

Faith Christian

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independently produce music and content.

Salutatorian, Matthew Ocasio, is the son of Erick Ocasio and Elizabeth Colon of East Stroudsburg, PA. Matthew began his time at Faith Christian School as a kindergarten student. While at FCS, he has enjoyed singing in chorus from fifth through twelfth grade, and participated in art, yearbook, and praise team, Active in sports, Matthew played soccer throughout his middle school years and his senior year of high school. He has also run track throughout his middle and high school years and was named team captain his junior and senior years. Matthew is an active member of the National Honor Society, and as such, served a year term as vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and chaplain. As a part of the FCS Student Council, he has served as his class chaplain from his freshman through junior years, vice-president

from 10th through 12th grades, and as both treasurer and president his senior year; additionally, he was selected as president of student council during his senior year. His academic efforts have culminated with him achieving salutatorian of the Class of 2023. His favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." After graduating from FCS, Matt is planning on attending East Stroudsburg University or Northampton Community College to pursue a career in forensics.

Faith Christian School, K-12 grades, has been serving the Christian communities of the Pocono Mountains, Slate Belt, eastern New Jersey, and the Lehigh Valley areas for over 43 years. Children from ten school districts and over 50 churches comprise the diverse and outstanding student body. Most public school districts provide transportation to our school facility located one mile north of Bangor and eight miles south of Stroudsburg, off Route 191 in Roseto, Pa. Please call our office, 610-588-3414, to set up a time to visit. We look forward to meeting you soon at the corner of Dante Street and Liberty Avenue in Roseto, Pa.

SLATE BELT VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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Farmer's Markets Vouchers for Eligible County Residents

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - The following Farmers Market Voucher update is from the PA Department of Agriculture through PDA's Legislative Office.

The PA Department of Agriculture (Dept. of AG) has unfortunate news regarding the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). The vendor selected to print the 2023 checks has informed the Dept. of AG that the previously agreed upon check delivery date of June 1, 2023, is no longer feasible. Instead, the checks are not expected to ship until June 23, 2023. Due to the printing facility being located in Utah, Dept. of AG estimates the delivery dates to be June 28, 29, and 30th.

This year, the PA Dept. of AG is transitioning the checks to a hybrid electronic solution that will allow farmers to more quickly and easily deposit their checks. However, this transition to a hybrid check with embedded QR codes has resulted in significant computer programming delays for the printer. Additionally, the Dept. of AG has been informed that the specialty paper upon which the checks are printed has not yet been received at the printer. These delays have pushed the production date for the checks back significantly. Please know that the Dept. of AG is continuing to work with the vendor to expedite this process in any way possible to get the checks into hand of Pennsylvanians in need of food assistance at the earliest possible date.

It is understood that the unexpected delay will put pressure on individuals who receive these funds, as

they have budgeted anticipating the checks to arrive on June 1st. However, checks will still be available for the majority of the Farmers Market season – with check redemption running through November 30 – and the value of checks available to eligible recipients will remain the same as planned. (This year, each eligible WIC recipient will receive 3-\$10 vouchers and each eligible senior will receive 5-\$10 vouchers.) As new information and timelines are available, updates will be provided.

There will be no in-person distribution of coupons in 2023. Seniors may only receive vouchers once during the program, which runs from June 1, 2023, until November 30, 2023.

Application forms are available on the AAA website:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Agriculture, Senior Farmers' Nutrition Program, 2023 Application Form (northampton-county.org)

A list of participating farmer's markets can be accessed at: www.PAFMNP.org.

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