



Living in Harmony with Nature Harmony

Penn Estates Property Owners Association

August/September 2014

Manager's Report

By Laura M. Jones, Community Manager

Administration

The Annual Meeting of the Membership and election of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Thank you to the Administration staff for organizing and executing a successful event. Thank you to outgoing Directors; Jody Perkin; Vernon Woody and Michelle Valerio-Trinkle for their time and dedication to the Community. Welcome new Directors, Bettyanne Nevil; Jose Padilla and John White and congratulations to the new Officers; John Bradley; Luna Mishoe and David Juliano.

Codes Enforcement/Architectural Review Department

In the months of April and May 21 permit applications for additions/alterations were submitted; 18 were approved and 3 are pending additional documentation.

The department would also like to remind all residents that per the Rules and Regulations Article XIX (19) Section J... Weeds, grass and other ground cover vegetation, other than shrubs or trees, are not to exceed 12 inches in height.

Maintenance

The annual roads maintenance evaluation was painstakingly completed by Mike Davison, Maintenance Manager and Director, Jose Padilla. It took more than a month to complete a full and in-depth evaluation. I would like to extend my appreciation to both gentlemen for the time and dedication they've given to the Community.

The bid forms are complete and the advertising for bid will be placed in two newspapers as per the Bylaws. The projected completion of the 2014 road maintenance is September 2014. An email will be sent and the marquees marked to remind all residents of the commencement of the road maintenance advising all of the traffic delays and to use caution on the roadways.

The playground renovation project is nearly completed. The new equipment was installed and the play area opened up for play on May 4th to the delight of many happy playing children. Thank you to the Administration staff for organizing this project and thank you to the Maintenance staff for doing a great job. The last thing that needs to be completed is the painting of the swing set; new swing seats and mulch. This is expected to be complete within the week.

Security

Statistics for March 2014 will not be available. Unfortunately, the data was lost during the transition from in-house to Black Knight. Statistics for April and May are available at the back table and on the website.

All residents are welcome to contact the Admin office to make an appointment to meet with me. As well, the Board can be contacted at Board@pepoa.org.

President's Message

Real Change

By John Bradley, PEPOA President

As your new community President and with three new Board members, I see this as an opportunity for real change. When I ran for the Board last year, I campaigned that I would strive to streamline costs and increase dues collections. The money saved would be used to reconstruct Penn Estates Drive and fix the side roads and maybe a new amenity or two.

Thus far, we have outsourced Security and the Welcome Center and saved a great deal of money. I will continue to look for ways to cut costs and streamline our operations, without sacrificing service or raising dues. Many people don't like my tactics but I did not run for this position to make friends, but to make the community I live in a better place.

A great man once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Posting derogatory comments on Facebook is not helping. If you want to help, join a committee or volunteer to help in an event. I plan on enjoying the rest of my summer with my loving family and enjoying this fine community. Let us all work together for real change and make this association great!

Community Safety Committee News

By John Baraniuk, Chairman

On June 14, our Community Safety Committee hosted a seminar given by Red Cross on Emergency Preparedness in the home which was presented from Gail and Audrey of the Red Cross. During the seminar to make things fun there was a game of bingo using key safety word topics where prizes such as a flashlight was handed out.

At the end of the seminar the Red Cross handed out literature and go bands to the residents. Anyone who would like additional information on the Red Cross can go to the following link of the main page of the Red Cross with lots of good information <http://www.redcross.org/> and there is also a mobile app <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps>

We also had from the local Ham Radio Club Mike who emphasized the importance of communications during an emergency. Mike discussed the importance of having a portable am/fm battery operated radio in an event of an emergency or during a storm where an outage could occur. Mike also recommended carrying a Ham Radio where you would be required to attend a class and take a written test to become a certified ham radio operator.

Anyone who would like to learn more about ham radio can go to the following link

www.emergency-radio.org or if you would like to join the local ham radio club which will be having a ham radio class in the fall you can email local ham radio resident Barbara at babaustin495@gmail.com.

We had a great turnout with a total of 48 residents who were also treated to light refreshments on behalf of our committee.



