ford truck "Henry." He continues to drive Henry in nearly every Weirton parade.

In the 1980s, Victor joined with several others to form a steel museum in Weirton. From this committee, two museums came into being—The Hancock County Museum and the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center. When Weirton Steel went into bankruptcy, Victor led the way in collecting materials donated by the mill. When the museum was chartered in 2006, he was elected as its first president and served in that capacity until 2008.

Today, he continues to be active for Rotary, the museum and the Weirton Port Authority.

Victor has been married to Marjorie since 1955. Together they became a great civic team contributing and participating in St. Paul's Church and many other organizational activities. They have four children—Cindy, Victor Ray, Jimmy and Susie.



In his tenth year as a Jefferson County Commissioner, Dr. Thomas E. Graham, is this year's recipient of the Special Recognition Award. He is also the current chairman of the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Dr. Graham graduated from Toronto High School in 1973. He worked for eight years at Weirton Steel before enrolling at Kent State University where he graduated in 1984 with a B.S. Degree certified to teach economics, history and sociology. In 1987, he received his first Master's Degree from Kent State specializing in the sociological analysis of educational policy and educational systems. In 1992, he graduated from Kent State with a Ph.D in Sociology. He received a second Master's Degree in 1995 from the University of Pittsburgh in clinical Social Work. He has been a professor of Sociology at Franciscan University since 1998 and is the current director of the sociology and social work program.

Dr. Graham has had a vast experience in politics. In addition to the Jeffer-

son County Commission, he was the recreational director for the City of Toronto and for five years was the safety director for the City overseeing the police and fire departments. He was on the 2009/2011 Board of Trustees for the State of Ohio for the County Commissioners Association.

He has served on many boards over the years: Toronto City Schools; Jefferson County Joint Vocational School Board; Jefferson County Behavioral Health Board; Salvation Army, Fourth Street Health Clinic Board of Directors and currently is a member of the Historic Fort Steuben Board of Directors.

He is the recipient of numerous honors: the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society; Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Science and the Public Service Award from the Fourth Street Health Clinic. He was accepted into Who's Who in America and selected to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board for Collegiate Press for analyzing textbooks.

Dr. Graham is an accomplished writer with several publications including eight critical reviews of research articles for the American Educational Research Association. He also has a published book titled *Contextual Effects on Students' Evaluations of Professors* with University Microfilms, Inc. Ann Arbor Michigan (Copywrite Certificate 10/22/93.)

BHJ TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM. BY DAVE SNELTING, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER

BHJ's ongoing traffic count program is organized into a three year cycle. That is, each established count location in the program is counted at least once every three years. For example, Count Cycle Year 2012 was year one of three. The three year count program was organized in 2006 so 2012 was the third time cycle year one count locations were counted.

These counts provide a snap shot of traffic volume trends in the region and are also used in the validation process of the agency's Travel Demand Model (TDM). The TDM is a computer program that uses zonal census population and employment data to generate and assign traffic volumes to a link-node type roadway network. It is a useful tool to assist in projecting travel patterns in the region in order to identify trouble areas as traffic volumes change over time. Lately, the TDM has been used to assist in the development of traffic volumes for the new Ohio River Bridge south of Wellsburg. The roadway network surrounding the new bridge can also be reviewed for projected traffic volume impacts using the TDM.

To use the traffic count data for TDM validation, the historical count data is entered into the TDM network link database. To make the job of entering the traffic count data to the TDM easier, a computer program was written by the agency to process the count data into a format that can be used to populate roadway links in the TDM. The data are compared to the TDM assigned traffic volumes for the respective links in the validation process. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is in the process of hiring consultants to perform the 2010 TDM validation analysis on the BHJ model as well as all other MPO models in Ohio.

There were 423 counts of counts obtained in Brooke, Hancock and Jefferson counties. In Brooke County, counts obtained were primarily the external station sites for the Travel Demand Model, including all major routes at the border of Brooke County with Pennsylvania on the east as well as Ohio County on the south. Counts obtained throughout Hancock County included Weirton, New Cumberland, Chester and Newell areas. The count locations in Hancock county included TDM screen line locations as well as all TDM external station sites along the Pennsylvania border on the east and the Ohio River on the north. In Jefferson County counts were obtained primarily in the southern part of the county from US22 south. Counts along screen lines in the downtown Steubenville area were also obtained. The Steubenville counts were scheduled to be obtained in 2011 but were not possible due to changed traffic patterns affected by the Market Street Bridge closure and reconstruction of Washington Street. All TDM external station sites along the Belmont County border to the south, Harrison County and Carroll County to the west and Columbiana County to the north were obtained.

The 2012 Traffic Count Report is anticipated to be published in early 2013 and will be posted to BHJ's website for download as soon as it is available.

The equipment used includes eight four channel hose type traffic counter units, eight two channel hose type counter units (new in 2012-see below), seven plate type counter units and one acoustic type counter unit. In recent years, the agency has found the plate counter units to have issues when trying to use them in a vehicle classification mode. Because of this, the plate counters are only used in locations where obtaining a count with hose units would be impossible or dangerous.

Early in 2012, eight new two traffic counter units were obtained through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). These counters are on permanent loan from ODOT and are part of an agreement to obtain <u>Highway Performance Monitoring System</u> (<u>HPMS</u>) traffic count data on local streets and roadways in Jefferson County. HPMS data is required by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to monitor nationwide traffic volumes and trends. The counter units are state of the art hose type counters. Being considerably smaller and lighter than the agency's older hose counters, they are a welcome addition to the inventory.

Weather permitting, the 2013 traffic count program (cycle year two) will start in late March or early April. Areas to be counted in West Virginia include screen lines around Weirton, Follansbee, Wellsburg. In Jefferson County, counts are scheduled in Toronto, Mingo Junction, Steubenville, Springfield Township and central Jefferson County. The cycle year one counts in the US22 and SR7 interchange area are also scheduled as these were skipped in 2012 due to construction on SR7.

