



**LAWRENCE COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## **. . . on the JOB**

Update for members & strategic partners  
September 2008

**Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.**  
William Lloyd George

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### **Leo Golba Working for Economic Health of Lawrence County**

Leo Golba successfully entered the construction industry in 1988 as a residential home builder. After achieving various goals and obtaining a reputation as one of the finest builders of high-end quality homes in the region, Leo expanded his operations in 1995 into the commercial and residential development segments.

The transition from home builder to developer and home builder allowed Golba to better meet customer expectations. "We now build communities as opposed to single homes. It allows our vision of quality to be magnified throughout the entire development, allowing customers to enjoy increased resale value. A quality home in an attractive community is generally more marketable than just a quality home. The development is completed within our development division, which offers a complete package from concept to completion. We acquire the land, develop a master plan and provide a design build service to meet customers' needs," noted Golba.

Autumn Hills, a new 232 unit development in Neshannock Township, is the fifth residential development for Golba. His previous developments were Heather Glen, Hampton Court, Adam's Grove and the Bradfords.

Golba's commercial developments range from single-tenant structures to multi-tenant office and retail complexes. The first commercial development was the Enclave office complex in Neshannock Township. The latest commercial venture is Lawrence Crossing, home of the new 25,000 square foot Butler County Community College building in Union Township. "Lawrence Crossing is not just our largest and most exciting project to date, it is our most important project to date. This state-of-the-art campus will increase the quality of life for the residents of Lawrence County," stated Golba.

## **Leo Golba (continued)**

The 30-acre site will include a second building for the college, a business incubator and other workforce training facilities to enhance employee training for local employers. A retail plaza and several retail outparcels are currently being designed. These structures will add to the “campus feel” of the development. It should be noted that since the opening of the first college building, Butler County Community College’s enrollment in Lawrence County has jumped from 950 to 1400 filled seats.

Golba has been just as active outside of real estate by entering into various other business ventures. He recently created United States Business Alliance, an organization that works with Chinese companies and government officials interested in investment opportunities as well as job creation in the United States, more specifically, Lawrence County.

“We have encountered a tremendous opportunity to attract Chinese business to our county,” explained Golba. “The economic conditions, weak US Dollar, high cost of transportation and rising labor costs in China have made manufacturing in the US more attractive. The Chinese understand that it is much easier to reach the US market when they are located closer to the end user.”

Another successful venture has been Keystone Compliance, an EMC testing lab that provides high tech compliance testing services for the electronics, aerospace and medical equipment industry. Keystone is a partnership with long-time friend Tony Masone and was the introduction into the Chinese opportunities.

For more information about L. Golba Construction, visit [www.leogolba.com](http://www.leogolba.com).

## **Annual Dinner Inspires**

Over 256 attended the LCEDC Annual Dinner on September 11, where they heard an inspiring message from Jeff Noel of the Disney Institute. He advised that business people should not be afraid to be called ‘crazy’. Walt Disney was frequently told this and ignored it because he knew in his heart what he wanted to achieve and that led to his success. Another part of Disney’s success is its pursuit of the ‘wow’ factor—those little items that impress customers time and time again.

In his invocation, Bill Lutz praised the local business people who invested in the community, “You are the fuel that drives the economy. It is your faith that inspires our community. It is your sense of community and destiny that gives us our sense of future.”

Event sponsors were: Berner International Corporation; Bruce and Merrilees; Catalyst Connection; Cilli & Perrotta, PC; Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania; Desco Supply Company; ESB Bank; Faro Enterprises; First Commonwealth; FirstMerit Bank; Forbes Excavating; Goldberg, Kamin & Garvin; Huntington; Jameson Health System; Leo Golba Enterprises; National City; New Castle Industrial Railroad; Pennsylvania American Water; R.A.R. Engineering Group; SRF America; and West Central Job Partnership.

LCEDC thanks the sponsors and everyone who attended for making this year’s dinner a resounding success.

## New Board Members Elected

Also at the Annual Dinner, members elected new board members – Bill O'Brien, Butler County Community College; Bernice Frank, Inmetco; Diane Coury, Diane Coury Design Associates; and John Geidner, Volant Community Development Corporation. New officers are Sam Mastovich, Chairman; Jim Gagliano, Vice President; Chuck Dugan, Secretary; and Sam Biasucci, Treasurer.

## Chrissie Vanasco Joins LCEDC

Christine Vanasco joined LCEDC as Executive Assistant on September 15. Chrissie is a native of Lawrence County and a graduate of Laurel High School. She gained her professional experience working in the local banking industry. Chrissie is the mother of three and lives in the Laurel school district. We welcome Chrissie to our organization.

