

2000

The population of Grove City reached 8,024. The population of Pine Township was 4,493. This represented a combined population increase of 84 over the 1990 census.

The Traveler's Hotel became the headquarters of the Grove City Historical Society.

Note:

The historic Traveler's Hotel building had been acquired in 1998 by the Grove City Historical Society.

The building required remodeling to serve as a community center for historic preservation and presentation, as well as serving as a headquarters for the society's day-to-day operations. The historical society immediately began the process of acquiring funding to restore and update to serve the structure to meet its needs.



Over the years, the facility continued to be developed. The second floor of the building was dedicated to thirteen theme rooms. Each room features an element of Grove City's history. Included is a hotel room that portrays a hotel room as it may have appeared in during the period the building was a hotel. The displays in each room are periodically changed to feature items in the society's collection.

A Museum Shoppe was opened to the public that features publications and other articles for sale.



The Slovak Folk Crafts store was opened.

Note:

The Slovak Folk Crafts new retail store was opened by Anne and Dave Dayton in December at 1605 S. Center Street Ext., PA Route 208.

Slovak Folk Crafts specialized in creative, handmade folk crafts imported from Slovakia. In the spring of 2000, Dave and Anne Dayton had lived in Slovakia for four months. They were struck by the creativity of the handmade crafts and the economic needs of the people.

They began to envision a business importing the handmade folk crafts to the United States for sale. To this end, they hired a Slovak citizen to acquire these crafts and export them to the America. They also established an exporting company in Slovakia.

After they had returned to the US they incorporated the Slovak American Trading Company, Inc. (September 13, 2000) with David M. Dayton as President and Anne Harker Dayton as Vice President.

On September 22, 2000, the name Slovak Folk Crafts was registered.

Grove City College instituted its Professor of the Year Award.

Note:

Dr. Gary Scott Smith, Chair of the History Department, received the inaugural award.

In December, Siegfried Construction was incorporated by Robert G. Siegfried.

Note:

Siegfried Construction became a residential building, repair and remodeling company.

2001

Context:

On September 11 a series of coordinated suicide attacks by the terrorist group, al-Qaeda, killed thousands by crashing two hijacked airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, crashing a third airliner into the Pentagon, and crashing a fourth into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The attack on American citizens on American soil instantaneously changed everyday life in the United States.

The United States launched air attacks the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan beginning "the War on Terrorism".

An extensive revitalization of the downtown area of Grove City began in 2001.

Note:

Grove City, like most older communities, had slowly began to show the signs of age. There had never been a coordinated effort to maintain and update the buildings in the downtown area. With the coming of the factory shops, it became increasingly evident that in order to thrive, if not survive, the community needed to undertake a major revitalization project. Ideas from community members were solicited and discussed and consultants were involved in developing a coordinated plan.

As part of this process, two organizations emerged to spearhead the project. Grove City Revitalization, Inc. was incorporated on July 19, 2001. Later, Olde Town Grove City, a non-profit organization, began to work with Grove City Revitalization and other groups.

Nearly, the entire community came together to complete this revitalization project. Groups such as the Grove City Borough, the Greater Grove City Chamber of Commerce, Grove City College and the 79-80 IDC, as well as service organizations, businesses, and private individuals participated in the process



Over 6,000 hours of community volunteer work were logged during the revitalization process.



In the end, a \$3.5 million revitalization process beautified and improved the downtown's infrastructure. The revitalization included moving overhead lines underground, a

decorative turn-of-the-20th century style street lighting system, handicap accessibility sidewalk provisions, street paving, new sidewalk designs, and street furnishings, such as benches, trash receptacles, and street trees.



Building facades were remodeled and large-scale murals were painted.

The downtown area was renamed Olde Town district.

In 2009, Olde Town Grove City was accredited as a National Main Street Program by the National Trust Main Street Center.



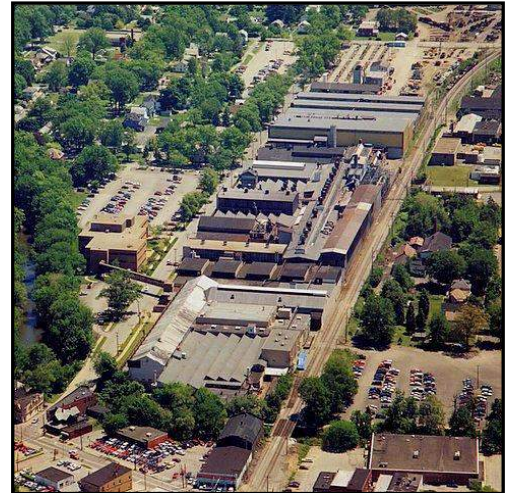
Cooper Industrial Commons, LLC was incorporated on May 18, 2001 by Thomas R. Noone.

Note:

Cooper Industrial Commons was established to lease space for manufacturing, industrial use, commercial distribution, and warehousing.

