



1962 - 2022

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## BERWICK INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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*B.I.D.A. Industrial Complex Circa: 1966*



*B.I.D.A. Industrial Complex today*





*Special to Press Enterprise*

**THE BERWICK INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (B.I.D.A.)** complex in Berwick is shown in a photo from last winter.

# B.I.D.A. reflects on 60 years at Industrial Complex

## Looking forward to what the next six decades have in store

**BERWICK** — The Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) is looking to the future while reflecting on the 60-year anniversary of the industrial complex. Berwick has seen many businesses and manufacturers over the years, and there were times of hardship, struggling to find the businesses and create jobs. There were companies that have come and gone, and those that sold to national chains and foreign corporations.

Berwick has been home to the manufacturing industry for 100 years, from potato chips to the Stuart tank, and the people at B.I.D.A. believe it will continue to be this way for 100 more. The evolution of manufacturing is taking place now at a rapid pace with new innovations, automation and artificial intelligence.

In the 1990s there was a rally against machines, people fearing that they would

lose their jobs because of robots; however, that hasn't been the case. Today, manufacturers around the globe are dealing with workforce shortages, aging and declining populations but an increased demand in production. Industry is not only looking at robotics and automation to fill jobs that they haven't been able to fill with human resources but now need human resources with more skill sets.

Welders are not being replaced by robots; welders now need some computer skills to operate the robots and weld in tandem with them. This creates its own set of challenges but not a loss of human resources.

Education and the private industry sector have worked together in the past

to ensure that students were learning the necessary skills for the job market; however, technology is outpacing those relationships and it appears there may be a gap in the needs of the private sector and the offerings of our educational institutions. This is a work in progress, and our employers are more than eager to work with educators again. Local secondary and post-secondary schools are creating strategic partnerships with the private sector to improve the communication streams and programs that will produce a strong and well-skilled workforce.

### Re-entering the workforce

Many factors are affecting the ability of human resources to re-enter the work-

force in a post-COVID era; however, all of the challenges existed prior to the pandemic. COVID only exacerbated the situation. So, as we look to the future, we must keep the most recent past in mind. We as a community need to look at the challenges we have and continue to find both short and long term solutions.

What are the factors? Well, let's first look at working parents who struggle to obtain quality childcare with flexible hours that provides before and after school services. The challenges in childcare and the lack of capacity are due to the human resource issue as well. Childcare workers pay has not gone up in line with other industry sectors, and that reduces the number of

**Please see REFLECT page 21**



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**T**he Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) Eagles Building, at left, is at 107 S. Market St. in Berwick.

The ribbon, below, used in the ribbon cutting event of the Berwick Industrial Development Association taking over ownership of the former American Car and Foundry Complex held on Oct. 23, 1962, is prominently displayed in B.I.D.A.'s administrative office.

The Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) complex in Berwick is shown at lower left in an aerial photo circa 1966.

**PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**





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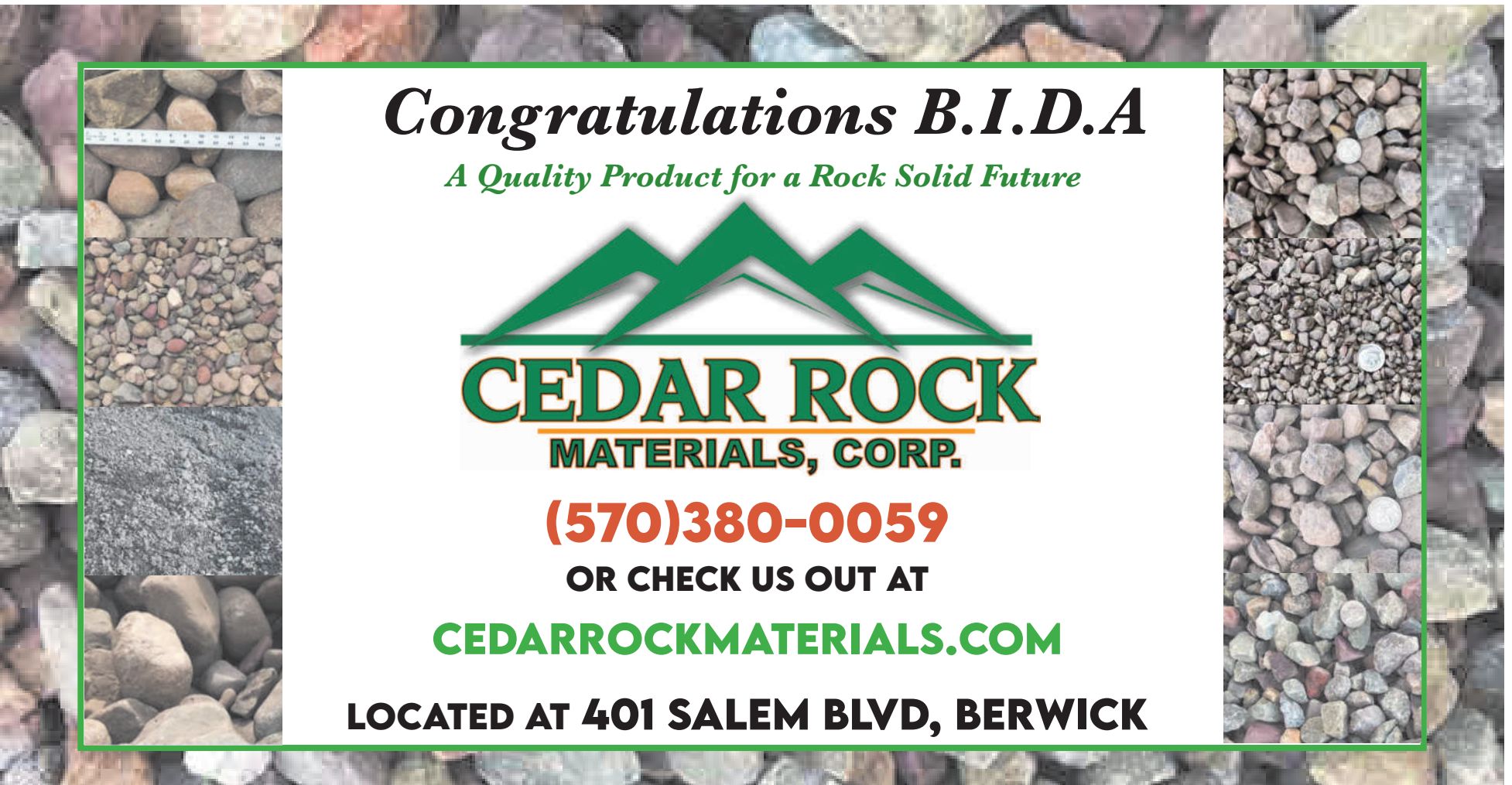


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The entrance sign to the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) complex in Berwick was recently upgraded.

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Mr. Dale Clemons

Mr. Henry Dalto

Dr. John DeFinnis

Mr. Annunziato DeGeorge\*

Mrs. Patricia DeGeorge

Mr. Lawrence Dellgrotto

Mrs. Margaret DiFebo

Mr. Michael DiFebo

Mr. Ralph Gitz\*

Mr. Charles Klatt

Mr. James Huntley

Commissioner David Kovach

Mrs. Susan Lynn

Mr. Daniel McGann\*

## WANT TO BECOME A B.I.D.A. MEMBER?

### Eligibility & Application Process

- Must be a resident or own a business within the Berwick Area School District's designated geographic area.
- Download and complete the application:  
<https://bida.com/membership.html>
- Must include a payment of \$50.
- Please mail the completed application and your \$50 membership fee to our office:

B.I.D.A.  
107 South Market Street  
Suite 5  
Berwick, PA 18603

We encourage our members to participate in our monthly board meetings which are held on the last Thursday of every month.

For more information on our membership, contact our office at (570) 752-3612 ext. 1 or email: [info@bida.com](mailto:info@bida.com)

## CURRENT MEMBERS

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Mr. Michael Monico

Mr. Marc Nespoli

Mr. Ralph Pollock\*

Mrs. Wendy Pollock

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## MEET B.I.D.A.



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*Special to Press Enterprise*

**THE BERWICK INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION** General Membership Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration was held at the West Side Ballroom in Berwick in July.

# B.I.D.A. holds meeting, celebrates milestone

## No lights, no water, no power - no problem

BERWICK — The Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) showed its resilience during its General Membership Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration held this July at the West Side Ballroom in Berwick. The B.I.D.A. board of directors, members, staff, elected officials and invited guests did not let torrential rain and no electricity ruin their

night. They were able to celebrate and reflect on the past 60 years of B.I.D.A. and all their successes as well as honor State Rep. David Millard and his 17 years of service.