Gail and Audrey from the Red Cross spoke about emergency preparedness.

More photos on page 2...

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Community Safety Committee cont.



Our Committee will work on another Seminar in the near future. If you have any ideas or suggestions for our committee please submit them to the admin office.

Now that it's summer, there will be more people outside, so we ask that all drivers be courteous to anyone playing, walking or biking around in our community. We ask anyone walking in the community after dark to please wear bright or reflective clothing and carry a flashlight so that you are visible to drivers at night. As always, please remember to always lock your car and house doors to prevent unwanted intruders.

*The Community Safety Committee
John Baraniuk, Chairman*



Penn Estates Rabies Clinic

By Bettyanne Nevil, Board Member

A rabies clinic was held on June 21, 2014 at the Penn Estates maintenance building near the back gate. About 100 people turned out to get reduced rate vaccinations for their pets.



Their support helped raise awareness for animals can't talk. ACT is a 501c-3 Corporation. It is an all volunteer organization.

Volunteers from both Creature Comforts Veterinary Service and Penn Estates, graciously donated their time to make this fundraiser a success. Residents and non-residents alike were able to purchase vaccinations such as rabies and distemper.

Microchips were available and the cost included one year of monitoring and registration of the chip. Due to the lack of foster homes ACT is mainly concentrating on cats at this time.



ACT is also looking for volunteers who can amicably work with each other for the benefit of the animals.

Our next fundraiser is scheduled for August 24 at the community center and will feature a bingo and tricky tray. Hope to see you there!

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Committee Meeting Schedule

Appeals.....	1st Saturday	10:00 am
ARB	3rd Saturday	7:00 am
Board of Directors Meeting	1st Friday	7:30 pm
Buildings, Grounds & Roadways	3rd Saturday	8:30 am
Communications	3rd Saturday	10:00 am
Community Documents	TBA	
Community Safety.....	1st Saturday	9:00 am
Finance	4th Saturday	9:00 am
Government Relations	TBA	
Long Range Planning	4th Thursday	7:30 pm
Nominating and Steering	1st Thursday	7:00 pm
Real Estate.....	2nd Thursday.....	6:00 pm
Recreation	2nd Thursday.....	7:00 pm
Wildlife and Forestry.....	3rd Tuesday	7:00 pm

Treasurer's Report *(UNRECONCILED)*

As of May 31, 2014

Collections of 2014 Dues: Current Month	\$55,784.14
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS:	
Operating Dues Income:	\$1,460,361.36
Dues transferred to Capital Reserve:	\$69,601.42
Total Dues Income:	\$1,529,962.42
This is 90.6% of the 2014 Dues Income budget	
Collection of Prior Year's Dues: Current Month	\$795.25
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL PRIOR DUES INCOME:	\$10,544.20
This is 35.1% of the 2014 budget for this line item	
Collection of Late Interest: Current Month	\$2,593.92
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL LATE INTEREST:	\$20,398.30
This is 45.3% of the 2014 budget for this line item	
Collection of Cap Imp Fees (CIF):	\$4,760.00
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL CAP IMP FEES:	\$41,650.00
This is from the sale of 4 homes in May	
This is 70% of the 2014 budget for this line item based on the sale of 50 homes.	
<i>*Note:</i> CIF is not part of the operating income; these funds are deposited in the Capital Reserve Account for current projects	
Association Cash Assets:	\$2,657,913.58
Operating Cash Accounts	\$1,082,468.97
Capital /Reserve Accounts	\$1,575,444.61

Weekly Activities

Monday	Mah-Jongg.....	12:30 pm
	Dart League	7:30 pm
Tuesday	Bookmobile	4:00 pm
	Bingo	7:00 pm
Sunday	Horseshoe League	3:00 pm



As a graduate, yes a graduate, of the College of Disney Knowledge, I have many amazing Disney experiences to share with you. I would love the opportunity to plan your next family vacation to Walt Disney World, Disneyland, or a Disney Cruise. I can also assist you with your planning of an exciting vacation with Adventures by Disney or the Aulani Resort which is Disney's newest resort in Hawaii.

