

PERKASIE BROWNFIELD SITE IS BACK IN BUSINESS



Perkasie Borough Council is presented a check from the Redevelopment Authority in front of the First Savings Bank.

On May 23, 2011, the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority (BCRDA) presented the Borough of Perkasee with a check for \$134,395.14, representing the funds remaining after the purchase and remediation of the Stainless and Wispese Properties in the borough.

The once vacant, blighted and TCE-contaminated property on 9th Street has been revitalized and is now the main office of the First Savings Bank of Perkasee with 70-plus people employed at this site, located a block away from the old Perkasee Municipal Building that currently houses the Perkasee Police Department.

This site was cleaned for reuse through Pennsylvania's award winning Land Recycling Program better known as Act 2, over a span of 10 years.

The BCRDA is recognized as a leader in the field of brownfield redevelopment. Through the

auspices of the Enterprise Zone, Bucks County was one of the first communities in the nation to receive US EPA grant funds to develop a brownfield inventory. Using that grant, the BCRDA worked with municipalities throughout Bucks County to develop a county-wide brownfield inventory. A number of the sites identified at the top of the inventory have subsequently been assessed and remediated by the BCRDA using Industrial Site Reuse Program (ISRP) funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), federal US EPA Brownfields funds and CDBG grant funds. Included were the former Stainless and Wispese industrial properties in Perkasio.

"We are all proud to be a part of this program and it is important to note that the Stainless and Wispese properties were among the first sites identified and prioritized in the Brownfield Pilot program funded by the US EPA," said Bob White, executive director of the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority. He added, "The project was funded, in part, by the Borough of Perkasio and ISRP grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Rarely are funds remaining after a brownfield project is done, but it happened here in Perkasio."

The project was completed through a collaborative partnership between the Boroughs of Perkasio, Commissioners of Bucks County, USEPA, DCED, PADEP, local legislators - particularly State Representative Clymer, who kept an eye on the progress at the site - and the BCRDA Board of Directors and staff. White also recognized the consultants involved in the project and the BCRDA's special solicitor, Joel Bolstein, who represents the BCRDA in all its brownfield projects, reviewed each proposal and report.

White said, "Between buying and selling the properties, added with a few grants, this project was possible and now we can return some of the dollars Perkasio provider toward the cleanup, adding the required environmental cleanup amounted to more than \$1 million. First Savings Bank of Perkasio completely restored the Silk Works building (Stainless property) and moved to the location in 2005.



Before



After