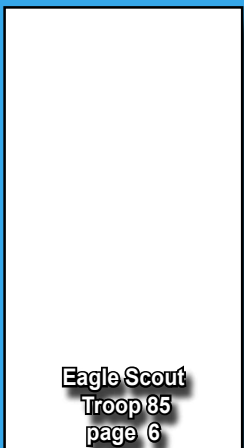




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KOC Easter Egg Hunt page 8



L-R Winner Jana Morris with Mary Jo Mathers, Executive Director of the PCB.

2019 Professional of the Year

By Mary Jo Mathers

BANGOR - On April 15, Jana Morris (Executive Director/Founder of Recovery Revolution) won the Pennsylvania Certification Board "2019 Professional of the Year." This award is given to one certified professional every year in the State of PA and is based on submitted nominations which are then voted on by the Board of Directors at the PCB. In the award letter, Ms. Morris was informed that her selection by the Board was unanimous. Ms. Morris holds two certifications through PCB: Certified Clinical Supervisor and Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor. In the words of Patti Baranowski, one of the counselor's at Recovery Revolution, "(Jana Morris) single handedly demonstrates leadership, advocates for individuals, and incorporates community solutions. Jana has also made huge strides to change the stigma that surrounds substance abuse disorders and works with the local police in an attempt to bring individuals into treatment instead of incarceration."

Here is an excerpt from Ms. Morris's speech at the event.

We have to think of ourselves as "Hope Ambassadors" rather than agents of change. The power to change lies within the individual if they choose to do the work. We are inviters into a life giving process and not controllers of outcomes.

Continued on page 7



Bangor VS Pen Argyl Softball

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - The Slaters visited their cross town rivals Green Nights this past week on a verry chilly afternoon.

The high winds didn't bother the ball from leaving ithe infield for Bangor who went on to win the game 15-3 Colonial League softball win.

Coming into the game the Slaters were
Continued on page 9

Merchants Bank Donates to ProJeCt of Easton, Inc.

By Susan Kovacs

BANGOR - Merchants Bank awarded ProJeCt of Easton, Inc. with \$2000 to support the Sizzle! Literacy Day Camp Program. The Sizzle! Literacy Day Camp Program is designed to accelerate learning skills in children in Kindergarten through fourth grade.

Programs like SIZZLE!, summer reading skills program, gives at-risk children the chance to improve their reading skills and enter the next school year confidently reading at or above their grade level. "We are pleased to partner with ProJeCt of Easton as they build a better community by providing much needed educational support services. Our support will help ProJeCt continue to improve lives and fulfill their mission." says Mark Jobes, Chief Banking Officer, Merchants Bank.



(left to right) – Anna Rittle, Branch Manager, Merchants Bank Easton office, Janice D. Komisor, M.Ed, and Mark Jobes, Chief Banking Officer, Merchants Bank

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“How Do I Get A Grant For That?”

By Frank Brooks, DCED Administrator

One of the best parts of being an administrator for the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is being able to make positive change and that positive change is often made through grants.

Grants are money that governments give to organizations to do something specific to benefit the community: install new picnic tables at a public park, preserve farmland, make a sidewalk handicapped accessible, etc.

As I travel around the County, a lot of constituents will approach me with a great idea and ask me how they can make it happen.

When I mention our grant programs, a look of panic crosses their face. The County of Northampton gives away a lot of grant money every year, but obtaining one can seem intimidating. Applicants have to describe the nature of the problem they want to tackle, detail their plan, develop a budget, and explain why it would be in the County's interest to finance the solution. For someone who's never done that before, submitting an application can be almost paralyzing.

For 2019, DCED is projected to have \$3.5 million of grant money available to support economic development, encourage community planning and to increase the quality of life for our residents. All we need now are some really great proposals from the people who live in our boroughs, townships and cities.

For the second year in a row, County Executive Lamont McClure has put together a Non-Profit Grant Writing Seminar. The next one will be held on June 13, 2019 at 8:30 AM, Alumni Hall, Northampton Community College.

