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Blaine Walters and McKenna O' Gallagher Crowned As The 2026-2027 Homecoming King and Queen For Bangor High School



Bangor took on Lehighton on October 2nd in their Annual Homecoming Football game. Lehighton won, 42 to 9. During the game they honored this years homecoming court. This year's King was Blaine Walters, and this year's Queen was McKenna O'Gallagher. Other members of the court were: Isabella Harvey, Hanna Martin, Warren Bright, Lauren Belo, Callahan Karner, Gace Brewer, Francis Renner, and Santiago Quesada. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press. More photos can be found on page 6.

Pen Argyl Celebrates A Goal During Senior Night Field Hockey Game Against Saucon Valley



Pen Argyl took on Saucon Valley High School during their Senior Night Field Hockey Game on October 1st. Saucon Valley won, 3 to 2. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press.

Frances Muller Celebrates Her 101st Birthday!



Frances Muller of Frelinghuysen, NJ, celebrated her 101st birthday with her family this past weekend. Wishing you a very Happy Birthday!

Project Self-Sufficiency Receives FirstEnergy Foundation Grant Funds to Support the Nourish to Flourish Food Pantry

Project Self-Sufficiency announced a \$20,000 grant from the FirstEnergy Foundation to help alleviate food insecurity across Sussex and northern Warren counties. Food insecurity, or the economic and social condition of limited access to adequate food, is a rising concern for individuals and families across the country. While Sussex County, New Jersey, may be known for its many farms and access to fresh produce, hunger is a major concern for thousands of families in the northwestern corner of the state. In 2024, the year for which the most recent statistics are available, almost 14,000 people in Sussex County experienced food insecurity.

Project Self-Sufficiency has offered a food pantry in various forms since its inception in 1986, as food insecurity is often intertwined with a family's inability to achieve

GRANT cont'd on pg 9

NORTH WARREN SENIOR NIGHT PHOTOS



Kirk Perez escorted by his parents, Nichole, and Kirk, and siblings, Lyla and Lucas



Jack Naomi with his parents, Lori and Dan



Bridgette Meeks with her parents Brie and Kevin, and her brother, Landry



Jubilee Leverett with her parents, Mandy and Dwayne



Aiden Hamill with his parents, Kristen and Simon, and brother, Will



Ava Fucetola with her parents Kiersten and Marc, and her sisters, Juliana and Mikayla.

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Ava Diego, with her parents, Elisa and Maximo, her brother, Max and sister, Abby



Avery Smith with her parents, Tara and Bodie



Chelsea Forte, escorted by her mother, Cheryl

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NORTH WARREN SENIOR NIGHT PHOTOS CONTINUED



Nate Shultis with his parents Ivy and Michael, brother, Norman, and Girlfriend Jenna.



Paul Grippaldi, with his parents, Chrissy and Steve



Tyler Stout with his parents, Tiffany and Eddie, and his sister, Ava and Riley



Michael Santino Soricelli, with his parents, Sally and Arthur, and his brother, AJ



Garrett See with his parents Carrie and Barry and sisters, Paige and Olivia.



Zachary Paseler, with his parents Dana and Eric, sister, Madison and brother, Eric



Anthony Onder, with his parents, Stephanie and Kyle



Maximus Montane with his parents, Michelle, and Felix, and brother Matthias.



Killian Lynch with his parents, Amander and Christopher, sisters Aubree and Aynzley, and brothers, Welkin and Corbin.



Bradford Cook with his parents Heather and Ryan, brother, Tyler and sister, Caleigh.



Cole Castles with his parents, Ailvana and Mike, brother, Michael and sister, Kelsey.



Sara Pearson, escorted by her parents. Moira and Dan, sisters, Claire, Lucy and Ana, nephew, Monty, mentor, Gabby and boyfriend, Killian.

