



Harmony

President's Message

By Luna I Mishoe, PEPOA Board President

Hi Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you in good health and doing well. I just want to continue to inform you of the progress of projects I initially reported to you in my previous message. First of all I want to thank you, our residents, for your patience and confidence in this Board. It was an ambitious goal of this Board to rebuild Penn Estates Drive this fiscal year.

After several prior years of planning and preparations, 2016 was the targeted completion date. It was completed on schedule (by the end of August) and there were very few mishaps. Join me in thanking this Board and our management team for the diligence, professionalism, commitment, stick-to-it-ive-ness and dedication required to get the job done. So, as you drive Penn Estates Drive, do not take it for granted but do so with pride and appreciation for a job well done.

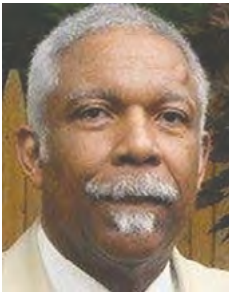
We have been deliberating the 2017 budget. I indicated that we were shooting for an eighth consecutive year with no increase in membership dues. Our management and finance committee accepted this challenge and have presented the Board with its rendition of the 2017 budget and with no anticipated changes in the bottom line figure. In other words **THERE WILL BE NO DUES INCREASE IN THE 2017 BUDGET.** Yes, you are reading it correctly; when the Board deliberates and delivers the final version, there will be no dues increase for the eighth consecutive year. Let your Board know that even with the reconstruction of PE Drive, you appreciate this accomplishment.

With regard to the Hallet Road Bridge, progress seems to be slower than we would like. As I indicated before, we do not have jurisdiction over this project but we have had an impact on them as far as getting funds channeled to the bridge reconstruction project and getting it placed in an immediate priority status. I would estimate that these two areas of influence have taken at least a year off possible completion time.

We do keep in touch with PENNDOT on a regular basis to speed the process and to give us a progress report on a regular and consistent basis. As it stands now, PENNDOT is in the process of obtaining right-of-ways. In order to continue to shorten the time period, these right-of-ways will be temporary rather than permanent. This approach will avoid legal actions and property fights along Hallet Road and it will also shorten the completion time for this project.

The environmental concerns will take an extensive period of time and we will be working on ways to shorten the time period to complete this portion of the process. Once this portion of the process has been completed, actual reconstruction can commence.

In the meantime, we published a survey in the previous Harmony, and now I would like to give you the results which will have been shared with PENNDOT by the time you read this. Your response will have an impact on their planning efforts.



Smooth Driving Again

By Sean Reilly, Director

HOORAY-It's done!

Penn Estates Drive is now a smooth black ribbon of beautiful forest lined highway, welcoming owners, guests, and new buyers to our beautiful community. It puts a smile on my face every time I ride it now!

After five years of planning, a series of five successive Boards of Directors kept their eyes on the ball and saved \$565,000 (of your dues) and obtained a loan to pay the rest of this \$1.3 million dollar full depth (FDR) reconstruction (all without a dues increase for 5 years).



We don't expect to see a pothole for 30 years or more!

The Community Manager, several directors and committee members, our consulting engineer, PCI Inc., and the paving contractor Wayco Inc., worked diligently every day in July and August to get the road open by the first day of school bus traffic. We made it happen, just in the nick of time.

This newly reconstructed main roadway adds great value to the "Curb Appeal" of our Community.

Dues paying owners should be very proud that they live in one of the Poconos Best Private Communities, which is governed by successive Boards who continue to plan and improve our infrastructure and recreation assets, adding value to the neat, clean, safe, enjoyable Community in which we live.



(continued on page 3)

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Deep Drinking and Lawn Water

By Sean Reilly, Board Member

The water in Penn Estates comes from the rocky ground beneath our 1600 acre community. There is no underground reservoir or stream. It's only thousands of cracks in the deep rock that hold the water from annual rainfall events. Eight (8) wells have been drilled deep into the almost solid rock 300-1100 feet down. Powerful electric pumps are lowered to push the water up to the surface and into our homes and water tower tanks.

Penn Estates Utility, Inc. (PEUI), the private utility company that serves us, purchased the water rights and pipes and tanks from the original developer. (They own and provide us sewer service as well). They are part of a large national utility holding company called Utilities, Inc. They are regulated by the PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Penn Estates residents are the only customers of this small local utility franchise. Every dime they spend drilling and pumping and storing water, we pay. They cannot expand their customer base because they only own the water rights under Penn Estates and can only treat the sewage generated by Penn Estates' 1700 homes.

As electric rates rise to pump this heavy water from deep underground, we must pay for it. If we begin watering lawns and they must build a new \$500,000 storage tower, we ALL pay for it. There are no local, state or federal funds to assist us with these essential services that only serve us. We Are It – The Buck Stops With Us.... The Rate Payers! The Utility company has just asked PUC for a 48% rate increase.

If our water use increases, the water company "wins" because we pay by the gallon used. If we use too much and they have to build another water tower and replace overworked electric pumps – we will see big jumps in ongoing costs (see next article). Using less water lowers everyone's cost of living.

We are in a drought. Please don't water that lawn. Pocono autumn rains will soon bring it back to a lush green before the snow flies. This is our natural cycle. Less is more! Less water use is green \$\$\$.



Mah Jongg Players Wanted

By Michael J. Tyrrell, Communications Committee Chair

Our resident Mah Jongg maven, Clarice Wilkens, has for years organized a fun Mah Jongg afternoon at the clubhouse. They are always looking for new victims. Ahhh - I mean new players.

