

## Record Turnout for Annual Meeting

by Phyllis Haase, Community Manager

The 2025 Penn Estates Annual Meeting saw a significant increase in community participation, with 240 proxy votes submitted, the highest number in over a decade. We sincerely thank all members who took the time to vote, especially those who attended the in-person meeting on May 3.

### Election Results

Christine Morton.....	166 votes	.....	3-year term
Russell Nash .....	163 votes	.....	3-year term
Lisa Ortiz .....	161 votes	.....	3-year term
Sebastian Neri.....	160 votes	.....	2-year term
Eileen Arroyo.....	143 votes	.....	1-year term
Chuck Fariello.....	140 votes	.....	1-year term
Richard Infante.....	123 votes		
Ken Nevil .....	107 votes		
Jeff Wynter.....	79 votes		
Maryann Rodriguez.....	63 votes		
Rosemary Elliott .....	53 votes		

### Board Officers

- David Montalvo, President
- Chuck Fariello, Vice President
- Lisa Ortiz, Secretary
- Christine Morton, Treasurer



### Committee Liaisons

- Appeals ..... Vice President Fariello
- Architectural Review ..... Director Hoffman
- Finance..... Treasurer Christine Morton
- Election ..... Director Ortiz
- Communications ..... Director Neri
- Recreation..... Director Rivera

(continued on page 2)

## St. Patrick's Day Celebration

by Evelyn Infante, Contributor

Penn Estates St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance was well attended. The traditional corn beef and cabbage, as well as Sheppard pie, potato soup, and vegetables, had everyone going for seconds.

The very talented DJ Dennis provided the entertainment, singing, playing the guitar and the violin, while performing songs that had everyone tapping their feet, singing along, or dancing.

The pot of gold backdrop was a big hit; all had fun posing, trying to catch the coins. Congratulations to the Entertainment Committee for planning another great dinner/dance!



Photos by David Montalvo

More photos on page 7...



## From Phyllis's Desk

by Phyllis's Haase, Community Manager

### Get Ready for Pool Season! OPENING: MAY 24, 2025

We're excited to announce that the Penn Estates pools will officially open for the season on Friday, May 24. As always, our goal is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all residents and their guests.

To help ensure everyone's safety, certified lifeguards will be on duty during pool hours. Their primary responsibility is to protect those using the facilities, respond to emergencies, and enforce safety protocols. In addition, badge monitors will be present to help maintain order and verify access to the pool areas.

#### We kindly ask all members and guests to:

- Follow the instructions of lifeguards and badge monitors at all times.
- Treat staff and fellow residents with courtesy and respect.
- Abide by all posted pool rules and guidelines.

These measures are in place to keep the pools safe, clean, and welcoming for everyone. With your cooperation, we can all enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled summer. We look forward to seeing you poolside!

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## Annual Meeting cont.

### Community Concerns Addressed at Annual Meeting

- During the meeting, members raised several questions regarding utilities, voting procedures, and leaf removal services.
- Utility Billing Concerns: Two members expressed concern over high electricity and water bills. Please note that Penn Estates does not have oversight of utility billing. Residents should contact PPL or Community Utilities of Pennsylvania directly for assistance. If issues are not resolved, complaints may be filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) at [www.puc.pa.gov/complaints](http://www.puc.pa.gov/complaints).
- Voting Process: A question was raised about the lack of in-person voting. President Montalvo clarified that the Judge of Election now fully manages the voting process, which helps ensure neutrality and removes any perception of Board or Management influence.
- Leaf Removal: The long-standing question regarding leaf removal from private lots was brought up again. As a reminder, the association is only responsible for clearing leaves from common areas. The cost of purchasing a commercial vacuum truck and hiring qualified staff members to operate the machinery is not financially feasible. However, a drop-off area for leaves is available behind the Administration Building for resident use. Stroud Township Municipal Employees regularly collect and remove leaves from that location.

### REMINDER:

The speed limit on **ALL** Penn Estates roads is **25 MPH**, except where otherwise posted.  
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# Out&About

## Things to Do and See in the Poconos

by Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee

Summer seemed to come early only to yield to 40-degree temperatures last night. I think this is the first year that I did not jump the gun and buy expensive plants that froze a couple of weeks later. It only took me 25 years here to readjust my thoughts about planting season. Have you started plants yet? (Also known as a banquet for the deer and raccoons.)

I hope that you find ways to have fun and laughter and peace and soul renewal this season. With all that is going on in the world, it is an important time to nurture ourselves and our friendships.

Get ready for fresh fruits and vegetables. Mid-May is the beginning of strawberry picking. By the time this goes to print, you will only have a week or two left to pick fresh strawberries. But blueberry picking season will be following close behind. There are so many places to buy fresh (or pick fresh) fruits and vegetables. Stroudsburg's Farmer's Market is on Saturday mornings and East Stroudsburg's Farmer's Market is on Wednesday mornings.

