



THE JOURNAL of the POCONO PLATEAU

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VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5

July 30–August 12, 2020

Short-term rental discussion draws lots of interest in Tobyhanna Township

by Ruth Isenberg

Over 50 people logged into the GoToMeeting for Tobyhanna Township Supervisors meeting on July 20. Most wanted to comment on, or hear about, what the supervisors were considering as a short-term rental ordinance. Solicitor Jonathan Reiss noted that the zoning ordinance would also have to be amended to allow for short-term transient rental use.

Supervisors first discussed

the issue at a worksession in February. Atty. Reiss said that once council develops its ordinance, they must schedule a public hearing, and send it to the Tobyhanna Township and Monroe County Planning Commission for review and comment.

Zoning officer Matt Helbers went over the changes made to the proposed ordinance, including allowing multiple people in charge of rental units, dropping the requirement for liability insurance, and giving

the township authorization to inspect the exterior of rental properties.

Supervisor John Holohan questioned the lack of language regarding ownership of rental properties. He stated that companies are buying properties up and turning them into rentals, creating burdens for the township. A suggestion was made to limit short-term rentals to properties which are second homes; Atty. Reiss said the was proba-

See TOBYHANNA TWP, page 2



Despite difficulty with the evening's remote call-in process, a view through Facebook Live found Channel 570 video access to observe and note Mount Pocono borough council's July 6 meeting.

Mount Pocono considers forensic audit of finances

by Jeanine Hofbauer

"We are a steward of our communities' finances," reminded Aida Montanez as Mount Pocono borough council discussed pursuing forensic audit evaluation following new member budget questions during the July 6 meeting.

After Patti Bucco expressed uncertainty as to whether shortfalls were included in 2008 financials, council agreed to issue a Request for Proposal to obtain a professional accounting assessment for a minimum of seven and maximum of 10 years.

Public comment included Debra Fulton stating, "This borough is constantly spending money that is not in their account."

Council approved the re-

placement of temporary zoning officer Jean Simchak with new part-time zoning/code enforcement officers Alexis Wilkinson and Juan Resario. Each will work 20 hours weekly at an hourly rate of \$15 during training and 90-Day evaluation then increasing to \$20 per hour. "Your ability to collect fines is minimal at best," stated Michael Oser, commending council's decision to appoint the two-member enforcement team.

Mayor Michael Penn spoke about numerous calls regarding recent holiday fireworks set off at homes sparking chaos across the borough. As public sales skyrocketed amidst cancelled professional public displays, so did noise disturbances and concern

See MT. POCONO, page 3



CRICKET was the game of choice for this group on a recent sunny Sunday afternoon at Hickory Run State Park. Lots of people are making use of the park's many amenities, from swimming to picnicking.

JP: Ruth Isenberg

Population growth escalates ordinance reviews

by **Jeanine Hofbauer**

Whether a short stay or long-term residency, increased visitor presence created a need for responsible ordinance evaluation at the July 8 supervisors' meeting in Tunkhannock Township. With more people pursuing getaways to the Poconos, whether caused by the need to escape COVID confinement or for other reasons, the need for changes comes as no surprise to supervisors.

Discussion continued over how to evolve and enforce

Amendment 2020-01 to Ordinance 2012-129 Recreation Vehicle Parks, as well as discussion over the Uniform Construction Code Ordinance 2020-03 and the terms that they imply.

From recommending 30 days maximum in a calendar year, to 14 days stay with a 14 day break between RV uses, ideas were offer for reasonable guidelines. Noting "Compassionate Extension" and State of Emergency and Disaster terms, the importance of not allowing an indefinite short-

term stay was emphasized.

In other business, zoning officer Kate Lambert reported an increase in Building Code reviews. Expressing concern over inadequate exits, she described homes that added basement sleeping spaces that had windows too small to get out of. Agreeing the need to ensure safety, this will be looked into.

Fall cleanup plans continue for September 11 to 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the township municipal building. Rate changes from last year's

prices range from a car load, \$10; SUV/Mini-Van/Small Pickup truck, \$20; Full-size Pickup/Under 8ft trailer load, \$30; Utility Van/Small Dump Truck/Trailer 8ft+, \$40; to a six to eight-foot Box Truck at \$50; ten-foot Box Truck, \$60; and \$80 for Box Trucks over 10 feet. A complete list of items accepted and not accepted can be found on the township website at longpondpa.com.

June's general fund balance was \$2,341,906 with income of \$367,143 and expenses of

\$128,934. Bills approved totaled \$210,211.60.

Supervisors Fran DePiano, George Ewald and Steve Malico were present in addition to solicitor Dan Lyons, secretary/treasurer Tina Kernan, zoning officer Lambert, and a few attendees and online spectators.

Tunkhannock Township's next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. August 12 at municipal offices at 1557 Long Pond Road, Long Pond.

Tobyhanna Twp....

Continued from page 1

bly not enforceable.

That sentiment was echoed in a statement submitted before the meeting by Mike Christian, and read by manager Robert Bartal. It contrasted homes that are sometimes rented out by their owners to generate additional income with rentals that are operated as commercial businesses. He said that those properties will change the nature of the community. He urged the supervisors to limit the number of days per year, or the number of times per year a property could be rented. He also suggested a minimum rental period of two weeks.

A number of speakers cited specific problem properties, in Emerald Lakes and other developments, that are allegedly being used as party houses, creating parking problems, noise issues and fireworks use late at night.

Enforcement was a frequent topic of discussion. Speakers

questioned how new regulations could be enforced, when current violations are not dealt with.

