

Tioga County Development Corporation

eNews Insider



October 2008

Insider Info

- **US Route 15 Completed in Tioga County** (page 1)
- **5th District Congressional Debate** (page 2)
- **1st Annual Membership Mixer a Big Success** (page 3)
- **TCDC Staff Receives Professional Certification** (page 3)
- **Business Spotlight: K&W Medical Specialties** (page 4)
- **Interest Rates Reduced on Business Loans** (page 5)
- **In Memory of Donald E. Carman** (page 5)
- **From The President** (page 6)

US Route 15 Completed in Tioga County



Local, State and Federal Officials from Pennsylvania and New York gather at the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the official opening of the final four-lane section of Route 15 in Tioga County, Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008 officials from two states celebrated the opening on nearly seven (7) miles of new highway in Tioga County. On behalf of Governor Edward G. Rendell, PennDOT Secretary Allen Biehler, P.E., joined federal, state and local officials to dedicate and open the new four-lane section of U.S. Route 15 in Lawrenceville.

Pennsylvania officials celebrated the opening of 5.5 miles of new highway in a joint ceremony with New York officials, who concurrently opened their new 1.2-mile section of Route 15 connecting to the Pennsylvania section. "This is truly a milestone event," said Biehler. "Thanks to a

significant investment in resources, we've been able to make this corridor much safer, easier and more efficient to travel, and more attractive for economic growth. With the opening of this section, travelers now have a four-lane connection between Interstate 80 and the New York border."

The opening of the newest section of Route 15 in Tioga County completes the modernization of nearly 57 miles of U.S. Route 15 north of Williamsport over the past 20 years. The Pennsylvania project includes a limited-access highway on a new alignment with a full interchange at Route 287 near Tioga Borough, a full interchange at Route 49 at the west end of Lawrenceville, several small structures, two large sets of twin bridges over both the Tioga and Cowanesque Rivers, wetland mitigation and related miscellaneous features. The work was done under five separate contracts over a five-year period. Construction costs totaled \$102 million.

2008 Board Meetings

Second Friday, 9:00 AM

- November 14
- December 12

PLAN AHEAD.....

13th Annual

TCDC Legislative Breakfast

Thursday, April 9, 2009
Historic Penn Wells Hotel
Wellsboro, PA 16901
7:30 AM Buffet Opens

TCDC 16th Annual Meeting

Monday, July 27, 2009
Location TBA

5th Congressional District Debate



Candidates for the 5th Congressional District include (left to right): Jim Fryman (L), Mark McCracken (D) and Glenn Thompson (R).

Candidates vying for the 5th District of the United States Congress had the opportunity to speak to a crowd of residents and students at the 5th District Congressional Debate on Monday, October 20, 2008 at Mansfield University's Straughn Auditorium. All three (3) Candidates, Jim Fryman (L), Mark McCracken (D) and Glenn Thompson (R) were in attendance.

Dr. Jeffrey Bosworth, Mansfield University Associate Professor of Political Science served as Moderator. Questions were solicited from the public prior to the Debate and then reviewed by a Committee. Each Candidate was given two minutes for their answer and then one additional minute for a follow-up question. The audience also had the opportunity to submit questions for inclusion at the end of the Debate.



Moderator: Dr. Jeffrey Bosworth, Associate Professor of Political Science at Mansfield University

Debate topics covered both foreign affairs and national issues of concerns to the Constituents of the 5th Congressional District such as energy independence, healthcare, war, agriculture and the economy. Prior to and after the Debate, Tioga County residents had the opportunity to meet with the Candidates informally to voice their concerns and ask questions.

The non-partisan debate was coordinated by the *Tioga County Development Corporation* and co-sponsored by several area non-profit organizations including Potter/Tioga Farm Bureau; Tioga County Partnership for Community Health; Betterment Organization of Mansfield (BOOM); Growth Resources of Wellsboro (GROW); Cowanesque Valley Joint Chamber of Commerce; Greater Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce; Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce; and Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

PCN, the Pennsylvania Cable Network, provided live coverage of the Debate which allowed more individuals the opportunity to become informed voters before hitting the polls on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.