There are nearby retail places that get their produce from local farms (such as the Farmer's Basket and Pocono Farm Stand.) And there are quite a number of farms that have their own farms stands in this area. Just google and you will find several options near you. When I was growing up, I loved the Allentown Farmer's Market, which is far more than just fruits and vegetables. Anyway, looking for fresh, local produce is a great excuse for an outing on a sunny day, as well as a reason to explore parts of our region that you might never see otherwise.

This is the beginning of festival season. Pocono Pride festival is on June 1 from noon to 5pm at the Courthouse Square in Stroudsburg. Juneteenth Freedom Festival is on June 14 from 2-6 at Courthouse Square. Delaware River Festival "Year of the River" is on June 18th at Minisink Park. Enjoy food trucks, live music, educational programs etc. Admission is free.

The Milford Music Festival runs from June 20 to June 22 throughout the town of Milford. The Pocono Canna Fest is at the West End Fairgrounds in Gilbert on July 26 and costs \$15 to enter.

Country Junction always has some sort of seasonal program on tap. Summerfest runs on Sundays and Saturdays through June 8th. Strawberry weekend is June 8th. Father's Day weekend events at Country Junction are on June 14 and 15.

Maybe you want to get active during these warmer months. And, maybe you want to benefit a good cause. The Greater Pocono Relay for Life (benefit for the American Cancer Society) is on June 14th at Koehler Fieldhouse at ESU. Call 570-688-7396 for more information. The Third Annual River Run is on June 1st and benefits cancer patients at St. Luke's Monroe Regional Breast Cancer and Cancer Center. It is \$30 to walk or run. There is also a festival aspect to the day with food trucks, crafts, tricky tray, etc. The Levee Loop Trail and Race is on June 7 at Dansbury Park to celebrate National Trails Day.

Camelback will host the "World's Largest Swimming Lesson" on June 26. It is free for the participant and includes free admission. Pre-registration closes on June 23rd or when all spots are taken. Call 570-629-1662.

Milford Theater and Performing Arts Center will host Broadway Comes to Milford: A Benefit for Triversity on June 28th. Prices vary. Call 570-300-5990. There are free concerts in the parks throughout the area. Pocono Township has their concert in the park from 6-8 on June 12th at Fireman's Field in Tannersville. It is free but bring a blanket or lawn chair. Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort hosts a community concert series on Tuesdays through September 18th.

July always features fireworks. On July 4, you can watch fireworks over Lake Wallenpaupack or downtown Lehigh. Shawnee Mountain Festivals and Events lists fireworks on July 3rd. It is \$20 per car (cash only) to benefit Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company. Skytop Lodge's fireworks are on July 5th and the cost is \$10 per car.

If you Google it, you can find trivia games and cornhole competitions at several locations. There is Straight Up Magic with Jason Bishop on Fridays and Saturdays through December at Camelback Mountain. The cost is \$35.

Be safe and enjoy the season.

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# Recent Board Motions

submitted by Phyllis Haase, Community Manager

## Feb 7, 2025

- 2025-04** Motion to appoint William Owens and Company as the 2025 Judge of Elections. Fariello/Rivera 8/0; Motion Passed.
- 2025-05** Motion to select March 19 as the 2025 Record Date. Kone/Neri 8/0; Motion Passed.
- 2025-06** Motion to approve unbudgeted capital expense of \$5405 (TEM) for GateHouse Kiosk ID Scanner and Loop Replacement from \$2400 plus installation \$610 totaling \$3010 (Loikits). Authorize carry over from 2024 to 2025 for Public Safety Building \$16,000. Kone/Neri 8/0; Motion Passed.
- 2025-07** Motion to approve the following members to committees. Kone/Neri 8/0; Motion Passed.  
**Appeals:** Carmen Rivera **TNR:** Carmen Rivera  
**ARC:** Carmen Rivera **Finance:** Carmen Rivera  
**Election Committee:** Sandra Bonet, Beverly Barnhill, Paula Hampton, Johnny Barnhill, and Mary Alexander.  
**Recreation:** Joseph Hurley, Denise Hurley, Alexis Meister, and Zack Meister.
- 2025-08** Motion to amend the Rules and Regulations to include Golf Carts. Fariello/Kone 7/1, Director Neri opposed; Motion Passed.
- 2025-09** Ratified Motion to approve Campbell and Durant as the Association Labor Attorney. Fariello/Wynter 8/0; Motion Passed.
- 2025-10** Ratified Motion to hold the 2025 Meet the Candidates on March 27 at 6:30 via Zoom. Neri/Ortiz 8/0; Motion Passed.

## March 6, 2025

- 2025-014** Motion to appoint Johnny Barnhill as the Election Committee Chair. Kone/Hoffman 8/0; Motion passed.
- 2025-015** Motion to appoint Carole Flechas to join the Recreation Committee. Kone/Rivera 8/0; Motion Passed.
- 2025-016** Motion to accept the recommendation of ARC related to fencing. Kone/Hoffman 8/0. Adding the color white and increasing height to 6ft while decreasing slot separation to minimum of one inch. Kone/Rivera 8/0; Motion Passed.