Photos by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press

New to the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction: *The Revelation of Dionne* Daphne: A Novel by Mara Brock Akil; *Double Trap* by Don Bentley; *Years of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* by Geraldine Brooks; *The Incendiary* by L. J. Clar-en; *The Dying Light* by Ann Cleeves; *Switz*: A Novel by Emma Cline; *The Wretched Divine* by Adalyn Grace; *The French Illusion* by John Grisham; *Wink* by Rob Harrell; *The Me I Used to Be: A Novel* by Kristan Higgins; *The Munich Affair: A Thriller* by James Patterson; *Hollow Bones: A Novel* by Jodi Picoult; *Sometimes I Scare Myself* by Jeneva Rose; *Fallen Rook* by L. J. Shen; *The Perfume Collector: A Novel* by Kathleen Tessaro; *The Master* by Colm Toibin; *In Her own League* by Liz Tomforde

Adult Non Fiction: *BTS Recipe Book*; *The American Way of Killing: The Invention of an Epidemic* by Mal-

colm Gladwell; *The Invisible List: one Passion a Year, Every Year* by Ravi Gupta; *Yakuza: A 400-Year History of the Japanese Underworld* by Andrew Rankin; *Your GLP-1 Game Plan: What Your Doctor Didn't Tell You About How to Eat, Move, and Thrive on Weight Loss Medications* by Heidi Skolnik; *An Unexpected Life: A Memoir* by Gloria Steinem

Easy Fiction: *Ms. Rachel Visits the Doctor* by Aron Ac-curso; *Letters from the Witch: Cackle Crackle*; *With Five Spells to Pull Out and Keep* by Annie Atkins; *One Winter's Day* by M. Christina Butler; *I'll Love You Till the Bats Say Boo* by Kathryn Cristaldi; *5-Minute Marvel Spider-Man Stories*

Easy Non Fiction: *Little Caterpillar* by Suzanne Fossey; *My Big Book of Outdoors: Welcome! In Every Season There is Something Different to See, Discover, Make*

and Do: So Step Outdoors and Into Nature! By Tim Hopgood

Easy Reader Non Fiction: *50 Great States* by Kath-ryn Knight

Junior Fiction: *Star Wars Galactic Adventures Stor-book Collection*; *Building 903* by Lois Lowry

Junior Non Fiction: *A Bear Belongs*; *A Wildlife Res-cue Story* by Catherine Barr

Young Adult Fiction: *The House of Gardenias* by Is-abel Canas; *Chobits Vol. 1*; *Chobits Vol. 2*; *Chobits Vol. 3*; *Chobits Vol. 4*; *Chobits Vol. 5*; *Chobits Vol. 6*; *Chobits Vol. 7*; *Chobits Vol. 8*; *Winterveil* by Ava Reid; *Empire* by Sabaa Tahir

NJ Reminds Residents to Continue to Take Precautions Against Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

State officials are urging residents to continue to take simple, proactive steps to protect themselves and their families from mosquito-borne illness.

To date in 2026, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is reporting 26 cases of West Nile virus (WNV), including the State's first confirmed death. Of these, 19 individuals have experienced neurological illness, and 69 percent of all cases have occurred in persons 60 years of age and older. Fourteen of the WNV cases became ill in the last week of August or in September, and several more cases are currently under investigation. Monmouth County has reported the highest number of cases (6), followed by Mercer (4) and Camden (3) counties.

"When we see numbers increasing and loss of life from WNV, we are reminded that prevention is key and we must all play our part," said Dr. Raynard E. Washington, Commissioner of Health. "We extend our condolences to the individual's family and urge our residents to continue to take the necessary steps to prevent mosquito bites and to help reduce mosquito populations in and

around their homes."

WNV is a disease that people can acquire through the bite of a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird. It is not directly transmitted from birds to humans. NJDOH is encouraging all residents to remain vigilant because mosquitoes are still active.

By taking preventive measures – such as reducing standing water and eliminating mosquito breeding sites around their properties – individuals can significantly lower their risk of exposure.

Guard against mosquito-borne diseases with these simple, everyday steps:

- Wear EPA-registered insect repellent.
- Avoid being outdoors during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants.
- Cover cribs, strollers, and baby carriers with mosquito netting.
- Mosquito-proof your yard and home by dumping standing water.
- Ensure you have well-fitted windows and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside your home.

Residents, business owners, and contractors all play an important

role in reducing mosquito populations on their properties. Because mosquitoes breed in standing water, emptying or changing outdoor water sources at least once a week can effectively interrupt their breeding cycle. Common problem areas to check include flowerpots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, clogged rain gutters, plastic wading pools, and wheelbarrows. It is also important to check less visible spots where water and debris can collect, such as under bushes, along building exteriors, and around the foundations of homes and businesses.

