State Route 43  Long-awaited access improvements to the WalMart Distribution Center and Jefferson County’s Industrial Park on US 22 and Jefferson Route 43 will be initiated in August. The construction contract for this project was awarded to Shelly & Sands Inc., from Zanesville, Ohio, on June 15, 2006, for $5.2 million. ODOT anticipates construction beginning sometime this month and being completed by fall 2007. A pre-construction meeting with the contractor is scheduled this week to determine an exact start date. Traffic will be maintained during construction, but congestion and some traffic delays are expected.

Ft. Steuben Bridge  On May 30, 2006, ODOT District 11 announced that effective Monday, June 19, 2006, the Fort Steuben Bridge would close to all truck traffic.

ODOT District 11 first reduced the legal load limits for truck traffic in April 2004. At that time, trucks were required to maintain 100-foot spacing between them. Further reductions occurred in December 2005, and depending on the axle configuration of the truck, were at 10, 11, 12 and 19 tons respectively.

“When the last reductions occurred, we said that the bridge would remain open as long as those posted load limits were observed," said ODOT District 11 Deputy Director James Spain. "Unfortunately, they are not." Upon completion of recent bridge inspections, it has been deemed necessary to reduce the maximum weight limit for all vehicles allowed to cross the bridge even further due to the continually deteriorating condition of the structure and nonobservance and violation of the current load restrictions. Spain said, "When the posted load limits for trucks are not being observed, it creates a safety concern for us, and we understand it's difficult for the Ohio State Highway Patrol to be at the bridge to enforce the weight limits all the time. The safest thing for us to do and the way we can get the most life out of the bridge is to close it to all truck traffic immediately.

The legal load limits will be posted, depending on the axle configuration of the vehicles at 4, 6, 7 and 10 tons respectively. The bridge will remain open at this time as long as the posted load limits are observed, and it remains safe to travel.

What does this mean for area drivers? The next issue of the Regional Review will focus on traffic problems and solutions.

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As we enter this new fiscal year, we ask your continued financial support for BHJ’s regional services. As the federally recognized regional agency for transportation planning and a key funding source for infrastructure and entrepreneurial programs, we hope you will continue to support regional improvements through the “Municipal Per Cap” charge. Based upon a 23 cent per person formula, each municipality formally received this charge request in June. Based upon services delivered and dollars leveraged from the federal and state government, we believe your investment is a true bang for the dollar.

We acknowledge the trust you have placed in our hands. For every one dollar delivered locally, BHJ leverages six additional dollars of outside investment. With a budget of $758,343 for Fiscal Year 07, we will have the greatest ability to continue and expand regional services. We know local communities struggle to provide services. When I attend local council meetings, its clear local financial resources are limited. Tough decisions about your community’s quality of life are forefront.

The Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission (BHJ) is a customer based business of 27 municipalities and three counties. Based upon their size and location, these communities have a variety of service needs. If your community has a population of 200 and lies in the region’s outer rural rim, your needs are clearly different than a community with a population of 20,000 and situated near the regional core.

The common denominator is how communities may save money and receive better services through the promotion of intergovernmental communication, cooperation, and collaboration on issues that have a greater than local impact. So, maybe the recent designation of US 22, our regional east/west four-lane road corridor, as a macro corridor means nothing to the single household; however, it does mean saved travel time and safety. It was initiated through municipal community contributions to BHJ. From a simple bridge renovation in Amsterdam to infrastructure planning in Beech Bottom to a multi-million new Ohio River Bridge crossing, BHJ with a majority board of locally elected officials impacts communities in a positive and fundamental way.

In sum, you are a valued customer. We understand if we don’t provide responsible service we won’t attract customers and investors. And without customers, we don’t have a business. We understand customer service is real, it matters and most importantly, it is achievable.

(continued on page 3)
The 8th Annual Awards Luncheon is now history and if you were unable to attend, you missed a great event. Thanks to Dr. John Brown and the BHJ Staff for planning such a nice luncheon.

