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## Lookout Fire Company No. 1 Celebrates Labor Day With 90th Annual Parade



Lookout Fire Co. No. 1 Hosted the 90th Annual Labor Day Parade in Pen Argyl on September 1st. First responders from all over the neighboring communities joined to celebrate Labor Day and participate in this year's parade. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## Pen Argyl and Bangor Go Head To Head In Slate Belt Field Hockey Rivalry Game



Pen Argyl and Bangor went head to head in field hockey on August 28th. Bangor won 4 to 1. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## Bangor Takes On Lehigh Valley In Youth Night Football Game



Bangor took on Lehigh Valley High School in their Youth Night football game on August 28th. Bangor was defeated, 38 to 7. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## Pen Argyl Wins With A 7-Point Lead Over Palmerton



Pen Argyl took on Palmerton High School in football on August 30th, winning the game, 27 to 20. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## Construction Update on East Stroudsburg Exit 308 on I-80



**From PA Senator Rosemary Brown:**

As we all know, there has been ongoing work at Exit 308 along I-80 in East Stroudsburg for an extended period of time now. I want to share some important updates on this project:

When I-80 was first built in the Stroudsburg area in 1970 as part of the Eisenhower Interstate System, the standards for on and off-ramps were much shorter than what is required today. Over the years, this has created safety concerns for drivers, particularly during heavy traffic periods. The Exit 308 project

is designed to address these issues by widening and lengthening the ramps, improving traffic flow, and making the interchange safer.

In addition to safer, wider lanes and improved lighting, there will be two new stone-finished roundabouts that greet travelers with a "Welcome to East Stroudsburg" sign. I-80 itself will be widened to three lanes, and Prospect Street and Brown Street by Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono will be expanded to help traffic flow more smoothly to the hospital and East  
**UPDATE cont'd on pg 4**



New in the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction:  
Kingmakers: Year One by Sophie Lark; Kingmakers: Year Three by Sophie Lark;  
Kingmakers: Year Two by Sophie Lark; Kingmakers: Graduation by Sophie Lark;  
The Man Who Died Seven Times by Yasuhiko Nishizawa

Adult Non Fiction  
Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York by Andrew Lownie; The Spiritual  
Poems of Rumi by Jalal Al-Din Rumi Maulana

Large Print Adult Fiction:  
The Locked Ward by Sarah Pekkanen; The Last Carolina Summer: A Novel by  
Karen White

Easy Fiction:  
Bluey's Halloween Mix-and-Match; Frankenstein by A. H. Hill; Pick a Pumpkin by  
Patricia Toht

Easy Non Fiction:  
Intro to German by Bela Davis; Intro to French by Bela Davis; Intro to Italian  
by Bela Davis; Intro to Spanish by Bela Davis; Intro to Russian by Bela Davis;  
Intro to Chinese = Zhong wen by Bela Davis; Intro to Japanese = Nihongo by  
Bela Davis; Exploring Insects by Jill McDonald; Exploring Sharks by Jill Mc-  
Donald; Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes by Julie Murray; Milk Snakes by  
Julie Murray; Eyelash Vipers by Julie Murray; Boa Constrictors by Julie Murray;  
Ducklings by Julie Murray; Giraffe Calves by Julie Murray; Baby Gorillas by Julie  
Murray; A Visit to the Dentist by Julie Murray; Taking Care of Your Teeth by Julie  
Murray; What Does a Dentist Do? By Julie Murray; Puppies by Julie Murray;  
Kittens by Julie Murray; Meet Mary Cassatt; Meet Henri Rousseau; Meet Berthe  
Morisot; Meet Wassily Kandinsky; Meet Johannes Vermeer

Junior Non Fiction:  
The History of the Computer: People, Inventions, and Technology that Changed  
our World by Rachel Ignatofsky; Spooky Castles by Megan Borgert-Spaniol;  
Spooky Schools & Libraries by Elsie Olson; Spook Cemeteries by Elsie Olson;  
Spooky Historical Sites by Scott Wilken; The Way Things Work by David Ma-  
caulay; Farm Animals by Bonnie Hinman; Basketball by Will Graves; Soccer by  
Chris McDougall; Baseball and Softball by Brendan Flynn; Gymnastics by Karen  
Price

DVDs:  
1923: A Yellowstone Origin Story: Season Two

Northampton County Sheriff's Department  
Warns of Ongoing Scams

The Northampton County Sheriff's Department is alerting the public to a scam currently targeting community members.

