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## **BROOKE-HANCOCK BROWNFIELDS TASK FORCE RECEIVES AWARD**

At the tenth annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference held in mid September at the Erikson Alumni Center on the WVU campus, the Brooke-Hancock Brownfields Task Force received the Environmental Impact Award. Randy C. Huffman, cabinet secretary for the WV DEP, presented the award in recognition of the dedication of the Task Force to brownfields redevelopment in West Virginia.

The Task Force was organized about 13 years ago under the direction of former BHJ Executive Director, John Brown. The purpose of the group was to compile an inventory of properties in the region that could be addressed for cleanup and reuse. Two examples of properties in the program include the TS&T Pottery site located in Chester, WV and the former Banner Fiberboard site in Wellsburg, WV.

Currently, the TS&T site is in the cleanup phase. The Banner Fiberboard site cleanup was completed and is now in use by Eagle Manufacturing which resulted in its expansion and creation of jobs.

(l-r) Pat Ford (BDC of the Northern Panhandle); Randy Huffman (WVDEP);  
John Brown (former BHJ Executive Director); Marvin Six (BDC); Dave Olsen  
(CEC); Barb Zimnoch (BHJ) and Sue Simonetti (Mayor, City of Wellsburg)



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Autumn colors are upon us and the 2015 highway construction season winds down, a new set of construction projects is ready to begin.



One such project is the long-anticipated Veteran's Memorial Bridge Access Improvements at the north end of Steubenville where Ohio State Route 7 (SR7) and U.S. Route 22 (US22) intersect just north of Steubenville, Ohio. Starting in the fall of 2006, representatives of the BHJ Technical Advisory Committee, the City of Steubenville, the City of Weirton, business stakeholders in the project area, and ODOT District 11 first met as a committee to discuss alternative solutions to improve ingress and egress to and from the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. The first few months of planning proved to be very frustrating. Very quickly, planners and engineers involved found that probable improvements, short and long term, presented many unique challenges. The planning team identified several significant design constraints including an active railroad and the Ohio River on the east, a high hillside and large retaining wall system to the west, and an active railroad bridge and elementary school to the south. Another important consideration was continued and improved access to the Steubenville Marina and industrial river front businesses entering at a rail crossing on LaBelle Avenue adjacent to SR7.

A Summary of Effort Report completed by BHJ with guidance from ODOT in August 2008 and revised in March 2009, documented 31 possible alternative solutions. Four alternatives advanced to Environmental Review process. In 2010, ODOT District 11 selected the GPD Group of Columbus, OH to complete the environmental document to select the preferred alternative and complete engineering plans to construct the project. After two Public Open House meetings in December 2010 and May 2012, the GPD Group selected a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) design. In all, preliminary engineering, right of way, and construction is estimated to cost more than \$14.8 Million. The Ohio Department of Transportation has scheduled a construction sale date of October 22, 2015.

To review this project's history and better understand how a Continuous Flow Intersection works, go to the BHJ MPC web site at <http://www.bhjmpc.org/veterans-memorial-bridge/>

Stay in touch and let's keep looking ahead to another productive New Year.

Your faithful and humble servant,

*Michael J. Parocki*



## MARK HENNE BIDS FAREWELL

Since 2009, it has been my privilege to serve in various capacities with BHJ. Two areas that I have found most rewarding are the work to continue our work toward a new Ohio River Bridge and the Brownfields Task Force. Much progress has been made, but many issues remain.

BHJ is in a unique position to continue to exact positive influence and progress on the future wellbeing of our region. I want to thank all the members, past and present that I have had the privilege of serving with and the staff of BHJ.

While I leave as City Manager of Wellsburg, I plan to continue to contribute to the City and Region in my areas of interest and as opportunities present themselves. In my so called retirement, I plan to pursue outstanding personal goals and spend time with my family.

Thank you and best wishes!

*Mark R. Henne*



## WELCOME SAM LEEMAN

Sam Leeman lives in Cincinnati, OH. He attended high school there and has also lived in Athens, OH and Sofia, Bulgaria. Sam is in his fifth year of the five year Urban Planning program at the University of Cincinnati. He has an older brother and a younger sister, his father is a professor at Northern Kentucky University and his mother is a reading specialist at Springer Elementary school in Cincinnati OH. Sam hopes to work in transportation planning in the future. His dream job would be working on high speed rail projects like the one proposed in Ohio in 2010.