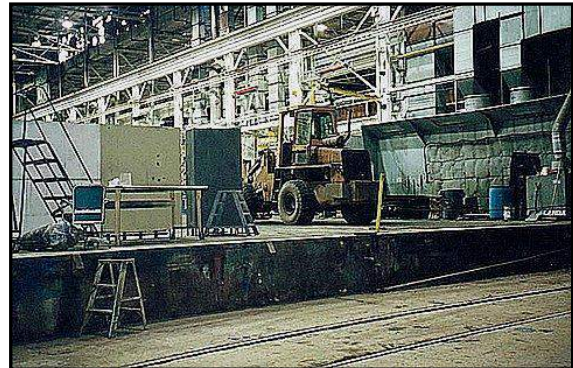
The name Cooper Industrial Commons was registered by the company on the same day.

Cooper Industrial Commons acquired and began to develop the abandoned Cooper Cameron site at 180 Lincoln Avenue.



When opened Cooper Industrial Commons offered nearly 650,000 square feet of enclosed space on approximately 35 acres of land.

Facilities available include loading areas, open areas; overhead cranes are available in the facility.



The Central Heating and Plumbing Company opened a retail business in Grove City.

Note:

In July of 2001, the Central Heating and Plumbing Company opened a retail plumbing, heating, and air conditioning business at 804 West Main Street.

Central Heating and Plumbing was established in December 1967 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. The Grove City location was the third expansion of the company.

On February 5, 2001, Susan L. Fleeger was murdered in her home in Pine Township.

Note:

Susan LaRue Fleeger was 48 years old and living with her 28-year-old son, Shane R. Sloan in a mobile home at 823 S. Center St.

On the morning of February 5, Fleeger was reportedly getting ready for work. Sloan was scheduled to report to the Mercer County Jail that day to begin serving a twelve-day sentence for harassing a Pine Township woman on October 1. Ms. Fleeger's mother and Sloan's grandmother, Grace Fales, became concerned about the situation in the mobile home and called 911, the emergency center.

Police were dispatched to the address and became involved in a standoff with Sloan. Sloan resisted arrest by filling the mobile home with propane gas from a gas stove and threatening to blow it up. After a two-hour standoff with state police, he surrendered.

While in the process of being arrested, he confessed to the murder of his mother. State police found of Mrs. Fleeger body inside the mobile home.

Sloan, 28 years old, was charged with first-degree murder and risking a catastrophe.

Sloan had a police record of attempted suicide and had been diagnosed as suffering from a mental disorder. He maintained that he had strangled his mother when she attempted to prevent him from committing suicide. Sloan was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Sloan began to serve his sentence at Western Penitentiary, the State Correctional Institution in Pittsburgh. Prison guards found Sloan hanging in his cell at 2:05 a.m. Monday, June 3, 2002. He had committed suicide.

On June 7, 2001, the name Grove City Sears was registered by Chester J. Thompson and Lori L. Thompson.

Note:

The Thompsons opened a Sears store at 27 Pine Grove Square.

The store offered the convenience of local shopping carrying a reduced line of Sears products in the store as well as catalogue sales. On stock were tools, appliances, and supplies.

The Citizens Bank purchased Mellon Bank's retail banking units including the Mellon branch on Broad Street.

On May 17, 2001, Northwest Savings Bank established a Branch at 200 South Center Street.

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2002

Context:

President Bush signed legislation on November 25 creating the Department of Homeland Security, a new United States cabinet department.

Grove City College J. Howard Pew Fine Arts Center, the college's music and arts center completed an expansion program.

Note:

The expansion program included the addition of a 188 seat recital hall, practice rooms and additional classrooms





The Guthrie Theater was acquired by Eric Thomas.

Note:

Thomas upgraded and restored the facility.

The theater began showing first run movies as well as live performances and community activities.



Allied Newspapers was sold to Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. of Birmingham, AL, on March 29, 2002.

2003

Context:

The Iraq War began on March 20, 2003. The invasion of Iraq led to an occupation of the country and the eventual capture of President Hussein.

Space shuttle Columbia exploded upon reentry into Earth's atmosphere, killing seven astronauts

The Grove City Medical Center was registered as a non-profit corporation on April 14, 2003.

Grove City College completed The Hall of Arts and Letters.

Note:

The new structure was built in a traditional gothic style to blend with the existing structures. It replaced Calderwood Hall, built in 1958 in honor of A. J. Calderwood. Calderwood Hall was demolished in early 2003.

This building was a state-of-the-art teaching facility designed to function as the central academic building for the college. The new three-story reception area building featured a two-story central commons area that also served as a for the lecture hall. Also included were 40 classrooms, 80 faculty offices, an Early Education Center, and a curriculum library as well as language, computer and video production labs.



The building was dedicated on January 25, 2003



In November, Wayne Lamont Urey, Jr. a counselor at the George Junior Republic was killed during a student escape from the campus.

Note:

Urey had worked at George Junior for 12 years. He was working as an evening child-care worker, responsible for supervising a dozen boys as they slept in their residential cottager.

On October 10, Born 2 Run broke ground for a sports complex on 36 acres of land.

Born 2 Run, a sports complex, opened in Springfield Township..