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Early Summer in Penn Estates



By Matthew Jacobsen, Cub Reporter

School's out, pools and lake open for business and plenty of community sponsored events for all ages. Yep, the summer season is in full swing.

Two pre-summer events that took place on May 30th got things

rolling, the Community Yard Sale and a Basket Bingo and

Tricky Tray for the benefit of

the American Cancer Society (ACS). The yard sale which took place on the ball field/tennis courts ran from 9am to 3pm. The 15 vendors that participated had a wide variety of items for sale. There was a nice turnout and the general opinion was that the annual yard sale is more successful when it is held in a central place in the community as opposed to peoples driveways.

The ACS basket bingo was not just a bingo but a tricky tray as well. The tricky tray part of the event started at 4pm. The entry fee was \$10 for both the tricky tray and the bingo.

Attendees were able to view the baskets, purchase tickets and place them in the baskets they wanted to try and win.

There were three ticket prices for three different levels of prizes. Small prize tickets were 26 for \$10, medium prize tickets were 6 for \$5 and large prize tickets were 3 for \$5. The bingo started at 7pm and after all the games were called the tickets for the baskets were pulled.

The event was sponsored by Team Penn Estates and run by members including Lucy Jacobson and Kathy Ranne. They raised over \$1900 for the ACS.

The Carnival was a bit early this year, running from June 25 thru June 28. There was a bumpy start due to bad weather on the first day. The beautiful weather on the next three days brought record attendance and made for an amazing event this year. Ferris wheel, games, kiddie rides, wonderful fair food - we had it all. After enjoying a candied apple and funnel cake on Saturday, I was able to ask a few of the residents about their experience at the Carnival. Everyone voiced the same opinion that this is an annual family event that they look forward to every year and they hope it continues for many years to come.

The Penn Estates Horseshoe League has begun it's annual season. Come down to the ball field on Sunday afternoons to join in or just watch. The Summer Dart League has also started. If you are interested in learning (or just hearing some funny stories), come down to the Oak Room on

Mondays at 7:30pm.

Community Day will be on August 2nd. Plan to attend and have some fun with your neighbors.

This is your ace cub reporter saying stay in harmony with your community and get out and get involved.

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Summer Safety

Summer is in full swing, and for many of our youngest residents that means they have the freedom to play outside to their hearts content (or at least until mom or dad call them back inside). While we encourage kids to enjoy summer to the fullest, we also want everyone to stay safe. Here are a few guidelines to make sure these school-free months go smoothly:

- **Make sure your children are proactive about safety.** Whether they're playing at a park, swimming at a pool or riding their bikes around the neighborhood, it's important that kids understand what types of injuries could occur during these activities and how they can best avoid them. If an injury does occur, your kids need to know what actions to take—such as alerting a trusted adult or, in the case of a true emergency, calling 911.
- **Supervise your kids at the pool.** While it's always a good idea to keep an eye on your kids, it's particularly important to make sure your children have adult supervision while they're in the water. It only takes a second for even good swimmers to find themselves in a dangerous situation.
- **Slow down!** All residents should take note of this rule. With children out and about in full force during the summer, you're more likely than ever to see a distracted kid chasing after a run-away baseball or skateboarding on the streets. Slow down.
- **Remind older kids to check in.** When kids are out on their own, it's easy for them to forget to let their parents know they're okay. So establish a set of rules, such as checking in every few hours or whenever they change locations, and be firm about enforcing them.

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While the summer can present many hazards, there's no reason your kids can't come out of it unscathed (notwithstanding a few minor scrapes, bruises and bug bites, of course). To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/features/KidsSafety for a list of great articles. Stay safe and enjoy this wonderful season.

