

An aerial photograph of an airport terminal and surrounding runways. The terminal is a long, low building with a dark roof, featuring several HVAC units and other rooftop equipment. In the foreground, there's a paved area with yellow markings and a grassy field with a few small trees. The background shows a vast expanse of green fields and a dense line of trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

WOOD COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2020 AT A GLANCE

BRE IN 2020

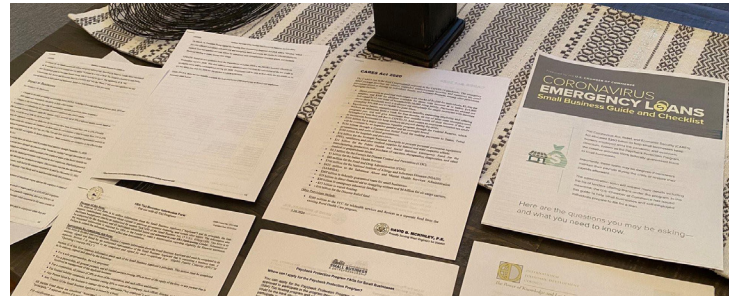
In January, Kate and I made an extensive list, broken down by city, of companies we'd like to do Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) visits with, alongside Morganne Tenney with the West Virginia Development Office, before the end of the fiscal year. Typically, our BRE visits consist of plant or company tours along with a meeting with management to discuss opportunities, challenges and any way that our office or the state may be able to be helpful to a company.

COVID-19 had other plans. Therefore, we have transformed our traditional BRE visits into bi-monthly days where we have conference calls with businesses to discuss how they are being affected by COVID-19, grants they may be eligible for and more. We plan to continue this method of retention visits through the end of 2020 when we will then evaluate the condition of resuming in-person visits.

NEW NORMAL

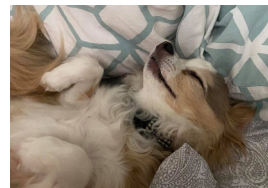


Kate used her excellent graphic design skills to design signs for companies to use regarding social distancing protocols, updated hours and more which can also be found on our website. We look forward to the day we can go to a check presentation without masks and elbow bumps in lieu of handshakes but for now, we're all making do!



WORKING FROM HOME

On March 13, I told Kate I'd, "see her in a week" as we would be working from home in an attempt to help West Virginia flatten the curve due to COVID-19. Fast forward to June 30 and we are still working remotely. Kate and I are both still working full-time and have dedicated ourselves to learning about new programs and options for businesses including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), EIDL, Main Street Lending Program and other CARES Act-related funding streams.



Our new co-workers, Leo and Milo.

As of June 30, 2020 the State of West Virginia had 17,322 accepted applications from businesses for the Paycheck Protection Program in the amount of \$1,800,837,214! By our count, 81 Wood County businesses were awarded PPP loans to assist with keeping their workforce employed amidst the pandemic.

490
New Facebook
Followers

2020 Fiscal Year

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINDSEY PERSOL

In March of 2020, I celebrated my fourth year as Executive Director of the Wood County Economic Development office. Fiscal year 2020 started off full of exciting announcements (A Hino expansion, Secretary Gaunch's Listening Tour and company visits) then slowly morphed into confusing and challenging times for many businesses. We all know about the negative impact COVID-19 has had on communities across the United States so I won't go down that rabbit hole; however, I want to remind everyone that there are still good things happening amidst the chaos.



HARBOR POINT DEVELOPMENT

Work is currently underway on the first set of waterfront condominiums at Harbor Point in Williamstown, West Virginia. Already completed on site by our member, Mondo Building & Excavating, is a private, man-made harbor featuring floating concrete docks that can accommodate up to 60 boats. Harbor Point will also have commercial offerings with road frontage along West Virginia 14.

PARKERSBURG ADDITIONS

A new Aldi was completed in Southside Parkersburg and opened with one of the biggest crowds we've ever witnessed! The project was made possible in part by our member, Bosley Construction. Additionally, there is a new Starbucks (under construction) mixed-use development underway as well. This project is being completed by our member, RCDI.

