

## 2019 Pocono Builders Association Awards Scholarship To Catherin Kovalcik



Pictured from left to right; Senator Scavello, 2019 Scholarship Winner: Catherin Kovalcik, 2019 Special Events Committee Chair: Joseph Holbert, R.W. Buff, Inc. and 2019 Pocono Builders Association President: Erik Anderson, Lutron Electronics

## Scavello Supports Passage of "Farming First" Bills to Grow PA Agriculture

BANGOR - This week, Senator Scavello supported passage of a package of bills that would help Pennsylvania agricultural operations remain competitive and profitable for current and future generations of farmers.

Bills in the "Farming First" package that were passed by the Senate this week include:

A tax credit program for landowners to lease or sell farmland to future generations of farmers.

The creation of the Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission to bring together all stakeholders in the industry.

Changes to the state's farmland preservation program to allow farmers more flexibility for building or subdividing residences.

Updating Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code to allow the transportation of large farm equipment.

Exempting milk haulers from weather-related travel bans.

Easing restrictions on the use of farmland for farm-related tourism and entertainment activities.

Setting commonsense safety standards and removing costly requirements for barn weddings and other social events on farms.

All of the bills in the "Farming First" package were sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.

"I worked in super market for many years and I always saw local produce, grown here in Pennsylvania or somewhere else in America. Now, I go into the supermarket and see fruits and vegetables from other countries. Farming is our number-one in Pennsylvania, and we need to strengthen it for today's farmers and future generations" Said Scavello.

By Janet Campis, Executive Director Pocono Builders Association

STROUDSBURG - On May 9th the Pocono Builders Association (PBA) was pleased to award a Monroe County high school senior a scholarship to use towards her college education. Catherin Kovalcik of Saylorburg, PA, received a \$1,500 scholarship from the PBA. The scholarship awards ceremony was held during the PBA monthly membership dinner at Stroud TV & Appliance Store, where the award recipient's family joined the PBA membership in celebrating her accomplishments. Catherin Kovalcik is a senior at Pleasant Valley HS and plans to attend Syracuse University where she plans to study in Architecture. "It is a great privilege to present this scholarship on behalf of the PBA membership," expressed Erik Anderson, 2019 Pocono Builders Association President.

"The entire PBA wishes her well as Catherin heads off to further her education in the building industry." The Pocono Builders Association awards up to \$1,500 in scholarships each year to students in Monroe County who plan to further their education in a building industry field of study. The Association is proud to provide these funds as they are a reflection of PBA's goal to improve and contribute to the Pocono community through stewardship, involvement, education, public policy, and thoughtful development. The Pocono Builders Association gives special thanks to Stroud TV & Appliance and BSH Home Appliance Corp. for supporting our scholarship program and helping to make it possible to award Monroe County students for the academic achievements.

For more information on the Pocono Builders Association visit the organization's website, [www.poconobuilders.org](http://www.poconobuilders.org) or call 570-421-9009.

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In the photo (left to right) – Michael G. Boulos, VP/Residential Mortgage Loan Officer, Merchants Bank, Mr. Reinhard, Easton School District Superintendent, Kathy L. Miller, Executive Director, The Foundation for Easton Schools, Sarah E. Knoble, AVP/Forks Branch Manager, Merchants Bank

## Merchants Bank Supports The Foundation for Easton Schools

By Susan Kovacs

BANGOR - Merchants Bank donated \$2,500 to Full Steam Ahead Summer Learning Camp, a program with The Foundation for Easton Schools. The Full Steam Ahead Summer Learning Camp for students in grades K-3. The camp is a collaborative between the Easton School District, the Greater Valley YMCA and the DaVinci Science Center. The learning camp is designed to maintain or accelerate literacy, math and science skills for students who historically are victims of the academic summer slide. This camp will offer high quality, structured learning opportunities to all students through integrated and co-planned theme based lessons, allowing the students to refine their skills while learning through exploration.

"We are grateful for the support Merchants Bank provides us. Since we were first approved as an education improvement organization, The Foundation for Easton Schools has raised \$142,495 in support of our summer literacy day camp programs. We are very excited this year to partner with the United Way of the Lehigh Valley and Title 1 to offer this program to K-3 students who currently read below grade level, in an effort to avoid the 'summer slide' that often occurs when students take a three month hiatus from learning. The Easton Area School District fosters a love of reading and Full Steam Ahead focuses on all content areas through literacy," says Kathy L. Miller, Executive Director, The Foundation for Easton Schools.

"Merchants Bank identifies and supports organizations that contribute to advancing our community, a mission we share in. The Foundation for Easton Schools ensures that students are given a chance to learn more deeply and achieve greater success in their learning. We are happy to help support their efforts", says Mark Jobes, Chief Banking Officer, Merchants Bank.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - The Northampton County Department of Public Works will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on May 18th at Northampton Community College 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem, PA from 8:30am – 2:00pm. This collection event is intended for Northampton County residents only. Commercial entities, Businesses and Contractors will be turned away.

Proof of residency is required. Acceptable materials include paint products, automotive fluids, outdoor products (pesticides, herbicides, driveway sealers, pool chemicals, etc.) and household products (batteries, fire extinguishers, flammables, adhesives, aerosols, etc.) Unacceptable materials include electronics, appliances, Freon, scrap metal, explosives, ammunition, radioactive waste, fireworks, smoke/carbon monoxide protectors, medical waste, sharps, latex paint, alkaline batteries, gas cylinders and helium tanks. This is the only collection event for household hazardous waste which will be offered for Northampton County residents in 2019.