# Our Community's Success Begins with... You!

by Phyllis Haase, Community Manager

The foundation of any thriving property owners' association is built not only on policies and procedures, but on the dedication and vision of its people, those elected to serve, and those who participate by staying informed and engaged.

This year's election was a powerful reminder of how much our members care about the future of Penn Estates. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who voted, asked questions, and showed up by proxy or in person. Your participation matters. Your voice shapes the direction of our community.

Success in a community like ours doesn't happen by accident. It requires a qualified, business-minded Board of Directors who bring leadership, integrity, and professionalism to the table.

When Board members approach their duties without personal agendas and with the good of the entire community in mind, real progress is made. Decisions are grounded in facts, not feelings. Priorities shift from personal preferences to fiscal responsibility, long-term planning, and community harmony.

But electing the right Board is only part of the equation.

We encourage members to stay involved beyond election season. Ask questions. Attend meetings. Read updates. Seek to understand the reasoning behind the Board's decisions by contacting me at [phyllishaase@pepoa.org](mailto:phyllishaase@pepoa.org). When members are informed, conversations become more productive, and misunderstandings are reduced. Transparency and trust grow from ongoing engagement, not just annual ballots.

I am grateful to be part of a community where involvement is valued and where so many are committed to shared success. Let's continue to work together—with clarity, respect, and unity—toward a strong and vibrant future for Penn Estates. Together, we are more than neighbors. We are stewards of a shared vision.

# Father's Day

by Sandy Black, Contributor

What to do to celebrate Father's Day 2025. Hopefully I have come up with some ideas that will help you for this Father's Day 2025 celebration.

- How about going on a "DIY Food Tour" with him. Celebrate Dad with a day which will encompass his favorite foods. Stop by his favorite pizza joints and grab a pizza with him. What about stopping by a few bakeries and trying something new at each one or just come up with your own itinerary that has his favorite restaurants or eateries that he loves to go to.
- Host a dinner party for him and his best buddies so he doesn't have to leave the house to see them. Invite his friends and their families over for a casual dinner party where everyone can spend some quality time together.
- Make a family photo collage for him. There are people who have in their phones the sweetest family photos which Dad would love to have as a keepsake. Surprise him by not only putting the photo collage together but also reach out to his parents, family and friends to get photos from his childhood to add to the project. Dad will be truly touched by this.
- Take Dad to a comedy show. If your father loves watching comedy specials which are featured on some of the streaming systems, treat him to an actual comedy show. There are plenty of all-ages comedy shows which everyone can enjoy together.
- How about a family video game tournament. If your Dad is all about video games, celebrate Father's Day with a family video game tournament. Since it's Father's Day, you should probably let him win!
- Play a game of pickleball - especially if he has gotten in on this craze. He would probably love to play a round with the family for Father's Day.
- Take a creative class together such as leather crafting, glassblowing or woodworking. Dad will have a fun memento like a leather wallet, paper-weight, or handcrafted side table to remember this Father's Day.



## Harmony

The official publication of the  
Penn Estates Property Owners Association  
304 Cricket Drive, East Stroudsburg PA 18301

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# Bad Reasons for Not Filing for Social Security Disability

(A multi-part series)

## Part 7: "I can always do it later, down the road...if I need it more"

by **Stephanie Joy Lewis, Contributor**

*Note: This article is for general information only and is not legal advice to any particular reader or individual. For legal advice, you must specifically retain a lawyer who evaluates your specific situation.*

*For Video version, please go to [https://youtu.be/HV5RnkoriBY?si=5ocill0\\_cPT-PIcdp](https://youtu.be/HV5RnkoriBY?si=5ocill0_cPT-PIcdp) - found at the YouTube channel, "All Things Social Security".*



We are now more than halfway into the mini-series of the nine reasons why many Penn Estates residents who, literally, cannot work full-time due to medical impairments, fail to file for the Social Security Disability Insurance benefits (aka SSDI or SSD). They don't file for it, despite paying for it their entire working lives. I last went into detail on the fifth reason, "I am on Workers Comp (or fighting for Workers Comp) and therefore I cannot file for SSDI until that is over." (See here for Bad Reason #6: <https://youtu.be/rE10s63j3LU>)

### Bad Reason #7

Let's go over a seventh financially damaging reason some people have, when uninformed, to leave their long paid -or insurance coverage untaken. 7. I can always do it later, down the road.

Is that true? Kind of, but not really.

1) SSDI is like "term" insurance. Everyone has a "Date Last Insured" (DLI) for SSD, unlike Social Security Retirement. This concerns a work "recency" requirement. In essence, like any other term insurance (auto, health, some life insurance, appliance warranty, home-owners insurance), once you stop paying in those premiums for SSD, the insured status will only last so long. For SSDI, the maximum duration after ceasing those Social Security tax payments is 5 calendar years. However, the duration may be as little as 3 months if your recent work history is very scant.

