

Scott Brumbaugh Appointed Council Person for 1st Ward in Pen Argyl

By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - Michael Nasatka, Pen Argyl Mayor swore in Scott Brumbaugh as council member of the 1st ward in Pen Argyl this past week at the councils monthly meeting to fill the 1st Ward Council Vacancy, term that ends January 6, 2020.

During the meeting the council discussed the the new Look Out Fire station an greed to refinance the Fire Station's Loan to take advantage of currently available interest rates and save an estimated \$317,000.00.

Some other items discussed were: Adopted Resolution 2019-04 approving grant application for improvements to Weona Park hamburger and sausage stands; Adopted Resolution 2019-05 & 2019-06 approving grant applications for ADA improvements for the Borough Hall.

Announcement of Weona Park events: The Slate Belt Bash sponsored by Slate Belt Rising will be held on September 29, 2019 at Weona Park, Pen Argyl from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Road Rally Scavenger Hunt from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. REGISTRATION DEADLINE 9/6/19. There will be food trucks, beer and wine, FREE games for children and teens and live music from 2 local bands. Contact Stephen at 484-523-0900 or www.slatebeltrising.org for more information.

Blue Mountain Community Library- Cafe on Broadway Fundraiser, 11 A.M.- 7 P.M. 9/19 Hope UCC Food Pantry from 8/5-9/28. Accepting non-perishable items. Book Club: 8/20. The Book of Unknown Americans by Christina Henriquez; 9/17 Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens; 10/15 Educated by Tara Westover; 11/19 Bean Town Girls by Jane Healey. Book group meetings begin at 6:30 P.M. 9/4 at 10:30 A.M. will be first story time of the fall. The public is invited to the next board meeting, scheduled for 9/21 at 6:30 P.M. Please go to: <https://www.bmcl.org>.



Left Michael Nasatka Pen Argyl Mayor swears in Scott Brumbaugh as new council member

Free Seminar for Small Businesses: Start-Up

By Beckey Bartlet

EASTON -Lamont McClure and the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) are sponsoring a free seminar for small businesses in Northampton County. Small Business Start-Up will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Bangor Trust Brewing 15 Broadway, Bangor, PA 18013

Keynote speakers include Debi Rice from Fun-Nominal Events and Marketing, Brett Smith from the Small Business Development Center at Lehigh University, Mike Lichtenberger from EnTrust Merchant Services and Elizabeth Kelly, Director of Human Resources at Northampton County. Topics covered include: Marketing with Social Media, Lending and Loans, Developing a Business Plan and Human Resources.

The event is free but registration is required. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-business-start-up-seminar-tickets-70054973311>

For more information contact Rebecca at rsanchez@northamptoncounty.org

THE SLATE BELT BASH

ROAD RALLY SCAVENGER HUNT

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Road Rally Scavenger Hunt 9am-12pm
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 (no day off)
\$40 per car of 4 people
OVER \$1,000 IN PRIZES

START HERE
WEONA PARK, Pen Argyl, PA

The Slate Belt Bash is a Community Event
September 29 from 11am to 4pm
There will be food, family fun and live music.
There will be food trucks, beer and wine provided by Bangor Trust Brewing and Franklin Hill Vineyard, FREE games for kids and teens, and live music from 2 local bands.
For more information or to register for the Road Rally Scavenger Hunt contact: Stephen at 484-523-0900 or visit www.slatebeltrising.org for more info.
Each team member registered for the Road Rally Scavenger Hunt will receive a registration gift handed out at check in.

SPONSORS: pennsylvania economic development, SLATE BELT RISING, ESSA Bank & Trust, acativ, Merchants BANK, Lafayette Ambassador Bank, WM WASTE MANAGEMENT

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WATER CIRCUS

GOLD UNIT

SEPTEMBER 12-15
WHITEHALL, PA
Lehigh Valley Mall
Under the grand, swirling White and Blue tent!
250 Lehigh Valley Mall, Whitehall, PA 18052

ADMIT ONE FREE CHILD
WITH REGULAR ADULT ADMISSION TICKET IN LEVEL 2 & 3
1 ENTRADA DE NIÑO GRATIS
CON CADA ENTRADA DE ADULTO EN LOS NIVELES 2 Y 3

USE COUPON CODE: FREE

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WATER CIRCUS

SEPTEMBER 12-15
WHITEHALL, PA
Lehigh Valley Mall
Under the grand, swirling White and Blue tent!
250 Lehigh Valley Mall, Whitehall, PA 18052

Sept 12 - THURSDAY:	7:30pm
Sept 13 - FRIDAY:	7:30pm
Sept 14 - SATURDAY:	1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm
Sept 15 - SUNDAY:	1:30pm, 4:30pm

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TICKETS START AT \$10

CIRQUE ITALIA

WATER CIRCUS

GOLD UNIT

SEPTEMBER 19 - 22
WILKES-BARRE, PA
Wyoming Valley Mall
Under the grand, swirling White and Blue tent!
29 Wyoming Valley Mall Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