Some owners of existing renal properties spoke up. Sally Ladd said she has two properties, and has had no complaints. She is president of the Arrowhead Renters Association, and she asked for statistics about how many homes are problem properties. "All homeowners should be held to the same standards," she said, noting that there are people who live in Tobyhanna Township full time who set

off fireworks. She added that it was unfair to punish good operators for the faults of what she termed bad apples.

Many of the people who do rent out their homes spoke in favor of the ordinance, urging the supervisors to work with them to deal with nuisance rentals.

Supervisor Brandon Carroll recommended the ordinance not be passed on to the Planning Commission until after further discussion at another worksession.

Brandon, need further discussion, not pass on to Plan-

ning Commission until after another worksession.

In other business supervisors:

- Approved an easement agreement with Pocono Mountain School District for the Pocono Bike & Hike Trail.

- Accepted the Bureau Veritas proposal of \$55/hour and \$45/hour clerical for property maintenance inspections.

- Authorized having the manager and engineer seek additional proposals for the Stoney Hollow Road Bridge evaluation.

- Accepted an amendment to

Sewer District #1 Service Agreement that mirrors changes to the inter-municipal agreement.

- Appointed Matt Helbers as primary Open Records officer, with Betsy Tiene as secondary.

- Reappointed Dennis Hatch to the Zoning Hearing Board.

- Accepted an amendment to Pinecrest PRD Phases 5/6, taking 16 townhome units and converting them into 9 single family detached units.

- Approved Moose Crossings LLC Prel./Final Land Development Plan.

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Mt. Pocono

Continued from page 1

over safety. He said residents reached out over annoyance about timely police response. Noting 9-1-1 calls are prioritized by urgency such as overdose or serious criminal offenses, he said he intends to discuss the issue further with Pocono Mountain Regional Police Chief Chris Wagner to see what may have caused the delays.

Oser approached the podium after that discussion. Reading a statement, he demanded Chief Wagner's resignation. Council member Tom Neville suggested Oser send the letter to Chief Wagner.

Council member Aida Montanez invited residents to attend the next monthly PMR Police Commission meeting.

Ron Emilie's recommendation to explore establishing the borough's own department was agreed to be discussed at a future work session.

Socilitor Jim Fareri reported filing civil action against

a short term rental problem property located in a non-permitted use R1 Zone at One Summit Drive.

The treasurer's Cash Report listed at \$1,006,463.60 included account balances of: General Fund, \$319,460.07; Penn Security, \$500.56; Banner Beautification, \$3,791.50; State Liquid Fuels, \$88,076.66; Park & Recreation, \$201,940.17; Planning Commission Reimbursement, \$4,535.95; Road, \$196,008.14; Stormwater, \$39,107.96; Sanitation, \$3,660.34; Inter-section & Signalization, \$149,382.25.

Present at the meeting were council members Montanez, Bucco, Neville, Emilie, Fran O'Boyle, Claudette Williams, and Stacy Stewart-Keeler, zoning officer Simchak, Atty. Fareri, Mayor Penn, and secretary/treasurer Lori Noonan.

It is recommended to review where council's next 7 p.m. August 3 meeting will be held by visiting the borough's website at mountpocono-pa.gov

COVID block grant funding available

Monroe County has received funding through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Grant. This aid is designed to offset some of the financial impact incurred by the local community in dealing with the effects of COVID-19. While some of the money will be used to maintain vital county and municipal services including transportation, funds will also be available to support local emergency service providers, long-term care organizations, small and tourist-related businesses, and non-profit organizations (e.g. 501©(3) and veterans' organizations).

Grants can be used by eligible organizations to help offset expenses they incurred in dealing with COVID-19 and/or to reduce the impact that lost revenue had on their organizations. Thus, businesses that had significant expense in purchasing personal protective equipment or making modifications to their physical

plants or whose revenues suffered because of reduced demand would qualify as would non-profit organizations that had to cancel or curtail their fund raising activities.

Organizations that already received financial assistance through other state or Federal programs (e.g. the Federal Paycheck Protection Program or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program established under the CARES Act), can qualify for this program. However, first priority will be given to applicants that did not receive such funds. The goal of the program is to offer meaningful assistance to as many organizations as possible.

The County has retained the services of Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC to assist in administering this grant program. The amount of money available to each organization will be limited to \$50,000 at this time with the actual amount to be determined based on the number and magnitude of requests submitted by various organizations.

Applications for assistance will fall into four categories:

- Nonprofit grants

- Municipal grants
- Small business grants
- Tourism business grants

Organizations wishing to apply for one of the grants should request a copy of the appropriate grant application by submitting an intent to apply email to MC-Cares@Outlook.com. This email should include your name, business name, phone number, and name of grant for which you wish to apply. The grant application and instructions for applying will be emailed to you at the address you provide. Once the grant is completed and all supporting paperwork is assembled, it should be scanned and uploaded per the instructions provided. Your application and supporting documents will be sent to a secure mailbox to ensure that all information remains confidential. It is the intent of the Monroe County Commissioners to disburse these funds as soon as possible. With this in mind, the deadline for completed applications to be submitted is Monday, August 3, 2020. Email questions should be submitted to MC-Cares@outlook.com



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Ruth Isenberg, Editor-in-Chief,
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The Journal of the Pocono Plateau—providing information and communication to build a better community.

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

This notice contains information about proposed amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, based on joint resolutions of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania first proposed these amendments during the 2019-2020 session of the legislature. If a majority of the Senators and Representatives elected at the upcoming November 3, 2020 General Election approve any of the proposed amendments for a second time during the 2021-2022 session, the approved proposed amendment(s) will be published again and submitted to the voters of Pennsylvania as a ballot question(s), as required by Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution. If a ballot question is approved by a majority of the people voting on it, the amendment will become law.