Here is what Clarice had to say: "We meet every Monday 11:45 to 4:30. Bring your lunch. We will teach you how to play. We have some part timers and full timers; great group of women. Would love to have some more! For more information call me, Clarice Wilkens at 570-421-0391 or cell 570-994-4412. Look forward to meeting you."



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President's Message

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An Analysis of the Survey

When asked if the Bridge should be closed permanently, 100% of the respondents said no. The implication here is that this bridge is very much necessary, desirable and vital to the users and traffic patterns in the area. People just do not want to be without this bridge and particularly for an extended period of time.

Long delays in reconstruction cause significant inconveniences. It also causes rerouting of traffic and hindrances to businesses and homeowners as well in and around the area. This causes overloading on surrounding roads and other related problems.

When asked whether the bridge should be reconstructed in its original state (one lane only), the result was surprising to me; 41.5% said yes and an equal 41.5% said no. 17% made no response to the question at all.

When asked differently; should it be reconstructed with one lane in each direction, the response was much different. 65% said yes as opposed to 30% no and 5% not responding to the question.

By a 2 to 1 margin, the respondents want a one lane bridge in each direction. It is consistent that

53% indicated that this bridge if two lanes would not have a negative impact upon traffic.

In a completion stage, 65% preferred to see two lanes while the remaining 35% did not. It is clear that people prefer to have a two lane bridge by 2 to 1.

With regard to the water rate increase issue, it is still being negotiated. The hearing that was scheduled to be held in Harrisburg was canceled. The indication from canceling is that a compromise will be reached at much less than 48% and some of our suggestions will be implemented. We will keep you posted as things develop.

We have a newly installed gate access system. It has not worked to our satisfaction since it has been installed. We recently have found out what our problem has been. It will be corrected and once done, we expect it to work like state of the art. We will keep a close eye on this one.

Stroud Township is still contacting and discussing various terms and arrangements for a single township wide collection service. The goal here is to do so at a much cheaper rate to the homeowner. This will be coming and we will keep you posted.

There are some other interesting and exciting things that are on the drawing board that will be happening in the near future. Stay tuned. Some will be at the lake, some at the community center and ball park areas. We will also be doing work on some of the secondary roads. Penn Estates is on a roll!

Recently, we started a once a month youth activity night at the community center. Come see what they are doing and lend your hands and ideas. Please contact Director Martenco for additional details.

REMINDER: The speed limit on ALL Penn Estates roads is 25 MPH, except where otherwise posted. Thank you!

I am calling on you to get involved. There is room for all areas of interest, expertise and involvement. Everyone cannot serve on the Board but there is a committee that will facilitate your interest and there is one for you. Do not deny yourself and do not deny your community. Your talent is needed. Do not waste it. Instead, say or do something good for someone starting today. Before you know it, it will become routine and infectious and others will catch on and spread your goodness to others. That is how you change the world around you.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 Preliminary Budget

By Ron Gatti, Treasurer

The 2017 Preliminary Budget is printed in full in this issue of the HARMONY. In this report, I would like to provide certain comments to further your examination of the document.

The 2017 Preliminary Budget proposal was initially prepared by Community Manager Laura Jones and the staff. It was then submitted to the Finance Committee for review and modification.

The Finance Committee worked diligently, raising questions and making suggestions to assure that PEPOA gets the best "bang for the bucks". The Finance Committee forwarded their recommendations to the Board of Directors for further review and approval for its presentation to the members of the Association.

The Board urges all members to examine the preliminary budget, note your comments and questions, and attend the Budget Forum which will be held on October 15th. The budget remains a work in progress, subject to change in consideration of residents' input, until final passage in November.

Highlight Comparison of 2016 and 2017 Budgets

Operating Fund	2016	2017
Anticipated Revenue		
Dues.....	1,747,655.....	1,839,025
Operations.....	79,000.....	107,850
Total Revenue.....	1,826,655.....	1,946,875
Authorized Expenditures.....	1,815,108.....	1,903,107
Annual Dues Assessment.....	1,190.....	1,190

Capital Fund

Revenue		
Capital Improvement.....	66,770.....	71,530
Reserve.....	224,810.....	226,260
Expenditures		
Miscellaneous Small Projects.....	10,000.....	10,000
Road Improvements.....	192,229.....	251,858

Expenditures for Reconstruction of Penn Estates Drive are not included

Please note that anticipated revenue and authorized expenditure levels have increased significantly for 2017 over the 2016 budgeted numbers. This should promote increased levels of service to residents, but the annual dues assessment has remained the same. This was possible, from a budgeting perspective, based upon improved dues collection rates and careful control of spending.

As your Treasurer, I want to thank everyone involved for their assistance in the preparation of this 2017 Preliminary Budget; i.e., Laura Jones and Staff, Finance Committee, and Board of Directors. We look forward to your comments and questions at our Budget Forum on October 15, 2016.

