



# HCBC Land Purchase Completed

The West Virginia Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council recently announced the approval of a \$1,052,916 loan to the Development Authority for the purchase of the final 68 acres to complete the Huntington /Charleston Business Center (HCBC).



The 205 acre Huntington Charleston Business Center, Located on U.S. 35 in Frazier's Bottom, Putnam County, WV.

The HCBC is the county's newest industrial park and is located adjacent to U.S. Highway 35 in Frazier's Bottom.

Dunn Engineers, Inc. has been employed to begin development of the park's Development Master Plan. The Master Plan will help to identify how best to use the available acreage to most effectively serve the county and its residents.

Triad Engineering, Inc recently completed a Phase I Environmental Assessment for the recently-purchased 68 acre tract.

The firm also started development of a Wetlands Mitigation Plan. The plan is needed to gain a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for development.



## THANK YOU PUTNAM COUNTY

It's been about three months since I came to Putnam County, West Virginia. I just wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone for being so helpful and so kind during the transition. I won't mention names because I know I will forget someone, but I just want to say thank you for the warm welcome I have received from everyone since arriving in West Virginia. I would like to give a

special thanks to Gloretta Bishop for helping to get me through what could have been an extremely difficult transition period, moving from a different organization, and a different state.

Thank you everyone. May I take this opportunity to wish each and every one a Wonderful Holiday season and a great 2000.  
Gary Walton

### Inside this issue:

PCDA Now On-Line	2
County Re-certified as CDC	2
Industrial Prospect Activity	2
New Construction in Teays Valley	3
Smolak Honored as Volunteer of the Year	3
Happy Holidays	3
Board of Director Listing	4



Merry Christmas

## PCDA Now On-Line

It's official, the PCDA has its own world wide web site. The pages were created by Gary Walton and offer a one-stop source of information for businesses that want to expand or locate business and industry in Putnam County.

In addition to the web pages, the PCDA filed for the domain name of [www.pcd.org](http://www.pcd.org) to make our pages even easier to find.

"Thanks to publicity generated already, we have started to get e-mails from local and national prospects and other interested persons," according to Walton.

In addition, internet access also allows the Authority to help the Development Office maintain up to date information on industrial sites, parks and buildings in the county. Several "hot links" take internet visitors to a variety of links with valuable information. Included in the hot links are: the County's Chamber of Commerce, the West Virginia Development Office, Putnam County Schools, Advantage Valley, employment information from the state's Bureau of Employment Programs, and an on-line county profile. Visitors can also e-mail the PCDA with a direct

e-mail link from the pages. "Our pages are linked directly with the West Virginia Development Office's industrial sites and buildings database," according to Walton. "This serves two purposes; 1) we do not have to maintain duplicate information resources, and 2) it allows the visitor direct access to the Development Office's tremendous resources for new and expanding businesses."

"We've also added a new section within the past couple of weeks, Walton added, that includes information on commercial and office buildings and properties that are available in Putnam County." There is no charge for the listings on the site. "We are simply trying to provide this information as a service to web visitors who might be looking for commercial or industrial properties in the county.

Visit the PCDA On-Line at:

<http://www.pcd.org>

*"Knowing is not enough;*

*We must apply.*

*Willing is not enough;*

*We must do."* —Goethe

## Putnam County Re-Certified as CDC

On November 5th, the Development Authority received notification that Putnam County had maintained its status as a CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY. The county was originally certified as a CDC in October 1993. To qualify as a CDC, communities must fulfill five main objectives:

1. Designation of a local economic development organization and creation of a prospect handling team.
2. Completion of a comprehensive community assessment, development of a plan to address deficiencies and compilation of a community profile.

3. Establishment of a local business retention program.
4. Identification and categorization of existing industrial and commercial sites and buildings.
5. Development of a fully served, locally controlled "certified industrial site."

Our thanks to the West Virginia Development Office's Carolyn Capelli for assistance and guidance during the re-certification process.

*"Three out of four people make up 75% of the population."* —Unknown

## Industrial Prospect Activity

The past three months have been truly exciting for your new director. Thanks to the cooperation of the WV Development Office and AEP, we have hosted both U.S. and International industrial prospect visits to Putnam County. Companies from Japan, Great Britain, and Korea have looked at Putnam County as a potential new business location.

But, more importantly, we have continued to maintain a very aggressive business retention and expansion program and are working with a number of existing Putnam County industries toward expansion projects that will increase employment opportunities and help to increase the tax base of our county. Many

thanks to Rolland Phillips from the WVDO for working to help me meet Putnam County industries. The importance of our existing industries simply can not be overlooked. These companies have provided jobs and income to county residents for many years and they offer the highest potential for expansion in the years to come. Increasing jobs and investment in Putnam County means prosperity for ours and future generations.



West Virginia, USA

## New Construction Continues in Teays Valley

Another new office building is almost ready for occupancy in Hurricane. The new office building—located at the corner of Cow Creek Road and State Route 34, Teays Valley Road, is nearing completion. The building is owned by Tim and Melissa Meeks.



