

Portland / Upper Mt. Bethel Annual 4th of July Parade



2020 Lehigh Valley auto show cancellation forces suspension of auto dealers' charitable grants program

By Tom Kwiatek

LEHIGH VALLEY, Pa. - The Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Dealers Association's regretfully announces the suspension of its charitable grants program for 2020-2021 due to the cancellation of the 2020 Lehigh Valley Auto Show. Through its foundation, the association uses the proceeds from the Lehigh Valley Auto Show to provide grants for community nonprofit organizations throughout the region. In 2019-20, grants for 17 Lehigh Valley organizations were made possible through the proceeds of the 2019 Lehigh Valley Auto Show.

"We are absolutely devastated that we cannot continue our charitable grants program this year," stated Sam Borelli, auto dealers association board president. "Unfortunately the cancellation of the show decimated our finances. We not only lost the revenue we expected from the show but we also lost a great deal of money spent on production prior to the cancellation that could not be recouped."

Normally the association begins accepting requests June 1 for funding from October 1 through July 30 of the following year. Any 501c3 nonprofit organization can apply for a grant. In accordance with the foundation's mission, preference is given to local organizations providing services to children and youth and their families, and auto industry specific education and training. The priority for giving is local agencies, whose services support those individuals living and working in our community.

Since 2009, the auto dealers' association foundation has awarded approximately \$600,000 to area nonprofits through its charitable grants program. Donations to charities from the Lehigh Valley Auto Show Gala and the Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Dealers Association's golf tournament are in addition to this and bring the total in excess of \$1 million.

The Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Dealers Association Foundation was established in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Automotive Association Foundation to enable the association to fulfill its mission to provide support to the community where its member dealers live and do business. Through strategic investment in nonprofit organizations, the association and its member dealers strive to positively impact the citizens of the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas.

Founded in 1998, the Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Dealers Association is made up of 63 new car franchised dealers responsible for 6,370 jobs, with a combined annual payroll of more than \$390 million (according to the 2018 Automotive Industry Economic Impact Study prepared by Auto Outlook, Inc.) The association produces several major events each year, including their signature event, the annual Lehigh Valley Auto Show. The association and its member dealers are very active in the community, supporting area nonprofit organizations as well as programs that recognize and educate local automotive technology students. The association's goal is to help consumers get the most from their experiences with the group's member dealerships in addition to doing its part to help the communities where its members live and work.



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Bangor Quarry Hoist Pavilion Progress

By Mike Piersa

BANGOR - Volunteers are back at work on the hoist pavilion! This past week, the crew from J Wilson Enterprises Slate Roofing installed the lath that will support the slate roof. The lath is a series of 2 1/2 x 1 1/4 inch strips of lumber that the slate will be nailed to. The spacing of the lath is critical as it must allow the slates to not just attach neatly, but have a headlap of three inches. This means that the typical slate will have its top three inches covered by slate two layers above. Because the intermediate layer will cover half of the remaining area of that typical slate, the majority of the slate will actually be covered by other slates. This will result in a very durable and watertight roof that will probably outlive anyone alive today. When visitors come up to the pavilion, they will be able to look through the fence and gaze up to see the bottom of the slates, giving them a once common, but now relatively rare perspective on traditional building construction methods.





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