

Bazaar planning committee

Members of the Franklin Township Fire Company's annual bazaar planning committee are, standing from left: Max Derby, assistant chief Howard Jones, fire policeman Nick Rusinko; sitting: assistant chief Jeff Sudol, secretary and bazaar co-chairman Debbie Jones and bazaar co-chairman Lisa Risch. Absent from photo: assistant chief Dave Howell, Sara Harrison, Joe Strazdus. Scheduled for June 11-13, the bazaar will feature the bands Riverside, Strawberry Jam and Southbound, with a live broadcast Saturday by WYMK-FM 107, games, refreshments, kids' rides and Barney the Dinosaur. Proceeds will benefit the entire community by going toward the purchase of a new firetruck.

The economic viewpoint

New regional economic development goals and strategies can enhance future growth

By HOWARD J. GROSSMAN

Perhaps our most significant step in recent years beyond new economic development actually taking place in Northeastern Pennsylvania has been the process of establishing specific goals and objectives to enhance regional economic growth and to develop strategies to implement these goals.

In a report published by EDCNP in late 1992, and titled "Regional Economic Development: A Strategic Action Plan for 1992 and Beyond", strategies are outlined to carry Northeastern Pennsylvania well into the 21st century. Adopted by the Board of Directors of EDCNP, the report provides guidance and a framework to enhance the region's economic base and quality of life. Major

steps are being undertaken to follow up the strategies document and include a special meeting held in February 1993 of local chambers of commerce and industrial development organizations and representatives of federal and state agencies concerned with economic development.

Here are some of the strategic program initiatives outlined in the document:

- Plan, develop and implement an industrial clusters program to bring together business and industry establishments in the same sector Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code and provide opportunities for sharing of activities which will benefit each cluster. This would be compatible with the concept paper prepared by SRI International for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dated August 18, 1991 entitled

Analyzing Economic Clusters in Pennsylvania: A Tool For Targeting Economic Development Services.

- Promote and enhance the five river corridors located within Northeastern Pennsylvania by encouraging public/private sector river corridor partnerships and maximizing the benefits of these river corridors on the growth and development of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

- Continue to promote the appropriate use of technology as a basis for enhancing economic competitiveness by businesses and industries throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

- Develop additional enterprise zones in Northeastern Pennsylvania to assist distressed areas and diversify the economic base of distressed communities.

- Develop additional incubator

buildings in areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania currently unserved.

- Support and enhance energy self-sufficiency in Northeastern Pennsylvania through appropriate activities designed to encourage the support of the business and industry community via competitive energy costs and through appropriate energy conservation of techniques.

- Tap into targets of opportunity for economic growth in the region such as the appropriate use of the Blue Coal Lands and other large land holdings under single ownership which represent important land areas for potential economic and community development use.

- Maximize economic development through travel development and tourism which is an important part of the economy of the

region, and help implement ways to increase travel development and tourism throughout the region.

- Consider new techniques which will help advance the ability of Northeastern Pennsylvania to be competitive in the 21st century in both an economic and environmental sense.

- Examine the potential to designate the Pocono Mountains as a special and unique part of Pennsylvania.

- Promote the most appropriate techniques to assist local governments such as a regional local governmental assembly, circuit rider programs privatization of services, contracting for services and similar techniques.

- Expand the regional business retention program as well as develop a monitoring system to more adequately assist companies threatened with closure or loss of

significant numbers of jobs.

- Expand the regional information and data center and DEVIN (EDCNP's computerized development information network) to provide up-to-date, key information which can help promote sound economic growth throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

- Increase revolving loan funds to encourage business expansion.

Anyone desiring more information concerning the strategies document and a new publication which outlines the 1993 Economic State of the Region should contact EDCNP, 1151 Oak Street, Pittston, PA 18640.

Howard Grossman is Executive Director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He lives in Dallas.

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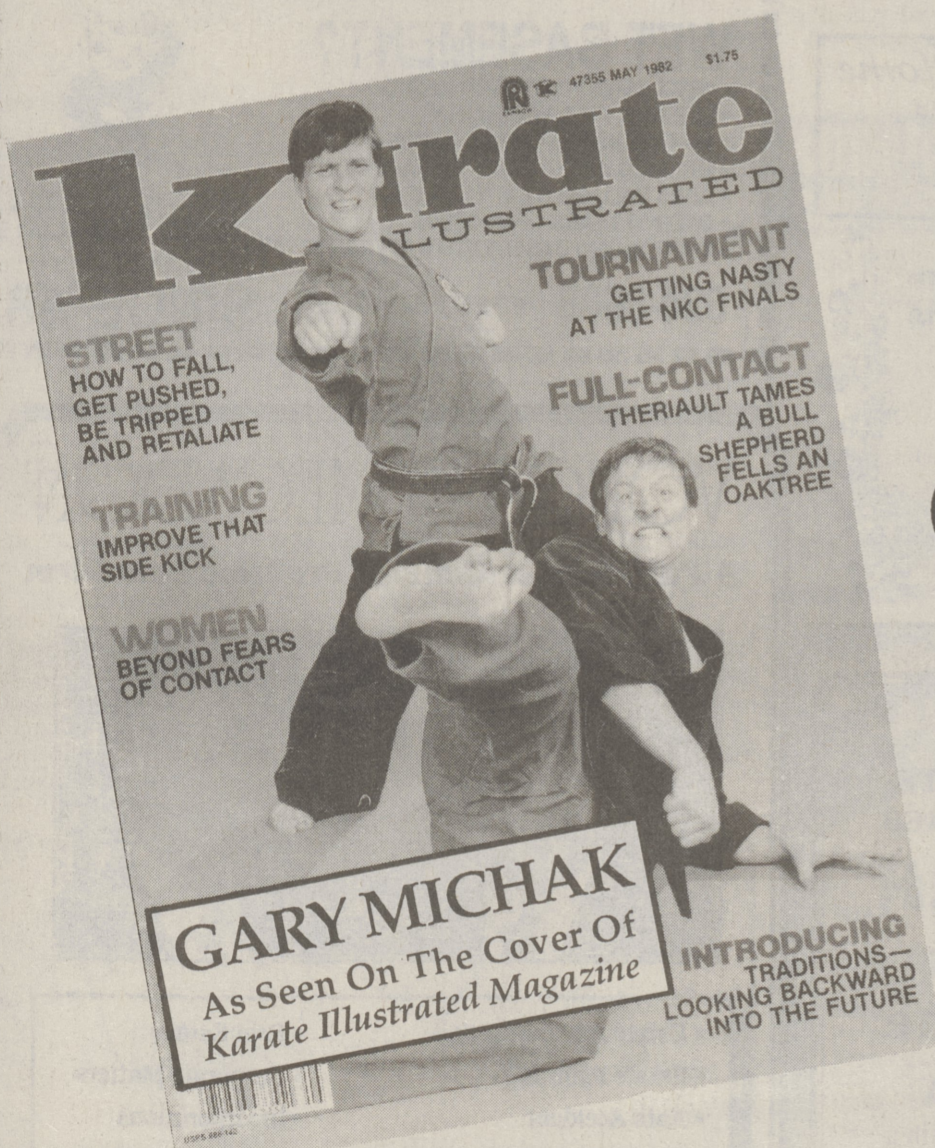
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