The department has received multiple reports from residents stating they were contacted by phone, text, or other forms of communication, instructing them on how to post bond to avoid incarceration. In some cases, fraudulent flyers featuring the Sheriff's Department emblem and designed to appear authentic have been distributed. These communications provide directions on how and where to deposit a cash bond using a local kiosk.

This is a scam.

The Northampton County Sheriff's Department does not:

- Accept cash or credit card information for bail purposes
- Instruct individuals to use kiosks, online transfers, or other third-party methods for bail
- Solicit personal financial information by phone, text, or email

Residents who believe they may have been victimized are urged to:

- Contact their local police department immediately.
- Report the scam to the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. 1-800-441-2555 or by emailing [scams@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:scams@attorneygeneral.gov).

Northampton County urges all residents to remain vigilant and cautious. When in doubt, verify through official channels before providing any personal or financial information.

For questions or to verify suspicious communications, please contact the Northampton County Sheriff's Department.

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# Community Reminder on Pennsylvania’s School Bus Safety and the Laws Surrounding Them

Parents of school ages students, please take a moment to review the following safety tips to help ensure our children arrive to and from school safely each day:

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Never push when getting on or off of the school bus.
- Always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so that the school bus driver can see you.
- Be aware - Cross with Care! Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat. Never put your head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Talk quietly; do not distract your school bus driver.
- If your school bus crosses railroad tracks, be calm and quiet so that your driver can listen for a train. Always obey your school bus driver's instructions, so that he or she can make safe decisions.
- Never play with the emergency exits. Backpacks, band instruments, or sports equipment may not block the aisle or



emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.

- When getting off of the school bus, make sure that all drawstrings and other loose objects are secure so that they don't get caught on the handrail or the door.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.
- If you leave something on the bus or drop something outside of the bus, never go back for it. The driver may not see you and begin moving the bus.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get into the car with a stranger.

Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law:

- Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop arm activated.
- Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.

- Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety.
- If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.
- Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

Penalties: There are two distinct programs related to violations of Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law.

- Criminal violations: 75 Pa. C.S. § 3345.0 (opens in a new tab) (Meeting or overtaking school bus) identifies fines and penalties when a police officer pulls you over for a violation, including:
  - \$250 fine and a \$35 surcharge to be deposited into the School Bus Safety Grant Program Account.
- Five points on your driving record.
- 60-day license suspension.
- Civil violations: 75 Pa. C.S. § 3345.1 (opens in a new tab) (Automated enforcement of failure to stop for school bus with flashing red lights) allows school entities to install and operate a side stop signal arm enforcement system for the purpose of enforcing the School Bus Stopping Law. Civil violations include only a \$300 fine and don't reflect any points or insurance ratings.

For more information, review Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law Fact Sheet at: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copap-wp-pagov/en/pennidot/documents/public/dvs-pubsforms/bdl/bdl-publications/pub%2097.pdf>

# Local Postal Worker Honored for Extraordinary Compassion and Service



Last week, the South Stroudsburg neighborhood came together to recognize their postal worker, Brandon Youngken, in recognition of his extraordinary compassion and service. Brandon went above and beyond his duties when he noticed a local resident's P.O. Box overflowing, leading him to check on the individual's well-being. Though the story ended in sadness, Brandon's kindness and concern touched the entire community. We are grateful for his dedication and the care he shows to those he serves every day. While I couldn't be there personally, I was pleased to provide a plaque to recognize his service.

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## UPDATE

Continued from page 1

Stroudsburg University. Fifty-seven percent of the project will be completed by Labor Day. Major progress includes replacing and upgrading water, sewer, communication, and electric utilities; installing 10,000 feet of new drainage pipes; removing the old Prospect Street bridge and completing Phase 1 of the new one; and building retaining and

sound walls along the eastbound lanes. Still to come are the final widening of Prospect Street and completion of the new bridge, the construction of the roundabouts, the widening of both east and westbound lanes, and the permanent alignment of the new on and off-ramps. Additional retaining walls on both sides of the highway will also be completed. The project remains on schedule and is anticipated to be completed by late 2027.

