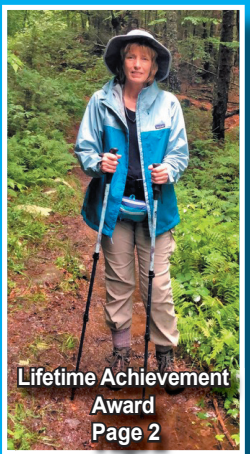


Slate Belt Rising Receives First of Six \$50,000 Checks From Waste Management



Lifetime Achievement Award Page 2



New Officers Installed Page 7



Spongy Moth Outbreak Page 3



Safety of Forestry Product Haulers Page 11



L-R WM Jon Riccio Route Manager), WM Adrian Fors (Sr. Community Relations Specialist), Vince Behee (Slate Belt Rising Dir.)

By Michael Ortoski

PLAINFIELD TWSP. - Waste Management is continuing their commitment to the Slate Belt community by signing up for another six year term with Slate Belt Rising (SBR) donating \$50,000 per year.

"Slate Belt Rising (SBR) is a neighborhood revitalization initiative targeting the four boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland, and Wind Gap. We strive to achieve community and economic development in the area and increase the quality of life for all, especially the under-resourced and under-privileged.

Under our current six-year community plan, SBR has leveraged over \$1.4 million in public and private funds for investment in the region, generating tremendous positive impact in the community. Activities have included residential and commercial façade improvements, planting and maintenance of community gardens, streetscape improvements, scholarships for local high school students, and much more.

Now, we are looking to the future with our newest six-year plan, Slate Belt Rising Community Plan 2022-2028, set to begin in December. Our core focus will rest in three

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Senate Passes 2022-23 State Budget that Cuts Taxes, Funds Essential Services

Christine Zubeck

HARRISBURG – The Senate approved a \$45.2 billion General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 that meets the needs of Pennsylvanians today without creating multi-billion-dollar budget deficits in the future, according to Sen. Mario Scavella (R-40), who voted for the measure.

Senate Bill 1100 now goes to the governor's desk for enactment into law.

The \$45.2 billion budget, which also includes federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, represents a 2.9% increase over the previous year's spending – and \$500 million less than Gov. Tom Wolf's original budget request.

The budget agreement does not include any broad-based tax increases and is structured in a way to minimize the risk of tax increases in the years ahead.

In fact, the budget actually cuts the Corporate Net Income (CNI) tax rate from 9.99% to 8.99% and creates a phased reduction to 4.99% by 2031, moves designed to attract employers and residents to Pennsylvania.

The budget includes legislative language introduced by Scavella to create the Airport Land Development Zone program, providing tax credits to employers that make a significant new investment by expanding operations and creating new jobs.

"While aviation plays a significant role in Pennsylvania's economy, many airports struggle despite their owning a substantial amount of land and buildings that can be developed into productive economic uses. Although federal restrictions

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