“Transportation is a vital and immensely influential aspect of planning. Transportation needs to be planned very carefully by professionals with a deep understand of the challenges being faced and a comprehensive understanding of the surrounding contexts of every decision. BHJ provides an excellent blend of local knowledge and professional skill that is more than enough to guide the region in a smart, comprehensive and positive direction. Although BHJ doesn’t actually employ any planners, which as a planner I can’t condone, the analysis and solutions that Mike, Dave, and Nick (BHJ Transportation staff) produce are befitting even the best planners.”



## **READY OR NOT—IT'S COMING!**



Ready or not, winter will soon be arriving and along with it snow, ice and freezing temps. Driving at times will be hazardous. Fortunately, both Ohio and West Virginia Departments of Transportation are ahead of the game and already have measures in place for dealing with icy and snow covered roads.

In a recent publication, ODOT said that after two consecutive record-breaking winters, they are preparing for the coming season by readying its snow and ice equipment, filling salt barns and ensuring operators and mechanics are well trained.

In addition, ODOT crews will conduct 150-point inspections to repair and tune snow removal equipment

throughout October and November. ODOT Director Jerry Wray said that snow plow trucks were driven 12 million miles last winter. He also said that the inspections are critical in making sure the equipment is road-ready when the snow starts to fall.

ODOT has more than 1,800 snow plow trucks and 3,000 operators that clear snow and ice from 43,000 miles of U.S. and Interstate routes. Roads are prioritized for snow and ice control. Interstates are the highest priority, followed by four lane non-interstates, two lane primary roads and two lane secondary roads. Truck plowing routes are based on local needs, with key transportation areas, emergency routes and traffic volumes being factors in the selection process.

ODOT reminds motorists in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow. Last winter, 89 vehicles struck ODOT snow plow trucks as a result of following too closely.



# OHIO & WEST VIRGINIA DOT'S PREPARING FOR WINTER

It is the intention of the West Virginia Division of Highways to control snow and ice conditions on all state maintained roadways, so traffic may continue to move as safely as possible with a minimum amount of inconvenience.

Approximately 4,500 WVDOH employees are dedicated to the task of keeping nearly 36,000 miles of roadway in safe condition during snow and ice events. An average of \$55 Million is dedicated to the WVDOH Snow Removal and Ice Control season, which typically runs November through March.

The WVDOH uses a variety of products to treat roadways before and during winter weather events:

**Sodium Chloride**, commonly referred to as road salt is typically mixed with rock, cinders, or sand and used to melt existing snow and ice on paved surfaces. Salt cannot be used on surface treated, gravel, or dirt roads. Salt works best in temperatures above 20 degrees.

**Calcium Chloride** is a liquid de-icer that is used in extreme conditions and in lower temperatures to melt ice and snow.

Salt and water are mixed to form **brine**, a solution that is used as an anti-icing agent. Brine is sprayed on pavements before snow falls to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the roadway.

WVDOH routes and priorities for snow and ice removal is very much like Ohio's.

**First Priority** is roads of major importance and high traffic volume. They are plowed and treated first and receive ongoing maintenance during winter events. These routes consist of all Interstates, major routes, and high traffic roadways connecting urban areas.

**Second Priority** is roads of just slightly less importance and traffic volume, such as school bus routes not included in First Priority routes. Second Priority routes are covered as conditions permit by the same equipment and personnel assigned to the maintenance of First Priority routes.

**Third Priority** is low traffic volume roads that receive attention only after all Second Priority routes have been covered.



## BROOKE HILLS PARK

Unlike the previous parks featured in the *Regional Review* (Stanton Park in Jefferson County and Rock Springs Park in Hancock County which no longer exist), Brooke Hills Park is an operating and thriving recreational spot that offers many amenities for the entire family.

Brooke Hills Park is situated on land once owned by the Gist Family. The Gist farm, called Happy Hills Farm, was known for its prize-winning corn as well as its quality wheat and horses it supplied for buggies and riding. The farm had a variety of livestock, including sheep, which provided wool that was another source of income for the farm.

