

Blue Valley Times

VOL. 30 NO. 34

SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.
DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK

AUGUST 30, 2022

Fidelity Bank Donates \$360,000 To Slate Belt Rising Community Plan



L-R Sandee Kennedy, Vince Behe, Daniel Santaniello, Neil Hockenberry

By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - Daniel Santaniello (Pres. & CEO) of Fidelity Bank along with Sandee Kennedy and Neil Hockenberry brought the 'Big Check' for \$360,000 to their Bangor branch and presented it to Slate Belt Rising (SBR) Dir. Vince Behe.

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.

SBR's work wouldn't be possible without the generosity of various funders such as Fidelity Bank. Fidelity Bank pledged a total of \$300,000 over the course of the first six-year community plan executed by SBR. Now, as SBR looks to the future with Slate Belt Rising Community Plan 2022-2028, Fidelity Bank has increased that amount to a total of \$360,000

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Team River Runner Lehigh Valley Paddles Minsi Lake

By Jim Wilson / Sec. of Friends of Minsi Lake

UMBT - Team River Runner Lehigh Valley sponsored the first organized adaptive kayak paddle at Minsi Lake on Wednesday, August 24. Four paddlers enjoyed themselves on the Lake from 6-8pm, along with a team of TRRLV safety volunteers.

Team River Runner provides people with physical disabilities from all walks of life opportunities to find health, healing, community purpose & new challenges through adaptive paddle sports. They provide everything needed for folks to get on the water, including adaptive kayaks, paddles, life jackets, gear & safety volunteers free of charge.

Team River Runner is a national organization with state chapters all over the country. TRR Lehigh Valley is a very active chapter that takes advantage of four local public lakes throughout the greater Lehigh Valley. Minsi Lake is the latest local lake to host adaptive kayak docks. The other three are Leaser Lake in Lehigh County, Lake Nockamixon in Bucks County & Beltzville Lake in Carbon County.

Northampton County Parks & Friends of Minsi Lake were happy to host this first organized adaptive paddle at the Lake & look forward to working with TRRLV on regularly scheduled adaptive paddling programs at Minsi next year & in the years to come.

For more information on TRRLV, including how you can get involved, contact TRRLV Coordinator, George White at george.white@teamriverrunner.org.

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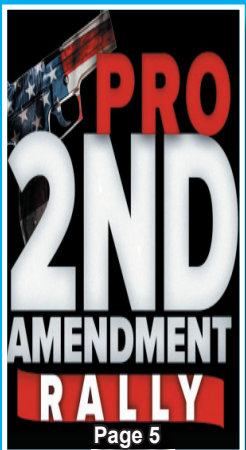
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