

Flood Applauds Permanent Farmland Preservation in Lower Mount Bethel Township

By State Rep. Ann Flood

HARRISBURG – Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) is pleased to announce a 30-acre crop farm in Lower Mount Bethel Township has been permanently preserved through Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program.

The preservation of the property, owned by Jonathan A. and Angela M. Templeton, was made possible through a \$213,764 investment of state funds. This 138th District farm is among 22 farms across Pennsylvania approved for preservation by the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

"Protecting farmland is essential to preserving our agricultural heritage and supporting the long-term strength of our local communities," said Flood. "I am pleased to see this investment in Northampton County and grateful to the landowners for their commitment to keeping this property in agricultural production."

Through the Farmland Preservation Program, development rights are purchased from willing landowners to ensure preserved farms remain dedicated to agricultural use and are protected from future residential or commercial development.

Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program has protected 6,726 farms and more than 667,000 acres in 58 counties since its creation in 1988. Statewide, nearly \$8.8 million was invested to preserve 1,775 acres on 22 farms through the board's latest round of approvals.

Northampton County Executive Tara Zrinski State of the County Address

*National Museum of Industrial History, 602 E. 2nd Street, Bethlehem
June 24, 2026, 5:10 p.m. – State of Northampton County Address*

By Kelly Prentice

[Northampton County, PA] – Northampton County Executive Tara Zrinski will give her State of the County address at the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH) on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. This event includes hors d'oeuvres and is hosted by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsors include Northampton Community College, ABE Airport Authority, BSI Corporate Benefits, Natural Food Group, and Service Electric Business.

During her Annual Address, Executive Zrinski will highlight Northampton County's strongest accomplishments over the past five months, including key initiatives that have shaped the county's progress and development.

"When I look at my first 100 days in office, I see a County government that is becoming more connected, more transparent, and more responsive," said Executive Zrinski. "I see teams working across traditional boundaries to solve problems in smart ways. And, I see the beginning of something bigger—a county government that is not only managing today's challenges, but preparing for tomorrow's opportunities. Together, we have accomplished significant milestones, and I am excited to discuss our path forward as we advocate for the needs of our community."

The meet-and-greet mixer and networking event is open to the public and registration is required.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/49SPCUw>

Media is encouraged to attend and should register at kprentice@norcopa.gov.



Leave Young Wildlife Alone

By Michael Ortoski

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is reminding those spending time in the great outdoors to leave young wildlife alone.

While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, usually they are not. It's likely their mothers are watching over them from somewhere nearby. When encountering young wild animals, whether deer, birds, raccoons or something else, the commission says the best thing you can do is leave them alone.

Interfering with or removing any wild animal from its natural setting can be harmful to both people and wildlife. It also is illegal to take or possess wildlife from the wild. Under state law, the penalty for such a violation is a fine of up to \$1,500 per animal.

Only wildlife rehabilitators, who are licensed by the Game Commission, are permitted to care for injured or orphaned wildlife for the purposes of eventual release back into the wild. For those who find wildlife that truly is in need of assistance, a listing of licensed wildlife rehabilitators can be found on the

Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators website.

If you are unable to identify a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact the Game Commission by phone at 1-833-PGC-WILD or 1-833-PGC-HUNT.



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- ★ Heritage Festival All Day
- ★ Macungie Band - 10:00 AM
- ★ Cast Away Band - 1:00 PM
- ★ Stacy Gabel Band - 4:00 PM
- M80 PARTY BAND 7:00 PM**
- DRONE & LASER LIGHT SHOW 9:00 PM**

SUNDAY – COMMUNITY PARK

- ★ Community Worship - 9:30 AM
- ★ Kendal Conrad - 12:00 PM
- ★ Reservoir Hill Country Band - 3:00 PM
- ★ Mahoney Brothers - 6:00 PM
- 🐾 Petting Zoo - 12 - 5 PM
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One of Emmaus' Largest Community Celebrations in Years Planned for July 24-26

By Hayden Rinde

EMMAUS, PA — The Borough of Emmaus, in partnership with community organizations including Emmaus Main Street Partners, the Emmaus Historical Alliance, and numerous other local groups, will host the Emmaus 250 Celebration from July 24-26, 2026. The three-day festival will commemorate America's 250th anniversary with one of the largest community celebrations the borough has hosted in years, featuring live music, historical experiences, family activities, local food vendors, and a spectacular drone and laser light show.

Designed to showcase the rich history and strong community spirit of Emmaus, the celebration will transform downtown streets, historic sites, parks, and public gathering spaces into destinations for residents and visitors alike. The weekend will bring together local businesses, nonprofits, performers, veterans, faith organizations, and community volunteers in a shared tribute to America's semi quincentennial and Emmaus' own unique heritage.

The celebration begins Friday, July 24, with an Opening Ceremony at 5:00 p.m. at the borough's gateway entrance near the Emmaus Public Library. The ceremony will feature the unveiling of a new borough welcome sign, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence by the local Girl and Boy Scout Troops and special presentation by the Emmaus Veterans Committee. Following the ceremony, the Main Street Cruisers will perform at the Triangle beginning at 6:30 p.m., with food vendors available throughout the evening.

For additional event details, schedules, updates, and announcements, visit facebook.com/emmaus250.