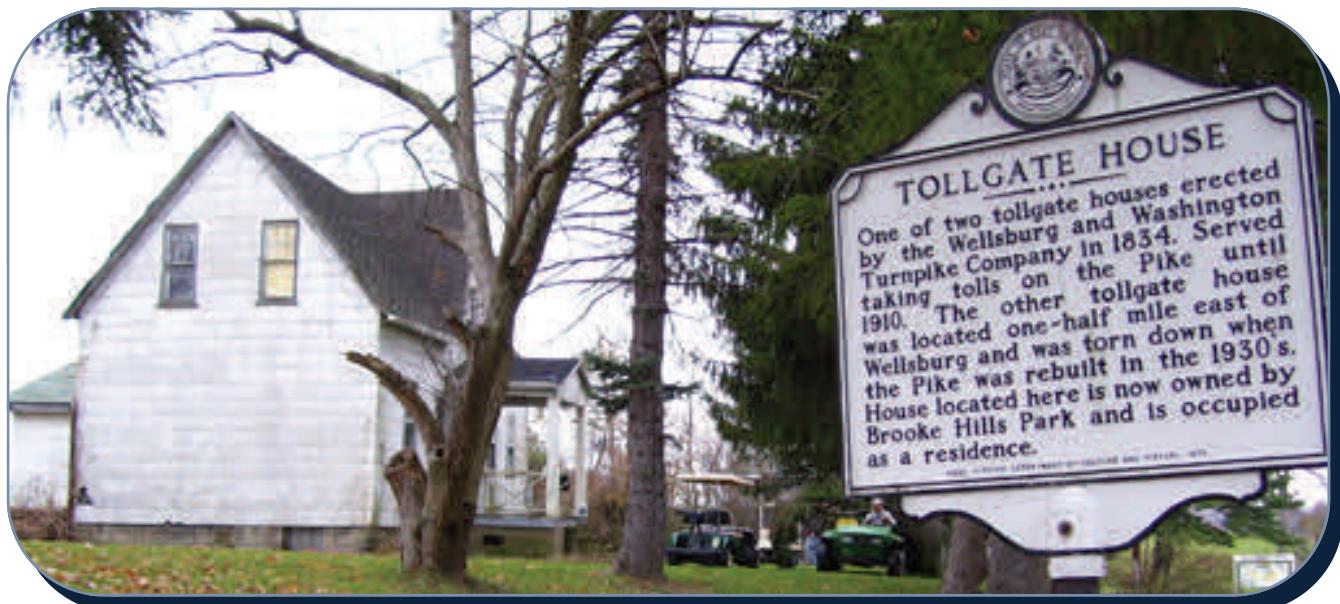


Cornelius Howard Gist Home Built In 1814 Near Wellsburg, West Virginia

The Gist family's home was built in the early eighteen hundreds by Cornelius Gist, leader of the Wellsburg and Washington Turnpike Co. The company laid the limestone surface for the toll road that brought many traveling from Washington, Pa., past the Gist farm and into Wellsburg.

More than 55 years ago, the Gist Family willed 750 acres of land to Brooke County and the Brooke Hills Park was born. The road leading into the park was originally known as Hinkson Road (now Gist Drive). W.C.Gist 's home is located on the right side of the road. W.C. Gist served as Brooke County Agriculture Agent for 30 years and he was instrumental in providing rural homes in the county with electricity.

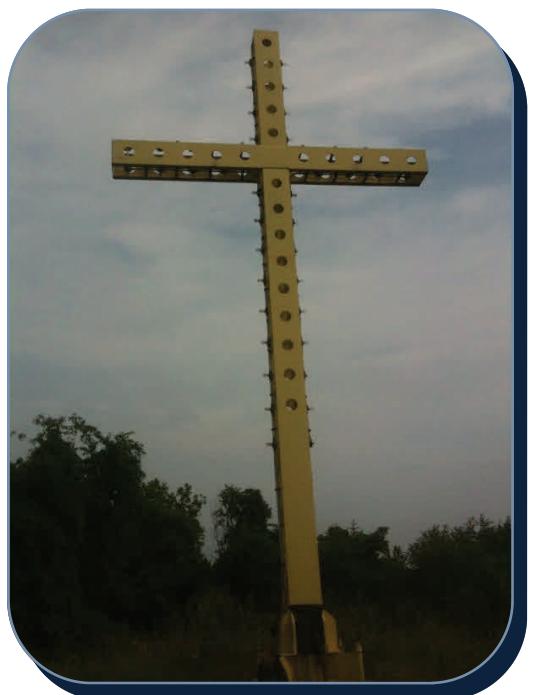
At the entrance to the park along the Historic Wellsburg & Bethany Scenic By-Way is the Historic 1834 Wellsburg to Washington Tollgate House. It is one of the few standing toll houses in the State of West Virginia. The tolls reflected the mode of transportation of that day and the many farmers who transported livestock along the road. They included: 2 cents for 20 hogs or sheep, 3 cents for 20 cattle, 1 cent for a horse or mule, 2 cents for a four-wheeled carriage and 2 cents for a cart or wagon. Special rates were charged to those who lived along the road.