## Enter Pittsburgh Innovates Challenge

You're an innovator and you know it! Now's your chance to show the world. Enter the Pittsburgh Innovates challenge -- a showcase of local, leading-edge technologies and innovations -- and win huge cash prizes while connecting with judges from Disney Imagineering, Electronic Arts, Seagate and regional technology and gaming companies.

Your submission must have a clear connection to Pittsburgh and innovation/technology. Individuals and teams can use any form of media. Think podcasts, video, Flash, blogs, simulations, robotics, videogames – the sky is the limit. Blow our minds. The only limit is that we must be able to display a screenshot of the innovation on [www.pittsburghinnovates.com](http://www.pittsburghinnovates.com) for public voting. And, be sure to vote for your favorite innovations while you're there. The clock is ticking. Enter and/or vote by October 26. This could be your ticket to the big time. [www.pittsburghinnovates.com](http://www.pittsburghinnovates.com)



## LAWRENCE CROSSING

**Prime retail space located on the new Butler County Community College campus.**

Lawrence Crossing offers thirty acres of prime, shovel-ready and flat land located at a four-way intersection in New Castle. For further information, contact Leo Golba at 724-658-7402.

Many available industrial and commercial properties in Lawrence County can be found under the "What we offer/ Sites and Facilities" tab on the LCEDC web site— [www.lawrencecounty.com](http://www.lawrencecounty.com). Or call the LCEDC office.

## **Career Fair Strives to Interest Students in Manufacturing Careers**

Do you worry about the impending retirement of your aging workforce? Do you fret about the disinterest of young people in the manufacturing and industrial occupations? The Lawrence County School-to-Work in partnership with Lawrence County Career Center, Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Lawrence County CareerLink and Butler County Community College will host the INDUSTRIAL CAREER FAIR 2008. The Fair will showcase career options to all ninth-grade students in Lawrence County, and their parents. The purpose is to capture the interest of students in modern manufacturing as a career path.

Even though wages and benefits in manufacturing are typically higher than non-manufacturing jobs, some parents and students do not view these occupations as desirable. The Industrial Career Fair hopes to plant the seeds of interest now, so that the students can make the proper curriculum choices.

The fair will be held October 21, 2008, 8:00 AM- 8:00 PM, at Lawrence County Career and Technical Center in New Castle. Local manufacturers are encouraged to set up and man displays in a trade-show format. Cost is \$25, and includes continental breakfast and lunch for two people. For further information or to register, contact Paula McMillin: [pmmcillin.school2work@yahoo.com](mailto:pmmcillin.school2work@yahoo.com), or 724.652.3619. Deadline is September 26.



## **ATHENAPowerLink® Helps Lawrence County Business**

Carol Herbert, owner of Grand Book & Bible in New Castle, has been selected for the Lawrence County ATHENAPowerLink® program – a mentoring program designed to enrich the vitality of the region's businesses and stimulate its economy. Over the next year, she will work with a volunteer advisory board with expertise in such areas as finance, law, and stress management. Her advisory board meets as a group every quarter, and individually with Carol as needs dictate. ATHENAPowerLink® for Mercer and Lawrence Counties is sponsored by National City Bank, Community Foundation of Western Pa & Eastern Ohio, Gannon University SBDC, Seton Hill University's e-Magnify, and The Herald.

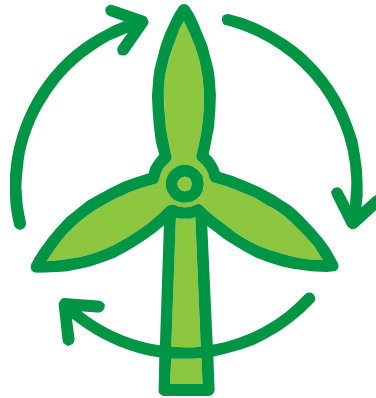
For further information about ATHENAPowerLink®, contact Carrie Goff, National City Bank, at 724-658-1524.

## Energy Innovation Forum Pairs PA Companies with Corporate Leaders

PA businesses that produce energy-related products are encouraged to participate in the Energy Innovation Forum at Penn State on October 23, 2008. The goal of the forum is to create an opportunity for Pennsylvania companies to present their energy products, technologies and core competencies to national and international corporate leaders.

Energy Innovation Forum / October 23, 2008 / State College, PA  
The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

Contact Garry Miller for more information and to discuss your company's energy products and technologies.  
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[www.iro.psu.edu/energyforum](http://www.iro.psu.edu/energyforum)



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