

Northampton County CDBG Applications Available

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announce the opening of the grant application process for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). This is the 10th anniversary for the Northampton County CDBG program. The application process will run from February 6th until 4:00 pm on May 17th.

Funding for CDBG is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to allow Northampton County's DCED to assist people with low incomes. Eligible applicants are the thirty-six boroughs and townships and the City of Easton which participate in the Northampton County's Urban County CDBG Entitlement program, and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations which provide services to residents of the participating municipalities.

CDBG grants are used for affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development. Funds may be applied to projects such as: ADA improvements to public facilities, capital improvements for water, sewer, other utilities, street paving, sidewalks, curbing and storm water prevention.

The CDBG appropriation from Congress was not completed in time for this announcement. DCED will use last year's allocation of approximately \$1.5 million and the City of Easton's entitlement of \$700,000 as the tentative budget number of \$2.2 million. Applicants should be advised that a budget modification may be required, depending on the actual FY-2019 allocation.

DCED will host four instructional workshops for any organization planning to apply for funding in 2019. There is no charge for these workshops, but it is strongly encouraged for at least one representative of an organization to attend one of them. Failure to do so will have a negative impact on any funding application.

The workshops will be offered on four occasions at various locations within Northampton County. Please RSVP to Rebecca Sanchez at rsanchez@northamptoncounty.org with your name, the name of the organization you are representing, and the date you will be attending.

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 @ 8:30am – 10:30 am

Department of Human Services Building
Conference Room 3
2801 Emrick Blvd
Bethlehem, PA 18020

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 @ 8:30am – 10:30am

Northampton Borough Council Chamber
1401 Laubach Avenue
Northampton, PA 18067

Wednesday, February 27, 2010 @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Nazareth Center for the Arts
30 Belvidere Street
Nazareth, PA 18064

Emergency Management Response to Sacred Heart Evacuation

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure would like to commend the employees of Northampton County's Emergency Management Department for their assistance with the evacuation of ninety residents from Sacred Heart Senior Living in Northampton on Saturday, February 2nd. A water pipe on the top floor burst around 3 PM, destroying ceilings, furniture and tiles.

"While our municipalities have their own fire and police departments, it's important that the County be available to assist during large scale operations," says Lamont McClure. "We're fortunate to have highly trained employees who are always on call to protect our residents during incidents such as the one at Sacred Heart."

Local fire, police and EMS from Northampton, Lehigh and Carbon counties were the primary responders on the scene. Northampton County Emergency Management assisted due to the scale of the operation, helping to evacuate the building, and move ninety residents to the Northampton Community Center. Emergency Management also provided logistical and on-scene assistance, and handled the notifications up to the state level.



The River Unites Us: Stories about the Scenic Wild Delaware River by those who know it best

Sharon Davis
Delaware River
Program Manager
NPCA

This month's column features Alan Hunt, Executive Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association

The River Unites Us:

What does the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) do?
Alan Hunt: Our grassroots organization was formed in 1993 by residents who believe that a community that is fully aware of the importance and vulnerability of its natural, cultural, and recreational resources will actively support efforts to ensure environmental quality. We engage our residents in watershed conservation through training volunteer citizen scientists in our River Watcher program and teaching children about watersheds and environmental stewardship in schools and summer camp. We work in public/private partnerships to restore the river. We engage our local municipalities and counties to provide training on stormwater management. People have prospered in this watershed for over 12,000 years. We hope to tell that story in the stone grist mill we are restoring and inspire people to look after our resources, ensuring the watershed remains a great place for generations to come.

TRUU: What challenges does the watershed face?

AH: There are a variety of challenges, from drinking water supply diversions that reduce water flow in its headwaters, to significant withdrawals for power plant cooling water, to stormwater runoff from towns and farms. Several large-scale projects are proposed along the River, including housing development, warehousing and a power plant – all of which could impact water quality to the Musconetcong, and potentially, the Delaware River. These are significant threats, but our residents have a vision that the Musconetcong River should be restored to ecological health to support tourism and recreation. Examples of projects we do to support that vision are removal of obsolete dams to lower water temperatures for native Brook Trout and improve habitat for migratory fish like American Shad. We participate in the SWDR geotourism program and have formed a board committee to promote agricultural and heritage tourism.

TRUU: The Scenic Wild Delaware River (SWDR) Geotourism Program encourages travelers to experience the region's natural resources. As a partner in SWDR, how does MWA's



Alan Hunt

work educate recreational users about the importance of conservation efforts?

AH: Like most of the Delaware River, the majority of the Musconetcong is designated a National Wild & Scenic River based on its recreational and scenic values. With 16 public access points on the river and over 10,000 acres of preserved land, the Musconetcong is accessible for fishing, hunting, and paddling and camping.

We are working on updating our Water Trail Guide and have applied for a National Water Trail designation to increase awareness of paddling opportunities. We are removing an abandoned building on a quarter acre island near our headquarters to increase access in a favorite fishing spot. We always have projects ready for volunteers to help with, including expanding our River Education Trail to a four-mile loop trail making it a more valuable visitor experience.

TRUU: SWDR encompasses a 150-mile, three state, 9 county region. What are the benefits of taking a regional approach to conservation?