Note:

Born 2 Run was located on PA Rt 208 west of the Prime Outlets of Grove City.

The facility was conceived to be a major sports complex utilizing about 30 acres of land. It was to a 78,000-square-foot field house with a soccer field, four basketball courts, a volleyball court, an observation area with bleachers, weight rooms, and locker rooms as well as administrative offices, physical therapy offices, meeting rooms, a child care center, concession area, and gift shop. Also envisioned were a 33,000-square-foot dormitory with beds for 372, shower areas, and dining hall.

On May 13, 2004 Born 2 Run Sports, LLC had been established as a Limited Liability Company to operate a sports complex. Michelle Properties LLC, was the developer of the site.

The controversial unfinished facility opened in 2004. Although it was successful at booking some activities and sports camps, the developer ran out of money before the complex was completed.

The developer, Michelle Properties LLC, abruptly ran out of cash to finish the complex in late 2004, the facility closed on December 4, and went bankrupt 2004. When the organization declared bankruptcy, many local businesses and investors lost money supporting the endeavor.



Lawsuits involving the developers, the builders, financial institutions, and Springfield Township followed. Following a drawn-out court process to settle a bond issue for unpaid work on the facility, it was purchased at sheriff's in the fall of 2005 by a real estate holding division of Sky Bank (later Huntington Bank) . (See 2008)

The property continued to deteriorate and remained for sale.

2004

In 2004, six Grove City employers were ranked in the 20 Top Employers in Mercer County.

<i>Employer</i>	<i>Rank</i>
George Junior Republic Inc.	7
United Community Hospital	8
U.S. Investigations Services Inc.	9
Grove City College	10
General Electric Company	13
Grove City Area School District	16

Dr. Richard G. Jewell became the eighth President of Grove City College.

Note:

Dr. Richard G. Jewell was a 1967 Grove City College graduate. He graduated Cum Laude in political science. In 1973, he graduated from the University of Michigan Law School with a Juris Doctor degree. Before becoming a director of the Chicago-based Navigant Consulting Inc., he practiced law and was a businessman in Pittsburgh.

Wolf Creek flooded in the spring.

Note:

This would be one of the last floods before the removal of the dam under the bridge on route 58 in 2009.



Grove City College dedicated a stature in memory of Joseph Howard Pew.

Note:

In October 2004, the college dedicated a statue in memory of Joseph Howard Pew.



J. Howard Pew, son of Joseph Newton Pew, graduated from Grove City College in 1900. Pew assumed the leadership of Sun Oil from his father. Throughout his life, he devoted his time, interest, and money to the college.

For many years he was the President of the Board. He once said his two major philanthropic causes were Grove City College and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

In October 2004, the college dedicated a statue in memory of Joseph Howard Pew.



Grove City College continued its ongoing facilities improvement program with the Breen Student Union.

Note:

Grove City College built a new student union/bookstore in 2004. The student union building was honored with the International Masonry Institute's Golden Trowel Grand Prize for excellence in masonry design and construction in 2005.

Breen Student Union was named in honor of alumni Ed and Lynn Breen class of 1978. The building housed the campus snack bar (the Gedunk), bookstore, mailroom, and a commuter lounge as well as the Office of Student Life and Learning



2005

The population of Grove City was estimated at 7,764. The population of Pine Township was estimated at 4,735. This represented a combined population decrease of 16 from the 2000 census.

The two historic dams on Wolf Creek were removed:

Note:

Two dams had been associated with the history of Grove City. The dam on PA Rt 58 was located near the original Cunningham dam and mill built in 1799. It had been

established to supply electric power for Grove City. The other dam at PA Rt 208 was near the original dam in the area that became known as “Slabtown” and later “Hallville”.

The streams were allowed to return to their natural riverbeds.

In c 2006, Grove City College built a new residence for the college President.

Note:

The existing President’s residence had been constructed in 1957 during J. Stanley Harker’s presidency primarily as a presidential home. This building became inadequate to serve the functions of the college president. This building razed to enable building the new facility at the same location.

The new facility was designed to serve as the center for presidential functions, including meetings, dinners, receptions and other social functions as well as the president’s residence.



Funds for the construction were donated through various gifts to the college. Wallace Builders of Pulaski were the general contractors.

President Richard G. Jewell and his wife, Dayl Jewell became the first residents of the new facility. They had been living in the college guesthouse, Cunningham House during the construction.

The Church of the Beloved Disciple held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility on Route 208 west of Grove City

Note:

Feasibility studies had shown that it would be impossible to expand the existing church to make room for additional seating and handicapped access while still maintaining the integrity of the church.

Victor King of Crowner King Architects, Erie, was chosen as the architect for the new facility.

King designed a contemporary building housing an 80-by-80-foot worship space seating 450 to replace the North Broad Street Church, which seated 250.



Elements from the North Broad Street church were incorporated into the new facility. The new design included the center panels of the eight stained glass windows; the two triangular stained glass windows from

above the sanctuary; the tabernacle; the statues of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph; the hand-painted copper Stations of the Cross; and the statue of St. John the Beloved Disciple from the exterior niche.

