

Blue Mountain Community Library Receives United for Libraries & Penguin Random House Grant

By Jill Silvius

PEN ARGYL - We have been chosen as a recipient of a 2026 United for Libraries & Penguin Random House Grant for Small & Rural Libraries! This means that we will receive an in-kind book donation grant of \$500 to purchase Penguin Random House titles! We will also receive complimentary eLearning from United for Libraries.

By popular vote, our new mascot's name is Bubbles! Thank you to everyone who suggested a name and who voted.

The library is starting a small "hygiene bank" (sample size tissues, toothpaste, soap, etc.) Give what you can and take what you need.

Congratulations to Mikayla Ferrara-Garval, winner of the April scavenger hunt for adults and young adults! Mikayla won fuzzy slippers, a reading journal, bookmarks, and snacks. Great job to all who entered.

Have you tried the new May scavenger hunt for children, with lots of new prizes in the prize basket? The theme is "sea creatures," and they are hidden throughout two rooms this month.

The library will discuss *_A Marriage at Sea_* by Sophie Elmhirst on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30pm. Email info@bmcl.org to RSVP.

It's almost time for the BMCL Summer Fun with Reading Program (SFRP) 2026: Words and Wonders!

- Win big with reading challenges for all ages! Throughout June, July, and August, ALL ages can win amazing prizes (like passes to the North Summit Climbing Gym and Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, PA Shakespeare Festival tickets, and gift cards to Sparkle Car Wash and the Gap Diner - plus MANY more) by keeping a reading log.

- ALL ages can enter our "Reader's Raffle" to win gift certificates for large pizzas from area restaurants just by using their library card! - Children ages 3-6 can register for "Two Stories and a Craft" storytime.

- Children ages 3-6 are invited to wear their coziest pajamas and come to "Books and Bedtime" storytime; no registration required.

- In addition, children ages 4-9 can register for a series of six special Wednesday morning educational programs at the municipal parks.

- Specific dates and times to be announced very soon! This year's SFRP is sponsored by CJ's Heating & Cooling, Sabatino Insurance Agency, and State Farm (Debbie Pettinari). Additional sponsors for 2026 include CJ's Heating & Cooling (for Sundaes in the Park), Deer Foot Auto Parts (for an America on Wheels pass, which is coming soon!), and Sabatino Insurance Agency (for our author luncheon and Sundaes in the Park). Please utilize the services of these generous community partners!

The library is located at 216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl. Open hours are Monday-Saturday 10am-12pm and Monday and Thursday 6-8pm. Questions? Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org.



Boscola Announces \$2.3 Million Grant to Easton for Affordable Housing Efforts

By Senator Lisa Boscola

Bethlehem (May 5, 2026) State Senator Lisa Boscola today announced that the City of Easton has been awarded a \$2.3 million state grant through the Mixed-Use Housing Development Pilot Program for the redevelopment of the Easton Iron & Metal site (EIM) into "The Foundry," a mixed-use community to include 200 rental units and 20,000 square feet of commercial space.

"The redevelopment of the 14-acre Easton Iron & Metal site into residential units and commercial space will have a tremendous economic impact for the City of Easton and provide much needed housing stock for our region," Senator Boscola stated. "The Mixed-Use Housing Development Pilot program is another example of the Commonwealth's effort to assist in public-private partnerships that will provide affordable housing opportunities for residents of Northampton County."

The EIM site was acquired by the Redevelopment Authority of Easton in December 2019 and title was subsequently transferred to the City. In 2021, Easton issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a developer to work with the City to redevelop the site through a public-private partnership. Through that RFP process, the City identified VM Development Group (VMDG) as the "preferred developer" for the project.

"The Foundry" is a \$60M+ mixed-use community with 20,000 square feet of commercial space and parking on the buildings' first floors, 200+ residential units on the upper floors, and unique architecture focused on environmental sustainability, nature and art. VMDG estimates that the project will eventually result in annual real estate tax and earned income tax (EIT) revenues of approximately \$600,000 and \$240,000 respectively.

The Foundry will also have synergies with the nearby Simon Silk Mill (also redeveloped by VMDG), building upon VMDG's success in attracting commercial tenants that create jobs and foster new business owners and entrepreneurs. Finally, The Foundry embraces enhanced pedestrian connectivity via the continuation of the Karl Stimer Arts Trail through the site and the improvement of pedestrian facilities along Bushkill Drive.

The Mixed-Use Housing Development Pilot Program received 104 applications statewide requesting more than \$469 million in funding. Only 7 seven projects were awarded funding totaling \$10 million.

Free Collection for Plainfield Township Residents
Beginning July 1, 2026

Community Information Night

May 6, 2026

5 PM - 7 PM

Plainfield Township Fire Hall

6480 Sullivan Trail, Wind Gap, PA 18091

Meet the Team!

Ask Questions!

Try Out the New Carts!



Questions: Email Adrienne Fors afors1@wm.com or contact us on the Community Line 1-888-373-2917

www.grandcentrallandfill.com

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