B.I.D.A. can't thank its guests, sponsors and caterer, Amici Italian Grille, enough for their support during this unforgettable event!



*Special to Press Enterprise*

**STATE REP. DAVID MILLARD** was honored for his 17 years of service at the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) General Membership Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration in July.

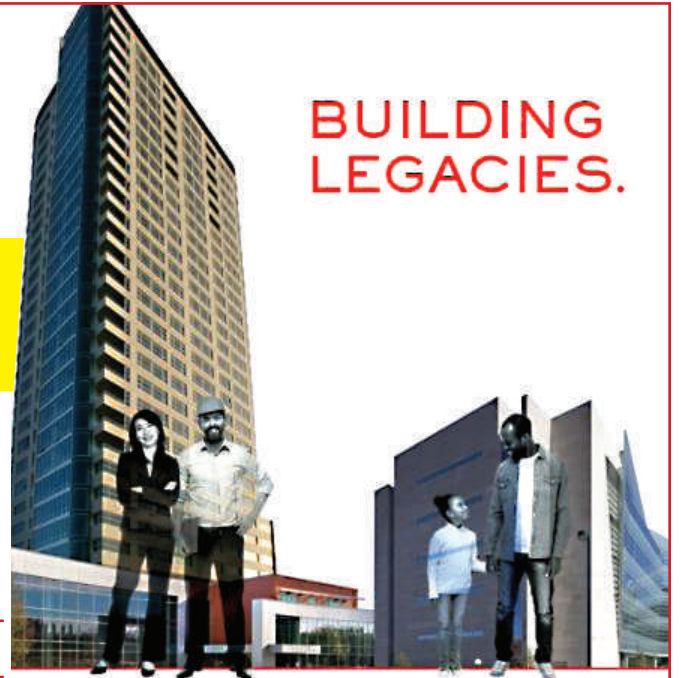
**More photos, page 10**







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on your 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary





Attendees, at right, at the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) General Membership Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration included the B.I.D.A. board of directors, members, staff, elected officials and invited guests.

This cake, below, was served at the B.I.D.A. General Membership Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration in July.

**PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**



**SIGNS PLACED** at the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) General Membership Meeting & 60th Anniversary Celebration acknowledge the sponsors of the event.

*Thank You.....*

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# B.I.D.A. Facilities Director up to challenge

By **KELLY O'BRIEN**  
B.I.D.A. Executive Director

## Hixson is genuine Northeast Central Pa. success story

BERWICK — William Hixson, Facilities Director for the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) in Berwick, began his career before leaving elementary school, having been born into a family business in construction. Mr. Hixson attended school in Benton and remembers mornings when his grandfather (the original William Hixson), would pick him up early in the morning when school was not in session and take him to various job sites to watch and learn. Hixson grew up playing on cranes and backhoes; he saw them as his own jungle gyms.

Hixson would spend his childhood and young adult life learning hands on all types of trades, masonry, plumbing, welding, carpentry and roofing — truly “building and trades.” When you listen to Mr. Hixson speak of the trades and his description of “The specific angle of a trowel when you mud a brick, the ability to see the perfect consistency of mortar as it glides across the paddles of a mixer, the recognition of the sheen on wet concrete when it’s time to float, the delicate coping work on wood trim to make tight angles,” you feel as though you are listening to poetry. Hixson is a passionate tradesman.

Hixson’s grandfather taught him early that it is that initial experience of being a laborer that sets the stage for the development of skills and patience for growth and development in the industry. The skills you learn come from constant learning and listening. Hixson emphasizes the listening part and believes that it is the most important in learning in any industry. He explains, if you are hired to labor for a roofer... ask questions, every person you will ever meet will have information



Special to Press Enterprise

**WILLIAM HIXSON** is the Facilities Director for the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) in Berwick.

and experiences that you may not. As Hixson grew older, he became the main equipment operator and loved that role. Hixson’s father taught him everything he knew, but also allowed him to learn by making his own mistakes. Hixson was afforded the freedom to learn the feel of the machines, recognize sounds and vibrations to recognize what the machine needed and how he could improve as an operator.

