



**COUNTY
OF BUCKS**

Accomplishments & Priorities

Summer 2014

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Robert G. Loughery, *Chairman*
Charles H. Martin, *Vice Chairman*
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, *LCSW*

Message from the Commissioners

Dear Bucks Countians,

"What exactly does county government do?" As your Bucks County Board of Commissioners, we field that question frequently.

We're glad you asked.

In this booklet, we outline some of the priorities and accomplishments that Bucks County government has achieved over the last several years – and throughout Commissioner Charley Martin's nearly two decades as a member of the board.

Here in Bucks County, we enjoy a quality of life that is exceptional. Natural beauty abounds. Arts and cultural outlets are prevalent. We experience all four seasons and their extremes.

In our ongoing efforts to support and enhance the quality of life for Bucks County's 625,000-plus residents, we are in the midst of an unprecedented array of capital projects. The new Bucks County Justice Center, which is scheduled to open early in 2015, will be a facility to meet the demands of modern jurisprudence. Its 285,000 square feet will offer added security, 21st century courtrooms, enhanced meeting space and integrated criminal and civil case handling.

After the new Justice Center opens, the current Courthouse/Administration Building will be retrofitted to bring current departments that are outside the building into one centralized location, reducing the County's physical footprint and reducing costs.

Other recent capital achievements include four new district courts, assistance with the construction of new Bucks County Community College campuses in Perkasio (Upper) and Bristol Township (Lower), the Lower Bucks Public Safety Training Center in Bristol Township, the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications building and Forensic Facility in Ivyland and the award-winning Bucks County Parking Garage in Doylestown Borough. In addition, we moved our Children & Youth Social Services Agency from Doylestown to its current location in Furlong.

Much of what county government does on a daily basis involves the provision of services – to our elderly residents (Area Agency on Aging), to our youth (Children & Youth Social Services Agency) and to our most vulnerable (Mental Health/Developmental Programs, Behavioral Health and Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc.). In addition, our Health Department provides vaccinations, inspects restaurants, food establishments and swimming pools for safety and monitors all public health issues.

In the public safety realm, we are transitioning to the federally mandated narrowbanding radio project for our first responders. This integrated effort will enhance interoperability for our police, fire and emergency medical professionals who are on the front lines daily.

We continue to preserve open space, farmland and parkland for the benefit of present and future generations of Bucks Countians. As statistics indicate, the pace of development has slowed considerably over the last decade – a direct tribute to the success of these preservation efforts.

Another key focus of the current administration is economic development. We want to help existing Bucks County businesses thrive, while attracting new companies and maintaining the talent that already works here. Programs like "VC4BC" and multiple loan initiatives through the Bucks County Industrial Development Authority are supporting that mission.

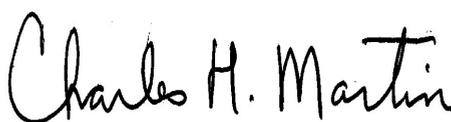
As your County Commissioners, we want you to be aware of the ways that county government can help. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. If you have suggestions, please share them.

We are proud of the work that Bucks County government and its nearly 2,400 employees do on a daily basis. We want you to feel a similar sense of pride.



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Contents

3 *Constructing a 21st Century Justice Center*

5 *Stimulating Economic Development in Bucks County*

7 *Ensuring Public Safety Through Technology and Information Sharing*

9 *Ongoing Agricultural Land and Open Space Preservation*

11 *Providing Human Services Flexibility Through State Block Grant Funding Initiatives*

13 *Building Our Communities at the Municipal Level*

15 *Drug Prevention Use Outreach and Education*

17 *Honoring Our Heroes: The Courthouse Memorial Courtyard*

19 *Unprecedented List of County Capital Projects*

This document was written and prepared by the Commissioners' Office of Public Information.

Constructing a 21st Century Justice Center

PRIORITIES

When the current Bucks County Courthouse and Administration Building complex was built during the late 1950s and early 1960s, the County population of 308,567 was less than half of its current total. During the latter portion of the 20th century, it became obvious that the County judicial system needed more court space for burgeoning criminal and civil case loads. To that end, construction on a new, 285,000 square foot Justice Center began in earnest during a July 19, 2011 groundbreaking ceremony. Over the last three years, the facility has progressed steadily toward a projected early-2015 completion. It will allow County government to move over 500 court-related employees – including 13 judges and two senior judges – into a state-of-the-art building that can meet the needs of current demand. The Justice Center is designed to be a “100-year Courthouse,” and it is expandable from the 13 planned courtrooms to 19 in the future. It is also the largest capital project in County government annals.

Retrofit

The new Justice Center also will allow the County to retrofit the current Courthouse/Administration Building to bring departments presently located outside the facility into the fold. This will reduce rental costs and allow the selling of County owned buildings to go back on the tax rolls. It also will serve to streamline and centralize many services such as Children & Youth case work, Area Agency on Aging case work/assistance, Human Resources, Controller, as well as other resident inquiries. The reuse of the Courthouse/Administration Building will take place in several phases over the next four to five years.



