

SUMMER 2024

BC BROADCAST

NEWS FROM THE BEDFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

*Open for
Business*

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New Members Join Board of Directors

“Our focus is always on creating a brighter future for Bedford County.”



Front Row Seated (l-r): Mike O'Dellick, Bedford County Technical Center, Vice Chair; Jeffrey Crist, Gatter & Diehl, Chair; Trudy Mitchell, Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission, Secretary; Dr. Sherry Cain, Cain Coaching and Consulting, Immediate Past Chair; Jan Fisher, UPMC Altoona/Bedford, Assistant Secretary; Sean Bardell, Howard Hanna Bardell Realty, Treasurer

Middle Row Standing (l-r): Elizabeth Manges, Hometown Bank of PA; BCDA Office Manager Melanie Miller; BCDA Vice President Jennifer Marsh; BCDA President & CEO Bette Slayton; Amanda Burroughs, Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Gregory F. Krug, Lampire Biological Laboratories; Michael Stiles, Bedford County Commissioner; Dwayne Zimmerman, Crowsnest IT Support

Back Row Standing (l-r): Darin Mauzy, Mission Critical Solutions; Floyd "Pete" Imler III, JLG Industries; Clifton Clark, Clark Contractors; Nathan Roadman, Reed, Wertz & Roadman; JP Tambourine, retired, FirstEnergy Corp.; Dwight "JR" Winck, Bedford County Commissioner

Absent from photo: Robbie Weaver, Weaver's Sanitation Services, LLC; Kaitlyn Swope, PA Beef Council; Deb Baughman, Bedford County Commissioner

BCDA is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors for 2024, with the addition of new members who bring a wide range of skillsets and experience.

New Board Chair Jeff Crist, president of consulting engineering and planning firm Gatter & Diehl, Inc. has provided professional services on projects in Bedford County and across the nation for 38 years.

“Our 2024 plans include traditional avenues of growth while embracing new horizons. We’ll continue championing business retention, entrepreneurial development, marketing, recruitment of new employers and fostering real estate development. Additionally, we’re expanding into the outdoor recreation arena and seeking ways to bring new housing opportunities to our county.

Our focus is always on creating a brighter future for Bedford County.”

Jeff Crist, BCDA Board Chair and President, Gatter & Diehl



- The 2024 Executive Committee includes:
- Jeff Crist, Chair
 - Mike O'Dellick, Vice Chair
 - Sean Bardell, Treasurer
 - Trudy Mitchell, Secretary
 - Dr. Sherry Cain, Immediate Past Chair

- New members joining the board are:
- Amanda Burroughs, Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Spa
 - Elizabeth Manges, Hometown Bank of PA
 - Nathan Roadman, Reed Wertz & Roadman
 - Kaitlyn Swope, PA Beef Council
 - JP Tambourine, Retired, FirstEnergy Corp.

BCDA Business Center Open for Business



BCDA and Cell-Con, Inc. recently celebrated a dual ribbon cutting event at the new BCDA Business Center in Bedford County Business Park I.

“This project is more than just a building, it’s a catalyst for economic growth,” noted Jeff Crist, BCDA board chair.

Planning for the project began in 2018 when BCDA realized there was a lack of buildings to accommodate expanding local businesses and the recruitment of new businesses.

Throughout the next six years, the project unfolded, evolving into a 24,000-sf. facility with a \$6.4 budget. Key milestones included securing state and federal grants and loans from a variety of agencies.



“As a result of this building, Cell-Con will continue to be a leading manufacturer of rechargeable battery packs for various applications. We are proud to be manufacturing leaders in Bedford County.”

Gene Kiley, CEO Cell-Con



Left to Right: State Rep. Jesse Topper; Jeff Crist, BCDA board chair; JR Winck, Bedford County commissioner; Mike Mumma, Cell-Con co-founder; Gene Kiley, Cell-Con CEO; Bette Slayton, BCDA president and CEO; Kevin Harkleroad, Cell-Con engineering manager; Jen Marsh, BCDA vice president; Mandy Book, DCED deputy secretary of business finance; and state Sen. Pat Stefano.

“This building will provide local companies with the ability to expand and stay in Bedford County as well as be a tool to recruit business into the area.”

Representative Jesse Topper



As the project progressed, local business Cell-Con, Inc. reached out to BCDA looking for additional space and soon became the anchor tenant, leasing 15,000-sf.

Cell-Con is a leading U.S. manufacturer of custom and stocked battery packs and power systems. Since incorporating in 1983, Cell-Con has served as a world class supplier to Original Equipment Manufacturers in the medical, industrial, military, transportation, instrumentation, utility/metering, RFID, robotic and data acquisition markets.