This public notice is part of the process of amending the Constitution of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth is required to publish a copy of the joint resolutions proposing the amendments. The text of the joint resolutions is included below this notice.

Words that appear in **bold print** are the changes to the words of the Constitution that are proposed by the General Assembly. If the amendment is approved, the words underlined would be added to the Constitution and the words in **[brackets]** would be deleted.

If you need help reading this advertisement or need the text of the proposed amendments in an alternative format, call or write the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries, Room 210 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, 1-877-868-3772 (option 3), ra-elections@pa.gov.

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for Lieutenant Governor.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

That section 4 of Article IV be amended to read:

§ 4. Lieutenant Governor.

[A Lieutenant Governor shall be chosen jointly with the Governor by the casting by each voter of a single vote applicable to both offices, for the same term, and subject to the same provisions as the Governor; he] Each candidate for Governor, having been nominated under the laws of this Commonwealth, shall, subject to the approval of the political party or political body, if any, nominating such candidate, select a candidate for Lieutenant Governor within such time before the gubernatorial general election as the General Assembly shall prescribe by law. A person may not seek election to both offices simultaneously. The Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate. As such, he the Lieutenant Governor may vote in case of a tie on any question except the final passage of a bill or joint resolution, the adoption of a conference report or the concurrence in amendments made by the House of Representatives.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 2

Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace; and further providing for absentee voting.

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

(1) That section 15(b) of Article V be amended to read:

§ 15. Tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

* * *

(b) A justice or judge elected under section 13(a), appointed under section 13(d) or retained under this section 15(b) may file a declaration of candidacy for retention election with the officer of the Commonwealth who under law shall have supervision over elections on or before the first Monday of January of the year preceding the year in which his term of office expires. If no declaration is filed, a vacancy shall exist upon the expiration of the term of office of such justice or judge, to be filled by election under section 13(a) or by appointment under section 13(d) if applicable. If a justice or judge files a declaration, his name shall be submitted to the electors without party designation, **[on a separate judicial ballot or in a separate column on voting machines,]** at the municipal election immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the justice or judge, to determine only the question whether he shall be retained in office. If a majority is against retention, a vacancy shall exist upon the expiration of his term of office, to be filled by appointment under section 13(b) or under section 13(d) if applicable. If a majority favors retention, the justice or judge shall serve for the regular term of office provided herein, unless sooner removed or retired. At the expiration of each term a justice or judge shall be eligible for retention as provided herein, subject only to the retirement provisions of this article.

(2) That section 14 of Article VII be amended to read:

§ 14. Absentee voting.

(a) The Legislature shall, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified electors **[who may, on the occurrence of any election, be absent from the municipality of their residence, because their duties, occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their proper polling places because of illness or physical disability or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election day duties, in the case of a county employee,]** may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election district in which they respectively reside. A law under

this subsection may not require a qualified elector to physically appear at a designated polling place on the day of the election.

[(b) For purposes of this section, "municipality" means a city, borough, incorporated town, township or any similar general purpose unit of government which may be created by the General Assembly.]

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall:

(1) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under section 1(1) of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

(2) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under section 1(2) of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

Seth's Sightings by Seth Isenberg

It was really too darned hot many of the days these past couple of weeks, with temperatures too often near or above 90. While in Wilkes-Barre on the 18th, we recorded 96° on the car's thermometer in the area near the Mall. We were there to visit my uncle Slater, who has been in and out of the V.A. Hospital. As I write this column, plans are underway to get him back home again with some extra help.

The V.A. here has fussed over him a bit—the WWII vet that he is. In return, he's offered opinions freely from his

95 plus years of experience.

Saturday the 18th was the cooler of two very hot weekend days. The Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow was being held in Drums, and we decided attend before it became unbearably hot. Our arrival put us when the early dancing was taking place, and it was wonderful. People did spread out, and keeping respectful distance, as we did, so we felt safe, but enjoyed the gathering of perhaps 150 people. Vendors brought native crafts; we bought some things. I also did the tomahawk throw—I've been taught by



Chief Little Wolf over perhaps 15 years and I'm still not that good, making one decent show of every three I tried.

After it got too hot to stay, we drove to Wapwallopen to buy some of Heller Orchard's beautiful Susquehanna river side sweet cherries. Heller's have a good crop this year, and looking at the peaches and apples on the trees, those fruit will be big and plentiful once they ripen.

As I've driven around the area, I have sighted wild turkeys south of White Haven, and in Kidder Township. There are some nice bucks around, and still plenty of fawns. Among other sightings are lots of butterfly plants, but not so many butterflies.

After last week's lawn mowing at the house, something I cut attracted one of the neighborhood skunks on garbage night two evenings later. Ruth had a narrow escape as she

critter as much as herself... she took the long way around afterwards.

On a related note, we have planted a nice mix of lilies in our front yard. Some of the more exotic flowers were blooming this week—and suddenly they were gone, eaten by deer.

We also had an unusual visitor inside our home, a toad that managed to sneak in when our back door was opened.

Ruth discovered "him" on the

See SIGHTINGS, page 7

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Sightings...

Continued from page 6

stairs to the basement. I was tasked with the toad rescue. ‘He’ was gently nudged into a little box, then taken to the top of the stairs where the box was handed off to Ruth, who slid him out. He then hopped away into a shady place we hope.

Our hopes for attending the Celtic Fling in Lancaster County went by the wayside with the latest declaration of restrictions from the State government. The event was cancelled last week. The Bloomsburg Fair cancelled this past week.