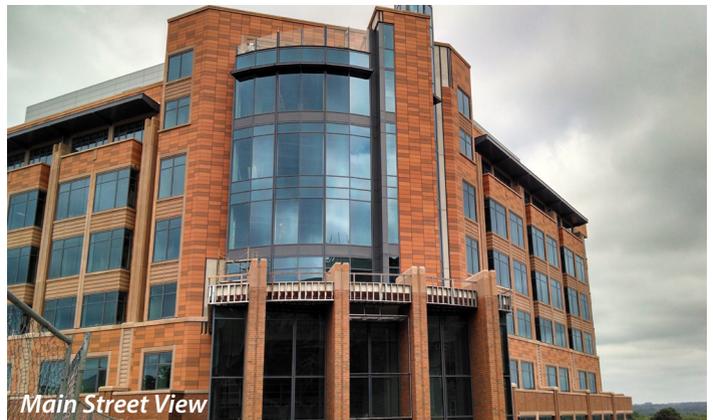
Courtroom



Office Space



Preserved Armory



Main Street View



PROGRESS ACHIEVED

The new Justice Center, located at 100 North Main Street, was designed by the renowned architectural firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum (HOK) of Dallas, Texas. It is meant to blend in with the physical characteristics of Doylestown Borough. One of its most interesting features is the preservation of the brick façade of the 1909 Doylestown Armory. Project General Contractor Ernest Bock & Sons of Philadelphia painstakingly stabilized and anchored the Armory during the first phases of the construction. The Armory's red-brick façade pays homage to a bygone era, just before the United States became engaged in World War I.

Who will be moving in?

Approximately 520 County employees will be moving their offices the short distance across Main Street, including departmental staff for the Sheriff, Domestic Relations, Family Masters, Public Defender, Adult Probation Intake, Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Court Administration, District Attorney and Judges.

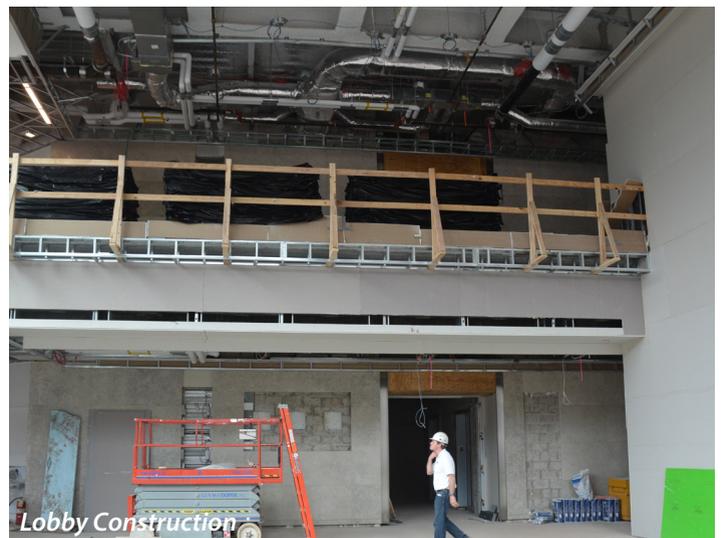


State of the Art Features

The building's audio visual systems will include programmable digital signage and presentations, audio and video conferencing and modern courtroom lecterns with multi-media capabilities. The facility also will feature radiant flooring, LED lighting, an array of Moravian Pottery and Tile Works Mercer tiles representing all 54 Bucks County municipalities and high density storage for all departments. It also will provide much greater public and private meeting space, with 87 rooms of varying sizes (including 10 that will be equipped with audio visual capabilities).

Security Elements

The new Bucks County Justice Center will have 319 interior and exterior cameras monitored from a control room, as well as secure elevator areas and direct access to courtrooms from the Sheriff's area. The building will have increased elevator service, including four public elevators, one judges' elevator, one freight elevator and three prisoner elevators. In addition, all members of the public will enter through one lobby.



Stimulating Economic Development in Bucks County

PRIORITIES

As a result of work done by the former Commissioners' Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) and the current Commissioners' Economic Development Council (CEDC), the Board of Commissioners introduced a new initiative to focus County resources on ensuring continued and expanded economic prosperity in Bucks county entitled "Bucks 2 Invest."



As part of this initiative, the Commissioners directed the Bucks County Industrial Development Authority (BCIDA) to administer several financing programs: Bucks Guaranteed, Bucks Rebuilt, Bucks Renewed, Core Industry Fund, New Economy Fund and Taste & Tour Bucks County. An additional financing program, "VC4BC" venture capital fund, is administered in cooperation with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern PA.

