

# Blue Valley Times

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SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.  
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L-R Bangor Police Chief Scott Felchock, Officer Ryan Sabatine, Bangor Mayor Brooke Kersner

## Ryan Sabatine Sworn in as Full Time Officer in Bangor

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Bangor Mayor Brooke Kersner and Bangor Police Chief Scott Felchock swore in Officer Ryan Sabatine during the monthly meeting of the borough of Bangor on Monday night. Sabatine is the first full time officer to be hired in ten years, the last current officer is Glen Connelly.

Sabatine a graduate from Easton High School has been working for the East Bangor and Portland police departments for the past three years.

Patrol is the backbone of any police department. Each officer on duty is responsible for patrolling the entire borough, and responding to any and all emergencies or calls for service, as well as assisting neighboring police departments when requested.

"The Bangor Borough Police Department runs a very aggressive patrol program. An aggressive patrol program results in higher crime deterrence, the discovery of in-progress criminal activity, and a higher rate of criminal offender apprehension. Ultimately, this leads to a lower crime rate and a better quality of life within the borough, our Patrol Division utilizes 4 marked police cars" said Chief Scott Felchock.

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## Merchants Bank Donates to the Children's Home of Easton

By Susan Kovacs

BANGOR - Merchants Bank awarded the Children's Home of Easton with \$5,000 to support the innovative educational program for displaced, low-income children.

Merchants Bank proudly supports The Children's Home of Easton, who provide a caring and nurturing environment for children to develop self-worth and reach their full potential. "We are pleased to be able to support committed non-profits who do so much for our community, such as the Children's Home of Easton. Our aid will benefit underprivileged children and help them with programs to better themselves. Our relationship with CHE also allows us to give these children financial literacy training to better prepare them for the real world" says Mark Jobes, Chief Banking Officer, Merchants Bank.

"We are grateful for your ongoing support, and for the guidance you provide our youth through the Financial Literacy Education Program! The program teaches older youth & kids in our summer program about budgeting, credit, and much more," says Anita Jo Paukovits, M.Ed., Executive Director, the Children's Home of Easton.

Established in 1890, Merchants Bank is a locally owned and operated community bank. Headquartered in Bangor, PA, Merchants has two branch offices in Bangor and additional offices throughout the Lehigh Valley, including Mount Bethel, Wind Gap, Nazareth, Forks Township, Martins Creek, Easton and Bethlehem, PA. In 2013 the Bank was recognized for its community involvement and volunteerism through two awards: Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's The Spirit of Forks Award as well as The Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley's Spirit of Volunteerism Award. MNB Investment Services is a division of the bank and offers investment and wealth management financial services. For more information, please visit [www.merchantsbangor.com](http://www.merchantsbangor.com).



L-R Anna Rittle, Branch Manager, Merchants Bank Easton Office, Anita Paukovits, Executive Director, The Children's Home of Easton, Kyle Labar, AVP, Assistant Controller, Financial Analyst II, Merchants Bank, and Mark Jobes, Chief Banking Officer, Merchants Bank

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## Grant-writing Program to Help Non-profits

By Penn State Extension

STROUDSBURG - Grant-writing Program to Help Non-profits Get the Most from their Efforts A common misconception in the grant writing process is that the actual proposal is a major component of the grant seeking process. However, to be successful, grant writing is a process that entails careful planning, research and outreach as well as cultivating relationships. The grant-writing and fund-raising environment is increasingly competitive. Organization and preparation matter and can assist in your organization successfully receiving a grant.

Could some grant money help get a new program off the ground for your organization? Penn State Extension is offering a program on grant-writing for non-profit organizations and municipalities seeking financial support for a project.

The workshop addresses how to work effectively with foundations, components of an effective proposal, evaluation strategies, and how a grant proposal is reviewed. The program will conclude with a panel presentation of representatives from local foundations and a state elected official representative.

This workshop is recommended for staff, volunteers and board members of community nonprofits, local governments and other community organizations.