Member jurisdictions may request BHJ staff to count a specific location by contacting Dave Snelting, BHJ Transportation Engineer via email at <u>dsnelting@bhjmpc.org</u> or by calling 740-282-3685 x 205.

BROOKE GLASS: THE PAST

Information for this article came from several publications: *A History of Brooke County* by Nancy L. Caldwell; *Riverside Glass Works of Wellsburg, West Virginia 1879-1907* by C. W. Gorham and *Wellsburg West Virginia 1791-1991* by Anthony J. Cipriani, Sr.. Thanks to Ruby Greathouse who is a member of the Brooke County Museum located at 600 Main Street, Wellsburg, WV for providing the resources. Ms. Greathouse says the museum has several items made by the glass companies. You can call (304) 737-4060 for hours or to schedule a tour.

Today, it's a brownfields site, but yesterday.....

Riverside Glass Works was the first glass factory built in Wellsburg after the Civil War and was incorporated on September 17, 1879. It was located on the southeast corner of Sixth and Yankee Streets. Actual operations began on January 26, 1880. One of it's founders, John Dornam, was born in Ireland and began working in glasshouses at the age of 15.

The glass works consisted of two frame buildings. Tragedy struck when on September 8, 1886 the factory was destroyed by fire. When it was rebuilt the following year, the buildings were made as fireproof as possible.

Riverside was the first glasshouse in the area to utilize natural gas. The company was noted for their lamps that had a special collar called "Riverside Clinch on Collar." The glassware they made—cut and pressed glass, brick and stone fireproof glass, crackle and colored glass, beer and ale glasses, covered hen dishes, compotes, finger bowls, castor sets, goblets, tumblers, molasses jars, celery vases and water sets, both plain and engraved—was shipped all over the United States as well as Great Britain, South America and Mexico.

Riverside closed in 1907 and sold their molds to the Cambridge Glass Company. In 1911, the furnaces and buildings were sold to the Rithner family and Ellery Worthen who had established the Crescent Glass Company in 1908 originally located above 29th and Yankee Streets.

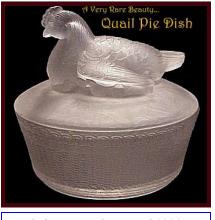
Before the Prohibition Era, Crescent specialized in bar goods. After Prohibition, the company began a new line of red lantern globes. Crescent eventually became the major supplier for Ford Motor Company's ruby-taillight lens. Crescent also made votive glass, lamp parts and novelty wares.

In 1983, Crescent was reorganized as the Brooke Glass Company with Henry Rithner, III being its president. Lamps were an important part of the operations with the employees doing the actual painting of them. The "Gone With the Wind" lamp was particularly popular. A customer could bring their own photo in and have the image painted onto the lamp.

Today, the buildings sit empty—a silent reminder of a once thriving business in Brooke County.



Empress Pattern



Made by Riverside around 1880, it is among some of the very early pieces made by this company.

Ruby Brooke Glass



BROOKE GLASS SITE: WHAT CAN IT BECOME?

Brooke Glass ceased operations in 2001. Since closing, the property was used as an auction house for a time. In 2009, the owners listed the facility for sale. However, there has been an ongoing legislation battle between the current property owners and the EPA making it difficult to sell. A number of environmental issues are identified at the site. Preliminary soil samples indicate the presence of arsenic, barium, cadmium and lead.

In 2005, the Brooke Hancock Task Force identified Brooke Glass as a priority Brownfield Site. BHJ led the initiative to redevelop Brooke Glass and applied for and received a \$5,000 FOCUS Grant in 2012 which was used to host multiple visioning sessions. With the grant, other loans and community funding, it is hoped the property can be redeveloped into a park/ community center, a glass museum or perhaps a restaurant.



"In early 2012, the Wellsburg Redevelopment Committee, a council designated committee to prioritize local redevelopment sites, ranked the Brooke Glass site #1. Located one block from City Hall and the Brooke County Courthouse, its strategic location offers multiple redevelopment advantages." Dr. John Brown, BHJ Executive Director

ANNUAL DINNER 2012

The 2012 Award recipients are (l-r) Dr. Thomas Graham, Special Recognition; John Chernenko, the Bernie Kazienko Public Service Award and Victor Greco, Volunteer. The award for public service was changed this year to honor the late Bernie Kazienko (shown in photo on the right), Brooke County commissioner and BHJ chairman. Bernie, who lost his battle with cancer last December, was a prime example of what public service is all about.





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For a digital copy of

	FALL/WINTER CALENDAR	
December 24	BHJ Office Closed—Christmas Eve	
December 25	BHJ Office Closed—Merry Christmas!	
January 1	BHJ Office Closed—Happy New Year!!!!	
January 7	BHJ Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
January 21	BHJ Office Closed—Martin Luther King Day	
January 23	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission—Organizational Meeting	10:30 Noon
February 4	BHJ Executive Committee Meeting	Noon

this newsletter, scan the image below.



Appalachian Regional Commission www.arc.gov

Brooke County Economic Development Authority www.brookewv.org

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

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce www.jeffersoncountychamber.com

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

State of Ohio Government Information Www.ohio.gov

State of West Virginia Government Info. www.wv.gov Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau www.topofwv.com

U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov

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

U.S. Economic Development Administration www.commerce.gov

Village of Wintersville www.wintersville.net

Weirton Area Port Authority www.wapainc.org

Weirton Chamber of Commerce www.weirtonchamber.com

West Virginia Department of Transportation www.transportation.wv.gov.

West Virginia Development Office www.wvdo.org

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