



Living in Harmony with Nature Harmony

Penn Estates Property Owners Association

Holiday-New Year 2012/2013

2013 Preliminary Budgets

By Michele Valerio-Trinkle, Treasurer

The Board of Directors has approved the 2013 preliminary operating and capital budgets prepared by Community Manager Laura Jones and reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee. As Treasurer, I would like to thank the Finance Committee for their many hours of work on the 2013 budget.

The preliminary budget was published in the last issue of Harmony for member review and a budget forum was held on October 13, 2012, for comment. The final budget will be voted on at the special Board meeting on November 17 at 10 am. While we were able to balance the 2013 operating budget without increasing dues, this is contingent on moving a projected \$70,000 surplus from 2012 budget. Many operating expenses were once again cut to their bare minimum and if this collection trend continues, dues will need to be raised.

Dues - The preliminary budgets keep the 2013 maintenance fee assessment at the same level of \$1,190 for Improved Lots and \$985 for Unimproved Lots. The following discounts will continue for dues paid by cash or check on or before December 31, 2012: \$50 for Improved Lots; \$30 for Unimproved Lots. There is no discount applied to dues paid by credit card.

Payment Plan - Per our bylaws, a payment plan option is available to members. All applications for a payment plan must be completed by December 31, 2012. A one-time \$35 application fee must be paid at the time the application is submitted. This is a policy change wherein the \$25 payment plan application fee has been changed to \$35.

Delinquency Fees - To help offset the administrative and legal costs of collections, delinquency fees will be applied as follows to both Improved and Unimproved Lots: A \$50 fee will be assessed on all accounts with outstanding balances as of February 16, 2013, including those on payment plans.

An additional \$100 will be assessed on all accounts with outstanding balances as of July 16, 2013, including those on payment plans.

Capital Reserves - This year, a portion of the 2013 assessment for each lot, \$69, will be put into the Capital Reserve Fund to meet the study's recommendation. We plan on upgrading the playground near the mailboxes with capital reserve funds as well as monies raised by the Recreation Committee. Funds have also been allocated for some modest strategic plan projects currently being defined by our Long Range Planning Committee.

And additionally, on an unrelated note, I personally just want to say that I hope everyone as well as their family and friends are doing well after the storm Sandy.

The PEPOA Board of Directors and Staff wishes all Penn Estates residents season's greetings and a healthy and prosperous 2013!



President's Message

By Jody Perkin, President

A Sense of Community

I originally started writing this with a theme in mind, but fate intervened and it turned out to be something very different from what I had originally planned. It's not a judgment piece, so please read it all the way through.

I decided to take a detour from talking about roads, budgets, and the like; and focus on a topic all of us can relate to, community.

I pulled out my handy-dandy dictionary in search of the perfect definition, and true to form Webster's did not disappoint. Under community I found the following, "Common ownership or participation." We clearly have the common ownership piece; sometimes it's the perceived of lack participation that is troubling.

Here's how I got to this subject in the first place. On October 14 I stopped in at the Fall Festival and for those who we unable to attend there was a very nice turn-out. My plan was to mill through the petting zoo when I saw Drina Juliano trying to manage the concession line, which kept getting longer and longer, so I jumped in to lend a hand. I don't quite know how the topic came up, but we started talking about community. How can we (in the local sense) get people away from their electronic devices, off the couch and interacting?

I set out to answer this question, because my original perspective was this, "in spite of 1700+ homes and 6000 residents, there's no sense of community, and I just can't, for the life of me understand why." I am the first person to admit when I'm wrong, and let me say that a Halloween week storm has me eating those words.

Hurricane Sandy hit Monday, October 29 and is one of the worst I've ever seen first hand. Having grown up on Long Island, I've seen my fair share of hurricanes, but I've never seen widespread damage like this. Power lines down throughout out Penn Estates, most of us without power for days; the decision to use the Community Center for emergency shelter was made several days before the storm hit ensuring those who were impacted most would have a place to go out of harms way. In the days that followed, the Administration Office had its doors open providing coffee, a warm and quiet place to just sit, or a shower for anyone in need. As of Thursday, November 1, there are surrounding areas and counties where transformers are out, telephone poles and huge trees are still blocking roads, and there's an extreme sense of urgency for gasoline and non-perishable food items. As bad as it was, it could have been significantly worse.

It is during dark times that the light of others shines brightest. The last several days I have seen neighbors come out in droves to help one another. Whether removing trees from roof, pouring coffee, offering a hot shower or just asking 'are you OK? Do you need anything?' We all know who these unassuming people are; those who put aside personalities and differences for anyone in a position of need (large or small), their compassion for others is clear. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and when we work selflessly to benefit others, we make one heck of a chain.



