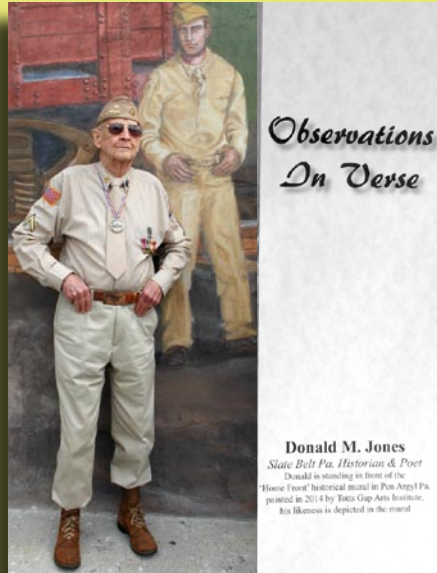


# A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times



## GROWIN' TIME

I took a spade and turned the earth  
To plant and make things grow.  
I planted seeds, row upon row  
For I enjoy seeing things grow.  
I watered the earth, for it was dry,  
For moisture it did thirst.  
Then came the shoots and all the green,  
All this because I spaded first.  
At last there came picking time  
Good growing season with the right clime.  
I placed filled baskets in a row,  
Rewards for caring and making things grow.

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L - R Paul Mastrogiovanni, Haylee Klinge, (Lion) David Shiner and Gianna Jones

## The Bangor Lions Club Annual Scholarship

By Michelle Peterson

BANGOR - The Bangor Lions Club held their annual scholarship and family picnic on May 16 at East Bangor Park. The club presented the scholarships to Paul Mastrogiovanni, Haylee Klinge and Gianna Jones, receiving the Mary Shiner memorial scholarship, all are 2019 graduates of Bangor High School. Presenting the scholarships was Lion David Shiner.

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L - R Tom Petrucci, Plainfield Township manager and chair of the Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Plan receives a check for \$67,500 from Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure on behalf of the county for the funding of the Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Plan

## Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Plan Continued from page 1

The municipalities in the plan are the boroughs of Bangor, East Bangor, Pen Argyl, Roseto, Portland and Wind Gap and the Townships of Plainfield, Washington, Lower Mount Bethel and Upper Mount Bethel.

The \$190,300 project, funded by Northampton County, the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, the 10 municipalities and Lafayette Ambassador Bank through the Neighborhood Assistance Program Special Program Priorities (SPP) of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

"In many ways, this gives the Slate Belt a chance to control their future," said Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure. "These communities have a chance to decide where business and growth will be located, and where they should preserve farmland and open space. This is an exciting time for the Slate Belt."

Stephen Reider, director of Slate Belt Rising, added, "We owe it to our residents to develop our communities in a way that leaves nobody behind, that ensures that opportunities exist to be fully employed, be able to pay your own bills without needing help, to be safe on our streets. Slate Belt Rising is thrilled that we could make this possible and is anxious to do our part to ensure its success."

Multi-Municipal plans are a way for communities to work together on important regional issues, while maintaining local autonomy and control.

"The collaboration between the urban boroughs and the predominantly agrarian townships will provide a structure for the communities to plan judiciously in the areas of land use, transportation, providing recreational facilities, the conservation of natural and scenic resources, the preservation of farmland, and fostering economic development," Petrucci said. "The multi-municipal planning effort will also identify and facilitate opportunities for the communities to share both resources and the delivery of efficient and effective public services."

Slate Belt Rising is the first multi municipal neighborhood partnership program of the PA DCED. The program was created in 2016 with funding from Merchants Bank of Bangor, Waste Management, ESSA Bank and Trust, Lafayette Bank and Northampton County and set out to achieve one goal: revitalize four boroughs in the Slate Belt. They have helped create various youth initiatives, regional branding, façade rehabilitation programs but while planning our year three projects our committees wanted to do more with our regional cooperation and economic development efforts.

Crafting a new plan will involve monthly Steering Committee meetings, a detailed housing, economic, demographics and land use analysis, and a community survey. The plan is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2020.

"This kind of regional planning fosters cooperation between neighboring municipalities, enabling them to share services and giving them the tools they need to manage development impacts that cross municipal borders," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "Multi-Municipal Plans benefit everyone involved, including the residents in each community."

If you have any questions contact Matt Assad at massad@lvpc.org or 610-264-4544 or 610-739-9325.