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MVPC Newsletters

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Progress is ...

The April 23, 47th annual Progress Council dinner features Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett and presentation of the Frank Irey Jr. Progress Award to Brownsville Marine LLC // The Mid Mon Valley Cooperative continues to grow with five members // Multi-community financial peer review project underway // Progress Council works with private developers of former Allenport facility.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

The April 23, 47th annual Progress Council dinner features Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett and presentation of the Frank Irey Jr. Progress Award to Brownsville Marine LLC - The Progress Council's record of hosting every Pennsylvania governor in the past twenty-five years is now secure. Governor Tom Corbett became the fourth Pennsylvania governor to provide a keynote address to Progress Council sponsors and supporters at an annual dinner. The dinner also included presentation of the 15th annual Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award to Brownsville Marine LLC.

The Mid Mon Valley Cooperative grows with five members – Five local governments have signed-on in 2012 to be members in the Progress Council-led Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperation (The Cooperative). Other local governments are considering joining. The goal of the Cooperative is to work with local governments on issues of effectiveness, efficiency, and promoting cooperative ventures.

Multi-community financial peer review project underway – Seven local governments are participating in what a local DCED official called the first-ever, multi-municipal financial peer review project. The project is sponsored at no cost to local governments through a DCED grant secured through the efforts of the Progress Council.

Progress Council works with private developers of former Allenport facility – The Progress Council is currently working with a group of investors, including local investors, who have purchased the former Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport Works with the intent of developing a multi-tenant industrial park.

The April 23, 47th Progress Council Progress Council annual dinner features Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett

The Progress Council's record of hosting every Pennsylvania governor in the past twenty-five years is now secure. Governor Tom Corbett

Multi-community financial peer review project underway

Seven local governments (Allenport, Belle Vernon, Charleroi, Coal Center, Donora, Dunlevy, North Belle Vernon) are participating in what a local DCED official called the first-ever, multi-

became the fourth Pennsylvania governor to provide a keynote address to Progress Council sponsors and supporters at an annual dinner.

The Governor's address focused on his principle of fiscal conservatism and challenges for current and future budgets. He did note that with an up tick in state revenues, a portion of cuts proposed in areas including education and social services could likely be restored in the FY 2012-13 state budget. Speaking with a reporter for the Valley Independent after the dinner, Governor Corbett said the Progress Council "shouldn't give up" on the Expressway. In August of 2011, a transportation report was released by a commission he appointed that called for increased state revenues for a broad range of transportation needs.

Progress Council president John Easoz, who also has his own consultant firm in energy resources, appreciated the tone of the Governor's remarks. "It is essential that government live within its means and seek the highest level of efficiency before asking the public to pay more in taxes."



Frank Irey Jr. Progress Award presented to Brownsville Marine LLC

The April 23 annual dinner also included presentation of the 15th annual Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award. The award, named for past Progress Council president Frank Irey Jr, recognizes a local project annually that has had a major impact on the economy of the Mid Mon Valley. Frank Irey Jr.'s grandson Frank Irey presented the award to Brownsville Marine LLC President and CEO Tim Scheib.

Brownsville Marine was recognized for their fifteen-million-dollar capital improvement program project that includes a completely new welding

municipal financial peer review project. The project is sponsored at no cost to local governments through a DCED grant secured through the efforts of the Progress Council.

The financial peer review includes an assessment of current financial considerations and recommendations for future fiscal stability. The project is expected to conclude in July. Based on local interest, DCED will consider future rounds of peer review assistance for local governments in the Mid Mon Valley.

Progress Council works with private developers of former Allenport facility

The Progress Council is currently working with a group of investors, including local investors, who purchased the former Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport Works with the intent of developing a multi-tenant industrial park. Assistance has included providing information on state programs and support at a meeting with local elected officials on the need for quick action to assist the firm in seeking Pennsylvania KOZ designation for the site. KOZ designation would provide state and local property tax abatement for the facility for a period of ten years.

The Progress Council expressed strong support for the project and is part of a network of area economic development groups providing assistance to the new owners. State Representative Peter J. Daley has been instrumental in setting up meetings to ensure local communication and input.

The former steel works, now called Mon River Industrial Park, includes sixteen manufacturing buildings with 896,000-square-feet under roof and a total of 400 acres. While the site has heavy crane capacity, a barge terminal and rail lines, with the extremely limited state and/or federal assistance available securing the KOZ will be instrumental in recruiting tenants and returning jobs to Allenport.

Pittsburgh real estate firm, Grubb and Ellis, will be responsible for marketing the site. Please contact Joel Kreider, Vice President of Grubb and Ellis at 412-434-1043 or joel.kreider@grubb-

system, heavy crane improvements and construction of a new prep building. The multi-year project is essentially a redesign of the entire manufacturing process to increase capacity, improve quality, and promote cost efficiencies. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is providing support for training and future rail line improvements. The firm employs 300.

ellis.com for leasing or purchasing information.

The Mid Mon Valley Cooperative grows with five members

Five local governments have signed on in 2012 to be members in the Progress Council-led Mid Mon Valley Intermunicipal Cooperation (The Cooperative). Other local governments are considering joining. The goal of the Cooperative is to work with local governments on issues of effectiveness, efficiency, and promoting cooperative ventures. The association of local governments is a major outcome of the Smart Government Initiative sponsored through a grant secured by Representative Peter J. Daley.

The winding down of the Smart Government Initiative by June of this year will create a transition point for fully implementing the Cooperative as a dues paying association of Mid Mon Valley local governments. "In many ways the Cooperative will function like a Council of Governments" said Joe Kirk. "We will be working with member governments on issues ranging from cooperative services to developing priority lists of projects and targeting funding for their development." The Progress Council will be providing staff services to the Cooperative.

The Cooperative 2012 members*

- North Belle Vernon
- Donora
- Allenport
- Charleroi
- Speers

*As of May 2012

The Mon Valley Progress Council

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