A major part of BCDA’s work is to retain and create jobs while growing our economy. There are numerous ways this is done: entrepreneurial development, low-interest loan financing, marketing, outdoor recreation initiatives and, as is evident in the Bedford County Business Park I, the development of real estate to meet the needs of expanding local businesses and to recruit new employers to our area

There are 9,000 SF of the building still available to lease for a build-to-suit tenant.

Contact us for more information about the available space in the BCDA Business Center: www.bcda.org

Everett Business Park Welcomes Fire & Risk Alliance

BCDA is pleased to announce the acquisition of nine acres in the Everett Business Park by Fire & Risk Alliance, LLC (FRA) for the establishment of a Research and Development Campus. The site will include research, testing and training facilities.



FRA, founded in 2011, is a leader in fire and risk engineering, providing services that include fire protection engineering, risk assessment studies, applied research & development, and fire modeling. The company's engineers and scientists work with clients throughout the world. Customers include NASA, Exelon, Tesla, Google, Amazon, and many others.

FRA staff are professionally licensed in 47 states with offices in CA, IL, MD, NY, GA, and Toronto. The new campus will not only house cutting-edge research facilities but also feature a dedicated training center.

This center will cater to fire service companies and technical groups, providing comprehensive training programs to equip professionals with the latest knowledge and skills essential for addressing the unique challenges associated with battery energy storage systems, EVs, and emerging fire safety hazards.



"This strategic acquisition represents a significant milestone in our commitment to advancing fire safety within rapidly evolving industries. Our goal is to establish a world-class facility that not only conducts groundbreaking applied research but also serves as a hub for education and training, ensuring the highest safety standards across these transformative sectors."

FRA's Chief Operating Officer, Noah Ryder, PhD, PE, MBA

MyAdvisor Joins Hess Business Center

BCDA welcomes MyAdvisor to the Hess business center. MyAdvisor provides veteran-centered coaching services to support veteran employees and participating members of their households. The new office will provide 24/7/365 care coordination. This includes services ranging from beh development with one goal: Serving those who provide services to others.



"Expanding to Bedford is a significant milestone for MyAdvisor. This new office allows us to grow and scale our services, fostering stronger relationships and enabling us to provide care coordination where it matters most. It's testament to our continued success and our commitment to growth."

Jennifer Christman, President, MyAdvisor



A ribbon-cutting for the newest location of MyAdvisor was led by MyAdvisor President, Jennifer Christman, joined by Greg Feldman, MyAdvisor CEO, Jessica Lieb, Elliott Sumner, BCDA President & CEO Bette Slayton, County Commissioner Mike Stiles, and BCDA Board Chair Jeff Crist.

Bedford Family Health Center Occupational Medicine Clinic Relocates

The Bedford Family Health Center – Occupational Medicine clinic relocated to the Hess Business Center II. The new location in the Bedford County Business Park caters to the manufacturing employers and their employees who need occupational health services.



Occupational health focuses on the prevention, evaluation, and resolution of health conditions in the workplace.



"Expanding our services and locating them within the Bedford Business Park is a win-win.

Our close proximity to companies throughout the region offers a more convenient way to care for work-related injuries, DOT certification exams, and pre-employment screenings."

Dr. Brian Stratta, HAHC CEO & CMO



HAHC's Occupational Health Center's ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Dr. Brian Stratta and staff and joined by County Commissioner Mike Stiles, BCDA Vice Chair Mike O'Dellick, Senator Pat Stefano, BCDA Vice President Jen Marsh, Representative Jesse Topper and HAHC Board President John Blackburn, III.

"Placing an Occupational Health Center in the midst of our business park and centrally located, is not just practical, but strategic.

It aligns perfectly with our mission to foster a healthy and prosperous business environment in Bedford County."

Mike O'Dellick, BCDA Board Vice Chair and Director, Bedford County Technical Center



BCDA Receives Competitive Funding for Site Development

If you build it they will come...

Lt. Gov. Austin Davis highlighted how investments through the PA SITES (Pennsylvania Strategic Investments to Enhance Sites) pilot program will benefit rural communities to prepare sites for future development, attract new companies or allow employers to expand, creating more jobs and economic opportunity across the Commonwealth.

"The adage 'if you build it, they will come,' that's not just a quote from a baseball movie," said Davis. "It's what major corporations are looking for, and if you don't have shovel-ready sites, you're at a significant disadvantage. Because of the state budget we passed last year – with bipartisan support – we were able to launch a pilot program for site development. The Bedford County Development Association was one of seven recipients of that initial round of grants. That's a big win for a rural community like Bedford County. Every job created has downstream economic impacts – more families buying goods and services, spending money at small businesses and helping to revitalize the community as a whole."