Local Stroudsburg Hikes

By Michele Valerio

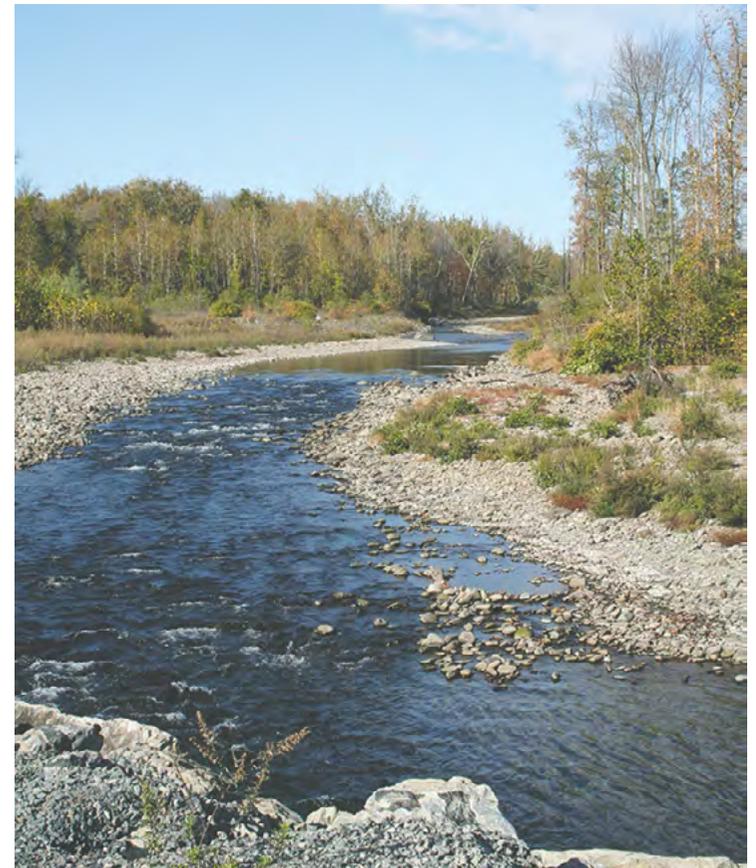
While I personally travel far and wide just for day hikes there are many trails practically in our backyard. Right in Stroudsburg there is a fantastic trail called the Levee Loop Trail. You can access the trail from Dansbury Park or from Clearview Park off Route 191. The levee itself was built in aftermath of deadly floods in the 1950's which left us with a trail that circles Brodhead Creek and is quite picturesque. See this website for directions, parking locations and trail map: http://www.srosrc.org/park_maps/LLT.jpg

There are trails within the Brodhead Creek and Pinebrook Park that now connect and run along the Brodhead Creek north of the Levee Loop Trail. http://www.srosrc.org/park_maps/Pinebrook_Brodhead.jpg

Wedged right near downtown Stroudsburg is Glen Park and the trails along Godfrey Ridge. This is a well hidden little gem of a park with some difficult trails with splendid views. http://www.srosrc.org/park_maps/Rotary_Glen.jpg

A bit further away is the Minsi Lake Wilderness

Area which is man-made lake and was built in 1970 for recreational purposes. There are some nice trails that go around the entire lake. A short distance away from Minsi Lake is The Bear Swamp Park & Archery Complex which is a 180 acre natural wilderness area with a nature center, wetlands, a picnic pavilion, a mile long trail with a raised boardwalk through a sphagnum swamp and an archery complex. Directions: Go north on Route 191 through Bangor for 2 miles and turn right onto Lake Minsi Drive. At a T intersection turn left and go 0.5 miles. The archery complex and parking for Bear Swamp will be on your right. A short distance later turn left onto Blue Mountain Drive and right into the lake parking lot.



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It's A Work-A-Day World

By Jane Harris, Communications Committee

Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho...it's off to work we go. A tiresome but necessary activity. Fear not. September 1st is on the horizon; there will be respite from your toils. The entire nation will engage in an official day of rest. Workers everywhere will celebrate this federal holiday honoring the American worker.

The labor unions called for this recognition to bestow gratitude on the American worker, gratitude for having withstood dangerous conditions in factories and underground mines, long hours and poor pay.

The industrial revolution moved us forward as a country but took a toll on the American worker.

Groups of workers began to organize in protest which eventually culminated in a march 100,000 strong in NYC. The year was 1872.

Cries for better working conditions and shorter more reasonable hours were heard up and down the streets of the city.

Organized efforts began to have an effect and it wasn't long before these trade unions were impacting the terrible conditions in the workplace. In the end those unionized groups of workers had a 40 hour work week, unemployment benefits, workman's compensation and pensions. A cause for celebration!

