

BC BROADCAST

A PUBLICATION OF THE BEDFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

A CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN BILL SHUSTER Economic development – Jobs and quality of life

Bedford County is fortunate to possess a spirit of cooperation that can be found at all levels of government, from local municipal leaders to our United States Congressman.

Companies seeking to locate here, or those growing their established business, will find that there is a strong network of economic development professionals and elected officials who do everything they can to smooth the path to success.

One of the strongest advocates of economic development in Bedford County -- as well as the surrounding region -- is U.S. Congressman Bill Shuster.

Fresh off his successful leadership in marshalling a transportation bill through Congress, Congressman Shuster sat down with the staff of the Bedford County Development Association to discuss the importance of economic development and the best ways the region can pursue it while maintaining its excellent quality of life.



“The greatest economic development project this region has ever seen is I-99”

BCDA We can start by celebrating the recent transportation bill.

SHUSTER The bill will allow Pennsylvania to refocus on emerging corridors. These include finishing Interstate-99 to Route 80, Route 219 to Maryland and more.

BCDA You spend great energy and much time on transportation issues. Is this something you learned from your Dad (former Congressman Bud Shuster)?

SHUSTER (LAUGHS) Maybe. Our transportation system is a fundamental element of economic development. The greatest economic development project this region has ever seen is I-99. We need to build upon that success.

BCDA You have stated that transportation infrastructure is necessary for future growth. Can you explain?

SHUSTER From Washington, D.C. to Boston, you can't add another lane to a highway or expand a freight rail connection easily. So growth will move into areas like Bedford County. We have to be ready for it. It took the nation 65 years to grow from 200 million people to 300 million. It will take 32 years to reach 400 million. We need to address how we're going to move an additional 100 million people.

“Our competitive advantage, in the United States, has been our transportation system.”



“...the government should NOT be picking winners and losers”

Our competitive advantage, in the United States, has been our transportation system. But it is no longer the gold standard.

To reach the world economy from Bedford County we need infrastructure.

BCDA And this is true for the entire nation?

SHUSTER Yes. I have always been interested in history. And throughout history the key to the economy has been transportation.

BCDA This leads directly into trade. How do you feel about the current trade practices?

SHUSTER We need to lower the barriers to trade around the world. Especially when it comes to agricultural products. For example, Bedford County’s dairy industry competes on a global level. We also need to be sure that the Export Import Bank continues to help manufacturing in our nation. Doing away with it, we’d be shooting ourselves in the foot. Other nations require it. For example, the country of Angola will not deal with us without it.

BCDA What do you see as the legitimate role of government in economic development?

“I think I have helped lower the tax burden on the American people.”

SHUSTER First off, the government should NOT be picking winners and losers. It should provide an environment that encourages innovation and lowers the burdens placed on businesses. It should allow the free enterprise system to flourish. Furthermore, we need to make changes to the tax code.

BCDA What accomplishments in Congress give you the most satisfaction?

SHUSTER My work on the Transportation Committee has been satisfying. I think I have helped lower the tax burden on the American people. I am also proud of the Water Resources bill, the Passenger Rail bill, and the Surface Transportation bill. I want to assure long time certainty with nothing added to our debt or deficit. On social issues, I am fighting to preserve our Second Amendment rights and our Pro Life Values.

BCDA What do you believe are the greatest challenges facing Bedford County and the rest of your district with economic development as a backdrop?

“We need to lower the barriers to trade around the world. Especially when it comes to agricultural products.”

SHUSTER We have to stop the drain of our youth. We need to attract high-tech companies where they can work. We need to continue to improve our transportation system and get Pennsylvania to lower taxes on businesses. There’s a reason Texas is the fastest growing state. It has low taxes and low regulations. It’s going to be difficult to get anything done in an election year. We have to show a clear difference. We have to get government spending under control. The answer is not bigger government. Europe is going the other way, privatizing a lot of things. They have learned the lesson of big government.

“We have to get government spending under control. The answer is not bigger government.”

GETTING TO KNOW Congressman Shuster

Favorite Movies:

*"Rocky", "Gladiator", and
"Sound of Music"*

Favorite Book:

*"Ratification: The People Debate
the Constitution, 1787-1788"
by Pauline Maier*

Most Memorable Vacation:

*Took the whole family to Wit's
End Dude Ranch in Colorado*

Childhood Memories:

*Traveling with the entire family
and the family dog in the station
wagon when we were growing
up...it was mayhem.*

How Do You Unwind?

*I like to grow a vegetable
garden in the summer*



ABOVE: JP Tambourine, FirstEnergy Corp./BCDA; Lisa Elliott Governor's Action Team (GAT); Brian Ross, GAT; Ann Brennan, GAT; and Bette Slayton, BCDA.

BELOW: Brian Ross, Governor's Action Team (GAT); Lisa Elliott, GAT; Sean Bardell, Howard Hanna Bardell Realty/BCDA; Ann Brennan, GAT; and JP Tambourine, FirstEnergy Corp./BCDA.