The seminar will cover crafting a successful request, organizing a solid budget, and networking to find the best sources of funding. We are very fortunate to have presenters from DCED, Northampton Community College, the Department of Human Services and Lafayette College.

It's important to train as many people as we can on the application process because, while Northampton County funds local projects, grant money may soon become available on a regional basis. Congressional representatives Matt Cartwright and Susan Wild are working towards Northampton County being included in a region encompassing the Northeast portion of Pennsylvania. This would expand the number of grants an organization could qualify for, putting our area on



the same funding table as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Large grants that no one county could absorb could now become regional initiatives.

Our area is undergoing tremendous economic growth—a much different situation from twenty-two years ago when Bethlehem Steel closed down. Allentown is now the third largest city in Pennsylvania and the Greater Lehigh Valley ranks as the 65th largest economy in the nation. Northeastern Pennsylvania has become a destination site for world-class conferences and events. We enjoy pristine wilderness areas and miles of unspoiled beauty and soaring vistas. Protecting these lands while developing some into parks and recreational areas will require grants.

Providing education, affordable housing

and cultural opportunities for County residents are important for our quality of life and these are among Executive McClure's highest priorities. It's in everyone's interest to have as many non-profits and municipalities trained to write grants and to handle the money properly when they receive it.

Grants require effort and dedication, but the benefits they provide to our communities can be priceless.

County of Northampton's Grant Programs

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are funded with money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These grants assist people with low incomes for help with affordable housing, infrastructure and antipoverty programs.

Hotel Tax grants are funded through the County's tax on Hotels and Airbnb's. Eligible projects enhance tourism and promote community development within Northampton County. Applicants have to go through a competitive process and the grants are distributed at the discretion of County Council.

Community Investment Partnership Program (CIPP) grants are used to improve the quality of life for the County's older citizens and to create opportunities to stimulate economic development. The funding is obtained by the County's share of revenue from table games under the PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act.

Affordable Housing Program (AHP) grants are available to non-profits, public agencies, local governments and low-income housing providers to maintain or increase the availability of quality affordable housing. Funding comes from the State Real Estate transfer tax.

Frank Brooks is an Administrator at Northampton County's Department of Community and Economic Development.

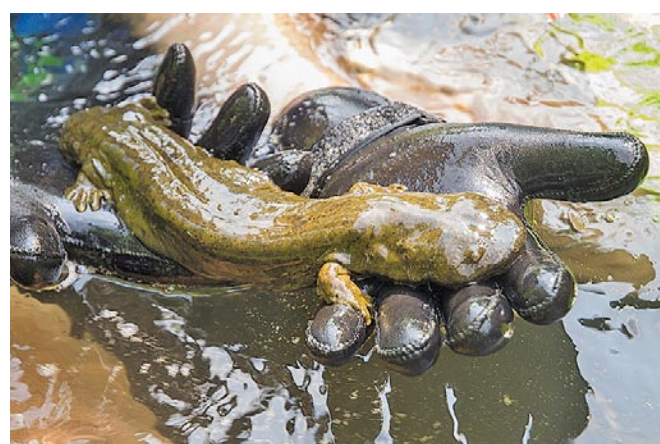
Eastern Hellbender Voted Pennsylvania's Official Amphibian

By DCNR

HARRISBURG — The House voted 191-6 Tuesday to grant the honor to the Eastern hellbender, which can grow to be more than 2 feet long as the official amphibian of Pennsylvania.

The nocturnal salamander is sometimes known as a snot otter, lasagna lizard or mud devil and is battling declining numbers across much of its range in the United States.

The path to legislative recognition was not smooth, as the Eastern hellbender



faced a stiff challenge from another amphibian called Wehrle's salamander.

Not many people have actually seen hellbenders, they live only in very clean streams, and they live under rocks.

They are the largest North American amphibian, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, and their jarring appearance has inspired a colorful set of nicknames that also include devil dog, ground puppy and Allegheny alligator.

Their range generally covers the Appalachian Mountains, from southern New York to northern Georgia.

Among the factors researchers also worry about are disease and warming water temperatures caused by climate change.

Hellbenders do not have federal protected status, and while some states give them protected status, Pennsylvania does not.

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