

In This Issue

Page 1
Executive Director
Says Good-bye

Page 2
From the
Executive Director

Page 3
Resumes for
Executive Director
Position Accepted
until November 28

2014 Traffic
Counts Completed

Page 4—5
16th Annual
Awards Dinner

Page 6
Awards Dinner
Photos

Page 7
Through the Years

Page 8
Calendar of Events

SAYING GOOD-BYE

Sixteen years ago, in August of 1998, Dr. John C. Brown took over the reins as executive director for BHJ. In late November his tenure will come to an end upon his retirement.

John brought a diverse regional planning background when he came on board. He had experience as a practical working planner in Louisville, KY, and Williamsburg and Powhatan County VA. He also taught as a full-time professor in Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia Commonwealth University.

In addition, he has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in Public Policy Making from the University of Pittsburgh,

Part of John's mission was to put BHJ's name "out there." He wanted people to "know who we are" and to see the agency as a partner and a visionary. Two key words in John's vocabulary have been consensus and regionalism. He saw the importance of the three counties working together towards the common goal—to bring economic development to the region.

He worked diligently to assist other entities to obtain grant monies from the EDA and EPA to develop an awareness of brownfields and to realize there could be a viable use for these unsightly areas that once were the scene of flourishing industry.

The New Ohio River Bridge project became the #1 transportation priority under his leadership. And the list goes on. His contribution to BHJ and the tri-county area has been beneficial to all of us. He will be missed.

John will undoubtedly keep busy. He'll be able to spend more time with his family which includes his wife, Maureen, daughter, Meredith and his dog Danny. And we're sure he'll make time to do more of the things he enjoys such as hunting, fishing and playing tennis.

We wish him luck and a happy retirement.

Dr. Brown and his wife, Maureen.



BHJ METROPOLITAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
OFFICERS-2014

Dr. Tom Graham, Chairman
Mark Henne, Vice Chairman
Marvin Six, Secretary
Tom Timmons, Treasurer

STAFF

John C. Brown, PhD., AICP
Executive Director
jbrown@bhjmpc.org

Rhonda Howell
Finance Manager
rhowell@bhjmpc.org

Mary Moore, Receptionist
mmoore@bhjmpc.org

Nicholas Orsay
Sr. Transportation Planner
norsay@bhjmpc.org

Michael Parocki, Transportation
Study Director
mikepap@bhjmpc.org

David T. Snelting
Transportation Engineer
dsnelting@bhjmpc.org

Linda Taylor
Office Manager/Rideshare
ltaylor@bhjmpc.org

Barb Zimnoch, Sr. Community
Development Specialist
bzimnoch@bhjmpc.org

Publication of this newsletter is made possible with assistance from Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation, the West Virginia Development Office, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Economic Development Administration and BHJ member governments.

BHJ Regional Review
124 North Fourth Street
Second Floor
Steubenville, OH 43952
Ohio: (740) 282-3685
WV: (304) 797-9666
Fax: (740) 282-1821
Website: www.bhjmpc.org



FROM THE EXECUTIVE

After 16 years, as the BHJ Executive Director, I'll retire on November 28th. Over this time, we've accomplished much. We relocated to a larger and more professional office location in Steubenville's downtown. Our team has worked behind the scene, in an often unheralded position, to build support and create partnerships. We've advocated and traveled to substantiate infrastructure investments. At a cost of \$120 million, the recently announced new Ohio River Bridge crossing between Wellsburg and Brilliant is an obvious choice; however, water and sewer infrastructure such as the \$10 million ear mark for Mahan's Lane cannot be overstated. In 2005, we captured our first federal

brownfield assessment grant and expanded this building block program through two additional grants. The reopening of the Market Street Bridge for \$17 million and access improvements at the Veterans Bridge for \$12 million has years of history and a mammoth list of partners. My ear rings with survival vignettes such as "no surprises, don't assume, only the facts, communicate, and it's a long day have a sense of humor."

My first regional planning position found me in eastern Kentucky floundering in a street numbering system in Hazard and being called a "communist" at a full-throttle public meeting deep in the heart of poverty stricken Breathitt County. I taught as a tenured faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University; missed the sense of community; worked as a planning director in a rapidly growing suburb west of Richmond; got called a "Yankee"; got home sick; and wanted to taste chipped-chopped ham again and hear the adoring phrase "jackoff."