BUCKS 2 INVEST'S FIRST LOAN INITIATIVE Best Made Center, Quakertown Borough

The County Commissioners announced the first loan project approved through the County's "Bucks 2 Invest" economic development program in November, 2013. Gorski Engineering, Inc., the owner and developer of the Best Made Center in Quakertown Borough, received low-interest loans of \$400,000 from the New Economy Fund and \$70,000 through the Bucks Rebuilt program. The total project is estimated to cost nearly \$5 million. Gorski is re-purposing the main building of 60,000 square feet for a primary tenant, Synergis Technologies, that will lease 33,000 square feet. Synthetic fiber manufacturer Roselon Industries, who has occupied the current building for more than 40 years, will continue to maintain its corporate headquarters.





VC4BC Press Conference

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

The Bucks County Industrial Development Authority (BCIDA) is Bucks County's lead economic development agency. It works in partnership with many for- and not-for-profit organizations to support local businesses, enterprises and entrepreneurs to locate, grow and expand their businesses through a wide range of support services. Established in 1967, the BCIDA currently has nearly \$10 million in federal and local loan funds under management. It has also worked closely with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority in the designation of redevelopment areas, the success of the state supported Enterprise Zone Program and in the successful redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the county.



BUCKS COUNTY
Industrial Development Authority

www.BucksCountyIDA.com



AMETEK Redevelopment Site, Sellersville

Ensuring Public Safety Through Technology and Information Sharing

PRIORITIES

Bucks County is in the midst of a multi-year project to convert the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications' existing radio system to a narrowbanding platform.

Project Origin

Emergency responders and 9-1-1 dispatchers are currently operating on a radio system that was put into service in 1998. The County system is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Responders rely on their radios as their lifeline and the Board of Commissioners want to ensure responders have the best possible equipment for their operations today and in the future.

Realizing the current system is approaching the end of its functional use and due to the FCC's narrowbanding requirements, the Commissioners reaffirmed their dedication to public safety by entering into a contract with Motorola to provide a new 700 MHz, APCO P25 Phase 2 radio network. The County committed funding to this project through a bond issue and has made significant capital investment into project related costs that were mandated by the federal government.

The priority focus of the project staff includes:

- **Site permitting and zoning.** The new radio system required

a new design, which included the deployment of equipment at additional tower sites. The majority of the sites that will be used in the new design will be on existing towers in Bucks County. Sites will also be used in Hunterdon County, NJ and Lehigh County.

- **Site Development.** There are 11 new sites in this radio system. They require the deployment of shelters, radio equipment and emergency power. The addition of these sites will give the County 26 total radio sites and will provide emergency responders with a strong and robust radio network for their communications needs.

- **Maintaining the schedule.** The schedule is continually monitored for areas where it is possible to pull in tasks and adjust as necessary. All police, fire and emergency medical services personnel have ordered their equipment for the new radio system and delivery is expected to be in full swing by the end of 2014.

- **Programming of subscriber equipment.** There are over 4,900 radios ordered for the new radio system. County radio technicians will manage the programming of all of the radios for our police, fire and emergency medical services communities.



Tower Site in Solebury Township



Tower Shelter at Nockamixon State Park



"Active Shooter" Drill

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

Construction efforts for the radio project around the county will continue through the winter months. The next major phase of the project involves the microwave network, which will begin in September. Crew schedules are being developed and the County's vendor has secured all needed equipment to build out all of the new sites.

In spring 2014, construction of the first new site in the network, located within Nockamixon State Park, was completed. A new shelter was installed and radio equipment was mounted onto the tower in the park. In late August, construction will commence at two additional new sites in Lehigh County and Upper Makefield Township. As permits and governmental approvals are granted, additional crews will be working to complete the installation at the various sites around the county. Construction is expected to wrap up in spring of 2015, with cutover anticipated that summer.

Monthly Updates

Monthly updates are provided on the County's website. Those updates can be found at www.BucksCounty.org – scroll to the bottom of the homepage for the latest project news and updates.

PUBLIC SAFETY COLLABORATION

Bucks County is a member of the Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Task Force, a public safety consortium that brings together Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties for shared preparation, resources, public health response and emergency planning. The Task Force consists of multiple sub-committees, which meet on a regular basis.

While regional activities have become a key part of modern emergency services planning, Bucks County staged a unique "Active Shooter" drill with community partners on the morning of Saturday, May 3, 2014. The Bucks County Courthouse/Administration Building was closed to the public in order for the County Security and Sheriff's departments to join volunteers, local police, fire and emergency medical personnel and nearby Doylestown Hospital to conduct this drill.

Commissioner Chairman Robert Loughery, President Judge Jeffrey Finley and Chief Operating Officer Brian Hessenthaler donned protective gear and observed the two-part exercise from an observers' perspective. The drill included simulated victims, the removal of casualties via ambulance and an "after action review" to discuss the aspect of the drill that succeeded and those that need refining.