The family business eventually closed, and Hixson was left with a lot to decide. He tried his skill in the modular home industry, working in and managing apartment buildings, remodeling and renovating jobs for homeowners and started doing his-

torical renovations. Eventually, Hixson decided to stop working independently and accepted a job offer as maintenance manager for a hotel chain. Hixson explained that he enjoyed the job, and it is where he gained the managerial experience he would rely on later. However, the management company’s contract ran out and Hixson was approached by B.I.D.A. to take on a full-time position as Maintenance Technician for the Industrial Complex in Berwick.

Hixson recalls how he felt as if he was not prepared for the sheer size of the complex and the responsibilities that came with it. Hixson again states the importance of watching and listening to those you work with and attri-

butes his skills to his supervisor at B.I.D.A. and how well versed he was in underground work, water, sewer and storm lines and the overall infrastructure of how this huge park functions.

Although Hixson was passionate about the B.I.D.A. complex at the time, he did not feel there was room for advancement in his career, so he decided to move on and accepted a position with an independent living facility. There he learned about fire systems, elevators, REAC (Real Estate Assessment Center), codes, inspections and safety regulations.

Again, Hixson was approached by B.I.D.A. and asked if he would be interested in taking a position as Facilities Director and all the

responsibilities and commitment that goes with managing operations and infrastructure for a 3-million square-foot industrial park. Hixson accepted and truly has a passion and love for his craft, for the physical industrial complex, its buildings, companies that reside there and the pride of utilizing all the skills that were passed on to him and learned throughout his career.

Hixson attended Luzerne County Community College, Bloomsburg University and finished his education with WGU (Western Governor’s University) so he could work and study online.

Hixson’s advice, “Never stop learning, never get comfortable. Always ask questions.”

**Congratulations**  
**B.I.D.A. ON YOUR 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

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**Congratulations B.I.D.A. on Your 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

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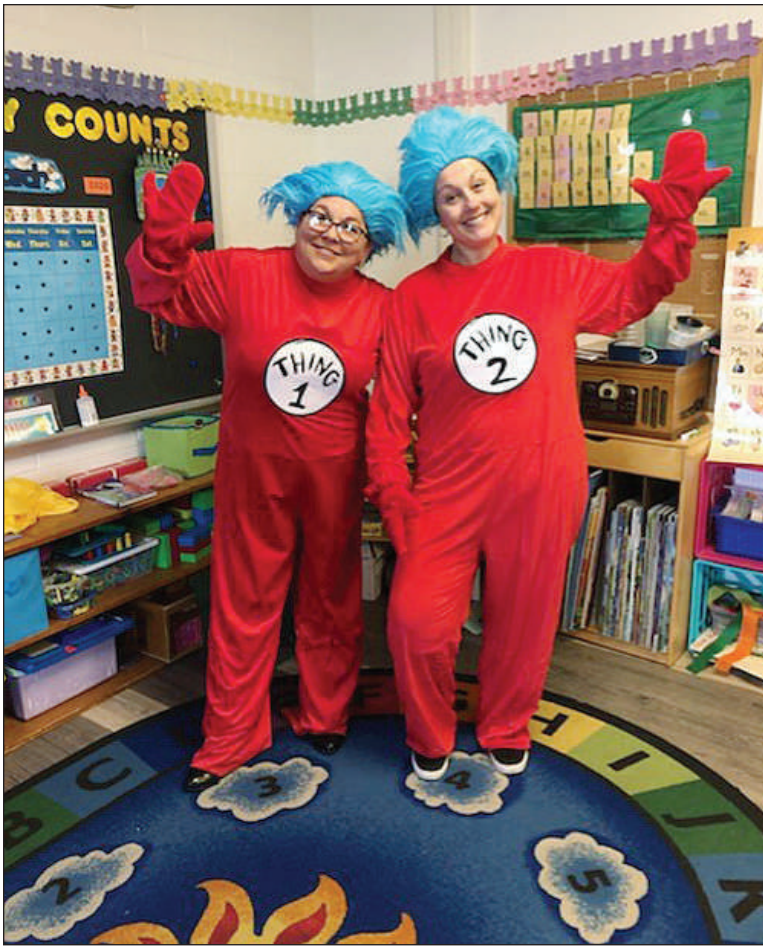


CONGRATULATIONS  
B.I.D.A. ON 60 YEARS

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**KELLY O'BRIEN**, Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) Executive Director, left, and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, participate as Dr. Seuss' Thing 1 and Thing 2 for Nescopeck Elementary kindergarteners during a Berwick Area United Way Read Across America Day event in 2020.



