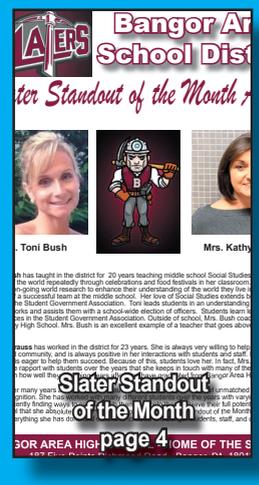


Bangor Quarry Hoist Update
page 2



BHS Jazz Band Student
page 4



Slater Standout of the Month
page 4



Pen Argyl Announces New Coaches
page 5

70 acres Burn in N.J. Parks

By Kathleen Sandt National Park Service

BUSHKILL, PA - More than 50 wildland firefighters from state and federal agencies continue to battle a blaze on Mt. Tammany in Worthington State Forest and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, including hand crews and air support.

The flames lit up the sky over the scenic Water Gap National Recreation Area Sunday night, vehicles were stopped on Rt. 611 and Rt. 80 which had the best views.

Smoke was heavy on Rt. 80 and backed up traffic in both way for hours Sunday and into the night.

The fire that started Sunday afternoon has burned approximately 70-75 acres and is approximately 30% contained. Red Dot and Blue Blazed trails remain closed until further notice. Visitors are asked to avoid the area.

The state Forest Fire Service are using helicopters to pour water on the blaze and those aerial efforts were expected to continue thru Monday.

With temps in the 50's it was a perfect day to go hiking. Parking lots for hikers were full on the NJ side. With a very low percipitation count for this winter season, leaves and dead vegetation on the ground is prime time for fires to start. At this point there is no cause of the fire.

Blue Valley Times Publisher note: Updates will be given as Blue Valley Times gets the information from the National Park Service and we will post it on our Facebook page.



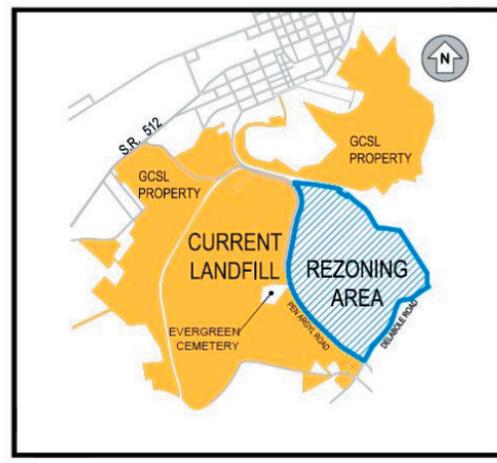
Grand Central Seeking Zoning Approval For Landfill's Expansion Plan

By Adrienne Fors / WM Community Relations Manager

Plainfield Twp., Pa., Feb. 19, 2020 – The operators of Grand Central Landfill today requested Plainfield Twp. zoning approval for an expansion plan that would extend the facility's operating life by about 20 years.

“Grand Central Landfill and Hauling provide a critical environmental service to our region, support about 220 jobs at our site, and has an enormous positive impact on the local economy,” said Waste Management Community Relations Manager Adrienne Fors. “We want to continue servicing our customers and being an important part of the Slate Belt’s economy.”

To explain the plan, Mrs. Fors said Community Meetings will be conducted on March 18th at 6 p.m. at the Plainfield Township Fire Hall and March 19th at 1 p.m. in the Wind Gap Fire Social Hall and at 6 p.m. at Lookout Fire Company’s new social hall. Each session will include a project overview presentation and the opportunity to meet the landfill management team and ask questions.



Continued on page 10

How To Stop 5 Years Of Gridlock In The Del. Water Gap

By Tara Mezzanotte / Delaware Water Gap Coalition.

DELAWARE WATER GAP- The NJDOT has a hypocritical, dangerous safety plan. Shrink the shoulders and lanes in the S-Curve, on I-80, so they can blast the base of Mount Tammany and build a Jurassic style fence to satisfy their poorly justified rockfall concern. During this 5-year, \$58 million, disaster project, they will blast, scrape and dig 20’ – 30’ into the mountain to build a 20’ – 60’ high wall/fence. The fence will even go up the west side of the cliff. They will also create a ditch, called a catchment area, behind the fence to catch rocks. We think they need the ditch because of the destabilization construction will cause. When done, all sign of the iconic, natural rock formation, and vegetation, will be lost forever. And, NOTHING will have been done to solve the well-known safety issues of the S-Curve.

Continued on page 11



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Bangor Quarry Hoist Update

By Mike Piersa

BANGOR - When Springtime weather arrives, the roof of the Bangor Quarry Hoist Pavilion will not be far behind. The roofing slate has already been sourced and is ready to load at the Dally quarry in Pen Argyl. It is not the freshly mined slate that a normal customer would get, but a special donation of "Gray Bed" slate.

This 5 1/2 foot wide bed of slate runs east to west through southern Pen Argyl, forming a nearly vertical sheet of slate, dipping towards the Blue Mountain as it goes deeper. The "Gray Bed" was one of several beds of slate that the Bangor Quarry Hoist helped mine at the Stephens-Jackson Company. Just to the west was the Stoddard Quarry, which is where the slate being used for the pavilion was quarried. Although the Stoddard Quarry shut down in the 1990s, its owner, the Dally Slate Company, set aside some of the unique "Gray Bed" slate for future use.

The name might seem to be a misnomer at first as the slate has an olive-green tint to it, but it does appear gray when compared to the blue-gray tinted slate mined in the rest of Pen Argyl. Next time you are travelling, look up. If the slate is red, it likely came from upstate New York. Purple and sea green would have been quarried in Vermont. Black slate that sparkles due to mica comes from Virginia. Silver-gray slate is imported from India.

Barring any major surprises, the pavilion should be in shape to show off to visitors in the late Spring. There are already two groups booked to watch operating demonstrations of the Hoist: the National Museum of Industrial History on the afternoon of Sunday, May 24th, and the Society for Industrial Archeology on the morning of Friday, May 29th.



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Property Tax Reform-Enabling Bill is Now Law



By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - I am proud to report that House Bill 330, my legislation making technical corrections to the Taxpayer Relief Act, has received the governor's signature and has become law.

House Bill 330, now Act 5 of 2020, will ensure proper application of future property tax reform measures. This legislation is a critical first step in positioning the Commonwealth for meaningful property tax relief, and I am pleased the governor has enshrined it into law.

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