Thus, while you can technically wait 10-20 years to file, you must prove a past fact. In order to prove your disability meets the terms of the SSDI program, your evidence must vigorously and persuasively establish to the SSA that you became fully disabled under the rules via evidence born before your DLI. That date of the created medical record must be before that DLI. If your DLI passed you by, no new treatment records or increased impairments can save your claim – you can only rely on what existed before to prove the necessary onset date. This is such a weakness that often SSDI attorneys will not even accept your case – this is because all the legal advice they would have given you had you asked earlier, cannot now be followed by you. Hands are tied.

2) Loss of full retroactive back benefits will occur for every month one does not file after 17 months post work-stoppage. For every month one delays after month 17, can result in a month of lost benefit. For many, this can be a cost of \$2000-\$3000 lost for every month one procrastinates.

3) Savings runs out faster than we expect, oftentimes. If one feels no pain on delay, this is usually because they have a financial cushion. They may have significant savings or investments or a strongly working spouse. It allows them the perceived luxury of procrastination with no urgency. However, given how long an SSDI case can take (or SSI), or how long it takes a person to grow durational aggressive medical evidence, can wipe out that savings before the claim is even filed. I have seen a person rush to file only after the working spouse, whose income made it comfortable to not apply for their insurance proceeds, lost his or her job. On a dime, things become very tight, including potential loss of employer provided health insurance, needed for healthcare and evidence building. If I

had a nickel for every procrastinator who had to blow through his 401k due to putting off fighting the fight.

Evidence may become forever unavailable. Many medical providers keep medical records no longer than a handful of year after the patient is no longer a patient. Too many times, I see people lose their claim because they are unable to provide the evidence that was existing before their DLI, because they never obtained a copy to preserve it, and the medical provider "destroyed" it. Game over.

In closing, it is true you can wait and file many years after becoming unable to work due to disability, but only if it is the first application (not a second try) and you will have likely decimated your own case because of the delay. Being able to file a claim is different than being able to prevail on that claim.

Don't wait, just file.

*Stephanie O. Joy is a Social Security Disability Lawyer and founder of Monroe County based SSD Practice, Joy Disability Law, 2005-2024. She is the founder of the YouTube channel, "All Things Social Security" <https://www.youtube.com/@AllThingsSocialSecurity>, providing near daily tips on Social Security matters. For free consultation to review whether you can and should file for SSDI (or SSI) you are invited to fill out the Free Evaluation form found at <http://joydisability.com>; Other contact: [stephaniejoy@joydisability.com](mailto:stephaniejoy@joydisability.com); Phone: 201-317-0610*

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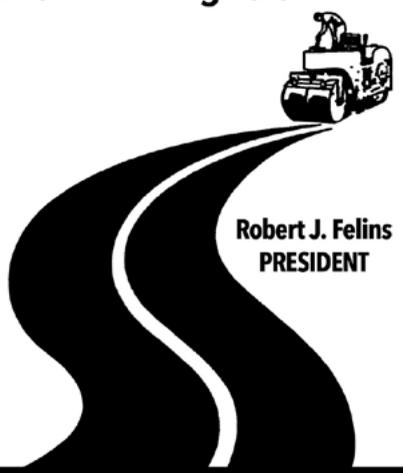
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# Easter Breakfast with the Bunny

by Mildred Rivera, Recreation Committee and BOD Member

Once again, our little neighbors and their companions received a visit from the Easter Bunny in our community. There they had a delicious breakfast and took photos with our favorite guest. They also played, painted and



received gifts. Now at the end the long-awaited Easter egg hunt. It was a beautiful morning full of happy faces. Once again, we want to thank our Recreation Committee for their effort and dedication.



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# St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Photos by David Montalvo



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## Penn Estates - Listings & Sales as of 3/20/2025

**Active Listings: 17**   **Pending Listings: 8**  
**Sales Closed Year to Date: 5**

# Volunteer Dinner 2025

by Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee

Each May the community manager and the administrative staff host a dinner event to recognize the individuals who have volunteered their time in service to the Penn Estates community during the prior year. Volunteers play a vital role in the community, donating their talents and often massive amounts of time with no financial compensa-

tion. Just think of the time and energy needed to serve on the board of directors, or to create the many (and growing) recreational activities, or designing the budget or listening to residents when they appeal a fine. If we had to pay people to do these vital tasks, our dues would be much higher.

Yes, there are benefits to volunteering. It is an opportunity to meet others and maybe form friendships, to understand the workings of the community, to be informed, and to feel a part of a community. (Yes, this is a plug for you to volunteer.) A very fun and yummy “benefit” is the annual volunteer dinner.

This year was very well done as usual. The large round tables, which were elegantly set, facilitated conversation and connection. Music was provided by

Ciara Danae. She has a lovely voice, that did not falter or fade even after hours of singing. The food was delicious, from appetizers to dessert.

A highlight of the dinner each year is the recognition of individuals whose contributions stand out. The volunteer of the year was Sandra Bonet, who has been a vital participant in the community for years, as a volunteer and as a board member. She and her personable grandson, Quentin, accepted the award. (Quentin was quite the gentleman and he sure could “cut the rug”.)

