

FREE

VOL. 28 NO. 29 SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J. WEEKLY IN PRINT AND DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK JULY 16, 2019



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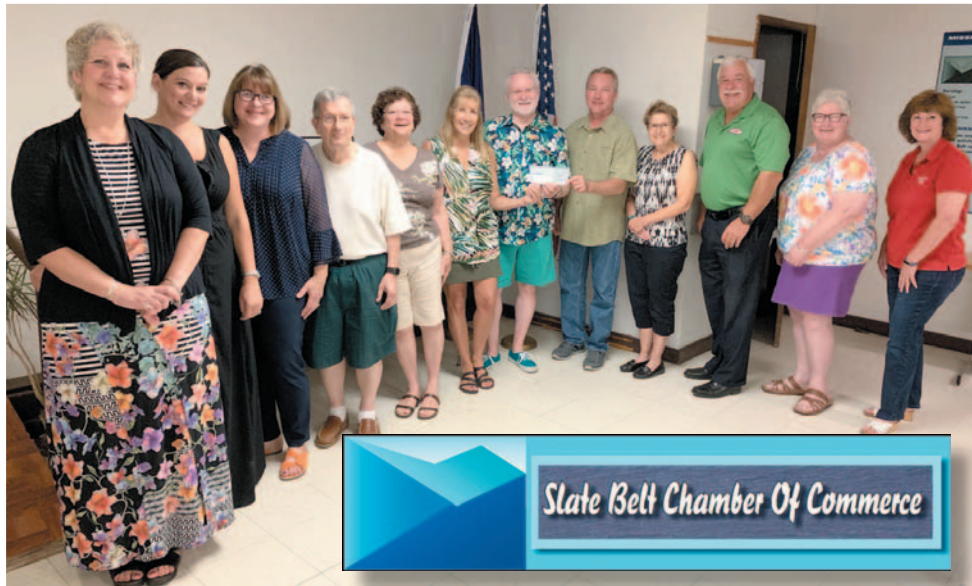
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Green Knights Economic Development Corporation Grants Awarded

By Michael Ortoski



Center Left Steve Hurni from GKEDC and also Chamber board member presents check to Slate Belt Chamber President Jeff Ott surrounded by Slate Belt Chamber board members

BANGOR - At their monthly meeting the Slate Belt Chamber SBCC was presented a check for \$3000 from the Green Knights Economic Development Corporation GKEDC thru their community grant program. Steve Hurni from GKEDC and also a SBCC board member presented the check and commended the Chamber all for their good work in the community.

The money will be used for promoting the Slate Belt and other marketing strategies.

GKEDC has distributed over \$750,000 in grants to more than 40 non-profit organizations including over \$120,000 to Families First, over \$100,000 to the Blue Mountain Community Library, and \$30,000 to the Pen Argyl Parks and Athletic Association to repair the slate roof on the historic carousel at Weona Park. Other organizations that have received support include Wind Gap Borough Park Board, Sullivan Trail Sertoma, volunteer fire and ambulance companies, local Boy Scout troops and athletic organizations.

YMCA Field Day and Free Summer Lunch Program



L-R Slate Belt Y Dir. Jen DeLong, Lana Black-Vista Summer, Joe DeFrank Y Staff

By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - For its second year, a free summer meals program from the Greater Valley YMCA has more than doubled in size. The YMCA announced it will serve free meals to children at 12 sites this summer, from branch locations to community parks throughout the Lehigh Valley.

During the school year, we know that many children depend on free or reduced lunch. However once summer vacation begins, children lose access to food that is available to them during the rest of the year. With help from our partners, the Y is able to step up to meet an important community need of feeding kids in the summer months.

Also during the summer the Y puts on one of it's big events called Field Day for all of their summer day campers from all over the Lehigh Valley. On Wednesday 10 camps were together for fun, games, and friendly competition. Thanks to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms at PPL Center they let the Y borrow 'meLVin' (the LV Phantoms mascot) for the morning to kick off the day and lead the YMCA Dance from the stage.



L-R Michael Ortoski, Pastor Frank, two summer lunch campers

Mission of Love Food Bank Receives \$3000 from GKEDC

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - I was happy the give Pastor Frank Pons from Mission of Love Food Bank/Pantry (MOLFB) a check for \$3000 I received from the Green Knights Economic Development Corporation GKEDC from a grant I applied for on behalf of the MOLFB.