The Bucks County Courthouse/Administration Building hosts tens of thousands of county residents on an annual basis. Maintaining public safety in this building is paramount. The May drill also will provide a baseline for operations in the new, 285,000 square foot Justice Center.

Ongoing Agricultural Land and Open Space Preservation

PRIORITIES

During the 1990s, one of the primary topics of discussion in Bucks County was rapid population growth. In 1988, the County government created the Bucks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Since that time, a pair of Open Space referendum questions (1997 and 2007) was passed by overwhelming margins when presented to the Bucks County electorate.

It was clear that land preservation remains a priority for Bucks County residents. To that end, the Commissioners and the County Agricultural Land Preservation Board set a goal of 17,000 preserved farm acres by the end of 2017.



Cochrane Farm, Springfield Township

WHY PRESERVE FARMLAND IN BUCKS COUNTY?

- **Farmland is a rapidly disappearing natural resource:**

According to the American Farmland Trust, the United States is losing two acres of farmland every minute. Here in Bucks County, 71 percent of the county's farmland has been converted to non-farm uses in the last 50 years;

- **Local farms provide fresh food at a reasonable cost:**

Locally produced food is more nutritious and less costly. Transportation costs are high for foods that come from other regions. Bucks County farms provide a wide range of vegetables, meats and dairy products that taste better;

- **Preserving farmland protects Bucks County heritage:**

Scenic vistas and wide open farm fields are part of Bucks County's heritage. Preserving these areas are important in order to maintain a healthy balance between urban and rural areas;

- **Farmland requires few public services:** For every dollar a farm family pays in property taxes, they use only 33 cents in

public services. Residential property owners require more than a dollar's worth of services for every dollar in property taxes paid. This is because residential developments require school, road, utility, police and fire protection services;

- **Preserving farms supports the local economy:** Agriculture is the number one industry in Pennsylvania and a \$62 million industry here in Bucks County. Farming provides jobs for hundreds of county residents;

- **Preserving farmland protects the environment:** Farmland provides a natural habitat for many species of flora and fauna as well as critical groundwater recharge areas. All preserved farms have comprehensive soil and water resource management plans.

A comprehensive list of Bucks County farms is available on the "Living and Working" tab of the official County website, www.BucksCounty.org.



Preserved Farm Sign

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

As of early August 2014, the Commissioners have preserved 168 farms totaling 14,250 acres. That total will continue to grow through the list of farms on the Agricultural Land Preservation Program's waiting list. In addition, the money from the County contributions has leveraged millions of state and municipal dollars. It also facilitates continued "farm to table" nutrition supplies for Bucks County residents and those around our region.

The County's \$87 million Open Space referendum of 2007 included \$25 million for farmland preservation, \$26 million for Municipal Open Space, \$17 million for County parkland (with an additional \$1 million for historic preservation), \$11 million for Natural Areas preservation and \$7 million for a Delaware Riverfront preservation component.

At 330 miles in length, the Delaware River supplies 700 million gallons of water to 15 million people daily and boasts an abundant variety of ecological, cultural and historic resources. The Delaware River forms the eastern and southern boundaries of Bucks County. The 17 municipalities located along the river corridor occupy more than 60 miles of shoreline and comprise approximately 40 percent of Bucks County's total population.

Seven years into the current referendum borrowing, the County Commissioners and the respective Agricultural Land Preservation and Open Space Review boards continue to work with municipalities to identify and complete preservation projects.



Crooke Farm, Perkasie



David Library Farm, Washington Crossing

Providing Human Services Flexibility Through State Block Grant Funding Initiatives

PRIORITIES

In 2012, Pennsylvania Act 80 was created establishing a Human Services Block Grant program, where funds are allocated to County governments. The purpose of the allocation is to provide locally identified County-based human services that will meet the service needs of Bucks County residents. The fiscal year 2014-15 is the third year of this program.

The overall goal of the Human Services Block Grant is funding flexibility. The Bucks County plan meets the guidelines set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) in which Bucks County describes in detail how services and funding are allocated in the following areas: Mental Health (MH) Community Base Funds; Behavioral Health Services Initiatives (BHSI – Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol); Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Community Base Funds; Child Welfare Special Grants; Drug and Alcohol (D&A) Act 152 funds; Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) funding and Human Services Development Funds (HSDF).

In order to generate public input on the Human Services Block Grant program, two public meetings are conducted annually – one in upper and the other in lower Bucks County. Subsequently, the plan was developed and presented to the state based on guidelines provided by Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare (DPW) for 2014-15.

COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF COUNTY SUICIDE TASK FORCE



In September, 2013, the Board of Bucks County Commissioners unanimously approved the formal commencement of the Bucks County Suicide Task Force. Commissioner Marseglia brought the matter to the public's attention, noting that this new initiative will be assembled by the staff of the county Mental Health/Developmental Programs office.

According to Commissioner Marseglia, "The Suicide Task Force will cast a wide net for membership and must include professionals in private and public practice of mental health, clergy, educators, survivors, the Coroner's office, funeral directors, medical professionals and emergency responders."