Plans also included moving the distinctive bell tower to the new site.

Construction began about the third week of May 2005. The church was completed in less than a year and dedicated on April 29, 2006.

On December 8, 2007, the parish held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the second wing to the parish church building, which consisted of two main parts: A Faith Formation Center and a Parish Office wing.



On November 15, 2008, Bishop Trautman presided at a Mass of Blessing and Dedication for the new wing, which became known as the Beloved Disciple Pastoral Center.

In November 2005, a \$17.9 million road improvement project was begun to improve the intersection of Route 208 at I-79.

Note:

This intersection had been in existence before the conception, construction and opening of the outlet project. With the opening and success of the Prime Outlets the intersection proved to be inadequate. Traffic issues were commonplace.

The project was designed to address these issues by realigning the intersection of Route 258 and Prime Outlet Mall Drive, to improve traffic flow, as well as decrease the congestion on Route 208 and I-79.

Route 208 was widened to help accommodate future development, the I-79 ramps were lengthened, and a new six-lane bridge was constructed over I-79.



The \$17.9 million project began in November and completed in the fall 2007.

2006

Grove City council celebrated twenty-five years of not raising real estate taxes.

Note:

Council members approved a tentative 2007 budget of \$13,861,351. At the same time council approved advertising their intent to raise water and electric rates to raise revenue.

Brandon “Brandi” C. Dunn, 22, was the victim of voluntary manslaughter.

Note:

Dunn’s body was discovered at her parents’ home at 109 E. Washington Blvd. The building had been set on fire and burned.

Her husband, Scott A. Dunn, later admitted to the killing and plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter, two counts of arson and abuse of a corpse.

Grove City College discontinued its AM broadcast license to operate WSAJ’s 100-watt AM station broadcasting from a historic long wire antenna on 1340 kHz.

Note:

WSAJ AM was operating a broadcast schedule of only three hours each week and the broadcasting equipment had become out dated and was in need of major repair. The college reached the decision that the replacement and maintenance of the equipment could no longer be justified.

In 2004, student broadcasting moved to the more powerful FM station. At that time, the station changed its format and rebranded itself as 91.1 The One.

This action represented the end of an era. Grove City College holds an historic place in the development of radio communications. (See 1920)

In 2006, Grove City College opened Colonial Hall Apartments a new apartment style student housing facility.

Note:

During Opening Convocation in 2004, President Richard Jewell announced plans to build student apartments on the lower campus. “Putting these apartments on lower campus,” Jewell said, “will also return us to the place where the College began – ‘back to the future’.

IKM, an architecture firm
Pittsburgh, and Grant Architects from





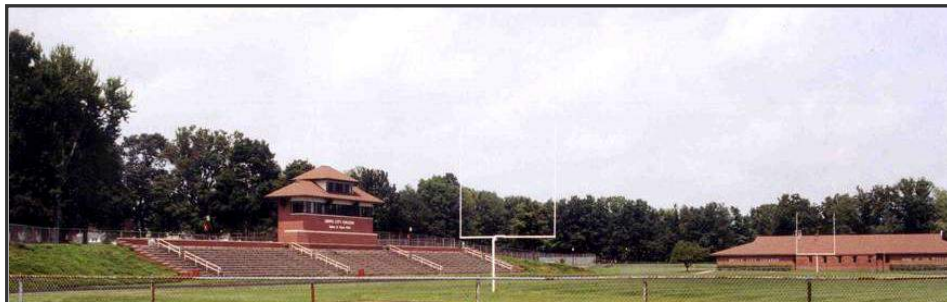
Baltimore, Md. Were chosen to plan and design the student apartment complex.

Construction of the new facilities began in June of 2005. The construction was completed in a year.

2008, the building was awarded the Brick In Architecture Award for excellence in design.

A major renovation of Robert E. Thorn Field at Grove City College was completed.

Note:



The completed project included an all-weather eight-lane 400-meter track, complete with a steeplechase water pit, jumping and throwing facilities for triple and long jump, pole vault, high jump, shot put, discus, and javelin areas.

The Phillips Field House provided locker, training, and coach's rooms for the Robert E. Thorn Field. Ten all weather tennis courts and a women's softball field are also on the lower campus.

The renovation of the stadium included the installation of a state-of-the-art Light-Structure Green™ system. Robert E. Thorn Field had never been a lighted facility. New artificial turf was also installed. The renovated football field formed a natural amphitheater bounded on the northwest by a brick and concrete stadium and a seating capacity of 1,800





The Robert E. Thorn Field was named for R. E. Thorn long time coach, athletic director, and Dean of Men at the college. Thorn had been a four-sport letterman at the college and graduated in 1916. He was hired in 1920 and spent 37 years at the college retiring in 1957. This photograph of Thorn was taken in 1923.

On January 16, 2006, Alcoa Reynolds Food Packaging announced that it was breaking ground for a \$1.7 million expansion of its Grove City Plant.