GRAND CENTRAL MALL

Washington Prime, owners of our member, the Grand Central Mall (GCM), announced that they would be razing the former Sears site to bring Ross Dress for Less, HomeGoods, PetSmart and T.J. Maxx to the GCM. Construction is currently underway and these stores are expected to open in Spring of 2021.



Work continued throughout the current fiscal year on the new Williamstown-Waverly Elementary School and the expansion of the Wood County Technical Center. The elementary school project marks the first new school built in Wood County in over 30 years.



In November, our member, the Ross Foundation, purchased the former Masonic Temple at 900 Market Street for a new Children's Museum focused on hands-on learning experiences in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Plans are currently underway to totally transform this space to go into operation by the end of 2022.



WEBSITE ANALYTICS 2020

2,308
Sessions

2 min. 01 sec.
Average session duration

52.03% Organic Searches

33.5% Direct Traffic

14.47% Social/Referral/Other

89.2%



New visitors

10.8%



Returning visitors

73

Properties
Marked
Inactive



Expansions

21

New
Businesses



Ribbon
Cuttings

61

Business
Retention &
Expansion Visits

49

Prospects
& Leads

2020 PWCADC/WCDA OFFICERS

Ed McDonough – Chairman**

McDonough, Eddy, Parsons and Baylous - Managing Partner

Angela Tadlock – Vice Chairman**

Danser Inc. - CEO

Harry Silvis – Treasurer**

WesBanco - Vice President Corporate Banking

Chad Mildren – Secretary**

United Bank - Regional President

2020 PWCADC BOARD MEMBERS

(in addition to officers)

Susan Barber, Community Bank - President**

Mayor Baumgartner, City of North Hills - Mayor**

Tom Betz, Huntington Bank - Vice President*

Tom Coffman, Phoenix Associates - Vice President**

Janelle Comstock, Workforce Development Board - Director**

Vinnie Conley, The PM Company - Tenant Relations Manager*

Michael Faust, Siltstone Resources - Vice President*

Jim Fawcett, Highmark WV - President/CEO**

Bob Fehrenbacher, Chemours - Consultant**

Mike Fleak, Premier Bank - MOV Division President*

Jean Ford, City of Williamstown - Mayor**

Tom Joyce, City of Parkersburg - Mayor**

MarJean Kennedy, CCMC WVU Medicine - VP Marketing**

Buddy Malone, PMBTC. - Business Manager**

Mike Matheny, Matheny Motors - President**

Curtis Miller, Curtis Miller Insurance - Owner*

Randy Rapp, City of Vienna - Mayor**

Dave Righter, First Neighborhood Bank - President**

Wendy Shriver, Downtown PKB - Executive Director*

E.K. Sleeth, Williamstown Bank - President*

James Spanner, Parkersburg News & Sentinel - Publisher**

Brian Standley, Wincore Windows - Plant Manager*

Ryan Taylor, Pickering Associates - CEO**

Shawn Taylor, Peoples Bank - Senior Vice President*

Bob Tebay, Wood County Commission - Commissioner**

Joe Campbell, WesBanco - Senior Vice President **WCDA only***

**Denotes WCDA and PWCADC member

*Denotes PWCADC member only

Lindsey Piersol, Executive Director, WCED

400 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

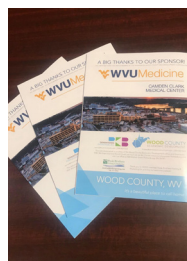
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Thank you!

2020 has been an adjustment for us all, but together we have overcome many hurdles and continued to adjust to our new normal. We are grateful for the support of our members and community and look forward to working alongside you in the coming year.



In January 2020, Lindsey was awarded the 2020 Legislative Conference Patty Barnhart Memorial Registration Scholarship.



The 2019 Southeastern Ohio Port Authority Annual Meeting took place at the end of October. Lindsey was invited to speak. She joined Matt Abbott to talk about what goes into winning economic development projects.



Lindsey received the Young Business Leader of the Year for 2019 from the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley!