

Northampton County Accepting Applications for Public Safety Grants

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - County Executive Lamont G. McClure and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announce that the County will begin accepting applications for the 2024 Public Safety Grants starting on July 22nd until 4:00 p.m. on August 30th.

Public Safety Grants are available to Northampton County's municipal and volunteer Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations. The grants can be used for capital improvements, vehicle purchases, equipment purchases, and training. Eligible organizations can apply for up to \$20,000 per application or project.

Approvals are scheduled to be announced in December 2024.

"Our emergency management organizations play a crucial role in safeguarding public health and safety," says Executive McClure. "These grants enable us to equip our first responders with the necessary tools and resources to serve the residents of Northampton County effectively. Although it is not a primary responsibility of the County, we believe it is our moral duty to assist police, fire departments, and EMS services throughout the County whenever our budget allows."

Interested organizations can apply by visiting the Northampton County Participant Portal hosted by Neighborly Software at: <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/NORTHAMPTONCOUNTYPA/participant>. Registration is required on the Participant Portal in order to apply. Program inquiries should be directed to: Sarah Ortiz Northampton County DCED 610-829-6308 sortiz@norcopa.gov.

Protecting Property Owners Against Squatters

By Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - Legislation that would make it easier for property owners to get unauthorized occupants – or squatters – out of their properties has been approved by the General Assembly and is awaiting the governor's signature to become law.

Senate Bill 1236 aims to provide more certainty and clarity for homeowners, landlords and law enforcement officers who must deal with squatters by codifying existing case law on the subject.

Currently, property owners face an exhausting and often painful journey to reclaim their properties. The requirement to issue a "notice to quit" to individuals who have no legitimate claim on a property burdens property owners financially and emotionally.

The bill passed both the House and Senate unanimously.

Celebrating PA as Birthplace of American Democracy

By Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - The quintessential symbol of the Commonwealth and our nation's independence – the Liberty Bell – will soon be featured on a new Pennsylvania license plate and on welcome signs at state-border entry points.

The new plates and signs reflect the Commonwealth's key role in our nation's history, as well as its role in marking the nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

The license plates will not be available until next year, but you can sign up now to receive an email update when the new license plates are ready to order in spring 2025. Military, special organization, special fund and specialty plates without legislatively mandated designs will also be updated with the new design.

When the plates become available, fee information will be included with replacement instructions on PennDOT's website and will vary based on plate type and any optional personalization. The department and its partners will use all existing standard issue license plate inventory before transitioning to the new plate design.

The new welcome signs located at state-border entry points have already been installed in eight locations: on U.S. 15 in Adams County; Interstate 295 in Bucks County; Interstate 90/the Ohio line in Erie County; Interstate 70 in Fulton County; Interstate 80 in Monroe County; Route 449 in Potter County; Interstate 81 in Susquehanna County; and Route 1015 in Tioga County. Another 29 signs will be installed in the coming months.



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