It looks like we all will be finding some fun where we can each week. For us, maybe a socially distanced winery trip, or a return to our museums visits. This weekend is the Pocono Mountains Music Festival’s remaining public events – a drive-in concert on Friday and a walk-around Skytop on Saturday with special musical accompaniment. We plan to attend, and hope that the week will return to a normal concert schedule next season.

NHL ice hockey has started up. While I finished this column, I was also monitoring the exhibition game between the Penguins and the Flyers. The season resumes on the 31st and we’ll buy the NHL TV access to watch.

Baseball is back, though off to a bumpy start after the Marlins beat the Phillies two games out of three, then came down with cases of COVID-19. I’m not sure what that says about the Phillies, except that they missed some

games afterward through no fault of theirs.

Colleges are welcoming their football team members to get them ready for this season. I’m hoping the coaches and staff can keep the athletes safe – because I want to see them play. For those colleges who cancelled their football and fall sports seasons, I predict big cuts to their athletic budgets, with less popular team sports eliminated as the financial reality hits. No revenue sports = no more golf teams, swimming & diving, tennis, fencing, rowing/ crew, sailing, wrestling, gymnastics – pick three and trim a deficit by a half million dollars or more.

This past Saturday, with no event or activity on our plate and Slater still in the hospital, we took a drive up the Susquehanna River along on a narrow-rowing state road (PA 92) which took us through little riverside towns into PA’s Endless Mountains region. What’s special about this road is that it tucks in real close to some of these “mountains” with the river and a railroad as our companion. The mountainsides are lush with hardwood forests.

We reached Tunkhannock, where the road separates from the river, in time for a snack stop. Since we were there, we added a quick ride through the modest downtown before heading south on our return journey. There was still daylight, so we took a detour around Harvey’s Lake. Once at the lake, we just gawked at the homes and the boathouses, as well as the various gatherings we sighted as we drove past, and were home by last light.

I receive news items from public relations companies, including one that sent this gem about the franchise owner of The Original Hot Dog Factory restaurants in Philadelphia. Here is the gift they sent me this week: “Menu items include the Jamaican Jerk Chicken Dog, topped with grilled pineapples, sweet onions and a sweet island sauce; (and) a surf ‘n’ turf dog; an all-beet hot dog topped with lump crab meat...” An all-beet hot dog, yum. Perhaps they should add French-fried beets to their menu too?



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• PUBLIC NOTICE •

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

This notice contains information about proposed amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, based on joint resolutions of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania first proposed these amendments during the 2019-2020 session of the legislature. If a majority of the Senators and Representatives elected at the upcoming November 3, 2020 General Election approve any of the proposed amendments for a second time during the 2021-2022 session, the approved proposed amendment(s) will be published again and submitted to the voters of Pennsylvania as a ballot question(s), as required by Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution. If a ballot question is approved by a majority of the people voting on it, the amendment will become law.

This public notice is part of the process of amending the Constitution of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth is required to publish a copy of the joint resolutions proposing the amendments. The text of the joint resolutions is included below this notice.

Words that appear in **bold print** are the changes to the words of the Constitution that are proposed by the General Assembly. If the amendment is approved, the words **underlined** would be added to the Constitution and the words in **[brackets]** would be deleted.

If you need help reading this advertisement or need the text of the proposed amendments in an alternative format, call or write the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries, Room 210 North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, 1-877-868-3772 (option 3), ra-elections@pa.gov.

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 3

Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, organizing the Judiciary into representative districts and further providing for residency requirements.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

(1) That section 2 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 2. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court (a) shall be the highest court of the Commonwealth and in this court shall be reposed the supreme judicial power of the Commonwealth;

(b) shall consist of seven justices, **to be elected from seven judicial districts which shall be established by law**, one of whom shall be the Chief Justice; and

(c) shall have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by law.

(2) That section 3 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 3. Superior Court.

The Superior Court shall be a statewide court, and shall consist of the number of judges, which shall be not less than seven judges, **to be elected from judicial districts which shall be established by law**, and have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by this Constitution or by the General Assembly. One of its judges shall be the president judge.

(3) That section 4 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 4. Commonwealth Court.

The Commonwealth Court shall be a statewide court, and shall consist of the number of judges, **to be elected from judicial districts which shall be established by law**, and have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by law. One of its judges shall be the president judge.

(4) That section 11 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 11. Judicial districts; boundaries.

[The number and boundaries of judicial districts shall be changed by the General Assembly only with the advice and consent of the Supreme Court.]

(a) The number of judges and justices of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court elected from each judicial district shall provide every resident of the Commonwealth with approximately equal representation on a court. Each judicial district shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. Each judicial district shall elect one judge or justice. Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward may be divided in forming a judicial district.

(b) The General Assembly shall, by law, establish:

(1) The judicial districts from which justices of the Supreme Court and the judges of the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court are elected.

(2) A transition to an appellate court judiciary elected from judicial districts.

(3) The effect of set judicial districts upon eligibility to seek retention election.

(4) The order in which judicial districts shall elect justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court.

(5) The decennial realignment of the appellate judicial districts based on the Federal decennial census, beginning in 2021 and occurring each ten years thereafter.

(c) Except as provided under subsection (b) and section 7(b), the number and boundaries of all other judicial districts shall be established by the General Assembly by law, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Court.

(5) That section 12 of Article V be amended to read:

§ 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

(a) Justices, judges and justices of the peace shall be citizens of the Commonwealth. Justices and judges, except the judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia, shall be members of the bar of the Supreme Court. Justices **[and judges of statewide courts, for a period of one year preceding their election or appointment and during their continuance in office, shall reside within the Commonwealth. Other]**, judges and justices of the peace, for a period of one year preceding their election or appointment and during their continuance in office, shall reside within their respective districts, except as provided in this article for temporary assignments.

