When it comes to success in the competitive environment of economic development, having pad-ready sites available is a powerful tool. The Bedford County Development Association is well aware of this fact. That is one of the important reasons that it is moving ahead with the development of Business Park II.

The project, which includes engineering, design, permitting and earthwork on 80 acres in the park, will cost $2.4 million. BCDA recognizes the importance of staying ahead of the demand for sites that can quickly accommodate the facility needs of companies seeking to locate or expand in Bedford County.

“We are doing everything we can to make this property available to the market,” said Travis Collins, Chair of the BCDA Board of Directors. “This site will add great value to a future employer, or a local company seeking to grow. The current project will eliminate months in site preparation and insure that there are no surprises during site development.”

Collins also pointed out that the site under development is located within a Keystone Opportunity Zone, a program that provides attractive tax incentives for employers including no property taxes for ten years.

"The current project will eliminate months in site preparation and ensure that there are no surprises during site development."

Travis Collins Board Chair, BCDA

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“We are going to make this Business Park as user friendly as possible,” said Collins.

Glenn O. Hawbaker of State College was awarded the project contract, which includes the moving of approximately 490,000 cubic yards of earth.

H.F. Lenz Company has completed the geotechnical engineering design, final design and will monitor the site throughout the completion of the project.

ROCKLAND’S SAM PRATT ADDRESSES BCDA ANNUAL MEETING

For more than three decades, Rockland Manufacturing has been an important contributor to the economic development of Bedford County. Its leader, Sam Pratt, CEO, has been an active business leader and contributor to the quality of life in the region. Rockland is a manufacturer of heavy construction equipment.

It is fitting, then, that Sam Pratt would be selected to deliver the keynote address at the BCDA Annual Meeting held at the renowned Omni Bedford Springs Resort.

With his usual flair, Pratt regaled the gathering with the story of how his company came to choose Bedford County as its home. He offered important insights into the process of site selection.

While there are many reasons Rockland chose Bedford County, an important factor was the quality of the regional workforce.

“We were welcomed and we were blessed to end up with such an excellent workforce,” Pratt said. “I really liked what I saw in Pennsylvania.”

“We were welcomed and we were blessed to end up with an excellent workforce.”

Sam Pratt, CEO, Rockland Manufacturing.
There are two types of success when it comes to economic development: The arrival of a new company in Bedford County or the expansion of a company already doing business here.

The recent announcement by L.B. Foster is a wonderful example of the second type of success story. The company announced plans to nearly double its plant size locally by expanding into a building next-door.

Located on Weber Lane in Bedford Township, L.B. Foster is a national leader in the production of transportation and construction materials for infrastructure improvements.

The Bedford County workers care about their work, each other and the communities they live in. I certainly recommend Bedford County as a place to do business.”

Julian Pedrazzani, Plant Manager, L.B. Foster

The new 48,000 square-feet facility will allow the company to drive growth in new product lines and expand its current capacity.

According to Plant Manager Julian M. Pedrazzani, L.B. Foster will continue to grow its core product lines and seek opportunities in related product offerings.

“We will almost double the current square footage of our manufacturing space,” said Pedrazzani. “We are making substantial investments in the building and new equipment for the operation that will take place there.”

Founded in 1902, L.B. Foster has a long and proud history in Pennsylvania and this growth continues the company’s commitment to Bedford County.

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BCDA's Bette Slayton, below, joined a team from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for BIO 2014 in San Diego, California. The event focused on the biotechnology industry, which holds great potential for businesses in Bedford County and the I-99 Corridor. The state has attracted this major showcase to be held in Philadelphia in 2015.

Bedford County’s burgeoning biotech industry was brought to the attention of the national media covering that industry. The PA DCED, BCDA and FirstEnergy hosted a meeting at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center that included a work session and the premiere of an exciting new video “Revolutionary,” which details the many Bedford County ag biotech initiatives. Following the presentation of the video, Greg Krug, CEO of Lampire Biological Laboratories, David DiPasquale, director of the Bedford County Technical Center and the Bedford County Commissioners answered questions posed by reporters.

To view “Revolutionary” go to http://bit.ly/11PWP2G

Thank You Annual Meeting Sponsors

The Bedford County Development Association would like to express its thanks to the sponsors of its Annual Meeting, held at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort and Spa.

Thank You FNB, Wessel & Company, Bedford Gazette, and Omni Bedford Springs Resort and Spa.

BCDA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT IT RECEIVES FROM THE REGION’S BUSINESS COMMUNITY.
Our staff and representatives take an active role in promoting all of the attributes that make this region a special place to live, work and do business.

BCDA took part in the World Trade Forum, joined by representatives from Altoona Blair County Development Corporation, the Deputy Secretary for International Business Development and FirstEnergy.