The program will be held Thursday, March 28, 2019, 1 – 4 p.m. at the Monroe County Extension office at 724 Phillips Street in Stroudsburg. The cost of the workshop is \$35/person. To register, go to <http://extension.psu.edu/grant-writing> For more information, contact Peter Wulfhorst at [ptw3@psu.edu](mailto:ptw3@psu.edu) or 570-296-3400. Penn State Extension is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

## "Mamma Mia, Pancake Breakfast"

By Sue Bina

BANGOR - On Saturday March 9, 2019 from 8AM to 11AM the Bangor High School Drama Department will be hosting the sixth annual pancake breakfast with the cast of "Mamma Mia" at the Bangor Area Middle School. Mamma Mia tells the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father so he can walk her down the aisle on her wedding day. Set on a Greek island paradise it features the music of 70's pop group sensation ABBA. This sensational production contains ABBA's greatest hits, including title song, "Mamma Mia", "Super Trouper," "Lay All Your Love On Me," "Dancing Queen," "Waterloo" and more! The pancake breakfast features restaurant quality food and top-notch service. Tune up your voice and put on your dancing shoes. Join us for great food, karaoke, dancing, musical performances, a raffle, and other activities for people of all ages.

The breakfast will raise funds for the high school musical production of "Mamma Mia". Performance dates are: March 29, 30, 31 2019. There is a special preview night for Gold Card patrons, March 27, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Tickets for the musical will be available for purchase at the pancake breakfast or you can call 610-599-7011 x1001 for further information regarding tickets for the musical.

Tickets for the "Mamma Mia, Here We Go Again" pancake breakfast can be purchased at the door, 2 and under are free. Please call Sue Bina, 610-588-3041, with any questions.

## Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce Scholarships Available

By Laura McLain

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce applications for Scholarship Achievement Award 2019 are available March 1st at the guidance departments of Bangor High School, Pen Argyl High School, Faith Christian & Career Institute of Technology.

The Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce will award one scholarship to a senior from each of the four area schools: Bangor, Pen Argyl, Faith Christian & Career Institute of Technology. Applicants must reside in the Slate Belt to apply.

The scholarships will be presented to the students based upon the following criteria; academic accomplishment, demonstrated service to school and/or community, demonstration of leadership capabilities and future vocational plans.

Please note: A separate award, The Frederick R. Curcio, Jr. Scholarship Award, may also be applied for at this time. To qualify a senior must be enrolled in a computer science related course or planning to attend a Technical School of their choice or majoring in computer science.

Applications must be received by April 15, 2019. To honor the recipients, parents and friends, a Scholarship Awards Dinner is planned for May 17th at Tuscarora Inn. For more information contact the guidance department or the chamber office at 610.588.1000.

## GKEDC Community Grant Applications Available

By Bob Cornman

PEN ARGYL - The Green Knight Economic Development Corporation (GKEDC) has distributed over three quarters of a million dollars to more than forty non-profit organizations in the Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, and Plainfield Township area through their community grant program. These organizations include Families First, Blue Mountain Community Library, and Pen Argyl Parks and Athletic Association to repair the slate roof on the historic carousel at Weona Park.

Other organizations that have received support include Pen Argyl Borough Outreach, Wind Gap Beautification Program, Wind Gap Borough Park Board, Sullivan Trail Sertoma, various volunteer fire and ambulance companies, local Boy Scout troops and athletic organizations.

For 2019 GKEDC community grants are being accepted until 31 March, 2019, and will be awarded in May 2019. Grant information and applications are available on the Grant page at the GKEDC website [GKEDC.org](http://GKEDC.org).

<p><b>FREE CLASSES</b></p>			<p><b>BEGINS</b></p>		
<p><b>GED</b></p>			<p><b>March</b></p>		
<p><b>BANGOR</b> Tue. &amp; Thur. Begins March 5th  6:00-8:30 P.M. DeFranco Elem. School Library 267 Five Points Richmond Road</p>	<p><b>PEN ARGYL</b> Mon. &amp; Thur. Begins March 4th  6:00-8:30 P.M. Pen Argyl Sr. High School Library 501 W. Laurel Ave.</p>	<p><b>NAZARETH</b> Tue. &amp; Thur. Begins March 5th  6:00-8:30 P.M. Nazareth Sr. High School Library 501 E. Center Street</p>	<p><b>THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS IS ORIENTATION STUDENTS MUST ATTEND BOTH DAYS.</b> If a student cannot attend both days in March, they must wait until the next class session to begin in September. Computer Training is included in all classes. Adults who attend class, complete requirements and pass the GED may be eligible for an equivalency High School Diploma. Please contact <a href="http://www.GED.com">www.GED.com</a> for info about test.</p>		
<p><b>Northampton Community College</b></p>			<p>Free classes provided by the NCC Center for College &amp; Career Readiness and Bangor, Pen Argyl, Nazareth School Districts. Call 610-861-5427 for more information</p>		

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