A & L Office Building, Cow Creek Rd. & SR 34

The building is about 12,000 square feet and still has 4,000 square feet available on the second story.

Both Commercial and Industrial buildings and sites are featured on the PCDA's new internet web site. More information about the web site can be found elsewhere in this issue.

### IKON Building For Lease

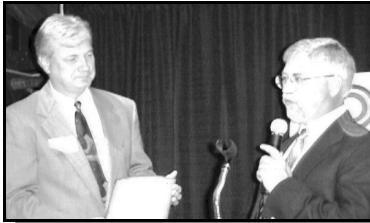
The IKON Building at 515 Hurricane Creek Road, Just off I-64 at Exit 34, will be available for lease in February 2000. The building is 12,000 sq. ft. in size with 6,000 in office space and 6,000 in warehouse/distribution space and sits on approximately 1.5 acres with additional acreage available for future expansion.

If you would like more information about the building, please contact the PCDA or you may contact the owner of the building, Mr. R. O. "Bob" Robertson at (304) 697-7824.



## John Smolak Honored as PCDA Volunteer of the Year

John Smolak, PCDA Vice President, was honored as the PCDA Volunteer of the Year for 1999 at the recent joint Chamber/PCDA Annual Dinner.



In the picture at right, David Kimberling, President of the PCDA, awards the plaque to John during the presentation ceremony. John was recognized for his "above & beyond the call of duty" volunteer service to the PCDA and the county.

It was also announced that John Smolak was recently selected as First Vice President of the Southern Economic Development

Council (SEDC) at its annual conference in Jackson, Mississippi. The next annual conference of SEDC will be held in Charleston, WV in 2000.

Also at the dinner, Franklin Gritt, Jr. was awarded the Mayo Lester Community Service Award by the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. About 300 people attended the event held at Scarlett Oaks Country Club in Poca.

*"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it's what you are expected to give—which is everything."*

—Anon

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



During this holiday season, we wish you and your family all the joys of the year.

As we approach the coming of a new millennium, there has been talk of problems with everything from our computers to failures within our banking system. As a diehard optimist, I can not help but believe that December 31, 1999 will disappear into our memories

with little change and that January 1, 2000 will be just another day and another opportunity to do something worthwhile with our lives.

If you only make one resolution for the new year, make it be to simply observe how fortunate we are to be living in such a community, country and world that—even with its problems—it's still just about the best place in the world to call home.





**Board of Directors**

*Clinton Beaver  
James Caruthers  
Dale Eggleton  
Patsy Hardy  
Beverly Jarrett  
Virginia King  
Jack McLane  
Courtlandt Smith  
John Smolak  
Harry Whipkey  
Thomas D. Winter*

*Wayne Bennett  
Timothy Droddy  
Roy Hamilton  
Johnny Harris  
David Kimberling  
Brian MacConnachie  
Robert Pennington  
Nancy Smith  
Ben Vest  
Linda Williams*

**Staff**

*Gary S. Walton, Executive Director  
Gloretta Bishop, Administrative Assistant*

*The Putnam County Development Authority, Inc. was created in 1961 by action of the Putnam County Commission. The Authority is the lead economic development agency for Putnam County, West Virginia and is responsible for developing and undertaking two primary types of economic development activities.*

*1) **Industrial retention and expansion** concentrating on our existing industrial base. 2) **Industrial Recruitment** activities that concentrate on the location of new industries in Putnam County.*

*The Authority is beginning an annual fund-raising effort. Please invest in the future of Putnam County when asked. If you have questions or would like to discuss the programs and activities of the Authority, please call the office at 304-757-0318.*

**[ We're on the Web  
<http://www.pcdca.org> ]**

## What's the Difference?

I've had many people ask about the differences between Indiana and West Virginia. In many cases, there aren't many. Southern Indiana is hilly—much like Putnam County. The people here are exceptionally friendly and warm, much like those in southern Indiana.

Some of the differences are probably more obvious to me—as an outsider—than to those of you who have lived in this area all of your lives. The progress made because of forward-thinking people is extremely impressive to me. Many of the counties in southern Indiana created development organizations only within the past few years. The PCDA was created in 1961. Some people were thinking ahead!

I have also been extremely impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of the West Virginia Development Office and the willingness of the staff to work toward improvement of the

tax base and job creation in all of West Virginia. It is truly a pleasure to work with such a dedicated staff.

Finally, one difference that I have noted that needs work is the lack of airport facilities necessary in the 21st century and beyond to attract and retain jobs in western West Virginia. In my opinion, it is time to stop the petty arguments and construct a world-class airport facility with adequate room for nearby development that will encourage the future growth of this area.

Looking beyond the typical “high school” rivalries often found between cities or counties, we need to concentrate on removing or at least overlooking the county lines and working together to create a new vision for the area. It is time to think outside of the box and work toward a future that will both attract and retain quality people in this beautiful area of America.

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