

Gaming Grants Awarded for Local Projects

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR -

This week, I was pleased to announce the awarding of nearly \$1 million in gaming grants for the 137th Legislative District, which I advocated for approval.

The funding was made available through the Local Share Account (LSA), which is derived from gaming revenues generated at casinos in Northampton and Monroe counties. No tax dollars are used in the awarding of these grants.

LSA grants support a variety of important needs in our local communities. This grant program provides a significant savings to the municipalities that otherwise would have to rely on taxpayers to pay for critical infrastructure improvements and public safety equipment purchases.



Awarded on a competitive basis, the local grants are as follows:

- Bangor Borough – \$75,500 for renovations to administration building and police department.
 - Bangor Fire Department – \$171,500 for the purchase of air packs.
 - East Bangor Fire Company – \$108,200 for generator purchase and renovations to the fire station, which also serves as an emergency shelter.
 - Nazareth Borough Police Department – \$49,700 for purchase of utility vehicle and \$43,000 for purchase of interceptor vehicle.
 - Portland Borough – \$120,450 for demolition of blighted old school gymnasium and development of a new outdoor community space.
 - Roseto Borough – \$117,550 for ADA-compliant bathroom renovations at Municipal Park.
 - Upper Nazareth Township – \$35,804 for purchase of asphalt roller and cold planer.
 - Vigilance Hose Fire Company – \$40,000 for purchase of breathing air compressor.
 - Washington Township – \$175,000 for Phase III renovations to the recreation complex.
- In addition, I worked with Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-18) in securing the following grant awards:
- Palmer Township – \$51,000 for purchase of non-emergent transport vehicle.
 - Stockertown Borough – \$10,000 for purchase and installation of security system for public works and police department buildings.
 - Tatamy Borough – \$50,000 for purchase of police cruiser and street sweeping attachment.



**“Remembering “the wonderful life” of Todd Strohe on his Birthday, June 2!
His smile, his wit, and his love for all of us will never be forgotten!”**

**He will always live on through the many memories he left us with!
We thank God for Todd!
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St. Luke's First in Region to offer Texting Capability for Vaccine Appointments

Sam Kennedy

Bethlehem, PA - Individuals looking for a simple and easy way to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine can now schedule their appointment by texting the word “Vaccine” to 23762.

St. Luke's University Health Network is the first in the Lehigh Valley to offer this user-friendly solution. It comes just as the CDC has cleared emergency use authorization for the vaccine in kids ages 12-15.

“Throughout the past several months we have been working on ways to provide easy, seamless access to our vaccine appointments,” states Shishir Singh, St. Luke's Director of Development, Information Technology. St. Luke's IT team was also responsible for developing Shot-Line, the automated telephone dialing system that enabled users to schedule their vaccines directly over the phone.

In two weeks, more than 600 appointments have been scheduled using the text service and Singh anticipates that number will grow with the younger population.

The service is available in English and Spanish and will direct users to the vaccine locations closest to their zip code. It also ensures that individuals under 18 are scheduled at a Pfizer location, and are provided with the appropriate parental consent form for minors.

“Our team is phenomenal and they are already thinking of other ways to use this capability beyond the vaccine,” says Singh. “The sky's the limit.”

To schedule a vaccine appointment at one of St. Luke's multiple locations, text Vaccine to 23762.

Additionally, location information and walk-in hours are located at sluhn.org/vaccine-locations.

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