Patsy Ortiz was acknowledged for her years of contributing her kindness and energy to Penn Estates. Both are delightful women to know.

To the community manager and administrative staff, thank you for a lovely evening. ....and for all you do throughout the year.



# Volunteer Dinner





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## Dreaming about taking the family to Disney World in Orlando?

# Budget Tips for a Disney Vacation

by Sandy Black, Contributor

There are two things I love doing—Going to Disney World (Where else can you have such a magical experience?) and saving money. And believe it or not, there are some great ways to save serious cash when planning a Disney trip.

For a family of four, the average cost of a Disney World trip is anywhere from \$4,500 to \$10,000 or more. But you can do it for less. There are plenty of ways to save on your Disney dream vacation - up to thousands of dollars.

Planning a Disney trip on a budget is not for the faint of heart, but it *can* be done. I know because I have done it. Now, who is ready to start planning a Disney trip?

So, the first thing you need to do when planning a Disney trip (or any other cheap vacation) is make a budget. "EveryDollar" is my favorite budgeting app. Not only is it free, but it helps take the guesswork out of creating a budget especially when you are wondering *how much does it cost to go to Disney World?*

Your budget will help you save, show you where you need to cut spending, and actually give you the freedom to spend. And with a trip to Disney, you will really want to spend. One other budget savings is opening up a Christmas club or a Capital One account for the trip.

### So, here we go:

- Spend some days at the parks and some days at the pool. You do not have to spend every day of your vacation at the Disney parks. Trust me your feet will thank you when you take those breaks.
- Skip the Park Hopper ticket and visit one park per day. Getting a hopper is not a savings at all.

- Buy Disney gift cards at a discount. If you are a member of a big-box discount store such as Sam's Club, you can purchase Disney gift cards at nearly 4% off. You can also purchase gift cards at Target and get 5% off. Doing this will save you \$40 to \$50 for every \$1,000 you spend. You can also use the gift cards to purchase your Disney Park tickets.
- Pay for your food with cash; or better yet, bring your own food to the park. Yes, food in Disney World is very expensive.
- Always arrive at the parks before they open so you can take advantage of getting on the most popular rides before the lines get too long.
- Buy personal and souvenirs outside of the parks. Walmart sells a lot of Disney souvenirs and they are cheaper than purchasing them in the parks.
- Once making your resorts/hotel reservations, go for one that has a kitchen in it. Having a kitchen and a place to keep your snacks and drinks is a great advantage.
- What is the cheapest time to visit Disney? The best times are from early January to President's Day in February or during late August into early September. These are the seasons when tourism slows down and it gives you more of an opportunity to hit all of the best rides and attractions without battling the crowds.
- If you are planning to fly, check out sites such as Expedia for cheap flights. We usually drive.
- Choosing a resort is very important because you definitely want to have all the comforts of home while on vacation. The Disney resorts are all awesome but try to get the least popular ones to save money.



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# Poetry Corner

by James Ruffini, Communications Committee

## For You, O Democracy

Walt Whitman

Come, I will make the continent indissoluble,  
 I will make the most splendid race the sun ever shone upon,  
 I will make divine magnetic lands,  
     With the love of comrades,  
     With the life-long love of comrades.  
 I will plant companionship thick as trees along all the rivers of America,  
 And along the shores of the great lakes, and all over  
 The prairies,  
 I will make inseparable cities with their arms about each other's necks,  
     By the love of comrades,  
     By the manly love of comrades.  
 For you these from me, O Democracy, to serve you, ma femme!  
 For you, for you I am trilling these songs.

## In the Fair Forest

Anonymous

In summer when the woods are green  
 And leaves are large and long,  
 Full merry it is in the fair forest  
 To hear the small birds' song.  
  
 To see the red deer seek the dale  
 And leave the hills so high,  
 To shade themselves among the glades  
 Under the greenwood tree.

# HEALTH & FITNESS

by Yolanda Sarrabo, CPT, BCS NASM, Contributor

## Processing Short and Long-Term Goals

I'm running a Fitness and Wellness Intentional Program, because I realize there is indeed a difference on progression based on intention. What I mean is sometimes people are not connecting their goals on what is entailed between short and long term. Let's break it down and why it can make a huge difference in why you're not seeing results.



**Short Term Goal** - Usually for the novice seeking a fitness plan; it may involve losing weight or just wanting to start making an effort. Losing weight involves many components that includes change in movement, nutrition, and mindset. Reviewing daily mobility involves a consistency unmatched; it's not patience today yet gone tomorrow. Though people stick with short term as the basis, it does involve a dedicated diligence to make the short-term efforts make sense.

**Long Term Goal** - Long term means you've realized that the change in fitness and wellness is now a continual change to your being. So just like you eat 3 meals a day, you also make sure you've met 150 minutes (or more) per week of standard or intermediate exercise. The goal is now part of your day-to-day calendar.