Audience Members had the opportunity to submit questions for potential inclusion in the Debate. MU Political Science Club Members assisted in soliciting questions.

For more information on each Candidate:

Jim Fryman (L)
www.frymanforcongress.com

Mark McCracken (D)
www.mccrackenforcongress.com

Glenn Thompson (R)
www.glennthompson2008.com



Big Success: TCDC's 1st Annual Meet Our Member Mixer

On Wednesday, September 17, 2008 the *Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)* held its *1st Annual Meet Our Member Mixer*. The mixer, hosted by Partners in Progress, was a great success attracting nearly 150 Members and guests.

"All of us at PIP were delighted with the turnout and the ability to network with many businesses we have never met", said Irene Morgan, PIP Executive Director. "We view the evening as a great success and thank those at *TCDC* for their assistance in the planning of the event!"

The *1st Annual Meet Our Member Mixer* served as an opportunity for *TCDC* Members to see firsthand the valuable services provided by PIP to businesses throughout Tioga County and surrounding areas, while mingling with fellow Members. The event featured tours of PIP's Facility and its services, displays and refreshments. Partners in Progress received some possible leads on how they can provide services to other businesses.

For more information on upcoming *TCDC* events, visit our website: <http://www.tcdc-pa.com/happening>.



For more information on Partners in Progress, visit their website at www.partnersinprogresspip.com



TCDC Staff Receives Professional Certification

Dedicated to the growth and development of Tioga County, Robert J. Blair, *TCDC* President/CEO and Lillian Smith, *TCDC* Economic Development Coordinator have received their Economic Development Professional (EDP) designation. Both received the designation at the Northeastern Economic Developers Association (NEDA) 2008 Annual Conference September 21-23 in Buffalo, New York.

The NEDA EDP Credential is dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in the field of economic development. The Northeastern Economic Developers Association (NEDA) encourages its members to maintain the highest professional skills and to use those skills to improve the economy of the Northeastern United States and the economic development profession.

In order to participate in the program, individuals must meet specific eligibility and educational requirements. The designation

is good for (3) three years. Active NEDA membership is open to any person who devotes a major portion of his or her time to any recognized form of economic development activity, and to any person who, by virtue of membership on any Board, Commission, or similar body participates in the economic development of their community, region, or State as a volunteer, local elected official, or otherwise.

NEDA is the leading economic development organization in the northeast. For more information on NEDA, visit their website at: www.nedaonline.org.



In The Business Spotlight

A Ray of Sunshine in the Cowanesque Valley



MedPlast K&W is located at 115 Pritchard Hollow Road Westfield, PA.

As a new addition to our *eNews Insider* we hope to focus on a Member Business on a regular basis. In this edition we will feature K&W Medical Specialties in Westfield, Pennsylvania.

“K&W Machine Company, Inc. was started by Jean and Gene Wolstenholme in 1962, and became incorporated in 1968. In the late 60’s the Warminster office was expanded to add injection molding and assembly for the medical market. In 1974 they expanded operations to build the Westfield facility to give capacity to support their largest customer at that time. The facility was named K&W Medical Specialties. Their largest customer was purchased by Johnson & Johnson around the time the Westfield operation was to begin production. The plan was to vertically integrate and therefore would not need the services provided by K&W. Lacking a sales force, Gene went about getting some work, which took time to develop.”, according to Ralph Wolstenholme.

Ralph joined the company in 1980 and K&W continued to grow internally until they ran out of space. The company started its first expansion in 1991 adding 12,000 sq ft to the original 18,000 and in 1996 added another 30,000 sq ft. The company expanded once more in 2006, adding 10,000 sq ft primarily for offices. K&W continues to grow their business today. They have a sales force for the first time in K&W’s history and now run a true 24/7 operation.