So, with interim Pittsburgh stops at a downtown non-profit and service as a commercial realtor, I found my calling as the Executive Director for the steel layered BHJ region. I've stayed long enough to see the words "the mills are coming back" move to the back seat. I've stayed long enough to see a few new entries such as fracking riding in the "shot gun" seat. I've seen extraordinary things accomplished by a small amount of people. I'm always challenged and amazed to look at our list of 50 local heroes honored through our long running awards program. Clearly, these heroes are people who said "yes" when others said "no."

I'm awed at how we do business today. We've embraced technology. In one hour, in place of a telephone tag line of "please return my call," I've responded with timely e-mails and texts. Out of the office? No problem. My iPhone 6 makes me available 24-7. Our monthly newsletter, through the art of Microsoft Publisher, provides a ground zero creation. If you don't know the who, what and where's behind BHJ, check out our constantly updated web site www.bhjmpc.org. You really are not an actively involved agency without a Facebook account spouting today's work. We don't tweet yet; however, I'm sure we're shortly resolve this oversight. Computer mapping, once a hand drawn art, has become a rapid response tool.

To my many partners and staff who stood as a sounding board, created options and weave a better future, I express my deepest appreciation. You have been the "best and brightest."

John C. Brown, AICP
Executive Director
"The Big Kahuna"

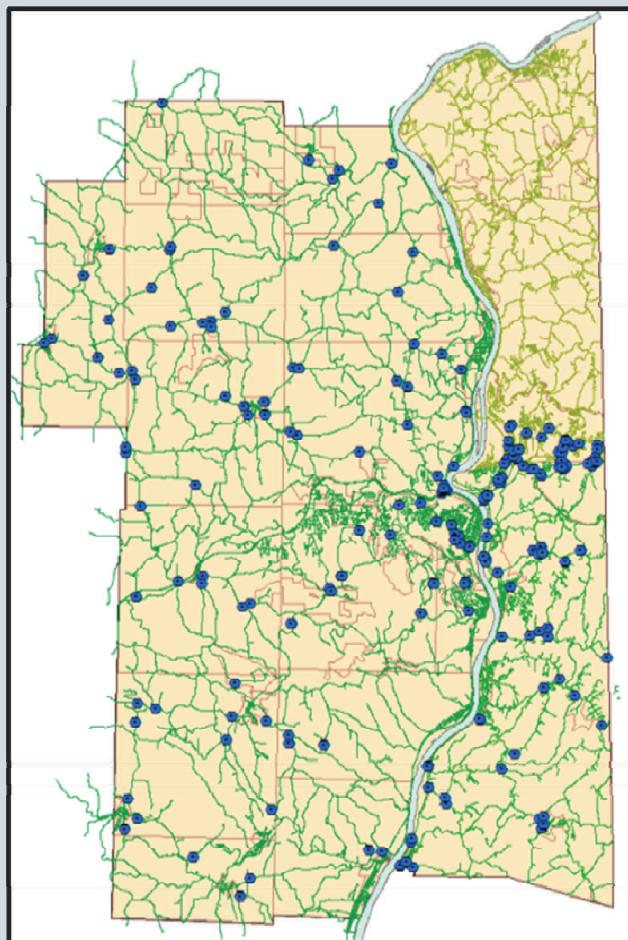
BHJ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION REOPENED

To further consider applicants, the BHJ Search Committee has opened their search for a new BHJ Executive Director until November 28th. The selected Executive Director will (1) oversee a staff of eight employees (2) coordinate a budget of \$850,000 (3) administer the commitment of Surface Transportation Program dollars within the region and (4) actively participate in brownfield/water-sewer expansion/community development in BHJ's West Virginia communities.

Minimum requirements include (1) an undergraduate degree in planning, public administration, engineering, architecture or related field. Graduate degrees are preferred (2) ten years of related experience and (3) excellent communication, computer, personnel and financial skills. The salary is negotiable and commensurate with qualifications.