2017 Preliminary Capital Budget

Non-Reserve Capital Improvement Budget

INCOME	
2017 Dues Income designated to Non Reserve Capital Fund.....	\$ 0
CIF Funds designated to Capital Improvement Fund.....	\$ 0
Interest Earned on CIF.....	\$ 100
Total Capital Improvement Contribution.....	\$ 100
Funds from Non-Reserve Capital Balance.....	\$ 144,900
TOTAL.....	\$ 145,000

EXPENSE	
Miscellaneous Small Projects.....	\$ 10,000
Crawl Space Project.....	\$ 25,000
Beach Project.....	\$ 35,000
Rear Mailbox Cover.....	\$ 50,000
Illuminated Marquees.....	\$ 25,000
Total Capital Improvement Expenses.....	\$ 145,000

Capital Reserve Budget

INCOME	
2017 Dues Income designated to Capital Reserve Fund.....	\$ 165,000
CIF Funds designated to Capital Reserve Fund.....	\$ 130,900
Interest Earned on CIF.....	\$ 1,760
Total Capital Reserve Contribution.....	\$ 297,660
Funds from Capital Reserve Balance.....	\$ 27,598
TOTAL.....	\$ 325,258

EXPENSE	
Roadway Asphalt Overlay (Primary).....	\$ 251,858
<i>2016 Reserve Projects Carried Over</i>	
Vibratory Roller (replaced with skid steer).....	\$ 40,000
ARB Vehicle.....	\$ 25,000
Asphalt Shingles Admin Building.....	\$ 8,400
Total Capital Reserve Expenses.....	\$ 325,258

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2017 Preliminary Operating Budget

Improved Lot Dues: \$1080 + \$110 = \$1190

Unimproved Lot Dues: \$875 + \$110 = \$985

INCOME

DUES REVENUE

04000	Dues Income	1,583,525.00
04001	Prior Dues	35,000.00
04004	Deferred Dues	100,000.00
04020	Interest on late payments	52,000.00
04021	Collection Fees	5,500.00
04050	Late Fees	41,000.00
04051	Payment Plan Application Fee	22,000.00
	SUBTOTAL DUES REVENUE	1,839,025.00

OPERATING REVENUE

04030	Security Citations	30,000.00
04070	Interest Income	1,000.00
04071	Rental Registration	20,150.00
04075	Gate Cards	16,500.00
04085	Private Event Rental	2,000.00
04080	Resale Certificate Fee	16,500.00
04090	Codes Enforcement Violations	10,000.00
04099	Miscellaneous Income	10,000.00
04077	Carnival Income	1,700.00
	SUBTOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	107,850.00

TOTAL REVENUE 1,946,875.00

EXPENSES

SCHEDULE A – MAINTENANCE

06000	Maintenance Payroll	199,002.00
06001	Maintenance P/R Taxes	25,870.00
06002	Maintenance Benefits	55,721.00
06020	Janitorial Supplies	6,000.00
06030	Buildings & Grounds	15,000.00
06040	Landscape Maintenance	2,500.00
06050	Amenity Repairs	13,000.00
06060	Refuse Collection	14,000.00
06061	Tools/Equip Purchase/Repair	7,000.00
06062	Road Repair Materials (in-house)	3,000.00
06070	Snow Removal	25,000.00
06080	Vehicle Fuel	30,000.00
06090	Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	16,000.00
	TOTAL MAINTENANCE	412,093.00

SCHEDULE B CONTRACT SECURITY

07055	Monthly Contract Charges	341,370.00
07056	Overtime Charges	14,338.00
07057	Monthly Vehicle Charges	22,200.00
07059	Security Supplies	4,200.00
07060	ACA Surcharge	34,320.00
	Radar Unit Purchase	1,717.00
	TOTAL CONTRACT SECURITY	418,145.00

SCHEDULE C - RECREATION (POOL/LAKE)

08000	Recreation Payroll - Lifeguard	70,635.00
08001	Recreation Payroll Taxes	12,008.00
08020	Lifeguard Expenses	1,500.00
08021	Seasonal Activities	4,000.00
08030	Lake/Pool Maintenance	7,500.00
08031	Lake/Pool Testing	5,800.00
00832	Equipment Purchase	7,800.00
08040	Amenity Badges	1,600.00
	TOTAL RECREATION DEPT	110,843.00

SCHEDULE D - COMMITTEES

07042	Community Safety	1,000.00
08060	Community Day	6,500.00
08061	Carnival	500.00
08064	Communications Committee	300.00
08065	Nominating Committee	1,800.00
08090	Recreation Activities	10,000.00
05056	Environmental Education Committee	500.00
05081	Board Expense	1,000.00
	TOTAL COMMITTEES	21,600.00

SCHEDULE E - OFFICE

05002	Management Payroll	102,414.00
05003	Management P/R Taxes	13,314.00
05006	Management Benefits	28,676.00
05000	Admin Payroll	143,978.00
05001	Admin P/R Taxes	18,717.00
05007	Admin Benefits	40,314.00
05010	Codes Enforcement Payroll	29,740.00
05011	Codes Enforcement Payroll Taxes	3,886.00
05013	Codes Enforcement Benefits	20,500.00
	TOTAL OFFICE	401,539.00

SCHEDULE F - ADMINISTRATION

05020	Accounting Services	15,000.00
05030	General Legal Services	30,000.00
05040	Computer Expense	21,000.00
05050	Operating Supplies	15,000.00
05060	Leased Equipment	11,000.00
05070	Collection Filing Charges	13,500.00
05080	Annual/Special Meetings	1,850.00
05090	Bank Fees & Interest	1,800.00
05091	Payroll Processing Fee	3,000.00
05100	Credit Card/Bank Fees	16,500.00
05110	Refunds	1,000.00
07041	Alarm System Fees	2,900.00
07043	Gatehouse Support Fees	23,700.00
05051	Membership Mailings Postage	12,000.00
05052	Webhosting Fees	1,200.00
05057	Dues/Subscript/Staff Training	5,000.00
05053	Advertising	1,000.00
05054	Volunteer Dinner	3,500.00
	Community Relations	2,500.00
	TOTAL GENERAL & ADMIN	181,450.00

