

## Slate Belt Rising To Sponsor Rts. 512 & 611 Corridor Study

By Michael Ortoski

LEHIGH VALLEY - The Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV) submitted an application that will be sponsored by Slate Belt Rising (SBR) to have a corridor study done on routes 611 and 512 in the Slate Belt.

The project would be a multi-modal transportation study of potential future improvements to the Slate Belt portions of the Rt. 512 and Rt. 611 corridors. The study would encompass roadway, intersection, bridge, and trail improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit facilities and other needs within the transportation network.

The study would also investigate how to draw tourists off of Rt. 33 and Rt. 80 to visit the towns, businesses and attractions of the Slate Belt region. Another priority of the plan will be mitigation strategies for transportation roadblocks to employment and residency experienced by Slate Belt residents and, more specifically, low-income residents.

SBR Dir. Steve Reider, co-chair Janell Connolly and Pen Argyl Borough Mgr. Robin Zmoda and SBR board member were instrumental in gathering all the information for the application.

SBR has letters of support from the Boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, and Portland, Plainfield Township, State Senator Mario Scavello, Northampton County, and the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce for the project.

Over the next two decades, an estimated \$2.8 billion will be invested to maintain and enhance the Lehigh Valley's transportation network.

Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, part of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, last month sent out an Open Call for Plans and Projects that could be added to the updated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Getting on the LRTP is the only way a project, study or plan can get the kind of federal and state money that is currently being used to fund such projects as widening Route 22, rebuilding the Cementon Bridge or replacing a fleet of LANta buses.

The current call for plans and projects closed on January 25, 2019, and won't open again until the next Open Call in 2023.

Plans that make it on to the LRTP will become part of FutureLV: The Regional Plan for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. And while that doesn't guarantee they'll be funded, it's the only way priority projects and plans can be funneled into the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Over the next four years, the current TIP includes more than \$534 million to fund more than 100 road, bridge, trail, bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects and plans.

## Climate Change and Our Pocono Waters



**Brian Wagner**

By Michael Ortoski

POCONO MTS. - Join the Brodhead Chapter for a presentaion by Brian Wagner, on the following:

Explain Trout Unlimited's policy on climate change. What is Trout Unlimited doing (awareness/ advocacy)

Highlight tools and resources from the Climate Change NLC Work Group page.

Present Trout & Climate Change PowerPoint with some additional brook trout relevant slides from TU's Dr. Shawn Rummel.

Brian is a life member of Trout Unlimited and a Past-President of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. he currently serves as the Pennsylvania representative to the Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council and chair the Climate Change work group.

"I serve locally as secretary and youth coordinator of the Forks of the Delaware chapter of Trout Unlimited and serve on the board of the Bushkill

Stream Conservancy. I am a Certified Fishing Instructor for the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

I reside in Nazareth, Pennsylvania with my wife Lisa. I enjoy many outdoor activities throughout Pennsylvania and beyond, including my passion fly fishing for trout, hunting, hiking and wildlife viewing. Most of my local adventures take me to streams and woods in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.

Professionally, I have been employed by Avantor Performance Materials, Inc., a manufacturer of high performance chemistries in Phillipsburg, NJ for 32 years as a manufacturing specialist."

## Men's Senior Softball League Sign Ups

**Any former softball players interested playing in a 60 + men's senior softball league this summer, please call Jake at 610-248-3750, or Phil at 610-863-8322 for more details.**

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# DePasquale Supports Lieutenant Governor's Listening Tour on Recreational Marijuana

By Gary Miller

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today expressed support for Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's planned listening tour exploring the issue of recreational marijuana.

DePasquale, Pennsylvania's first statewide elected official to publicly support regulating and taxing marijuana, highlighted the potential economic benefits of doing so in a July 2018 special report.

"Regulating and taxing marijuana could generate \$581 million in new state revenue each year," DePasquale said. "These funds could be used for a number of important purposes, such as bolstering education funding, reducing opioid addiction and expanding health care for veterans and children."

DePasquale's report said that an average of 8.38 percent of Pennsylvania's adults (21 and older), or nearly 800,000 people, currently use marijuana at least monthly.

National surveys have found a clear majority of Americans back a more rational approach to regulating marijuana, with public support levels more than doubling in less than 20 years.

"The tide of public opinion has turned and it's time for public policy to catch up," DePasquale noted. "Already, recreational marijuana has been approved in 10 states and Washington, D.C."

Review Auditor General DePasquale's special report, Regulating and Taxing Marijuana, online at [www.paauditor.gov](http://www.paauditor.gov).



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## Strayer University Opens in Downtown Allentown

ALLENTOWN - The Downtown Allentown Business Alliance and Mayor Ray O'Connell welcomed Strayer University to Downtown Allentown

Thursday with a Ribbon Cutting for Strayer University at their new location, 520 Hamilton Street, Allentown.

Strayer University is a higher learning institution designed for working adults and has leased 3,300 square feet in City Center. The campus will utilize a new, leaner classroom model – providing students with more space to collaborate and meet with peers and faculty outside the classroom, while continuing to offer on-site support resources.

Strayer University offers degrees ranging from associate's and bachelor's, to master's and MBAs. The school also boasts a range of subjects – from cybersecurity to business – as well as learning options, including both online and in-person instruction.

For more information, please visit [www.downtownallentown.com](http://www.downtownallentown.com) or follow the Downtown Allentown Business Alliance on Facebook.

## Perfect Attendance

By Michael Ortoski

As the 2019-20 session of the House of Representatives gets underway, State Rep. Joe Emrick was honored to accept a certificate in recognition of his perfect attendance. Presenting the award was House Majority Whip Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin).



L-R State Rep. Joe Emrick, House Majority Whip Kerry Benninghoff

## SLATE BELT MEN'S QUOIT LEAGUE

**January 10, 2019**

Hillside Rod & Gun Club 45 Roseto Legion 11 – Phil Ascani 13-1, Justin Ott 12-2

East Bangor Fire Co. 42 Liberty Fire Co. 14 – Bill Pascoe 13-1, Kyle Frankenfield 12-2, Rich Pohl 12-2

O'Neill's Place 31 Second Ward Fire Co. 25 – Justin Wagner 13-1, Ryan Hunt 10-4; Bill Neigh 10-4

Oxford Fire Co. 36 Columbia Fire Co. 20 – John Garrison 14-0, Jeff Lindsay 11-3; Todd E. Albert 10-4

Bangor Jax 38 Rescue Fire Co. 18 – Jim Waring 11-3, Mike Shafer 11-3, Zack Saltern 10-4; Mike Vedral 9-5

Bangor Elks 39 Bangor VFW 17 – George Gallagher 13-1, Chad Kreider 12-2, Dave Giaquinto 12-2, Steve Bussenger 10-4; Nick LaBar 7-7

Pen Argyl Legion 41 Roseto Rod & Gun Club 15 – Steve Pfeiffer 13-1, Calvin Stocker 13-1; Tom Ayers 8-6

**2018-2019 SBMQL SECOND HALF STANDINGS**

Division 1 – Bangor Elks 4-0, Hillside Rod & Gun Club 4-0, Oxford Fire Co. 4-0, Pen Argyl Legion 4-0, O'Neill's Place 4-0, East Bangor Fire Co. 3-1, Bangor Jax 3-1

Division 2 – Liberty Fire Co. 1-3, Columbia Fire Co. 1-3, Bangor VFW 0-4, Second Ward Fire Co. 0-4, Roseto Rod & Gun Club 0-4, Rescue Fire Co. 0-4, Roseto Legion 0-4