Note:

The \$1.7 million project included a 1,000 square foot expansion to the 250,000 square foot facility, the addition of two resin silos, and a new, enclosed loading dock. The company also added sheet extrusion the plant enabling to produce plastic from resins.

Company representative Mark Rath stated, "This plant has been an active part of this community for 16 years and Alcoa Reynolds Food Packaging is fortunate to be located in an area that has supported the growth of this business."



The Alcoa Reynolds Food Packaging company was well known for "Reynolds Wrap" an aluminum foil packaging product. Alcoa had purchased the Reynolds Packaging company who had developed the product.

On January 31, 2008, the Reynolds Consumer business was sold to Reynolds Group Holdings Inc. of Auckland, New Zealand, a subsidiary of Rank Group Ltd. for \$2.7 billion. This company was owned by Graeme Hart, a New Zealand businessman who was reported to be the richest person in Australasia. The company continued to operate as the Reynolds Packaging Group.

In early 2010, some of the spooling operation from the Richmond Foil plant was moved to the Grove City plant.

In January of 2011, Reynolds Group Holdings announced that it was consolidating its operations and would be closing the facility. At this time, the operation employed 145 people.

Context:

A collapse in the US housing market resulted in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of 1929. The immediate cause of the crisis was the bursting of the US housing price bubble that had peaked in 2005–2006. The collapse known as the “Great Recession” led to a worldwide recession and financial instability.

WSAJ, the college radio station, changed broadcasting format and increased its broadcasting power

Note:

In March 2007, WSAJ made significant changes to the syndicated programming it had been broadcasting. For years, the station carried syndicated classical music programming during the daytime from the Beethoven Satellite Network, originating at WFMT in Chicago. A decision was made to switch to classical music offerings from Public Radio International, which also enabled the station to add news programming from the British Broadcasting Corporation. The station also added a variety of specialty classical, jazz, bluegrass, and folk music shows throughout the week.

WSAJ applied to the Federal Communications Commission for a permit to increase its signal strength from 1,600 to 2,700 watts. Its application was accepted by the FCC on August 29, 2007.

Grove City voters passed a referendum that permitted the sale of liquor in the Borough of Grove City.

Note:

Previously (1995) the voters had approved the sale of liquor in Veterans Clubs.

In the primary election the referendum, permitting two liquor licenses, was approved; the vote count: 802-727 (52.45% to 47.55%).

Steve Steigerwald who organized the effort to pass the referendum said:

"Basically, I did it because we're in the middle of a \$2.9 million city streetscape revitalization project and when you think of revitalization it's not just new sidewalks, bricks, and mortar. I thought we should try to create a new opportunity for new businesses," "We have nine or 10 empty storefronts, and you won't be able to attract a fine dining establishment in town without a liquor license ... it's common knowledge." "With the veterans clubs already dispensing liquor, plus a beer distributor, we were probably among the wettest dry towns in the state."

On November 10, 2007, Staff Sergeant Shawn A. Graham Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Note:

The former Chestnut Street Bridge was replaced with a new contemporary bridge. The new bridge was a two-span, steel girder bridge, built with I-beams and concrete deck, with abutments at each end shaped as a curved arch.



The Chestnut Street Bridge had been closed since December 2004 due to deterioration; it was imploded on March 14, 2007.

The replacement bridge was renamed by Mercer County Commissioners in April to honor Staff Sergeant Shawn A. Graham and all servicemen and women from Grove City who had fallen while protecting the United States of America.

Graham was a 1989 graduate of Grove City Area High School who was killed in Iraq in September 2005 while serving with the Army National Guard 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division.

The dedication was held on the Marine Corps birthday, a date chosen by Graham's father. More than 300 people attended the dedication services

Vita: Shawn A. Graham



Shawn Graham grew up in Grove City. He was born in Orange, Calif., and lived briefly in Hawaii before moving to Grove City. He graduated from Grove City Senior High School in 1989.

In 1988, he and his father, Thomas L. Graham, a veteran of the Marines, joined the Pennsylvania National Guard.

In 1990, Shawn Graham went into active duty with the Marine Corps and served for 10 years. After completing active duty he moved to Dallas for employment.

Graham was called back to active duty in 2002 and served for a year. He then joined the Texas National Guard. Graham was assigned to the Army National Guard's 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, based in Fort Worth. He was again activated in August 2004 and deployed to Iraq in January.

On September 25, 2005, Graham died of injuries sustained in combat operations in Bagdad Iraq when his vehicle rolled over. He was thirty-four years old.

Graham's father and brothers were all military men. Staff Sgt. Shawn, his father 1st Sgt. Tom Graham, and his brother Marine Sgt. Nicholas Graham all served in the Middle East. Graham was happy to be sent to Iraq because his father and brother had already been sent to the Middle East.

Grove City College completed an expansion and renovation of Hicks Dining Hall.

Note:

This project included a 10,000 SF renovation and 5,300 SF addition to the existing facility. The dining facility was expanded to seat up to 500 students and featured a serving station design.



On October 10, Mercer County State Bank opened a branch in Grove City at 712 West Main Street.