**Concept** - So yes, the idea to start small depending on what you're trying to do is first; It's what you do and evolve these notions that make a difference. The intention of fitness and wellness is an active possibility that needs constant retooling to keep the goals a constant thrive of thought.

This is why a trainer may do an assessment to see what you're trying to do and how committed are you in getting to where you are trying to get to. Honestly, sometimes, the goals don't work. The process may seem lengthy or show little results; however, honesty, consistency and tweaking those goals are the real stars in how this can work to your best advantage.

Cheers!

*Yolanda Sarrabo is principal at Chronic Fitness Personal Training Boutique Service and a regular contributor. [www.chronicfitnessinc.com](http://www.chronicfitnessinc.com)*



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# Michael's Kitchen

by Michael J. Tyrrell, Communications Committee Member

Grilling season has finally arrived! Here are a few of my favorite grilling recipes that are solid weeknight dinners but are company worthy as well. The chicken is a great do-ahead meal since it is fine eaten gently warmed up or at room temperature. The salmon can also be enjoyed at room temperature. Halibut or bass are fine substitutes for salmon if you feel like spending a bit more (actually a lot more). The ribs are...well, the name says it all. Everything but the final grilling can be done ahead. I also included my Banana Pudding recipe which is a real crowd pleaser. Here is to a great summer season!

## Apricot-Glazed Chicken

(serves 4)

- 1 chicken, cut into 8 pieces, about 3 lbs
- ¼ tsp each salt and pepper
- 1/3 cup apricot preserves
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- 2 tbsp ketchup
- 2 tsp fresh chopped ginger

1. Prepare outdoor grill with medium hot coals or a gas grill to medium. Season chicken with salt and pepper.
2. Grill chicken 25 to 30 minutes, turning occasionally until lightly browned.
3. Meanwhile, in a food processor, whirl together apricot preserves, mustard, garlic powder, ketchup and ginger until well blended.
4. Brush chicken with glaze and grill another 5 minutes. Do not flip chicken or it will burn. Serve remaining glaze on the side. Serve with couscous or rice.

## “Fall Off the Bone Ribs” with Kickin’ Rib Sauce

(6 to 8 servings)

- 4 lbs spare ribs, cut into individual ribs
- 1 recipe Kickin’ Rib Sauce (recipe follows)

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add ribs and gently simmer for 60 minutes. Drain and remove ribs to a large dish or cutting board.
2. Prepare an outdoor grill with medium-hot coals or a gas grill to medium-high.
3. Generously brush ribs with rib sauce. Grill about 5 minutes per side, brushing with more sauce as needed., until ribs are nicely browned. Serve with the remaining sauce on the side.
4. **Kickin’ Rib Sauce:** In a medium saucepan, heat 1 tbsp vegetable oil over medium heat. Add 2 cloves chopped garlic; cook 1 minute. Stir in 6 tbsp tomato paste, ½ cup beef broth, ½ cup brown sugar, ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce, ¼ cup lemon juice, 1 chipotle in adobo, seeded and chopped and 1 tbsp chipotle sauce. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer, stirring occasionally, 15 minutes. Sauce will reduce to about 1½ cups.

## Grilled Shrimp in the Style of Veracruz

(serves 6)

Sauce:

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1 large sweet red pepper cored and sliced
- 1 can (28 oz) diced tomatoes with juice
- 2/3 cup pimento-stuffed olives, sliced
- ¼ tsp each salt and black pepper

Shrimp:

- 2½ lbs extra-large shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1½ cups white rice, cooked following package directions
- Lime wedges, for garnish

1. **Sauce:** In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions and saute 5 minutes. Add garlic and red pepper; saute 4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in tomatoes, olives, salt and pepper. Simmer on low (covered) 5 minutes.
2. Prepare outdoor grill: medium-high coals or gas grill on medium-high.
3. **Shrimp:** In a large bowl, combine shrimp, lime juice, salt and pepper.
4. Heat a grilling basket over grill. Arrange shrimp in basket and grill, uncovered, 2 to 3 minutes per side or until cooked through.
5. Place cooked rice in a large bowl and pour sauce over the top. Add shrimp and garnish with lime wedges.

## Salmon with Lemon-Mustard Sauce and Herbed Grilled Potato Salad

(serves 6)

- 2 tbsp coarse Dijon Mustard
- grated rind of 1 lemon
- 3 tbsp lime juice
- ¼ each salt and pepper
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ tsp each chopped fresh oregano and thyme
- 1 salmon fillet, about 2 lbs and 1-inch thick
- Grilled Herbed Potato Salad (recipe follows)

