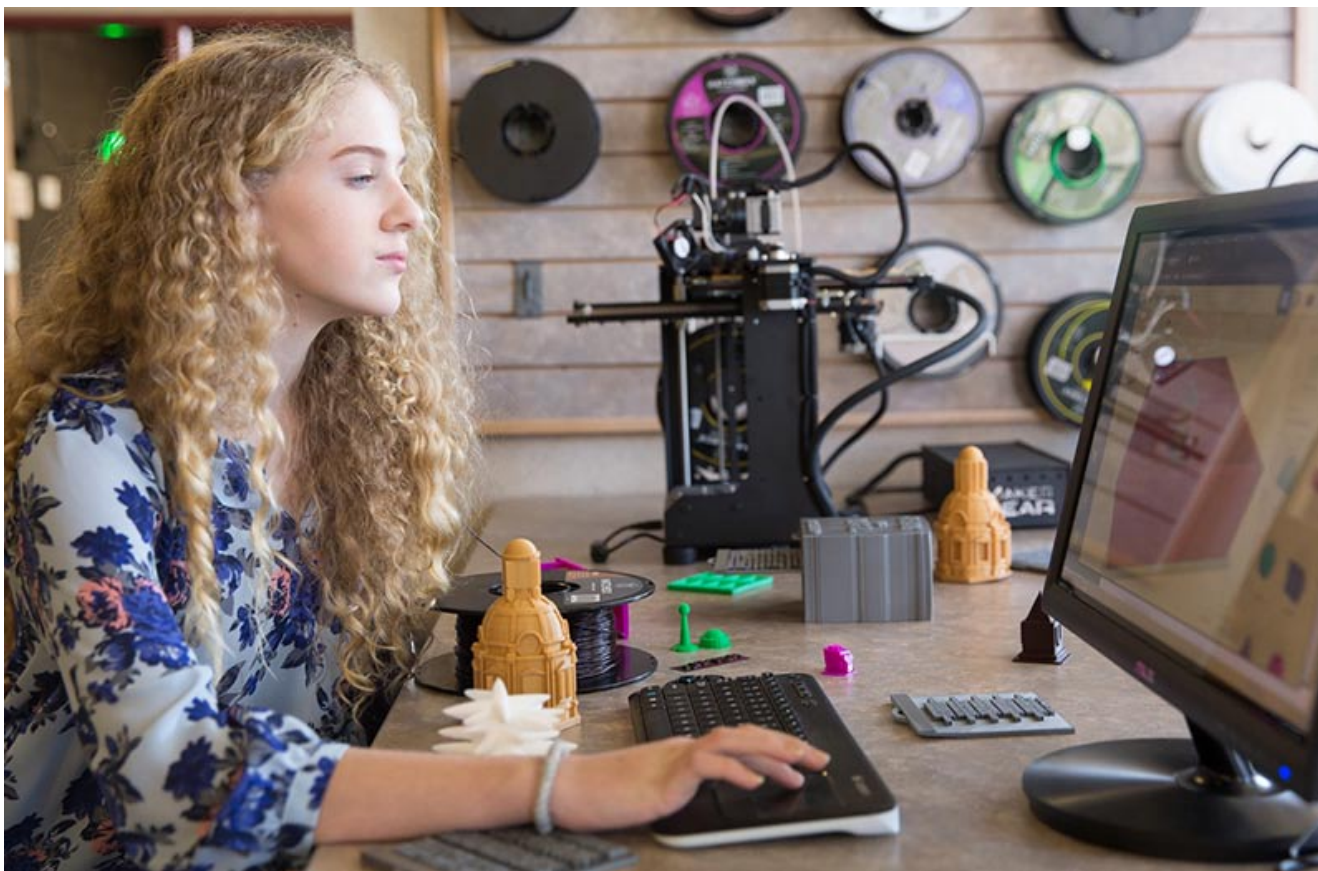


PAsmart Helps Pennsylvanians Get the Skills for the Jobs They Want



By Jerry Oleksiak is the secretary of the Pa. Dept. of Labor & Industry
HARRISBURG - A good job can't be measured just by a punch clock. Today, work is a dynamic concept requiring a workforce adaptable to changing market forces, technology, and societal needs. Trends are emerging that are prompting the need for fresh approaches to workforce development. Over the last 10 years, Pennsylvania has seen careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields exceeding the growth of other types of occupations. By 2026, there will be nearly 600,000 job openings in Pennsylvania, with STEM jobs growing at over nine percent. How will Pennsylvania's workforce rise to the occasion and meet this rapidly growing demand for a skilled workforce, and what can the commonwealth do to help labor and industry make that happen?