Interested persons should apply through Dr. Thomas Graham, BHJ Chair, 178 Anthony Drive, Wintersville, OH 43953. tjimindie74@hotmail.com Phone: 740-381-0963. Please attach a cover letter and resume. All submittals must be postmarked or e-mailed **on or before November 28 (Friday) at noon**. Further background may be forwarded upon request. BHJ is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TRAFFIC COUNTS FOR 2014 ARE COMPLETED



The 2014 traffic count season has come to a close. Over a period of 6 1/2 months, from April 21 through November 4 counts were completed throughout the tri-county area. The map on the left shows the various locations completed for the 2014 cycle year. The total counts attempted were 405 with 389 counts acquired.

The photo below shows Nick Orsay logging a count location in Cross Creek Township on a tablet computer to BHJ's GIS server.



AWARDS ARE PRESENTED TO MARSHALL, WEAVER,

BHJ's 16th Annual Awards Dinner was held on Wednesday, October 22, at St. Florian Hall in Wintersville, OH. Awards were presented to three well-deserving individuals and one organization.



Patrick Marshall, Jefferson County Auditor, received the Bernie Kazienko Public Service Award for his 19+ years of service to the County. Prior to taking on the role of auditor, he was the Chief Deputy County Auditor for six years.

Pat says that when he first took office, the books were a mess. The County's book balance did not agree with the bank balance. With the help of the Treasurer's office, the books were balanced and since then have remained so.

Under his leadership, Jefferson County has made many improvements and accomplished much. The bond rating has been upgraded from non-investment grade ("Junk") to a solid investing grade rating. Taxpayers have seen a savings of millions of dollars with another bond rating upgrade from Moody's Investor Service.

His office has kept the tax rates in Jefferson County among the lowest in the State of Ohio. In addition, the property appraisal costs are also among the lowest in the State. Every year of his tenure the County has received an unqualified or clean audit opinion from the Ohio Auditor of State's office. For the past 16 years, the County has received the "Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Government Finance Officer's Association. This represents the highest award possible for financial reporting.

Pat was born and raised in Steubenville, OH. He and his wife, Joan, are the parents of six children. He is a graduate of Steubenville Catholic Central and the College of Steubenville. He is a member of Holy Rosary Parish.

The Special Recognition award was given to Kim Weaver, executive director of the Weirton Christian Center for her commitment to disadvantaged youth.

Initiated in 1909 under an apple tree on Avenue B within blocks of the mill, the Center has always supported children and family needs. With Kim's appointment in October 2006, the Center has been energized with enthusiasm and a passion for reaching out to disadvantaged youth and families.

Her position as Executive Director for the Center is to oversee the operations of a 91-year old ministry that provides a free pre-school to 3 and 4 year olds and an after school program for children in grades K-12. With the help of many volunteers, the Center offers homework help, tutoring, the Quarters for Grades program, music and art lessons, literacy programs at the library, visits to the geriatric center, the "Signs of Hop" performance group, community opportunities and entrepreneurial programs for middle and high school students.

Kim says, "When it comes to children, I feel that they are our most important assets, and the Christian Center is a place where they come for encouragement and educational opportunities for all areas of their lives." She emphasizes that children are forced to deal with a great amount of stress in today's world and they need a solid foundation to fall back on when things get tough.

Kim is an inspiration to all of us.



TARR, AND THE WEIRTON ROTARY CLUB

Henry Tarr, a lifelong resident of Weirton, WV was recognized with the Volunteer Award for his willingness to give of his time and talents to numerous organizations and causes over the years.

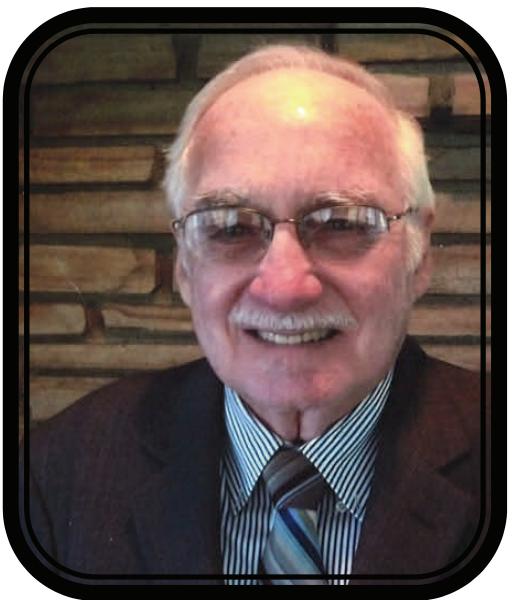
At the age of 15, he became a Weirton Heights volunteer fireman. Later he served as the Weirton Steel Fire Chief until his retirement in 1982. He also served as a fireman with the pit crew at the Indianapolis Speedway.