It is important for residents to understand how these viruses can affect the body. Early symptoms of WNV may be confused with COVID-19 or several other common viral illnesses. Most people infected with West Nile Virus (WNV) will not develop any symptoms at all. Among those who do, common symptoms include fever, chills, body aches, and joint pain. In rare cases, however, this can lead to severe neurological illness, most often in the form of meningitis or encephalitis.

Older adults and people

with weakened immune systems are at greater risk of developing severe illness. Signs of severe illness may include fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, behavioral changes or confusion, weakness in the limbs, and fatigue. Anyone experiencing these more serious symptoms should seek medical attention promptly.

Specific laboratory tests are needed to confirm WNV, so anyone with symptoms after a mosquito bite should contact their healthcare provider. There is currently no specific treatment for WNV.

The detection of WNV in mosquitoes in recent weeks has also been higher than historical averages. WNV has been detected in 1,182 mosquito pools in all New Jersey counties this year. WNV detections in mosquitoes are highest in Mercer, Hudson, Somerset, Bergen and Middlesex counties.

"We are urging residents to stay vigilant against mosquito bites even as cooler weather approaches. You can protect yourself and your family by turning over or removing items that collect water and serve as breeding grounds for the insects,"



said Environmental Protection Commissioner Ed Potosnak. "These simple measures help reduce nuisance mosquito populations and support the state's Mosquito Control Commission as they work closely with county mosquito control agencies to protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases."

The state and county mosquito control programs are working together to minimize potential transmission of these diseases to humans.

"Fall does not mean mosquito season ends," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Ed Wengryn. "The cooler weather makes it a great time to enjoy outdoor activities and visit our farms, but mosquitoes remain active and can still pose risks. We encourage everyone to take simple precautions to protect themselves."

West Niles virus is not just a concern for people; it can also be a serious threat to horses.

Fortunately, infected horses do not increase the risk of human infection. Like humans, horses are considered "dead-end" hosts, which means the virus cannot be passed from them back to mosquitoes and on to other animals or people. Because safe and effective vaccines are available for both EEE and WNV, horse owners have a reliable way to protect their animals. Owners whose horses are not current on their vaccinations should reach out to their veterinarian right away.

To learn more about preventing mosquito-borne diseases visit NJDOH's West Nile webpage at: www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/westnile.shtml and NJDEP's mosquito webpage at: dep.nj.gov/njfw/mosquitoes/



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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



Mary E. Stone
Stone Associates
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Hello fellow readers,

I’ve just returned from a family reunion. My sister Dot and husband Jim, now in Washington State, were returning from a cruise that landed in South Florida, so we met at our brother Rick and Paulina’s place. To my delight, everyone wished to visit Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden near Miami. I didn’t research the garden before our visit, as part of the fun is the element of surprise. And what a surprise Fairchild was.

It was a drizzly day—a fitting time to wander through a tropical garden. The 83-acre garden opened in 1938 and honors legendary plant explorer Dr. David Fairchild, who traveled the world in search of useful plants. He helped introduce hundreds of plants to the United States, including mangos, alfalfa, nectarines, dates, cotton, soybeans, and the flowering cherry trees that grace Washington, D.C.

As we meandered through the tropical delight, seeing super-sized plants we have as houseplants here, I said aloud, “I wonder where the baobab tree is?” As if on cue, there was one before me.

I’ve always adored baobabs (Adansonia), nicknamed Trees of Life, as they can survive harsh environments and provide food and other resources.

Also known as boab or boaboa, some can store thirty-two thousand gallons of water to sustain themselves through severe droughts and grow to ninety-eight feet with trunks up to thirty-six feet wide—too huge to hug! Although I meant to.

When leafless, their branches look like spindly roots, hence another common name: Upside-down Tree. Seeing them in person was breathtaking.

Fairchild has two historic baobabs dating to 1938. One, planted by Dr. Fairchild on March 23, the day the garden opened, grew from material collected during his 1927 expedition to West Africa. It is the sole survivor of eleven commemorative trees planted that day. The garden’s largest baobab, near the historic Gatehouse, was also planted in 1938 from material supplied by Dade County Nursery.