The Awards Nominating Committee, consisting of Norma Tarr, Jeff Davis, and Dave Maple, did an excellent job in choosing the award recipients. This year’s award winners were Mark Vignovic, Public Service Award; Mike O’Brien, Volunteer of the Year Award; and Huberta Schiappa Siciliano and Teresa Schiappa, Special Recognition Award. Each of these outstanding individuals has spent many years of their lives giving back to their communities and is well deserving of the honor bestowed upon them. They exemplify what we all hope to achieve. I certainly appreciate their dedication and continuing efforts to make our area a better place to live, work, and play.

I would like to say thank you to our keynote speaker, Jim Spain, who is the District Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation’s District 11, which is Jefferson County’s transportation district. Jim is a veteran of state government, spending the last eight years as a part of the department’s management team. He lives in Harrison County and is quite familiar with the transportation needs of our area. His comments were very informative and held everyone’s attention. Jim is certainly an asset to the District 11 staff.

The entire luncheon and program was completed in approximately an hour and a half and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and good food. So, I suggest you try not to miss next year’s awards luncheon, it is time spent well. I want to wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

In cooperation with our many regional partners, the following achievements were accomplished over the past year.

✦ On a bi-monthly basis, BHJ through its full commission of elected officials formally approves all federal and state transportation projects in the region.

✦ In August 05, through a continuing dialogue with West Virginia Senators Byrd and Rockefeller, a federal appropriation of $18 million was made to create further planning and initiate design for a New Ohio River Bridge near Wellsburg, West Virginia.

✦ In mid-05, BHJ received a second grant in the amount of $200,000 to prioritize and redevelopment mothballed commercial-industrial properties, commonly called brownfields.

✦ In December 05, BHJ finalized an entrepreneurial action plan to create jobs through economic diversification.

✦ In mid-06, BHJ finalized a transit consultant report to evaluate options for coordination among five transit providers in the region.

✦ Over the past two years, BHJ has led a bi-monthly meeting of businesses and DOT’s to create further access options near the Veterans Bridge.

✦ Throughout the year, BHJ helped coordinate significant water and sewer projects including Mahan’s Lane Sewer Extension, the Beech Bottom Water Line Extension and the Route 8 Sewer Extension.

John Brown, AICP
jbrown@bhjmpc.org
The eighth annual awards luncheon was held Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at Froehlich’s Classic Corner in Steubenville. Approximately 40 people attended the luncheon honoring four individuals who have made a marked difference in the tri-county region.

Mark Vignovic, this year’s Special Recognition Award recipient, was nominated by the Hancock County Commission. He is the chairman of the Hancock County Solid Waste Authority, and has held that position since 1989. For the past six years he has led the electronic recycling program which annually collects over 22,000 pounds of obsolete electronic items in a single day. In addition, he has been instrumental in the clean-up of numerous Hancock County sites including a $450,000 improvement at the Willard Gardner site.

He previously served as Weirton Steel’s manager of environmental control operations as well as director of environmental control. A 1980 graduate of Penn State University, he holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from Penn State University. He currently is vice-president of Jamegy, Inc. which has enhanced environmental operations and expanded job opportunities.

Mark resides in Weirton with his wife, Debbie.

The recipient of the Volunteer Award, Mr. Mike O’Brien of Wellsburg, is committed to his community as well as family and friends. His list of volunteer activities includes being a member of the Wellsburg Applefest Committee since its creation in 1979, the Wellsburg July 4 Committee and for over 45 years has been an active member of the Wellsburg Lions Club. For more than 20 years he has been the chairman of both the St. John Church Annual Mardi Gras and the Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce Christmas Light-up Committee. As a member of the Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation, he coordinated the 2003 re-enactors’ stop at Wellsburg to honor Patrick Gass.

Ruby Greathouse, who nominated Mike and is also a member of the BHJ Full Commission, says that he “believes in the celebration of events and persons.” St. Patrick’s Day will find him in full proper attire and hat. His impersonation of Johnny Appleseed is enjoyed by the elementary students at Wellsburg Primary School.

A graduate of Wellsburg High School and West Liberty State College, he resides in Wellsburg with his wife, Sharon. Four children and eleven grandchildren complete the family.

