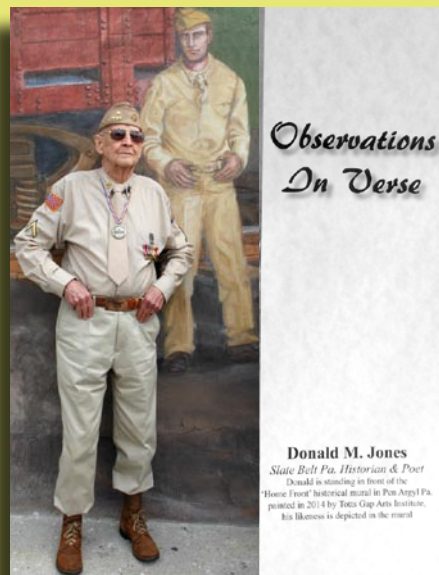


# A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



**SLATE BELT RISING IS MOVING ON  
MAKING INROADS, GAINING SPEED,  
BE A PART OF THE ACTIVITIES  
YOUR HELP AND CONCERN ARE THE NEED.**

**THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MOVE AHEAD  
WITH CITIZEN HELP IT WILL BE DONE,  
CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO GET INVOLVED  
IT'S YOUR CHANCE OF MEETING EVERYONE.**

**TODAY IS THE APPOINTED TIME  
THE SLATE BELT IS THE PLACE,  
BE A PART OF SOMETHING WORTH WHILE,  
AS OUR COMMUNITIES PRESENT THEIR CASE.**

**BECOME A PART OF THIS ENDEAVOR  
WHEN APPROACHED ANSWER THE CALL,  
THE BENEFITS ARE OUR REWARD  
WITH "SLATE BELT RISING" STANDING TALL.**

## Letter to the Editor

### Upper Mount Bethel Township Wrestles with Truck Traffic

Rt 611 and Rt 512 corridors have terrible truck traffic! The Township is across the Delaware River from Interstate 80, and trucks use our roads as a shortcut. Trucks come from NJ to deposit their loads of waste in East Bangor and Wind Gap. And they travel from the Rt 33 Charles Chrin Interchange, Sullivan Trail and Lower Mud Run to get to I 80. Truck traffic increased dramatically after the Chrin Interchange on Rt 33 opened in 2015.

This so-called "Crowning Jewel" of Charles Chrin's life is a piece of coal for those people in the villages along the way. The Chrin Commerce Park and Interchange took valuable farmland and turned it into warehouses which many curse! The residents in this Economic Develop Thorofare don't profit from it, but suffer the poor air quality, noise and congestion from truck traffic.

Martins Creek and Upper Mount Bethel have installed Radar Speed Display Signs as an approach to control speeds in the corridor, but even with the presence of the signs, vehicles are considerably exceeding the speed limit. Upper Mount Bethel Township is also planning to place a stop light at the intersection of Rts 611 and 512 to try to improve safety. The Township Supervisors are now looking to increase police coverage to enforce the speed limits, but it is an expensive move and they have not decided if they will do it. To add to our problems, the Supervisors are planning business, industrial, and residential development which will bring more traffic. Before they solve the traffic problem, they want to make it worse!

Charles Cole, Mount Bethel

## Celebrate Earth Day, Every Day!

By Adrienne Fors

PEN ARGYL - Earth Day is just around the corner and we are excited to host another year of learning and fun! This year, the PA Game Commission and Waste Management will be giving away tree saplings to the first 50 children! Please feel free to share the link to the event and tell your friends and family! We have a number of great organizations and Scout Troops joining us this year and would love to introduce you to them! Get a close look at animals from Pennsylvania and even hold a Tortoise!

I look forward to seeing many of you there! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/560612574448702/>

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**April 9**

Portland Fire Co  
Starts 7pm

**April 10**

Bushkill Twp Fire Co  
Doors 5pm  
Starts 7pm

**April 11**

Wind Gap Fire Co  
Doors 5pm; Starts  
6:45pm

**April 6**

Immaculate  
Conception  
Doors 11am;  
Starts 1pm

**April 7**

St. Elizabeth Church  
Starts 1pm

**April 8**

Kunkletown Fire Co  
Progressive  
Jackpot - 7pm

## Wolf Administration Tours Blighted Properties In Pen Argyl and Bangor

By Kelly Bonner

PEN ARGYL – On Wednesday Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Executive Deputy Secretary Neil Weaver joined Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure and other local leaders for a tour of several blighted properties in Pen Argyl and Bangor boroughs. The tour included a discussion about the region's fight against blight and how the bipartisan Restore Pennsylvania proposal could help municipalities eradicate blight.

"Restore Pennsylvania will enable municipalities like Bangor and Pen Argyl to tackle their blight challenges and increase quality of life for its residents," Weaver said. "If we want to create strong and vibrant communities, we must take action now. Restore Pennsylvania is the only plan that will prevent our communities from falling behind."

Restore Pennsylvania, the \$4.5 billion bipartisan proposal funded through a commonsense severance tax, to rebuild Pennsylvania's infrastructure, will increase resources for addressing blight by providing financial resources at the local level to establish land banks and acquire and demolish blighted buildings to create new development opportunities or provide new green space. The funding will be administered by entities established by the legislature as land banks or demolition funds.

Currently, local governments like Penn Argyl and Bangor boroughs cannot fund the demolition or redevelopment of most of their blighted properties themselves. Northampton County contains more than 3,500 blighted properties, or 4.4 percent of all properties, posing a significant economic challenge for the area. If passed into law, Restore Pennsylvania would fund blight remediation efforts at a level far beyond any existing funding mechanisms at the local and state levels.

"Blight imperils Northampton County's ability to move forward into the future with our plans to improve the lives of the folks already living here and to attract new people that we desperately need to help us continue to expand our economy," said County Executive Lamont McClure. "Governor Wolf and the Restore Pennsylvania plan present a bold and innovative opportunity to confront the scourge of blight in Northampton County and across the state."

Restore Pennsylvania is a statewide plan to aggressively address the commonwealth's vital infrastructure needs. Funded through a commonsense severance tax, Restore Pennsylvania is the only plan that will help make Pennsylvania a leader in the 21st century.



## THE UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP EASTER EGG HUNT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, April 20th 11:00 A.M.



AT THE UPPER  
MT. BETHEL  
FIRE HOUSE ON  
ROUTE 611

THE EGG HUNT WILL BEGIN AT 11:00 AM PLEASE  
ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES EARLY. COME JOIN THE FUN  
- LOTS OF GREAT PRIZES!! The event is for kids 12 &  
under. The event will be held rain or shine

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