

County Executive McClure Announces \$810,000 in Grow NORCO 2025 Grant Awards

By Jessica Berger

Northampton County, PA – County Executive Lamont G. McClure today announced the recipients of the 2025 Grow NORCO Grant Awards, which will invest a total of \$810,000 in communities across Northampton County to support local planning, infrastructure, economic development, and quality of life initiatives.

Grow NORCO is Northampton County's competitive grant program designed to help municipalities and organizations move critical projects forward, strengthen local capacity, and support smart growth throughout the county.

"This year's Grow NORCO awards reflect our continued commitment to investing in our communities in ways that are practical, forward-thinking, and impactful," said County Executive Lamont G. McClure. "These projects will help municipalities and non-profit organizations enhance the quality of life for residents across Northampton County."

The 2025 awards support a wide range of initiatives, including municipal planning efforts, zoning and land use updates, infrastructure improvements, and projects that promote sustainable growth and community development. Each funded project aligns with the County's broader goals of fiscal responsibility, long-term planning, and reinvestment in local governments.

A complete list of 2025 Grow NORCO Grant recipients and funded projects is included in a separate PDF attachment accompanying this release.

Since its inception, Grow NORCO has provided municipalities and non-profit organizations with essential resources to undertake projects that might otherwise be delayed or unfunded, helping communities plan for growth while preserving the character and livability of Northampton County.

Grow NORCO 2025 Grant Awards

Case Id	Organization	Project Title	Award Amount
34621	Bangor Borough	Administration Building Roof Replacement	\$ 20,000.00
34629	Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering Inc.	Emergency Shelter Expansion Project - Elevator Installation	\$ 30,000.00
34608	Bethlehem Township	14th Street Park Rehabilitation Project	\$ 15,000.00
34645	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley	High School Bigs Mentoring & Leadership Program	\$ 7,500.00
34641	Bloom for Women	Jasmine House Bathrooms Project	\$ 24,300.00
34588	Bushkill Township	Municipal Building Roof Replacement	\$ 33,300.00
34597	CALV - Slate Belt Rising	Slate Belt Rising Façade Improvement Program	\$ 25,000.00
34530	City of Easton	Scott Park Improvement Designs	\$ 30,000.00
34532	Community Action Development Bethlehem	Southside Residential Façade Program	\$ 30,000.00
34661	Easton Area Community Center	Security and Safety upgrades	\$ 5,700.00
34528	Friends of Levitt Pavilion at SteelStacks	SteelStacks Sound System	\$ 36,000.00
34561	Governor Wolf Historical Society	GWHS Parking Area Macadam Paving/Water Abatement Project	\$ 14,400.00
34648	Greater Easton Development Partnership	Planning Support for Establishment of a Business Improvement District	\$ 15,000.00
34592	Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation	2026 Chamber Holiday Tree Lightnings and Business Banners	\$ 12,000.00
34620	Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley - Hellertown	ReStore Property Improvements	\$ 20,000.00
34662	Hanover Township	Community Center Bleachers	\$ 25,000.00
34520	Hellertown Borough	Walkability Plan	\$ 25,000.00
34549	Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley	Food Pantry Operational Support	\$ 15,000.00
34638	Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites	Overlook on History Bridge Connector	\$ 25,000.00
34611	Jacobsville Historical Society	Timber Frame Pavilion	\$ 15,000.00
34636	Lower Mount Bethel Township	Riverton Bandshell	\$ 30,000.00
34626	Miller-Keystone Blood Center	Purchase of Freezers for Plasma and Other Blood Products	\$ 20,000.00
34643	Moore Township	Recreation Center Parking Area Improvements	\$ 15,000.00
34625	Moravian Historical Society	1740 Gray Cottage Preservation	\$ 25,000.00
34627	National Museum of Industrial History	Next Level Expansion Project - Exhibit Fabrication and Installation	\$ 15,000.00
34619	Nazareth Economic Development Commission	Downtown Nazareth Façade Grant Program	\$ 20,000.00
34622	New Bethany, Inc.	Choice Food Pantry Safety Upgrades and Operational Improvement Project	\$ 25,000.00
34594	Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society (NCHGS)	1753 Bachmann Publick House: Improvement Projects	\$ 20,000.00
34667	Palmer Township	Palmer Township Bicycle Path Rehabilitation Project	\$ 15,000.00
34617	Pennsylvania Playhouse	ADA Parking Lot and Ramp	\$ 20,000.00
34524	Saucon Valley Community Center	Playground Surface Repair	\$ 5,300.00
34647	State Theatre Center of the Arts, Inc.	Upper Undeveloped Space Feasibility Study	\$ 6,700.00
34593	Stockertown Borough	Revision and Update of Zoning Ordinance and SALDO Regulations	\$ 40,000.00
34551	The Nurture Nature Center, Inc.	Feasibility Study for Development of a Food Hub in the Lehigh Valley	\$ 40,000.00
34650	Three Church Hill Arts and Historical Society/Bell Tower Cultural Center	Signage & Storage Shed	\$ 4,000.00
34540	Touchstone Theatre	Outdoor Eastern Wall Repair	\$ 4,800.00
34545	Twilight Wish Foundation	Northampton County Wish Granting Celebrations	\$ 1,000.00
34547	Valley Health Partners Community Health Center	CHW's Bridging the Gap Between Community and Healthcare	\$ 30,000.00
34583	Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.	Purchase of A Wheelchair-Accessible Van	\$ 15,000.00
34548	Washington Township Volunteer Fire Company	Parking Lot Surface Refinishing Project	\$ 15,000.00
34586	Wilson Area LINCS Family Center, Inc.	Operational Support	\$ 20,000.00
			\$ 810,000.00