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## Registration Opens September 4th for Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Registration for the 2025 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off event will open Thursday, September 4th at 8:00 a.m. This event is only for Northampton County residents; online pre-registration is required. County residents may sign up for one appointment per household. Sign-ups are on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration often reaches capacity quickly, so residents are encouraged to register promptly and open an account with Eventbrite ([www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)) before registration begins. A link to the event will be posted on the Northampton County Homepage.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held on Saturday, October 4 at Northampton Community College (3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem) and will be held rain or shine. For the safety of staff, you must enter from the campus's Main Entrance on Green Pond Road.

Appointment times are in 15-minute increments. User instructions are available on the County's Environmental Services webpage. After successfully registering, a confirmation email will be sent by Eventbrite

**Print or share**  
**OCTOBER 4**  
DROPOFF IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
Online Registration opens  
**SEPTEMBER 4 at 8AM**

**PRE-REGISTRATION**  
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**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA**  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
**2025 COLLECTION EVENT**  
Collection events are a service provided by the Recycling & Sustainability Fund & are provided for Northampton County, PA households only.

**ACCEPTED ITEMS**  
**HOUSEHOLD QUANTITIES:**  
**FROM THE GARAGE:**  
Gasoline, Gas/Oil mix, Kerosene, Fuel additives, Oil, Antifreeze, Auto fluids, Waste  
**FROM THE OUTDOORS:**  
Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Rodenticides, Pool Chemicals, Propane tanks (20 lb. size)  
**FROM THE HOME:**  
Adhesives, Glues, Caulking, Ammonia, Acids, Bleach, Caustics, Cleaners, Degreasers, Corrosives, Polishes, Aerosols, paint/sol/sol, Drain openers, Fire extinguishers, Poisons, Non-PCB ballasts, CFLs, Fluorescent tubes, Oil-based paints, Non-alkaline batteries, Mercury Thermometers & Thermocouples  
**FROM THE WORKSHOP:**  
Epoxyes, Resins, Turpentine, Finishes, Sealers, Shellacs, Lacquers, Varnishes, Polishes, Stains, Removers & Strippers, Thinners

**EVENT GUIDELINES**  
You must arrive during your designated (timed) or you will be turned away.  
Waste must NOT be affiliated with a business, contractor, institution, nonprofit, municipality, organization, or out-of-county residence.  
Wastes will NOT be accepted from business or commercial vehicles.  
Staff has the right to determine & refuse unauthorized & unacceptable material.  
Maximum amount allowed is 50 gallons & 90 pounds of solid material. Containers larger than 5 gallons will NOT be accepted.  
Proof of residency & registration are required at check in.

**RESTRICTED MATERIALS**  
• Alkaline Batteries • Electronics • Empty Containers  
• Incandescent & LED Bulbs • Latex & Acrylic Paints  
• Water-based Products • Refrigerants/Freon • SHARPS  
• Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors • Radioactive Waste  
• Ammunition • Explosives • Fireworks • Flares  
• Compressed Gas Tanks (CO<sub>2</sub>, oxygen, acetylene, helium)  
Event will be monitored to ensure compliance with RCDFP requirements.

**NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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 Scan or visit [NorCoPA.gov](http://NorCoPA.gov) for registration link.  
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with a printable ticket attachment. If you need to change your confirmed time, you must delete or cancel your appointment on Eventbrite and re-register. There is no guarantee that an appointment will remain available if you cancel. Those who show up without an appointment will be turned away.

Acceptable waste must be generated in the home and not affiliated with any commercial business, contractor, nonprofit, organization, institution, or out-of-county residence. Staff has the right to determine and refuse unauthorized material. Commercially

registered vehicles, including rentals, are not permitted.

To be admitted to the event, each participant must:

- Show a printed ticket from Eventbrite or display the confirmation email on their smart phone
- Show proof of residency matching the contact information used for registration
- Arrive within their scheduled timeframe, not before or after
- Only drop off accepted materials
- Only 50 gallons and 90 pounds of solid waste will be accepted per vehicle.

This is a no-contact event, which means drivers must remain inside their vehicles upon arrival. Material must be accessible from the trunk, cargo area, or bed of a truck. Event staff will remove all items from those locations.

