

FUTURELV Draft Is Here

By LVPC

LEHIGH VALLEY – The Lehigh Valley is growing fast and the world is changing even faster.

FutureLV: The Regional Plan is designed to help us prepare for all that change as a thriving region works to manage its growth and prepare for the arrival of more people, more visitors, more online shopping, more autonomous vehicles and well, just plain more of almost everything.

After nearly three years that included more than 170 public meetings and events and participation by 8,500 residents, a draft of the plan is now available at LVPC.org and at public offices across the region. Serving as the plan for Lehigh and Northampton counties, FutureLV will remain open for public comment through September 23.

The plan includes an innovative approach toward managing a successful region's continued growth, while protecting the key aspects – farmland, open space, scenic vistas, prime location – that are so important in defining its high quality of life. But the challenges ahead are many, and will require we work together.

"FutureLV is a blueprint for a vibrant, sustainable, resilient and forward-moving region," said Becky Bradley, LVPC Executive Director. "Rising to the challenges before the community, being mindful of the diverse and important assets we have and positioning the Lehigh Valley for the future the community wants and needs, will require everyone to contribute. The most successful regions in the US and World are built on collaboration, partnerships and a collective understanding that everyone is an owner. We must start now."

The plan will be available for comment at <https://www.lvpc.org/futurelv.html> through September 23.

Hahn Appointed to Property Tax Working Group

By Scott Little

HARRISBURG – As a former legislative staff member and nearly five-term member of the Legislature, state Rep. Marcia Hahn (R-Bushkill Township) has been on the front lines of the property tax debate. For that reason, she has been appointed to serve on a School Property Tax Working Group that met Monday for the second time. The group consists of House and Senate members from both sides of the aisle.

"This is a very complex issue that in some ways is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to funding education in Pennsylvania," Hahn said. "We are looking not only at possibly reducing or even eliminating school property taxes, but also the cost drivers that would impact any piece of legislation we put forward and affect its sustainability for future generations."

Hahn says there are eight pieces of school property tax legislation that have been introduced in the House and Senate, including her House Bill 1200. The working group is evaluating the merits of each one of them.

"While the understood goal obviously is providing relief for taxpayers, our objective as an appointed group of legislators is to discover which bill or combination of bills has the best chance to garner 102 votes in the House, 26 Senate votes and the signature of the governor," said Hahn. "Nothing gets done if a piece of legislation can't accomplish that."

"Over the years, I've heard many constituents say they simply want school property taxes eliminated," Hahn added. "Doing so would mean having to come up with a stable source of revenue that will generate more than \$8.5 billion annually, and that figure increases each fiscal year."

"The ideal situation would be to find that funding source, in addition to a way to reduce the price tag for education. Accomplishing that would serve as even greater stewardship of taxpayer dollars."

Slate Belt Rising To Host Second Annual Slate Belt Bash

By Steve Reider

SLATEBELT – The Slate Belt Rising Neighborhood Partnership Program is excited to announce that it will be hosting its second annual Slate Belt Bash and Road Rally Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, September 29 from 11 am until 4 pm at Weona Park in Pen Argyl Borough! The event will feature food and beverages from local businesses including Hillside Smokehouse, JT Grill, Bangor Trust Brewing, and Franklin Hill Vineyards. The event will be fun for the entire family with live entertainment from Steve Brosky and Bev Conklin, games, mini golf and carousel rides on the famous Weona Park Carousel!

For those that are looking for an adventure there will be a road rally scavenger hunt throughout the Slate Belt region from 9 am until 12 pm. The cost to participate in the scavenger hunt is \$40 per team of four people (one car.) There will be cash prizes for 1st-3rd place teams with \$1,000 for first place! Registration is required to participate in the scavenger hunt and the deadline to register is September 6, there will be no registrations the day of the event. For additional information and to register, call Slate Belt Rising at 484-523-0900 or visit slatebeltrising.org.

Funding for the Slate Belt Rising program is provided by Waste Management and Merchants Bank of Bangor, both of which receive tax credits from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. ESSA Bank and Trust, Fulton Bank and the County of Northampton provide additional support.

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**Ken
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*Owner of Slate
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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Some Assembly Required

For some of us, seeing those words on a box at the store is exciting, but for others it can be scary. If you are the kind of person who doesn't like assembly, then Ikea is not the place for you. I swear they could ship an aircraft carrier in a box that would fit in your SUV. It would weigh 15000 tons but it would definitely fit in your car. Then at the actual time of assembly you need to decipher the universal language used in the instructions. No real words, just arrows and exclamation points. There are many more ways to do it wrong than there are to do it right.

There is quite a lot of assembly required with air conditioners too. Especially the mini split kind that is very popular today. They are even advertised as DIY on many web sites. If 'Y' are a mechanical genius with a lot of tools, the advertisement may be correct. But if the extent of your DIY is Ikea furniture, you will probably be in for a big disappointment. For example when we install a mini split heat pump, we have a number of tools that allow us to do it with expert precision and insure that there are no leaks in the system before we take your money and leave. We pressurize every system with 500 psi of nitrogen before we start it up so that we can check for leaks. That is the biggest problem with those systems and even though it will work the day you turn it on if there is a leak, it will soon lose its ability to heat and cool. Finding and repairing that leak will not be cheap because all of the refrigerant will be gone by the time you realize it's not working. I will be very honest with anyone who calls with a DIY mini split problem. The money they saved by attempting to do it themselves is probably going to vanish. We have to troubleshoot then repair and verify that the problem is fixed. Since we put a warranty on our work, we have to do it right the first time. Broken plastic parts and fried electronics are the responsibility of the owner to procure so we may need to come back again to install them.

When you amortize the cost of a mini split system over its actual lifetime, professional installation is a very small part of it. We have seen too many systems that were virtually not worth repairing when they were not even 10 years old.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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Young Leader Achieves Eagle Scout Rank

By Michael Ortoski
EASTON - Phillip Troy Crowell of Boy Scout Troop 31 in Easton achieved the rank of Eagle Scout last weekend. Phillip is an active leader in his troop and his community. For his Eagle Scout project, he mothballed the Ice House at the Phillipsburg Missionary Alliance Church. Mothballing is securing a building from weather, animals and/or vandalism.



Coed Season Champions



Women's "A" Season Champions



Women's "B" Season Champions

Bangor Park Volleyball League 2019 Season Champions

By Marc Ennico

BANGOR - 1. Women's "A" Season Champions - Reimer Bros. (Left to Right) Christine Ennico, Lisa Bair, Joann Dentith, Katie Parsons, Sheri Oessenick, Vanessa Giaquinto.

2. Women's "B" Season Champions - Super Spikers (Left to Right) Heather Havlik, Kays Tuerff, Kayla Lovallo, Morgan Reiss, Diane Reiss, Kate Flatt

3. Coed Season Champions - Hill's Kitchen (Left to Right and Top to bottom) Scott Galebach, Jason Labar, Kyle DeVito, Marie Cuocco-Galebach, Stephanie Merlo, Vanessa Giaquinto