Penn Estates Property Owners Association
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Treasurer's Report

By Michele Valerio, Treasurer

As of October 31, 2012

Collections of 2012 Dues: **Current Month = \$12,010.76**

Year-To-Date Totals:

Operating Dues Income		\$1,596,596.71
Dues Transferred Capital Reserves 1 st quarter	\$73,666.65	
Dues Transferred Capital Reserves 2 nd quarter	\$13,245.00	
Dues Transferred Capital Reserves 3 rd quarter	\$5,025.11	
Total Transfer to Reserves		\$91,936.76

Total Dues Income

\$1,688,533.47

This is **99.45%** of the 2012 Dues Income budget and approx.
0.61% lower than the amount collected this time last year.

Collection of Prior Year's Dues: **Current Month = \$6,812.56**

Year-to-Date Total Prior Dues Income: **\$98,443.80**

This is **161.38%** of the 2012 budget for this line item

Collection of Late Interest: **Current Month = \$1,771.95**

Year-to-Date Total Late Interest: **\$36,554.67**

This is **62.69%** of the 2012 budget for this line item

Collection of Collection Fees: **Current Month = \$16.27**

Year-to-Date Total Collection Fees: **\$4,196.65**

This is **139.89%** of the 2012 budget for this line item

Collection of Cap Imp Fees (CIF): **Current Month = \$5,900.00**

This is from the sale of **5 homes** in **October**

Year-to-date Capital Improvement Fees Income: **\$46,360.00**

This is **97.39%** of the 2012 budget for this line item
based on the sale of 40 homes for 2012

***Note:** CIF is not part of the operating income; these funds
are deposited in the Capital Reserve Account for current projects

Association Cash Assets:

Operating Cash Accounts	\$674,444.52	\$1,575,677.87
Capital Reserve Accounts	\$901,233.35	



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Penn Estates Harmony

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Update: Penn Estates Drive Project

By Richard Way, Secretary, PEPOA Board of Directors

What has been completed? Penn Estates Drive was inspected and evaluated by Reilly Associates (RA), a local consulting engineering firm. RA then prepared a plan for: (a) reconstructing the roadway base in the areas where there was evidence of base failure, and (b) paving the entire road. The road base repairs will cover 50- 60% of the road area. After the base repairs are completed, 100% of the road surface will be paved...shoulder to shoulder, from the front gate to the rear gate.

The Board developed a financing plan to pay for the \$1 million Penn Estates Drive project. The money will come from three sources: funds already set aside in a Penn Estates Drive capital fund, funds from a special assessment that was approved by a membership vote on August 4, and funds from a Pennsylvania Local Share Account (LSA) grant. Our application for the LSA grant was submitted through the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority in September.

Where are we now? The detailed specifications for the reconstruction and paving work have just been completed by RA. As this is being written, advertisements inviting contractors to bid on our project are being prepared for placement in two newspapers. Bids from contractors will be due on December 14.

What's next? After the contractor bids are received, RA will review them and recommend a winning bidder to the Board.

We will know whether our LSA grant application was approved near the end of January, 2013. If the bids are within our budget, and if we get a large enough grant, the Board will then levy a two-part special assessment on homeowners in February, 2013.

The first installment of the assessment will be due in March, 2013 and the second installment will be due in April, 2013. The amount of the assessment will depend on the project cost and the grant amount, but the total assessment will not exceed the \$360 approved by the membership.

When will we have a rebuilt road? If all the pieces come together as planned, the reconstruction and paving of Penn Estates Drive will start in early July, 2013 and will be completed in late August, 2013. If the pieces don't come together as planned the project cannot be done in 2013. A new plan will have to be considered with the aim of doing the project in 2014.

Team Penn Estates Pride presents Chicken Wing Off at the Super Bowl Party

Benefits the American Cancer Society

Sunday, February 3, 2013

Award for the best wings as voted on by the consumers of the wings!

If interested in submitting wings, please register with Team Penn Estates Pride team captains at mpshin54@yahoo.com or joannahuffman1127@yahoo.com

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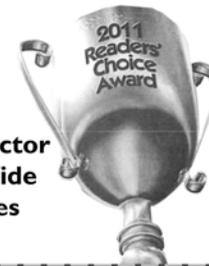
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Penn Estates Comes Together

By **Jim Charnley, Resident**

My wife and I moved into Penn Estates on the same weekend that Hurricane Katrina was destroying the Gulf Coast. At that time, I could have never imagined that it would take another hurricane to really bring this community together.

Now, I am not trying to say that people in this development do not come together for events, community day, darts, bingo, etc., but in all of the time we have lived here, I've never seen people come together like they have in the week following Hurricane Sandy.

After Sandy left most of us without power, food, heat, or hot water, families and individuals all over this community opened their hearts and homes to help out their neighbors in distress.

Those residents who had power (or got it back as the week went on) offered pots of coffee, warm showers, power strips to charge phones, wood, and water to those in need. Members of the "Living in Penn Estates" Facebook page (a residents only page) shared PPL restoration estimates, offered up help, pointed people in the direction of shelters, and published their conversations with the power company employees as they tried to restore our power.