Acceptable materials include paint products, automotive fluids, outdoor products (pesticides, herbicides, driveway sealers, pool chemicals, etc.), and household products (lead acid car batteries, rechargeable, lithium or button type household batteries, fire extinguishers, flammables, adhesives, aerosols, etc.)

Unacceptable materials include electronics, appliances, Freon, scrap metal, explosives, ammunition, radioactive waste, fireworks, smoke/carbon monoxide protectors, medical waste, sharps, latex paint, alkaline and electric vehicle batteries, gas cylinders and helium tanks. A full list of unacceptable materials can be found on the 2025 event flyer as well as the County's Environmental Services webpage.

Household hazardous waste collection events are supported by Northampton County Recycling and Sustainability Funding in partnership with PA Dept. of Agriculture, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection and Waste Management Grand Central and Alliance landfills.

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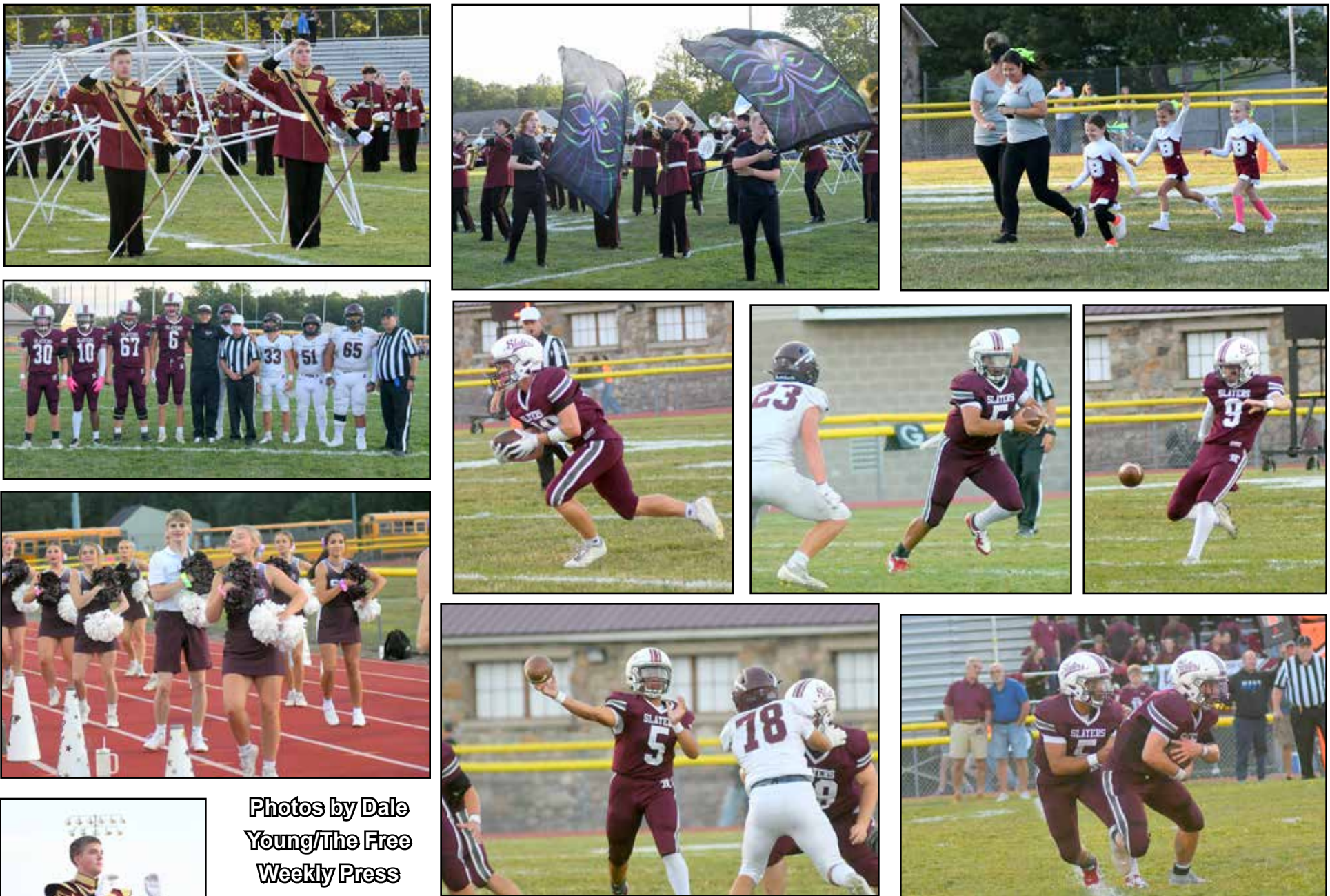
(Please note due to certain holidays, supplies will be offered on the 3rd Saturday of the Month)