As a young man, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict from 1952 until 1954. Following that, he was in the Army Reserve.

Henry has a heart for the youth of the community. He was an adult volunteer for the Hoover Heights Elementary School PTA. He helped organize the Woodlawn Estates "We Care" center. He provided adult supervision at the center which was a place the kids could gather to play ping pong, dance, shoot pool and listen to music.

For thirty years he has been on the Brooke Hills Park board. He's also active with the Brooke County Fair and Spook House.

Henry has been married to Norma (Brooke County Commissioner) for almost 60 years. They are the parents of Verena and James. A granddaughter, Chelsea, and a great-grandson, Kody, complete the family.



Mayor George Kondik (center) presented the Organization Award to Weirton Rotary members (left) Steve Haynes and Dr. Morisett. Mayor Kondik is also a member of the Club.

The Weirton Rotary Club received the Organization Award for its support of the community by funding a scholarship for local high school students. The Club has provided nearly \$100,000 in scholarships.

In addition to the scholarship program, the Weirton Rotary Club sponsors the Madonna and Weir High School city basketball championship, the Weirton Rotary youth Soccer League, Weirton United Way, local academic games competition, the Hugh O'Brien youth Leadership Program, Salvation Army and youth exchange programs.



The award recipients shown left to right: Kim Weaver, Patrick Marshall, Henry Tarr, Dr. Morisett and Steve Kladakis.

PHOTOS FROM THE AWARDS DINNER



Pictured left to right—Steubenville Mayor Domenic Mucci, BHJ Executive Director John Brown, Award Recipients Kim Weaver, Patrick Marshall, Henry Tarr and Dr. Morisetty and Steve Kladakis representing the Weirton Rotary Club and Wellsburg City Manager Mark Henne.

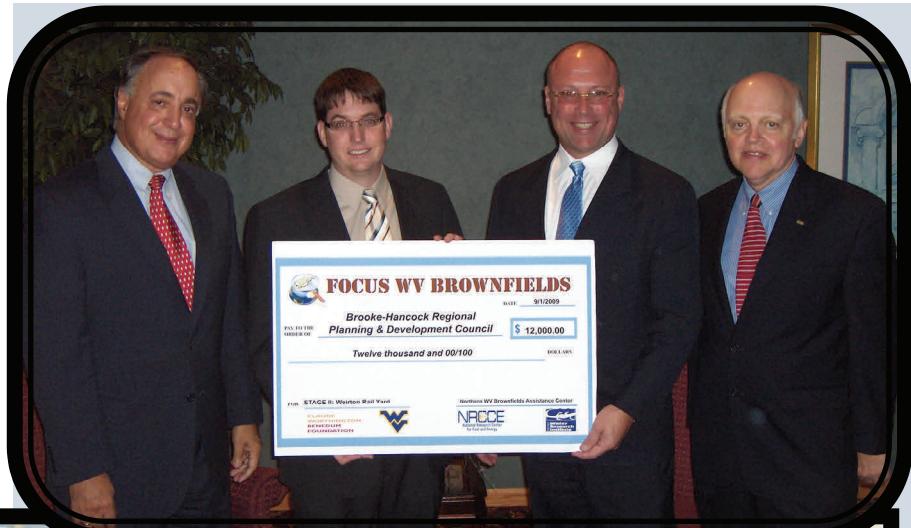


Top left—Attendees enjoying the social hour.

Bottom left—Dr. Brown receives a Proclamation recognizing his service from State Rep Jack Cera

Pat Ford's (BDC of the Northern Panhandle Executive Director) name was called for a door prize.

THROUGH THE YEARS



CALENDAR

November 19	Technical Advisory Committee Full Commission	10:30 Noon
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Holiday—BHJ Office Closed	
December 1	Executive Committee Meeting	Noon
December 25	Christmas—BHJ Office Closed	
January 5	Executive Committee Meeting	Noon

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

CommuteInfo
www.commuteinfo.org

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 Chamber of Commerce
www.weirtonchamber.com

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

West Virginia Development Office
www.wvdo.org

WORKFORCE
www.info@npworkforceww.org