The money will be used to purchase a 40' outdoor container to store dry goods.

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Mission of Love Food Bank Continued from page 1

Their building at 555 North Main St. Bangor has run out of room and Pons said he was turning down donations of dry goods every week. "The donation will allow us to purchase a matching container the size of our new out door freezer.

In 2018 they received a \$10,000 grant from Waste Management, and another \$5000 from local business' and community members for a 8'x40' outdoor freezer that was installed this year and is up and running.

"We share our good fortune with the Portland Upper Mt. Bethel Pantry (PUMP) so we can both better serve our community" Pons said.

The Mission of Love Food Bank & Pantry (MOLF) and the Portland Upper Mt. Bethel Pantry (PUMP) are presently serving 1000 families per month. "We are quickly realizing that the number of needy families continue to grow and along with that comes expansion" said Pastor Frank.

Second Harvest has been their main source of food until about mid-2017 until they received a large weekly donation of goods from another supplier of meats, produce and dairy products that needed refrigeration and freezers.

MOLF has also been the recipient of a \$50,000 LSA grant I helped write with the county to purchase a 15' box truck that they desperately need. Currently they are spending over \$200 a week to rent and sometime have to borrow a truck from the PUMP.

Delivery of the truck should be in the fall.

Starting last week at the MOLF was Mission of Love Ministries Summer Kids Lunch Program that runs Thursdays only from 11am - 1 pm from July 11 - August 22 at their 555 N. Main St. Bangor location.

Three Cheers for Parks and Recreation

By DCNR

HARRISBURG - July is Parks and Recreation Month across the nation. In addition to celebrating our independence during the month, and summer vacation, it's the perfect time of year to think about how lucky we are to have nearby parks to enjoy, and all types of activities -- hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, wildlife watching -- available in our commonwealth.

Pennsylvanians own more than 6,000 community parks and 12,000 miles of trails in every nook and county. They are brought to you by counties, municipalities, and some non-profit organizations.

There also are 121 (award-winning!) state parks, with one within 25 miles of nearly every resident, and free to all. They are managed by DCNR.

And along with state and local parks are countless playgrounds, pools, beaches, campsites, marinas, picnic areas, athletic fields, skate parks, dog parks, festival venues, gardens, visitor centers, historic and cultural attractions, and many other recreational facilities and amenities. Wow!



The First Park and Recreation Professionals Day

By DCNR

HARRISBURG - July 19 is earmarked as the first Park and Recreation Professionals Day to honor the men and women who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide the parks and recreation programs and facilities that we enjoy every day.

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Opens In A New Window -- a statewide association providing professional development, leadership, and resources for those working and volunteering in the parks and recreation field -- encourages us to show some love for the people that keep these facilities safe, beautiful, welcoming, and fun.

Bottoms Up! Diaper Drive to benefit Third Street Alliance

By Michael Ortoski

EASTON - Weyerbacher has partnered with Third Street Alliance for Women & Children for Bottoms Up!, a diaper drive that will run the entire month of July.

During the month of July, anyone that brings a new package of diapers, any size, during their visit to The Tap Room will get a free pint! One pint per person per visit.

Why is the Bottoms Up! drive so important? Third Street Alliance's shelter is full. They currently have more than 20 single women and families living in the shelter. Those families include 33 children - including 4 infants/babies. The diapers donated during this drive will help the families that need them the most and help defray the cost of diapers, which can be a large expense for the families in the shelter.

What: Bottoms Up! Diaper Drive to benefit Third Street Alliance

Where: Weyerbacher Brewing @ 905 Line Street, Easton PA 18042

When: July 1st - 31st, during operating hours

Why: Donate new diapers for increasing amount of families in need, receive a free pint

Contact: For additional questions, stacie@weyerbacher.com or (610) 216-3935

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900 N. Main Street., Bangor, PA 18013

Published Weekly/Every Tuesday

Available on the web 24/7 at www.bluevalleytimes.com and Facebook

Phone: 610-452-9234
Email: bvtimes@rcn.com

News / Advertising Deadline
12 noon Fridays

Owner - Michael Ortoski / Michele Hanna
Publisher - Michael Ortoski
Sales - Michael Ortoski
Asst. Editor - Anne Brown
Graphic Design / Photography - MM4 Corp
Feature Writers - Peg R. Berger
Interns from - Pen Argyl, Bangor and Stroudsburg H.S.

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