1. Prepare outdoor grill: medium-high coals or gas grill on medium-high.
2. **Make Dressing:** In bowl, whisk together mustard, lemon rind and juice, salt, pepper and garlic. Slowly drizzle in olive oil, whisking until thickened and well blended. Whisk in oregano and thyme. Reserve 3 tbsp dressing for potatoes and 2 tbsp for serving with fish.
3. Prepare Herbed Potato Salad (recipe follows).
4. **Salmon:** In a large glass dish marinate fish in remaining dressing for 15 minutes.
5. Lightly brush grill grates with vegetable oil. Place the fish, flesh side down, on grill. Grill, uncovered, for 6 to 7 minutes. Carefully turn the fish over with a spatula. Grill additional 3 minutes until fish is opaque in thickest part.
6. Slip spatula between fish and skin to separate fish from the skin (skin will stick to the grill) and transfer to a platter. Drizzle with the reserved 2 tbsp dressing and serve with the potato salad.
7. **Grilled Herbed Potato Salad:** In a large bowl, toss 1½ lbs small red-skinned potatoes, 1 tbsp vegetable oil and ¼ tsp each salt and pepper. Place potatoes in a grilling basket and grill about 30 minutes until fork tender. Turn basket a few times during grilling. Cut potatoes in half and toss with the reserved 3 tbsp dressing and 2 sliced scallions.

## Old Fashioned Banana Pudding

(serves 12)

- 1 box (12 oz) vanilla wafers
- 2 pkgs (3.4 oz each) instant vanilla pudding
- 3½ cups milk
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 7 bananas, sliced
- 1 tbsp sugar

1. Line the bottom of a 3-quart glass serving bowl with vanilla wafers in a single layer. Prepare instant pudding according to package directions, using milk and ½ cup cream. Beat in 2 tsp of vanilla.
2. Layer ¼ of the banana slices over wafers. Spoon on ¼ of the pudding, spreading evenly. Top with a layer of vanilla wafers. Repeat layering, ending with pudding.
3. Beat remaining 1½ cups cream, remaining tsp vanilla and sugar until soft peaks form. Spoon on top, spreading evenly. Loosely cover and refrigerate overnight.
4. **NOTE:** For a more adult version, we sometimes drizzle each cookie layer with some Kahlua or Amaretto.

## WHAT WE'RE STREAMING

### Guilty Pleasures or Hidden Treasures?

#### Paradise

(streaming on HULU)

by Sharon Kennedy, Communications Committee Member

Ever since Covid, it seems that there are more and more dystopian movies (example: Fallout, The Last of Us, Silo, Handmaid's Tale, etc.). If not the aftermath of some catastrophic event, the next most frequent series seems to be mysteries with some sort of politics or government involved (example: House of Cards, Designated Survivor, The Recruit, Night Agent, etc.)

Paradise seems to have a little bit of everything: twists and turns, catastrophe, political intrigue, murder, and mystery. I won't be able to explain much of the plot because it would spoil your enjoyment should you decide to watch it.

I will say that you may need to suspend logic when the believability of some of the sequences are a stretch, at best. Beyond the intrigue, the heart of the series is the relationships between the characters and the moral codes within the characters.

What I can describe is the structure of the story. Did you watch [and become addicted to] the "This Is Us" series? In that series, you are taken back and forth through time. There are moments that can only be understood when something of the past comes to light. The relationships have layers that can only be understood through the intersecting timelines of the characters. There are clues throughout but you may miss the importance of those events until much later.

The first episode ends with a piece of information that reveals a piece of information that shines a new light on what is going on. This is Us was written and directed by Dan Fogelman. Dan Fogelman also wrote and directed Paradise. The structure of Paradise is reminiscent of the structure of This is Us. The structure is sometimes confusing and/or frustrating, but also addicting and fascinating. There is another similarity between the two series. Sterling K Brown plays a leading role and does so spectacularly.

In the first episode, you are introduced to Sterling Brown as single parent who has breakfast with his son and daughter then goes out for a run through a picture-perfect suburban neighborhood. That man is actually the character Xavier Collins, who is a principled and stalwart secret service agent to a very human president who smokes and drinks and jokes and seemingly does not take his role seriously (though his true character comes out later).

I will give you a bit of a spoiler, though you can read it in any of the reviews and will learn in a surprising way at the end of the first episode. That picture-perfect town is actually a man-made bunker in a mountain in Colorado. You now know as much as I can tell you without spoiling the series for you. The series is eight episodes long. It seems that there is a second season in the works. Actually, the very end of this first series seems a bit awkward. I wonder if they planned it to be one season long and then had to change the ending to allow for a follow-up season.

Enjoy. I actually decided to watch it a second time to notice the clues that I missed the first time around.

#### The Jewel in The Crown

(available on Prime and PBS)

by Paul R. Quillin, contributor

It's hard to choose favorites when it comes to what I've watched, but "The Jewel in The Crown" would have to be a contender. This is a British TV production that was made in 1984 and ran for one season of 14 episodes.

The story goes from 1942, which was the height of World War II, to 1947 and the eve of Indian independence from British rule.

All of the breathtakingly beautiful exterior shots were filmed on location in India, but interiors of the Indian buildings were shot in the studios of Granada TV in Manchester, England which reportedly caused problems because some of the cast had put on or lost weight between the two sets of filming.

