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Progress is ...

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato delivers a strong message of support and leadership for the Expressway at the March 27 Progress Council's 43rd annual dinner// An Onorato-formed Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway Steering Committee recommends a public/private partnership for the Expressway // State Representative Peter J. Daley becomes the tenth recipient of the Allison Maxwell Jr. Outstanding Community Leadership Award // Maronda Homes receives the Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award // Open house held for the **Mon Valley Tech Access Site**

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Onorato delivers a strong message of support and leadership for the Expressway - Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato didn't mince words in his support for the Expressway at the March 27 Progress Council's 43rd annual dinner.

Expressway Steering Committee formally recommends a public/private partnership -A steering committee of area business leaders, organizations and state elected officials appointed by Allegheny Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommended a public/private partnership for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.

Daley becomes the tenth recipient of the Allison Maxwell Jr. Award -In its forty-three years, the Progress Council has presented an award for outstanding community leadership that bears the name of its founder only nine times. On March 27 State Representative Peter J. Daley became the tenth awardee.

Maronda Homes receives Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award - Each year the Progress Council recognizes a local firm or organization for projects that create progress. This year Maronda Homes received the award for development of their Monessen-based home manufacturing plant.

Open house held for the Mon Valley Tech Access Site - An April 3 open house included a demonstration of the regional business/education wireless internet and videoconferencing meeting facility located at Mon Valley Career and Technology Center located in Speers.

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Onorato delivers a strong message of support and leadership for the Expressway

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato didn't mince words in his support for the Expressway at the March 27 Progress Council's 43rd annual dinner. The Allegheny County Chief Executive repeatedly stated his support for the Expressway and thanked the Mon Valley Progress Council for its leadership on this crucial regional economic development project.

In offering an introduction, Progress Council president Bill Worthington recognized Onorato for his leadership on the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway. "Dan, you have truly stepped to the plate for this project. On January 11 of this year Dan convened the first-ever regional meeting of Southwestern Pennsylvania state elected officials, community and business leaders, and representatives from key local and regional economic development organizations." A 21-member committee, appointed by Onorato subsequent to the January 11 meeting, is now working on funding strategies to ensure continued progress on this crucial project.

Onorato stated that the growth in the region depends on completion of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway. He also offered a keen insight noting, "If you're against sprawl, you need to stand up and say, 'I'm for the Expressway...'" The PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway project will have nine interchanges providing access to nine major brownfield sites with an estimated 1,500 acres.

Onorato also thanked the Progress Council and the Mid Mon Valley for their leadership on the Expressway project, "You kept it alive during the most critical time when it could have died." The Progress Council is deeply appreciative of the regional leadership Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato has expressed for the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway project.

Expressway Steering Committee formally recommends public/private partnership

A steering committee of area business leaders, organizations and state elected officials appointed by Allegheny Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommended a public/private partnership for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Fayette Expressway. The steering committee has been conducting meetings since Onorato called for its formation at a January 11 regional meeting he spearheaded to create a stronger focus on the uncompleted Allegheny County section of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway. Participants include representation of the Expressway Partnership Initiative.

The report adopted by the steering committee also called for efforts to secure additional funding for the Expressway project and the opportunity to assist the PA Turnpike Commission in ongoing efforts to secure private partners for the Expressway project. At a recent meeting the Turnpike Commission authorized staff to develop a Request for Information from potential private firms regarding completion of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway projects.

Daley becomes the tenth recipient of the Allison Maxwell Jr. Award

In its forty-three years, the Progress Council has presented an award for outstanding community leadership that bears the name of its founder only nine times. On March 27 State Representative Peter J. Daley became the tenth awardee.

In his introduction of Representative Daley, Progress Council Executive Committee member Bob Burke recognized Daley for his commitment to our economic recovery. "From the formation of the Governor's Action Team that has served as a model of how to cut through the red tape to work to recruit and expand firms, to the creation of the Mon Valley Economic Revitalization Program, to securing funding for construction of the Progress Council's industrial building in Donora, to supporting development of the

Rostraver Airpark—a project that's not even in his legislative district, to leading efforts to develop the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley site for the Westmoreland County Community College's technical college program, for his commitment to working toward more efficient and effective local governments, and a host of other projects - Pete has met the test time and time again!"

In his acceptance speech Daley recognized the partnership of the Progress Council and his long-term friendship with the Irey family. The 13th term legislator also recalled numerous legislative battles he has fought for the benefit of the Valley.

Maronda Homes receives Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award

Each year the Progress Council recognizes a local firm or organization for projects that create progress with the Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award. This marked the 11th year for the award, an award that honors the memory of Progress Council's past president Frank Irey Jr. Irey's name was added to the award in 2003. Frank Irey Jr. died of a heart attack in June 2002.

Maronda Homes received the award for development of their Monessen-based home manufacturing plant. Maronda Homes is a national leader in the home construction industry and a major innovator in construction. Their manufacturing process sets the industry standard for both quality and value. In accepting the award, Gregory Cox, Vice President of Maronda Homes, recognized the leadership of Doug Farnham, State Representative Ted Harhai and others came together to recruit them to Monessen.

Open house held for the Mon Valley Tech Access Site

An April 3 open house included a demonstration of the regional business/education wireless internet and videoconferencing meeting facility located at Mon Valley Career and Technology Center located in Speers. The demonstration involved a videoconference with a Penn State instructor with a question and answer session.

The Mon Valley Tech Access Site, a joint venture of the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, is a full-service web-based video conferencing and computer access training site right here in the Mid Mon Valley. Please call MVCTC at 724-489-9581 to make reservations for the room.

Mon Valley Tech Access Site capabilities:

- Web-based video conferencing with a 12-foot projection screen
- Full DVD/VRC and Power Point presentation capabilities
- Smart boards
- Hot-spot access for up to sixty laptop computers
- Forty laptop computers available for onsite use
- Capacity for up to 120 people
- Flexible configuration for one to three rooms
- Can be configured with computer worktables or auditorium seating
- On-site tech support (after 3:00 p.m. and weekends - \$30 per hour)

Mon Valley Tech Access Site - introductory rates (per room)

	<u>½ day (three hours)</u>	<u>full day</u>
Monday –Friday	\$ 50	\$100
Weekends	\$150	\$300

**MON VALLEY PROGRESS COUNCIL
43RD ANNUAL DINNER
MARCH 27, 2008
THE WILLOW ROOM**



Maronda Homes receives Frank Irey Jr. Join In Progress Award. L to R: Joe Kirk, Executive Director, MVPC; Greg Cox, VP, Maronda Homes; Ted Harhai, PA State Representative; Bill Worthington, President, MVPC.



PA State Representative Pete Daley receives the Allison R. Maxwell Jr. award for outstanding leadership. L to R: Bob Burke, General Manager, Valley Independent; Bill Worthington, Rep. Pete Daley; Joe Kirk.



Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato gave the keynote address at the dinner. L to R: Bob Burke, Bill Worthington, Dan Onorato, Joe Kirk.



Dan Onorato and PA State Representative Joe Markosek find a moment to exchange greetings and discuss issues after the dinner.



Douglas Education Center students who assisted in making the dinner a success.
Sitting: Margaret Smith, Ashley Cocchiara
Standing: Ashley Grote, Allison Dziak.