

SUMMER 2023

BC BROADCAST

NEWS FROM THE BEDFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



Manufacturing
Propels
BEDFORD COUNTY
to **#1** in
GDP GROWTH

INSIDE:
*New BCDA Board
Bud Shuster Tribute
Small Business News
And More...*

TRIBUTE

Congressman Bud Shuster, a Champion for the Central PA Region and Bedford County

Congressman **Bud Shuster**, namesake of the Bud Shuster Highway (I-99) and champion for Central Pennsylvania, passed away in April at the age of 91 at his farm in Everett. The Congressman was central to many successful projects including the \$120 million restoration of the Bedford Springs Resort.

“Bud Shuster had a tremendous impact on Bedford County including the construction of business parks, the recruitment of world-class employers — including the Walmart and REI Distribution Centers — and the restoration of the Bedford Springs,” noted **Bette Slayton**, BCDA President/CEO.

“The county didn’t have funding for the road, water and sewer infrastructure needed for these major projects. It was a heavy lift. Had it not been for Bud Shuster’s leadership and commitment to his constituents, these projects would not have happened. Congressman Shuster leaves an incredible legacy that will impact our area for generations to come,” Slayton said.



FINANCE

Partnerships Benefit Bedford County Businesses

Bedford County businesses are fortunate to benefit from the strong support of BCDA partners including **Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD)** and **Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP-DC)**. **Bedford Candies** received a loan from ABCD for its new location in Osterburg, and **Woodhaven Bed and Breakfast**, located in Schellsburg, received a loan for renovations of their historic facility from the SAPDC Loan Program.



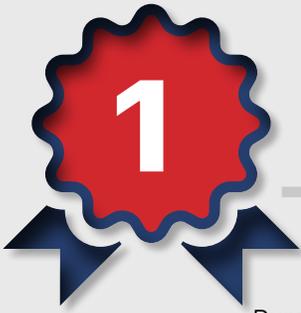
Woodhaven Bed and Breakfast

Finance seminar



Nearly 50 entrepreneurs and bankers gathered for the BCDA Finance Seminar held in May. Many thanks to presenters **Tina Taylor** from SAPDC loan program, **Jared Lucas**, DCED – PIDA Loan Program, **Tom Seasoltz** from ABCD, **Michele Clapper** and **Lauren Thompson** from JARI and **Jeff Boldizar** from St. Francis SBDC.





Bedford County ranks first among Pennsylvania Counties in GDP growth

A December report from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) found that Bedford County ranked first among Pennsylvania counties in its gross domestic product (GDP) growth from 2020-21. GDP measures economic production, the value of all finished goods and services. The county's GDP grew 14.5 percentage points to \$1.44 billion during the period, led by its

thriving manufacturing sector, which increased the total GDP by 5.6 percent.

Bette Slayton, President and CEO of the Bedford County Development Association (BCDA) said, "Bedford County's No. 1 statewide ranking in GDP growth in 2021 is a reflection on our diversified manufacturing base, the astute leadership teams, and talented, committed employees at our local companies."

New members join Board of Directors

With its newest members, the Bedford County Development Association Board of Directors continues to represent a broad cross-section of industry and geographic diversity.



This year's chair, **Dr. Sherry Cain**, Cain Coaching and Consulting, noted, "We hope to build on the great accomplishments that have occurred in the past. Our focus will continue to be on job retention and creation. We are currently under construction with our new multi-tenant building and looking at future business park development. We will also continue to support community development efforts including workforce development, marketing, outdoor recreation, and housing. Networking with other organizations is important. We have to work together to support each other and to share our visions."

Joining the board are: **Darin Mauzy**, vice president of operations for Mission Critical Solutions; **Sean Bardell**, a real estate broker with Howard Hanna Bardell Realty; and **Clifton Clark**, president of Clark Contractors Inc. "These new board members reflect important areas of expertise and bring fresh, new perspectives to the board," said Cain.

The 2023 Executive Committee includes: **Dr. Sherry Cain**, Chair; **Jeffrey Crist**, Vice Chair; **Mike O'Dellick**, Treasurer; **Trudy Mitchell**, Secretary; **Jan Fisher**, Assistant Secretary; and **James Gonsman**, Immediate Past Chair.

Front Row Sitting (l-r): Alan Frederick, Bedford County Commissioner; Secretary, Trudy Mitchell, Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission; Immediate Past Chair, James Gonsman, Hometown Bank of PA; Chair, Dr. Sherry Cain, Cain Coaching and Consulting; Assistant Secretary, Jan Fisher, UPMC Altoona/Bedford; Treasurer, Mike O'Dellick, Bedford County Technical Center; Barry Dallara, Bedford County Commissioner.

Middle Row Standing (l-r): Office Manager, Melanie Miller; BCDA; Vice President, Jennifer Marsh, BCDA; President & CEO, Bette Slayton, BCDA; Deb Baughman, Bedford County Commissioner; Marcia O'Rear, StelTek Graphics, Inc.; Gregory F. Krug, Lampire Biological Laboratories; Vice Chair, Jeffrey Crist, Gatter & Diehl, Inc.