The first episodes revolve around Hari Kumar, who had been taken to England at the age of two by his ambitious Indian father who wanted to make sure

that his son would grow up to be a proper gentleman, but when his father's money ran out, Hari was shipped back to Mayapore, where the once-elegant cricket player found himself to be an outsider, snubbed by the British and despised by the Indians for being too British.

Hari became an invisible man and got a modest job on an English-language newspaper. This enabled him to occasionally cross the river from his own humble home to the grand residences of the British. At this point, a rather gawky young woman named Daphne Manners arrives in Mayapore. She's the niece of a military family with a respected name in India and is staying with the formidable Lady Chattergee, an Indian woman who navigates her way cautiously through powerful political circles in which both Indian and British figures mingle, however uneasily.

She warns Daphne that "you may find things here of which you do not approve and in her direct and innocent way, Daphne replies that "perhaps they should be changed." This is the kind of attitude that makes her a threat to the British establishment, which is determined to maintain its position of privilege in India.

To make matters worse, Daphne is attracted to Hari, ignoring the strictly enforced British commandment that the "naturally" superior whites never mix with those of a darker skin. Daphne also has the misfortune to catch the amorous attentions of a police officer named Ronald Merrick, who is using his post in India as a means to climb out of his humble middle-class origins back home. Brandishing a pronounced sadistic streak, Merrick takes an intense dislike to Hari who, despite the Indian's despised dark skin, looks and sounds like the stereotypical English gentleman. So here we see that both Merrick and Kumar are victims of the British caste system.

As the story unfolds, the Laytons, a military family gradually takes over center stage, playing their individual parts with varying degrees of virtue or viciousness as their India, the India that provided a style of life they could never have attained or afforded in Britain, begins crumbling around them. Gradually they begin to discover the profound resentment that had been festering among their servants and they react with a kind of bewildered shock. This is kind of fun to watch because they really deserved this.

Exceptional performances are contributed by, just to mention a few, Dame Peggy Ashcroft as the missionary Barbie Batchelor who is caught in the web of hatred and greed; Geraldine James as Sarah Layton, the one member of her family who, like Daphne Manners, doesn't fit into the ways of the Raj; Eric Porter as the wily Russian Count Bronowsky, adviser to an independent Indian ruler, and Judy Parfitt as the cold, calculating Mrs. Layton, almost as vicious as Merrick in her alcoholic snobbery. Tim Pigott-Smith plays Ronald Merrick. Also in the cast is the always-on-target Charles Dance, whose character Guy Perron, has some tough dealings with the nasty Merrick.

The story covers a lot of ground and is full of surprises. The Indian location scenes, as I've mentioned, are worth the price of admission, but the acting here is what compelled me to re-watch this production. I recommend it.

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# Gaunt Road Spring Clean Up – A Favorite

by Stephanie Joy Lewis, Contributor

You have heard of Christmas in July, but how about April? There is a series of days for some of us in Penn Estates and Stroud Township in general, where Christmas-like glee comes early – in April, in fact. Perhaps it could be referred to as the runner up, with Christmas still in the lead.

This Day is called “Spring Clean Up” and is provided by our own Stroud Township. It generally runs from a Wednesday to a Saturday, the last such Saturday in the month of April.

For those of us with numerous family members of all generations, from children to parents to grandparents, etc. living under one roof, it is particularly welcoming as an opportunity to properly dispose of unneeded items we cannot otherwise donate, including, clutter, furniture, electronics, large TVs, non-functional refrigerators, car batteries, wood project leftovers, without breaking the bank or paying our garbage collecting companies a high charge to remove a special item.

While most car/pick-up trucks are charged \$15-20 per, Stroud Township states that if only carrying electronic devices that are covered by the Covered Device Recycling Act (computers, TVs, monitors, printers, laptops, VCRs, DVD players, stereos, etc.), there is no charge (aka, free to you).

On the other hand, items requiring Freon removal are charged separately, not included in additional vehicle load, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, etc. If the price did not change this year, it may still be \$25 per.

There is also no charge for car batteries, automotive waste oil, yard waste, branches, limbs, brush or grass clippings. On the other hand, some items are not accepted at all: automobiles, dirt, cement, paint cans with contents, paint thinners, pesticides and herbicides, loose nails or screws, and contractor refuse.

There is no limit on how many loads you bring, nor how many of the four days you show up with your load. The ladies checking cars in are very friendly and helpful, and the fellows (all fellows, so far, that I have seen) are equally so. As one pulls down Gaunt Road to relieve oneself of a load, as one passes an

exiting vehicle who just so relieved him or herself, one can see the relief and contentment on their faces. Yes, it is that good.

Stroud Township sends out large informational postcards a few weeks before the annual event, and it can also be found on its website earlier than that, with current prices, rules and address.

The only regret I have is that Gaunt Road junk day is not twice a year, but only one time a year.



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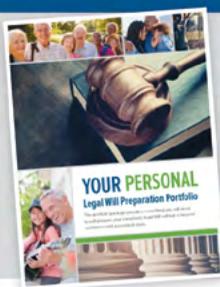
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