In April 2008, K&W and 4 divisions of ATP were purchased by a newly formed company; MedPlast, Inc. MedPlast is a unique company, having the capability to offer their customers expertise and engineered solutions in thermoplastics, rubbers and silicone. All of these are required in the healthcare market and very few competitors offer all of these strengths under one umbrella. MedPlast, Inc. also operates manufacturing facilities in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Iowa and Arizona. The company’s corporate headquarters is located in Tempe, Arizona. Prior to the purchase, K&W manufactured medical component parts primarily for the sterile disposables market. Now, as a division of MedPlast, K&W will be adding complete assemblies and packaging for customers as needed. The company will also have an engineering group and increase the tool shop to support the operation. The purchase of K&W will have a positive outcome for both the company and its customers, allowing growth within the company while maintaining customer and employee satisfaction.

So how will all of this affect Tioga County? Ralph Wolstenholme, Vice President of Production Processes at K&W, says “Our goal is to grow the business. We will continue to employ more people and grow the value of our employees. We have been a very stable employer for many years quietly growing in our corner of the county. Our renewed focus will take us well into the future and will offer our community a quality employer for many years to come.”

K&W currently employs 335 people, and Wolstenholme says that the company has already hired a few new positions in the professional areas and will continue to grow -- as growth dictates. The company will continue to operate as K&W Medical Specialties, a division of MedPlast. Eventually the K&W name will disappear and the company will be renamed as MedPlast Westfield.

For more information on MedPlast, visit their website at:
www.medplastgroup.com.

**K&W currently
employs 335 people
and will continue to
grow as growth
dictates.**



Interest Rates on Business Loan Programs Reduced

The *Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)* has been notified that Pennsylvania has reduced interest rates on three of its key business loan programs to position the State for continued economic growth and as an effort to keep Pennsylvania's businesses competitive.

The Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) voted to reduce the interest rate on its loans to 3% for all future projects. The Commonwealth will also set interest rates to 3% for projects approved through the Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund (MELF) and Small Business First (SBF) loan programs.

The cuts continue the practice of holding rates on these Commonwealth loan programs to 2% below prime. Changes will take effect immediately.

PIDA provides capital for infrastructure acquisition, creation and renovation projects primarily for manufacturers, industrial developers, research and development firms, agricultural processors and employers looking to establish national or regional headquarters in Pennsylvania. MELF provides loan financing for machinery and equipment needs and SBF provides low interest assistance to any for-profit

business in Pennsylvania, including agricultural production.

In addition, interest rates on the *Tioga County Development Corporation's (TCDC)* Tioga County Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Fund remain at 2.5% for industries located in the *Tioga County Enterprise Zone (TCEZ)*. The *Tioga County Development Corporation* is available to assist Tioga County businesses and industries in applying for the PIDA, MELF and *TCEZ* loans. The SBF loans are processed through the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission. *TCDC* is available to answer any questions your business or industry may have regarding these changes.

For more information or to apply for any of these loans, contact Lillian Smith, *TCDC* Economic Development Coordinator at 570.723.8232 or tcdc3@ptd.net.

Interest Rates
apply to PIDA,
MELF and SBF
Low Interest Loan
Programs

In Memory Of DONALD E. CARMAN 1938-2008

On October 5, 2008 our community and state suffered a great loss with the death of Donald E. Carman. Don is the perfect example of community service and leadership. He served his borough, county and state with true pride and passion.

A native of Tioga County, Don served on Borough Council since 1978 and was Council President during most of his tenure. Most recently, he dedicated countless hours of his professional expertise serving as the President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Elkland Borough Manager, Director and Member of the *Tioga County Development Corporation*, was an active member of the

Elkland United Methodist Church and served 31 years as a Masonic Member. In 2002, Don was the recipient of the *Rod L. Kelchner Award for Excellence in Community Service and Leadership* at *TCDC's* Annual Meeting.

In addition to his honorable profession, Don was a dedicated husband, father and friend. He was married to his beloved wife of 32 years, Pat, who preceded him in death. His family of five children, thirteen grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren were his pride and joy.