(b) Justices of the peace shall be members of the bar of the Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass an examination prior to assuming office. Such courses and examinations shall be as provided by law.

Section 3. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments under section 1 of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a single ballot question as provided under subsection (c) at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendments are passed by the General Assembly.

(c) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall place these proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot as a single ballot question in the following form:

Shall sections 2, 3, 4, 11 and 12 of Article V of the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to require that judges and justices of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court be elected from judicial districts established by the General Assembly which must be compact, contiguous and nearly equal in population as practicable and to require that all justices, judges and justices of the peace to be residents of their judicial districts for one year preceding election or appointment and during service?

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 4

Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in declaration of rights, providing for prohibition against denial or abridgment of equality of rights because of race and ethnicity; in legislation, further providing for action on concurrent orders and resolutions; and, in the executive, providing for disaster emergency declaration and management.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The following separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with Article XI:

(1) That Article I of the Constitution of Pennsylvania be amended by adding a section to read:

§ 29. Prohibition against denial or abridgment of equality of rights because of race and ethnicity.

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because of the race or ethnicity of the individual.

(1.1) That section 9 of Article III be amended to read:

§ 9. Action on concurrent orders and resolutions.

Every order, resolution or vote, to which the concurrence of both Houses may be necessary, except on the [question of adjournment] **questions of adjournment or termination or extension of a disaster emergency declaration as declared by an executive order or proclamation, or portion of a disaster emergency declaration as declared by an executive order or proclamation,** shall be presented to the Governor and before it shall take effect be approved by him, or being disapproved, shall be repassed by two-thirds of both Houses according to the rules and limitations prescribed in case of a bill.

(2) That Article IV be amended by adding a section to read:

§ 20. Disaster emergency declaration and management.

(a) A disaster emergency declaration may be declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor upon finding that a disaster has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of a disaster is imminent that threatens the health, safety or welfare of this Commonwealth.

(b) Each disaster emergency declaration issued by the Governor under subsection (a) shall indicate the nature, each area threatened and the conditions of the disaster, including whether the disaster is a natural disaster, military emergency, public health emergency, technological disaster or other general emergency, as defined by statute. The General Assembly shall, by statute, provide for the manner in which each type of disaster enumerated under this subsection shall be managed.

(c) A disaster emergency declaration under subsection (a) shall be in effect for no more than twenty-one (21) days, unless otherwise extended in whole or part by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly.

(d) Upon the expiration of a disaster emergency declaration under subsection (a), the Governor may not issue a new disaster emergency declaration based upon the same or substantially similar facts and circumstances without the passage of a concurrent resolution of the General Assembly expressly approving the new disaster emergency declaration.

Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

(b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the secretary of the commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of these proposed constitutional amendments. the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall:

(1) submit the proposed constitutional amendment under section 1(1) of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

(1.1) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under section 1(1.1) of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

(2) submit the proposed constitutional amendment under section 1(2) of this resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

Area Funerals

IRWIN YAPKO

Irwin Yapko, 78, of Long Pond, died Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at St. Luke's Hospital Anderson in Easton.

Born in Bronx, New York, he was a son of the late Israel and Rose (Paster) Yapko.

During his working career, he was a sheet metal mechanic in New York. Irwin retired to the Poconos and volunteered with the Tunkhannock Twp. Volunteer Fire Company.

He is survived by his brother, Harvey Yapko and his partner, Dolly Hogstrom; sisters, Marilyn Luft and Faye Greenberg and her husband, Mitchell all of Suffern, New York.

There will be a visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, July 31 at Bolock Funeral Home, 6148 Paradise Valley Road, Cresco. Rabbi Johanan Bickhardt will conduct a service at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Private cremation is entrusted to Bolock Funeral Home Crematory.

STEPHANIE ANN RIVERA

Stephanie Ann Rivera, 50, of Tobyhanna passed away at her residence on Thursday, July 23, 2020. Born in Brooklyn, NY she was the daughter of Santos and Myrna (Carrero) Rivera.

Stephanie had resided in Tobyhanna for the past 12 years and prior to that in Brooklyn,

NY. She was of the Christian faith.

In addition to her mother, Stephanie is survived by her sister Wanda Rivera, and many nieces and nephews.

Cremation will be private with services held at a later date.

HILDA BAILEY

Hilda Bailey, 92, of Mount Pocono, went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst Township. She was the loving wife of the late Frederick Bailey, who passed away in 1975.

Born in Denniston, Virginia, she was a daughter of the late Frank and Gabrella (Malone) Ray.

Hilda owned and operated Cardinal McClosky Day Care for 30 years. She was a founding member of A New Beginning in Christ Temple in Mount Pocono, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Paul Nelson.

She is survived by her children, Frederick Bailey Jr. of New York, Richard Bailey of Maryland, David Holloway of Tobyhanna, Louise Thompson of Tobyhanna, Rose Bailey of New York, and Betty Bennett of Tannersville; brothers Andrew Ray of New York,

and Chester Ray of Maryland; sister, Luckie Duckett of New York.

Bolock Funeral Home, 6148 Paradise Valley Road, Cresco, hosted a service conducted by Pastor Paul Nelson on July 25. Interment took place July 27 at Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Hilda Bailey for the Activities Department may be sent to St. Mary's Villa Nursing Home 516 St. Villa Rd., Elmhurst Township, Pa 18444.