Recent genetic research adds to the remarkable baobab story. Of the eight living species, six grow only in Madagascar, one grows across continental Africa, and another in northwestern Australia. A 2024 study suggests Madagascar is the likely center of origin, with ancestors somehow making extraordinary journeys across oceans. Imagine seeds floating across seas!

I’m known to hug more than a few trees, especially those far older than we are. Their longstanding stability,



their rootedness, and their reliance on our dear earth draw me in. Yet, caught up in the flurry of family photos, I realized afterward I’d forgotten to hug the baobab!

Thankfully, another grand tree received my embrace: a pacara earpod tree (Enterolobium contortisiliquum), native to South America. And there were countless other treasures—a rainbow eucalyptus with a trunk so colorfully streaked I could imagine enlarging my photo onto canvas; curious exposed roots; lush tropical foliage; bromeliads blazing orange and red.

We also visited Wings of the Tropics, Fairchild’s butterfly conservatory. Because the exotic butterflies

are non-native, USDA containment regulations prevent them from reproducing there, so the garden excludes host plants for their caterpillars. Instead, nectar and pollen plants feed the adults. They receive

new larvae weekly to maintain the populations.

At the end of our visit, we stopped at the gift shop in Mom’s honor. She never left a garden gift shop without a trinket. We left thinking how much she would have loved Fairchild.

Baobabs also bring to mind the classic children’s story The Little Prince, in which they are portrayed as dangerous trees whose seedlings must be pulled before their enormous roots overtake the little prince’s tiny planet. Of course, here on our much larger planet, bao-

babs are revered rather than feared.

Perhaps that’s the garden-of-life lesson tucked within the tale. Small things become big things when we allow them to grow—seeds of kindness and love grow exponentially. But resentments and divisions do too. How fortunate we are to choose which seedlings we wish to nurture. May more choose kindness and love to help heal and grow our Tree of Life.

Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com or tune in on your favorite podcast app.



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PEN ARGYL (2) VS SAUCON VALLEY (3) SENIOR NIGHT FIELD HOCKEY



Ella Bonatz with her parents, Jennifer and Brent



Veda Santo with her parents, Jason and Chantel



Jaelyn Smith with her parents, Jacquelyn and Jeffery



Cameron Tyminski with her parents, Todd and Jill



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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A photograph of three people standing on a grassy field. On the left is a woman with blonde hair wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. In the center is a woman with brown hair wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. On the right is a man with a beard wearing a black polo shirt and blue jeans. Behind them are two large vertical banners. The left banner is black with green and white text that reads "PEN ARGYL SOCCER" and features a green and white soccer player silhouette. The right banner is black with white and green text that reads "SENIOR NIGHT" and features a soccer ball graphic. The background is filled with green and white balloons.

Photos by Dale Young/



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**Maci Mariano with her parents,
Steve and Erin**



Grace Brewer with her parents, Christy and Ken



**Paige and Sarah Wallis with their parents,
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**Isabelle Law with her parents,
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GRANT

Continued from page 1

geoeconomic self-sufficiency. As the need for access to food increased, the agency's food pantry expanded. Former classrooms and office space were converted to dedicated food storage, while refrigerators and freezers were added to allow for a wider variety of items, including fresh produce and proteins. In 2025, the agency converted an old farmhouse on the campus to a market-style, Nourish to Flourish food pantry.

“We are grateful to receive funding to support Project Self-Sufficiency’s mission to bring nutritious food to local individuals and families who have been impacted



by rising food prices, job insecurity, and a host of issues which are currently impacting their ability to put food on the table,” remarked Project Self-Sufficiency Chief Executive Officer Deborah

Berry-Toon. "Support from the FirstEnergy Foundation will have a dramatic impact on families in our community." This grant is part of the FirstEnergy Foundation's largest investment

in hunger relief to date, awarding \$1.3 million to 25 New Jersey hunger-relief organizations that are expected to provide more than 3.8 million meals during Hunger Action Month, a national, September-long observance that raises awareness of food insecurity and encourages volunteerism, advocacy and giving. Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L), a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., serves 1.2 million customers in 13 counties, including Sussex County. The grant will support Project Self-Sufficiency's Nourish to Flourish food pantry, and its work connecting the community with nutritious food, fresh produce and everyday essentials across Sussex County.