Matthew Fox, Altoona Blair County Development Corporation; Wilfred Muskins, Deputy Secretary for International Business Development; JP Tambounine, FirstEnergy; Bette Slayton, BCDA

State and federal officials are important partners in BCDA’s marketing efforts. Brooks Robinson, Governor’s Action Team; Mike Rossman, Governors’ Action Team; Jim Frank, Office of Rep. Bill Shuster; Travis Collins, Chair BCDA; Richard Hudic, DCED; Bo Pratt, Vice Chair BCDA, seen here at the annual meeting.
We are successful because of our people,” said Pedrazzani. “The men and women who work in the bridge group are the best in the country. They have proven this time and again on project after project. The Bedford County workers care about their work, each other and the communities they live in. I certainly recommend Bedford County as a place to do business.”

The plant manager, with more than 24 years experience in welding and fabrication noted, “Access to major highways is beneficial, of course, as all of our products are shipped via trucks over the road.”

BCDA expressed its appreciation to L.B. Foster for its decision to add manufacturing space in Bedford County. “We are very pleased that L.B. Foster has made this important investment in Bedford County,” said Travis Collins, Chair, Bedford County Development Association. “The company is a highly valued and long-time employer in our community. It is indeed a strong statement about the quality of our workforce and the many other factors that make Bedford County a great place to live and work.”

The Bedford facility currently employs 64 people that build steel bridge decking forms and railing systems, among other things.
The Bedford County Technical Center recently received a matching grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The grant, for $103,500, will allow the center to purchase equipment totaling $206,000 according to David DiPasquale, BCTC administrative director.

DiPasquale said that the money will be used to add a wide range of new equipment in response to the needs of workforce development in Bedford County.

“We will be purchasing four new welding booths with the latest welding equipment,” said DiPasquale. “In addition, we will purchase a CNC plasma cutting table. This will give us the ability to cut intricate designs in metal up to a 1/8 inch thick sheets.”

The center will also be purchasing a CNC milling machine as well as six new tabletop CNC trainers.

“We will also be expanding our workforce development building that was originally built to respond to workforce needs.”

“Some funding could not have come at a better time for the Bedford County Technical Center,” said Congressman Bill Shuster. “This funding will allow them to have a state-of-the-art training center as the Tech Center prepares them to enter the workforce.”

The grant will also support the creation of a video focused on manufacturing opportunities in Bedford County. A $10,000 in-kind match from Bedford County Development Association leveraged the ARC monies.

“This funding will allow them to have a state-of-the-art training center.”

Congressman Bill Shuster

The Bedford County Development Association was very pleased to announce its selection for the 2014 Economic Development Award presented at the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner. The award went to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Bedford.

General Manager Tom Burchfield said, “It is an honor on behalf of Wal-Mart, to accept the 2014 Economic Development Award for Bedford County.” He noted that the management and associates who work at the distribution center deserved credit for the award.

“I would also like to thank the Bedford County Development Association for their persistence in getting this building built in Bedford County and for their continued support over the years.” The local workforce is credited with making the Bedford Facility one of the most successful in the Wal-Mart Logistics system.

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The local workforce is credited with making the Bedford Facility one of the most successful in the Wal-Mart Logistics system.

“Wal-Mart’s choice to locate here validated that Bedford County is a great place to do business.”

Travis Collins, Chair of BCDA
BCDA completes Jobs 1st Assessment

86 companies participated

BCDA would like to thank the Bedford County companies that completed the Jobs 1st PA Assessment survey. The information gathered through the assessments will be used to support business growth by providing training opportunities for existing employees, assisting businesses in finding appropriate employees and giving college students the chance to gain real world experience through internships.

The 86 companies that participated were representative of six industry sectors, including: advanced manufacturing; building construction; business services; healthcare; hospitality and logistics/transportation.

Through these efforts, multiple training opportunities and internship placements will be available in the upcoming months.

Walmart Distribution

Travis Collins, chair of BCDA's Board of Directors, made the presentation. "When we cut the ribbon on the new Wal-Mart Distribution Center in 1998, we thought we'd hit a homerun in our recruitment. Yet over the past 16 years, they have far exceeded our expectations. Wal-Mart's choice to locate here validated that Bedford County is a great place to do business. Equally impressive is the company's generosity. Dozens of local businesses have benefitted from having the Distribution Center as a customer and Wal-Mart associates spend their paychecks on local goods and services."

Burchfield said that the Wal-Mart Distribution Center takes its role as a supportive member of the community very seriously.

Over the years, the Wal-Mart Distribution Center has donated more than $1 million to local food banks. The Center also donates more than $25,000 each year through community grants from the Walmart Foundation. The Volunteerism Always Pays Program also raises $20,000 that is presented to local charities.