JOHNSTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BROWNFIELD UPDATE

"Resurrecting the past... building the future while working towards a safe, friendly, cleaner and enhanced community."



Volume 6, Issue 1 Spring 2008

UNIQUE ATTRACTION IN THE CAMBRIA IRON WORKS

in Johnstown. Cambria Architectural Metalworks plans to lease the functional blacksmith shop for their business to perform industrial and artistic blacksmith applications. The partners in this venture, from Chicago and New York, want to hire local people to become blacksmiths and teach the trade. The Cambria Architectural Metalworks has produced a business plan and laid the groundwork for metalworks jobs across the country.

The Johnstown Redevelopment smith Shop in Cambria Iron Works Authority has been working to Right: Turn-of-the-century equipment

The Johnstown Redevelopment remediate and restore the Black-Authority is pleased to announce smith Shop through funding sethat they have issued a letter of in- cured from over 20 different Fedtent to Cambria Architectural Metal- eral, State, and local sources. The works for reuse of the Blacksmith Authority has also coordinated the Shop (circa 1864), the oldest re-construction process at the facility in maining original structure of the order to provide a setting for mod-Cambria Iron Works on Iron Street ern day blacksmiths to use the turn-



Above: Newly renovated core of Black-



of-the-century historic structure.

"Our goal was to create another viable business to generate revenue for the city, jobs for skilled workers, and a unique historic opportunity for visitors and residents of City," said Ronald W. Repak, Executive Director, of the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority. This revitalized facility and exclusive tenant combination will provide an opportunity for economic development and industrial reuse.

BROWNFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM - Funding for Cleanup Projects

Authority (JRA) has recently been of citizens in Johnstown and the erties in

vironmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the establishment of a Brownfield Revitalization Funding Program in the Greater Johnstown The JRA applied for this funding as part of continued efforts to provide clean and ready-to-go sites for economic development and to

The Johnstown Redevelopment promote the health and well-being at propawarded \$1 Million from the US En-surrounding areas. These funds will Cambria

> enable the JRA to County. provide economic In order initiatives and to support cate the cleanup nate mental concerns



to eligible appli- community and potential applicants cants in the form about the Brownfield Revitalization of cleanup grants Program, the Authority held a Puband loans to elimi- lic Information Meeting on January environ- 24, 2008. With 20 people in

(PROGRAM, Continued on page 4)

BUILDING SUCCESS IN THE AREA

tem, Northrop Grumman, MTS the former Sani-Dairy. Technologies Inc., and state and



Above, ground level rendering of Greater Johnstown Technology Complex Building and construction photo, shown below.



Congressman John P. Murtha July 3, 2007 at the Greater Johns- 20,000 square foot portion of the joined with representatives from town Tech Park to kick off the con- new complex. The new building the Johnstown Redevelopment struction of the three-story, 95,000 space is 60% leased with 33,000 Authority, Conemaugh Health Sys-square-foot building as the site of square feet still available.

dance to place the first bolt into the steel.

The new building will have scaped, campus-like setting.

tion and MTS Technologies.

force by 25 more jobs in their

On January 7, 2008, Northrop Work has been ongoing at the Grumman held a press conference local officials to break ground on site, with highly noticeable con- to announce that they will work in struction beginning in late conjunction with the Department 2007. The first section of struc- of Defense to meet medical retural steel was erected Decem- cords needs from around the ber 20, 2007 with Congress- globe through the newly develman John Murtha in atten- oped electronic records system

> For More Information, Visit www.johnstowntechpark.com

a state-of-the-art security sys- which relays information between tem, voice and data capabilities, doctors in Johnstown and doctors and house advanced technol- on the battlefield. The secure softogy businesses on its land- ware program allows for instant access to medical records of The two major tenants wounded military personnel and committed to the project are keeps track of veteran's records Northrop Grumman Corpora- long after they are discharge from the service. This advanced data MTS Technologies will ex- will aid in providing superior medipand existing services in Johns- cal service needed for the men and town and increase their work- women fighting for our Country.

MAJOR EXPANSION IN KERNVILLE

Cambria Business (CBM) has been headquartered in Johnstown since 1964, and with steady growth over the years, the local information technology company has now outgrown it's current facility on Clinton Street. The company purchased property to build a new facility at the corner of Above: Cambria Business Machines' new office docks, twice the work space, South and Franklin Streets.

section of the City complimenting and a strong loyalty in this area. other new developments such as thority office and Dr. Gella's office blighted vacant structures. building. CBM's Matt Romagna



CBM took on this \$3 Million pany and will stay our home." space than their current location. major expansion in the Kernville CBM has a large customer base

the Greater Johnstown Water Au- brownfield site composed of five ments and allow more space for

said "The reason they choose to and the Authority, CBM was able creating 5 new jobs now and 5-7 stay in Johnstown is because to break ground on its new loca- more in the next 4 years.

tion on October 31, 2007. Since that time. construction crews have worked to auickly build the 12,000 square foot building. The facility is designed with loading

Johnstown is home to the com- and four times more warehouse

Through this expansion, Mr. Romagna said "We will be better CBM's property was formerly a able to accommodate our shipour technicians to work. Through the help of the City hopes to open the facility by April Johnstown Redevelopment Authority 401 Washington Street, 4th Floor Johnstown, PA 15901

VOLUNTEERS CLEANUP RED CROSS BIRTHPLACE

With shovels, rakes and trash bags in hand, members of the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, the regional initiative of AmeriCorps, met at the historical "Clara Barton House" on November 30. 2007 for a community volunteer property cleanup.

