

# Lehigh Valley Ramblings

Conservative or Liberal, Deist or Pagan, Jersey transplant or Lehigh Valley native, we're all in this mess together. Let's talk. Let us do no harm. Today's one-liner: "The shortest way to the distinguishing excellence of any writer is through his hostile critics."  
Richard LeGallienne

## About Me



**Bernie O'Hare**

Nazareth, Pa., United States

[View my complete profile](#)

## Full Disclosure

View my profile on [LinkedIn](#)

## Search This Blog

## Subscribe Now

[Subscribe in a reader](#)

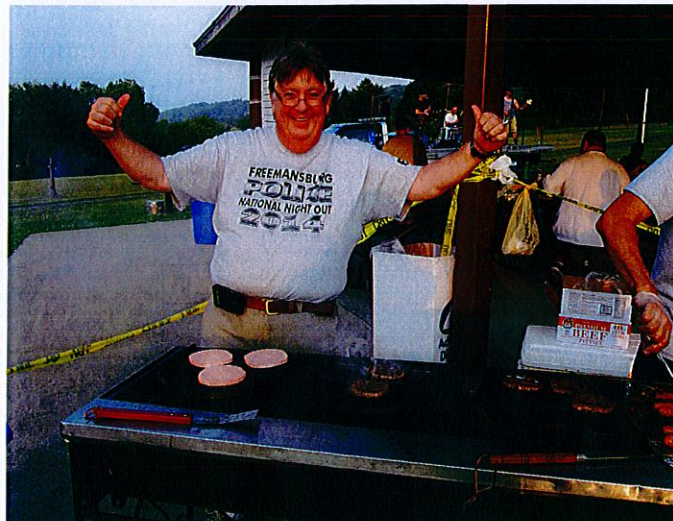
## Follow by Email



FT: Fire Trachta

Wednesday, August 06, 2014

## Nat'l Night Out Tells Freemansburg Residents They Matter



Councilman George Wilson will give you a burger today!

What is **National Night Out**? Held on the first Tuesday of August, it's a chance for police and other first responders to let us know they are one of us. It's a chance for us to let them know we're one of them. It's an opportunity for a community, young and old, rich and poor, to get to know each other. Freemansburg has never had this kind of celebration, but thanks to Chief Todd Pantuso and a host of borough volunteers and generous sponsors, this is certain to become an annual tradition. At least 400 people were treated to free hot dogs and burgers served up by Mayor Gerald Yob and Council member George Wilson, as well as pastelillos from Miriam Castellano of [Miriam's Take Out](#). But it was more than the food that attracted people. A tiny borough was telling its residents they matter. And before long, everyone was smiling.

The evening started out with a memorial service for Robert Lasso, a Freemansburg police officer killed in the line of duty two years ago, responding to what should have been a minor neighborhood squabble.

"I remember that night very well," said District Attorney John Morganelli, who paid tribute to the fallen but not forgotten officer. He noted that we tend to take for granted the

### Fire Nazareth Police Chief Thomas Trachta

We are requesting that Nazareth Police Chief Thomas Trachta be dismissed for abusing the civil rights of ordinary citizens, abuse of office, failure to supervise and blackballing a police applicant with false information.

Sign the  
Petition!

**MoveOn.ORG**  
Petitions

> Full Info on this Petition  
> Terms of Service

### My Verdict v. Mezzacappa: 6% Legal Interest

\$67,140.00 on 3/28/14  
\$68,817.58 on 8/27/14

### Public Service Links

[Allentown Campaign Finance](#)

[Financial Interest Reports](#)

[Guidestar \(Nonprofit salaries\)](#)

[Lehigh Cty Campaign Finance Reports](#)

[Municipal Statistics](#)

[NorCo Campaign Finance Reports](#)