One resident wrote "Is anyone left without power tonight? Will gladly share my heat, shower, etc. message me here or text/call."



Donations from Penn Estates residents to be shipped to New Jersey and New York

Another wrote "I have 2 bags of ice and 2 gallons of water and wood!! For any body still without power!!"

This Community came together in a way I have never experienced! A huge shout out to all of my neighbors who stepped up this week!

Now comes an even harder challenge. With power restored, schools reopened, and everyone returning to the daily grind, we must strive to continue that deep feeling of community. When you see other members of the community out and about give them a wave. When something in the community upsets you, take a minute and a deep breath before responding. And when you hear of a neighbor in need, go out of your way to help them out.

No matter what our differences, always remember we are stronger as a community than we are as individuals.



The Increasing Importance of Social Media

By **Michael Tyrrell, Communications Committee**

Social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were definitely the place to be for updates on the latest Hurricane Sandy developments. Here in Penn Estates, the community really came together on The Living in Penn Estates page, most using their cell phones.

Aside from sharing information on updates from PP&L and the status of power in various sections, offers were extended for coffee, a hot meal, showers or just a place to warm up. Up to the minute details were also shared regarding availability of gas, food and school closings.

Most importantly, it connected the community and people felt safer and less isolated. As a resident who decided to ride out the storm in the city, I was very happy to stay connected to my Penn Estates family via this unofficial Facebook page.

Some random stats that I thought interesting:

1. Facebook reports that their top shared term was "We are OK." Next most used: "Lost power, Have power, No power."
2. Twitter was the go-to source for updates by city, state and transit authorities. It was reported there were 3,500,000 tweets with the hashtag #Sandy the first day of the storm.
3. Instagram reported 10 pictures a second were shared during the peak of the storm.
4. Utilities used social media to debunk rumors and update service information.
5. Charitable organizations are increasing their reach via Facebook and Twitter.

Not everything posted on social media is legit. Yes, there were some fake posts and fake photos such as the photo circulating on Facebook showing an ominous cloud swirling behind the Statue of Liberty. Most people are smart enough to weed this nonsense out. (Just as they are to discount those offers of free iPads and the like).

When the lights go out it's now the new normal to not just reach for a candle but a cell phone as well and connect to a social media site. We want both light and the feeling of not being alone.

Winding Through PA Wine Country

By Michael Tyrrell, Communications Committee

We have attractions in our backyard that don't draw much attention, and these are the many wineries here in Northeastern Pa. We recently explored the Bangor area with visiting friends trying to find Columceille Megalith Park. The park was never found but we did stumble across Franklin Hill Vineyards on Franklin Hill Road in Bangor. It is in a very remote area that you must drive through a cornfield to access.

The tasting room is a well-appointed room with a nice view. Tastings are free (up to 6 wines) but I suspect they don't hold all that firm to that rule. There are also complimentary nibbles to enjoy with your tasting.

All the wines we tasted were good, but two in their portfolio really stood out.

Vidal Blanc - \$11. This semi dry white was similar to a sauvignon blanc but a bit sweeter. We recently cracked open our last bottle to enjoy with a spicy Indian Chicken dish I made which was a perfect pairing. It would also be very appealing with a semi soft mild cheese, Thai or Chinese food or shellfish.

Trio - \$12. The staff member who poured our tastings highly recommended we try this red blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chambourcin grapes. It really stood out. Great notes of chocolate, vanilla and cherry. As far as a food pairing, grilled fish, pork or chicken would be appropriate. It's too complex a wine for a steak, I think.

The staff was super-friendly and I am looking forward to going back in the near future to purchase some additional wine for holiday gifts. They have a very inviting deck where you could chill with a glass of wine (they sell their wines by the glass as well).

Check out their website for additional information: www.franklinhillvineyards.com.



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Welcoming the New Year...Your Way

By Jane Harris, Communications Committee

It's a new year around the world and in our own back yard. All ages can celebrate and do so in various ways. Out on the town for dinner and dancing, mega-parties, intimate gatherings of just a few good friends, stay at home family affairs, teen parties and variations of these.

The family-friend scenario is the way that most celebrations come together. Everyone celebrates, everyone participates and enjoys the new beginning of the new year.

Get everyone involved in the pre-party planning and prep.

Ask kids and teens what particular snacks they would like to have on the menu, what kinds of music to provide and how they might help. Make a list of tasks to be done.

Cleaning and decorating would be high on the list along with planning the menu and inviting guests. Don't be shy about asking them to bring a snack, casserole or desert. BYOB eases the expense.

Music could be a mix of styles that pleases everyone....oldies, rock 'n roll, kids songs and current hits. Games are optional. Not everyone likes parlor games! Pulling resolutions out of a hat and trying to match them up with guests can be tricky but fun or dancing and "freezing" when the music stops with the winner being the last one dancing. This is great fun for all ages.