More commonly known in the community as the former Gordon Mortuary, this struc-

ture served as the temporary home of Clara Barton and her disaster chased by the Gordon Family and relief headquarters while she was converted to a mortuary. Pauline in Johnstown after the Great Flood Gordon, the first African American of 1889. Her relief efforts here female mortician in Johnstown served as the impetus for the for- used the home for many years. mation of the American Red Cross Organization.

structure for the community, volun- Area Heritage Association (JAHA) teers spent the day removing gar- by the Gordon family. Future plans bage from the interior of the house, for the property include historically raking leaves, cutting grass and accurate renovation of the interior performing an overall cleanup of and reuse of the structure as office the property.



In 1974, the home was pur-

After the mortuary closing, the property sat vacant and was even-Trying to preserve this historical tually donated to the Johnstown space by, ironically, the Red Cross.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARD RECEIVED



The Johnstown Redevelopment Director, of the Johnstown Rede-

Authority has been named the re-velopment Authority. cipient of a Beautification Award by the Greater Johnstown Chamber of detailed with a "Welcome to Johns-Commerce for work that removed town" sign, shrubbery, new sidethe former CSX Railroad Depot at a walks and park benches. major gateway into the City. The completed, the site is an attractive project transformed one of Johns- venue for the residents and visitors town's most visible brownfield sites to the City.

a ecologically-friendly park, known as the Gateway Greenspace Project.

"The project will now create a pleasant view and welcome visitors to our city near the heavily traveled Route 56 Bedramps." Street said Ronald W. Repak, Executive

The park was landscaped and

JRA ASSISTS BANDSHELL **PRESERVATION**

The Roxbury Bandshell, once identified by Preserving Pennsylvania as a "Building at Risk", now has a bright and promising future. Just a few years after surviving the threat of demolition, the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority (JRA) recently received notification of an award of \$85,000 for preservation of the Historic Roxbury Bandshell.

The Authority prepared the Keystone grant application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for the Roxbury Bandshell Preservation Alliance. The Alliance, the non-

(BANDSHELL, Continued on page 4)

AUTHORITY RECEIVES AWARD FOR CAMBRIA **IRON WORKS**

The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority (a PAHRA member) received the Bellamy Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) for the Cambria Iron Works Project. The Bellamy Award recognizes outstanding redevelopment and community development work by PAHRA members. The award was presented on September 11, 2007, at the 7th Annual "Best Practices" Showcase and PAHRA Annual Awards Banquet.

(PAHRA, Continued on page 4)



Photo: Ronald Repak accepts award presented by Jerry Mullarkey and Ed Christiano of PAHRA.

Johnstown Redevelopment Authority 401 Washington Street, 4th Floor Johnstown, PA 15901

PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

attendance, the Authority staff provided information on the program, brownfields, available funds, and applicant and activity eligibil-

Eligible brownfield sites are abandoned, idled, or underutilized facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Reuse of local derelict brownfields through the JRA's Brownfield Revitalization Program is a "Smart Growth Initiative" for Cambria County. It utilizes existing facilitates infrastructure. growth, increases the local tax base, and protects the environment while creating a more attractive and healthier place to live & work.



Above: Brownfield Revitalization Program Meeting held January 24, 2008

The Brownfield Revitalization Program's grants and loans are designed to provide an incentive for property owners to take on often challenging cleanup activities. Cleanup Grants will be available to municipal and nonprofit owners of brownfield properties and Cleanup Loans are for private owners. Eligible sites must be located in Cambria County. Applicant/Owner must not be responsible for any

hazardous substance, pollutant, or other contamination on the site.

The JRA recognizes that land recycling and brownfield redevelopment are vital components of the City's Recovery Plan and Cambria County's Master Plan for environmental remediation and economic development opportunities.

Along with the \$1 Million Cleanup Revolving Loan Award, the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority was also the recipient of a \$200,000 Assessment Grant to provide funding for redevelopment projects that require assessment of hazardous materials prior to site cleanup in Cambria County. Availability of funds is limited. Please contact the JRA for more information on these grant and loan opportunities.

Bandshell

(Continued from page 3)

profit bandshell preservation group, will use the \$85,000 grant funding to restore the 68year-old stone structure.

Keystone PHMC Grant Funds are critical to sustain the life of the bandshell and will enable necessary repairs to be made," said Ronald W. Repak, Director of the Executive Redevelopment Johnstown

shell are now even more critical to Summer Sunday Evening Concert this project, as the grant funds must Series uplifting supporters and fightbe matched dollar for dollar to re- ing its economic struggle. This new ceive the total award.

To make a donation or learn more about the project, visit www.roxburybandshell.com

filled with songs, entertainment, arts, the preservation of this unique faciland community events such as the ity and it's use for future community Bandshell Bark Dog Walk, Christmas gatherings and events.



Above: Roxbury Bandshell

Authority. Donations to the Band- Tree Lighting and Caroling, and grant money secured by the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority will ensure needed repairs will be performed to preserve this community landmark. The Johnstown Redevel-Recently, the Bandshell has been opment Authority looks forward to

PAHRA

(Continued from page 3)

The award was received for ongoing work at the Cambria Iron Works Com-Over the past few plex. vears, the Authority's redevelopment work has brought renovation and business expansion in the complex. The Machine Shop, Carpenter Shop, Rolling Mill Office, and the Electric Storage Building are now fully leased and helping to provide approximately 400 jobs.

The Johnstown Redevelopment Authority has also made greenspace restoration a priority at the Cambria Iron Works by renovating the Pedestrian Footbridge, the Festival Park, and the Johnstown Urban Greenway Trail for pedestrians, all performed on former brownfield sites.