VINNIE ASHLEY

Vinnie Ashley, 72, of Tobyhanna passed away Saturday, July 25, 2020. Born in Barnwell, South Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Ozzie and Gassie Mae (Patterson) Ashley.

Vinnie had resided in Tobyhanna for the past 5 years, and prior to that in Jersey City, NJ.

Vinnie is survived by her son Raymond Ashley and wife Felicia of Tobyhanna, as well as grandchildren Janiya, Jayden, Jasmin, and Jada.

Cremation will be private. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Monroe County United bringing law enforcement, community together

As a supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, Monroe County United is hosting a community unity event, with a Police Town Hall Forum, "Building Relationships and Breaking Barriers with our Law Enforcement" on Friday, August 7, at 6 p.m. in Dansbury Park, East Stroudsburg.

The senseless killings of African Americans across this nation has shown that racism in America is alive and well, and the public is demanding Police Reform immediately, says MCU president Thomas Jones.

"We are looking to bring all of our local Police Departments together, along with the Pennsylvania State Police to have those uncomfortable discussions on police procedures, and what changes and training they are making to avoid the inappropriate procedures that have led to the senseless killings of African Americans in other parts of the country," he says. "We hope that open discussion will restore our

confidence in our public servants, that are here to protect all of us."

The goal is to build better relationships with local police departments and break those barriers that have emerge between the police and the community.

Safe distancing and wearing of masks will be mandatory.

A link for the community to send in their questions prior to the event can be found at tinyurl.com/MCUPoliceForum.

"Now is the time we all come together and stand together for change here in Monroe County," Jone said. "United we will make a difference; division is no longer an option."

Monetary donations are welcome, as well as loans of chairs, and assistance by groups in monitoring questions at the forum. Anyone interested in helping or learning more can reach Jones at monroecountyunited@gmail.com.

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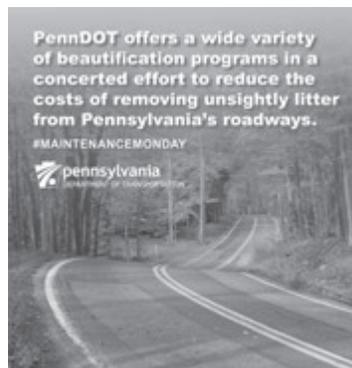


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Complete the census to smooth the way

When driving down a smooth, paved road with the windows down and the sun streaming through the trees, what thoughts flow through your mind? Chances are, you are not thinking of where the funding comes from to pay for the road maintenance. But you actually play a key role in ensuring the roads are maintained.

An important source of funding comes from data extrapolated from the Census. Our community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors.

When you respond to the census, you help our commu-

nity get its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on public works such as roads, as well as schools, hospitals, fire departments and other vital programs.

How did this happen? The Founders of our fledgling nation had a bold and ambitious plan to empower the people over their new government. The plan was to count every person living in the newly created United States of America, and to use that count to determine representation in the Congress. Previously censuses had been used mainly to tax or confiscate property or to conscript youth into military service. The genius of the Founders was taking a tool of government and making it a tool of political empowerment

for the governed over their government.

The Census has been taken every ten years since 1790 according to the first Article of the Constitution:

“Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers...within every subsequent Term of ten Years...”

- The Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 2.

What does this mean for you? The Census is more than just a snapshot of who we are and where we live. It provides vital data for business owners to decide where to set up shop. It provides funding for training and equipping our volunteer fire departments. It also

indicates communities most at need for vital programming and services for families, older adults, and children. Education and school lunch programs, Medicaid, mental health services, hospitals are all bolstered by funding allocated by the Census data.

The Census strives to count everyone living in the United States and its five territories. One person should respond for each home. That person must be at least 15 years old. They should live in the home or place of residence themselves and know general information about each person living there. The better the response rate, the better we are provided for.

You can track the response rates of the Census on the interactive map at 2020census.gov/response-rates to see how

your municipality and state compares to the rest. Are you up for the challenge of making this year's Census the best response rate?

How can you help? Complete the Census. If you are responding for your home, count everyone who was living and sleeping there most of the time as of April 1, 2020. This includes young children, foster children, roommates, and any family members or friends who are living with you, even temporarily. The only exception is if someone was staying with you temporarily on April 1 due to the COVID-19 situation; they should be counted where they usually live.

There are three easy ways to ensure your entire household is counted. Complete and mail the Census invitation mailed to your address.

If you did not receive a mailed invite or you misplaced it, you can respond by calling 844-830-2020. You can also respond online at My2020Census.gov.

Challenge friends and neighbors to complete the Census as well. Then, the next time you drive down that smooth, paved road, with the windows down and the sun shining through the trees, you can smile, knowing that you played a part in making that happen.

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THEME: WHO SAID IT?

ACROSS

1. Involuntary twitch
6. World's oldest national broadcaster
9. Pilgrimage to Mecca
13. Pacific island greeting
14. "____ the ram parts..."
15. Prefix relating to sun
16. Not so crazy
17. Maiden name indicator
18. Greet the day
19. Mentally prepared for something scary
21. "There's no place like home"
23. Liveliness
24. Answer to this clue, e.g.
25. Winter bug
28. Hatha or bikram
30. Incense burner, in a church
35. Bubonic plague spreaders
37. Bottle plug
39. Part of TNT
40. Bad luck predictor
41. "D'oh!"
43. Cleopatra's necklace
44. Red Cross supply
46. Have supper
47. Female crab, or crybaby in Australia
48. Belonging to Cree, e.g.
50. Byproduct of combing wool
52. Be nosey