While the Task Force will be structured to address ongoing needs of the community, a full report detailing its efforts, progress and future goals will be anticipated within the first three years. The goal of the Suicide Task Force is "to significantly reduce completed suicide in Bucks County by collaborating and completing actions designed to educate, prevent, respond to and provide post-vention to suicide."

Annual "Suicide Awareness Month" Proclamation



Ben Wilson Senior Center

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

Mental Health: Over the past year, Bucks County continued its focus of improving on individuals' access to behavioral health services and quality improvement in service delivery. County officials have seen an increase in the number of individuals who are finding the need to utilize services and are directing efforts to ensure timely access to services and affording individuals the appropriate level of care. These include:

- Crisis – The first phase of crisis enhancement involved the development of a mobile crisis team. On July 15, 2013, Lenape Valley Foundation (LVF) implemented Mobile Crisis. The second phase to enhancing crisis services will include the addition of a Crisis Residential service;

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) – Bucks County's CIT Task Force continues to provide 40-hour trainings to law enforcement throughout Bucks County;

- Outpatient (OP) Initiative – The behavioral health system continues its efforts to improve the quality of OP services in Bucks County;

- Case Management Transformation Initiative (CMTI) – Since its inception in 2007, the Bucks County CMTI continues to outline quality standards and guidelines for providing case management services to individuals;

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/ Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Outreach Access Recovery (SOAR) – Agency staff are trained in completing the SOAR application process for adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, have a mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorder and do not receive benefits;

- Employment – The Bucks County Department of MH/DP has continued its efforts to promote employment opportunities;

- Peer Support – Efforts continue to bring peer support to the community behavioral health system in Bucks County;

- Housing/Residential Supports – The Bucks County Department of MH/DP oversees and provides base funding towards 240 resident slots including Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR), Supportive Living Programs (SLP), respite and a Long Term Structured Residential (LTSR) program;

- Children's Services – The Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) in Bucks County has utilized a "system of care" (SOC) model as the organizational philosophy and framework in creating clinical and natural supports.

Intellectual Disabilities: In an effort to prevent gaps in service between the time an individual finishes school, the County is in the process of developing transition materials for school-aged youth and their families to use as resources during the school transition years. This will include

work with the newly identified Early Reach Coordinator from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in an effort to bridge the gap between school and work, as well as collaboration with school in an effort to enhance job coaching services. In addition, since January 2013, the County has experienced a 37 percent increase in the number of Bucks County consumers receiving "Lifesharing" services.

Human Services Development Funds (HSDF): HSDF was created "for the purpose of encouraging County government to provide locally identified services that will meet the human services needs of citizens in their counties." These funds are to be used by Bucks County to provide and administer County-based social services and service coordination. Persons over 18 years of age and under 60 who are county residents must meet certain financial criteria. Categorical services in 2014-15 include the following: Adult Services/Counseling; Adult Services/Homemaker Services; Adult Services/Housing Services and Adult Services/Life Skills.

Homeless Assistance Programs (HAP): The County's Homeless Assistance Program seeks to help residents 1) avoid homelessness and 2) for those are homeless and desire housing, quickly move them out of homelessness. The key elements of this homeless assistance include Housing Solutions Program, Bridge Housing Program, Housing Continuum of Care and Bucks County Housing Link.

Building Our Communities at the Municipal Level

PRIORITIES

The Bucks County Board of Commissioners have spearheaded the Municipal Economic Development Initiative (MEDI), focusing County resources on ensuring the continued and expanded economic prosperity of Bucks County and its 54 municipalities. Bucks County's adopted economic development goals were established in the 2010 report of the Economic Development Advisory Board, An Action Plan for Progress. One of the six goals – Engaging our Municipal Partners – is the foundation for this program.

There is applicability for every municipality in Bucks County. From rural farming communities in upper Bucks County to the crossroads shopping centers and borough Main Streets in central Bucks to the older industrial areas in lower Bucks County, each community needs to look ahead at the businesses and enterprises that create jobs, community character and the ability to provide needed community services for residents. This program is voluntary for all Bucks County municipalities.



Yardley Borough



Doylestown Borough



Bristol Borough



Wrightstown Township



Perkasie Borough

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

Through MEDI, Bucks County continues to assist municipal governments by devoting resources to ensure Bucks County's continued economic vitality and growth. The staff of the Bucks County Planning Commission provides guidance, data and expertise on commerce, zoning, land use planning, smart growth initiatives, transportation, community goals and community character to municipalities that request help. The program will also help communities become more vibrant, livable and attractive places to work, live and visit.

To date, approximately 30 municipalities have worked with Planning Commission staff on a wide range of issues including parking, revitalization, long-range planning and re-use of existing facilities and infrastructure.