**March 22, 2025 | April 26, 2025 | May 17, 2025 | June 28, 2025**  
**July 26, 2025 | August 23, 2025 | September 27, 2025**  
**October 25, 2025 | November 22, 2025 | December 20, 2025**

[www.bangornazch.org](http://www.bangornazch.org) [sweetndiscreetbnc@gmail.com](mailto:sweetndiscreetbnc@gmail.com)



BANGOR (7) VS LEHIGHTON (38) FOOTBALL YOUTH NIGHT



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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PEN ARGYL (1) VS BANGOR (4) GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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Hello, fellow readers,

I look forward to sharing an update on a long-ago story about a real softie, a soft-wooded Sweet Autumn Clematis, in its glory this time of year. With a plethora of tiny white blooms from August to September, she resembles a snowdrift and smells heavenly. I love the fragrance brought in by the cooler evening breeze as I snag the last of the summer season’s porch campouts on the futon. And adore waking to the busy hums of what I think are bumblebees with fuzzy yellow backs and black bodies, though they seem smaller than the common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*).

Unlike Wisteria or Trumpet Vines, which folks start out loving until the strength of the woody climbers destroys their deck or pergola, Sweet Autumn Clematis’s soft, woody nature won’t harm rails or screens, for that matter. Plus, she blooms on new wood, so you can easily manage her size without missing out on glorious blooms.

Once the flowers fade, a silvery blanket of seed heads follows,

contrasting beautifully with the dark, almost blue-green leaves. I let this beauty scramble up the screened porch stairs and make its way onto the screens. It’s true; you may have to tiptoe around to exit from the porch to the outside, a path rarely taken, not because of the sweetie.

Hardy from zone 5 to 8 (some say 9), like other clematis, *Clematis terniflora* likes cool feet and sunny heads. That means cool roots and sunny foliage for those of you who don’t think of plants as having people-parts. I have one happy Sweet Autumn Clematis doing fine in afternoon shade. Mulch generously or shade the roots with a companion plant, such as a low-growing hydrangea. Ruby Slippers Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is a favorite that comes to mind.

But there’s a negative. Sweet Autumn Clematis is considered invasive by many. She self-seeds readily in some areas. Not in my yard. Maybe because of its location, seeds drop in the lawn area, and therefore, any volunteers are cut down by the mower. However, recently, a client in Essex County has experienced an issue with volunteers overwhelming their beds. And Sweet Autumn Clematis has been seen running amok along highways.

A remedy in areas where it can be maintained is to prune the clusters of seed heads before they dry and turn brown, typically in early fall, to prevent self-seeding.

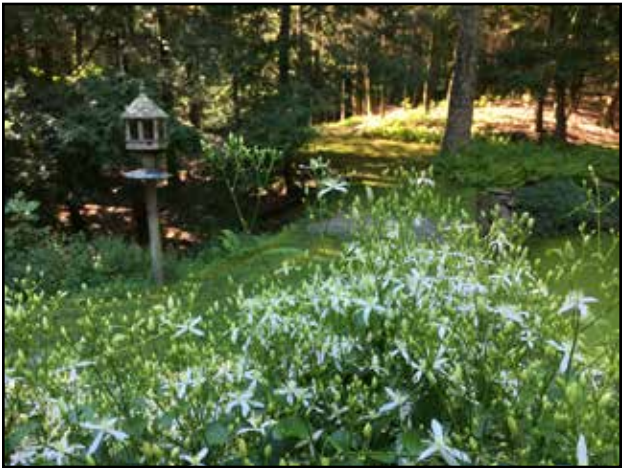


Then, each year when dormant, cut her down to about a foot above ground to maintain her 20-foot scramble each year. I’ve even let her scramble as a ground cover with great success. She’s listed as Occasionally Severely Damaged by deer, though I haven’t had Bambi interfere unless the ambitious nature allows for nibbles to go unnoticed.