Definitely ask the kids and teens to help put out chips and dip, napkins and cups. It's a good idea not to let them handle the hot dishes.

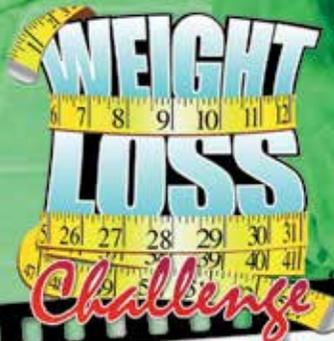
If you plan to have a Happy New Year cake you can make it simple by buying a sheet or round cake with plain icing and decorate it with multi-colored sprinkles....everyone in the family will love helping with this task! Top it with a fancy noise-maker or party hat.

Teens may want their own space. If you agree, be sure they are in earshot and check on the group tactfully but regularly.

Have a successful event and a splendid New Year!



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All That's Old is New Again

By Jane Harris, Communications Committee

On December 31st we will say goodbye to 2012. It may be judged as good or bad or something in between. We are jumping or sliding into a new year, a new chance to do well, face adversity, try out new ideas, dream new dreams; enjoy family, friends and co-workers....live our lives.

"Will open the book. The pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and it's first chapter is New Year's Day."

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce, English born poet and pacifist

"Cheers to the New Year and another chance to get it right."

- Oprah Winfrey

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each new year find you a better man."

- Benjamin Franklin

"Another fresh new year is here.....another year to live! To banish worry, doubt and fear. To live each day with zest....to daily grow and try to be my highest and my best!

I have the opportunity once more to right some wrongs, to pray for peace, to plant a tree and sing more joyful songs! "

- William Arthur Ward, inspirational writer

"A grand adventure is about to begin...."

- Winnie the Pooh

A Fun Day On A Stormy Day

By Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee

I hope that you all made it through the challenges of Sandy with as little damage and inconvenience as possible! Anyone with children knows the challenge of keeping them happy and busy on stormy or snowy days. I have a great suggestion for a field trip this winter: the DaVinci Science Center in Allentown.

The DaVinci Science Center is hands-on and playful center for all ages. There are over 100 exhibits in the two-story building. There are on-going exhibits and interactive experiences as well as their special exhibits. I took my 6-year-old grand niece and nephew a month ago on a rainy day. We spent several hours but could have been entertained for many more hours. My grand nephew especially enjoyed the exhibit where he could be on a microphone, choosing a background of hurricane or earthquake or other stormy conditions and being shown on TV as the weather announcer. My niece enjoyed the computer experience creating chemical compounds, and the workshop to build her own battery operated car. They both loved the airplane/aerodynamic activity and the ocean touch tank. As I said, it was perfect for their age. But I witnessed younger children and teens having just as much fun.

The cost is fairly reasonable for a full day of activity. Adults pay \$11.95, seniors pay \$8.95, children ages 4-12 pay \$8.95 and under-4 are free. There are a few activities that cost a little more, such as the instructor-led project workshops. However, almost everything is included in the entrance fee and there is an AAA discount.

At this time, the special exhibit is the "Bodies Revealed Experience." (This costs extra.) You have probably heard about this exhibit running in major metropolitan areas. Actual human bodies are displayed, with exhibits of circulatory system, muscles, bones, etc. Check it out on line at www.davincisciencecenter.org to determine if this exhibit would be appropriate for your family. I fully intend to take advantage of seeing this exhibit without driving into New York or Philadelphia!

Have fun! Let me know (or write an article) about any activities that you would recommend to combat the winter blues!



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"This is Cub Reporter Matthew Jacobsen saying till the next big event and till the next article, stay in harmony with nature."

Halloween in Penn Estates

The nights got colder, the days seemed to be shorter and all the ghosts and ghouls came out to play. This could only mean one thing. Halloween has come and gone yet another year. This year Penn Estates would go all out with plenty of events that everyone could enjoy.

First we start on the night of October 13th inside of the Oak Room where two great Halloween movies. At 7pm there was a showing of The Nightmare Before Christmas and 9pm was a showing of Nightmare on Elm St. Both movies were provided and shown by Christopher Jacobsen.

Next we cut to the Haunted House which took place from Friday October 26th and went until Saturday October 27th. For just three dollars you could go inside to get scared right out of your pants. Not only was the Haunted House on Saturday, but the annual Trunk or Treat took as well from 5pm until 7pm.

At 11pm on Saturday after the Haunted House closed up shop for the night the Oak Room held its first showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Then on Sunday morning all the little ghosts and ghouls came out to play for the annual Kids Halloween Party. For just four dollars per adult and three dollars per kid you were treating to some hotdogs, "bug juice" and some snacks.

The kids had a chance to do some arts and crafts like drawing Halloween pictures, design pumpkins and even draw their personal version of what a playground should look like. There were plenty of games and contests for the kids as well. There were contests for Scariest Costume, Most Original and Best Costume.

