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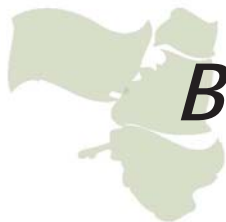
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**July 2015**

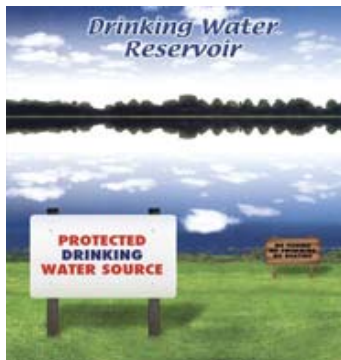
**LuAnn Kennedy, Editor**

## **Thank You Mayor Vincenzo!**



On December 31, 2015, Mayor Robert Vincenzo will be retiring as Mayor of St. Clairsville after 24 years in that position. Before becoming Mayor, he served as President of City Council, bringing his total public service to 37 years. In most of those years, he has served as either Chairman or Vice-Chairman (Ohio) on Belomar's Board as well. Mayor Vincenzo has not only served, but has been very active, missing very few meetings, including quarterly board meetings and Executive Committee meetings, just to name a few. He will be greatly missed by the staff as well as the entire Belomar membership. Although we hate to see him go, we wish him many happy years of a well-deserved retirement.

## **Belomar to Assist Communities With Source Water Protection Plans**



Belomar will be coordinating the development of Source Water Protection Plans for the City of Wheeling, the City of Cameron and the Town of Pine Grove. These three systems were identified by the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health as in need of development/updates under their Round 3 Funding. The WVBOPH has contracted with the State's 11 regional councils to coordinate the plans' completion. No other communities in the Belomar region were included in the first 2 rounds.

These plans are a requirement of Senate Bill 373 (Above Ground Storage Tank Bill) which resulted from the Elk River chemical spill in January of 2014. The Bill mandates (in part) that all public water utilities in the state that rely on surface water complete a source water protection plan by July 1, 2016.

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"Every effort shall be made to inform and engage the public, local governments, local emergency planners, local health departments and affected residents at all levels of the development of the protection plan."

The plan must also include an analysis of the feasibility of a secondary intake, additional water storage, or building interconnections with another utility system. The plan must also include an analysis of the feasibility of implementing an early warning monitoring system.

Belomar has solicited engineering proposals on behalf of these communities and is working with them to select the best firm to complete the engineering portion of the study.

It is not clear whether there will be a fourth funding round or if any other Public Water Supply Utilities (PWSU's) in our region will be included. Funding for the plans is being provided by the WV DHHR Bureau of Public Health with some assistance through the WV Department of Environmental Protection.

On a related note, Belomar (and all 11 Regional Councils) are in discussions with the West Virginia Rural Water Association about the feasibility of a one-day training session regarding the Source Water Protection Plans, and more specifically, the implementation of the early warning monitoring system. The WVRWA is in the process of developing an agenda for the trainings. We would anticipate the training would occur within the next couple of months and be located somewhere within the northern region of the state. We will contact all our communities, PWSU's and Emergency Services folks when these details are finalized.

## Abandoned Buildings Grant to Provide Momentum for the City of Moundsville

The City of Moundsville was awarded a technical assistance grant valued at \$10,000 through the 2015 Brownfields, Abandoned, Dilapidated (BAD) Buildings Technical Assistance program to address barriers to the reuse and redevelopment of abandoned and dilapidated buildings in the City.

The BAD Buildings Program grant was awarded by the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center. The program provides technical assistance and expertise to assist communities in West Virginia to create a redevelopment plan for its strategically located abandoned, vacant, and dilapidated properties.

Moundsville was one of only 9 projects awarded statewide to receive a 2015 BAD Buildings Program technical assistance grant. The BAD Buildings model provides an initial stepping stone for revitalization efforts by initiating redevelopment progress and spurring community involvement.

