

Free Tech Training for Northampton County Residents Offered at LVH-Hecktown Oaks by the Digital Navigators Coalition

By Kelly Prentice

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA –County Executive Tara Zrinski and the Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) are inviting residents to a free Digital Navigator Tech Training on October 14 from 9:00 a.m.- Noon at Lehigh Valley Hospital–Hecktown Oaks, 3780 Hecktown Road, Easton.

The event will pair hands-on tech help with community health resources. The Lehigh Valley Health Network, part of Jefferson Health Mobile Health Care Coach will be on site offering free health screenings, and additional community partners—including AARP, the Northampton County Department of Aging, and United Way, among others—will be on hand with information and giveaways.

Digital Navigators provide free, in-person, one-on-one support for residents looking to build their digital skills and confidence. Navigators can help with:

Setting up and troubleshooting laptops, tablets, and smartphones

Connecting to the internet and understanding low-cost connectivity options

Everyday online tasks, including web navigation, online bill pay, email, and attachments

Downloading and using apps

Some Digital Navigators also offer specialized support in areas such as health-care technology, and for specific populations, including people with disabilities, returning citizens, higher education students, and caregivers of K-12 students.

“Access to technology and the internet is no longer a luxury, it’s essential to accessing education, employment, health care, and government services,” said County Executive Tara Zrinski. “This training is about meeting residents where they are and giving them the tools and confidence to fully participate in our digital world. I’m grateful to our community partners for coming together to make this event possible.”

Free refreshments will be provided for those who register. Registration is encouraged, as space may be limited. Attendees should bring their smart devices with them for one-on-one assistance.

To register or learn more, contact the Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development at (610) 829-6309.



Nearly \$2.4 Million Awarded for 137th District Projects

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

I’m pleased to announce that this week nearly \$2.4 million in local grants were approved for 12 projects in the 137th Legislative District.

A large share of these grants supports the people and equipment we count on when our communities are most in need – firefighters, EMS and police – while the rest addresses flooding, recycling and public works. They are vital investments for safety and day-to-day operations, and it’s an honor to ensure these dollars come back to our area.

The grants are:

- Bethlehem Township/Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$45,501 – to purchase nine rugged mobile computers and related mounting and power equipment for fire apparatus and command vehicles, replacing technology nearing the end of its useful life and improving access to emergency communications and response information.

- Bethlehem Township/Nancy Run Fire Company – \$144,977 – to purchase nine P25-capable emergency service radios and related equipment.

- Bethlehem Township – \$166,098 – to purchase and upfit two police patrol vehicles to replace outdated vehicles nearing the end of their service lives. The new vehicles will include in-car cameras, tablets or computers, sirens, lights and graphics.

- Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority – \$350,000 – to replace the failing concrete arch culvert under Farmersville Road with a larger reinforced culvert designed for current stormwater demands and a 100-year storm, helping reduce flooding and travel disruptions.

- Lower Nazareth Township/Hecktown Volunteer Fire Company – \$500,000 – toward the purchase of a new pumper engine to replace an aging fire truck serving the township and surrounding communities through mutual aid.

- Lower Nazareth Township/Colonial Regional Police Department – \$97,853 – to purchase and equip a Ford Interceptor with an in-car camera, mobile data terminal and radio for the regional department serving Lower Nazareth and Hanover townships.

- Lower Nazareth Township – \$241,500 – to finish the township recycling center’s 2019 pole-building shell with a concrete floor, utilities, public sewer, office and bathroom space, electrical service and outlets.

- Nazareth Borough/Nazareth Volunteer Ambulance Corps – \$133,840 – toward the purchase of an advanced life support ambulance to replace deteriorating fleet equipment and support emergency care and patient transport.

- Nazareth Borough – \$140,000 – to replace a roughly 30-year-old public works dump truck that needs major drivetrain repairs, improving reliability while reducing fuel and repair costs.

- Nazareth Borough/Vigilance Hose Company No. 1 – \$350,000 – to purchase 30 self-contained breathing apparatuses, 60 cylinders, and 30 masks and carrying harnesses before the fire company’s existing equipment reaches the end of its certification period. Vigilance Hose identifies the Nazareth Borough Fire Department as a 100% volunteer department.

- Upper Nazareth Township/Tuskes Park – \$100,000 – for improvements that include removing outdated park equipment, stone and turf and installing new play equipment and turf to enhance recreational opportunities for residents.

- Upper Nazareth Township – \$100,000 – toward the purchase and upfitting of a new public works dump truck with a reversible plow and tailgate spreader to support snow removal, road repair and routine maintenance.



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