Note:

Mercer County Sate Bank was chartered on June 20, 1911 in Sandy Lake.

In 2004, Mercer County State Bank had purchased the McQuiston Insurance Agency in Sandy Lake, which also included the Hume Agency in Grove City enabling it to combine insurance services with banking products,

On May 11, 2007, USIS announced that Providence Equity Partners Inc. a leading private investment firm, had agreed to acquire the company.

Note:

By 2007, USIS had become a leading provider of pre-employment screening, the largest provider of security investigations for the federal government, and a global supplier of cleared personnel supporting critical federal programs. USIS had about 7,000 employees, including 2,000 in the Washington DC area. On May 11, 2007, USIS announced that Providence Equity Partners Inc. ("Providence"), a leading private investment firm, had agreed to acquire the company from Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe (WCAS) and The Carlyle Group for approximately \$1.5 billion.

In 2008 USIS acquired HireRight, one of the world's largest providers of employment screening, specializing in helping organizations of all sizes implement, manage, and control employment-screening programs.

In July 2009, Altegrity, headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, was formed as a holding company for the three business lines (USIS, HireRight, and Explore) that employed nearly 8,000 people worldwide. Each business line continued to operate under its existing name.



Its flagship USIS unit continued to operate as USIS offering a variety of security services for both government agencies and private sector clients, including investigations, training, and risk management services. (See 2010)



Grove City College played its first night football game.

Note:

On Sept. 22, the Grove City College football team played its night game under the lights at the newly renovated Robert E. Thorn Field.

The Grove City Wolverines hosted the Waynesburg Yellow Jackets, in a Presidents' Athletic Conference event. The final score was Waynesburg 27; Grove City 23.

Pine Instrument Company began a major construction project.

Note:

Pine Instruments increased their manufacturing facilities by 18,000 square feet. The project included razing an old building, landscaping and installing a new parking lot.

This photograph shows the facility at 101 Industrial Drive.





Shown is a tech work station at Pine Instruments..

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced they were planning to construct a new Superstore to replace their existing store in Pine Township.

Note:

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. had purchased land in Springfield Township near the I-79 Intersection to construct the new superstore to replace their existing store in Pine Township.

Wal-Mart planned to develop a complex including the superstore and three outparcels. The project required construction of infrastructure including traffic, water, and sewer.

As in the 1990s, when Wal-Mart first came to Grove City, the project was met with some local resistance. This resistance was organized and continued for several years.

Wal-Mart faced a series of issues as they proceeded with the project. Procedural issues, wetland issues, zoning issues, roadway issues were encountered as the project progressed.

In 2008, Wal-Mart announced the size of the project had been reduced to address wetland concerns. They also announced that they would no longer be using ACS Development Inc. of Pittsburgh. Project plans were then developed by LANCORE Engineering Consultants. The project was designated as the Springfield Towne Center.



By early 2012 construction had not yet begun on the project. After bidding the project the bids were rejected. At that time Wal-Mart planned to rebid the project in the spring of 2012.

Context:

Clean Indoor Air Act that prohibited smoking in most public places and workplaces in the Commonwealth was enacted..

On April 1, 2008, the Farmers National Bank of Emlenton opened a branch office in Grove City at 1319 West Main Street.

Note:

The Farmers National Bank of Emlenton was originally chartered on January 1, 1900 by James Bennett and a group of businessmen as a commercial bank servicing the Emlenton community. The bank grew until it operated the home bank in Emlenton, six branches, and a savings and loan association.



In 1989, The Board of Directors of Farmers National Bank formed the Emclair Financial Corp. to expand into additional business ventures. The Grove City branch was one of these expansions.

In 2008, Hovis Auto and Truck Supply, Oil City, purchased the empty Born 2 Run Project commercial property on PA Rt 208.

Note:

This property had been acquired by Huntington Bank when they purchased Sky Bank. Sky Bank had purchased the property as a result of the Born 2 Run bankruptcy.

The property sat empty for several years without adequate maintenance. It had deteriorated and needed a major investment. In addition, construction had never been completed on the dormitories.

Hovis Auto & Truck Supply bought the property for \$1.65 million. Hovis operated locations from Erie to Pittsburgh and Hermitage to DuBois, including Grove City. Cliff Hovis, Jr. said:

We outgrew our warehouses in Erie and New Castle. We're looking to expand into Pittsburgh. This is a very central location. Our stores follow the [Interstate] 80 and 79 corridors.

We're running about 170 vehicles every day delivering auto parts and truck parts.

Hovis plans included a shop to sell parts and a warehouse for auto and heavy truck as well as paint and auto body supplies.



Hovis developed the facilities as a state-of-the-art warehouse, distribution, and training center.



Grove City College began the remodeling and reconstruction of the Carnegie Alumni Center on lower campus.

Note:

The groundbreaking service was held at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 26, 2008.

The Carnegie Alumni Center was housed in the old Carnegie Hall. Carnegie was the one remaining building from the original “lower” campus. Built in 1900, by Andrew Carnegie as part of his library program, Carnegie Hall was a free library and performance venue.