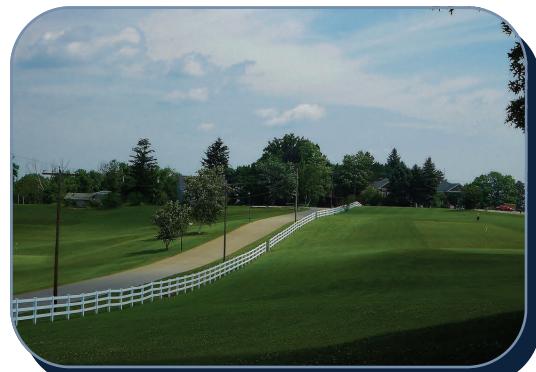
Mr. Gist visualized a cross on the top of the knoll east of the park. It reminded him of Golgotha, the mount on which Christ was crucified. His vision became reality when the park board purchased the knoll from William and Anna Gist on January 1, 1962 for the sum of \$834. The geological survey marks the elevation near the base of the cross at 1332 feet being the highest point in Brooke County. Though the date was not recorded it was lighted either Decoration day or the 4th of July 1962. Over the years the cross deteriorated and the lighting no long operated.

In the summer of 1991 a group of volunteers from the Franklin United Methodist Church remembered the inspiration they received from seeing the lighted cross. Many local business helped provide the materials and the volunteer group worked to restore the cross, its lighting and electric supply. On September 14, 1991 the local Ministerial Association held a service at the Rhododendron shelter. The cross once again shined to the Heavenly Father every evening from 8pm till midnight.

Brooke Hills Park has evolved into a complex that today consists of developed, partially developed, and undeveloped natural land, offering a variety of features including athletic fields, a golf course, driving range, pool, Veterans Memorial, playgrounds, primitive camping, fair grounds, community theatre, shelters, mini golf and paddle boats, walking paths, forests, and a variety of natural botanical and animal wild life.



Visitors to the park can also view historical landmarks such as the Toll House, Gist Mansion, Gist farmhouse, and the Cross. In addition, the park supports workforce development and community education, offering a future incubator for business development as well as academic research.



## CALENDAR

November 2	Executive Committee	Noon
November 11	Veterans Day—BHJ Office Closed	
November 18	TAC Full Commission	10:30 Noon
November 18	Brooke-Hancock Regional Council	4:30
November 26	Thanksgiving—BHJ Office Closed	
November 27	Thanksgiving—BHJ Office Closed	

**Appalachian Regional Commission**  
[www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov)

**State of West Virginia Government Info.**  
[www.wv.gov](http://www.wv.gov)

**Brooke County Economic Development Authority**  
[www.brookewv.org](http://www.brookewv.org)

**Top of WV Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
[www.topofwv.com](http://www.topofwv.com)

**Brooke Pioneer Trail Assoc. Inc**  
[www.brookepioneertrail.org](http://www.brookepioneertrail.org)

**U.S. Census Bureau**  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

**Business Development Corporation  
of the Northern Panhandle**  
[www.bhbdc.org](http://www.bhbdc.org)

**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

**CHANGE, Inc.**  
[www.changeinc.org](http://www.changeinc.org)

**U.S. Economic Development Administration**  
[www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov)

**City of Steubenville**  
[www.cityofsteubenville.us](http://www.cityofsteubenville.us)

**Village of Wintersville**  
[www.wintersville.net](http://www.wintersville.net)

**CommuteInfo**  
[www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org)

**Weirton Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.weirtonchamber.com](http://www.weirtonchamber.com)

**Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.jeffersoncountychamber.com](http://www.jeffersoncountychamber.com)

**West Virginia Department of Transportation**  
[www.transportation.wv.gov](http://www.transportation.wv.gov)

**Ohio Department of Transportation**  
[www.dot.state.oh.us](http://www.dot.state.oh.us)

**West Virginia Development Office**  
[www.wvdo.org](http://www.wvdo.org)

**State of Ohio Government Information**  
[www.ohio.gov](http://www.ohio.gov)

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