Drum roll, please—Let me introduce you to a native look-alike I recently found. Virgin’s

Bower (*Clematis virginiana*) blooms mid-to-late summer for about a month. It’s often confused with Sweet Autumn Clematis (originating from Asia), but the jagged leaves and lack of fragrance distinguish it from *Clematis terniflora*, which has rounded leaves.

Despite being fragrance-free, the flowers are highly attractive to many species of native bees and butterflies. Plus, caterpillars of several moths feed on the foliage. Like its Sweet



Autumn cousin, songbirds nest in the thick vegetation, which is relatively deer-resistant.

Back to my sweet-smelling, lovely, despite the invasiveness, there are many fans of my sweetie, including our industry’s woody plant guru, Michael Dirr. As written in his *Manual of Woody Plants*, it’s “Probably the easiest clematis to grow as it seems to thrive with neglect.” Perfect! Then he adds, “Extremely vigorous to the point of

viciousness.” Uh oh!

There, there, worrywarts, perhaps his location in Georgia has something to do with it. Dirr ends with kudos, saying the “soft fragrance is delightful, and I’ve allowed the plant to scramble over crape myrtles.”

Delightfulness overcomes viciousness. But a native alternative that pollinators also love is far more enchanting. Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com and your favorite Podcast App.

Project Self-Sufficiency Hosts Free Back-to-School Fair for Local Families

Hundreds of parents and children recently turned out for a Back-to-School Fair hosted by the Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency. Designed to prepare the entire family for a successful academic year, the event featured numerous parenting skills workshops, children’s activities, information from local social service agencies and healthcare organizations, mobile gaming, and more. Children and families received new backpacks filled with school supplies and were invited to enjoy free pizza and snacks while being serenaded by local musicians, including Mia

Bonaldi, Rich Pell, and students from the Meaningful Melodies vocal studio in Sparta. Transportation for patrons was provided by the Stocker Bus Company.

“We are pleased to be able to help both parents and children to prepare for a successful school year at the annual Back-to-School Fair,” commented Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director at Project Self-Sufficiency. “We commend all of the social service agencies, healthcare organizations, businesses, and volunteers who have taken the time to lend a helping hand to local families in need.”

In addition to din-



ner and activities for children, the Back-to-School Fair featured a seminar about positive parenting techniques and introduced parents to the peer-to-peer support offered by a Parent Cafe.

Patrons also toured the Newton Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad ambulance, enjoyed the Triple A Mobile Gaming Truck, and were invited onboard the Sussex County Library System’s bookmobile.

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# Lookout Fire Co Labor Day Carnival

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# 90th Annual Lookout Fire Co Labor Day Parade



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PEN ARGYL (0) VS SOUTHERN LEHIGH (4) GIRLS SOCCER



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# St. Luke's Ambulances Save Lives with Whole Blood

In recent months, St. Luke's ambulances equipped with whole blood have saved numerous lives, including car accident survivors and a gunshot victim. Whole blood is a powerful, lifesaving tool because, unlike IV fluid, it contains vital components – red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma, explained Chris Zukowski, MSN, RN, of St. Luke's Emergency and Transport Services (SLETS). "Communities served by St. Luke's ambu-



lances with whole blood are incredibly fortunate, because it is a real game-changer for first-responders," he said. "Most other ambulance corps do not have the sophisticated equipment and advanced

training to administer whole blood transfusion." In July 2024, SLETS became one of the region's first ambulance services to carry whole blood on its special critical care transport (CCT) ambulances, initially for the transport of patients between Network hospitals. But as the recent life-saving examples illustrate, SLETS ambulances in Monroe, Bucks and Lehigh counties are now also using whole blood, when necessary, to save people's lives before they reach the hospital. This development follows a recent change in Pennsylvania regulations allowing general paramedics—those found on traditional ambulances—to be trained and certified to administer whole blood. (St. Luke's Dr. Bryan Wilson, who helped draft the new protocol, leads a St. Luke's EMS Physician Response Team that also administers a prehospital whole blood transfusion. See [www.slnh.org/blog/2025/new-state-protocol-drafted-by-sluhn-doc-saves-lives](http://www.slnh.org/blog/2025/new-state-protocol-drafted-by-sluhn-doc-saves-lives).) "If ambulances don't have whole blood and they respond to a scene, like a horrible accident on I-78, responders can apply a tourniquet and administer IV fluids – but those measures don't have oxygen-carrying capabilities," Zukowski said. "Providing whole blood at the scene of an accident helps to stabilize patients until we can get them to one of trauma centers."