HALLMARKS OF THE PROGRAM

Services - Visioning sessions and community outreach through meetings and surveys

- Data collection and analysis
- Surveys of residents and businesses
- Business profile and market area
- Assessment of zoning and planning tools to identify business incentives or impediments
- Helping municipal officials understand the impact of their programs and decisions on commerce
- Information and connections to other agencies/groups that can assist with business development
- Targeting types of assistance to meet community goals

Access to Grant Information - Availability and Application assistance

Information - What other agencies and groups are doing,

and how this may affect municipal efforts

Applicability - Strengthen, Reuse and Revitalize

- Main Street/downtown revitalization
- Reuse of industrial areas
- Village centers
- Strengthening transportation corridors, transit lines and transit-oriented development standards
- Agriculture and rural enterprises
- Tourism
- Reuse/revitalization of shopping centers

For more information or to sign up for the MEDI program, please contact our Planning Commission Office: 1260 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901. They can also be reached at bcpc@co.bucks.pa.us or 215-345-3400.

Drug Prevention Use Outreach and Education

PRIORITIES

Like many Pennsylvania counties, Bucks County has identified the opiate and medication misuse issue as an emerging trend. To that end, Bucks County government has taken a multi-pronged approach to the heroin epidemic that is affecting our communities.

On Friday, March 7, 2014, Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler joined Assistant DA Matthew Weintraub and other members of the District Attorney's office to launch the Heroin Prevention Outreach Initiative.

"We asked ourselves, 'With limited resources, what can we do that's smart and will make a difference?'" Mr. Heckler told a crowd of print, internet and electronic media members. "There are three ways to attack this problem – 1) educate the public; 2) eliminate the supply of drugs; and 3) prosecute dealers through the use of anonymous tip lines."



ARE YOU SICK OF DRUGS KILLING BUCKS COUNTY KIDS?

Report a drug dealer right now! It's anonymous.

TEXT the word **BUCKSDRUGTIPS** and your tip to **TIP411 (847411)**

215-345-DRUG (3784)

drugtips@co.bucks.pa.us

BUCKS COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMISSION, INC.

The mission of the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. (BCDAC, Inc.) is to reduce the use of tobacco and eliminate the use of illegal drugs and the abuse, misuse of and addiction to alcohol and other drugs. As the state and locally designated Single County Authority (SCA) for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, the agency works continuously to ensure the provision of a comprehensive and balanced continuum of quality prevention, intervention and treatment services for the county.

With funds utilized through the Human Services Block Grant Plan, the County supports an array of services to meet the substance abuse program needs of Bucks County residents. Treatment services financed by BCDAC, Inc. include outpatient, intensive outpatient, medication assisted therapies, partial hospitalization and residential alternatives. Specialty services for pregnant and parenting women, adolescents, injection drug users, clients with co-occurring disorders and incarcerated individuals are also available.

BCDAC, Inc. contracts with more than 30 agencies to provide prevention and treatment services. There are three Recovery Centers in Bucks County, each of which offers some level of peer support or recovery coaching. Bucks County maintains a wide array of recovery support services. Funds from the 2014-15 Human Services Block Grant Plan includes a pool of funds specifically designed for drug and alcohol recovery supports within our provider agencies. An ongoing challenge is the funding that can be provided to drug and alcohol providers for recovery focused activities, compared with reimbursement allowances for Certified Peer Specialists.



Drop Off Box for Medical Disposal Program

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

The District Attorney's office has set up three methods of alerting law enforcement officers about heroin activity in Bucks County. The first is a telephone line: 1-215-345-DRUG (3784). The second is an e-mail address: drugtips@co.bucks.pa.us. The third, geared at the millennial generation is a text tip line: simply text BUCKSDRUGTIPS to TIP411.

It is important to note that all information provided will be anonymous.

"It's time to stop being passive, and time to start being aggressive," stated Assistant DA Weintraub. "We want to take the public by the throat, because without the public's help we can't win. That's paramount. Enough is enough. If you know something, tell us."

The Commissioners, Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. and community agencies also secured funding for a Public Service Announcement (PSA), which was shown at five major

movie theaters during the summer of 2014. Additional efforts include the formation of an Overdoses Prevention/Education Task Force, an Upper Bucks Heroin Prevention Task Force and collaborative support from Legislators.

Bucks County leads Pennsylvania in the amount of medications collected via the County's Medical Disposal Program. Since the initiative began in 2010, 37,482 pounds of unused, unwanted prescription drugs have been collected for proper disposal. Residents are encouraged to participate in twice annual Medication Take Back Days, as well as using the 26 Permanent Drop Off Boxes throughout Bucks County.

In addition, a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on drug and alcohol use can be found on the Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. page of the official County website, www.BucksCounty.org.



Heroin Prevention Press Conference



Public Service Announcement

Honoring Our Heroes: The Courthouse Memorial Courtyard

PRIORITIES

During recent decades, the courtyard between Main and East Court Streets in Doylestown Borough has become the home to monuments commemorating multiple American wars – dating back to the Civil War in which many Bucks Countians fought. It has become a sacred gathering place with a great deal of meaning to the community. During multiple public events, it has been called a “sacred place of honor.”