City officials, along with interested residents, held an introductory meeting to announce and explain the program. A Team was formed to begin the survey process of the City. The Team, consisting

mostly of residents, has been walking the streets with surveys in hand. These surveys will be used to develop an inventory of properties. Also, the Team voted to change the local name of the Program to the City of Moundsville Better Buildings Program.

The BAD Buildings Program is funded through a grant from the Benedum Foundation through the WVU Foundation, a private non-profit corporation that generates, receives and administers private gifts for West Virginia University. Information about the BAD Buildings Program can be found at [www.wvbrownfields.org](http://www.wvbrownfields.org). The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center is a program of the West Virginia Water Research Institute, located at WVU's National Research Center for Coal & Energy.



## Increase on West Virginia DOH Inspection Fees

Any municipality, county, or Public Service District that is in the process of planning a water line or sewer line project, please take note that the West Virginia Department of Transportation has increased their inspection fees for these projects. Effective July 1, 2015, water line inspection rates increased to \$.85 per lineal foot, and the sewer line rates increased to \$3.37 per lineal foot. \$3.40 is the new rate for water and sewer lines installed in the same trench. Each DOH district Engineer was notified of this in a memo from the State Secretary of Transportation Paul A. Mattox, Jr. dated July 1, 2015. Please pass this information on to any engineers that you may be working with, and keep in mind while developing a budget for future projects.



## *Transportation Department*

### Transportation Funding Awaits Congressional Action

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century act (MAP-21) was a two year act that was to expire on September 30, 2014. It was first extended to May 2015 and the second extension is expiring on July 31st.

Its predecessor SAFETEA-LU saw short term extensions nine times since 2009 before MAP-21 was enacted. It was enacted in 2012 to buy time to find a long term solution for nation's transportation infrastructure. Prior to SAFETEA-LU the user fees (mostly gas tax) supported Highway Trust Fund (HTF). This fund had sufficient balance to maintain the transportation system. Starting in 2008 HTF has not kept pace with the expenditure level needed to maintain the system. Congress since 2008 has been passing stopgap measures to keep the HTF solvent. These measures have included transfers from the general fund to HTF.

The lack of funds is attributed mainly to the drop in revenues from the federal gas tax. The gas tax, which is not indexed to inflation, has not changed since 1993. The cost of everything from labor to materials has increased since 1993. This funding gap is forecast to grow even wider with the 2025 federal fuel economy standards. Congress needs to find a solution for addressing this gap. So far this gap has been addressed by transfers from the general fund and short term extensions of the transportation acts.

After the May 2015 extension was signed the White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest was quoted in an article "The stopgap measure represents the 33rd temporary fix for road project funding since 2008, Earnest noted, leading to some uncertainty among states for major highway plans."

The uncertainty of funding has been of concern in both states Ohio and West Virginia. It affects the state's capacity to plan and deliver projects.

At present, with the July 31st deadline looming, the House Ways & Means Committee and the House T&I Committee jointly introduced another short-term extension until December 18, 2015. The Senate Republican leadership is leaning towards a longer term bill. The House and Senate would then have to resolve which approach prevails. We hope there will be some resolution prior to the July 31st deadline and this construction cycle will not be affected.

# Northwestern Area Agency on Aging

## Suzanne Messenger Speaks to Legislators on Financial Exploitation of Elders in WV

*West Virginia Partnership for Elder Living (WVPEL) Helps to Fulfill Request from Committee Chair*

The West Virginia Financial Exploitation Taskforce is a group of people from a wide variety of agencies and organizations who share a strong interest in reducing this plague on elders. Suzanne Messenger, the State's Long Term Care Ombudsman in the Bureau of Senior Services, serves as Chair of the Taskforce. WVPEL is an active participant in the group and has served a facilitation role in the recent past. When WVPEL were contacted by the Chair of the state legislature's Interim Committee on PEIA, Seniors, and Long Term Care about a speaker who could enlighten the committee about financial exploitation in West Virginia, WVPEL assisted in arrangements to have Ms. Messenger make a presentation. She did so at the June meeting of the committee.