BLAIRSTOWN FALL FESTIVAL AT FOOTRIDGE PARK
October 17th, 2026

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Natalie Eibeck with her parents, Jenny and Peter



Lily and Sophia Markopoulous with their parents, George and Chelsea



Julia Warnken with her parents, Chris and Theresa



SENIOR NIGHT PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Attorney Ronold J. Karasek has been in practice for over fifty (50) years. He has worked (and continues to work) at the Bangor office for his entire legal career.

*You may have noticed the sign in front of 641 Market Street, Bangor, Pennsylvania has recently changed from **KARASEK LAW OFFICES, LLC** to **FLORIO, PERRUCCI, STEINHARDT, CAPPELLI, TIPTON & TAYLOR, LLC**.*

This change has occurred as Attorney Karasek will be joining the law firm of Florio, Perrucci. This is an excellent and well-respected law firm founded in 1996 by the late former New Jersey Governor, James Florio.

Retired Judge Leonard N. Zito and Attorney William E. Hutcheson, III will also continue to work from the Bangor office as members of this firm.

So please know that Attorney Karasek is still in practice, is still taking clients and is available to handle your legal needs. Feel free to stop in or call 610-588-0224 with your legal questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to work with you to address all your legal matters.



Bucco, Dimaio To Sherrill: Stop The Contractor Rule Before It Hits New Jersey Workers

Senate Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco and Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio are calling on Gov. Mikie Sherrill to delay her administration's new independent contractor rule until July 1, 2027, one day before it is set to take effect.

In a letter to the governor, the two leaders warned that the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's rewrite of the state's ABC test would take effect Thursday with workers and businesses still in the dark about how it will affect them. They said a policy this consequential belongs in the Legislature, not in the hands of unelected regulators.

"In practical terms, the Legislature was given a matter of weeks, not four months, to consider the implications of an economy-wide regulation affecting independent workers and businesses across virtually every sector of New Jersey's economy," Bucco and DiMaio wrote. "That was not enough time."

"A policy this consequential should be decided through the legislative process, not administrative rulemaking," the leaders wrote, noting that lawmakers previously considered legislation on independent contractor classification and did not enact it.

"An administrative regulation should not substitute for a legislative consensus that was never reached," they wrote.

The leaders also cited the more than 9,500 public comments submitted during rulemaking, more than 99% of them opposed.

"Whatever one's position on the underlying policy, opposition on that scale should warrant greater scrutiny before an economy-wide regulation becomes operative," they wrote.

The department ad-



opted the regulations May 5 and delayed their operative date 120 days to allow time for legislative changes. None have been enacted. Instead, lawmakers are now weighing a growing list of bills to carve out individual professions, including sports officials, financial advisers, golf caddies and roadside assistance drivers.

"That should tell us something," the leaders wrote. "We should not be forced into a last-minute race to determine which occupations receive special treatment before a sweeping regulation takes effect."

The call for a delay is bipartisan. Senate President Nicholas Scutari asked Sherrill in an August letter to push the date to July 1, 2027, saying the time initially provided was too short for the review needed. Business groups, including the New Jersey Business & Industry Association and the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, have made the same request.

The Republican leaders also pointed to the

state's weak economy. New Jersey has lost roughly 21,000 payroll jobs in July alone, according to federal data.

"This is not the time to introduce additional uncertainty that could cause businesses to reduce opportunities for contractors, move work elsewhere or avoid otherwise legitimate working relationships," Bucco and DiMaio wrote.

Bucco and DiMaio asked the administration to use the nine months to convene a working group of workers, organized labor, independent contractors, small businesses, employers and nonprofits, and to let the Legislature address the issue comprehensively rather than one exemption at a time.

"Tomorrow should not become an arbitrary deadline for getting this right," they wrote. "A nine-month delay is reasonable. It has bipartisan support."

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Statewide Archery Deer Season Is Officially Open in PA

For archery deer hunters, it's about to be the best time of the year. Pennsylvania's statewide archery deer season opens on Oct. 3, 2026, and runs through Nov. 20, 2026.

