PAGE 12 CHURCH LISTINGS BLUE VALLEY TIMES APRIL, 18 2023

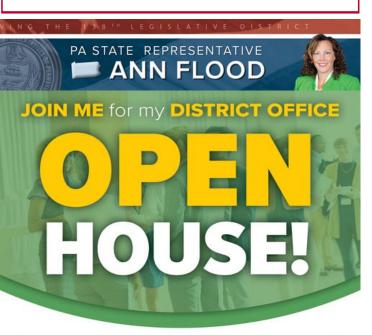
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Waste Authority con

Northampton County Accepting Applications for 2023 Grow NORCO Program Grants

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - County Executive Lamont G. McClure and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announce that the County of Northampton will accept applications for the 2023 Grow NORCO Program from April 24 until 4:00PM on June 2, 2023.

Grow NORCO grants are available to a federally registered non-profit entity, 501(C)(3) or 501(C)(4), or a municipal entity located within Northampton County. Grant funds can be used for Capital Improvements, Façade Programs, Operations, and Community Planning. Eligible organizations can apply for up to \$50,000.

Awards will be announced in November 2023 and all projects must be completed by December 31, 2024.

Interested organizations can apply by visiting the Northampton County Participant Portal hosted by Neighborly Software at:

https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/NORTHAMPTONCOUNTYPA/participant Registration is required on the Participant Portal in order to apply.

Northampton County 2023 Envirothon

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - On April 20, 2023, the Northampton County Conservation District will hold its annual Envirothon competition. The Envirothon is an environmental competition for students in grades 9 through 12. A team consists of five students and an advisor. Each team is given materials and objectives to study in advance. The teams will be tested in five areas at the competition: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, and a current environmental issue (this year's topic is 'Adapting to a Changing Climate'). This year, seven schools will compete with a total of twelve teams.

Competing are Bangor Area High School, Freedom High



School, Nazareth Area High School, Northampton Area High School, Pen Argyl Area High School, Moravian Academy Upper School, and Saucon Valley High School. At the competition, the teams rotate through the five stations taking written tests with some hands-on applications.

The team with the highest cumulative score is the winner. The event will be held from 9:30 am -2:00 pm at Louise Moore County Park, located in Bethlehem and Lower Nazareth Townships, and is sponsored this year by the Northampton County Conservation District; the Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation; The Pidcock Company; J.G. Petrucci Co. Inc.; Joe Correia; Commerce Construction Co., L.P.; Majestic Realty Co.; Ott Consulting, Inc.; Chrin of Delaware; Serfass Construction Co.; Pennsylvania American Water; Schlouch, Inc.; Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.; Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Wegman's and PA Envirothon. The Conservation District receives help from the following agencies responsible for preparing, administering, and correcting the tests:

PA Game Commission, PA DCNR – Bureau of Forestry, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Penn State Extension.

Assistance will also be provided by volunteers from the Conservation District, the Division of Parks & Recreation, and some of the sponsoring organizations. Plaques, medallions, and gift cards will be awarded to the top three scoring teams as well as prizes for the highest score achieved for each station test. We will also be giving a prize in honor of Chryss Buchman, our previous manager who passed away in 2016, to the highest-scoring team at the Current Issue Station.

We also provide an honor award to the team scoring the highest in the Soils station in the name of the late Robert H. Jones, a previous Board Director of the Northampton County Conservation District. All participants will also receive event T-shirts and Certificates of Participation.

The County winner will advance to the State competition, which is scheduled to be held at Camp Mt. Luther, Mifflinburg, PA, on May 24, 2023. Event Contact: Wendy McRoberts, Envirothon Coordinator (610) 829-6279.

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