



That's A Wrap For 2025!

By Adrienne Fors

In 2025, WM's Grand Central Complex continued its commitment to environmental stewardship, education and community partnership throughout the Slate Belt Region. We are proud to share some of this year's highlights:

Education and Outreach

Our Education programs reached 2,354 guests and delivered 57 hours of hands-on learning, helping students and visitors understand the importance of sustainability, recycling and responsible waste management.

Community Cleanups

Students in the Character Education Program joined WM's Adrienne Fors to help clean up litter around Wind Gap and Pen Argyl Boroughs. Together, they collected 125 pounds of trash and helped to keep their neighborhoods cleaner and greener.

Support for the Slate Belt Regional Police

Grand Central Landfill provided a \$5,000 donation to the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's K9 Program, bringing WM's total support to \$101,000 since 2021. We are honored to help ensure the public safety and strengthen vital local services.

Character Education Program Funding

We proudly continued our investment in local youth with another year of funding for the Character Education Program, contributing \$20,000 to support its mission of leadership, responsibility, integrity and community involvement.

Chili Cookoff Tradition

Our annual Chili Cookoff was another great success! We love how this event brings the community together, raises awareness of local non-profits and offers an opportunity for our neighbors to tour our facility!

Grand Central Recycling Facility Opens!

This year marked the exciting opening of the Grand Central Recycling Facility, expanding our ability to collect and divert more materials from the landfill and increase regional recycling efforts.

And so much more...

We are incredibly proud to be part of the Slate Belt Community and are deeply grateful for the partnerships, volunteers, students and residents who made 2025 a year of progress and positive impact. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year for our events, the meetings to help secure our continued operations and continued efforts to support wildlife habitat preservation. We are proud to be in the community alongside all of you!

SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Pennsylvania's 40th District
Serving Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties

New Traffic Pattern Coming to I-80 East Stroudsburg

By Senator Rosemary Brown

As part of the ongoing improvements at Exit 308 in East Stroudsburg, drivers should be aware of a key traffic shift beginning in December. This change is necessary to allow crews to safely set the beams for the new Prospect Street bridge and construct west bound roadway of Interstate 80.

Here's what to expect:

Eastbound traffic will be shifted onto the newly constructed lanes.

Westbound traffic will temporarily cross over and use the original eastbound lanes.

Exit 308 (East Stroudsburg) will remain fully accessible in both directions.

This traffic adjustment marks an important milestone in a multi-year infrastructure project aimed at modernizing and enhancing the safety and flow of one of Monroe County's busiest interchanges.

Originally constructed in 1970 as part of the Eisenhower Interstate System, the I-80 corridor in Stroudsburg was built to outdated standards that no longer meet today's traffic demands. Short on- and off-ramps, narrow lanes, and limited capacity have created challenges for local commuters and travelers alike. The Exit 308 project directly addresses these concerns with:

Widened and lengthened ramps for safer merging and exiting;

New stone-finished roundabouts to improve traffic flow and create a welcoming gateway into East Stroudsburg;

Expanded lanes on both I-80 and Prospect and Brown Streets, improving access to East Stroudsburg University and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono;

Upgraded water, sewer, and utility infrastructure;

New drainage systems, retaining walls, and sound barriers.

With more than half the project already completed, this update includes the Prospect Street bridge and over 10,000 feet of new drainage installed. The next phase will focus on finalizing the bridge, widening the remaining lanes, and constructing the roundabouts.

The project remains on schedule and is expected to be completed by late 2027.

I want to thank residents, commuters, and businesses for their continued patience as PennDOT, and its partners work toward delivering a more efficient transportation corridor for our region.



Increased Funding for Libraries Passed in Budget

By Senator Rosemary Brown

The recently enacted state budget includes a \$5 million boost to support Pennsylvania's 474 public libraries (630 counting satellites like branches and bookmobiles), helping them serve adults, children and families across the commonwealth. The budget also increases funding for library services for the visually impaired and disabled, a program known as the Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP).

Since the first Pennsylvania library opened in 1731 (the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded by Benjamin Franklin), libraries have served as vital community resources. Today, they're evolving to meet the needs of modern users, including the growth of digital lending options like the POWER Library.

Anyone interested in getting a library card can visit their local library or learn about the Statewide Library Card Program.

