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L-R Brian Fenstermaker Senator Scavello's office, Jerry Wommer Pa. Fish & Boat, Zach Rudd Pa. Fish & Boat Officer, Rep. Joe Emrick, Taylor Munoz Senator Scavello's office, John Mauser Friends of Minsi Lake, Julie Carraghan Pa. Fish & Boat

Minsi Lake Public Meeting

By Michael Ortoski / Vice Chair of Friends of Minsi Lake

BANGOR - On Monday March 4th State Rep. Joe Emrick, representatives from State Senator Mario Scavello's office joined the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Friends of Minsi Lake (FOML) for an informational meeting on the Minsi Lake project. Contractor KC Construction Company has begun the dam reconstruction project, which will include the use of heavy equipment.

Pennsylvania Rep. Joe Emrick who led the meeting said at the public meeting "the best-case scenario would have the construction completed by November 2019 but a December or January completion date is more likely. Mother nature will have a lot to say about that."

Once construction is completed, the lake will fill naturally through rain and runoff. The goal is to have it ready for the 2020 trout season."

Fish and Boat Commission Senior Civil Engineer Gerald Woomer said he held a pre-construction meeting

Monday morning with KC Construction Co. to discuss the \$4.8 million project.

Preliminary work will begin as soon as snow melts and construction will begin in April, Woomer said. The eastern parking lot will be opened.

The existing dam will be strengthened with a rocky material to protect against erosion. Additionally, a new spillway will be installed and the dam will be raised just over 2 feet to make it more efficient at handling heavy rain, according to Woomer.

The \$4.8 million-dollar project at Minsi Lake will include the construction of a new reinforced concrete spillway. In addition, the crest of the dam will be raised approximately two feet to upgrade the dam's spillway capacity. Construction is expected to be completed by November, 2019 with a goal of refilling of the lake by spring of 2020 depending on the weather.

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The Water We Share

By Michael Ortoski

BETHLEHEM - On February 28, the Sierra Club Pa. Chapter, Conservation Voters of Pa. LV Sustainability Network and PennFuture hosted 'The Water We Share' at Northampton Community College. It was a forum on continuing the important regional conversation around the significant threats to water quality in the Lehigh Valley and the Slate Belt.

Before the event there was a networking reception with about a dozen groups who were there to ask questions on protecting the water in their communities.

Attendees learned what an impressively engaged and passionate community we have in this area. Over 70 residents turned out from across the region, showing how deeply the community cares about clean water issues!

Panelists included: State Representative Robert Freeman (D-Northampton 136), Nate Pritchard, Watershed Specialist/Agricultural Technician, Northampton County Conservation District, Kate



Panelists L-R State Representative Robert Freeman (D-Northampton 136), Nate Pritchard, Watershed Specialist/Agricultural Technician, Northampton County Conservation District, Kate Ebel, Senior Environmental Scientist, Wildlands Conservancy, Donna Kohut, Outdoor Discovery School Program Coordinator, L.L.Bean.

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Non-profit Grant Writing Seminar

By Beckry Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) are offering a free seminar on writing grants for non-profit organizations on June 13, 2019 from 8:30-10:30 AM at Alumni Hall 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020. Presenters include Frank Brooks from DCED, Tracey Johnson from Northampton Community College, Maurice Luker from Lafayette College and Cindy Smith from Northampton County's Department of Human Service.

The seminar is free, but registration is required. Please contact Rebecca Sanchez to reserve a spot: 610-829-6307 or rsanchez@northamptoncounty.org

Slate Belt Branch of GYMCMA To Expand

By Emily Mullen

PEN ARGYL - The Slate Belt Branch of the Greater Valley YMCA plans to begin construction on a new, heated indoor pool and gymnasium in 2019. The Slate Belt Branch's Expansion Advisory Committee is working on finalizing the funding, but has already chosen Nu Cor Construction to build and oversee the project. Draft blueprints are displayed in the Branch Welcome Center for all to see.

"We know that there is a community need for a gymnasium and pool, and we are making certain the resources are available to move forward with this project. We are taking steps to make sure that the Y additions that have been promised to the community become a reality. We take this project very seriously and are committed to completing the branch," said Greater Valley YMCA President/CEO David Fagerstrom.

A pool and gymnasium has been a discussion among members, and in the community, for many years. In 2015, a pool and gymnasium had been part of the original scope of the project, but the project hit unforeseen barriers, which caused the gym and pool to be placed in phase two. The

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Emrick Announces March Satellite Office Hours

By Michael Ortoski

NAZARETH – State Rep. Joe Emrick (R-Nazareth) invites residents of the 137th Legislative District to take advantage of satellite office hours he will be hosting in Forks Township during the month of March.

"Not everyone can easily reach my district offices in Bangor or Nazareth, especially when the weather turns bad," Emrick said. "We offer this service on the first and third Thursday of each month as a way of bringing state government closer to you."

A member of Emrick's district office staff will be at the Forks Township Community Center on Thursday, March 7, and Thursday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. The community center is located at 500 Zucksville Road.

"This is a great opportunity to get answers to your state government questions and further information about programs such as the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, and similar efforts offered by the Bangor, Easton and Nazareth Area school districts," added Emrick.

Questions about this or any legislative issue should be directed to Emrick's district office at (610) 746-5090 or (610) 588-8011.

Spotted Lanternfly Public Meetings

By Amy Korman, Horticulture Extension Educator

Nazareth, Pa. – The 2019 Spotted Lanternfly emergence season is just around the corner. Penn State Extension, Northampton County Extension Office, will have a public meeting to discuss Spotted Lanternfly at the Gracedale Nursing Home (4 Gracedale Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064) on March 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. To find this event and other Spotted Lanternfly Public Meetings please visit: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-public-meetings>

Questions regarding this event can be directed to Amy Korman at amk6396@psu.edu (610-813-6614).

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