53. Spilled the beans
55. Band booking
57. "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers"
61. "The caged bird sings of freedom"
65. Acoustic output
66. Polar toy-maker
68. Oodles
69. "Everyone wants to be Cary Grant. Even I want to be Cary Grant."
70. "Funny or ____"
71. Tutor's student
72. Withered
73. Use a Singer, e.g.
74. Not be frugal

DOWN

1. Fresh talk
2. Surveyor's work
3. Excellent
4. Pen dweller
5. "Don't worry 'bout a thing, 'cause every little thing is gonna be alright."
6. "A martini. Shaken, not stirred."
7. Samantha of "Full Frontal"
8. Words to live by
9. Submarine sandwich
10. Climbed down
11. Potluck offering
12. "It's a moo point"
15. Habituate, like a plant
20. Historical period
22. Tolkien humanoid

24. Global problem?
25. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood"
26. Coeur de _____, "Titanic"
27. Embryo cradles
29. Well-behaved
31. Lice eggs
32. "Sesame Street" prominent architecture feature
33. Not right
34. "Yo, Adrian!"

36. Give the cold shoulder
38. Bingo-like game
42. 1837 to 1901, to Queen Victoria
45. Ronald McDonald or Mickey Mouse
49. ____-di-dah
51. Hanukkah's eight
54. Must-haves
56. "Faster!" to a horse
57. Tea servings

58. Fishing decoy
59. Month before Nisan
60. Half a golf round
61. "____ Good Men"
62. Like the White Rabbit
63. Inviting sign
64. Like a hand-me-down
67. Baron Munchausen's statement

CROSSWORD														
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Police Beat by Seth Isenberg

At 3:11 p.m. on 7-22, Pocono Mountain Regional Police were called to car fires at an apartment building on Brookside Lane in Cresco. Police arrived to find Barrett Twp. Fire Co. volunteers on the scene. The fire was 'within several feet' of the apartments. A witness was identified, who had used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire on another car, but couldn't stop the fire on the other. The witness identified a 30 y/o man who put accelerant on both cars, then lit them ablaze. The BTVFD put the fire out on the other vehicle, but it's totaled. Police were able to get additional evidence against the suspect, who had a 'relationship' with one of the victims. Police then obtained an arrest warrant for the arson and other charges, and started to look for him.

The next day, as they were searching, officers involved in the search saw him get into his mother's car. They tried a traffic stop, but mom kept on driving, towards Stroudsburg. Stroud Regional Police responded, and together, police made a stop at the Anomink Post Office. The suspect got out and ran off, but police quickly tracked him down. Mom stayed in the car.

Both were arrested and taken to PMRPD HQ. He's charged with arson and terroristic threats, and she's charged with hindering police and fleeing, plus a bunch of traffic violations.

PA State Police – Fern Ridge, located and had arrested a 55 y/o Winter Park, Florida man who was sending harassing and threatening text messages to a 45 y/o Effort woman, 7-27. The investigation continues.

A couple, 39 and 35, got into an argument at a Jackson Township home. That turned

into a fight with her attacking him and him assaulting and strangling her. Both are charged with harassment, he's charged with strangulation and she's charged with simple assault, 11 a.m. 7-14.

A 17 y/o Brodheadsville girl kicked a 41 y/o man in the groin at 1:12 p.m. on 7-12. After investigation by PSP, she was charged with harassment and will face the district justice.

A Penn Forest woman called in a PFA violation, 7-3. The subject left after an argument. No charges were filed for this incident.

The 30 y/o resident of a Skyline Drive, Effort Mountain home attacked her mom and dad with a kitchen faucet, cutting her mom and knocking her dad's teeth out in an incident at 7:05 p.m. on 6-25. She was arrested for the assaults, and taken to the Monroe County jail, PSP-F.

PSP also reports on five different incidents where locals were turned down for firearms permits after their information was checked at local gun dealers.

Also, PSP-F have a pink and white Apple iPhone found on 7-22 at the intersection of Route 903 and Smith Road in Penn Forest Twp. Contact PSP-F at 570 646-2271 if you have information on who the phone belongs to.

Stealin'

Someone ran up \$7,145 worth of bills on a Jackson Township man's credit card between April 16 and July 16. PSP-F.

A 79 y/o Brodheadsville woman fell victim to the grandparents scam, where someone claiming to be a family member calls for help, and needs money sent. Three times, she sent cash. A fourth time she send a prepaid debit card. Total loss was just shy of \$25k. PSP received a report on 6-26 and is investigating.

On 7-17, the Verizon store in Brodheadsville called police after a woman with a Missouri I.D. tried and failed to buy a phone using a Missouri account. She left the store without a purchase made. Staff thought they recognized her from another attempted trans-

action, under a different name. She left in a '17 BMW 7401.

A local woman reported her '09 Pontiac Vibe wagon stolen from an Effort area garage on 7-22. PSP investigated and learned that the car was repossessed.

A 20 y/o Lehighton-area man rented a chain saw from West End Rental, worth \$529, then did not return it. After giving him multiple chances,

the company called PSP four days later to report a theft. Charges filed are theft and receiving stolen property, 7-27.

Keeping the Rubber Side Down

An Albrightsville local was driving south on Route 209 in Brodheadsville, just beyond the intersection with Route 715, in her 2020 Chevy Malibu

See POLICE BEAT, page 15

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Police Beat

Continued from page 14

when she rear-ended a '16 Hyundai driven by a Kunkletown woman, sending that driver to the hospital in an ambulance, 3:55 p.m. 6-30.

About 1 a.m. on 7-11, a 32 y/o Plymouth, PA, driver speeding west on Interstate 80 at 80 mph + lost control of his Dodge Avenger and drove it about 500' into the woods until stopped by a tree. He was injured and taken by PMR EMS ambulance to GWV Hospital for care. PSP-F sent along a ticket.