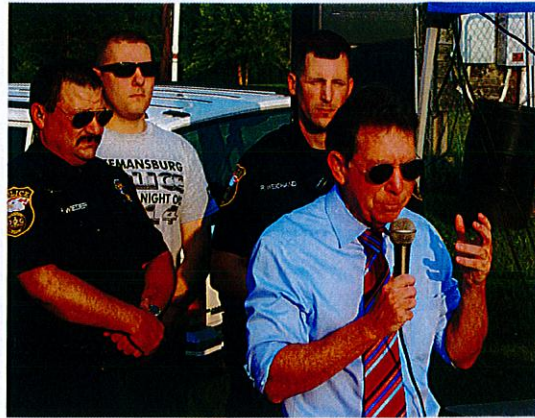
[NorCo GIS \(Mapping\)](#)

[Northampton Cty Campaign Finance Reports](#)

[Pa. Campaign Finance Reports](#)

[Pa. Restaurant Inspections](#)

[Public Notices](#)



DA John Morganelli remembers officer Robert Lasso

work that police officers do, but "their lives are always on the line. They never know if they're going to come home." Calling Lasso's widow and his two young children "salt of the earth," Morganelli stated that Lasso "will be remembered, will be in our hearts and thoughts. When he finished his tribute, Jim McAteer of the Somerset County Police Pipes and Drums played Amazing Grace.



Jim McAteer, from the Somerset County Police Pipes and Drums, performs "Amazing Grace"

After this somber reminder of the ultimate sacrifice first responders make, the fun began.



**Municipal Webcasts**

[Easton ASD](#)

[Emmaus Borough](#)

[Lehigh County Webcasts](#)

[Lower Macungie Township](#)

[Northampton County](#)

[Williams Township](#)

**Lehigh Valley Blogs**

**IV** [Lehigh Valley Community Blogs | lehighvalleylive.com](#)  
Hazardous Duty Pay  
22 minutes ago

**W** [Political Fails | When politics, government and Social Media collide](#)  
In Oklahoma, local police chief resigns after a racially insensitive Facebook post  
1 hour ago

**The Home News**  
NMS Progress Update, Borough Employee Honored  
1 hour ago

**m** [molovinsky on allentown](#)  
The Cedarbrook Covenant  
4 hours ago

**Lehigh Valley with Love**  
Amish Horse-and-Buggy Robbed at Gunpoint  
19 hours ago

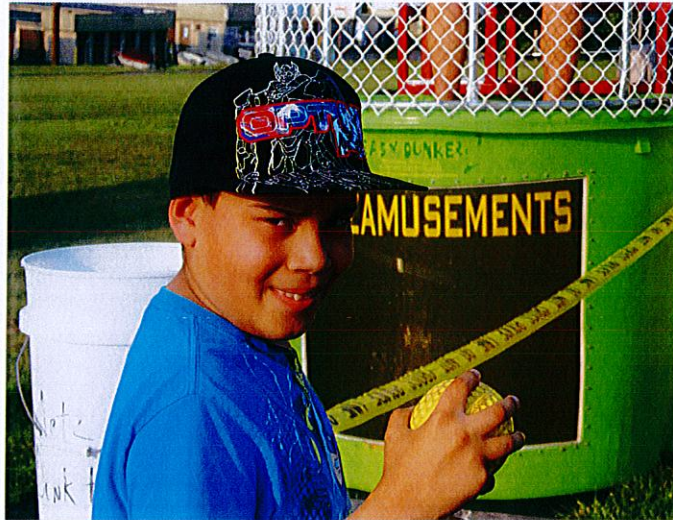
**The El Vee**  
Inside the New Hijinx Brewery  
22 hours ago