Halloween is normally my favorite time of year. I mean, who doesn't like free candy and it leads right into Christmas and Chanukah. Hopefully everyone was safe during the visit from Hurricane Sandy. So with that, this is your ace cub reporter saying stay in harmony with your community.

Handy Man

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Penn Estates Horseshoe League

Another horseshoe season has been put into the record books. Penn Estates annual horseshoe league starts up during the summer and this year proved more competitive and exciting than previous seasons. New stars were born and new champions crowned.

Here are the stats for this year's players:

Rank	Ringers - Female	Ringers - Male	Leaners - Female	Leaners - Male
1	Brittany - 34	John - 72	Joan - 11	Bruce - 11
2	Joan - 24	Walter - 50	Mary Lou - 7	Walter - 8
3	Katie - 22	Jeff - 50	Katie - 6	Leighton - 6
4	Sue - 21	Leighton - 46	Selena - 6	Kevin - 6
5	Danielle - 21	Paul - 41	Brittney - 6	Matt - 6
6	Selena - 19	Kevin - 40	Irene - 4	Al - 5
7	Irene - 17	Jose - 35	Sue - 3	Mark - 4
8	Mary Lou - 15	Mark - 26	Dawn - 3	Kieth - 4
9	Dawn - 10	Bruce - 25	Sandy - 2	Jeff - 4
10	Sandy - 8	Armando - 23	Danielle - 0	Rob - 3
11		Kieth - 18		Paul - 3
12		Al - 16		John - 2
13		Matt - 14		Jose - 2
14		Aaron - 13		Aaron - 0
15		Kieth M. - 8		Armando - 0
16		Rob - 7		Kieth M. - 0

Here is how the teams finished for the season:

Place	Team	W-L	Ringers	Leaners	W-L %	Ringer %	Leaner %
1	11 Walter & Jeff	42-6	100	12	0.875	41.67	3.333
2	12 Kevin & Sue	34-14	61	9	0.708	25.42	2.500
3	7 Britney & Joan	32-16	58	17	0.667	24.17	4.722
4	4 Sandy & John	31-17	80	4	0.646	33.33	1.111
5	10 Mark & Leighton	31-17	71	10	0.646	29.58	2.778
6	8 Bruce & Jose	26-22	64	13	0.542	26.67	3.611
7	13 Danielle & Keith	26-22	29	0	0.542	12.08	0.000
8	2 Paul & Selena	24-24	60	9	0.500	25.00	2.500
9	5 Mary Lou & Katie	22-26	37	13	0.458	15.42	3.611
10	9 Rob & Al	22-26	23	8	0.458	9.58	2.222
11	3 Matt & Aaron	19-29	27	6	0.396	11.25	1.667
12	6 Armando & Irene	17-31	40	4	0.354	16.67	1.111
13	1 Kieth & Dawn	15-33	28	7	0.313	11.67	1.944

The MVP of the season was Britney; the rookie of the year went to Selena. John won the award for most ringers and Bruce won the award for most leaners. Although this season was filled with heated competition, everyone had fun. The league is always looking for new players and is open to everyone. If you think you can throw with the best of them, join the league next summer when we start back up. Until the next big article this is your ace cub reporter saying stay in harmony with your community. Be Forewarned, I will be gunning for the MVP award next year.

Breast Cancer Walk

On October 21st Penn Estates held its annual Breast Cancer walk, sponsored by Team Penn Estates Pride, led by Joanna Huffman and Maureen Schindle to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The walk started around 8am and had 20 walkers, which included State Representative Mario Scavella, on hand to try and raise money.

There was a \$5 registration fee and Mary Lou Smith donated a lovely wreath as a door prize. Walkers and non-walkers had the opportunity to make their own personal donations to the cause and buy either a Breast Cancer Hat or an undecorated hat, which they could decorate themselves, along with other items supporting ACS.

The walk was three miles long going through part of Penn Estates Drive and through most of the side roads in Penn Estates itself. After the walk there was a rededication for previous chairs and board member of Penn Estates that passed away. The members were Charles Jenkins, Pat Jackson Scott and Neville McDonald.

The Real Estates Committee planted trees in memory of these people so we as a community could remember them, and all the wonderful things they did for our community'

Until the next big story, this is your ace cub reporter saying stay in harmony with your community.

Penn Estates Fall Festival

Penn Estates held its annual Fall Festival on October 14th. Even though the event was mainly for the children of Penn Estates everyone involved had a wonderful time. From a petting zoo to picking their own pumpkins there was something for everyone.

For only five dollars the kids could pick their own pumpkins, they could pet some animals in the petting zoo that was setup and they had a chance to ride a horse and get their picture taken while riding it.

Refreshments were served with choices of apples, coffee, milk and soda.

The petting zoo had some interesting animals for the kids to meet. There were chickens, ducks, goats, sheep even a donkey and a lama.