AH: You can't go it alone and expect to be effective. Back in the time of European settlement, rivers were used as boundaries and dividing lines. This resulted in a legacy of fragmented management for our region's water and natural resources. Collaborations like the Musconetcong River Management Council, which includes 14 riverfront municipalities and four counties, help unite us in stewarding our natural and cultural

resources. Collaboration means thinking like a watershed – that whatever and whoever is in it should be considered when stewarding the watershed's resources.

TRUU: What are some "must see and experience" places that you recommend for travelers that can be found at www.scenicwilddelawareriver.com

AH: Besides outdoor recreation, we've got some great things to do in our watershed. Alba and Villa Milagro Vineyards are nearby. Check out the breweries and festivals in Hackettstown, NJ, just a stone's throw from the Musconetcong River. The Asbury Mill tours tell about our history. Centenary Stage Co. brings quality performances. Get Jersey fresh produce at Donaldson Farms. MWA's spring volunteer events are listed on our SWDR page for those who want to get up close and personal with our work.

This column is syndicated by the *Blue Valley Times*



www.npca.org

About The Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Project:

Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism is one of only 23 geotourism programs created by National Geographic worldwide. Working collaboratively in the 3 states along the middle & upper Delaware River region, the Program promotes and sustains the region's resources for long-term economic and environmental vitality. NPCA helps staff this program. Visit the interactive travel website showcasing local experiences at

www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com



For more information contact Sharon Davis, sdavis@npca.org or tel: 570.460.4468



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Frozen Pipes

We have seen a number of frozen pipes in the past few weeks. When temperatures hover around the freezing mark it is uncommon for exposed pipes in unconditioned spaces to freeze if the rest of the structure is heated. When single digit temperatures are combined with even a slight breeze, the problems begin to arise. The wrong way to fix it is to repair the pipe that broke and put everything back together the same way it was. The right way is to examine the surrounding area and determine how the freeze happened at that particular spot and identify the flaw in the construction. Pipes on exterior walls are the most prevalent for freeze ups and you can prevent it from happening again. Fiberglass insulation is not the right material to put in these areas because it doesn't stop airflow. If the space is air tight, fiberglass will work as long as it isn't compressed. What works best in an exterior wall is foamboard. A 2 inch thickness of the right material will actually provide more insulation value than the whole cavity full of fiberglass. You can also seal most air leaks with it and leave the interior part of the space open to allow room air temperature to reach the cavity. Pipes won't freeze again normally and you won't lose any building efficiency.

Using an alternate heat source can allow pipes in a hot water heating system to freeze if the water is not moving. Many hot water systems have places where pipes are dangerously close to the exterior and have no insulation on them. As long as the system is running and hot water is flowing through those pipes, freezing is not possible. If power goes off and the water sits still for any length of time, freezing is likely. The same is true if a space heater is used to make it comfortable in the room where the thermostat is and the thermostat doesn't run the heat through the house. A wood or pellet stove can cause this very easily as can an electric fireplace.

Antifreeze can be added to a heating system and it will prevent frozen pipes. If your home has had pipes freeze in the heating system or if you plan to leave the house unattended for a time in the winter when it may get extremely cold, it could be a good idea to have Ethylene Glycol added. That is not the same as what is used in cars and trucks. It is specifically for heating systems.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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New Low Rates for Businesses Through Mar. 31

By DCED

LEHIGH VALLEY - The Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) provides low-interest loans and lines of credit through certified economic development organizations (CEDOs) for eligible businesses that commit to creating and/or retaining jobs, as well as for the development of industrial parks and multi-tenant facilities. Contact your local CEDO to learn more about how your business can save money through the PIDA loan program.

Eligible project costs:

land and building acquisitions
construction and renovation costs
machinery and equipment acquisitions
working capital costs

Eligible businesses:

manufacturing enterprises
industrial enterprises
agricultural processors and producers
research and development enterprises
hospitality enterprises
computer-related service enterprises
construction enterprises
child daycare enterprises
retail and service enterprises
developers

ACT NOW. To take advantage of this limited-time opportunity and learn more about the program, please visit the DCED website. <https://t.e2ma.net/click/9wawqb/dw4dt8/1e3r1k>

Record-Setting Year for College Savings Program

By Rep. Joe Emrick

As the House begins its budgeting process for next year, including higher education funding, Pennsylvania families are saving more than ever to ensure their children can afford college or other post-secondary options.

In 2018, Pennsylvania families set a record by saving over \$585 million to use toward future education expenses in the PA 529 College and Career Savings Program.

Through PA 529, families can choose from two plans. The PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP) allows families to save for post-secondary education at today's rate, and the PA 529 Investment Plan (IP) allows families to choose how their contributions are invested from a list of 16 options.

You can learn more about the 529 program at pa529.com or call 1-800-440-4000.

Alysia Overdorf

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - Alysia Overdorf, daughter of David and Alison Roper Overdorf, graduated, with honors, from the Fox Business School of Temple University on February 1, 2019. Alycia graduated pen Argyl area high school in 2010 and Elizabethtown College with her BA in math and music in 2014.

She is currently employed as an actuary by Aon Private Risk Management in their Boston, MA office.

