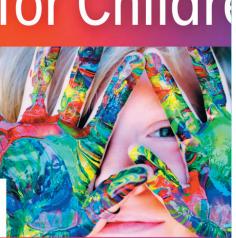


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for Children



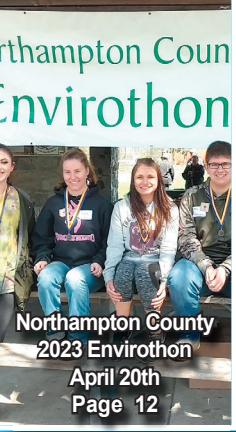
May 24, 2023
4 - 7 p.m.
EMS Week is
May 21 - 27, 2023
Ambulance, Fire, Police, Activities are
hosted by our Education Center.
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Northampton Coun
Envirothon



Northampton County
2023 Envirothon
April 20th
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Annual Kite Day in
the Park
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APRIL 18, 2023



Remembering "The Birdman" Paul Karner

By Adrienne Fors

PLAINFIELD TWSP - April always marked the start of Grand Central's bird box monitoring program with our late friend Paul Karner. A few weeks ago, Paul earned his wings (and we believe he might just be one of those sweet fluffy American Kestrels now!), and while this Earth Day Celebration will not be the same without him, he will be remembered as a trailblazer in the Slate Belt Community.

Paul taught our WM team all about the birds - teaching many of us how to band and even began mentoring one of our own colleagues who is working toward his own Raptor Banding License.

This Earth Day, we recognize the great work Paul and our friend Jerry Schade do for the American Kestrel populations. Without folks like these and the partners who graciously place American Kestrel boxes on their properties, the smallest falcon in the United States could be in decline.

These photos are from June 2022 bird banding event. Guests took a short walk into the grassland field to observe the birds and discuss the importance of the preservation of grasslands in Northampton County. About 35 people all ages attended the event.

Continued on page 5



Paul Karner Holding baby American Kestrels

Slate Belt Rising And Sarah Lanier Art Bring Eye-catching Murals To The Slate Belt



mural profession was about to gain traction!

Now a full-time artist, supporting herself and her family from mural commissions, Sarah has painted 35 large-scale, public and private works to date. She has also started renting a much-needed studio space.

"My goal is to create something original, emotional, and beautiful," said Sarah. "I don't want to add to the noise; I want to catch people's hearts and give a moment of unexpected beauty."

The artistic process for Sarah includes meeting with clients, grasping their vision, creating mock-ups for discussion, and getting her painting on the wall. Sarah stated, "My favorite part is how happy people are when they see their ideas come to life before them—sharing in the joy of what I love to do!"

One of the main goals of Slate Belt Rising is to capitalize on the beauty of the four boroughs. Tourists have begun visiting the region in pursuit of these beautiful murals.

Slate Belt Rising is thrilled to be able to partner with so many talented artists in the Slate Belt and simultaneously showcase their excellent

By Michael Ortoski / Community Action Lehigh Valley
SLATE BELT - The mission of Slate Belt Rising (SBR), a program of Community Action Lehigh Valley, is to galvanize the boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland to capitalize on their shared heritage and traditions, the natural beauty of the Slate Belt, and the commercial potential provided by the proximity to major roadways in order to increase economic opportunity in the region, reduce poverty, eliminate blight, and improve the overall quality of life.

Slate Belt Rising has collaborated with local artist, Sarah Lanier, to bring facade improvements to the Slate Belt through mural art. Impacting towns by emphasizing the Slate Belt's natural beauty, Sarah's murals are enjoyed by residents and visitors. Brian Fenstermaker, Director of Slate Belt Rising, stated, "We've heard from so many that they enjoy all the completed pieces and how they have enhanced our area."

In 2020, Sarah painted her first mural for Beautify Bangor, a public art project. Little did she know that her

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