Back Row Standing (l-r): Lester Meck, Saxton Borough Council; Robbie Weaver, Weaver's Sanitation Service, Inc; Darin Mauzy, Mission Critical Solutions, LLC; Floyd "Pete" Imler III, JLG Industries, Inc; Sean Bardell, Howard Hanna Bardell Realty, Inc., Dwayne Zimmerman, Crowsnest IT Support.

Missing from the picture are Brian Pachtman, Reed, Wertz & Roadman; and Clifton Clark, Clark Contractors, Inc.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NextDoor is gathering place



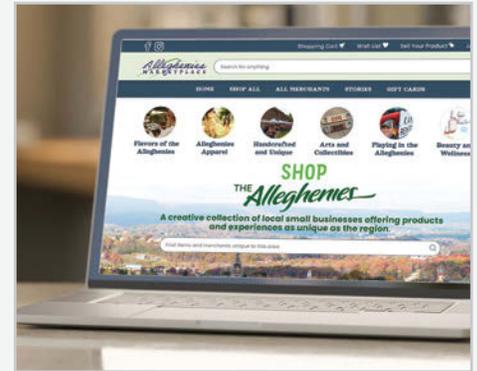
Haley Feaster, co-founder of **Lifestyle Nextdoor**, has also co-founded **Wild Brewing Co.** Wild Brewing beer is now being served at Lifestyle Next Door.

19 **Sept** **Save the Date for Enrichment Workshop September 19, 2023**

Bedford County will host the final event in **Startup Alleghenies' free Enrichment Workshop** series on September 19, 2023 at **LifeSTYLE Next Door**. The "focus" will be **Redirecting Negativity to Perform As Your Highest Self** led by **Dr. Sherry Cain**. Contact **Jen Marsh** for more information: jmarsh@bcda.org.

New platform for online sales for small businesses

Startup Alleghenies is preparing to debut the **Alleghenies Marketplace**, a new online sales platform built exclusively for small businesses in the Alleghenies region to sell products and gift cards. The platform is free and merchants can take advantage of support from a Startup Alleghenies coach. Participating businesses will also benefit from plans to market the site through traditional advertising, social media, and partnerships with other organizations. Small businesses in the region can learn more by contacting **Jen Marsh** at jmarsh@bcda.org.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bedford County representatives lead panel at outdoor recreation stakeholder meeting

The **Growing Outdoor Recreation for PA (GORP)** stakeholder meeting for the Alleghenies region was held on April 26 in Johnstown. **Nathan Reigner, Ph.D.**, DCNR's Director of Outdoor Recreation led a robust discussion on the economic impact that outdoor recreation has on rural communities. Panel discussion participants included Commissioner **Barry Dallara**; **Dave Heller**, Olde Bedford Brewing Co.; **Matt and McKenzie Blair**, The Organic Snack Company; **Jennifer Marsh**, VP, Bedford County Development Association; and **Steve McKnight**, President, ABCD Corp.



Bedford County's outdoor recreation assets featured on Livability.com



BCDA is working to reach outdoor enthusiasts with information about Bedford County's vast recreational opportunities through a sponsored [article on Livability.com](#). With nearly 148K page views annually, Livability.com is a leading online source featuring what makes small-to-medium-sized towns great places to live. The site features community amenities, education, sustainability, transportation, housing and the economy.

REAL ESTATE

Multi-tenant building update



Construction is underway for the 24,000 sq. ft. multi-tenant building and the future home of **Cell-Con, Inc., a battery pack manufacturer for more than 30 years.**

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AI-powered Bedford County startup could revolutionize senior care



Dr. Eunice Yang, PhD
OK2StandUp Founder and CEO

A fall can be life-changing for any person, but especially for seniors, resulting in injuries like hip fractures and traumatic brain injuries. **Dr. Eunice Yang's** Bedford-based tech company has developed a revolutionary solution to keep seniors safer and to empower frontline healthcare workers to assist patients more effectively.

"**OK2StandUP** uses a small wearable device to track fine physical motion. Our artificial intelligence program analyzes that data, which can predict when the person is about to stand up," Dr. Yang explained. "Staff receive a push notification on their mobile device and can respond before the person tries to get up unassisted."

"We're a software subscription company. We relocated to Bedford in 2021 because it was not essential for us to remain in Pittsburgh, where the cost of living and operating are much higher," Dr. Yang said. "In addition to being more cost-effective to run a business, the **Bedford County Development Association** has been highly supportive of women founders who are placing a stake in the ground for their business in Bedford."

Expansion Project for The Organic Snack Company

The expansion project for **The Organic Snack Company** has begun. This project will more than double the footprint for the creators of Kate's Real Food Bars. In June, Kate's introduced the White Chocolate Macadamia bar that is utterly irresistible!



Bedford County brewery ranks in top eight small-town PA breweries

Olde Bedford Brewing was featured as one of the top 8 small town breweries in Pennsylvania.

"Pennsylvania has over 400 microbreweries, so it is an honor and privilege to be featured in the top 8," Olde Bedford Brewing Company owner and brewmaster **Dave Heller** said about the brewery's recent recognition.

