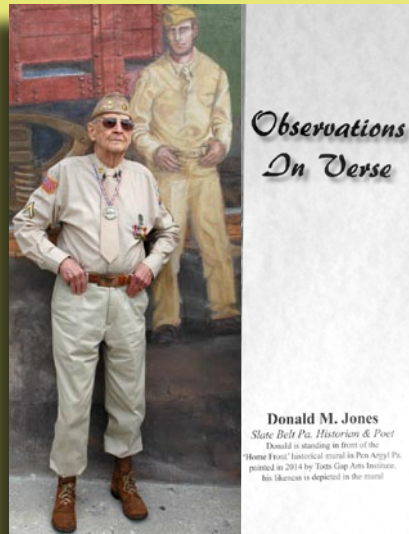


A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



SNOW FLAKES

I enjoyed the beauty of a snowflake
As it gently swirled to earth.
And another and then another,
Soon there were ten thousand worth.

But their beauty was short lived
For they soon packed upon the road.
And then those beautiful snowflakes
Caused traveling to be slowed.

Lamont McClure and the Department of Drug and Alcohol

By Becky Bartlett

BANGOR - Lamont McClure and the Department of Drug and Alcohol will hold a Recovery Day event on March 16, 2019 at A Clean Slate, 100 S. First Street, Bangor, PA to raise awareness about the challenges of drug addiction and to bring hope to the community. Speakers will present the following topics:

Addiction 101: What's it all about?

The Elephant in the Living Room: Living and Coping with a loved one's addiction.

It Works if You Work It: A story of recovery.

Honest, Open-mindedness, and Willingness: Personal story of addiction.

The Part we Play: A family disease—A personal story about living with an alcoholic.

Living the Program: A personal story of action.

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“The Most Stressed Generation”

By Jane Gilbert

PEN ARGYL - The Slate Belt Ministerium and Pen Argyl Area School District are co-sponsoring a presentation on “The Most Stressed Generation: How to Listen so your Kids will Talk”. It will be held on Monday, March 18th, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 404 E. Mountain Ave., Pen Argyl, PA. The speaker will be Dr. Timothy Silvestri, director of counseling services at Muhlenberg College. He will bring some practical thoughts on addressing suicide and the related issues facing our teens today. The presentation will end with a question and answer session.

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CACLV Offering Home Accessibility, Repair Grants And Loans

By Mike Handzo

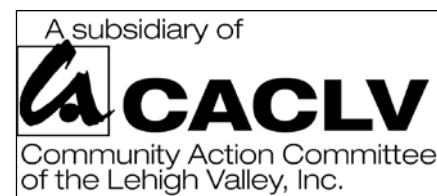
SLATEBELT - Are you a low-income Slate Belt homeowner with a permanent physical disability? If so, the nonprofit Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV) is pleased to offer a home accessibility grant and loan program that may help you make needed improvements to your home.

Eligible homeowners will receive a grant to complete accessibility improvements to their home. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Construction of ramps.
- Widening of doorways
- Installation of stairlifts.
- Accessible bathroom remodels.

These grant funds will be coupled with a deferred payment, partially forgivable loan to complete general health, safety, and code compliance repairs. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Removal of lead-based paint hazards.
- Electrical, plumbing, or heating repairs.
- Roof repairs or replacements.
- Wall, ceiling, and flooring repairs.
- Minor framing or structural repairs.
- Some “handy work” type items.



The program's goal is to provide eligible homeowners with healthy and safe residences tailored to their accessibility needs, permitting them to hopefully remain in their home for years to come.

The CACLV program will provide participating homeowners with the services of a home accessibility consultant and construction manager, who will work closely with owners to determine the repairs needed to their homes. The program will also provide and manage licensed and insured general contractors to complete the work.

Participating homeowners must own their home; have a permanent physical disability; meet income requirements; have homeowners' insurance; be current on all property taxes; and have enough equity in their homes to support the general repair loan. Program staff will work closely with homeowners to determine their eligibility. Priority will be given to cases where the homeowner needs accessibility improvements to remain in their home, rather than moving to a nursing or care facility.

A designated amount of funding for the program is currently available, and is anticipated to move quickly. Therefore, interested homeowners are encouraged to contact CACLV promptly. For more information or an application, please contact Project Coordinator Mike Handzo by phone at (484) 893-1061 or by email at mhandzo@caclv.org. CACLV staff will be glad to answer any questions from or check the eligibility of potentially interested homeowners.

The accessibility grant portion of this program is being funded through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Keystone Communities Program. The home repair loan portion of this program is being funded with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the County of Northampton Department of Community and Economic Development CDBG program. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Easton To Receive Community Revitalization Grant

By Thomas Caffrey

EASTON, Feb. 25 – State Rep. Robert Freeman, D-Northampton, today announced the city of Easton has received a \$25,000 grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities program.

As one of 43 recipients, Easton will utilize the funding to develop a comprehensive and city-wide economic development strategy to continue building on current successful initiatives and to assist in attracting new investments, increasing the tax base and lowering the overall crime rate.

“I am happy to see that Easton received this critical funding and to be able to continue building a stronger community,” Freeman said. “Strong communities and strong economies go hand-in-hand, and I am proud to advocate for investments that support both. This grant will help assess what currently works and what more can be done in the future to enhance all aspects of our community.”

The Keystone Communities program is designed to support local initiatives that grow and stabilize neighborhoods and communities, encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors in the community, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Since January 2015, the Wolf administration approved more than \$22 million through the program to fund 131 projects statewide, including façade grants for businesses, accessible housing projects, public infrastructure improvements, and other projects to strengthen communities and downtown districts.

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