



# BANGOR VS Northern Lehigh

By Michael Ortoski  
 BANGOR - The Slaters opened up their home game schedule on Friday night by beating Northern Lehigh 28-21 for a 2-1 record so far this year matching their rival Green Knights.

The Slaters were interviewed on TV last week after a win by the 'Big Ticket' about their 100th 'Big Game' against rival Pen Argyl.

To get your tickets for the 'Big Game' go to: [www.slatebeltrivalry.com](http://www.slatebeltrivalry.com)



## Annual Craft Vendor Show

### In the Greenhouses

### Sat., Sept. 14th

### 9am - 4pm

Rain or Shine

Large Selection Of Vendors!  
 Enjoy Savings Throught The Garden Center Too!

Spin The Wheel For Additional Prizes And Discounts  
 \*with A \$25 Purchase\*

Fall Crafts for Kids Workshop  
 Sunday, September 29th  
 FMI: Visit our website & Facebook Page

A great selection of perennials & shrubs still available

## Fall Mums & Decor

### Large 9" Mums

Check Out Our Facebook Page & Website For Specials  
[WWW.GINDERGREENHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.GINDERGREENHOUSE.COM) LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

# Summer is Here



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Go to [www.bluevalleytimes.com](http://www.bluevalleytimes.com)  
 Click on 'PHOTO GALLERY'  
 to see photos from this issue



### Slate Belt Cocktail Reception

Please Join Us  
 Thursday October 17, 2019  
 Wind Gap Fire Social Hall  
 Cocktail reception from 6PM-6:45PM and Program starting at 7PM

Honoring  
 2019 Good Scout Award Recipients  
 Mayor Lance Prator and Ronold Karasek Esq.

Please Indicate Choice:

- Gold Sponsor (\$2,000) - Purchase six tents for summer camp  
 Includes attendance for ten guests, full page ad in printed program, signage display and recognition from podium: as our Presenting Sponsor
- Eagle Sponsor (\$1,500) - Purchase three tents for summer camp  
 Includes attendance for eight guests, full page ad in printed program and recognition during event.
- Life Sponsor (\$1,000) - Send two Scouts to summer camp  
 Includes attendance for six guests and half page ad in the printed program
- First Class Sponsor (\$500) - Send four Cub Scouts to day camp  
 Includes attendance for four guests and a 1/2 page ad in the printed program
- Tenderfoot Sponsor (\$300) - Support one Scout for the program year  
 Includes attendance for two guests and 1/4 page ad in the printed program
- Individual Tickets (\$80). Number of guests attending \_\_\_\_\_
- I am unable to attend. However, I would like to send a Scout in my place \_\_\_\_\_ # tickets at \$80
- I am unable to attend. Please accept the following donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Sponsorship Opportunities (does not include attendance to dinner):

<input type="checkbox"/> Outside Back Cover (8" H X 5" W) \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page Ad (8" H X 5" W) \$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Front Cover (8" H X 5" W) \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page Ad (4" H X 5" W) \$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Back Cover (8" H X 5" W) \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page Ad (2.5" H X 5" W) \$150
	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card Size Ad \$100

Please return form by October 11th, 2019 Please email artwork in a .jpeg or .pdf format to Michael.lapolla@scouting.org

Payment Method:  
 Check enclosed made payable to Minsi Trails Council, BSA  Please Bill Me  Pay by Credit Card

Please mail to: Minsi Trails Council, P.O. Box 20624 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624 Michael.lapolla@Scouting.org P. 610-465-8560 F. 610-465-4500

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Making Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
 MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL  
 MINSITRAILS.ORG 610.264.8551



**September 16**

Portland Fire Co  
Starts 7pm

**September 17**

Bushkill Twp Fire Co  
Doors 5pm  
Starts 7pm

**September 13**

Wind Gap Fire Co  
Doors 5pm; Starts  
6:45pm

**September 14**

Immaculate  
Conception  
Doors 11am;  
Starts 1pm

**September 15**

St. Elizabeth Church  
Starts 1pm

**September 12**

Kunkletown Fire Co  
Progressive  
Jackpot - 7pm

## The Show Room On 512

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**Sunday, September 8th to Saturday, September 14th, 2019**



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THE CHICKEN CORNER | MAD J'S BBQ  
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BIRTHRIGHT BREWING CO. | SLATE QUARRY HOTEL  
SWEETS N SAVORIES | ZANETTE'S NAZARETH GRILL  
MIGUEL'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE | SUBSTATION - NAZARETH  
WIDOW'S TAVERN & GRILLE

To view the delicious deals, visit: [lehighvalleychamber.org/NazAreaRW](http://lehighvalleychamber.org/NazAreaRW)



# Changes Needed to Help More Volunteer Firefighters Protect Communities They Serve

By Gary Miller

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today called for changes to state law to give volunteer firefighters more flexibility to use the state aid they receive to help protect their communities.

“When we have an emergency, we count on firefighters to come to our aid,” DePasquale said. “But the way fire companies operate is changing and the brave men and women willing to risk their lives to protect us need our help.”

Current state law tightly restricts how volunteer firefighters’ relief associations (VFRA) may spend the state aid they receive.

“Some relief associations have met their operational funding needs and have accumulated significant reserves that they may be unable to spend because of the restrictions contained in state law,” DePasquale said. “At the same time, relief associations statewide are having difficulty recruiting new volunteers and struggling to provide support to their affiliated fire departments.”

DePasquale said the situation is even more complicated where fire departments rely on a combined staff of paid and volunteer firefighters. Relief associations are legally separate from the fire departments they support and state aid provided under Act 118 of 2010 is intended to solely benefit volunteer firefighters.

“Because of the way the current law is written, relief associations lack the flexibility to fully use their allotment of state funding to help other volunteer firefighters protect our communities,” he said.

The recent audit of the York Volunteer Firemen’s Relief Association, which has more than \$4 million in cash and investments, highlights the need for changes in the law.

“In fact, there are nearly 60 volunteer relief associations sitting on a reserve balance above \$1 million because current law severely restricts how they can use the money. I want to make sure that state funding intended to help volunteer firefighters is doing exactly that.

“I’ll bet if you ask any one of these associations how they could use this money to help recruit, equip and protect volunteer firefighters, they’d give you a list a mile long. But, then they would tell you they are not allowed because the law is so narrow that it’s hurting firefighters. Clearly, the law must change.”

DePasquale was joined by Harrisburg Fire Chief Brian Enterline in calling on the General Assembly to fix the law so that state funding can be used in a way that better meets local needs.

Act 118 of 2010 governs the overall operation of volunteer firefighter relief associations and restricts how state funding may be spent. The list of eligible expenses is found online here.

VFRAs receive state aid from a 2 percent state tax on fire insurance premiums purchased by Pennsylvania residents from out-of-state casualty insurance companies. In 2018, 2,518 municipalities received \$55.1 million for distribution to VFRAs to provide training, purchase equipment and insurance, and pay for death benefits for volunteer firefighters. The Department of the Auditor General distributes the state aid following a formula set in Act 205 of 1984.

“The formula that directs where state funding goes has not been updated since 1984,” DePasquale noted. “The way communities provide fire protection services has changed a lot in the past 35 years, and the General Assembly needs to bring the law into the 21st century.”

DePasquale said regardless of whether relief associations have cash reserves, Pennsylvanians should continue to generously support local fire departments and also consider volunteering.

Review the York Volunteer Firemen’s Relief Association of the City of York audit report and learn more about the Department of the Auditor General online at [www.paauditor.gov](http://www.paauditor.gov).