The Special Recognition Award went to Huberta Schiappa Siciliano and Teresa Schiappa, trustees for the Mary A. Schiappa Trust. They were nominated by Richard Delatore, past Jefferson County commissioner and BHJ board member.

The Mary A. Schiappa Trust is committed to the creation of jobs and redevelopment through the promotion and development of a 5,000 acre parcel in Island Creek Township near the WalMart Distribution Center. The plan for these proposed regional improvements is known as New Horizon. The plan draws upon the original concepts of Albert Schiappa, the founder of the Schiappa coal Company.

Huberta and Teresa are dedicated to fulfilling their parents’ vision and work diligently to keep that dream alive.

The speaker for the event was Mr. Jim Spain, District Deputy Director, ODOT District 11. The event was sponsored by the following banks: Chase, National City, Sky and WesBanco.
BHJ ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

SUMMER 2006 EVENTS

August 1  BHJ Executive Committee Meeting  Noon
September 4  Labor Day—Office Closed
September 5  BHJ Executive Committee Meeting  Noon
September 20  TAC  Full Commission  10:30  Noon
October 2  BHJ Executive Committee  Noon

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!!!!

Award Winners
Mike O’Brien, Elaine Smith (representing Teresa Schiappa), Huberta Schiappa - Sciliano and Mark Vignovic.

Jim Spain—ODOT District Deputy Director
C

hange is evolutionary. At first glance, it is unset-
tling. Many of us fear change; some of us flee from
it; others fight it, and some grudgingly adapt. Many are
learning to welcome change as a “norm” in our life.
However, when we empower ourselves to “drive change”,
we reposition ourselves on the power curve. The quality
of our journey is often dependent upon our attitudes to-
ward change, flexibility, creativity, and “joie de vive”. I
want to share a short story describing my journey “home”
to the Ohio Valley.

On September 11, 2001, I was on the telephone with our
east coast distribution facility, arranging for priority de-
ployment of product from our Sherman, Texas plant to the
NJ distribution center, when the radio station announced
that the World Trade Center had been hit by a plane. My
NJ colleague and I had just concluded our business, when
this horrific tragedy began to unfold. Stunned, our con-
versation about “base business” seemed so insignificant!
We stayed on the phone together for another half hour
talking about how our picture of reality had changed, for-
ever. As our radios announced that the towers had just
collapsed, our idealism hid behind the clouds.

2001 was a spiritual, professional, and emotional mile-
stone for me.

• In less than 10 years, our corporation experienced
three corporate reorganizations – the latest reorganization
was showing all the signs of a “soon to be announced
plant closing”.

• A few months earlier my dad died of a stroke; we had
lost mom five years prior, to cancer - I had not taken the
time to grieve!

• 70 hour work weeks had taken their toll – I was bal-
ancing a full time job as an Operations Manager for a For-
tune 50 company, plus additional roles as an active com-
munity leader, graduate student, step mom, and small
business owner. Who appointed me superwoman?

• After 25 years as a corporate line manager, business
unit manager, supply chain manager, and entrepreneur, I
learned to drive organizational change, very well. But,
along the way, I had focused on everyone else’s needs,
but lost touch with my own.

These reflections prompted me to re-evaluate my priori-
ties and prepare for a change. Just as my house in Texas
sold, the corporation announced that it was closing the
plant and relocating the operations overseas. What a per-
fect time to pay off bills and relocate to Follansbee with a
better cost of living!

By April 2002, I was traveling, cross-country, to the Ohio
Valley. I hadn’t lived in the area since I had graduated
from Bethany College in 1974. During the trip, I recalled
stories that my parents shared with me about the area and
the challenges faced by their parents when they relocated
from their birth country to the United States.

Mom’s parents relocated from Lebanon to New Jersey
and owned several retail businesses. Mom attended the
Juliard School of Music, but opted to become a nurse and
later joined the Army where she met my dad. Her sensi-
tivity, excellent technical skills, and love of learning made
her an excellent mother, teacher, and nurse.