Don was the epitome of an effective leader. He was the voice of reason, always carried a positive attitude, had a million dollar smile and his dedication to public service made our communities a better place to live.

Don touched so many lives in so many different ways. Although he is gone he will always be a part of our lives.



On July 28, 2008 Donald E. Carman was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for being elected President of the PSAB at TCDC's 15th Annual Meeting



114 Main Street
Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Voice: 570.723.8232
Fax: 570.723.8441
E-mail: tcdc1@ptd.net

www.tcdc-pa.com

Chairman of the Board
David E. Cummings

First Vice Chairman
Karen H. Russell

Second Vice Chairman
David G. Lamphier

Treasurer
Wendy S. Swartz

Secretary
Robert J. Blair

Board of Directors
Brenda G. Abplanalp
James D. Baker, Jr.
Scott Bastian
Timothy Bowers
Donald Carman
Susan A. Dillon
Thomas Freeman
Jason G. Gehman
Joseph M. Kalata
Raymond Kaminski
Karl Kroeck
Jacki Lawrence
Maravene S. Loeschke
Gary A. Mosher
Leo Parchesky
Alan J. Quimby
William W. Roosa
Deborah E. Scott
Darla J. Shick
M. Sue Vogler
Philip J. Waber
Aneurin J. (Bill) Williams, Jr.
Mary E. Worthington

President & Chief Executive Officer
Robert J. Blair

Economic Development Coordinator
Lillian Smith

**Workforce & Career Development
Coordinator**
Erin L. Butters

Leadership Development Coordinator
Christie Blackwell

Administrative Assistant
Carolyn E. Conte

Special Projects Coordinator
Nichole R. Hall

From The President

This month was marked with celebration and tragedy in Tioga County. On October 1, a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony marked the final phase and completion of the 39 miles of US Route 15 in Tioga County. It was a celebration 40 years in the making. It occurred at the border between Pennsylvania and New York State . . . a fitting symbol of the partnership between both our States. We have much work ahead of us in completing the remaining 5 miles of single lane in New York State and the designation of US Route 15 as Interstate 99.

As part of our public educational process, *TCDC* and several other non-profits conducted the 5th Congressional District Debate on the campus of Mansfield University on October 20, 2008. We received statewide coverage with the event being aired live by PCN and re-aired several other times. This is a very important election both at the national and state levels and all citizens have a duty and civic responsibility to become informed about the candidates and the issues and to get out and vote on November 4, 2008.

With the economic downturn, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has reduced interest rates on three of its premiere programs . . . PIDA, MELF and SBF. Through direct eMails, conversations and media releases *TCDC* informed the businesses in Tioga County of the reduced rates and is ready to assist our businesses. We have experienced an up turn in business interest over the past few months. Tioga County, Northern Tier and Pennsylvania have several low interest loan programs and training funds available for businesses growing and expanding in Tioga County.

On October 5, 2008, Tioga County and the Commonwealth lost a true public servant. Don Carman, Elkland Borough Councilman for over 30 years and its current Borough Manager passed away in an automobile accident returning from a PSAB meeting. Don was President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB). To be elected President of PSAB is a tremendous honor representing the 960 Boroughs in Pennsylvania. He served as a Director of the *Tioga County Development Corporation* since our inception in 1991 and was very active in economic development in Tioga County. Usually the first one to arrive and the last one to leave, Don was truly committed to *TCDC*. But of even greater importance to me, he was a dear friend. I always greeted him as "Donny" and he told me that he only allowed his mom and me to call him that. I am sure he is up in Heaven organizing the masses and telling them how wonderful Tioga County is! Take care good friend.

Robert J. Blair
President/Chief Executive Officer

Please contact tcdc6@ptd.net if you wish to be removed from the *eNews Insider* mailing list.

Do you know of someone else who would like to receive this publication? Please send us their e-mail address and we will gladly add them to our distribution list.