After the kids picked their pumpkins they could paint it or carve it. They also had the chance to make their own scarecrow as well and get their faces painted.

State Representative Mario Scavello was also involved in the festival. All in all every kid had a great time picking their pumpkins and curving them or painting them.

Until the next big story, this is your ace cub reporter saying stay in harmony with your community.



Cold Weather Crafts

By Jane Harris, Communications Committee

It's that time of the year: time on our hands, family time, TV time, often times it's way too much time. Easing the tension and boredom that might occur takes a willingness to be creative and not settle for hours of endless inactivity.

Winter walks can be exhilarating as can playing hoops or winter sports but there will be times when our energy is low or the weather limits our activity....and the kids are climbing the walls in desperation even tiring of computer games.

It's glue and scissor time. Busy hands and busy minds can ward off cabin fever as well as techno meltdowns.

Kids can make place cards for a Thanksgiving family dinner and tags for holiday gifts using construction paper and markers - and they feel more involved in the preparation for the festivities.

Good old Google can be tremendous source of ideas.

Try one these fun ideas or check out busybeeskidscrafts.com or crayola.com

3-D Snow Flake

Materials: White paper, scotch tape, glue and scissors.
Optional ribbon, yarn or twine.

1. Cut the paper into 1" wide strips.
2. Make small, medium and larger circles with the strips and glue or tape. The largest circle can serve as the center of the snowflake. Tape the circles into a symmetrical design.
3. Assemble snowflakes on a length of ribbon or string or hang individually in a window.



Snowman

Paper plates are a mainstay of crafts!

This simple snowman is easy fun for younger children.

Materials: One small and one regular size paper plate for each snowman, construction paper, scissors, pencil, scotch tape, and a stapler would be helpful.

1. Cut a hole in the center of the small plate. Make a cone from a piece of orange construction paper. Insert the base of the cone to be sure it fits into the opening.
2. Tape the cone, add glue to the edges of the hole and attach the cone.
3. Staple the small plate to the edge of the larger plate.
4. Trace and cut small circles for eyes, buttons and a big snowman smile!
5. A strip of colored construction paper, fringed at the ends, makes a great scarf.
6. Create a hat using black or colored construction paper.



Play Dough Stick Puppets

Materials: Various colors of play dough and craft (Popsicle) sticks.

Allow the kids to come up with their own ideas for aliens, monsters, dinosaurs, bugs and imaginative characters. Guide them to make the figure dimensional enough to be able to insert the stick - then let them free play with their creations.



Penn Estates Fall Festival cont.



Out & About

Things to Do and See in the Poconos

By Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee

As I write this article, I am saddened by the struggles of friends and strangers who suffered and are suffering the aftereffects of Hurricane Sandy. Times like these remind me to count my blessings and to be grateful for those who are important in my life. I look around and am relieved that Penn Estates had little damage compared to other areas. I am reminded of the importance of big things, like community, and how often human beings (including myself) become upset about minor disagreements. The elections are over. I hope that those who govern us in this country and in this community lead us to a true harmony. May we come together in all the best ways that the human spirit can, especially as we enter the Holiday season and the New Year. Please look to how you can help others this holiday season. May we all donate time and money as we are able to important causes: disaster relief, pet rescue, food closets, and toys for tots, etc? The possibilities and needs are legion.

May we also enjoy and value our time with family and friends. There are many events this season. Here is a summary of just a few of the local events that will be happening in coming months. As always, I have drawn from a variety of sources. Please call or check the websites to confirm dates, times and cost.

On November 28th from 5:45 to 6:15, the Canadian Pacific Railway US Holiday Train Show is at the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton for its goodwill journey tour for food shelves. Call 570-340-5200.

On 12/1, The Holiday Express Train Excursion to Moscow starts at the Steamtown National Historic Site. Call 570-340-5204.

On 12/1 and 2, and 12/8 and 12/9, Jim Thorpe has their Annual Olde Time Christmas event. Call 1-888-Jim Thorpe for more information. Quiet Valley's Annual Old Time Christmas event is also on those same dates. Go to www.quietvalley.org for more information.

There are Tree Lighting ceremonies on different dates throughout our region. The 24th annual tree lighting ceremony at Stroudmoor Inn is on 12/2 with activities from 10 to 8. Call 1-800-955-8663. East Stroudsburg's annual tree lighting ceremony is on 12/14 from 5-6 at Miller Park. Call 570-424-7540 for information. Throughout the day on 12/15, there will be Santa Train Rides from Dansbury Depot/Miller Park to the Delaware Water Gap.

Do you enjoy seasonal plays? Shawnee Playhouse will have several throughout December, including Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol and The Christmas Wizard of Oz. Call 570-421-5093.