DCED received 102 applications for the PA SITES pilot program.

"Between location and space, Bedford County is an ideal location for businesses to thrive. It's due to the hard work of the BCDA and the partnership of other county stakeholders that keeps the soil in Bedford County rich with opportunity and ready for new or expanding businesses to plant their roots. I'm thrilled that the Administration also sees the benefit in having the business park 'shovel-ready.'

State Senator Pat Stefano

OK2StandUp



Dr. Eunice Yang's invention is a small, wearable device that is not much bigger than your average band-aid. The wireless unit monitors certain physical movements and tendencies that could potentially lead to falls and transmits data in real-time to caregivers through a phone app that is linked to the product.

"We can get help to an older adult before they try to get up and walk," Yang said. "That's critical in taking care of people."

Yang has received over \$1.4 million in grant funding for OK2StandUP, which is currently marketed to nursing homes. She has also gained office space and support through the Bedford County Development Association (BCDA), as it is designated as a Keystone Innovation Zone which provides tax credits to businesses that are less than eight years old.

Recently the business received a \$263,000 grant from Life Sciences Greenhouse Investments, which provides early-stage capital and operational expertise to innovative technologies within Pennsylvania's life sciences domain. OK2StandUP also secured a \$150,000 investment from Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern Pennsylvania.



Southern Salts

Stephanie Starr understands the need to find natural ways to stay healthy. In 2010 Stephanie was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and since that time has been on a mission to incorporate holistic healing into her life and is now sharing her knowledge in Bedford County.

Southern Salts is a Salt Spa and Wellness Center that features red-light and salt therapies as well as organic kombucha, salty massages, salty yoga, and CBD products.



Aesthetics by Kell

Kelly McGee, Bedford, has been providing a clean, women-owned, environmentally-conscious skincare collection to residents and visitors for more than a year.

Kelly, an aesthetic nurse practitioner, now offers a full-service med spa offering a variety of services. Congratulations to Kelly on her business expansion and for sharing her passion to look and feel your best with others!

Cork & Compass

Gregg Feaster, a local outdoor enthusiast, is planning to open a new distillery, Cork & Compass. Gregg is focused on producing quality, innovative spirits by using as many locally sourced ingredients as possible.

Opening is planned for Summer 2024 inside the Fat Jimmys building and adjacent to Olde Bedford Brewing Company in Bedford.



Ready to start something new? We can help! www.bcd.org

BEDFORD COUNTY Entrepreneurs

DREAMING • DARING • DOING

Sarah Baumbach Gracie Lou
A boutique for littles

Stacey Grab
Paper Creations by Stacey
Handcrafted paper floral designs

Dave & Mary Heller
Hideaway Ranch
Outdoor glamping adventures

Kelly McGee
Aesthetics by Kell
Medspa, skincare, and wellness

Dr. Eunice Yang
OK2Standup
Artificial Intelligence-Powered Fall Mitigation App

Adam Osman
Bedford County Adam
Woodworking & wood carving

Tammy and Adam Wiley
Bedford Candies
Handcrafted chocolates and popcorn

Taylor Wahl
Twila's
Sewing & retreat center

Jennifer Judd
Jennifer Judd Designs
Graphic designer & fine artist

Dan & Bryn Keller
Woodhaven Brewing Co.
Microbrewery addition to the Woodhaven B&B

Stephanie Starr
Southern Salts
Salt spa & wellness center

Chris Miles
Country Pirate Rentals
Outdoor adventure equipment rental service

Gregg Feaster
Cork & Compass
Specialty distilling of fine spirits

Bedford County Development Association

Small Business Development Highlights



71
Entrepreneurs Supported



30
Business Plans Created



\$50,000
in Grant Funding Awarded



\$400,000
in Small Business Loans Disbursed

Senator Casey Awards \$350,000 Rural Entrepreneurial Assistance Grant

Senator Robert Casey, Jr., recently visited Bedford County, to announce the approval of two grants totaling nearly \$800,000. BCDA was awarded \$350,000 to support entrepreneurship and business growth. Additionally, the Bedford County Fairgrounds received \$440,000 in funding to upgrade its water infrastructure.

Jen Marsh, BCDA Vice President, spoke about the grant's impact on BCDA's Rural Entrepreneur Technical Assistance initiative. This initiative will provide vital support to small businesses and entrepreneurs through tools such as technical assistance, workshops, and other resources essential for their success.