PAsmart is the answer. A new initiative created by Gov. Tom Wolf, PAsmart is a multipronged, inclusive approach to ensuring Pennsylvania has the most prepared, talented, and skilled workforce in the country.

By helping public programs and initiatives to work in a smarter, more coordinated way, PAsmart empowers all Pennsylvanians to develop the skills and knowledge they need to train for the quality jobs they want while also helping businesses address complex workforce challenges. PAsmart is dedicated to enabling every Pennsylvanian to succeed, with resources for workers with disabilities, veterans, adults or returning students, and individuals looking to take their skillset to the next level for future opportunities.

PAsmart is currently providing \$30 million in grants to strengthen K-12 STEM and computer science education, expand registered apprenticeships, and support job training and Industry Partnership programs. This funding is targeted to support economic growth, education, training, government collaboration, and alignment of key resources.

On Feb. 5, 2019, Gov. Wolf announced the launch of PAsmart.gov, which is a new online resource for all of Pennsylvania's education, training, and job search tools to help people get information about pursuing an education and career in Pennsylvania at any stage of life. The new website complements PAsmart's strategic funding investments and provides students, jobseekers, and current workers access to a wide variety of STEM education, training, and apprentice-

ship resources. Not sure where to begin? Here's a quick guide to what you can find on PAsmart.gov:

1. Discover New Career Paths, <https://www.pasmart.gov/discover-new-career-paths/>
2. Explore Education Opportunities & Financial Assistance, <https://www.pasmart.gov/explore-education/>
3. Find Training & Apprenticeships, <https://www.pasmart.gov/find-training-apprenticeships/>

Traditional education isn't the only way to gain valuable knowledge and skills — hands-on training and apprenticeships are a great way to prepare yourself for a career or to make sure you're equipped to handle the evolving needs of your current field. Visit the Find Training & Apprenticeships section to see what apprenticeships or on-the-job training are available near you, and how you can benefit from enrolling. Are you a business owner interested in establishing a training program or connecting with existing initiatives in your area? Check out our Employee Training Programs for resources that help business owners who want to ensure their quality workforce continues to grow with their business.

We know there's no one-size-fits-all approach to developing new skills or choosing a career path, which is why PAsmart is making diverse, dedicated investments in education, workforce training pro-

grams, apprenticeships, industry partnerships, and new online tools and resources. Ready to find your own path to success? Visit the PAsmart website today to take the first step toward achieving your career goals.

PAsmart.gov is the go-to resource for students, jobseekers, and workers to learn about new career opportunities, skill and training programs and helpful resources for getting the job of today and learning the skills of tomorrow. PAsmart is focused on ensuring Pennsylvania students and workers have the skills and abilities to meet the economic needs of the 21st century. Stay up-to-date on all our #PAsmart news and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

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**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Enough Already

I don't know about the rest of you but I am ready for spring. I know a lot of people like the winter and if it wasn't for winter I probably would be unemployed, but half a year of winter is plenty for me. The lack of sunlight seems to make energy harder to muster every day and the constant cold makes every outdoor activity nearly impossible. Even without much snow to clear and slog through, this winter still beat me up. We only had a few really cold days but that's all it takes to locate pipes installed where they can freeze in the single digit temperatures. Actually it takes the subsequent thaw to locate those pipes and that is never pretty. Preparing for and managing winter is something many people don't really think about but those who do are usually just a little less stressed out by the time February arrives. For people who heat with oil, planning for the more frequent deliveries in January and February is something that should be done in July and not December. Having a heating system serviced in the summer or fall will prepare it for the constant operation it will be required to endure in mid to late winter. If any of these preparatory steps are forgotten or ignored, there is a good chance someone else will be inconvenienced and may have to risk their safety by responding to an emergency that arises. I have seen fuel delivery trucks on the road at times when nobody should have been on the road. There could be numerous reasons for that and even though nobody would fault a company for NOT risking a \$100,000 truck and a catastrophe when the rest of the area is on shutdown, there is an obligation to keep people warm if they call for fuel or service. One part of the country even cancelled mail delivery because of the weather and that shot their motto in the foot.

The message I'm trying to convey is that everyone has some responsibility to prepare for winter. Maybe you need to get an ice scraper for the car or a snow shovel, but don't forget to have your heating system serviced and don't run on the last 10 gallons in your fuel tank when there is a lot of winter left. Money doesn't grow on trees but keeping the house from freezing should be a major priority whether you own it or rent it.