**AMY SHORTLIDGE**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, left, and **Stacy Whitmire**, B.I.D.A. Controller, serve food at the Berwick Salvation Army during a 2019 soup kitchen event organized by the Berwick Area United Way.



**STACY WHITMIRE**, B.I.D.A. Controller, left, and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, distribute food at the Berwick Salvation Army during a 2021 soup kitchen event organized by the Berwick Area United Way. **More photos, page 16**

# B.I.D.A. gives back with time, talents

BERWICK — Not only does the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) make financial contributions, but they also give back by donating their time and talents, too! Some of the fun and exciting ways they spend their time are volunteering at events and participating in programs. Just a few that they have participated in are Berwick Area United Way's Read Across America Day, Day of Caring and Soup Kitchen.



**AMY SHORTLIDGE**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, top left, and **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, read virtually to Nescopeck Elementary kindergarten students during a 2021 Berwick Area United Way Read Across America Day event. **PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**



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**STACY WHITMIRE**, B.I.D.A. Controller, left, and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, participate in a 2020 Berwick Area United Way Day of Caring event by cleaning up behind the Berwick Theater and Community Center for the Arts.



**STACY WHITMIRE**, Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) Controller, left, and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, participate in a 2022 Berwick Area United Way Day of Caring event by assisting the Berwick Beautification Committee with planting cannas along Market Street in Berwick.



**AMY SHORTLIDGE**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, left, and **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, read about various jobs to the Nescopeck Elementary kindergarten classes during a 2022 Berwick Area United Way Read Across America Day event.



**KELLY O'BRIEN**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, back row, left, and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director, pose as Dr. Seuss' Thing 1 and Thing 2 for Nescopeck Elementary kindergarten classes during a 2020 Berwick Area United Way Read Across America Day event. **PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**




*Congratulations B.I.D.A.*  
 on your 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

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*Congratulations on 60 Years of Service!*

# 1962-2022 B.I.D.A.



When the American Car and Foundry closed in 1961, our community mourned the loss of its largest employer. But Berwick has never been a town to take losing lightly. Less than a year later, the Berwick Industrial Development Association was established to manage the assets of the ACF complex, and help recruit new businesses to the region. For sixty years, they've done exactly that, building on our industrial past to grow an even brighter future. Crispin Valve is proud to support the BIDA's mission, and we've worked alongside it to support our local community, and bring meaningful manufacturing jobs to Berwick. Congratulations to the BIDA on 60 years of service!








**B.I.D.A. PRESENTED** an in-kind donation to the Berwick Dental Health Clinic in 2019. Standing are, from left, **Stacy Whitmire**, B.I.D.A. Contoller; **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director; **Daniel McGann**, B.I.D.A. Board President; **Dr. Thomas Milavec**, Dental Clinic Dentist; **Tara King**, Dental Clinic Office Manager; and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director.



**AMY SHORTLIDGE**, Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) Marketing Director, left, and **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, attend the 2022 Beyond Violence Gala as sponsors of the event. **More photos, page 20**

**PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**

# B.I.D.A. maintains philanthropic mindset

BERWICK — The Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) has always maintained a philanthropic mindset. Part of their mission is to contribute to community revitalization efforts. They feel supporting those in their community who help so many is one way they achieve this goal.

**B.I.D.A.'S MISSION:**

*The Berwick Industrial Development*  
Please see MINDSET page 19



**A B.I.D.A. BANNER** hangs on the Riverfest entertainment stage to promote B.I.D.A.'s sponsorship of the Berwick Borough event in 2021.



**B.I.D.A. PRESENTED** a monetary donation to the Salem Township Fire Company in 2019. Standing are, from left, **John Baltzer**, Salem Township Firefighter and Trustee; **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director; **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director; **Stacy Whitmire**, B.I.D.A. Contoller; and **Christopher Cashman**, Salem Township Firefighter and President.



# Mindset

*Continued from page 18*

Association (B.I.D.A.) is committed to improving the economy of the region through marketing and managing its industrial assets, the retention, expansion and recruitment of business and industry; and contributing to community revitalization efforts. The B.I.D.A. will collaborate with private, public and community groups and organizations to achieve this mission and through these partnership's efforts will work toward bettering the quality of life of the citizens of the area.