Do you enjoy outdoor winter activities? There are many. How about an introduction to astronomy at PEEC? Or intro to snowshoeing or learning survival skills of the Lenape or about how animals hibernate? Call PEEC at 570-828-2319. The Monroe County Conservation organization also has a number of outdoor and home school environmental programs. Check it out at www.mcconservation.org or call (570) 629-3061. You can also begin the New Year with the "First Day Hike" at Promised Land State Park. Call 570-676-0567.

I have never gone to the Phifer Ice Dam in Lehighton to witness their Festival of Lights but it sounds delightful. It runs from 11/23 through 12/23. Call 610-377-7703.

I have also never gone to Christkindlmarkt but most of my relatives in the Lehigh Valley make it an annual event. From 11/15 through 12/23 at the Steelstacks in Bethlehem, they have handmade items, music, food, glass blowing, etc. Apparently you can even do your own glass blown ornament. Check it out at www.artsquest.org.

Have fun. And, I am still waiting for input from the Penn Estates community!



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Michael's Kitchen

By Michael Tyrrell, Communications Committee

'Tis the season of over-eating and over-spending. No matter how hard you try, it is difficult to stay on track eating-wise and budget-wise during the holidays. One strategy I try and follow is to eat sensibly during the week at home and save the splurging for weekend socializing. Here are some recipes that I developed which are easy to put together on busy weekdays and are family-friendly. Although intrinsically economical, you can even save more when you score ground beef, tilapia and boneless chicken breast on sale (which seems to be all the time!). The meatballs and chili are also great recipes to double and freeze half. Gives "frozen assets" a new meaning!

Mini- Meatballs with Mushroom Gravy (4 servings)

1¼ pounds lean ground beef
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/3 cup unseasoned bread crumbs
½ teaspoon garlic salt
1 teaspoon Italian Seasoning
½ teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 small onion, halved and thinly sliced
1 cup sliced mushrooms
2 tablespoons flour
1 can (14½ ounces) beef broth
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
Cooked egg noodles and steamed spinach, optional

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place a rack on a baking sheet and coat with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, mix ground beef, egg, bread crumbs, garlic salt, ½ teaspoon of the Italian seasoning, and ¼ teaspoon of the black pepper. Form into 40 meatballs, about 1 level tablespoon each and place on the prepared rack over baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and mushrooms and cook 6 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned. Sprinkle flour over the top, stir and cook 1 minute. Gradually stir in the broth and bring to a simmer. Stir in remaining ½ teaspoon of Italian seasoning, ¼ teaspoon pepper and nutmeg.
4. Add meatballs to the skillet and reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with cooked buttered noodles and spinach, if using.

Per Serving (¼ of the meatballs and gravy) – Calories: 280; Fat: 11g; Fiber: 1g
Sodium: 849mg

Serving Tip: This even tastes better a day or two later. I also like to accompany with mashed potatoes and frozen peas and carrots for a change.

Veracruz-Style Tilapia (4 servings)

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 sweet red bell pepper
1 sweet yellow bell pepper
1 large onion, sliced
1 can (14½ ounces) petite-cut diced tomatoes with jalapenos
½ teaspoon dried oregano
½ teaspoon hot pepper sauce
4 tilapia fillets, about 1½ pounds total
½ teaspoon each salt and black pepper
2 cups cooked white rice

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add peppers and onion; cook 4 minutes. Add tomatoes and oregano and cook 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in hot sauce.
2. Place fish in prepared dish and top with pepper mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Spoon fish and pepper mixture onto plates and serve with rice.

Per Serving (1/4 of fish and pepper mixture and ½ cup cooked rice) - Calories 443; Fat: 10g; Fiber: 3g; Sodium: 818mg

Kid Tweak: Substitute plain petite-cut diced tomatoes for the jalapeno seasoned and eliminate the hot sauce.

Chicken and White Bean Chili (6 servings)

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
13/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1 1/2 inch chunks
1 packet (1.5 ounces) taco seasoning mix, such as Old Paso
1 can (13.75 ounces) artichoke hearts, drained and cut into quarters
2 large tomatoes, seeds removed and diced
1 can (15 ounces) white beans, drained and rinsed
1 tablespoon fresh chopped cilantro
Cooked brown rice or couscous, optional

1. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and cook 5 minutes until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.
2. Add garlic, chicken and half the taco seasoning and cook 5 minutes until chicken no longer pink.
3. Stir in the remaining taco seasoning, and **1 cup water**. Bring to a simmer and add artichoke hearts, tomatoes and beans. Simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in cilantro. Serve with cooked brown rice or couscous, if using

Per Serving- Calories: 289; Fat: 4g; Fiber: 4g; Sodium: 1039mg

Make It Healthier: Cut the sodium by using reduced-sodium taco seasoning and eliminating the artichoke hearts or only using half of a can.

Woof! Penn Estates is Going to the Dogs - literally

By Jody Perkin, President, PEPOA Board of Directors

Approximately two years ago, the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) emerged from hibernation, and came back to life with a renewed sense of purpose. During one of the early planning sessions one of the many suggestions was that a dog park within the community would be a nice amenity. Because of other priorities, the idea was tabled, but not forgotten.

