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The River Unites Us:
Stories about the Scenic View Delaware River by those who know it best

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Minsi Lake Update

By Michael Ortoski
 UPPER MT. BETHEL - The water levels are coming along nicely at Minsi Lake thanks to Mother Nature's help. The next three days will also have rain in the forecast to make a great start to the opening days of trout season.

Pa. Fish & Boat Commission stocked the Lake with approximately 3000 trout on March 26.

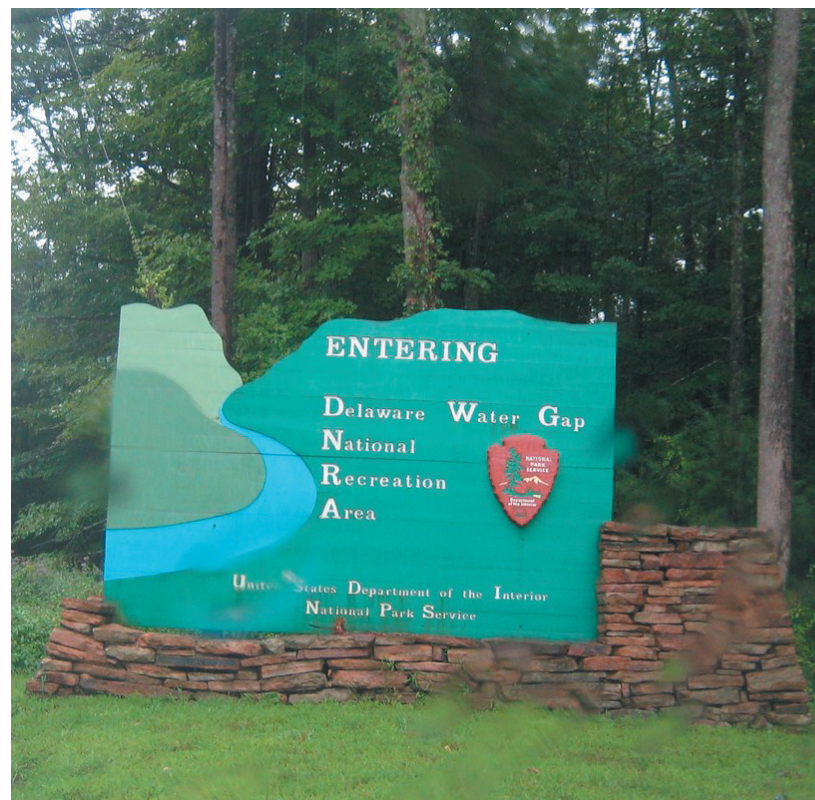
Friends Of Minsi Lake (FOML) & Northampton County Parks & Recreation, in partnership with Lehigh Valley Audubon Society & Boy Scout Troop 38 from Bangor, finished installing two purple martin nesting towers at the Lakes East & West shore locations.

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Lake Minsi stocking 3000 trout

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Is Modifying Operations



By Kathleen Sandt, Public Affairs Specialist
 BUSHKILL, PA – In response to Executive Orders 107 and 108 issued by New Jersey's Governor Murphy and guidance from the CDC and local, county, and state public health officials, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is announcing additional modifications to operations to support federal, state, and local efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Public restrooms, volunteer and partner-operated buildings and the visitor information desk at Bushkill Meeting Center were closed on March 17. While most of park's outdoor spaces remain accessible to the public, the Kittatinny Point area in New Jersey, including the parking lots and the picnic area, will be closed until further notice as of 8 am on Friday, March 27. Additionally, Worthington State Forest and the New Jersey Department of Transportation will close the state-owned parking areas on the westbound side of Interstate 80, including the Dunfield Parking Area. For more information on New Jersey's state parks visit their website at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksand-forests/>.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners is our number one priority. The National Park Service (NPS) is working with federal, state, and local authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. We will notify the public when we resume full operations and will provide updates on our website and social media channels.

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We Are Open For Business
 See Our 4 Page Flyer On Pages 7, 8, 9, 10

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References available from residential to commercial sources.