Over the past five years, B.I.D.A. do-

nated \$130,000 to many nonprofit organizations through cash and in-kind contributions. B.I.D.A. continues to contribute financially to help the community thrive.

A few of the organizations they donated to are:

- American Resource Center
- Berwick Area Swimming Pool Association
- Berwick Area United Way
- Berwick Area YMCA
- Berwick Borough
- Berwick Boulevard Association
- Berwick Dental Health Clinic
- Berwick Historical Society
- Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts
- Beyond Violence, inc.

- Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine
- Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech Alumni Association
- Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
- Community Giving Foundation
- For the Cause
- For the Cause Teen Center
- Luzerne County Community College Berwick Campus
- McBride Memorial Library
- Salem Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Saint Jude Children's Hospital
- Stuart Tank Memorial Association
- The Hope Center
- Wounded Warrior Project



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**B.I.D.A.**  
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**60  
years**


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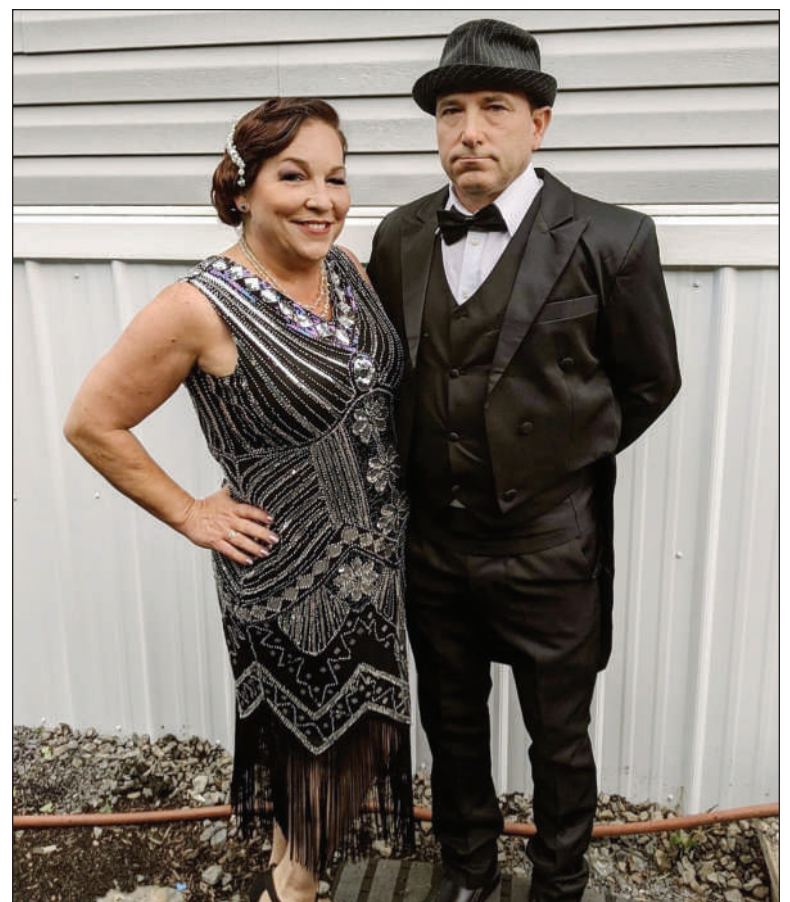


**T**he Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) provided much-needed office supplies to Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine (CCVIM) during the 2021 Christmas holiday. Standing outside the CCVIM clinic are, above, from left, **Stacy Whitmire**, B.I.D.A. Controller; **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director; **Bipin Chopra**, CCVIM Executive Director; and **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director. **Lisa Makara**, Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award Honoree for 2020, center in photo at left, stands with her family and **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, left. B.I.D.A. sponsors the annual award.

B.I.D.A. annually presents an in-kind donation to Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) officials for their Berwick Campus. Standing during the 2022 presentation are, from left in photo at lower left, **Dr. Rosana Reyes**, LCCC Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs; **Susan Spry**, LCCC Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs; **Daniel McGann**, B.I.D.A. Board President; **Chris Young**, Columbia County Commissioner; **David Kovach**, Columbia County Commissioner; **Thomas P. Leary**, LCCC President; **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director; and **Amy Shortlidge**, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director.

**Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, left in photo at lower right, and **William Buck**, guest, attend the 2021 Berwick Historical Society Corporate Ball on behalf of B.I.D.A.'s annual sponsorship.

**PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**





# Reflect

*Continued from page 2*

people looking at that job category and quietly leaving for better paying jobs in other industries.

Let us also remember that every industry sector, convenience stores to restaurants and manufacturing to health and human services, are struggling to fill jobs with qualified/skilled individuals. These struggles become even more challenging when a family shares one vehicle and work overlapping shifts or working the same shift, limiting the number of working parents in the home.

Let us also consider adults who would like to improve their skills to apply for some of the job opportunities that are available today, but financially cannot afford tuition for some of the certification programs being offered or, again, cannot get the childcare to allow them to attend, which now doubles the cost (childcare and adult education tuition costs).

It would take a great deal of writing to address all the factors that are creating challenges for this region and the country as a whole; what are we doing as a community-at-large to find short and long-term solutions?

B.I.D.A. hosts and facilitates an employer round table made up of employers and educational institutions in and around the

region to not only discuss the issues but to create, develop and implement programs and work together to create an improved workforce right here in northeast central Pennsylvania.

B.I.D.A. has initiated a Business Think Tank, made up of business leaders from a variety of industry sectors and local legislators to identify not only challenges that the area is facing, but how government and the private sector can truly work together in bridging gaps, evaluating legislative rules and regulations and strengthening what is great about the area.

B.I.D.A. revised its scholarship program and opened it up to adult learners who are looking to improve their skills in

the trades and vocational studies.

B.I.D.A. continues to remember the business and industry that started the manufacturing culture of Berwick and looks forward to working with all the companies that now call the region "home." They look forward to working with more businesses both new and existing, continuing to ride the coattails of those before them, while implementing solutions to challenges in the ever-changing world we live in and the rapid expansion of innovation and technology that drives industrial revolution 4.0.

If you would like to learn more about B.I.D.A. or become a member of the organization, visit the B.I.D.A. website at [www.bida.com/membership.html](http://www.bida.com/membership.html).



*Berwick Borough officials and staff wish to congratulate the members and staff of the*  
**Berwick Industrial Development Association**  
*as they celebrate the organization's*  
**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

Thanks to B.I.D.A.'s efforts in economic development over the last 60 years, Berwick has remained an important hub of industry, providing jobs for our community and products for our world!

**Congratulations B.I.D.A. and thank you for your many years of partnership in supporting local employers.**

**THE CHAMBER**  
 The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce



**Congratulations to the Berwick Industrial Development Association on 60 years of service to our community!**

We are honored to work alongside B.I.D.A. in their efforts to improve the economy in our area through manufacturing and employment opportunities.

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# Workforce scholarship is offered

BERWICK — In 2019, the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) launched a Workforce Scholarship Program for high school graduates from the Berwick Area School District (which included students attending Columbia-Montour Vocational-Technical School) who were to attend post-secondary or higher education institutions to pursue their education in the vocational trades.

Although the program has been successful with scholarships being awarded to two students each year, B.I.D.A. re-examined the present state of the workforce with having a shortage of skilled labor in the region, and the board of directors voted to offer the scholarship to unemployed and underemployed individuals in the Berwick Area School District geographic area.

This shift would allow residents to apply for \$1,000 that could essentially pay for an entire program at the Columbia-Montour Vocational-Technical School's adult education. There is an application process, and it will still run annually as it does for the high school applicant. In the spring, residents can request a scholarship application that also provides instructions on what needs to be included.

- **The purpose:** To place focus on the importance of skilled trades and workforce development in the region, and highlight the need for skilled workers for local businesses.

- **The amount:** B.I.D.A. will offer two scholarships, each for \$1,000.

- **The use:** B.I.D.A. will send the scholarship funds directly to the educational/training institution you are enrolled in, to offset the cost of tuition.

- **Eligibility:** Berwick Area School District Resident who has been accepted and has paid their enrollment deposit to an approved PDE (Pa. Department of Education) vocational training/workforce skills program.

Applicants cannot be immediate relatives of a sitting B.I.D.A. board member or staff.

Past recipients of the scholarship include:

- **2019** — Allison Beaver, Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech, and Sarah Lalli, Berwick Area High School

- **2020** — Jendyn Knorr, Berwick Area High School, and Megan McLaughlin, Berwick Area High School

- **2021** — Logan Noroski, Berwick Area High School, and Liam Ruddy, Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech

- **2022** — Dennis Waters, Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech

For more information on the Workforce Scholarship Program, email [info@bida.com](mailto:info@bida.com).