This year the Buildings, Grounds and Roadways Committee added a Dog Park to its project list for review and discussion. The planning discussion regarding a dog park was no different than any other planning discussion; tentative locations, size, design, what to include, what to exclude, who may be affected and other considerations. The location currently under consideration is an Association owned lot on the corner of Lake Drive and Lakeside Drive (Section C near Upper Twin Lake). The committee has now reached a point where it needs to give serious consideration either to move forward or not.

As with any possible amenity, there are numerous concerns; is the Association committing resources to something that will be used by more than just a couple of residents? This type of project has an estimated cost of \$9,000-\$15,000, so we certainly can't rely on "If you build it, they will come."

In the interest of getting feedback from the community, if the dog families could please fill-out the questionnaire below and either drop it in the black questionnaire boxes at the front and rear mailbox pavilions, or return it to the office no later than January 15, 2013.

Possible Penn Estates Dog Park

Would you utilize a dog park? Yes No

If no, why not? _____

How many days a week? _____

Street Address _____

Lot/Section _____

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December 2012 - January 2013 Community Calendar

						1 8:30 am - Community Safety Meeting 10 am - Appeals
2	3 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	4 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	5	6 7 pm - Nominating & Steering Meeting 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	7 7:30 pm - Decorating and Tree Lighting Ceremony	8 10 am - Breakfast with Santa
9	10 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	11 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	12	13 6pm - Real Estate Meeting 7pm - Recreation Meeting 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	14 Toys for Tots Donation Deadline	15 7 am - ARB Meeting 8:30 am - Buildings & Grounds Meeting 10 am - Communications Meeting
16	17 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	18 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	19 7 pm - Wildlife & Forestry Meeting	20 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	21	22 9 am - Finance Meeting
23	24 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30pm- Darts	25 4 pm - Bookmobile 7pm- Bingo	26	27 7 pm - Govt. Relations Meeting 7 pm - Long Range Planning Mtg. 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	28	29
30	31 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts 8 pm - New Years Eve Party	1 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	2	3 7 pm - Nominating and Steering Meeting 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	4 7:30 pm - Board Meeting	5 8:30 am - Community Safety Meeting 10 am - Appeals
6	7 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	8 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	9	10 6pm - Real Estate Meeting 7 pm - Recreation Meeting 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	11	12 9 am - Community Forum
13	14 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	15 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	16 7 pm - Wildlife & Forestry Meeting	17 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	18	19 7 am - ARB Meeting 8:30 am - Buildings & Grounds Meeting 10 am - Communications Meeting
20	21 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	22 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	23	24 7 pm - Govt. Relations Meeting 7 pm - Long Range Planning Mtg. 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop	25	26 9 am - Finance Meeting
27	28 12:30 pm - Mah-Jongg 7:30 pm - Darts	29 4 pm - Bookmobile 7 pm - Bingo	30	31 7:30 pm - Understanding the Bible 7:30 pm - Women's Bible Workshop		

Penn Estates Property Owners Association, Inc.

Logo Contest

\$500 Visa Gift Card Award

PENN ESTATES announces a competition for a new logo that will carry the slogan "Come Home to Penn Estates."

Applicants are invited to inform themselves about the current logo, the location and nature of the community by consulting the Penn Estates website: <http://www.pepoa.org/home.asp>

The award winning logo must meet the following criteria:

1. Submission must be a digital file in .jpeg format. The digital file must be in color, but the logo must be reducible to a size of at least 1.25" inches in any direction, and also legible in monochrome. Designs may include both letters and graphics, but should carry the name "Penn Estates" and the slogan "Come Home to Penn Estates."
2. Submissions will be accepted via email, compact disk (CD), or non-refundable USB flash drive. Email: admin@pepoa.org (Subject: PEPOA Logo Contest). Regular mail: PEPOA Logo Contest, 304 Cricket Drive, East Stroudsburg PA 18301. No phone calls please.
3. Submission must be identified separately with the participant's name, address, telephone, and email address. Submission should be named with the artist's first initial and last name (e.g. RSmith) and numbered in the event that there is more than one submission by the same artist
4. Participants may submit multiple entries. More than one participant may cooperate in submission of a single entry, but this does not increase the amount of award money.
5. Acceptance of the \$500 award will constitute as ownership of all copyrights to the logo and artwork of the Penn Estates Property Owners Association.

Deadline for submission: January 18, 2013. Submissions will not be returned.

Notification of winning entry via email: February 15, 2013

Penn Estates Property Owners Association reserves the right to disqualify any incomplete entries and/or work which does not allow use for purposes intended upon printing.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO THE BACK OF ALL SUBMISSIONS

CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Number of Entries submitted: _____

File Name of Entries: _____

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Basket Bingo/Tricky Tray

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