Deer hunters can harvest one antlered deer per license year, and an antlerless deer with each required license or permit. After regular firearms deer season, archery deer season reopens Dec. 26, 2026, and runs through Jan. 24, 2027.

"It's hunting season here in Pennsylvania and we have a lot to look forward to in the weeks and months ahead," said Steve Smith, Game Commission Executive Director. "Thank you to all our hunters for being on the front lines of conservation. Good luck, have fun, and hunt safely."

MORE SUNDAYS TO HUNT: On the heels of last year's historic legislation, 2026-27 marks the first Pennsylvania hunting season with Sunday hunting expanded to include all Sundays that fall within the seasons start and end dates, with the exception of migratory game bird seasons.

Many seasons that previously ended on Saturdays now end on Sundays, providing more week-end hunting opportunities throughout the year.

While Sunday hunting is open for all state game lands and state forests, it's limited in some state parks and state preserves.

TREE STAND SAFETY TIPS: Archery hunters using tree stands are reminded to hunt safely this season. The Game Commission encourages hunters to wear a full-body safety harness or belt before their feet leave the ground; check tree stands for missing or broken parts before each use; choose trees that are alive and will support their weight; hunt with a partner and have a plan in case of an emergency; and carry a whistle or other signaling device in case of an emergency.

BE SAFE. BE SEEN.: Non-hunters using state game lands are also encouraged to be safe and be seen during hunting seasons. Between Oct. 1, 2026, and Jan. 30, 2026, non-hunters must wear a fluorescent orange hat or 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest, and back combined while using state game lands. Review the 2026-27 Hunting & Trapping Digest for more details on fluorescent orange requirements.

TAG IT. REPORT IT: Successful hunters are reminded to report their harvest this season in one

of three ways: Online at huntfish.pa.gov; by phone at 1-800-838-4431; or by mail using a harvest report card enclosed in the 2026-27 Hunting & Trapping Digest. By reporting big game harvests, hunters provide wildlife biologists with information for future decision-making and tag allocations.

NEW CWD REGULATIONS: The Game Commission is reminding deer hunters of changes to its Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) regulations. Several adjustments were made earlier this year to better protect the state's deer and simultaneously help hunters.

The agency's goal in managing CWD is to mitigate risks related to the disease across the Commonwealth. The new regulations for the 2026-27 hunting seasons are preventative in nature. The updates are as follows:

Hunters are no longer prohibited from transporting harvested deer – including high-risk deer parts – between any two locations. Instead, hunters statewide are required to dispose of high-risk deer parts through a commercial trash service.

High-risk parts may be left on the landscape at the site of the harvest. If the carcass is moved,

high-risk parts go in the trash.

The regulatory prohibition on the use of cervid urine-based attractants in any outdoor setting has also been removed.

"The Game Commission's new regulations are preventative in nature," said Andrea Korman. "If high-risk deer parts are disposed of in the trash stream, it eliminates the possibility they will introduce CWD to a new area, and otherwise limits the disease's spread. That's the real key, making sure that all high-risk parts, from deer harvested everywhere in Pennsylvania, are disposed in a safe manner."

Additionally, the regulatory prohibition on the use of cervid urine-based attractants in any outdoor setting has also been removed. State law was changed in 2025 to make these attractants legal. Additionally, the Game Commission's Executive Director was provided discretionary authority to establish targeted restrictions on feeding deer and other wild cervids in relation to CWD at the county and township levels.

The Game Commission still offers free testing in areas with CWD detections with its head collection bins. Click here to



view locations. Hunters who submit a head for testing can look up their test results online. The agency is also working on a sample kit program that would provide free testing to hunters statewide.

The Game Commission is also announcing four new CWD positive detections, three within a captive facility, and one in the wild. The Butler, Warren, and Lycoming County detections were all within captive facilities, while a road-killed deer in Pringle Borough, Luzerne County was recently detected.

EXPLORE THE NEW MAPPING CENTER: The Game Commission recently revamped its

Mapping Center, which serves as an interactive supplement to the Hunting & Trapping Digest, with several exciting improvements, including a cleaner mobile-friendly interface; faster access to maps and information; live data from authoritative agency sources; improved search, navigation, and overall performance.

The Game Commission manages and protects wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations. Those seeking additional information about CWD can view the agency's CWD surveillance map and learn more at www.pa.gov/pgc.

