



L-R Center three women- 1st Place \$1,000 winners : Shelia Schriner, Norma Jean Koch, Kim Bray, Along with Slate Belt Rising committee members



L-R Steve Reider SBR Dir., 2nd Place Winners \$500: 'Party Train' Bill Parr Team Leader, SBR co-chairs Nate Dysart and Steph Steel.



L-R Center - 3rd Place \$200: 'Camp Fire Crew' Zack Claric, Brian Claric, Brooke Kerzner, Phillip Kerzner, Along with Slate Belt Rising committee members

2nd Annual Slate Belt Bash and Road Rally Scavenger Hunt

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - The Slate Belt Rising hosted its second annual Slate Belt Bash and Road Rally Scavenger Hunt on Sunday at Weona Park in Pen Argyl Borough.

The event started at 9am with all the contestants for the Road Rally searching through the Slate Belt for items they needed to win till noon.

A total of 25 teams of 4 in each vehicle participated, all with creative names like 'Llamam Moma's', 'Not Fast & Not Furious', 'Party Train' and some even decorated their cars with their names.

The winners were: 1st Place \$1,000: 'Not Fast & Not Furious' Kim Bray, Sheila Schriner, Norma Jean Koch, Chris Koch.

2nd Place \$500: 'Party Train' Bill Parr, Lori Parr, Steph Parr, Diane Hahn

3rd Place \$200: 'Camp Fire Crew' Brooke Kerzner, Phillip Kerzner, Zack Claric, Brian Claric

The event featured food and beverages from local businesses including Hillside Smokehouse, JT Grill, Bangor Trust Brewing, and Franklin Hill Vineyards. The event was fun for the entire family with live entertainment from Steve Brosky and Bev Conklin.

Pen Argyl Borough provided FREE mini golf and carousel rides on their famous Weona Park Carouse. Bouncy houses and other FREE games were set up for the children.

Watch for next years Bash Date in the Blue Valley Times and Slate Belt Rising at slatebeltrising.org.

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Weona Park Pool Feasibility Meeting

By Robin Zmoda / Pen Argyl Borough Manager

PEN ARGYL - Pen Argyl Borough will host a public meeting on the future development of Weona Park Pool on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Weona Park Community Center, 25 S Main Street, Pen Argyl, PA 18072.

The Borough's consultant, Wallover Architects is assisting the Borough in understanding the feasibility of a water feature at Weona Park and will be conducting the meeting. There will be a presentation made to the public and public input will be welcomed. Input from this meeting will be used to assist the Weona Park Pool Feasibility Committee in developing a plan.

Please come to discuss the future development of the park at our open house.


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Portland Fire Co
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October 8
Bushkill Twp Fire Co
Doors 5pm
Starts 7pm

October 4
Wind Gap Fire Co
Doors 5pm; Starts
6:45pm

October 5
Immaculate
Conception
Doors 11am;
Starts 1pm

October 6
St. Elizabeth Church
Starts 1pm

October 3
Kunkletown Fire Co
Progressive
Jackpot - 7pm

Application Period Opens for School Safety Grants

By Matt Moyer

HARRISBURG – Schools and community groups can apply now for grants to help improve school safety and reduce the risk of community violence, according to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Pat Browne (R-16 District).

The School Safety and Security Grant Program provides grants to school districts, intermediate units, area vocational-technical schools, charter schools and private residential rehabilitative institutions for a wide variety of projects to improve school safety.

The grants fund projects including hiring school security officers, purchasing security-related technology, completing safety and security assessments, implementing violence prevention curricula, offering counseling services for students, and creating other programs to protect students.

A total of \$18.72 million will be distributed to all schools that submit a qualifying application, and an additional \$33.78 million in grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.

An additional \$7.5 million will be awarded to improve community safety and reduce the risk of violence through projects including mentoring and intervention for at-risk children and families; promoting communication between school entities and law enforcement; linking the community with local trauma support and behavioral health systems; and other programs designed to reduce community violence.

"It is paramount that the Commonwealth continues to support the efforts of local educational facilities, by providing additional resources, to better ensure that our children have a safe and secure learning environment," Senator Browne said. "These grants provide a flexible funding source for schools and institutions to implement vital programs and make security upgrades as they see fit. Additionally, I am pleased that these grants can now be utilized for trauma-informed education and related supportive services for children."

The School Safety and Security Grant Program was established by Act 44 of 2018, authored by Senators Browne and Hughes. The program was updated in June to include an emphasis on trauma-informed education and support services to help students who have experienced distressing events and life circumstances.

The grant program is administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The application period for grants is open now through November 4. More details about the program are available at the PCCD School Safety and Security webpage.

CACLV Sets Its Agenda

By CAVLV

ALLENTOWN - Anti-Poverty Nonprofit Has Broad Agenda, Addressing Housing, Community Development and Helping Low-Income Find Their Voice.

The Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley held its Annual Meeting on September 25th in downtown Allentown with a sellout crowd of 260 people in attendance. While speakers focused on the agency's accomplishments over the past year, the agency's long-time Executive Director set the stage for its agenda in 2019-20.

While offering few details, citing plans to hold three press conferences in the next month, Executive Director Alan Jennings set an agenda that reflects the wide array of programs and services as well as advocacy issues that has long been a trademark of the agency. He announced that the Lehigh and Northampton Counties Revolving Loan Fund is being merged into his agency and would be administered by their lending subsidiary, The Rising Tide Community Loan Fund.

In discussing the agency's plans in the Slate Belt, Jennings announced that the agency has taken over responsibility for administering the Slate Belt Council of Governments. Also in the Slate Belt, he announced that their community development initiative, Slate Belt Rising, would turn its attention this year to the "tiny borough of Portland, a community with so much potential, and then on to Pen Argyl."

He made it clear that his organization is continuing to expand its housing programs, including two new initiatives in Center City Allentown's neighborhoods, the details of which will be outlined in separate news conferences over the next month. He reiterated an announcement made last week that the agency was going to shift its focus in Allentown to investing in its future labor supply, referring to kids with too few opportunities today.

Jennings also announced that his organization was organizing "a major initiative on race," but offered no details, once again citing a separate news announcement planned for October.

Finally, Jennings noted that credit unions in the Lehigh Valley have a poor record of mortgage lending to households of color. Claiming that their tax-exempt status and lack of a law requiring reinvestment in low-income communities like those that apply to banks gave them an unfair competitive

 **caclv**
Community Action Committee
of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.