In 1882 there was a parade in NYC, this time not a protest, but a festival.

Before it became a federal holiday in 1894, over 30 states had officially recognized it as a holiday, beginning with Oregon in 1887.

Workers make the wealth! Relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Buildings, Grounds and Roadways Committee Needs Members

By Ron Gotti, Building and Grounds Committee Chairman

The mission of the Buildings, Grounds, and Roadways committee is to plan and propose facility and infrastructure improvement projects in accordance with PEPOA's Strategic Plan, and as directed by the Board of Directors. Some of the current projects include Penn Estates Drive and other roadway improvements; mail box cover and traffic realignment at the rear mailboxes; tennis court resurfacing; storm drainage improvements; community center repairs, and others.

We need assistance and participation from community members to successfully fulfill our mission. We often find that property owners within Penn Estates possess the interest, skills, and expertise that can assist us in accomplishing the projects economically and efficiently. As the BGR Committee chairman, I welcome any interested member to our committee meetings which are held on the 3rd Saturday at 9 am, or as otherwise scheduled. We especially welcome anyone with experience in building and maintaining public facilities to share their expertise with our committee. Please contact ron.gatti@gmail.com with any questions, comments or suggestions. Penn Estates will be the community that we collectively make it; your participation is needed.



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Saving Summer

By Jane Harris Communications Committee

It's almost instinctive, wanting to hang on to those summer days as they begin to slip away. Remembering the long hard winter just past creates an almost desperate need to capture and hold on to those summer breezes, balmy nights and the intense colors of flowers in high summer.

I have a dear friend who religiously gathers blossoms and leaves from her well-tended garden as well as a wide array of wildflowers, pressing them between sheets of newspaper and paper towels with a cardboard support. Adding the weight of heavy books will help to keep the flowers positioned as the drying process takes place. A minimum of two weeks is suggested for smaller specimens...longer for blossoms that are larger and hold more moisture. A folded over paper towel can sandwich your freshly picked favorite flowers.



In PE choose blossoms from your deer proof hanging baskets! Tuck them between pages of magazines or books and flip through them during long winter days.

Use them in craft projects or carefully glue them in a sketchbook or on plain paper. Label and date the pages as a record of this all too short but very special season.

The pleasure of gathering and preserving these delicate gifts from nature is also a means to carry it forward, remembering and reminiscing until we are once again are basking in the glorious gift that is summer.

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Winding Through NJ Wine Country

By Michael Tyrrell,
Communications Committee Member

Yes, you read it right! New Jersey wine country. After visiting all five PA wineries within an hour of Stroudsburg, we set our sights east and decided to check out some of the Jersey wineries within an hour's drive. We chose Four Sisters Winery in nearby Belvidere, New Jersey for our first visit.

The winery is easy to find, just 6 miles from exit 12 (Hope) on route 80. The area is very scenic and the small town of Hope, if you have not been, is really nice for a short stroll. The town center is about halfway between Four Sisters and route 80.

The tasting room and shop were in a very rustic building surrounded by rolling hills. The back deck looked out on these hills and had tables and chairs if you wanted to buy wine by the glass and just enjoy the view. The tasting was free and you could taste as many wines as you wanted.



The wine was very good. There were at least 12 sweet wines. We didn't taste these but we did sample 4 dry or semi dry whites and 4 dry reds.

Our favorite white was the Seyval Reserve 2010 (\$14.95) which was very complex with a light oak finish, in the style of a California chardonnay. You could pair this with seafood, chicken or pork but we planned to just enjoy the bottle we purchased before dinner in place of a cocktail.

Vidal Blanc (\$14.00) was fruity and crisp and we bought a bottle to pair with grilled fish. As far as their reds go, the Chambourcin 2010 (\$12.95) was rich and velvety with hints of black cherry- a great value.

Papa's Red (\$12.95) is a agreeable blend reminiscent of Chianti and I see it in our near future accompanying a homemade pizza.