**Jendyn Knorr** from Berwick Area High School, above, right, was one of the recipients of the Berwick Industrial Development Association's (B.I.D.A.) Workforce Scholarships in 2020. Standing with her are **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, left, and **Daniel McGann**, B.I.D.A. Board President.

**Dennis Waters** from Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech, center in photo at left, was the recipient of the Berwick Industrial Development Association's (B.I.D.A.) Workforce Scholarship this year. Standing with him are **Kelly O'Brien**, B.I.D.A. Executive Director, left, and **Daniel McGann**, B.I.D.A. Board President.

**PHOTOS SPECIAL TO PRESS ENTERPRISE**



# B.I.D.A. has enjoyed recent successes

BERWICK—From 2018 through 2022, the Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.) went through an evolution, new staff, COVID-19 pandemic and working to create new programs that bring the business and community sectors together.

Here is a timeline of the past five years at B.I.D.A.



## 2018

- B.I.D.A. welcomes back William Hixson to the staff as Facilities Director.
- B.I.D.A. approves a \$1,000 Vocational Scholarship Program for students from the Berwick Area School District.
- B.I.D.A., along with Berwick Area United Way, Cheetah Chassis, Leggett & Platt, Dollar Tree Warehouse and IG Design Group form the Employer Round Table group.

## 2019

- B.I.D.A. hires all new staff with Stacy Whitmire being the only B.I.D.A. veteran.
- B.I.D.A. hosts a meet and greet for members, vendors, tenants, complex property owners and others to meet the new staff and board members.
- B.I.D.A. publishes first issue of semi-annual newsletter "Complex Connection."
- B.I.D.A. participates in and commits to working with the ELIC (Early Learning

Investment Commission).

- B.I.D.A. welcomes Crispin Valve as a tenant.

## 2020

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, B.I.D.A. employees begin remote work, except for the maintenance department.
- Stacy Whitmire becomes certified Notary Public for B.I.D.A.
- B.I.D.A. begins a new five-year lease with IG Design Group.
- B.I.D.A. purchases a manufacturing facility from Ingredion.

## 2021

- All B.I.D.A. employees return to the office
- Executive Director Kelly O'Brien is nominated and selected by her peers for Top 25 Women in Business by Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal.
- Executive Director Kelly O'Brien is

nominated and elected by Penn's Northeast as Vice Chair.

- B.I.D.A. begins Private Property Owner pilot program that allows private individuals to learn about business development projects.
- B.I.D.A. partners with Berwick Borough, Briar Creek Borough and Salem Township to identify and work to develop commercial properties along the Route 11 corridor.
- B.I.D.A. works with Wilkes SBDC, Community Strategies Group (CSG), and Rural Business Innovation (RBI) to create a virtual entrepreneurial network.
- The B.I.D.A. board of directors expands the scholarship program to include unemployed and under-employed adults for the re-named Workforce Development Scholarship.
- B.I.D.A. welcomes Dyco Inc. as a tenant in the former Ingredion building.

## 2022


- B.I.D.A. launches the first Quarterly Legislative Brunch to stay connected to local legislators.
- B.I.D.A. purchases a portion of Building 93 from Eagle Warehousing.
- B.I.D.A. launches a Business Think Tank to work at a grass roots level in finding solutions to challenges in business.

• B.I.D.A. hosts a job fair for Mickey Truck Body employees in collaboration with Columbia and Luzerne County Career Links.

- B.I.D.A. welcomes US Premium Molders.
- B.I.D.A. welcomes Volumetric Building Company (VBC).

The B.I.D.A. team is excited to see what the next 60 years hold for the organization, businesses they work with and the community at large.

Congratulations  
on your 60 years of  
history here in Berwick!



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Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!



CHRISTINE MARRAZZO | Vice President / Investments, Financial Advisor

25 West Third Street, Suite 600, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570.326.5700 | Fax: 570.326.7523  
cmarrazzo@janney.com | www.christinemarrazzo-janney.com

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**Congratulations to B.I.D.A. on its 60th Anniversary and incredible success on building and improving economic development in the region.**

**Thank you for a successful partnership in helping us bring college education classes to downtown Berwick!**

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