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For your calendar

Fundraiser

Last Chance Books! See the selection of gently used books on the first floor. The books are available for a donation of any amount.



Preschool storytime

Winter preschool storytime, for ages 3-5: Wed, Jan. 7 and 21 at 10:30am in the children's section

Join for stories, songs, and a craft. Space is limited; call the library to register.

Book group for adults

Jan. 13 - "book tasting" (provide a "tasting" of your favorite book and share a "slice" of the tale with the group)

Feb. 10 - The Note by Alafair Burke

The group meets at 6:30pm on the first floor. Space is limited; email info@bmcl.org to register.

Board meeting

Tues., Jan. 20 at 6:30pm
The public is invited to attend.
Please contact the library with your interest.



Announcement

The BMCL welcomes its new manager, Dr. Jill E. Silvius. Jill has been a BMCL volunteer since 2009, a board member since 2010, and secretary since 2016.

Jill was the bookkeeper/office manager at the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity from 2021-2025 and an English professor at East Stroudsburg University from 2009-2021. Jill earned a B.A. from Moravian University, M.A. from Kutztown University, and Ph.D. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Beyond hours as an academic among the stacks, Jill's other library experience includes employment at Bethlehem Area Public Library, volunteering at Indiana Free Library, and patronage at Whitehall, Coplay, Northampton, Parkland, and Kutztown public libraries. She loves reading everything, especially nonfiction about science and history. And she and her husband (and fellow BMCL volunteer) Matt try to visit every library in the vicinity of wherever they happen to vacation.

Jill looks forward to managing the BMCL and to pursuing new initiatives and opportunities to serve the residents of Pen Argyl, Wind Gap, and Plainfield Township.

Jill wishes to express a grateful thank you to retiring manager Lisa Farnan for her training expertise and friendship.

NEW



Book Nook

We sell gently used books for ALL readers: juvenile, young adult, and adult - including fiction and nonfiction! Books-on-CD, puzzles, and DVDs are also available for sale. PLUS: gift certificates for the Book Nook are available year-round!

Are you available?

We are in need of community-minded residents of Pen Argyl, Plainfield Township, and Wind Gap who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. What you'll do: work closely with other board members, make decisions about library policies and spending, plan and facilitate fundraisers, attend meetings on the 3rd Tues. of each month at 6:30pm

We are also always in need of adult volunteers, who serve a minimum of two shifts each month.

What you'll do: assist with circulation of items, shelve books, straighten shelves, help with fundraisers

Interested? Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org.



good book is the best of friends, the same day and forever." – Martin Farguhar Tupper

Adult fiction

- The Irish Goodbye (Heather Aimee O'Neill)
- King Sorrow (Joe Hill)
- False Witness (Phillip Margolin)
- The Proving Ground (Michael Connelly)
- Exit Strategy (Michael Connelly)
- The Tin Men (Nelson DeMille and Alex Demille)
- The Hitchhikers (Chevy Stevens)
- Only in New York (Melissa Hill)
- The Perfect Hosts (Heather Gudenkauf)

Adult large print fiction

- The Silver Hills Boarding House (Linda Lael Miller)
- Dessert at the Beach House Hotel (Judith Keim)

Adult nonfiction

- When Women Ran Fifth Avenue (Julie Satow)
- 1929 (Andrew Ross Sorkin)

Juvenile fiction

- Otto the Ornament (Troy Cummings)
- The Littlest Christmas Tree (Jane Chapman)
- Pick a Pine Tree (Patricia Toht)
- Rolling with Olivia (Amanda Sechrist)

If inclement weather: check the library website www.bmcl.org or WFMZ.