**Blogging with Bill White**  
Great Allentown Fair  
23 hours ago

**The Blog of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
GROW UR BIZ - HIRE ME  
1 day ago

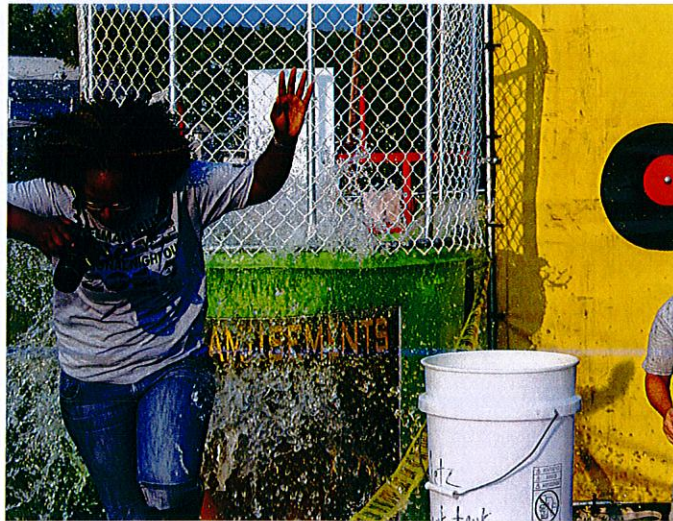
Borough Councilman Jim "Lightning" Smith doesn't think you'll dare take him down.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to dunk an elected official? Borough Council member Jim Smith was giving everyone a chance to take him down. Mayor Yob tried, but was unable to hit the target. But he had a ringer. Benjamin Casellas, after getting some pitching advice from his dad, took the Councilman down in three pitches.



In three pitches, Benjamin Casellas turned Lightning into Thunder

Smith, who graduated with Morganelli from Liberty High School, was a track star. "We used to call him 'Lightning', said the DA. He was more like thunder as he would crash into the dunk tank time and again until, waterlogged, he called it a day.



With the thunder, comes a tidal wave

In addition to food and drinks, there was also a raffle. Every person who came got a ticket, and 16 prizes were awarded that included gift certificates to Ocean, Apollo's, Sicily Pizza and other local merchants.

Of course, police cars and fire trucks were on display. Every officer volunteered to be there, as well as numerous volunteer firefighters.

**Lehigh Valley Legal Blog**  
Summer Concert Series –  
September  
2 days ago

**West Easton PA**  
An Open Invitation To The  
West Easton Mayor And  
Council  
2 days ago

**IV | Around Town by Jim Deegan - lehighvalleylive.com**  
'It was heartbreaking,'  
daughter says of learning  
West Easton councilman's  
death wasn't recognized  
3 days ago

**Voices**  
A Whole New World!  
3 days ago

**Save the Kales!**  
BETHLEHEM VEGFEST  
2014: See You Tomorrow!  
4 days ago

**Bethlehem Mounted Police**  
A special "thanks" to  
Moravian College.  
4 days ago

**| Voice of the Noise Nation!**  
STEELHAWKS MOVING  
TO A NEW NEST  
5 days ago

**BETHLEHEM PRESS**  
5 days ago

**BERNIE O'HARE Special to the Bethlehem Press | Bethlehem Press**  
Bethlehem Township:  
Bulldogs blitz  
commissioners  
5 days ago

**Double Dutch**  
The Funniest Joke Of The  
Year  
6 days ago

**The Complex Triathlete**  
Ironman Training Review:  
Week of August 11 - 17,  
2014  
6 days ago



Alexandria (Alex) , a 6 yo Belgian Malinois K-9, with trainer Don Wilcox



Devin Shellhammer delighted to meet Alex

But the star of the night was a Belgian girl named Alexandria (Alex). She's a 6 year-old Belgian Malinois raised by K-9 specialist Don Wilcox.

Though a two word command will prompt her to launch into an attack, Wilcox uses her for search and rescue missions. She's participated in 100 cases over the past five years, including water rescues and collapsed building searches.


Despite the fearsome reputation of her breed, Wilcox called her a "lover." She

basked in the attention as child after child petted her, and wanted to play with a Shiatsu named Butchy, about 1/10th her size. but when it was time to work, she worked. Her mission was to find a "lost" child, also named Alex, who was hiding in the bed of a pick up truck several hundred yards away. Through a process known as air scent searching, in which her sensitive nose can pick up the 40,000 skin rafts that humans shed every minute, she was able to find the girl in about a minute. She barked her discovery, and then returned to Wilcox and led him to the girl.