Carnegie Hall had seen many uses through the decades. It was used as the library until 1954 when the Henry Buhl Library opened on the upper campus. Its third-floor auditorium was used for student musical recitals. The lower level was used as a gymnasium throughout the first half of 20th century (until Ketler Gym was built in 1913). Carnegie Hall also housed ROTC facilities until 1989.

The completed project resulted in a completely renovated and enlarged modern facility.





On February 29, a house fire at 132 Garden Avenue resulted in the death of a firefighter and an occupant of the building.

Note:

The building was a two story wood frame house built in the 1930s and converted to two residences in the 1960s

The fire started in the living room on the first floor of the right side unit and quickly spread through the structure. The State Police Fire Marshal later ruled the fire was an accidental fire caused by a hair dryer found.



Two firefighters, Brad Holmes and Lieutenant Scott King, who had been assigned to perform the primary search, were trapped. Both were rescued by the Rapid Intervention Team and transported to the Mercy Hospital Burn Unit in Pittsburgh.

Patricia Andrews-Smith, the occupant of the house, died in the fire.

On March 5, Brad Holmes, a 21-year-old volunteer firefighter from Pine Township Fire Department, died from his injuries.



Vita: Brad Holmes



Brad Holmes, was a twenty-one years old lifetime resident of Pine Township. He had spent time in the department since he was a young boy.

He graduated from Grove City High School in 2004 and joined the fire department in 2005.

Holmes was actively involved with the fire department. He was a well-trained, fully certified, dedicated firefighter who continued his training every Tuesday night

He came from a family of firefighters. He was a brother of Pine Township Chief Christopher Holmes His father, Joe, was the Assistant Chief.

Holmes was a junior at Slippery Rock University, where he was taking computer science courses. He also worked part-time at Wal-Mart.

Brad was survived by his parents, Joseph and Debbie Holmes; a brother Christopher Holmes and his fiancée Alisha Graham.

In May 2008, Holmes was honored with a special condolence resolution by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and honored by the Military Order of the Purple Heart on July 14.

On August 1, 2008, STAT MedEvac opened a Heliport at the Grove City Medical Center

Note:

Beginning in 1984, STAT MedEvac had provided air medical transport for the Grove City Medical Center.

The Grove City site was chosen because of its geographical location. The site provided central access to portions of Mercer, Lawrence, Butler and Venango counties served by STAT



MedEvac as well as the Grove City area.

A movie themed mural was designed and painted on the wall of the Guthrie Theater building.

Note:

Three college interns, Bryant Kuehner, Ben Pannell and Kurt Buchmann, designed the movie themed mural and spent 10 weeks producing the mural. More than 100 Grove City residents helped paint the 25-by-20-foot mural.

The mural was painted in two phases and was completed in 2009.

The photographs show the original phase and the completed project.



The Blue Ribbon Tavern, a restaurant and bar, opened at 131 South Broad Street.

Note:

In September, Richard Baker and Ross “Jim” Nicholson opened The Blue Ribbon Tavern, a restaurant and bar, at 131 South Broad Street. The Blue Ribbon Tavern was the first public establishment to legally sell alcoholic beverages since Prohibition.



Baker and Nicholson applied for a liquor license in late February. In March, they purchased the facility on Broad Street and began remodeling it for use as a restaurant and bar.

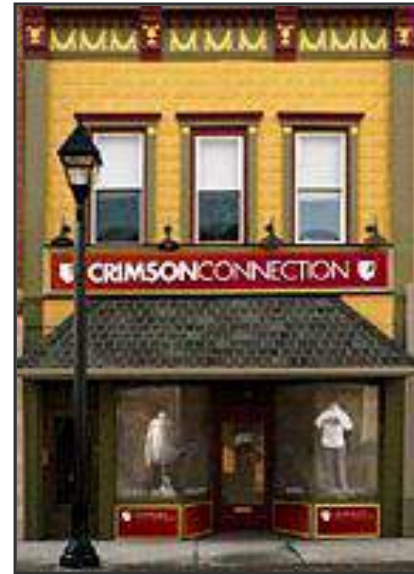
On September 12, a liquor license was granted to The Blue Ribbon Tavern on Broad Street (Richard Baker and Ross “Jim” Nicholson, co-owners).

The restaurant featured large television screens and a limited menu.

On March 28, 2008, Grove City College opened a retail store at 231 South Broad Street called the Crimson Connection.

Note:

The store sold gifts, apparel, artwork, jewelry, and other college related merchandise.



Grove City College acquired an observatory from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in February.

Note:

The college planned to operate the telescope more than 60 miles away remotely from the Grove City College campus. The Torus 20-inch robotic telescope housed at the observatory was manufactured by Optical Mechanics, Inc. of Iowa City, Iowa

In the fall of 2006, the college had constructed a small observatory on the Grove City College Intramural Fields to house a 14-inch computer controlled telescope.

2009

Grove City College began the "Wolf Creek North Trail Project."