Representatives of the Governor's Action Team (GAT) recently participated in a "Familiarization Tour" of various Bedford County sites and buildings. An overview of the county's business parks and large buildings (Seton and Cannondale) and BCDA's marketing materials were reviewed.

GAT is a group of experienced economic development professionals that serve as a single point of contact for companies looking to establish new business operations in Pennsylvania or companies considering retention and/or expansion of existing Pennsylvania operations. BCDA has worked with GAT on the Wal Mart and REI Distribution Centers, CaptiveAire and other important job creation projects.



2016 BCDA BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Front Row (l-r): **Assistant Secretary**, David DiPasquale, *Bedford County Technical Center*; **Treasurer**, Bob Octavio, **Vice Chair**, Doug Gerber, *Rex Heat Treat*; **Chair**, Sean Bardell, *Howard Hanna Bardell Realty*, **Assistant Treasurer**, Jenny DeLong, *Bun Air Corp.*; **Secretary**, JP Tambourine, *FirstEnergy Corp.*

Back Row (l-r): **Office Manager**, Melanie Miller, *BCDA*; Linda Bullington, *Bullington Financial Services LLC*; Trudy Mitchell, *Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development*; Greg Krug, *Lampire Biological Laboratories*; Josh Lang, *Bedford County*

BCDA ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS AND NEW CHAIR TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bedford, PA – The Bedford County Development Association has named five new members to its Board of Directors and announces its new Board Chair is **Sean Bardell**.

BCDA depends upon leadership from the community to meet its mission and enhance economic development initiatives in Bedford County. The new Board members bring a wide variety of experiences to the organization's leadership.

Real Estate broker Sean Bardell has been named Chair of the BCDA Board of Directors for 2016. He has a strong sense of BCDA's upcoming priorities.

"Economic development is a high priority and vital to the health of the county's quality of life," he said. "It plays an integral role in the future and wellness of our entire county."

Bardell has set the sale of the BCDA's 75 acre site in Business Park II as his main goal for the new year. "We are continually marketing this site and others in Business Park I," he explained. "In addition to capturing companies for these sites, we would also like to assist any businesses within the community that would like to expand and grow."

Bardell's vision is clear and includes job creation, whether through the attraction of a new company to the area or the growth of a local company. "We have a very diverse and dynamic board that can help to facilitate ideas into marketable actions and job creation," he said. "BCDA has already created a phenomenal reputation within the state for its outstanding work. The staff and previous board members have paved a road to the future. We now need to ensure that we keep driving in the right direction."



Commissioner; James Gonsman, FNB; James Wistar, Everite Door Company; Brett Schoenfield, Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Greg Lang, Recreational Equipment Inc.; Mark Bollman, Tussey Mountain School District; Paul Crooks, Bedford County Commissioner; Barry Dallara, Bedford County Commissioner; Charles Swartzwelder, East Providence Township; Vice President, Terri Brumbaugh, BCDA; Sara Letzo, 10/09 Kitchen; President, Bette Slayton, BCDA

Missing from the picture are: Immediate Past Chair, Bo Pratt, Rockland Manufacturing Co., and Alan Frederick, Frederick Farms, Inc.

Bardell is Broker/Owner of the Howard Hanna Bardell Realty and is a Pennsylvania Certified Appraiser.

Bedford County Commissioner Josh Lang was named to the BCDA Board of Directors.

"I believe Bedford County has room to grow," said Commissioner Lang. "As a county, we should be proactive in looking for multiple avenues to promote the region and bring new businesses and jobs to the area."

Lang has set several goals for his Board tenure. These include innovative marketing efforts, retaining youth, and addressing the needs of underdeveloped portions of the county. "I would also like to work towards promoting the resources we have in the community to support businesses and entrepreneurs," he said.

The Commissioner wants BCDA to foster growth by developing innovative strategies to encourage development in Bedford County.

Elected Bedford County Commissioner last November, Lang has been very involved in helping local veterans and organizations that serve the needs of those veterans. A resident of Everett, Lang volunteers for many organizations including the Bedford American Legion, Bedford Historical Society, Downtown Bedford, Inc., Bedford Lions, Bedford Moose Lodge, and the Everett Grace Community Brethren Church.

Charles Swartzwelder of Breezewood is a new member of the BCDA Board. Swartzwelder is a Supervisor of East Providence Township and its Chairman.

A lifetime dairy farmer, Swartzwelder has been a

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"We have a very diverse and dynamic board that can help to facilitate ideas into marketable actions and job creation."

Sean Bardell BCDA Board Chair

NEW MEMBERS

Front (l-r) Josh Lang, *Bedford County Commissioner*; Charles Swartzwelder, *East Providence Township*

Back (l-r) Mark Bollman, *Tussey Mountain School District*, Greg Lang, *Recreational Equipment Inc.*; James Gonsman, *FNB*



BCDA BOARD from page 4

Supervisor for 24 years., He is a Life Member of the Breezewood Fire Company and is past president of the Bedford County Fireman's Association. He is also a member of the Bedford County Planning Commission, among other roles.