This was one of the nicest local winery experiences we have had. We took house guests with us over Memorial Day weekend and I guess they were very impressed. They thanked us profusely for including them. The wine is a bit pricy for a "local" but worth it. Go to www.foursisterswinery.com for more info and directions.

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Michael's Kitchen

By Michael Tyrrell, Communications Committee

Many people usually think of using their slow cooker in the colder months for soups, stews, chilis and hearty meat dishes. Well don't pack it away for the summer. It's a great way to cook in warm weather too. I am a sandwich freak and love shredded anything on a sliced roll. Here are some great sandwich ideas for easy family dinners as well as summer pot lucks and outdoor gatherings. Some parents get the guilts when serving their family sandwiches for dinner. Well, get over it!. These sandwiches make satisfying, hearty meals and are reasonably healthy and economical as well. Supplement with tossed salad and some oven fries and you're all set. The coleslaw recipe will go with all of these sandwiches in addition to complimenting any grilled food. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sausages and Onions Braised in Beer (12 servings)

- 12 smoked sausages with cheese (such as Hillshire Farms cheddar wurst)
- 3 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp grainy mustard
- 3 large onions, sliced into 1/4-inch rings
- 1 tsp caraway seeds
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1 can (12 oz) beer
- 12 hoagie rolls, split
- mustard and shredded cheddar (optional)

- 1) Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add sausages and brown on all sides, about 10 minutes.
- 2) Meanwhile, coat the bowl of a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Place butter, brown sugar and mustard in slow cooker; stir in onions, caraway seeds, salt and pepper. Place sausages over onions and pour beer over top.
- 3) Cover and cook on HIGH for 4 hours. Serve on rolls with onions. Top with mustard and cheddar, if desired.

Per Serving- Calories: 446; Fat: 24g; Sodium: 1031mg

Beef Brisket Sandwich (8 servings)

- 2 tbsp packed dark brown sugar
- 1 tbsp Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp onion powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 3 lbs beef brisket, trimmed of excess fat
- 2½ cups beef broth
- 3 tbsp molasses
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 8 onion roll, split
- 2 cups prepared coleslaw

Cover and cook on HIGH for 6 hours or LOW for 8 hours.

- 3) Remove brisket from slow cooker and shred with 2 forks. Strain liquid into a saucepan and bring to a simmer. Combine cornstarch with ¼ cup water and stir into saucepan. Simmer 2 minutes until thickened. Stir in vinegar.
- 4) Place brisket in a large bowl and stir in sauce. Cover and let stand for 10 minutes. Fill rolls with brisket and coleslaw and serve.

Per Serving- Calories: 427; Fat: 11g; Sodium: 711mg

South Of The Border Pulled Chicken (8 servings)

- 1½ lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1½ lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- 1 cup Dr Pepper soda
- 1 can (8 oz) tomato sauce
- 2 chipotle peppers in adobo, seeded and diced
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- ½ tsp salt
- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 8 slices pepper jack cheese
- 8 soft rolls
- pickle slices
- red onion slices (optional)

- 1) Coat the bowl of a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Add chicken and season with oregano and cumin. In a bowl, combine soda, tomato sauce and chipotles. Pour over chicken. Cover; cook on HIGH for 6 hours or LOW for 8 hours.
- 2) Remove chicken to a bowl. Add liquid from slow cooker to a saucepan. Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt; add to saucepan along with vinegar and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer 2 minutes until thickened. Shred chicken in bowl and stir in sauce. Cover and let stand 10 minutes.
- 3) Heat broiler. Place a slice of cheese on each roll and broil for about 30 seconds until melted. Divide chicken among rolls and top with pickles and onion slices, if desired.

Per Serving- Calories: 474; Fat: 15g; Sodium: 858mg

Easiest-Ever Pork Sandwiches (8 servings)

- 1 boneless pork loin roast (about 2 1/2 lbs) trimmed and cut in half lengthwise
- 1 ¼ cups prepared barbecue sauce
- 4 cups packaged coleslaw mix
- ½ cup reduced-fat coleslaw dressing
- 8 hamburger rolls

- 1) Coat the bowl of a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Place roast and 1 cup water in slow cooker. Cover and cook on HIGH for 3 hours or LOW for 5 hours.
- 2) Remove pork from slow cooker; discard water. Shred into bite-size pieces. Add pork back to slow cooker and stir in barbecue sauce. Keep warm until ready to serve.
- 3) Stir together coleslaw mix and dressing. Place ½ cup each pork and coleslaw on each roll and serve.