SCHEDULE G - COMMUNITY INSURANCE

08201	Insurance - Directors & Officer	11,382.00
08202	Insurance - Umbrella	15,000.00
08203	Insurance - Package (QBE)	67,000.00
08204	Insurance - Worker's Comp	25,000.00
08205	Insurance - Volunteer	1,700.00
	TOTAL INSURANCE	120,082.00

SCHEDULE H - TELE/UTILITIES/COMMUNICATIONS

08250	Utility, Pool, Lake, Store, Buildings	68,000.00
08260	Telephone & Communications	19,000.00
	Fiber Optic Cable Expense	21,600.00
	TOTAL TELE/UTIL & COMM	108,600.00

SCHEDULE I - DEBT SERVICE

05092	Loan Interest Expense	41,959.00
05093	Loan - Principal	86,796.00
	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	128,755.00

GRAND TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE 1,903,107.00

OPERATING CASH FLOW 43,768.00

Monarchs and Milkweed

By Melissa Penta, Contributor

The monarch butterfly is one of the most well-known butterflies in our area. Monarchs specifically depend on one host plant – milkweed. Monarch butterfly caterpillars, along with a few other native insects, only eat milkweed and cannot survive without it. It is also an important nectar source for native bees, wasps and other pollinators.



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Unfortunately, the monarch's fragile habitat is at risk due to the destruction of grasslands, land development and the spraying of weed killers. Milkweed, in particular, is often pulled or sprayed because of its weedy appearance when it is not flowering.

In the early spring, milkweed may not look like much, but its smooth, ob-long-shaped leaves are very distinctive. In June, clusters of flowers will start to emerge. The coloring ranges from pink to a reddish purple to orange. The flowers are very fragrant, with a similar scent to violets or pansies.

By late July most of the flowers are faded and green pods start to form. This is at about the same time that caterpillars are eating up the leaves. The pods eventually turn brown and break open to reveal seeds that spread in the wind.

There are many small colonies of milkweed throughout Penn Estates, mostly on the roadsides or at the edge of the woods. You can help save the monarch's habitat simply by letting these colonies thrive if they are on your property. If you want to go a step further, you can also plant native milkweed and encourage its growth. For more information on planting milkweed and for free milkweed seeds, visit saveourmonarchs.org.

ACS Bingo & Tricky Tray Fundraiser

By Bettyanne Nevil, Board Member

On behalf of Team Penn Estates, I would like to thank all those who participated in the American Cancer Society fundraiser bingo and tricky tray held on July 30th. We know there is always someone asking you to donate to some great cause or another.

Having bingo with cash prizes turned out to be a great idea; a win-win! We had a really nice tricky tray with some great prizes including a Coors beverage fridge



and a Yuengling Lager grill. There were delicious baked goods donated for sale as well. Those who donated, or baked, I applaud you. You made this event successful.

We raised over \$1300. It was all given to the American Cancer Society. You may have noticed the banner hanging across the back gate. We are the winners of the total year-round fund raising team, and that is our trophy. We collect money throughout the year and donate it to American cancer on behalf of Team Penn Estates.

Team Penn Estates holds a great assortment of fundraisers. We held a 31 Bag fundraiser, a dinner



theater fundraiser and we sold luminaries. Soon we'll be sponsoring a LuLa Rue fundraiser. We walk in the Relay for life which is a 24 hour event held annually at ESU. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please email Nancy Padilla at Mrsnpadilla@gmail.com Hope to see you at our next American Cancer Society Fundraiser!



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Young Voices in Harmony

By Michael J. Tyrrell, Communication Committee Chair

Penn Estates resident Katherine Hernandez has conducted two writing workshops for our young people, as you may recall, with amazing results. We are so enthusiastic with the final essays that we wanted to run two in this issue. Hope you enjoy as much as we did. Thanks to Leon Levonyan-Radloff and Josh Carpentier for their contributions to our newspaper!

Summer Camp

By León Levonyan-Radloff, age 14

This summer, I went to a camp called Stony Acres, owned by East Stroudsburg University. The campus is mostly for college students, but there are activities for younger ages, too. The program I attended was called Adventure Camp 2016 for ages 9-16. Its a day camp that lasts for one week every year.

The counselors give us so many different challenges that include teamwork and smart thinking. We also take frequent trips into the woods. In the woods are different climbing courses. I don't want to spoil the fun too much, but I can tell you that you have to use harnesses and helmets for your safety.

You will also get a chance everyday to go fishing. When you fish you might get a chance to see the family of snapping turtles swimming in the camp lake.

This is a chance to stay away from electronics and enjoy the outdoors and wildlife for a week. If you are interested in the camp, be sure to go to Google "Stony Acres ESU wildlife sanctuary."

The 2016 Adventure camp already ended but you will get a chance to come next summer. Please enjoy, if you decide to go next year.

Moms Hug a Lot

By Josh Carpentier, age 11

Have you ever had somebody in your life who hugs you a lot? The person who hugs me a lot is my beautiful mom. She hugs me for a lot of different reasons. Sometimes I need a goodnight hug and my mom is the one who does that for me. She also hugs to say good morning in a really awesome way, too.