In her presentation she spoke of recent legislative actions which have allowed reporting

by banks of unusual activity which may indicate exploitation and clarified the definition of exploitation. These efforts came from activity by the Taskforce. In addition, Ms. Messenger talked about why this is such a hard issue for the justice system to deal with - issues of privacy, family connections, lack of sufficient resources, and clever perpetrators.

Committee members asked about statistics regarding the number of exploitation incidents in the state. Ms. Messenger said that it has been hard to find that data and that it is known that a vast majority of cases are unreported. The committee also indicated that it would like specific recommendations for legislation.

## 2015 White House Conference on Aging Held on July 13

What an amazing conference. The event was truly a national conversation. Here are some highlights of questions, ideas, and pictures that were seen online on July 13.

See the key deliverables from the White House Conference on Aging at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/13/fact-sheet-white-house-conference-aging>

For live streaming go to: <http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov>



## Free Journal Volume on Evidence Based Programs

The National Council on Aging, in collaboration with researchers at Texas A&M and the University of Georgia, developed a journal volume specific to evidence based programs for aging populations at the state and national level. The journal includes 25 commentaries and 25 full-length articles. The authors aim to inform policymakers and improve efficacy of current policies.

Visit <http://journal.frontiersin.org/researchtopic/2551/evidence-based-programming-for-older-adults> to view the full volume and eBook free of charge.

### News Alert

*Senate Passed the  
Older Americans Act  
Reauthorization on  
July 16, 2015.*



# 23rd Annual West Virginia Rural Health Conference



*Strengthening Rural Health  
Partnerships  
October 14 -16, 2015  
Stonewall Resort*

*Sponsored by: The West Virginia Rural Health Association Jointly Provided by CAMC Health Education and Research Institute*

*Co-Sponsored by: The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Community Health Systems & Health Promotion Division of Rural Health and Recruitment, West Virginia Area Health Education Centers*

## ***About the Conference***

The goal of the West Virginia Rural Health Conference is to provide attendees with updates regarding rural health issues on both the state and national levels. Attendees will be provided with learning tools to assist in carrying out best practices in the community and will have an opportunity to network with peers facing similar challenges.

With the support of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Community Health Systems and Health Promotion, and other generous sponsors, the conference gathers individuals and groups interested in the health of rural residents for two and one half informative days of learning and networking. The 2015 conference agenda is the collaborative result of statewide partners seeking the best speakers to address current topics of interest.

Please join us at Stonewall Resort, located in Roanoke, West Virginia, as we continue our efforts to assure improved access to quality health care for the citizens of West Virginia.

## ***Intended Audience***

The broad range of conference sessions will be of interest to allied health professionals, physicians, nurses, dentists, physician assistants, pharmacists, social workers, academicians, students from a variety of health professions, government officials, business and community leaders, community extension agents, community planners, community health care volunteers, non-profits and individuals interested in community development.

For more information about the WV Rural Health Conference and to download a registration form, go to: <http://www.wvrha.org/docs/2015/2015ConfBrochureRegistration.pdf>. Additional registration forms for other events are available on the web at <http://www.wvrha.org>.

## GAO Report Examines Unmet Services

This report, published by the Government Accountability Office found that almost 4 million seniors are faced with food insecurity. Findings showed that 1 in 5 seniors did not know where their next meal would come from and were in need of transportation services. However, some improvement was seen with home-based care. This report indicates that the funding for the Older Americans Act program is not sufficient for the increasing population.

Visit <http://www.nasuad.org/hcbs/article/older-americans-act-updated-information-unmet-needs-seniors#overlay-context=hcbs/article/june-2015-report-congress-medicaid-and-chip> to access the report and findings.

### ***Check Out Our Updated Website!***

We've have recently made improvements to our website. Check it out at [www.belomar.org](http://www.belomar.org). We look forward to your feedback.

### ***Reminder!***

**Belomar Regional Council/  
BOMTS/AAA Associate  
Board Meeting**

**Thursday, July 30, 2015 - 12:00 Noon  
Belmont Hills Country Club  
St. Clairsville, Ohio**

**Lunch will be served to the  
membership only**

## **TRIGG**

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