On May 16, 2014, the Commissioners joined veterans, family members and the Doylestown-based VFW Post 175 to dedicate the most recent addition to the array of monuments and memorials, the Global War on Terror (GWOT) Memorial. The GWOT Memorial was funded through private and public donations, and it pays tribute to the 21 Bucks Countians who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001.



Global War on Terror Memorial

Plans for the park outside the new Bucks County Justice Center include another memorial that will feature a piece of steel from the former World Trade Center in Manhattan. Design of that memorial is underway in collaboration with the Travis Manion Foundation.

BUCKS COUNTY'S VETERANS ID DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

Traditionally, Bucks County has been a leader in veterans' services, including personalized counseling, free transportation to local VA hospitals and organized community outreach. Bucks County has one of the largest veteran populations in Pennsylvania with approximately 50,000 United States Armed Forces veterans and countless active duty personnel.

Bucks County launched the Veterans ID Discount Card Program in late 2011 as just another way to support those who have served our country. The program is a collaboration between the Board of Commissioners, Recorder of Deeds and county Military/Veterans Affairs office. Bucks County was the first county in the Philadelphia region to launch such a program, and has since become a model for neighboring counties.

By presenting their original DD-214 discharge form or Certificate of Honorable Military Discharge papers to the Recorder of Deeds office, veterans can receive a free photo identification card to receive special discounts and offers at approximately 1,150 local businesses. To date, the Recorder of Deeds office has processed nearly 10,000 cards.

Veterans who are interested in participating in the program can visit the Recorder of Deeds office at the Bucks County Courthouse in Doylestown or attend special Veteran ID events, scheduled throughout the year in a variety of locations across the county. For additional information, call the Recorder of Deeds office at 215-348-6209.



Korean War Memorial

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

The Bucks County Courthouse Memorial Courtyard features the following tributes to fallen heroes of bygone days:

Civil War Monument: At the point of Main and Court Streets lies the Civil War obelisk, which is the oldest of the Borough's tributes. The Civil War Monument was erected in 1868 to honor the 104th regiment. This regiment, formed from local Doylestown residents, sadly lost 501 casualties during the wartime service;

World War I Fountain: The World War I Fountain is located at the corner of Broad and North Main Streets. Designed by William Robert Mercer, Jr., the World War I fountain was dedicated on May 30, 1922 at a cost of \$8,500. The bronze statue, mounted on blue Indiana limestone, was sculpted by John Bateman of Haddonfield, NJ. The dedication plaque reads: "To honor and to perpetuate the memory of those brave men and women who gave their lives in defense of our country and the ideals of liberty and justice upon which our nation is founded;"



WWI Fountain

World War II Memorial: The Bucks County World War II Memorial was dedicated by veterans groups and the Board of Bucks County Commissioners along with other elected officials on May 30, 1998. The memorial includes pavers with the individual names of Bucks County soldiers, sailors and pilots



Vietnam War Memorial

who were killed during the war;

Korean War Memorial: Each July, the Board of Commissioners joins local veterans groups and the County Military Affairs office to pay tribute to the Korean War and its dwindling contingent of survivors. The memorial, located on the E. Court St. side of the courtyard, has assumed added significance during recent years since a delegation from Namdong District, Republic of Korea, helped lay roses in honor of the 38 Bucks Countians killed during the war. In 2009, Bucks County signed a "21st Century Alliance" with the residents of Namdong District;



WWII Memorial

Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Located near the World War II Memorial on the East Court Street side of the courtyard, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on June 16, 1984. It was dedicated "to remember and honor those Americans who gave of themselves in the Vietnam War;"

Persian Gulf War Memorial Marker: This marker was dedicated on May 25, 1992 by the Lean On Me Support Group with assistance from the Board of Bucks County Commissioners.

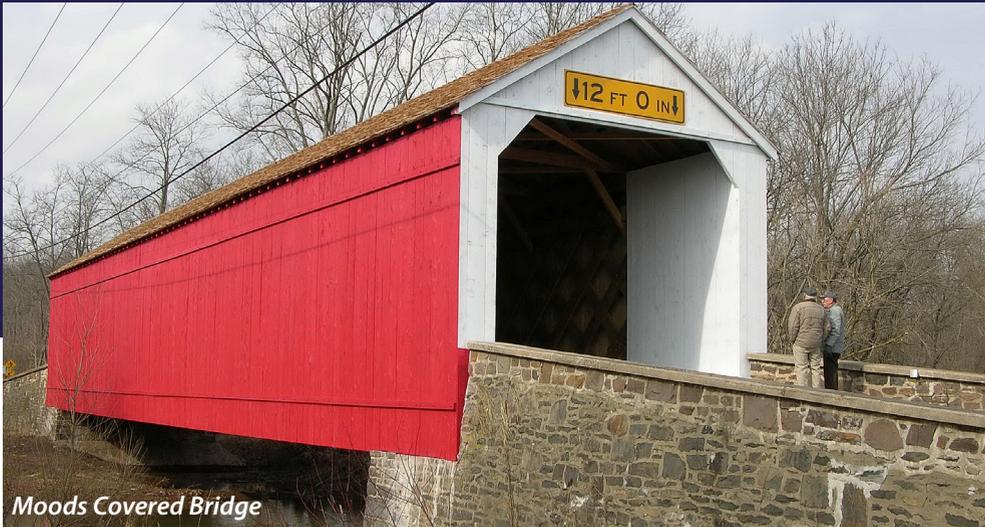
The Memorial Courtyard also is surrounded by "Hometown Hero" banners, which pay tribute to those lost in conflicts since the events of September 11, 2001.