The idea for this National Night Out originated with Chief Pantuso, who was involved in the program as an officer in new jersey since 1997. He expressed his deep appreciation for the numerous sponsors who participated in making the 1st Annual Freemanburg National Night Out a night to remember for those who came. They left knowing that they matter. Next year, there will certainly be more.

 **themorningcall.com: Valley 610 Blog**  
 Trade your guns for K-Mart gift cards in Allentown  
*1 week ago*

 **Crossroads**  
 Eating locally grown food benefits our health, region's economy (Spanish and English)  
*1 week ago*

 **Ron Beitler**  
 Smart Growth is about long term financial strength  
*1 week ago*

 **Bethlehem Police**  
 SIGNIFICANT SEIZURE OF COCAINE AND OTHER DRUGS  
*1 week ago*

**Poverty's Edge - Lehigh Valley**  
 PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND CACLV TO "BLITZ" BETHLEHEM NEIGHBORHOOD  
*2 weeks ago*


 **The Junk Drawer**  
 Back to School Crazy  
*2 weeks ago*

 **Stream Hugger**  
 PA Regulators Falling Short on their Duty to Protect the Public from Fracking Risks  
*3 weeks ago*

 **The Easton Eccentric**  
 Food, Dancing Are Highlights of 37th Annual Lebanese Heritage Days Festival  
*3 weeks ago*

**Pamela Varkony**  
 Proudly Presenting Perspectives Poetry Contest Winners...  
*4 weeks ago*

 **A Writer in a Nurse's Body**  
 My First Interview  
*4 weeks ago*

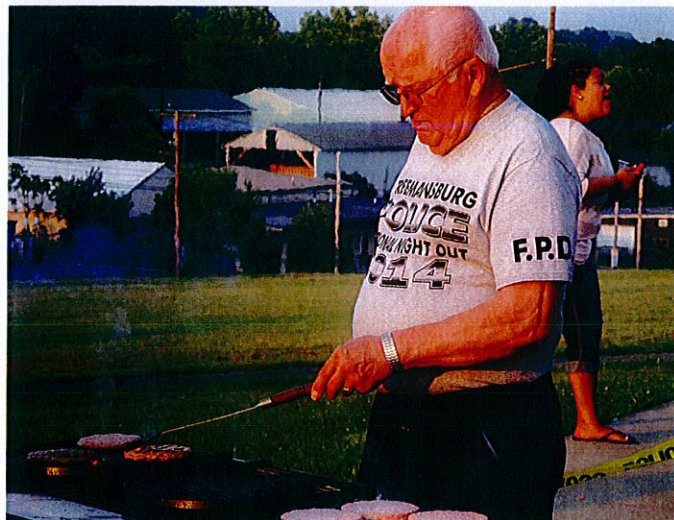
 **TalkDoc**  
 Reading of the Crimes Against Women and Girls in India Made it That More



Butchy, a spunky Shiatsu, tells Alex that size doesn't matter



Alexandria and Alexus, the "lost" girl found in the bed of a pickup truck



Would you like a burger cooked by Mayor Gerald Yob?

Shocking  
5 weeks ago

**Another day in Catasauqua**  
And the Rocket's Red Glare  
- J4 Fireworks  
1 month ago

**Capitol Ideas with John L. Micek**  
More budget details from House Republican memo  
2 months ago

**Business Matters Blog**  
Business Matters TONIGHT at 7:30 p.m. on WFMZ-TV, Channel 69 with PA Governor Tom Corbett. One you don't want to miss!  
2 months ago

