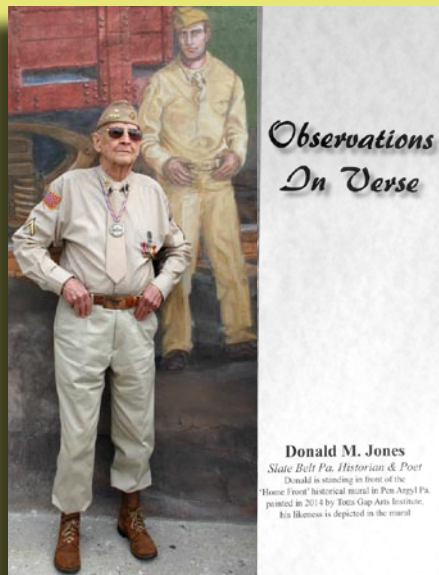


A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



SPRING

After a long cold winter,
Spring has a pleasant
ring.
And after too much snow,
It's a wonderful thing.

Crocus shoots burst
through the ground,
Swelling buds on trees
simply abound.
Now is the time the birds
begin to sing,
And returning geese are
on the wing.

And if you're like me,
You can't wait to see,
The barren earth turn
green.

What a wonderful sight,
What a welcome delight
to witness
This awakening scene.

And yet all these wonders
are but part of a plan
Created for us by a wave
of God's right hand.

Letter to the Editor

I am a home-owner who lives within a mile of the Waste Management Grand Central Sanitary Landfill, Plainfield Township. I do not wish to diminish the claims of anyone else because I do not know their reality, so I cannot and will not speak for or about them. The landfill provides approximately \$65,000 each month to the borough of Pen Argyl, which helps to subsidize free trash pick up to all residents of the borough, allows the borough to keep a reserve fund that other municipalities are not able to build and helps keep taxes from being even higher.

Instead of working together for the good of the community, some residents of the Slate Belt, feel it necessary to constantly bash the landfill and individuals who work for WMGCSL. Some are quick to call the DEP hotline, which is not a problem in and of itself. But some residents do not call to report odors to WM. DEP suggests also informing WM to as many details of the odor as possible. If odor was the true and only issue, wouldn't the call to DEP be followed with a call to the WM reporting number? How is WM supposed to control odor if they are not aware of the scope, type, or other details of the reported odor? Reporting the issue to WM may help locate and mitigate a problem.

WM has been, and continues to be, a good neighbor. They have poured a lot of money into the community. Yes, they are required to. Yes, it is in their best interest as a business. But the reality is that benefits to the borough and the greater community exist. Those are indisputable facts, not opinion. Yes, at times the landfill smells. That is also a fact. How bad would the odor be if the landfill were not required to follow the many rules and regulations for which it is now held accountable? Or if the landfill did not go above and beyond those rules and regulations? Or if WM did not invest in odor control research, technology and infrastructure?

There are two sides to every coin. The reality of one does not negate the other. It is my opinion, and the opinion of many others, that the odor of the landfill is worth the free trash pick-up and the money given to the community and the borough of Pen Argyl. The landfill, in some form, will be around for quite a while; however, the perks which come with it will not last forever.

Jeffrey Fox, Pen Argyl, PA.

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**References available from residential
to commercial sources.**

570-517-6596

Local Officials to Receive 2019 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - On April 10th, Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure, Easton Mayor Sal Panto, and Bethlehem Mayor Robert Donchez will meet with Governor Wolf at his residence in Harrisburg to receive a 2019 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence for their coordinated efforts to reduce exposure to lead in children. The BEN coalition, named for Bethlehem-Easton-Northampton, is being used as a model for how vested partners can positively affect the health of an entire community. Governor Wolf determined this project best exemplified the theme of Health and Wellness Initiatives.

Paints containing lead were used in America until 1978. Deterioration of the paint exposes a substance which can cause brain damage. In the United States, lead-based paint and lead in dust are the most hazardous sources of the heavy metal. Children under the age of six are vulnerable because they frequently put their hands in their mouths. Their brains and nervous systems are susceptible to damage, and exposure can cause serious disability or death. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to negatively impact IQ. Learning disabilities, behavior abnormalities, attention deficit problems and insomnia are common symptoms.



"There is no established safe level of lead in the human body," says Lamont McClure. "That is why programs like BEN are so important. According to the 2014 Childhood Lead Surveillance Annual Report, Northampton County, and particularly the cities of Bethlehem and Easton, had double the number of Evaluated Blood Lead Levels than the rest of Pennsylvania."

So far, the BEN coalition has received over two million dollars in approved grant funding so that households with young children can be remediated of lead-based paint. BEN partnered with Northampton Community College to certify candidates to do the removals. So far, over 50 workers have finished the training with more contractors in the pipeline. The training is very involved, teaching participants in proven methods of detecting, encapsulating and removal of lead in ways that limit exposure to families with young children. Now, with qualified workers available, the BEN coalition has three houses currently in remediation, with another twelve houses under contract.

In addition to removing lead from one-hundred homes in the two cities, the BEN program coordinates with a number of agencies and departments to provide educational materials on the dangers of lead printed in over twenty languages.

The following agencies and departments are part of the BEN Program partnership:

- City of Bethlehem Department of Planning
- City of Bethlehem Health Bureau
- City of Bethlehem Home Improvement Program
- Bethlehem Area Public Schools
- City of Easton Department of Planning
- City of Easton Department of Public Health
- City of Easton Redevelopment Authority
- Easton Area Public Schools
- Lehigh Valley Health Network Children's Hospital
- St. Luke's Medical Centers
- The Lehigh Valley Conferences of Churches
- Neighborhood Health Centers
- Head Start Program
- Northampton Community College

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Attention Washington Township Residents

The Board of Supervisors is Seeking Candidates
to Fill the Following Vacancies

ZONING HEARING BOARD, ALTERNATE MEMBER

The Washington Township Zoning Hearing Board is responsible for rendering decisions upon requests for variances and special exceptions to the Washington Township Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Hearing Board meets the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Board of Supervisors is seeking volunteer members for the Recreation Committee. The goal of the Washington Township Recreation Committee is to enhance the recreational resources available to residents. This Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Washington Township residents interested in filling any of these vacancies are asked to submit a letter of interest to:

Washington Township Board of Supervisors
1021 Washington Blvd.
Bangor, PA 18013