When I'm feeling down, she's always there for me and her hug and attention make me feel great. She asks me what's wrong and I can talk to her about it. Sometimes, though, I say, "I'm not in the mood to talk," but she still helps me by staying by my side and giving me hugs.

If somebody bullies me at school, I don't tell her but she still figures it out and asks, "Honey are you okay?" and I say, "No, Mommy, I'm not okay," and she automatically hugs me. This makes me feel like I'm the luckiest person in the world.

I'm glad that moms hug a lot, because it always makes me feel really happy and appreciated.

Reading Corner

By Evelyn Infante, Communications Committee Member

I downloaded a copy of *The Poconos in B Flat* by Debbie Burke, because I was curious about a music genre I knew nothing about. Not only did I want to learn more about this kind of music, but I also wanted to support a fellow Pocono author.

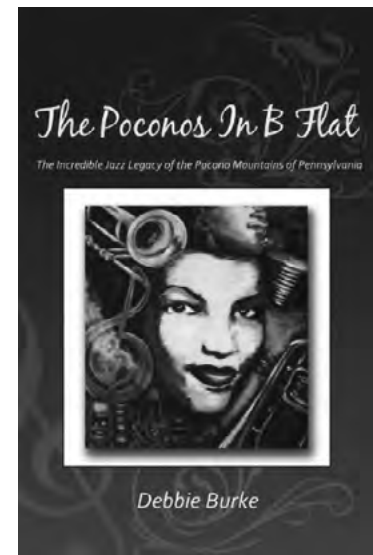
I first met Debbie about three years ago at the Eastern Monroe Public Library Book Expo where we were both featuring our books. In all honesty, I never much liked the sound of jazz, the little I'd been exposed to. It sounded discordant to me, unless it was the kind you could dance to. You know, that sexy, bluesy, kind of jazz where the saxophone takes you to another realm.

As I read, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Deer Head Inn, the oldest jazz club in the country, is the home of jazz in the Pocono Mountains. Since 1953 jazz greats like Al Cohn and Zoot Sims who played with John Coates, pianist, have played at the Deer Head Inn on Main Street in Delaware Water Gap. Over the years Dave Liebman, saxophonist, Bob Dorough, pianist and songwriter, and others have also played at the Deer Head Inn. The names in the book are unfamiliar to me, but I am sure jazz lovers will recognize them. The inn is famous for bringing jazz musicians, a lot whom are famous, together. After business hours, these jazz greats and not so greats would come together for a jam session lasting all night.

The Poconos in B Flat is an education of the history, importance, recognition, and growth of jazz music in the Pocono Mountains as well as around the world. Debbie Burke writes about her interviews of musicians where they express their opinions and love for jazz and the jazz culture in their own words. It is a fascinating look into the world of jazz.

If you are a jazz lover, you will already know about The Pocono Jazz Festival that takes place every year at the Delaware Water Gap. If you are interested in learning more about jazz, read Debbie's book and visit the festival which attracts jazz players from all over the world. For thirty-nine years, COTA, or Celebration of the Arts, has been organizing the festival held the weekend after Labor Day.

In *The Poconos in B Flat*, Debbie Burke takes you through the history, and a who's who of the great ones in the world of jazz, especially its popularity in the Poconos. If you love jazz or want to learn more about it, this book is a treasure.



Hallet Road Bridge Closure

On March 8, 2016, Penn Estates was informed by PennDOT that the Hallet Road Bridge will be closed indefinitely. Contact PennDOT (610) 871-4100 with questions.

Penn Estates front gate access from Routes 447 and/or 191

This route is for vehicles less than 10' high:

- At the traffic light intersection of Routes 447 and 191, head North on 447/191.
- Travel 6/10 of a mile; turn left at Analomink Post Office on to Cherry Lane Road.
- Follow Cherry Lane Road to Metzger Road; turn left on to Metzger Road.
- Turn left on Hallet Road.
- The Penn Estates entrance will be on the right in approximately 1 mile.

This route is for vehicles over 10' high:

- At the traffic light intersection of Route 611 and Tannersville Inn/Cherry Lane Road, turn on to Cherry Lane Road for 2.7 miles.
- Turn right onto Bog Road for 1.3 miles.
- Turn right onto Hallet Road.
- The Penn Estates entrance will be on the right in approximately 1 mile.

To Leave Penn Estates via Routes 447 and/or 191:

- Turn left out of the front entrance onto Hallet Road.
- Turn right on Metzger Road.
- Turn right on Cherry Lane Road.
- This will lead to the intersection of Cherry Lane Road and Rt. 447 at the Analomink Post Office.
- Turn right for 447 South towards Eagle Valley.
- Rt. 191 is on the right at the first traffic light.

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Penn Estates Community Day

Photos by Lisa Ortiz and Dennis Darlington





Photo Contest Winners

By Robin Nicholson, Environmental Education Committee Member

Penn Estates is home to some incredibly talented photographers. These talents were stunningly displayed with the Penn Estates Nature Photo Contest, sponsored by the Environmental Education Committee. All entries were remarkable photos taken in our beautiful community for us all to enjoy. Our board members had a tremendously difficult task to choose winners among them.

Congratulations to the First Place Winner Fidel Leon. His extraordinary photo of a bird in flight exemplified both skill and artistry. The vibrant colors are riveting as we get to observe something truly amazing caught in this beautiful image.

