



A Pennsylvania Local Development District

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Oil City Awarded at Northwest Commission's 2009 Annual Dinner

The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission celebrated 42 years of service to the region at the 2009 Annual Dinner held April 1, at Cross Creek Resort in Titusville. One hundred eighty-seven people attended the event. The night began with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner, a program and an awards presentation. One of the awards given that evening was the 2008 Local Government of the Year Award, which was presented to the city of Oil City.

The Northwest Commission works diligently to serve the local governments of northwest Pennsylvania. A variety of community development programs are available to assist local governments with energy, downtown revitalization, geographic information systems, transportation, and technology. Each year one municipality is recognized for making exceptional progress and working closely with the Northwest Commission to improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

Oil City works closely with a number of Commission programs. Municipal employees are always eager to complete the Commission's municipal outreach survey. In addition, a number of Bona Fide Retail Requests for broadband internet have come through the technology program for this municipality. A commitment to revitalizing the downtown business district has created a partnership between the municipality and the staff of the Northwest Commission's Downtown Revitalization Program.

Oil City does not strictly rely on services available through the Commission; the municipal staff is also involved in a multitude of successful projects that are providing large impacts within the community and region. These projects include multi-municipal comprehensive planning with Rouseville Borough and Cornplanter Township, and initiating dialogue about consolidation opportunities. The city initiated a riverfront and waterways planning process for Oil Creek and the Allegheny River, and the downtown streetscape project is completing its fifth phase.

Oil City is engaged in an aggressive Arts initiative that has provided over 22 studio spaces above the Transit Building in the downtown business district for local artists. The arts initiative includes an artist recruitment and relocation program, to entice those making a career in the Arts to relocate to the area.

Denise McCloskey, Executive Director of the Northwest Commission, said, "Overall, Oil City is working hard to remain a vital active community where people want to continue to live, work, play, and raise a family."

Other nominees in the category of Local Government of the Year included New Wilmington Borough, North East Borough, and Grove City Borough. The Commission also recognized three other awards at the Annual Dinner, these included: Clarion County Commissioner Donna Hartle as Board Member of the Year, Optical



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Filters located in Meadville as Business of the year, and the Penn-Northwest Development Corporation as Partner of the Year.

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Established in 1967, the Northwest Commission is a regional resource for business and economic development as well as community development and planning. The non-profit agency is composed of a team of skilled professionals dedicated to sustaining economic vitality and growth in the northwest Pennsylvania region by fostering local, state, and federal partnerships across public and private sector lines. The Northwest Commission provides programs such as business financing, government contracting, international marketing, grants, transportation, and technology assistance to eight counties in northwest Pennsylvania including: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren.

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