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Discover Brook Hollow Winery: Great Wine, Breathtaking Views & Unforgettable Events

Tucked away in beautiful Columbia, New Jersey, overlooking the breathtaking Delaware Water Gap, Brook Hollow Winery & Event Facility is one of those special destinations that offers much more than a great glass of wine. It is a place to relax, reconnect, celebrate, and make memories with family and friends.

If you've never visited Brook Hollow Winery, now is the time to discover what so many guests have already come to love.

It All Starts With the Wine: At the heart of Brook Hollow is, of course, the wine.

Brook Hollow takes great pride in producing an impressive selection of wines with something for virtually every palate. Whether you enjoy a bold, dry red, a crisp white, something slightly sweeter, or simply want to explore different styles through a wine tasting, the goal is simple: make approachable, enjoyable wines that keep guests coming back.

Brook Hollow is a New Jersey farm winery, with its wines produced from New Jersey-grown fruit. The selection ranges from traditional dry table wines to sweeter favorites, giving both experienced wine drinkers and those just beginning to explore

wine plenty to discover,
but wine is only part of
what makes a visit special.

Come for the Wine—Stay for the View: One of Brook Hollow's greatest treasures is the property itself. The winery overlooks its vineyard and the spectacular Delaware Water Gap, creating a setting that can make an ordinary afternoon feel like a mini vacation. Guests can settle in with a tasting, glass, or bottle of their favorite Brook Hollow wine and simply enjoy the scenery. The long covered porch provides a wonderful place to relax while looking out across the vineyard. Throughout the year, live music and special events add even more reasons to visit. It's the kind of place where you can arrive intending to stay for an hour and suddenly realize you've spent the entire afternoon enjoying the wine, music, scenery, and company.

Hospitality That Makes a Difference: A beautiful property and good wine are important, but the people behind an experience can make all the difference. Brook Hollow is a family-owned winery, and that sense of personal hospitality remains an important part of the business. The staff strives to make first-time visitors and longtime customers alike

feel welcome. Whether they're explaining a wine during a tasting, helping someone choose a bottle, assisting with a special event, or simply sharing a conversation across the bar, the Brook Hollow team wants guests to feel comfortable and appreciated. That commitment is reflected in customer reviews, where visitors regularly praise the winery's friendly staff, knowledgeable tasting experience, beautiful atmosphere, and event team.

An Incredible Event Facility for Up to 200 Guests: Across the street from the winery is another Brook Hollow treasure: the Brook Hollow Winery Event Facility.

The beautiful 4,000-square-foot, climate-controlled rustic event space can accommodate celebrations of up to 200 guests. With its

vineyard setting, spacious interior, covered porch, gazebo, private grounds, and indoor and outdoor possibilities, the facility provides a memorable backdrop without losing the comfortable, personal atmosphere Brook Hollow is known for.

While the property is an exceptional wedding venue, you certainly don't need to be getting married to enjoy it. Brook Hollow is a wonderful location for bridal showers, baby showers, birthday celebrations, anniversaries, reunions, rehearsal dinners, holiday gatherings and other important milestones.

It also provides a warm and respectful setting for Celebrations of Life, allowing families and friends to gather privately, share memories and celebrate someone special in peaceful surroundings.



Think Outside the Office - Looking for somewhere different for your next company meeting? Brook Hollow's event facility is also an excellent option for business meetings, corporate training sessions, employee gatherings, luncheons, team-building events, awards dinners and company celebrations. Instead of another meeting in a hotel conference room, imagine bringing your team together in a private vineyard setting surrounded by the natural beauty of northwest New Jersey. Sometimes simply changing the environment can change the entire energy of a meeting.

If You've Never Been Here, Now Is the Time! Brook Hollow Winery isn't simply somewhere to purchase wine. It's somewhere to experience wine. Come for a tasting. Bring some friends. Enjoy a glass overlooking the

vineyard. Listen to live music. Discover a new favorite bottle. Tour the event facility and imagine your next celebration here.

Whether you're planning an event for 20 people or a celebration approaching 200, looking for a unique location for a business gathering, or simply wondering where to spend a relaxing afternoon, Brook Hollow Winery & Event Facility deserves a place on your list.