Now, providing the ultimate customer experience is at the core of the team's mission. "Collaborating with other small businesses helps us to support the Pennsylvania economy and offer a high-end experience for our guests," Heller shared.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

What's So Cool About Manufacturing™ Bedford County video contest results



Awards were announced on April 27th for the **What's So Cool About Manufacturing**® video contest that paired teams of students from the **Bedford County 21st Century Community Learning Centers'** After 3 program at six Bedford County schools with local manufacturers.

Contest sponsors **Bedford County Development Association, Bedford County Technical Center (BCTC),** and the **Bedford County 21st Century Community Learning Center Consortium** hosted the student teams, manufacturing company representatives, teachers, parents, and local elected officials for an awards luncheon at the **Bedford Elks** to celebrate the achievements of each team and recognize winners in four categories:

- **Best Outreach Plan Award: Tussey Mountain Middle School** After 3 team featuring **The Organic Snack Company**
- **Viewers Choice Award: Everett Area Middle School** After 3 team featuring **Lampire Biological Laboratories**
- **Best Overall Video Award: Bedford Middle School** After 3 team featuring **Rockland Manufacturing**
- **Most Educational Award: Northern Bedford County Middle School** After 3 team featuring **Bedford Candies**

Everett Area and Bedford Area teams represented Bedford County at the state competition at the **Whitaker Center for Science & the Arts** in Harrisburg on May 15. **The Bedford County Viewers Choice** contest received a **total of 204,332 votes**, with more than one-quarter of the votes cast on the third day of the contest.

CELEBRATIONS

UPMC Bedford celebrates 25th anniversary, earns Award for Excellence in Patient Safety

UPMC Bedford is celebrating more than its 25th anniversary— the hospital was just named among 100 top-performing rural and community hospitals for 2023. The hospital has received statewide and national recognition, including being listed among the top 100 small and rural hospitals by both the **CHARTIS** hospital consulting group and **Becker Hospi-**

tal Review. The Chartis Group, a healthcare consulting firm, named its 100 best-performing rural and community hospitals for 2023 and UPMC Bedford is only one of five to be recognized. UPMC Bedford has also been honored for its safety record by the **Hospital Association of Pennsylvania** and the **Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.**



PA CareerLink® Bedford County Announces Over \$200,000 Savings from On-the-Job Training

The PA CareerLink® Bedford County On-The-Job Training Program is yielding big savings for employers. The office recently shared these impressive totals:

- The PA CareerLink® Bedford County On-The-Job Training Program saved Bedford County employers from June 2022 to June 2023 Total: **\$147,873.60**
- The PA CareerLink® Bedford County TRADE funded On-The-Job Training Program saved Bedford County employers from June 2022 to June 2023: Total: **\$55,382.40**

Mission Critical Solutions marks 15 years in Bedford County



Congratulations to **Mission Critical Solutions (MCS)** on 15 years of success in Bedford County! MCS is a premier production-level metal manufacturing and machine shop that boasts “small business agility and big business credentials.”



Mayville Engineering Company named top fabricator in the U.S.

Congratulations to **Mayville Engineering Company (MEC)**, named as the nation’s #1 fabricator by the *Fabricator Magazine* for the thirteenth consecutive year.

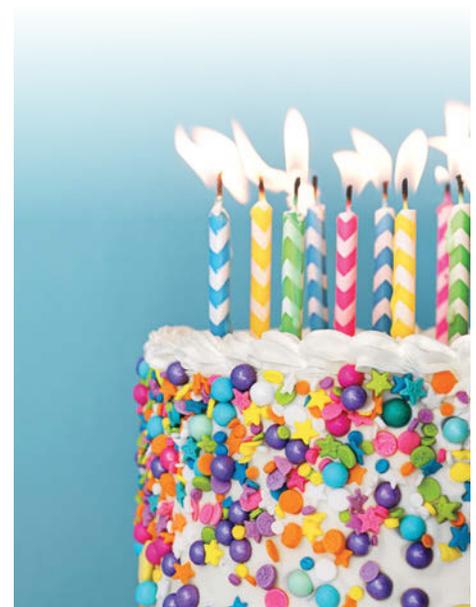
MEC is a value-added provider of design, prototyping and manufacturing solutions serving heavy- and medium-duty commercial vehicle, construction & access equipment, powersports, agriculture, military, and other end markets.

The company was founded in 1945 and maintains an extensive manufacturing infrastructure with 20 facilities, across seven states, including its facility in Bedford.



Happy 50th to Creative Pultrusions

It’s a milestone year for **Creative Pultrusions**, founded by **Bob Sweet** in 1973 in **Alum Bank!** Creative Pultrusions is a *subsidiary of Hill and Smith Holdings, PLC* and part of the **Creative Composite Group**. Fifty years strong, the company is the world-wide leader in pultrusion manufacturing. A commitment to being “best in class” has made Creative Pultrusions world-renowned in its industry. The company prides itself on innovation, honesty, hard work & dedication in an environment of trust and enjoyment.



BEDFORD COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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