



"MAKE THE CLARION CALL"

Vol. 19, April 2009

Clarion County Economic Development Corporation
21 North 6th Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214
814.226.9045
www.callclarionpa.com

CORPORATION NEWS

New CCEDC Board Members

On March 17th the board of directors for the Clarion County welcomed three new members: Charles P. Leach, President of the Charles P. Leach Agency, Inc.; Byron Quinton, President/CEO of Clarion Hospital; and Kendall Reed, General Manager of Piney Creek L.P. These person join our current board of directors: Bill Henry (President of CCEDC), Burford & Henry Real Estate Services; Ken Maleski (Vice President of CCEDC), Consumer Marketing Representative of Central Electric Cooperative; Amy Baumcratz (Secretary of CCEDC), General Manager of the Clarion Holiday Inn; Jamie S. Lefever (Treasurer of CCEDC); Dave Cyphert, Clarion County Commissioner; Eric Funk; Terry George; James L. Kifer, President/CEO of Clarion County Community Bank; Don Lewis, CEO of Structural Modulars, Inc.; Mary Louise Logue; Dr. Robert G. Nulph, Clarion University of Pennsylvania; Dr. George White, Superintendent of the Clarion Area School District.

Debbie McNerney Moving to Oil Regional Alliance

Debbie McNerney, CCEDC Economic Development Specialist since July 2008, has accepted the position of New Industry Manager for the Oil Region Alliance. This is a great move for her. It will be good to have another friend at ORA. Her last day with CCEDC was April 3, 2009. We wish her and ORA success.

We have over 60 resumes and we will start interviewing for the new Economic Development Specialist on April 6, 2009. We hope to have a person hired by May 1, 2009.

Upcoming CCEDC Event

CCEDC and the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry invite you to attend our 21st Eggs & Answers Event on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The topic for this event is "Tourism Industry". There will be a panel of speakers discussing various issues affecting the industry. The event starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Clarion Holiday Inn. Seating is limited therefore, and registration is necessary. To register, please call Mary Jo Ford at 814-226-9045 or e-mail her at maryjo@callclarionpa.com by April 23rd. The cost is \$10.00 per person if paid prior to April 23rd. \$15.00 after if paid after April 23rd.

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FEATURED RESOURCE PARTNER



The Progress Fund

Mission

The Progress Fund creates economic opportunity by lending needed capital and providing entrepreneurial coaching to small businesses in the travel & tourism industry in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Appalachian Ohio.

Tools

The Progress Fund provides capital and coaching to new or expanding businesses that seek to create jobs and opportunity. The Fund supports businesses that build the rural economy, typically while honoring the environment, reusing historic structures, reinvigorating traditional business districts, and creating living wage jobs.

Target Area

We serve 39 counties of Pennsylvania, the State of West Virginia and Appalachian Ohio, where the resourceful people who forged this nation are exploring a new landscape of opportunities.

Impact

Since its inception in 1997, The Progress Fund has made 268 loans totaling more than \$24.5 million, created or retained more than 1,984 jobs, provided at least 11,575 hours of business counseling, and helped reuse 50 historically significant buildings.

Businesses Served

The Progress Fund has assisted accounting firms, bed & breakfasts, brewpubs, canoe rental outfits, clothiers, coffee shops, general stores, ice cream shops, liveries, manufacturers, museums, quilting emporiums, residential developments, restaurants, a small business school, and many others, including many women-owned businesses.

Contact Information

425 West Pittsburgh Street · Greensburg · PA · 15601

Phone: 724-216-9160 · Fax: 724-216-9167 · www.progressfund.org

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FEATURED SUCCESS STORY

Whispering Oaks Cabins

2295 Route 36, Leeper, PA, Clarion County

When Jodi Meusel and Nathan Clements bought Whispering Oaks Cabins, it changed everything. The husband-wife team went from employees to entrepreneurs, from bustling Kansas City to rural Pennsylvania, and from climate-controlled workplaces to the middle of Cook Forest. “We love our cabins in the winter,” says Jodi, “The only problem is, they were coold.”

As newcomers, they wanted someone who knew the lay of the land to help finance the winterization of the cabins. The total project costs were \$66,000. The Clarion County Community Bank, which financed their purchase of the cabins, recommended The Progress Fund. They explored other options, but settled on the lender that focuses on rural tourism, helps with networking and marketing, and works with its clients as they expand.

A \$50,000 loan from The Progress Fund covered environmentally friendly improvements, including tankless water heaters, insulated windows and walls, efficient gas heaters, and improved fireplaces and refrigerators. Now Whispering Oaks is a comfortable option for those who want to take advantage of Cook Forest’s skiing, snowmobiling, and the Snowman in the Forest contest. That’s good news for surrounding restaurants, shops, and ski rental businesses. It’s great news for Jodi and Nathan. “We didn’t buy a million-dollar business,” Nathan said. “We bought a lifestyle.”

FEATURED CLARION COUNTY AVAILABLE BUILDING

Former Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Facility
16289 US Route 322, Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214



- Located on US Route 322 approximately 3 miles from Exit 64 of Interstate Route 80.
- The Sealy-Clarion facility is 240' x 360' overall (86,400 sq ft). Ceiling heights range from 25' clear at the eaves to 30' clear at the peak in the main portion (57,600 sq ft) of the building and 16' to 20' in the warehouse area. There is 5,000 sq ft of recently renovated office space on the second floor.

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Former Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Facility

- The factory floors are 5" to 6" thick reinforced concrete.
- This building was constructed in 1968 and has been used for producing manufactured housing and then bedding products since it was built.
- Electrical and water/sewer resources are readily available or already present. Building heat is natural gas, radiant heat.
- There are a total of 16 dock doors, 3 with dock levelers installed.
- The property is 50+/- acres with frontage on Route 322. We have approximately 3 acres of paved parking and another 3 acres of gravel lot suitable for tractor/trailer traffic.
- For more information, please contact Mike Murray, Sealy Mattress, at (336) 861-3500 or MMurray@Sealy.com.



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Newsletter Links!

Center for eBusiness and Advanced IT
<http://www.ebizitpa.org> (Click on Program Events)

Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry
<http://www.clarionpa.com/events/index.php>

The Clarion Career Link Center
<http://www.clarioncareerlink.org>

CUP Continuing Education Events/Classes
<http://www.clarion.edu/ce>

CUP SBDC Events/Classes/Workshops
www.clarion.edu/SBDC/Classes.asp

Keystone Community Education Council
<http://www.keystoneceec.org/newsletter.htm>

Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce
<http://newbethlehemarea.com/events>

The Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, Inc.
<http://www.nwirc.org>

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
<http://www.nwcommission.org/northwest.html>

Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Development
<http://www.nwpawib.org>

PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Newsletter: <http://www.newpa.com/default.aspx?id=266>

Penn State Cooperative Extension & Outreach
<http://www.extension.psu.edu>

PennTAP-Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program
<http://www.penntap.psu.edu>

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