570-517-6596

Real-time Updates on COVID-19

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - Real-time Updates below are links from the Pennsylvania Departments of Health (DOH) and Revenue (DOR), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

<https://dced.pa.gov/real-time-updates-on-covid-19/>

PA Department of Community and Economic Development Includes the latest list of life-sustaining businesses and waiver forms.

<https://dced.pa.gov/resources/>

Phone: 717-787-3405

Small Business Loan Resources

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

Phone: 800-659-2955

Small Business Administration - Eastern PA Office

<https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/pa/king-of-prussia>

PA Department of Labor and Industry

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/covid19.aspx>

To File an Unemployment Claim Online

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/File%20an%20Initial%20Claim.aspx>

Statewide toll-free number at 1-888-313-7284

Printable Claim Form

[https://www.uc.pa.gov/Documents/UC_Forms/UC-42\(I\).pdf](https://www.uc.pa.gov/Documents/UC_Forms/UC-42(I).pdf)

Expansion of Family and Medical Leave Act

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provided for the expansion of Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This is a federal program administered by the US Department of Labor.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) published its first round of implementation guidance pursuant to the FFCRA yesterday. This information can be found at: <https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/FFCRA.aspx>

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) requires certain employers to provide their employees with expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The United States Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division administers and enforces the new law's paid leave requirements. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Please read the below fact sheets to determine if you are eligible.

- Fact Sheet for Employees
- Fact Sheet for Employers
- Questions and Answers

The United Way Establishes Economic Relief Fund

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley has established a COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund that can help with bills, food, rent, etc. People are urged to call 1-866-211-9966 to get in contact with local agencies that can provide assistance.

Quick Links:

PA.gov: <https://www.pa.gov/>

Governor's Website: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/>

Department of Health: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Department of Revenue: <https://www.revenue.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Session Update: Primary Election Moved; School Changes Approved

We voted to delay the primary election until Tuesday, June 2. This would give counties more time to prepare contingency plans for Election Day. One of the major challenges has been an inability to train poll workers, as well as concerns voiced by those poll workers, many of whom are senior citizens who tend to be more vulnerable to coronavirus. All of these changes are due to the coronavirus emergency and apply ONLY to the upcoming primary.

This will be the first election in which Pennsylvania voters have the opportunity to vote by mail-in ballot without an excuse (absentee ballots were permitted only for people who were unable to make it to their polling place on election day for very specific reasons). Voters interested in voting by mail for the June 2 primary should click here to learn more.

We approved several changes to address ongoing school closures. The governor announced earlier this week schools would remain closed through at least April 6, with students tentatively scheduled to return to classes April 9.

First and foremost, Senate Bill 751 would ensure school districts are making a "good faith effort" to develop a plan to offer continuing education during the closure of schools, with the plans to be developed locally by each district with guidance from the state Department of Education and technical assistance from the districts' intermediate units. The plans would need to be submitted to the department and published on the school districts' websites.

Regarding special education, the legislation would ask that notice be given to the parents of all special education students for a plan to ensure the students are receiving "free and appropriate public education."

The bill would eliminate the 180-day instruction requirement on all public and non-public schools. It would allow the secretary of Education to increase the number of allowable flexible instruction days and waive the timeline regarding those days.

Local Food Distribution and Resources:

Bangor Area School District is offering district students curbside food pick-up between 10am-2pm.

Portland Mount Bethel Food Pantry

111 State St, Portland, PA 18343

Phone: (570) 897-5847

Hours: Mondays 10am-11:30 a.m. and 6pm-7:30 p.m.

Curbside service only.

Mission of Love Food Pantry

555 N Main St Bangor, PA

Phone: 610-599-0369

Hours: Tues 9 a.m. to noon through the COVID-19 mitigation (normal hours are 10 a.m. to noon). Currently offering drive up service only.

Nazareth Area Food Bank is open during their usual hours on Tuesdays from 5:30pm-7pm. Delivery is available. <https://www.nazarethareafoodbank.org/>

Visions of Eagles

<http://www.visionsofeagles.org/>

Please contact my office for more information.

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Dial 2-1-1 or 855-501-6785

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