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# Washington's (NJ) Farmers Market Welcomes Fall With Open Arms

Washington Borough's Farmers Market is welcoming fall with open arms - with farmers offering fresh picked fruits and vegetables that bring out the best in Jersey. The weekly Farmers Market, presented by the Washington Business Improvement District and the Washington Green team, is held in the center of Downtown Washington every Saturday by Veteran's Park through the end of September, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each week features a different special activity or theme, including local musical talent. September brings a beautiful overlap of sum-

mer's bounty and fall's first harvests. You'll find:  
-Juicy tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers & sweet corn  
-Hearty root vegetables like carrots, beets, and potatoes  
-Jersey peaches  
-Greens galore - kale, spinach, and chard  
-Pumpkins, gourds, and squash are just starting to appear  
Additionally, the market offers delicious homemade bread, fresh eggs and more. September's special activities include the Mini-Kids Fest on the 6th and the Potato Festival on the 13th. On the 20th

the Farmers Market is part of the annual Festival in the Borough. The season ends on Sept. 27, coinciding with the Borough's townwide yard sale. Several participating businesses are expected to have sidewalk sales that day as well. Musically, Deb D'Anne will entertain at the Mini-Kids Fest, Bob Nichol森 takes the stage for Potato Festival and George Marinich wraps things up on Sept. 27. On the 20th, the Festival in the Borough will have three stages of music throughout the downtown. Among the farmers



market vendors this year are: Pipers Hill Farms, Greenbytes Farm, K & A Farm, Fiddlers Farm, Dandy Lion Acres Farm, K&D Refillery, Wilder Farm, and Azul Poblano. Other vendors who

will be on hand during the season are Millie and ME - Garden Stand, Bee To The Honey, Tatter Bear Treats, Mambo Bake Shop and Luscious Spirits. For more information

about the Farmers Market, vendor opportunities, and other WBID news, visit [washing-tonbid.org](http://washing-tonbid.org) or LIKE the Washington BID Facebook page. You can also email [admin@washing-tonbid.org](mailto:admin@washing-tonbid.org).

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# DEP Plugs Two Actively Leaking Abandoned Wells in Erie County, Supporting the Shapiro Administration’s Historic Well Plugging Campaign

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began plugging two actively leaking abandoned wells under an emergency contract today in Millcreek Township, Erie, PA. Under Governor Shapiro’s leadership, DEP has made historic progress, plugging more than 315 wells throughout the Commonwealth, protecting public health and creating jobs in the process.

The first of the two wells to be plugged sits on the bluff overlooking Baer Beach, directly behind Crystal Point Condos (3300 Baer Rd), which is home to 90 residents. Members of the DEP Oil and Gas program were joined on site by Senator Dan Laughlin and other state leaders and their respective staff, to see the plugging process firsthand and learn about the importance of addressing

dangerous abandoned wells.

“Any time you have an actively leaking well in a residential neighborhood, it is a concern to public health and safety and needs to be evaluated immediately,” said DEP Northwest Regional Office Oil and Gas Manager, Scott Dudzic. “Plugging these wells will remove the possibility of methane gas migrating into enclosed structures, causing a potential explosive atmosphere.”

Once plugging operations behind Crystal Point Condos has been completed, DEP contractors will mobilize to the site of the second well located at 1602 Linwood Ave. Much like the first, this well has no responsible owner and is actively leaking methane in a residential area. Both well plugging projects are expected to be completed within the upcoming weeks.



Erie County is home to some 3203 active wells and 448 orphan and abandoned wells. DEP is in the process of finalizing a proposed project, through the Department of Interior



(DOI), that will utilize Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding to plug 28 wells.

In addition, the Shapiro administration just awarded over \$7 mil-

lion to 35 well plugging projects across the Commonwealth through the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP), focusing on reducing methane emissions,

creating jobs and supporting small business across Pennsylvania. Five of those projects in Erie County will address the plugging of 28 marginal conventional wells.

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