Per Serving- Calories: 456; Fat: 16g; Sodium: 1050mg

All Purpose Slaw (12 servings)

- 2 bags (12 oz each) shredded broccoli slaw
- 4 cups shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup shredded carrot
- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- ½ cup reduced-fat sour cream
- ¾ cup buttermilk
- 2 tbsp yellow mustard
- ¾ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper

- 1) In a large bowl, stir together the broccoli slaw, red cabbage and carrots. In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, sour cream, buttermilk, salt and pepper.
- 2) Fold the mayonnaise mixture into the slaw mixture and stir well. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.

Per Serving- Calories: 114; Fat: 8g; Sodium: 380mg



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- 1) Coat the bowl of a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. In a small bowl, combine brown sugar, Italian seasoning, onion powder, salt and pepper. Rub onto brisket and place in slow cooker.

- 2) In another bowl, whisk broth, molasses and Worcestershire. Add to slow cooker.

Out & About

Things to Do and See in the Poconos

By Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee

Fireworks are going off all around the Poconos tonight. It was a wonderful July 4th, starting as rain (safer for fireworks) and ending with a cool, yet sunny, day. It was lovely after a steamy July week! I always feels just a little sad writing about the end of summer in July in preparation for the next issue of Harmony. I feel like summer has not even started but I will be writing about harvest festivals, as well as the late summer events. On the positive side, it reminds me to make time to enjoy this beautiful season before it is too late.

The following just an overview of local events. I draw from various sources. However, if you want to look on-line for events within driving distance, I find three sources to be most helpful: 800poconos.com, njskylands.com and lehighvalleylive.com.

There will be lots of festivals throughout the summer and fall. The Annual Festival of Wood will be held on 8/2 and 8/3 at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford. Call 570-296-9630. The Pocono Chicken Wing-off will be at Shawnee Mountain on 8/10 and benefits Meals-on-Wheels. Call 570-421-7231.

The Pocono Garlic Festival will be on Shawnee Mountain on 8/30 to 8/31. Stroudfest will be in downtown Stroudsburg on 8/30. Call 570-420-2808 for information. Railfest 2014 will be at Steamtown National Historical Site in Scranton on 8/30 and 8/31. Musikfest will be in Bethlehem from August 1-10.

September is also a month of festivals. Delaware Water Gap hosts the COTA Jazz and Art Festival on 9/5 to 9/7. Call 570-424-2210. On 9/20 and 9/21 is the Pocono Rodeo and Chili Cook-off at Shawnee. On 9/27 and 9/28 is the Mountain Harvest Festival at Blue Mountain Ski Resort. Call 610-826-7700.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm has several events during the summer, in addition to their usual historical farm experience. On 8/2/14 is their 8th Annual Heritage Craft Day. On 8/23 and 8/24, they host the 28th Annual State Craft Fair. On 10/11 and 10/12, they have their Harvest Festival. Call 992-6161.

If you are feeling particularly hardy, you could choose from a number of events. You can take a train for 25 miles and then bike back to Jim Thorpe through the Lehigh Gorge Railtrail on 8/16 or 8/17 or 9/20 or 9/21. Call 570-325-3654. Or you could choose to get down and dirty on 8/16 at the Shawnee Mountain Mud Run. Call 570-421-7231. Or you could take on the grueling Warrior Dash on 8/23 at the Pocono Raceway in Long Pond. Or you might choose an adventure race at the Pocono Challenge in Bushkill on 9/7.

If you are a bit more sedentary on your days off work, you might consider the Autumn Leaf Excursion Trains on 10/4 or 10/18 with the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway. Call 570-325-8485. Or you might want something offering a different sort of excitement. The Hotel of Horror in Saylorsburg is on Friday and Saturday nights from the end of September through the end of October. Call 570-992-3278.

Whatever you decide to do, find some time for fun!



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