

# Stroudsburg Heritage Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

By Amy Leiser, Executive Director  
STROUDSBURG -

The Monroe County Historical Association held a ceremony to commemorate the groundbreaking of the Heritage Center on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library, 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg.

The 1795 Stroud Mansion, located at the corner of Main and 9th Streets in downtown Stroudsburg, serves as the headquarters for the Monroe County Historical Association. The historic structure offers four floors of museum exhibit space highlighting the history of Monroe County and a Research Library with an extensive and unique collection of genealogical and other reference materials on state and local history. The Monroe County Historical Association maintains the valuable, one-of-a-kind artifacts and archives contained within the building and interprets those items through its educational and outreach programs.

The Heritage Center expansion will consist of approximately 7,000

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## WM Band American Kestrels

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL – Grand Central Landfill's wildlife habitat team held an event to band young American kestrels, *Falco sparverius*, last week, at the WM Grand Central Environmental Education Center.

Bird bander and WM Employee Kevin Kelly, carefully remove the young raptors from their nest box, determine the gender and band the birds, and return the animals to their nest. The American kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, is the world's smallest falcon. Its summer range includes the lower 48 states and most of Canada; its winter range includes most of the U.S., including Northeast Pennsylvania.

The bird's population is listed as "in decline." Information recorded at Grand Central will be shared with the American Kestrel Partnership which is building a database of information to better understand the species, the challenges it is facing, and what can be done to rebuild its population. Kestrels are about the size of a blue jay and nest in cavities, including holes in trees and boxes.

Unlike other falcons, kestrels capture their prey – small birds, rodents, reptiles, and insects – on the ground. The bird prefers a grassland habitat where it can hover over meadow areas and hunt. Three kestrel nest boxes have been in use at Grand Central since 2007 when the late Paul "Birdman" Karner placed the boxes on the property. Nearly 100 American Kestrels have been banded at Grand Central over the last 16 years.