The grant will enable BCDA to continue to foster a thriving environment for local businesses and community pride.



Left to right: Deb Baughman, Bedford County Commissioner; Senator Robert Casey, Jr.; Jen Marsh, BCDA Vice President.

Bringing the World to PA



Left to right: Gregory F. Krug, Lampire Biological Labs; David Briel, Deputy Secretary, Office of International Business Development; Lee Kandt, Lampire Biological Laboratories; Bette Slayton, BCDA President & CEO; John Swatkoski, President Vacuum Processes Inc.; Jennifer Marsh, BCDA Vice President; Dwight 'JR' Winck, Bedford County Commissioner; Mark Thaler, CEO The Organic Snack Company.

Bedford County had a strong presence at the PA Office of International Business Development "Bringing the World to PA" tour held this spring. Local businesses, including Lampire Biological Labs, The Organic Snack Company, and Vacuum Processes, participated in individual "speed dating" sessions with the state's international trade representatives. Additionally, Gregory Krug, Lampire Biological Labs, made a significant impact by supporting the BCDA in a presentation to investment representatives.

This collaboration is essential for nurturing international investment and forging business partnerships throughout the world.



A Local Voice for the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) recently invited **Jennifer Marsh** to serve on its Technical Advisory Committee for the development of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Marsh is the Vice President of the BCDA

The outdoor recreation industry adds \$14 billion to the state's economy and accounts for 152,000 jobs, according to the newly formed PA Office of Outdoor Recreation.

The SCORP plays a pivotal role in guiding the future of outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania, addressing key issues, identifying trends, and outlining strategies to enhance the quality and accessibility of outdoor recreational opportunities across the state. Marsh's appointment to the advisory committee will contribute to shaping policies and initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, community engagement and economic growth through outdoor recreation.

BCDA has recently been awarded several outdoor recreation grants. Working in partnership with the county and the newly formed **Bedford County Outdoor Recreation Alliance**, the County-Wide Master Trail Connectivity Study project will begin to review the current trails and determine ways to connect them to further enhance the county's trail system. Additionally, a DCNR PEER grant was awarded for a county-wide trail



"I'm honored to represent our county in the development of the new state-wide plan. A strong outdoor recreation culture is important to recruiting and retaining people and businesses and serves as a powerful economic engine.

Bedford County has so much to offer. We're eager to partner with the state to continue to grow this important industry."

Jen Marsh, BCDA Vice President

management study and a mini grant from SAPDC was secured to provide technical assistance to the TOPP Trail.

Bedford County is well-represented at the state level with **Matt and McKenzie Blair, The Organic Snack Company**, serving as members of the Recreation Engagement Coalition for Growing Outdoor Recreation for Pennsylvania (GORP) and **Blaine Smith, Juniata Trading**, serving on the Outdoor Business Alliance Steering Committee.



BCDA was honored to be a panelist for the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable discussion hosted by the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. A panel of local business people led by **Nathan Reigner, State director of Outdoor Recreation**, discussed the benefits of growing that industry here in Bedford County.

Left to right: Blaine Smith of Juniata Trading Co., Tina Molski of REI, Jen Marsh of BCDA, Donna Himes and Sam Wiley of Blue Knob All Seasons Resort and Matthew and McKenzie Blair of The Organic Snack Co., Nathan Reigner, State Director of Outdoor Recreation.

Visit our website at www.bcd.org to find out about how we can help you grow your business.

Bedford Reinforced Plastics 50th Anniversary

Bedford Reinforced Plastics (BRP) recently celebrated its 50th anniversary at its south plant location in Bedford County Business Park I.

The business, started in 1974 by Mel and Carin Stahl, grew from a small barn with a dozen employees, to the now 200,000 sf. of manufacturing facilities. The company now has over 200 employees.



L to R: Bottom row - Tom Wright, Business Development Director; Brian Stahl, Owner; Carin Stahl; Bette Slayton, BCDA President and CEO; Jen Marsh, BCDA Vice President. Top row - Mike Stiles, Bedford County Commissioner; Allen Stahl, Owner; Glenn Smith, General Manager.

Today, BRP is a full-service supplier to a global market offering a full line of products made of fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP).

BRP employees celebrate 50 years



MCS Receives Governor's Award for Veteran Hiring

Mission Critical Solutions, under the leadership of Bob McGowan and his dedicated team, was recently honored with the 2024 "Recognizing Valor - Employers Hiring Veterans" award created by Governor Shapiro.

The company's commitment to providing a platform for every employee to showcase his or her talents has resulted in dynamic growth. Its current workforce totals over 80 skilled individuals specializing in welding, fabricating, and machining. MCS is deeply invested in its team and honors the service of veterans.