Second place went to Dennis Sira with a gorgeous photo of a sunset sky. Third place also goes to the extraordinary talents of Fidel Leon with wonderful capture of a fawn peering back with a gentle gaze. The rich colors come together in a serene yet striking photo.

The teen category went to Gabriella Vasquez with her refreshing photo from Highland Lake Beach. And last but not least the child category winner went to Ashwin Navin, with his nature inspired close up of a resident toad.

Congratulations to the winners! Thank you for sharing your inspiring talent with the community!



First place - Fidel Leon



Second place - Dennis Sira



Child category winner - Ashwin Navin "Resident Toad"



Teen category winner - Gabriella Vasquez "Highland Lake Beach"



Third place - Fidel Leon

Out & About

Things to Do and See in the Poconos

By Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee

Events? As this incredibly beautiful summer draws to a close, I am aware that the biggest event coming up is the election. Hmm... I believe that we will be amply entertained over the next two months as the election draws near.

The most time consuming activity of this season will be (of course) leaf clean-up. In between hauling those truckloads of leaves to the dumping area, maybe you can enjoy some of the fall fun activities. If nothing else, you and I can enjoy the smooth road that is the new Penn Estates Drive. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make that happen, with as minimal an inconvenience as was possible, and lots of emails of necessary information! And we have painted lines!!!!

I don't know about you, but I was much relieved that the lines were painted immediately. Driving at night is difficult enough with deer meandering along the road. At least we humans can stay on the road and in our own lanes.

Here are some of the upcoming events around the area. As always, I take my information from internet sites. Please call to confirm dates and times and costs or check the websites. Of course, there is a delay between writing this article and the publication of the Harmony. You may want to check the newspapers, and internet for other events. I like 800poconos.com and njskylands.com for upcoming events.

Quite Valley Living Historical Farm is an interesting day out any time and they have special events throughout the year. They host the Annual Harvest Festival on October 8th and 9th.

The Pocono Food Truck Festival and Art on the Mountain will be at Shawnee

on October 15th and 16th. A Fall Festival will be at Dansbury Depot on October 8th from 11-5. The Black Bear Film Festival will be on October 14 through October 16 in Milford. Jim Thorpe will host their Fall Foliage weekends from 11-5 from October 1 through October 16, with live music, ghost tours, etc.

The first two weekends in December, Jim Thorpe hosts their Olde Time Christmas. On 11/19 and 11/20 is the Annual Great Brews Beer Festival at Split Rock Lodge in Lake Harmony. The Split Rock Music Festival (blues, rock, country and folk) is on 10/29 and 10/30. There are usually many haunted house events in October, but none are advertised as yet.

Do you want something more active? How about the Delaware Lehigh Heritage half marathon on 11/6, or the River Ramble Fall Classic 5K or 10K run on 11/13? If you don't mind spending a little over \$100 you can do the Big Day Out, which includes a hike, a bike trip and a raft trip on 10/22 (call 800-944-8392).

How about something tamer? There is always the Tannersville Cranberry Bog Walk of 2.5 hour on Wednesdays through November 2nd. That usually costs \$6, but there is a special KCEEC Bog Day on 10/16, with hikes starting at 10 am and it is free. PEEC always has special events and hikes that celebrate the seasons. For example, on 10/15 is the Signs of Fall. Check their website for more events or call 570-828-2319.

Have fun! Please let me know of your favorite events so that I can include them in the future.

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Eats Around Town

By Julie Harter, Communications Committee Member

I recently visited the Charcuterie on Main Street Stroudsburg, not once but twice in one week because it was that good. This restaurant has the feeling of a country farm and a New York trendy café at the same time. It is perfectly suited for a romantic dinner, lunch date, or business luncheon. To start out, they have an amazing selection of meats and cheeses from around the world. They have a nice selection of local meats and cheeses as well. They also have some delicious sandwiches on the menu. One in particular caught my eye was a brie grilled cheese with apples and fig spread.

You can build your own charcuterie platter or choose one from their preselected menu. I tried both ways, choosing from local soppressata, some French pate, a local Cowtipper cheese which is washed and soaked in Yuengling, and a Vermont Bleu Cheese. The suggested platter I chose was the French Provencal. Some nice light canapés make delicious hors d'oeuvres. There are six to choose from, like the French sausage, Tapenade, Italian Ham, Bacon and Cheddar, Bruschetta, or the one I highly recommend is the Spanish sausage. This consists of Chorizo, Manchego Cheese, and Membrillo Quince Paste. Their house special that night was bacon wrapped cheese stuffed figs, which were out of this world good.

Now on to the Mac-n-cheese dishes. I ordered the butternut squash and bacon mac-n-cheese on both visits because it was that good. It had a medley of Gruyere, Cheddar, and buttery panko crumbs on top.

They also have a wonderful array of desserts to choose from. If you are a fan of crème brulee, you must try theirs. The other dessert I ordered was their Trio which consists of a chocolate covered strawberry, chocolate covered bacon, and a brown butter shortbread cookie.

I highly recommend you go to The Charcuterie for excellent, high quality food with great prices, and meet the mayor of this fabulous town of Stroudsburg, which happens to be the owner. Mayor Tarah Probst is so warm and wonderful to talk with and will help you with any questions you might have. To end your meal perfectly, order a cup or pot of one of their organic hot teas. And, by the way, they are a BYO establishment but they do not charge a corkage fee.

