

## Five Points Elementary School Receives \$1.1 Million Grant

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - The effort to renovate Five Points Elementary School in the Bangor Area School District is moving forward as the result of a more than \$1.1 million grant. The Commonwealth Financing Authority's (CFAs) Alternative and Clean Energy Program is the source of the funding.

Since Five Points was built in 1967, only one upgrade – 27 years ago in 1992 – has taken place, and now the building needs renovation. The school district's goal is to meet the definition of what the National Institute of Building Sciences deems a High Performance Building.

**The grant will allow the following building improvements to take place:**

Remove asbestos throughout the school and lead-containing ceramic tiles in all the girls bathrooms and upgrade all restrooms.

Finish upgrades in the addition, as well as remove existing partition walls to create individual classrooms and better circulation throughout the school.

New fixtures, including an efficient thermal building envelope, energy efficient individually controlled HVAC systems, energy efficient LED lights with daylight sensors, more efficient plumbing systems, in addition to on-site solar production.

Switch to a gas HVAC system, saving approximately 63 percent in energy costs.

The amount of the grant is the maximum allowed under the program and will facilitate completion of the project, which has a total cost of \$12.8 million.

The CFA was established in 2004 as an independent agency of the Department of Community and Economic Development to administer Pennsylvania's economic stimulus packages.

## Mission of Love Food Bank's Prayers Answered With \$50,000 LSA Grant

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - "Praise the Lord our prayers were answered" said Pastor Frank Pons when he was informed that his grant application for LSA funds from Monroe County was approved for \$50,000.

I can't thank Senator Mario Scavella enough for encouraging the Food Bank to apply for funds to help expand the food bank" said Pons. "I must also thank Northampton County for being our sponsor for the grant and Mark Hartney at the county who facilitated the grant" said Pons.

The complete application was for \$72,000 for a 15' box truck, fork lift, back up generator and an indoor walk in refrigerator. "Our main need to expand is a box truck to transport the large donation of meats, dry goods, dairy and fruits each week" said Pons.

Currently Pons has to rent a truck or rely on the Portland Upper Mt. Bethel Pantry 'PUMP' who have a small truck to pick up some of the food. "We will now be able to help out the PUMP with the large new truck we will be purchasing with the grant money, they have been very good to us over the years" said Pons.

Between the two Food Banks they serve 1,000 families a month in the Slate Belt with the help of many volunteers.

The expansion also includes a prior grant from Waste Management for \$10,000 for an outdoor walk in freezer (8' X 42') that was delivered in February this year that they will also share with the PUMP.

LSA grants support economic development, job training, community improvement and public interest projects through gaming funds under Act 71 of 2004. These specific grants come from Monroe County, which funds projects in Monroe and its contiguous counties.



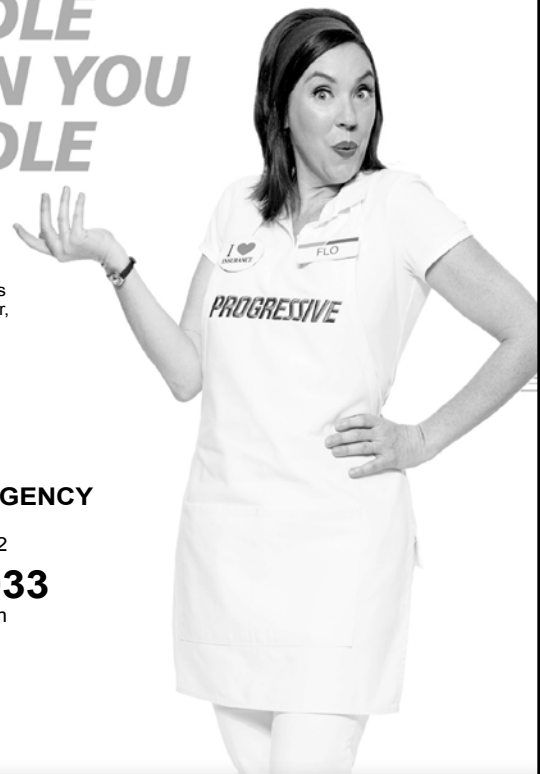
Photo is a sample of the 15' box truck with a lift gate the Mission of Love Food Bank/Pantry will be purchasing with the \$50,000 LSA grant they were just awarded.



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**Ken  
Field**

*Owner of Slate  
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*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## Spring Thoughts

As usual every year I give this warning. The first time you use your outside faucet, check the area inside the house where the faucet is connected before using it. When a hose is left on a frost-free faucet and it freezes, the pipe inside the house can split open. Even though it doesn't leak all winter long, it will leak as soon as the faucet is opened and it will flood the inside. Put a hose on the faucet and put a nozzle on it to stop flow. Then crack the faucet open and go inside to that area and make sure there is no water leaking. If there isn't, go ahead and wash the car knowing that you will not have to clean up a flooded basement afterward. If it is leaking, just turn the faucet off and have it replaced. I always take the liberty to remove a hose from an outside faucet when I am working at someone's home during cold weather. It may not be right to do but I feel like so few people know how those faucets actually work that I may avert a plumbing problem for them come spring.