**The Lehigh Valley Political Blog**  
How many More?  
2 months ago

**Just Living Here in Allentown**  
Let them Booze  
3 months ago

**View Beyond Bethlehem**  
The Clinton's and The Times  
3 months ago

**Broad And Pennsylvania**  
Check Out My New Blog  
4 months ago

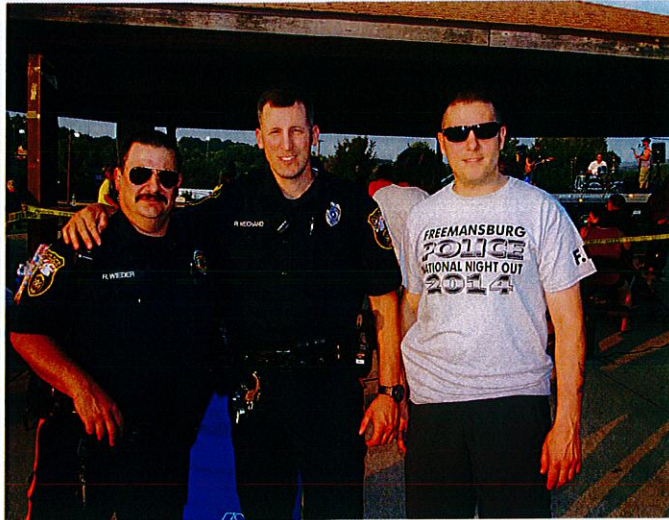
**Purr-Views**  
When Positive Is NOT A Good Thing  
4 months ago

**Untouched Takeaway**  
...it's beginning to look a lot...  
8 months ago

**LV Momma**  
Thanks to our {August Sponsor}  
1 year ago

**Around the Keystone State**

**Commonwealth Confidential**



Officers Bob Wieder, Rich Weichand and Jonathan Itterly



Laila Williams tests her strength

Hear no evil, see no evil...  
17 hours ago

**Keystone Crossroads**  
Jobs conference focuses on global talent recruitment, the importance of innovation, and energy  
1 day ago

**The Lu Lac Political Letter**  
The LuLac Edition #2718, August 25th, 2014  
1 day ago

**judgesonmerit.org**  
19 Candidates For the Picking  
5 days ago

**Above Average Jane**  
2014 Candidates' Comedy Night  
6 days ago

**That's Church**  
PNC BANK. PUNCH.  
2 weeks ago

**Gort42**  
Fin - for now  
3 weeks ago

**The Morning Chronicle**  
A History Lesson From Ukraine  
4 months ago

**Pawatercooler.com**  
Excellent ad from Corbett camp  
4 months ago

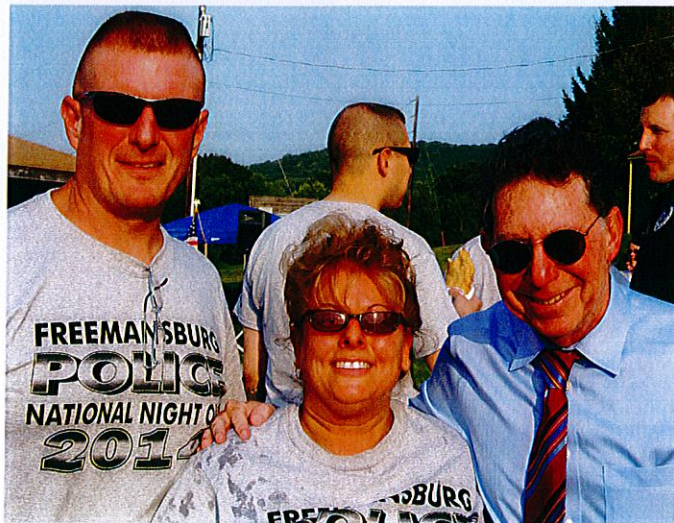
**justsnarky**  
A Very Pathetic Knock Knock Joke?  
7 months ago

**Sights on Pennsylvania**  
AG Kathleen Kane gets money for Mobile Street Crime Strike Force means help for Hazleton  
1 year ago

**GrassrootsPA Stories**  
FOUL PLAY? Onorato's office looking into Edinboro student death...  
3 years ago



Miriam Castellano (L) of Miriam's Take Out, with Jennifer Rodriguez, offer Spanish fare



Borough Manager Judy Danko is the rose between two thoms, Chief Todd Pantuso (L) and DA John Morganelli (R)

Posted by [Bernie O'Hare](#) at 12:50 AM

Reactions: funny (0) interesting (0) cool (1)



**8+1** Recommend this on Google

Labels: [first responders](#), [Freemansburg](#), [police](#)

### 4 comments:

Anonymous said...