Unprecedented List of County Capital Projects

PRIORITIES

In addition to ongoing work at the Bucks County Justice Center, the last decade and a half has featured a number of comprehensive capital additions to County government. These facilities were designed and constructed to serve a growing resident base with efficiency, purpose and vision for the future. The current wave of construction began in earnest with the completion of the 360 bed Neshaminy Manor long-term care nursing facility on Route 611 in Warrington. This facility has won multiple awards for resident care and stands as a model for similar facilities in the region and even nationwide.





Moods Covered Bridge

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

A brief list of recent capital projects that serve Bucks County government, its departments and their visitors, includes:

Bucks County Parking Garage (Doylestown Borough): Phase One of the Bucks County Justice Center construction project was completed on June 30, 2010, when Commissioners Martin, Cawley and Ellis-Marseglia joined President Judge Scott to cut the ribbon. The 1,200 space, four level facility is located between Union and Doyle Streets, adjacent to Broad Street. It took 18 months to complete, at a price tag of \$22 million that included less than one percent change orders. The garage is designed to fit in with the charm and character of its Doylestown Borough surroundings, featuring three entry pavilions and a clock tower at the Doyle Street entrance.

Bucks County Forensic Facility (Warminster Township):

Completed in October, 2007, the Bucks County Forensic Facility enabled all Coroner's duties (including autopsies) to be performed in a single, secure, state-of-the-art facility. Sharing the \$7 million building is the Bucks County Crime Lab, which examines evidence for criminal investigations. The building can hold up to 70 corpses, creating a regional mass casualty repository should the need arise. A small freezer is available for long-term storage of unclaimed bodies. The facility includes a state-of-the-art crime lab, which will allow investigators to conduct an in-house array of forensic testing which previously had to be outsourced.



Forensics Facility Ribbon Cutting

Bucks County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center (Ivyland): On October 15, 2008, the Commissioners cut the ribbon to relocate the County 9-1-1 Communications Center from the seventh floor of the Doylestown Courthouse to a second floor annex of the Emergency Operations Center. The call center handles more than 700,000 contacts annually, and is at the epicenter of the federally mandated "Narrowbanding Project" that is ongoing.

Lower Bucks Public Safety Training Center (Bristol Township):

On October 24, 2011, Commissioners Martin, Loughery and Ellis-Marseglia cut the ribbon on the burn building of the \$8.5 million training complex. It is located on 11 acres in Bristol Township and includes an adjacent administration and classroom building. The comprehensive facility allows first responders from the populated lower end of the county to train in tight quarters, on a shingled roof prop and with drill incidents such as tanker fires. At its opening, it was deemed the "finest (fire training complex)" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

County Owned Bridges: The County of Bucks General Services division owns and maintains 115 bridges. These structures are located throughout the county. They undergo regular inspections. During the first seven months of 2014, the Commissioners re-opened four bridges that had been rehabilitated and/or reconstructed.

Financial Stability

In April, 2010, Moody's Investor Service reevaluated Bucks County's credit qualifications and awarded the County its first-ever Aaa rating, the highest issued by Moody's. Bucks County has continued to maintain this rating, even through difficult financial times. It is currently one of three counties in Pennsylvania that has a Aaa rating.

The County Commissioners strive to maintain fiscal prudence, having held the line on property taxes in seven of the last eight annual budgets (2007-2014).



The Bucks County Seal

In March 1683, William Penn's Council ordered "that the seal of the County of Bucks be a tree and a vine." Penn had written that in Bucks County "the woods yield us plums, grapes, peaches, strawberries and chestnuts in abundance." The right to use the coat of arms from the Penn family crest had to be granted by King Charles II.

Used to certify official documents until the American Revolution, the seal was supplanted by one with the official device for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The seal is still used as the County's primary symbol, respectfully denoting Bucks County's rich heritage. It can be seen throughout County government: on letterhead, vehicles and its website. Large tile replicas of the seal, made by Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer, can be seen at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown and the State Capitol building in Harrisburg.



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