At 7-13 at 5:15 p.m., a driver along Route 209 driving out of Brodheadsville didn't see stopped traffic, and hit the car in front of them hard enough to have that car strike a third car that had stopped to turn off the road. The impact was hard enough to disable the struck car, which was towed. No one was hurt.

PSP is looking for the driver of a '15 Audi A8 who drove it off Route 534 in Penn Forest Twp. about 12:19 a.m. on 7-23 and drove through two traffic signs, and bounced off two utility poles before stopping in the middle of the road. The driver then got out and left it there, walking away.

There were a handful of other rear-enders in the area these past couple of weeks. Injuries were limited.

The Pocono Plateau is not HIGH enough for some

A 43 y/o man was found dead at his Mountain Road, Indian Mountain Lakes, Penn Forest Twp. home on 7-13. He was last seen using illegal drugs earlier in the morning.

PSP lists a bunch of traffic stops where drugs were found, mainly marijuana (sometimes with marijuana smoke present), plus several where alcohol was visible.

From the Statehouse

COVID-19 resource guide for seniors available

By State Rep. Jack Rader

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging has an online resource guide available to help older adults easily find useful information related to their health, safety and well-being during the current COVID-19 emergency. The department constantly monitors these essential needs and updates the guide in its effort to provide the latest information and uninterrupted services to the state's senior population.

The guide is located on

the department's website, www.aging.pa.gov, under "COVID-19 Resource Guide for Older Adults." By visiting the guide, seniors, their families and caregivers can find information on a variety of subjects, including meals, prescriptions, protective services, scams, and how to stay active and connected.

For example, seniors can learn about the latest scams related to the pandemic, including calls or emails asking individuals to provide personal information in order to

receive their federal stimulus check. There's also good advice on how to stay active and connected at a time when gatherings are restricted. Ideas include writing notes or cards to family and friends, or hosting a virtual get-together using Zoom, Facetime or Skype.

In addition to the COVID-19 resource guide, the department has offered guidance for aging services to help meet the needs of older Pennsylvanians while maintaining their safety. This guidance, along with information on all of the programs the department provides, can also be found on its website.

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Answers

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Friends of Clymer launch campaign to replace funding lost to COVID

The state of Pennsylvania dictates that 12% of the Clymer Library's annual operating budget be used for purchasing current library materials, including books, DVDs and research resources. As a result

of COVID-19, a cutback in state funding and the cancellation of spring and summer fundraising events has led to the library being unable to fulfill this requirement. It needs \$20,000 to purchase new ma-

terials, which it does not have.

The Friends of Clymer Library has decided to launch a limited campaign through August 4 in order to fill this financial void. "The need for current new material is so

important to the well being of the library and to the community. We pride ourselves on our ability and responsibility to find new, informative and enjoyable materials for everyone," said Library Director Anne Hogya.

As part of the Friends Fund for New Books campaign, the Friends of Clymer Library will match the first \$5,000 raised by individuals and businesses with an additional \$5,000, equaling a total of \$10,000 towards the \$20,000 goal. Those who give at \$25-\$49 will become a Friends' member and enjoy all the programs hosted by the Friends at the

library, including films and guest lectures. Those who contribute \$50 or more will become a Friends member, enjoy the events and be able to select a free book or CD at the upcoming Book Sale hosted by the Friends, scheduled for August 12-15, in the Clymer Library's parking lot, located at 115 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

To contribute, visit www.fundrazr.com/friendsfund-books to donate online with a credit card or send a check payable to the Friends of Clymer Library to: Friends of Clymer Library, 115 Firehouse Road, Pocono, Pines PA 18350.

Financial aid for Fire, Rescue and EMS

Fire, rescue and EMS companies hampered by lack of fundraising opportunities during the COVID-19 emergency can register now for grants to help cover expenses, Senator Mario Scavella has announced.

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner is offering funding via the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, created by legislation co-sponsored by Scavella earlier this year.

"Fundraising activities have been severely curtailed by the

response to COVID-19, and that has had a huge impact on fire, rescue and EMS companies, which rely on them for vital revenue," Scavella said. "Local first responders, especially the volunteer companies, need this assistance to help cover the substantial costs that come with providing these critical services to our communities."

The grant funding will be calculated in the following manner: Fire/Rescue/EMS Companies that received a grant award from the 2019-2020 Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services

Grant Program (FCEMSGP) and register for the COVID-19 Crisis grant program will receive an initial award equal to the amount they received from the 2019-2020 FCEMSGP.

The surplus funding in the program will be distributed to each eligible company that meets the funding criteria that submits a completed registration, including those that did not receive a 2019-2020 FCEMSGP grant award.

More information and registration instructions can be found here. Registration will be open until August 7.

Pipeline grant awarded to PMIA

State Rep. Maureen Madden has announced that a \$585,531 Commonwealth Financing Authority's Pipeline Investment grant has been awarded to the Pocono Mountain Industrial Park Authority. The funding will be used to extend a natural gas pipeline through the Pocono Mountain Corporate South in Coolbaugh Township and in the Borough of Mount Pocono. The project is expected to create 100 jobs.

"This project is crucial to spur economic development in the 115th district," Madden said. "The pipeline extension provides us the ability to upgrade our infrastructure, generating further business opportunity in Coolbaugh Township."

Madden said the authority plans to extend natural gas to serve lots 24-27 in the Pocono Mountain Corporate Center

South, serving about 59 acres.

The extension of the gas line is expected to attract \$25 million in private investments.

Total cost to extend the line will be more than a million dollars.

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