My dad’s father was a mason and general contractor. By
the age of 10, dad had lost two siblings, and upon his arri-
val in America, he had to learn English. His hard work
and tenacity generated academic and athletic achieve-
ments, which earned him the chance to attend Kenyon
College, an ivy league school in Gambier, Ohio. He
worked his way through school washing dishes, laboring
in the mill for Mr. Millsop, and as an apprentice carpenter
and mason for his dad and other local builders. Shortly
after his graduation, World War II started and he enlisted
in the Air Force. He pursued a distinguished 30 years ca-
creer in the military, and retired as a Colonel. Post-military
professional assignments included: personnel director for
a major urban hospital, hospital administrator, regional
chamber of commerce executive, and economic devel-
oper. He returned to Follansbee in 1982.

Obviously, my relocation from Northern Panhandle of
Texas to the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia was a
“piece of cake”, compared to the changes that my grand-
parents and parents encountered, such as: World War I,
immigration, new languages and customs, the depression,
World War II, the industrial and nuclear revolutions.
As I walked in to the three-level brick home that my
grandfather designed and built in the 1920’s in the orchard
of Follansbee, WV, I realized that this home represented a
valuable legacy far more important than its market value.
- JOI DE VIVE!

My heritage was centered on: a strong work ethic, a solid religious foundation, perseverance, the spirit of entrepreneurism, as well as the courage to meet change head-on. I knew through extended family and friends, that these values are shared by many in this valley. It didn’t take long for this house to feel like “home”.

The next challenge centered on my career. Thanks to outstanding educational experiences at Bethany College and Rutgers University, small business ownership experience, and versatile work assignments of increasing responsibility with multiple Johnson and Johnson locations in New Jersey and Texas, I developed a diversified background. Strengths included: personnel staffing, training, operations management, supply chain optimization, and organization development. Today, as a performance consultant, workforce development trainer, and business manager, I welcome each day with “joi de vive”. “Coming home” has improved my health, quality of life, and desire to contribute. I also welcome new opportunities for growth!

On a macro-level, our Northern Panhandle has been significantly impacted by the volatile coal and steel industrial life cycles. Thanks to family, friends, and business colleagues, I learn more every day about Ohio Valley resources. Short-term, limited tax revenues will force use to integrate and combine organizations, redefine roles and relationships, and leverage our funding, programs, and human capital. Currently, we need new ideas, clear plans, and more people committed to making things happen.

Economic development is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, collaborative teamwork, innovation, skillful planning and execution, and the vision to see changes and obstacles as opportunities.

I am now passionate about recruiting our youth, college students, community, and business colleagues to join our county planning and economic development initiatives. We need market our valley to families, alumni associations, and professional networks. Through outreach, synergy, and perseverance we can promote and achieve economic growth for our region.

Joan Simonetti Beck is an adult education instructor for RESA-6, performance consultant (Performance PLUS Assoc.), and President of the Brooke County Economic Development

MEET TOM BAYUZIK—PROGRESS ALLIANCE

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Thomas Bayuzik Jr. was educated in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and is a graduate of Taylor Allderdice H.S. Bayuzik earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/Regional Planning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Bayuzik also completed a professional certificate program in real estate from the University of Pittsburgh; is a graduate of Regional Vision-Leadership Development in Rural Northwest Pennsylvania; and attended economic development training at Penn State University and the University of Oklahoma.

Bayuzik has over 18 years of economic development experience throughout his career. In 1999, Bayuzik was appointed by Tom Murphy, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh as Director of the Mayors Office of Economic Development (’99-’03). Prior to 1999, Bayuzik served in various positions including: Executive Director, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development (’97-’99); Director of Economic Development, City of Oil City, PA (’94-’97); Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority of the City of DuBois, DuBois, PA; Project Manager, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA. (’87-’92).

Bayuzik has served on boards of numerous organizations including; Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board, Regional Development Funding Corporation, Duquesne University’s Chrysler Small Business Development Center, Oakland Business Improvement District, Southwestern PA Planning Commission, Indiana County Small Business Incubator, Oil Region Enterprise Zone, Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, and the Greenfield Organization.

Bayuzik is married to Jennifer and has three daughters, Courtney, Alexandra, and Chloe.
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.ci.steubenville.oh.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