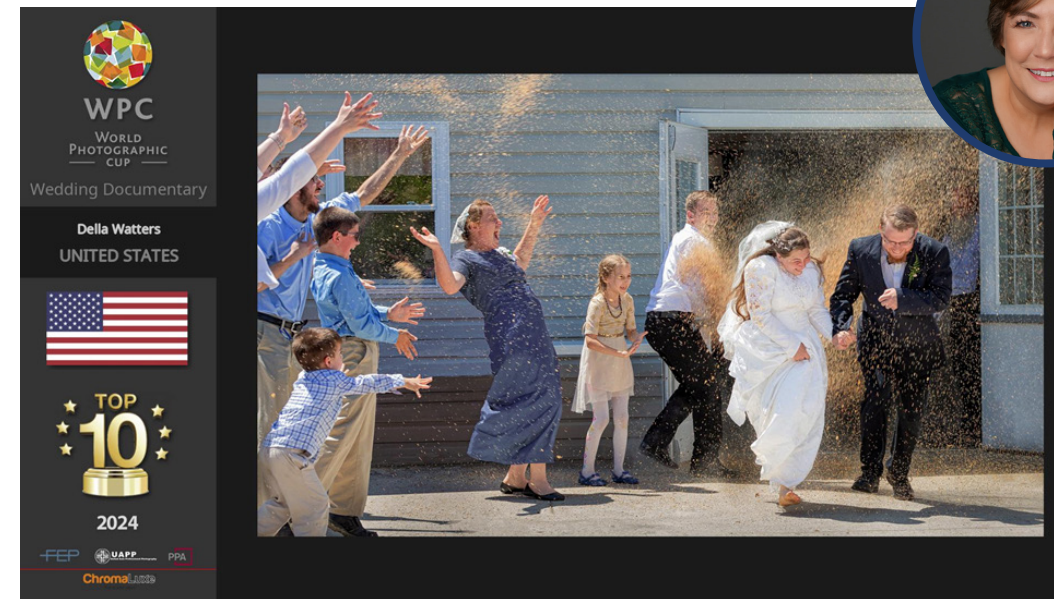
Left to right: Nick McGowan, Business Operations; Bob McGowan, President and CEO; Paul Liebal, Business Development; Darin Mauzey, VP of Operations

The Bedford County Technical Center (BCTC) recently received a donation of a ventilation hood to its welding classroom. After the Tech Center added a plasma table last year, local manufacturer CaptiveAire helped in creating and designing a vented hood that would help in terms of safety.

Local contractors including, Clark Contractors, Waltower Enterprises, and Marc Services also helped in the installation. This new set-up will allow welding students to gain more real-world experience.



Local Photographer Wins Global Award



"Showered with Blessings" by Della Watters, a Top 10 finalist in the World Photographic Cup Wedding Documentary Category

Local photographer **Della Watters, of WattersWorks & Company, LLC**, in Everett, recently competed in the prestigious World Photographic Cup competition as part of Team USA in Dallas.

Her photograph, "Showered with Blessings," was selected from over 7,500 worldwide submissions.

In the category of best wedding documentary photographs, Della achieved an impressive 9th place globally. This recognition underscores Watters' talent and dedication to her craft on an international stage. Bedford County is proud to have such an esteemed and talented photographer.

Local Students Win Statewide Award



Left to right: Roxanna Kelley, Piper Kelley, Keynna Nicodemus, Elizebeth George, Integra Griffith, Kyra Brown, Bo Lingenfelter, teacher coach Nikki Gephart, teacher coach Keith Fleegle, and Karen Buck, director of Workforce Initiatives

"The coolest part is I got to meet people and visit places I've never been before; and I learned about career opportunities not just from our video, but all the videos"

Piper Kelley, an eighth-grade Chestnut Ridge team member

Chestnut Ridge After 3 program students won the "Best of Pennsylvania Viewer's Choice" award for its entry in the 2024 "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?" video competition. The students topped more than 150 videos across the state. The video featured Creative Composites Group, Alum Bank. Nearly 300,000 votes were sent into the Southern Alleghenies WSCM contest during a three-day period.

"The growth in leadership, storytelling, and technical skills we see among students who participate is remarkable," noted Lyn Skillington, Project Director for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Consortium.

The program is supported by a grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, BCDA, BCTC, and the Bedford County 21st Century BCLC.



See the award-winning video and all the submissions from the Southern Alleghenies at whatssocool.org/contests/southern-alleghenies

BEDFORD COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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