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A DIFFERENT WINERY

By Michele Valerio, Contributing Writer

Rowan Asher Winery (RAW) and Hard Cidery located at 103 Gypsum Rd, Stroudsburg is a wonderfully unique place. The proprietors Misty and Joe call



it an “urban winery” which they say allows customers to buy wine from the source insuring that the wine hasn’t been subjected to extreme conditions while in transport. My feeling is that because the winery is located directly behind the Harley Davidson dealership off 33 South and is not in a more rural spot calling it an urban winery is quite perfect. The namesake of the winery is after the children of the owners who starting making wine about 17 years ago. The wines are amazing and you will have to ask Misty to tell you about the Rosetto Effect. It is an absolutely fascinating story.



Now about the other unique factor. They make hard ciders that are very tasty and refreshing. They do not taste like some of the commercial ciders such as Angry Orchard but rather something entirely different. My favorite is the Okay O’Shea; it has a hint of whisky and maple syrup flavor. Sweet Gypsy has hibiscus and honey making it both tart and sweet.

You can choose between just the wine tasting or the ciders or a combination of both. Frozen Sangria is served by the glass and there is often live music in the courtyard on the weekends.

The winery opened last October; they will be celebrating their one-year anniversary this fall. The web site is www.rowanasherwinery.com



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Night Lights

By David Montalvo, as told to Robin Nicholson, Communications Committee

Many of us have had the pleasure of seeing breathtaking photos taken of our night sky in Penn Estates, thanks to our resident astronomer David Montalvo. His love of astronomy is a fascinating journey that began with a curious, bright young boy who was inspired and looked to the night sky and “gazed beyond the few twinkling lights and saw the universe.” David has allowed us to join him on an amazing journey in his own words:

I was 10 years old, living in Flatbush Brooklyn, and completely bored one day. Like most children looking for mindless entertainment I powered on the TV and started turning the dial across the collection of 8 channels. It was my intention to click past channel 13(PBS) but there was a man narrating whose voice carried a curious quality. He spoke with such a great sense of reverence and wonderment that I felt inclined to watch a bit longer.

The narrator, astronomer Carl Sagan, transfixed my attention as he provided a guided tour of the universe and the theories born from its observations. I did not miss a single one of the 13 episodes that aired on “Cosmos.” I’ve been looking up ever since but urban life is not conducive to stargazing so this interest stayed undeveloped till adulthood.

Part of the enjoyment of astronomy is it’s simply cathartic. Looking up, while

listening to the sounds of nature is just relaxing. The other part, the part I enjoy the most, is simply the child-like wonder it creates.

Look at the moon and sun for example. As adults we generally take these celestial bodies for granted, never really giving much thought beyond a cursory glance. Yet despite looking like shiny marbles, easily pluckable from the sky using one’s thumb and pointer finger, our neighboring celestial bodies are enormous and deceptively distant.

Seeing them as they really are is an existential exercise. Envision the Earth as golf ball, place it by the Penn Estates Welcome Center, now walk forward 1,600 feet and place a large Yoga Balance Ball. This is the approximate scale between the Earth and Sun. At this distance it takes up to 8 minutes for its light to make the journey to Earth. This 8 minute delay means if we look up towards the Sun, we are actually looking 8 minutes into the past.

The Earth is in constant rotation on its axis and around the Sun, our position relative to the Sun has shifted by almost 9,000 miles in those 8 minutes. Yet by our perspective, the sun is still tethered in the present and any sense of its motion across the sky is almost imperceptible. This is the enchantment of astronomy, it boggles the mind in ways which can reengage the sense of marvel we last held as children.

If you would like to give Astronomy a try, start with what you know and what you have. A telescope, binoculars, or a camera are all great but are not required. Turn off your lights, stand outside in the dark, and after a few minutes subtle details start to emerge.

I find that most people can locate the “Big Dipper” on a clear night sky. So this is likely the good starting point. The “Big Dipper” is part of the constellation “Ursa Major.” Using the “Big Dipper” as a reference you can find the North Star which is also the last star in the “handle” of the “Little Dipper” which, in turn, is part of the constellation “Ursa Minor.”

Just like that, by locating just one collection of stars, you can identify two constellations, two asterisms (a recognizable collection of stars), and locate Polaris (The North Star). It’s a trial and error adventure at first but this is how it plays out. Locate a reference, branch out, and repeat.

Eventually the night sky starts to feel familiar, like it belongs to you. As you advance you should consider astronomy apps, like “Star Walk” which can use your phone’s GPS and camera help explore, identify and learn more about the celestial bodies you encounter. This is the wonderful aspect of astronomy, for a beginner all it requires is curiosity and a willingness to pursue it.

Your favorite places in PE to star gaze and why certain spots are better than others. Stargazing is ultimately limited by light; house lights, landscape lights, cars and even the moon can reduce visibility. For this reason my favorite place to stargaze is from my own property since I can turn off the lights. Additionally I also use Google (i.e. “moon phases September 2016”) to identify when the moon is darkest (New Moon).

Ultimately, no matter the lighting conditions, the night sky will always offer something to admire. This is the wonderful truth of where we live, what can be observed here under on the worst conditions will always be much better than can comparatively be observed living in a city.

I have been asked if I would be open to having Penn Estates residents join me on occasion when I star gaze as informal astronomy group. Yes I would because part of the reason for sharing my photos comes from a desire to inspire curiosity. To encourage others to see beyond the “few” twinkling lights and notice the universe. I’ll happily be part of that and maybe inspire someone like Carl Sagan did for me.



