

## New Eagle Scouts Rehabilitate the Bell School

By Mario Scavello

CHERRY VALLEY - Last weekend I attended the Eagle Scout ceremony for Brandon Michael Burchartz and Connor Logan Kearns. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank in scouting, with only 2% of all scouts attaining this rank. They worked together to rehabilitate the Bell School in Cherry Valley. Congratulations to Brandon and Connor!

Built in the 1870s, the Bell School was used by children who lived within a one-mile radius, and was given its name as the only school in the county with a bell in the cupola on the roof. It remained an operating school until the spring of 1953.

## Pennsylvania History Day

By Mario Scavello

NAZARETH - It was my pleasure to visit with Nazareth Area Middle School students this week for their Second Annual Pennsylvania History Day. Virtue, Liberty, and Independence. These three words form the motto of Pennsylvania and the backbone of the Keystone State. This motto can be seen throughout the writings of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address, all of which had been composed in Pennsylvania.

As one of the original 13 colonies as founded by William Penn, Pennsylvania has played a major role in the foundation and success of the nation. It was an honor to see the 8th grade students of Nazareth Area Middle School coming together to celebrate the great state of Pennsylvania. The students did an amazing job!



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## 2020 Commercial Vehicle Permits Available for US Route 209

By Kathleen Sandt / Public Affairs Specialist National Park Service

Bushkill, PA- National Park Service officials at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area want to remind commercial vehicle operators that US Route 209 commercial vehicle permits are available for sale for the 2020 calendar year. The cost is \$200 per vehicle. Permits are non-transferrable and are valid for a calendar year, expiring on December 31.

To be eligible for a permit, commercial vehicles must have four or fewer axles and be owned and operated by a business located in the recreation area or one or more of the adjacent municipalities, or necessary to provide services to businesses or persons located in the recreation area or one or more of the adjacent municipalities. The adjacent municipalities are defined by Public Law 109-156 as: Delaware Township, Dingman Township, Lehman Township, Matamoras Borough, Middle Smithfield Township, Milford Borough, Milford Township, Smithfield Township, and Westfall Township in Pennsylvania.

All commercial vehicles may travel on US Route 209 between Mile 0 and Bushkill Falls Road and between Milford and the Route 206/Delaware River toll bridge without a permit. All commercial vehicles traveling on US Route 209 between Bushkill Falls Road and the Route 206 toll bridge are required to have a valid Commercial Vehicle Permit.

The term "commercial vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that is used in transporting movable property for a fee or profit, either as a direct charge to another person, or otherwise, or used as an incident to providing services to another person, or used in connection with any business.

Permits may be obtained in person at Bushkill Meeting Center, which is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. Permits may also be obtained by mail by downloading the application from our website at <https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/fees.htm> and mailing the form and your payment to Fee Program Manager, 1978 River Road, Bushkill, PA, 18324.

For more information on Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area call Bushkill Meeting Center at (570) 588-7237; visit our website at [www.nps.gov/dewa](http://www.nps.gov/dewa); or follow us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS](http://www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS).

About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).



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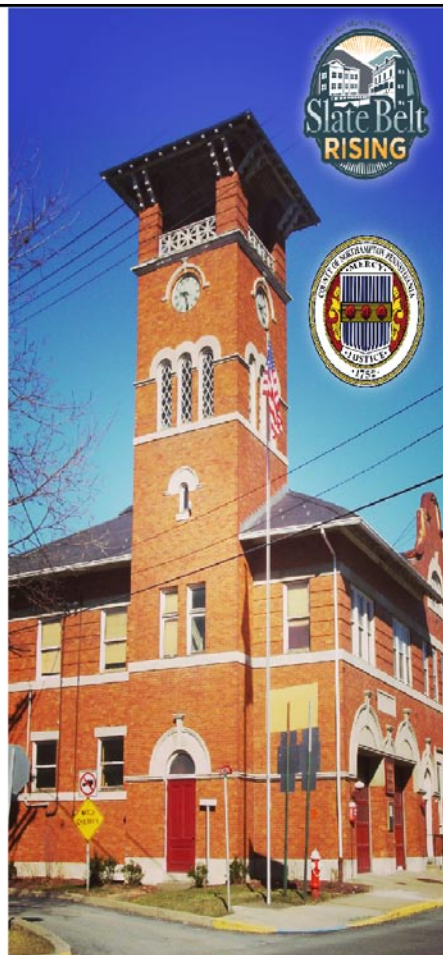
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## Lehigh Valley's 2019 a Historic Year for Economic Growth, National Recognition

By Colin McEvoy

LEHIGH VALLEY - As the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) approaches the new decade, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on 2019, an historic year of economic growth and national recognition for the Lehigh Valley.

The past 12 months have seen continued growth for the regional economy. The Lehigh Valley's gross domestic product has reached a record-high \$41.2 billion, and the region saw significant year-over-year job growth. Both the GDP and job growth were driven in large part by manufacturing, the region's second-largest sector in terms of economic output.

Additionally, Lehigh Valley has become one of the best markets in the country for homebuyers, particularly those between ages 18 and 35. The region saw steady growth in the millennial demographic in 2019, and was the fastest growing region in Pennsylvania for working age residents.

Lehigh Valley has been gaining national attention as well. Site Selection magazine recognized it as one of the top five fastest-growing regions with under a million people in the United States, and the single fastest-growing region of its size in the Northeast U.S. for a third consecutive year.

Additionally, LVEDC was named one of the Top 20 economic development corporations in the United States, Forbes magazine highlighted the region's thriving manufacturing sector, and Lehigh Valley was the subject of a dedicated 26-page section in the Delta Air Lines in-flight magazine.