Note:

The removal of the dams on Wolf Creek in 2004 and 2006, had drained the wetland area that had been a lake at one time. Over the years the lake, that at one time was a functional recreational lake, had filled with sediment and become a nonfunctional marsh area. The streambed had been altered and erosion became a problem.

The “Wolf Creek North Trail Project” was major project to restore the area and to establish a nature trail and park for school and public use.

The project was funded entirely through private sources. Grove City College committed \$700,000 to the project. In addition, it was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation as well as \$19,830 from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds for the project.

The completed project restored over 1,000 feet of stream and about six acres of land, stabilizing the creek through the campus, and establishing a nature trail connecting downtown Grove City with East Main Street.

A public area was landscaped to provide a public park for fishing, walking, biking and picnicking.



The Wolf Creek Restoration and Nature Trail was completed in 2011 and dedicated on Sept. 23, 2011 during the Grove City College Homecoming.

In January, Grove City council authorized the execution of four Wastewater Treatment Service Agreements with the Townships of Pine, Liberty and Springfield, and Harrisville Borough.

Note:

The Borough of Grove City's Wastewater Treatment Plant was expanded to increase its capacity.

The project area included Kimberly Estates, Liberty Estates, and residents along North Liberty Road including 137 homes. The project was designed to replace malfunctioning on-lot systems.

On May 18, 2009, General Electric Transportation introduced its newest fuel-efficient Evolution Series locomotives, the Model ES44C4, “the green” locomotive.

Note:

The ES44C4 used an alternating current motor (instead of the direct current motors typical in older locomotives) making it 17 percent more fuel-efficient and cut greenhouse-gas emissions by about 70 percent compared to older models.





Shown in the photograph to the left is a General Electric Evolution series diesel engine.

Grove City was named Number 8 on the best places in the United States to retire for under \$150,000”.

Note:

The recognition by the “Wallet Pop” financial advisory website was based on a combination of considerations including safety from crime, peace and quiet, an educated and vibrant blend of seniors and other age groups, striking scenery, and diverse options for housing -- all for \$150,000 or less.

The Grove City Area School District began construction of a new middle school.

Note:

Construction was begun on a new middle school facility on a site adjacent to the Hillview Elementary School creating a campus setting for the elementary and middle schools. Also located adjacent to the property was the WMCA facility.



The facility was designed to be state of the art. It utilized geothermal heating and cooling and as part of a range of energy saving measures.

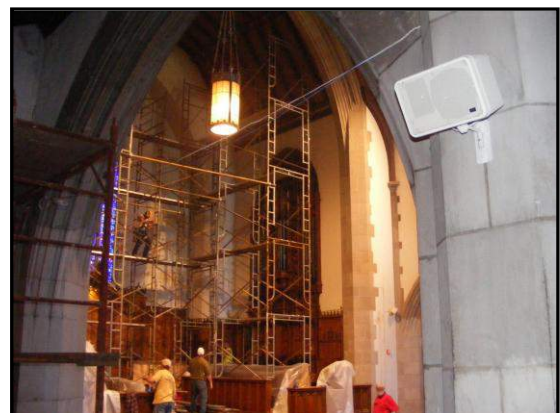


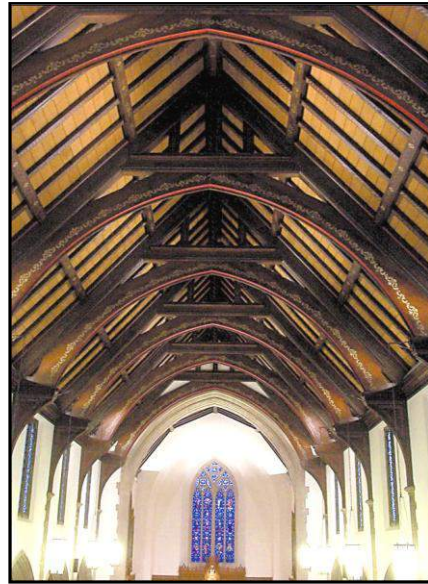
A second mural was completed on Broad Street.



Grove City College renovated Harbison Chapel.

Note:
The interior of the 1927 structure underwent a extensive remodeling. The original lighting fixtures were replaced with higher luminance reproductions of the original fixtures. Additional LED lighting was installed to illuminate the newly cleaned ceiling. The front window of the Chapel was restored. Both the chancel and front windows were backlit.





The Grove City Chamber of Commerce listed the largest employers in the area in its Grove City Magazine.

Largest Area Employers

1000+ Employees

Prime Outlets Grove City
US Investigation Services

501-1000 Employees

General Electric Transportation
Grove City Medical Center
Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV

101-500 Employees

County Market
George J. Howe Company
George Junior
Grove City Area School District
Grove City College
Montgomery Truss and Panel
Orchard Manor
Reynolds Food Packaging
Tri County Industries
Trinity Living Center
Wal-Mart

50-100 Employees

Bashlin Industries
Borough of Grove City
Earth, Sun, Moon Trading Co.
Forta Corporation
Grove Manor
Instron Corporation
Pine Instrument
Wendell August Forge