



National Library Week

By Karen Brewer

BANGOR - The Bangor Public Library will be launching the celebration of “National Library Week” with an Open House that will be held on Sunday, April 19th from 2 - 4 PM. This event will be open to the entire community as well as State and Local Representatives.

“National Library Week”, first recognized in 1958, is a national event sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the United States each April. The second full week is the customary observance. The purpose is to motivate people to read and support their local libraries.

The Bangor Public Library offers free loan of books in addition to use of three computers, daily newspapers, copy machines (for a small fee), database access for tracing ancestry/local history, quiet reading and study area in addition to frequent free programs such as author visits and most recently a visit from “The Cat in the Hat”.

You are cordially invited to come and see what the library has to offer for your entire family. For additional information please call the library at 610-588-4136

Grand Central Landfill to Postpone Community Meeting Nights

By Adriane Forss

Pen Argyl, PA. March 13, 2020 – Grand Central Landfill announced today that the upcoming community meetings scheduled for March 18th at the Plainfield Township Fire Social Hall and March 19th at Wind Gap Fire and Lookout Fire social halls will be postponed for the health and safety of all residents due to the virus concerns.

“Health and safety for our employees and our community is our first priority,” stated Community Relations Manager, Adrienne Fors. “With the uncertainties of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are postponing our community meetings focused around our expansion plans until a later date.”

The community meetings were scheduled to explain the rezoning request previously submitted to Plainfield Township on February 19th and further explain the need to continue disposal operations at the facility.

Ms. Fors stated, “We are eager to share our plans with the community and will plan to do so once it is safe.”

Grand Central is committed to communicating with the Slate Belt community and ask residents to follow their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/grandcentrallandfillandhauling) for project updates and look for official rescheduling communication on the facility website (www.grandcentrallandfill.com) and via local media outlets. Updates for the rescheduled meetings will be shared with residents in the coming weeks.

While the community waits to attend the meetings, the Grand Central team has developed an informational video explaining the project that can be found on the facility website under the Youtube button in the next few days. Anyone with questions regarding the landfill rezoning and expansion project is encouraged to call the facility using the community line (1-888-373-2917).

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Lauren's Hope Foundation to Host Annual Butterfly Ball

By Anne Flood

March 8, 2020 BATH, PA: The Lauren's Hope Foundation is holding its annual Butterfly Ball on April 18 at the Northampton Country Club in Bethlehem. The annual event is the largest fundraiser for the foundation and looks to continue those efforts to continue providing families with the help and resources they need for their children born with brain injuries.

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birth, consequently developing into cerebral palsy, along with a seizure disorder. Lauren passed away on December 19, 2007 suddenly and unexpectedly in her sleep at the age of four and a half years old.

Since the inception of the foundation, partners across the Lehigh Valley have helped Lauren's Hope Foundation accomplish many notable successes. Lauren's Hope is on a mission to enhance the lives of brain injured children and to give hope to their families through support and provide partial and full funding for specialized therapies where insurances may not provide coverage.

This year, the annual Butterfly Ball is named "Every Adventure Requires a First Step" and includes an Alice in Wonderland theme. Guests are invited to dress in character or arrive in formal wear. The evening is a networking event that includes night-long dancing, a photobooth, prizes and auction items as well as many more exciting opportunities.

Many businesses from across the Lehigh Valley are supporting the event. For the entire month of April, Detzi's Tavern in Wind Gap has two limited time only drink specials, The Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts. A portion of the proceeds from each drink will support fundraising efforts for Lauren's Hope.

The Butterfly Ball is open to everyone. Interested guests are encouraged to visit the Lauren's Hope Foundation website to make a donation, submit an auction item or purchase tickets for the event. <https://www.laurenshopefoundation.com/butterflyball>

Anyone with questions can contact Ann Flood, aflood@laurenshopefoundation.com



Effort to Boost EMS Ranks

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - It's no secret that many ambulance companies in the Commonwealth are struggling to recruit and retain enough emergency responders to keep their doors open.

To help address the problem, the Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services recently outlined regulatory exceptions that would allow individuals with lapsed certifications to more easily be reinstated.

From now through September 2021, any EMS provider whose certification expired on or after Feb. 1, 2010, may reinstate their EMS provider certification by completing one certification cycle worth of EMS continuing education, regardless of how many cycles their certification has been expired. Specific requirements for each type of certification are available here.

A second exception being made by the bureau says any EMS provider whose certifications have expired but have not been expired for more than one year will not be required to take the written examination previously required.

Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

More Flu Thoughts

Bob Dylan once said "A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom." At this point in time I'm not quite sure whether the key word in that quote is responsibility or freedom. Being responsible means not relying on others for things you can and should be doing yourself. It requires a certain level of discipline and maybe even discomfort. It is not the job of the government to feed you or give you medical care. I have heard people say that medical care is a human right but if doctors don't grow on trees or work for free, your right would be a serious inconvenience for them and that is just not fair. Earning money is no fun but how else will you pay your taxes? And once they are paid, you can buy food and clothes and pay for shelter for your family with what's left over. There is almost always too much month left at the end of the money so stockpiling supplies is not easy even if you know it is your responsibility to do so.

Everyone has a smart phone today and that is one of the most helpful devices ever created. It is also one of the most insidious devices ever to get in our hands. The amount of information available is mindboggling and if you get your information from the wrong place, you may actually be less intelligent than if you threw the phone in the river and used your own head.

I should probably stick to my usual topics but I'm a little bit ashamed of the way some people have been acting during this coronavirus problem. By now I'm pretty sure that every single one of us has been inconvenienced by this bug in one way or another and it is nowhere near over yet. Being inconvenienced is about a 1 on a scale of 10 and yet some people are losing their minds over it. Panic buying makes no sense at all but it is all over social media and that keeps it spiraling upward. Business and school closures create some very serious scheduling problems with regard to employment. That may have lasting financial effects on a family unless we can take a tax credit for being quarantined. Ignoring recommendations to stay home will lead to government intervention and a more dangerous environment in public. Remember, this is a viral flu, not the black plague.

Be a hero and take responsibility for yourself and your family and prepare for limited contact with the outside world.

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



Mark M. Kukla

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

106 N. Franklin St.
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