Spring is just around the corner and even though it feels pretty good to have another winter in the rear view, you should make note of any problems you noticed in your home this winter and have them addressed before it gets cold again. We did insulate a number of attics and exterior walls this winter but it is less inconvenient for the occupants when this work is done during warmer weather. Spray foam is also more difficult to install during cold weather and impossible in some cases at very cold temperatures. Next winter is imminent and you have at least 6 months to plan for the onset of cold weather so don't wait too long before making a plan to prepare for it.

If you are planning on having your air conditioner checked this year keep in mind that doing it before outdoor temperatures are at least 60°F will make part of that checkup very inaccurate. There is no load on the unit below that temperature and checking the refrigerant charge is almost useless then. Since that is one of the most important parts of an air conditioner checkup, don't let someone perform one for you too early in spring just because it is their slow season. That is when special pricing is advertised to keep technicians busy but it is not a good value for a homeowner.

**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](http://www.SlateBeltEnergy.com)**

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## BID NOTICE

**"2019 LINE PAINTING BID PROPOSAL"**  
**UPPER MT. BETHEL TWSP**  
**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA**

**SEALED BIDS** will be received by the Upper Mount Bethel Township Board of Supervisors until 10:00 am. prevailing time Friday, May 10, 2019 at the Upper Mount Township Municipal Building, 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mt. Bethel, PA 18343. Thereupon, the bids will be opened and read at approximately 10:30 am on Friday, May 10, 2019. Tentative award will be on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm. **SEALED BIDS** should be clearly marked "Line Painting Bid Proposal for Letting of May 13, 2019" and must be delivered to the Township at PO Box 520, 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mt. Bethel, PA 18343, on or before the date and time listed above.

Rick Fisher, Township Manager, Upper Mount Bethel Township

## PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS



The Pen Argyl Area School District is offering a property tax rebate program. You may qualify if:

1. You have owned and occupied your home during the period for which you are claiming a rebate. Rebates are granted for your primary residence only; and
2. (a) You or your spouse (if living with you) were 65 years or older as of December 31, 2018; or  
(b) You were a widow or widower during all or part of 2018 and were 50 years old or older as of December 31, 2018; or  
(c) You were permanently disabled during all or part of 2018, and you were unable to work because of your medically determined physical or mental disability which is expected to continue indefinitely; and
3. Your total annual income, including the income of a spouse residing with you, was \$35,000 or less in 2018. (**IMPORTANT:** only report 50% of your Railroad Retirement benefits and 50% of Federal Social Security Act benefits); and
4. 2018/19 Pen Argyl School District Real Estate Taxes were paid in full.
5. Only one member of your household may file a claim.
6. Delinquent taxes **DO NOT QUALIFY**.

**The deadline for filing an application is June 30, 2019**

Applications are available at the Pen Argyl Area School District Office, or call the District Office at (610) 863-3191.

## Arbor Day Walk Among The Trees At Esu Arboretum

By Brodhead Watershed Association

**EAST STROUDSBURG** - Enjoy a spring morning outside among the trees of the ESU Arboretum to celebrate Arbor Day. The walk is organized by Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County Garden Club, and East Stroudsburg University, with support from the East Stroudsburg Shade Tree Commission.

The walk is part of a larger celebration of Arbor Day, on Friday April 26. Celebrity radio host Gary In The Morning will broadcast from the front circle of the university from 6 to 9 a.m. Dignitaries from ESU and state Sen. Mario Scavella will speak on the importance of keeping the environment healthy, starting at 7:30. The walk begins at 9:30 a.m.

"Trees form a kind of natural infrastructure that protects drinking water," said Bob Heil, executive director of BWA. "As they live and 'breathe,' trees and forested land are essential in keeping water pure. It's the clean, green, dollar-smart solution to water quality."

Get Outdoors Poconos hike leader Carol Hillestad will join Professor Emily Rollinson and members of the University Environmental Club on this easy guided walk. Dozens of different tree species are in the arboretum collection, which is mapped and annotated in the Arboretum Guide.

Later in the day, a swamp white oak will be planted near the Alumni Center.

All events are free and open to the public. To register for the walk, contact BWA at 570-839-1120, [info@brodheadwatershed.org](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org) or 570-242-7171. For information, see [brodheadwatershed.org](http://brodheadwatershed.org).

Brodhead Watershed Association is one of the oldest defenders of Monroe County's environment, with 30 years of work by thousands of members and volunteers protecting safe drinking water.

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