

# Nonprofits can apply for festival funds

*Program has awarded \$93K since 2016*

Paula Grubbs Eagle Staff Writer

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A Jeep drives down Main Street in downtown Butler earlier this year. Friends of the Bantam Jeep Association announced that nonprofit organizations can now apply for grants.

EAGLE FILE PHOTO

Friends of the Bantam Jeep Association (FBJA) announced Tuesday that local nonprofit organizations can now apply to become the recipients of funds raised at the 2021 Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival.

The program has awarded more than \$93,500 to 501(c)3 nonprofit groups since 2016, according to a news release from Friends of the Bantam Jeep.

“Part of our organization's mission is to give back to our community by making contributions to other 501(c)3 organizations, and we're proud that we can once again provide Butler County nonprofits with funds to help them reach their goals,” said Todd Wagner, FBJA president.

Online applications are available at [bantamjeepfestival.com/financial-gift-application](http://bantamjeepfestival.com/financial-gift-application).

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Oct. 31.

Applicants must provide up to a 500-word explanation on ways they benefit the community and how funds will be used and show proof of their 501(c)3 status.

After the financial gifts are awarded, the recipients are expected to provide an update on their projects' progress along with photos to demonstrate the gift's impact on their organization.

“Gifts will be distributed based on need and how the gift benefits the community,” Wagner said.

FBJA provided \$22,814 to local nonprofit groups that helped execute the 2021 Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival and \$118,000 to those groups since 2016.

American Legion Riders, Butler County Symphony Association, Zelenople American Legion Women's Auxiliary, various volunteer fire departments and other organizations have received donations in exchange for helping out at the annual festival, the release said.

The festival, which began in 2016, celebrates Butler County as the birthplace of the Jeep.



**Paula Grubbs**

 @PaulaJoGrubbs

Paula Grubbs is a Butler County native who has been with the Butler and Cranberry Eagle newspapers since June 2000. Grubbs has covered the Mars School District and Middlesex Township for over 20 years with the Eagle and her former employer, the Cranberry Journal. She also covers

Adams Township, Evans City and Mars in addition to events and incidents throughout Southwestern Butler County as assigned. Grubbs has taken the lead at the Cranberry Eagle in reporting on shale gas development, which has been a hotly debated topic in the recent past, both locally and nationally. A 1979 graduate of Butler Senior High School and a 1994 graduate of Geneva College, Grubbs has won a Golden Quill and four Keystone state awards, plus an award from the Society of Professional Journalists. Grubbs enjoys following the Penguins, Pirates and Steelers, volunteers with the Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup each summer, and loves spending time outdoors and bird watching at her Penn Township home. Grubbs is the daughter of James R. Davis Sr., of Center Township, and the late Maxine Davis. She has two grown children, Jacqueline and Thomas.

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