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Michael's Kitchen

By Michael J. Tyrrell, Communications Committee

Thanksgiving is certainly one of the most popular food holidays in America. Everyone has their favorite dish which must be included. Here are some of the Tyrrell family traditional picks. Try one or more and shake things a bit up this Thanksgiving!

Mahogany Turkey (serves 12)

- 1 whole thawed turkey, about 16 lbs
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and halved crosswise
- 2 celery ribs, halved crosswise
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- ¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter, melted

Gravy:

- 4 cups chicken broth
- ½ cup white wine
- 6 tablespoons flour
- Heat oven to 450° F.
- Season turkey cavity with salt and pepper. Stuff with onion, carrots and celery. Tie up legs or tuck them into flap of skin. Place turkey in a large, deep roasting pan; roast at 450° for 30 minutes.
- Whisk soy, maple syrup and butter in a bowl.
- Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees. Roast turkey at 350 degrees, basting every 15 minutes with soy sauce mixture, for 1½ hours or until instant-read thermometer inserted in thickest part of thigh registers 165 degrees. Remove from oven; tent with foil.
- Gravy: Scrape pan drippings into a fat separator. Pour de-fatted liquid into a medium-size saucepan. Add chicken broth and wine. Whisk in flour and cook for 5 minutes or until thickened.

Whipped Potato Casserole (serves 12)

- 5 lbs peeled, quartered all-purpose potatoes
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1¼ cups half-and-half
- 1 8-ounce tub whipped cream cheese with chives
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- Heat oven to 350° F. Coat a 2-quart baking dish with nonstick cook spray.
- Place potatoes in a large pot. Add enough water to cover. Lightly salt and bring to a boil. Lower heat; simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until fork-tender. Drain.
- In large bowl, mash potatoes with hand mixer. Add butter, half-and-half, cream cheese with chives, garlic salt and nutmeg. Beat potatoes on medium-high speed until very smooth. Spoon into prepared dish.
- Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with sliced almonds; bake 15 minutes more, until lightly browned. Let stand 15 minutes before serving.

Honeyed-Pecan Sweet Potatoes (serves 8)

- 3 lbs sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1½ -inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch of cayenne pepper
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ cup toasted pecans
- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add sweet potatoes, return to a boil and cook for 8 minutes. Drain.
- Melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add honey, cinnamon

and cayenne. Stir in sweet potatoes; season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring to coat, for 2 minutes. Remove to a platter or bowl; top with toasted pecans.

Orange-Pineapple Cranberry Sauce (makes 12 servings)

- 1 bag (12 oz) thawed frozen cranberries
- 1 can (8 oz) crushed pineapple, in juice
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 1 tsp orange rind
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

- Coarsely chop cranberries, pineapple with juice, ¾ cup of the sugar and orange juice in a food processor or blender with on-and-off motion.
- Turn mixture into a saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat; simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened, 10 to 12 minutes. Add remaining ¼ cup sugar. Stir in rind and vanilla. Cool and refrigerate.

Sausage and Mushroom Stuffing (makes 12 servings)

- 1 pound sweet Italian sausage
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 12 ounces mushrooms, cleaned and quartered
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ cup golden raisins
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- ¾ teaspoon dried sage
- 12 cups stale Italian bread, cubed
- 1 can chicken broth, 14.5 ounces

- Heat oven to 350° F. Coat a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.
- Place a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Remove casings from sausage and crumble into skillet. Cook 7 minutes or until no longer pink. Remove sausage from skillet with a slotted spoon.
- Add 1 tablespoon of the butter to skillet. When melted, add mushrooms to pan and cook 7 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to a large bowl.
- Melt remaining butter in pan. Add celery and onion; cook for 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in raisins, parsley and sage and cool for 2 minutes. Transfer to the bowl with mushrooms. Add sausage, celery mixture, cubed bread and chicken broth, stirring well.
- Pour mixture into prepared pan and cover with foil. Bake at 350° F for 50 minutes. Remove foil and bake another 10 minutes or until lightly browned on top.

Not Your Mother's Green Bean Casserole (makes 8 servings)

- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1½ lbs fresh green beans, trimmed and rinsed
- 1 pkg (10 oz) cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1 pkg (8 oz) Brie, rind removed, cheese cut into pieces
- 3 tbsp toasted chopped walnuts

- In a large skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add green beans and cook 7 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add mushrooms and cook 5 minutes until beans are just tender. Add heavy cream, salt and pepper. Remove skillet from heat and stir in Brie until melted. Top with walnuts.

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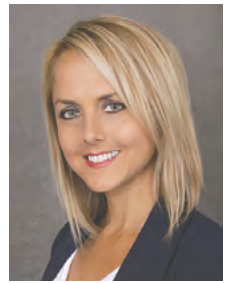
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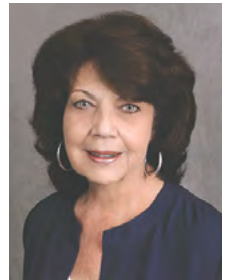
Jessica Keller

Did you know:

- 67 homes are presently for sale in Penn Estates.
- 94 homes sold in Penn Estates year to date.
- The highest-priced home sold for \$212,500 year to date.
(Information provided through Pocono Mountain Assoc. of Realtors MLS Service)
- 90% of buyers start their search on the Internet.
- The average age of today’s buyer is 25 years old.



Linda Miller



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