For people who heat with oil, having a 5 gallon can with a spout will allow you to use diesel fuel to get through in a pinch.

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



Governor Wolf Outlines Plan to Restore Critical Pennsylvania Infrastructure

By DCNR

HARRISBURG - Governor Wolf announced a new initiative, Restore Pennsylvania, that would invest \$4.5 billion over the next four years on Pennsylvania infrastructure projects funded by a common-sense natural gas severance tax.

The initiative is the only plan that will help make Pennsylvania a leader in the 21st century. It will provide new funding for environmental projects and new recreational opportunities across the state, including:

Infrastructure and maintenance in state parks; creation and revitalization of new local parks; and funding for new hiking, biking, and ATV trail projects

Flood prevention to help cities and towns prepare for flooding and severe weather, including replacing high-hazard dams and conducting stream restoration

Grants to municipalities to help them comply with stormwater control mandates, which can include streamside buffers, urban trees, and land conservation

Resources that will address blight by among other things replacing dilapidated buildings with green space

Continuation of the brownfields program, cleanups which also can address new opportunities for recreation and playfields

Technical assistance and funding for dirt and gravel roads throughout the state

"Reliable and adequate investments are needed to ensure state parks and forests remain as healthy ecosystems and habitat that can be enjoyed by all Pennsylvanians. DCNR income is limited by the appropriations process. That's why Governor Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania proposal is so important, as it is currently the only funding option on the table," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn.

Projects identified by local stakeholders will be evaluated through a competitive process to ensure that high-priority, high-impact projects are funded, and needs across Pennsylvania are met.

"We need these funds to realize DCNR's goal of having a trail within 15 minutes of every Pennsylvania citizen; to close what have been identified as the 'Top Ten Trail Gaps' by the end of 2019; and to remain a driving force behind grants which last year totaled \$50 million for 280 projects across Pennsylvania," said Secretary Dunn. "All will create new recreational opportunities, conserve natural resources, and help revitalize local communities."

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SLATE BELT MEN'S QUOIT LEAGUE

Bangor Elks 37 O'Neill's Place 19 - Wayne Hill 11-3, Jerry Bubba 10-4

Oxford Fire Co. 34 East Bangor Fire Co. 22 - Ken Hagan 12-2, Wayne Saylor 11-3

Liberty Fire Co. 37 Columbia Fire Co. 19 - Evan Senay 12-2, Harry Edwards 9-5; Carl Gilbert 8-6

Rescue Fire Co. 33 Roseto Rod & Gun Club 31

(one extra round) - Larry Lobb 10-6, Mike Engler 10-6, Rob George 9-7, Scott Lobb 9-7;

Harold Bird 9-7, Tom Ayers 9-7

Bangor Jax 34 Second Ward Fire Co. 22 - Mike Shafer 11-3, Zach Saltern 10-4; Dan

Lucas 10-4, Bob Kummer 9-5

Hillside Rod & Gun Club 35 Bangor VFW 21 - Dave Flick 13-1, John Hartzell 12-2; Frank

Comunale 9-5

Pen Argyl Legion 50 Roseto Legion 6 - Brookes Kromer 14-0, John Albanese 13-1, Kraig

Kuster 13-1

2018-2019 SBMQL SECOND HALF STANDINGS

Division 1 - Bangor Elks 9-0, Hillside Rod & Gun Club 9-0, Oxford Fire Co. 8-1, Pen Argyl Legion 7-2, East Bangor Fire Co. 6-3, O'Neill's Place 6-3, Bangor Jax 5-4

Division 2 - Liberty Fire Co. 3-6, Second Ward Fire Co. 3-6, Bangor VFW 2-7, Columbia

Fire Co. 2-7, Rescue Fire Co. 2-7, Roseto Rod & Gun Club 1-8, Roseto Legion 0-9

2018-2019 SBMQL CURRENT SEASON STANDINGS

Division 1 - Bangor Elks 22-0, Hillside Rod & Gun Club 21-1, Oxford Fire Co. 19-3, Pen Argyl

Legion 17-5, East Bangor Fire Co. 14-8, O'Neill's Place 14-8, Bangor Jax 11-11

Division 2 - Bangor VFW 10-12, Liberty Fire Co. 8-14, Second Ward Fire Co. 6-16, Columbia

Fire Co. 5-17, Roseto Rod & Gun Club 3-19, Rescue Fire Co. 3-19, Roseto Legion 1-21