"BCDA should play a very important role for business, industry and employment for all of Bedford County," he said. "We should encourage economic growth and much needed employment opportunities with good paying jobs to benefit all of Bedford County and not just the I-99 Corridor."

Mark Bollman is a new member of the BCDA Board. He is the Superintendent of the Tussey Mountain School District.

"Economic growth in Bedford County is a priority," he began. "With moderate growth we all benefit. Without it, we see people leave the area to find employment." His priorities for the BCDA Board include finding replacements for businesses that have closed in the past ten years.

"As an educator, I see many of our best and brightest leaving the area to seek opportunities that are not present here. If BCDA is successful, those students might stay and contribute to our communities."

Bollman is a member of the board of the Community Grace Brethren Church, and a volunteer for the Chamber Foundation and Habitat for Humanity.

New board member **James Gonsman** believes that quality of life in Bedford County depends upon creating and retaining jobs. "Also, the business community can support and grow incomes and the tax base," he said. He plans to assist the BCDA staff in every way

he possibly can.

"BCDA has done a great job marketing and promoting the county. I would like to assist in expanding those marketing efforts. BCDA spends a vast amount of time in assisting existing companies that goes unnoticed. The community should feel proud, knowing they have a strong economic development group."

New board member **Gregory Lang** is the warehouse supervisor for Recreational Equipment, Inc.

"Economic development is crucial to making Bedford County an attractive business location and tourist destination," he said. "By creating an environment where businesses both small and large can thrive, Bedford County can look forward to retaining and employing local residents after graduation. We can also invite new business growth, like REI, into the area. I am looking forward to learning more about BCDA in general as well as supporting its goals to make Bedford a thriving business community."

A resident of Cresson, Lang is a program advisor for the Hiram G. Andrews Center.

"Economic development is crucial to making Bedford County an attractive business location and tourist destination."

James Gonsman, BCDA Board

FOR CLEARVILLE FAMILY, DUCK BUSINESS NOT DAFFY

Agriculture remains a major economic driver in Bedford County

Ten-year contract to raise Pekin Ducks



Zach, Landon (10 months) and Jessi Akers at the Akers Duck Farm in Clearville, PA. (Photo credit, Altoona Mirror)

The Akers, Zach and Jessi, had been crop farming for several years and decided to make a change in their plans. Their change from crop farming to duck production became a reality when they recently signed a 10-year contract to produce Pekin ducks for Joe Jurgielewicz & Son, LTD (JJS) of Lancaster County.

JJS raises and processes about 4.5 million ducks annually. They sell frozen ducks and related products to over 150 established customers. In 1985, Joe Jurgielewicz, Sr., founded JJS and developed a strong stable customer base.

Zach and Jessi will raise Pekin ducks, which are the most common commercially farmed ducks, often known as Long Island Ducks.

The Akers have constructed a duck production facility at their Clearville-area farm. Their facility is 40,572 square feet - dimensions of 60 feet by 600 feet -- with the capacity to house and handle up to 30,000 ducks.

The total cost of the duck production facility was \$1,180,000.

"All of Bedford County should take great pride in the partnership that led to this successful and future-directed project." Sean Bardell BCDA Board Chair

The financing for the facility was made possible with assistance from Bedford County Development Association (BCDA), Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC) as well as Fulton Bank in Lancaster, PA.

"This project is one that demonstrates the cooperative way that economic development projects work in Bedford County," stated Sean Bardell, Board Chair for BCDA. "It is also an excellent example of combining the importance of helping a business grow while working to maintain our excellent quality of life."

BCDA provided assistance by marshalling the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program (NGF), process through the Bedford County Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

The purpose of the NGF (a tax-exempt loan program) is to provide an effective means for federal-state-industry linkages. It allows the public sector to assist beginning and first-time farmers to purchase land, farm equipment, farm buildings and breeding livestock by enabling the lead financial partner to offer a lower interest rate to the borrower. The financial partner is afforded exemption from federal, state and county taxes that would be applicable.

"All of Bedford County should take great pride in the partnership that led to this successful and future-directed project," said Bardell.

BEDFORD COUNTY

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BCDA'S BUSINESS PARK, PHASE II HAS 75 ACRES OF GREAT POTENTIAL

When it comes to economic development, Bedford County is second to none

Bedford County Development Association's Business Park II (BCBP II) is a world-class location that can be considered as one of the most desirable locations in Pennsylvania and the Mid Atlantic.

"Adjacent to three interstates (I-70/76 and I-99), the BCBP II's 75 acre "pad-ready" site offers powerful combinations for prospective businesses from manufacturing to logistics. It offers a prime access to markets, an excellent workforce, Keystone Opportunity Zone designation, utilities to the curbside and is fully permitted to accommodate up to a 780,000 square foot building," said Sean Bardell, Chair of the BCDA Board.

This pad-ready site with all the utilities in place including an abundant and reliable electrical supply was developed by BCDA knowing that months of site preparation have been eliminated for future buyers.



The project engineer was H.F. Lenz of Johnstown and the contractor was Glenn O. Hawbaker of State College.

For more information or to schedule a tour of the site, contact BCDA at 814-623-4816, or visit www.bcda.org.