ADMIT ONE FREE CHILD
WITH REGULAR ADULT ADMISSION TICKET IN LEVEL 2 & 3
1 ENTRADA DE NIÑO GRATIS
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USE COUPON CODE: FREE

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WATER CIRCUS

SEPTEMBER 19-22
WILKES-BARRE, PA
Wyoming Valley Mall
Under the grand, swirling White and Blue tent!
29 Wyoming Valley Mall Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Sept 19 - THURSDAY:	7:30pm
Sept 20 - FRIDAY:	7:30pm
Sept 21 - SATURDAY:	1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm
Sept 22 - SUNDAY:	1:30pm, 4:30pm

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TICKETS START AT \$10



**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Whatever Moves You

Whatever motivates you to save energy is a good thing. Some things that are intended to motivate you really can just anger you. I get correspondence from Met Ed regularly shaming me because my 'neighbors' use less electricity than I do. Those letters have absolutely no effect on me. I don't waste energy, I consume it. I just happen to consume more than other homes in my area. They can save paper by stopping the wasteful hate mail so I'll publicly shame them for that.

I looked at a home last week for an owner who realizes that winter is again approaching. He is ahead of schedule because many people call in November for urgent service on heating equipment that needed service at the end of the previous year but put it off. Like winter ever forgets to show up. Anyway, this home has some appealing architectural features on the exterior and they required some framing that was not quite conventional. Whenever carpenters build something that isn't a square box, most insulation installers fail miserably. I'm not quite sure why but I have a hunch that installing fiberglass insulation is not regarded as highly as it should be by builders and the pay is low. In keeping with the adage that you get what you pay for, whenever a unique shape shows up, the installers just stuff it with fiberglass or put in one layer and leave the rest of the space empty. Either one of those methods will negate more than half of the R-value of the insulation. Building inspectors are not required to verify the performance of insulation, just to witness its presence so anything goes. In the home I inspected, there happened to be a shower on one of the walls that was not built with conventional techniques and the pipes freeze every winter. I mentioned to the owner that it probably made the shower cold too and he agreed but that alone wasn't enough to prompt a call to me. The repair won't require any demolition or visible scars on the exterior just a few holes drilled in inconspicuous places in the basement that will be plugged later. We will inject cellulose fiber insulation into the cavities and they will go from the worst energy consuming areas of the house to the best in just a few hours. It doesn't have to be painful or expensive to save energy when the right approach is taken. Comfort is probably the best motivator. Shaming is possibly the worst.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com



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EOE

Interstate 80 Expansion: Separating Fact from Fiction

By Senator Scavella

PEN ARGYL - As many Pocono residents can attest, Interstate 80 serves as both the region's lifeblood and, too often, a major source of headache for area motorists. On one hand, many of the 29 million annual visitors to the Poconos travel I-80 to frequent our businesses and enjoy recreational opportunities; however, local residents are regularly caught in prolonged bumper-to-bumper traffic both on the Interstate and surrounding roadways.

It takes almost nothing to send I-80 travel into a tailspin. Whether it's an accident, routine roadwork or just a tractor trailer pulled over on the shoulder, even small incidents lead to back-up for miles. And the congestion will worsen.

A solution to the issues with I-80 is not easy, no matter what some may try to argue.

While there are valid concerns with expanding I-80 to three lanes, I would suggest that the impact of "doing nothing" or keeping it two lanes would have an even greater negative impact in the future – and the data supports that conclusion.

In 1974, just over 34,000 vehicles traveled I-80 daily. Today, the average daily traffic can exceed 70,500 vehicles and, on some weekends, the number climbs above 90,000.

Current studies estimate traffic volumes will reach 132,800 vehicles per day by 2045 – almost double today's numbers.

In addition, I-80 is significantly affected by global events and trends – including the dredging of the Panama Canal. With larger container ships now able to pass through the Canal, East Coast sea ports are set to see dramatic increases in activity as freight movement increasingly moves east to west. A 2016 study projected that I-80 truck traffic will increase by approximately 45% over 30 years.

In response to the increasing stress on I-80, the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) identified the I-80 corridor as needing significant upgrades, including the addition of a third lane in each direction, wider shoulder widths and longer entrance/exit ramps.

Current, updated studies show the I-80 corridor through the Boroughs contains the highest frequency of incidents on the entire stretch from New Jersey to Ohio.

The proposed expansion project, at its heart, is a safety project.

While some residents have argued for trying to improve the existing four-lane highway, current studies show that a project based on this approach would receive an "F" rating soon after completion. The engineering also shows that the property area needed to simply make "safety enhancements" and upgrade the roadway to current design standards is almost identical to adding a third lane.

A third lane will not in itself create more traffic – increased traffic congestion is coming regardless of whether the highway is expanded. We owe it to future generations to plan for this growth.

Some have suggested building a bypass to take traffic off I-80. With today's strict environmental standards, the significant property condemnation that would be required and a federal government largely opposed to construction of new highways, this is virtually impossible.

Others have suggested beginning expansion with a different stretch of I-80 instead of the corridor that goes through the Boroughs. Because the \$600 million of federal funds are earmarked for enhancing safety, and because the data continues to show this area

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