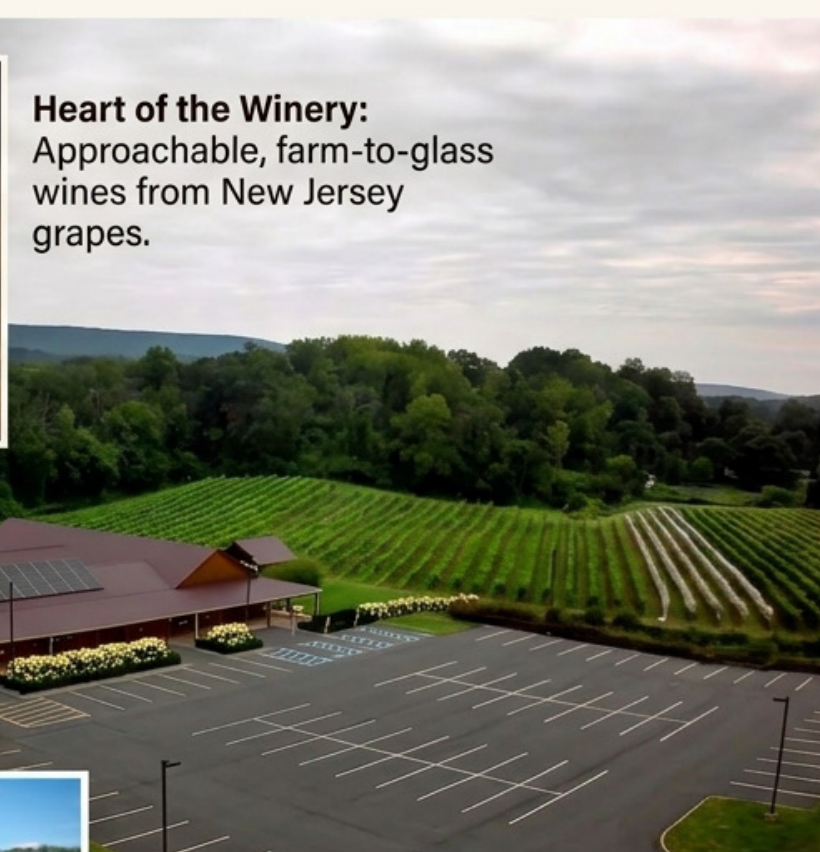
If you've driven past us but never turned into the driveway, consider this your invitation. Come discover the wines, the views, the people and the hospitality that make Brook Hollow special. We look forward to welcoming you to Brook Hollow Winery & Event Facility in Columbia, New Jersey. The winery is open 7 days a week generally noon through 5 PM, longer on Friday & Saturday



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Clean Team Workforce September Employee of the Month

The Clean Team Workforce congratulates its Employee of the Month for September, Kariem B.

Kariem faced a difficult childhood. He grew up with six siblings, from two different fathers, in a household that experienced daily domestic abuse. Kariem's mother struggled to raise seven children, while his father battled alcoholism, leaving Kariem to navigate life on his own. Turning to the streets as a teenager, he found the attention and acceptance he was missing at home.

After years of living on the streets and hustling to survive, Kariem finally realized he needed to make a change. He believed he had "good inside of him"



and wanted more out of his life. So, Kariem moved to Pennsylvania and found employment. Unfortunately, the online distribution company did not survive market competition, and he lost his job. For a few years, Kariem bounced around from job to job but couldn't make ends meet. Determined to avoid a return to the streets, Kariem

came to the Allentown Rescue Mission for help.

During his stay in the Emergency Shelter, Kariem discovered the Mission's pathway to self-sufficiency.

Seeking a lasting change, he entered the Transformation Program, where he developed life skills and was exposed to the Gospel message. Kariem credits

the program for helping him "focus on being a responsible person." After graduating from the program, he knew he would immediately qualify for a job with the Clean Team Workforce.

On Friday, July 10th, Kariem graduated and started working for the Clean Team Workforce

the following Monday as a street cleaner. Instantly, he stood out as a reliable, hardworking person. A few weeks later, an opportunity arose to work at a local auto salvage yard through the Clean Team Workforce. He accepted the challenge without hesitation and continued to impress his employer.

Today, Kariem has been hired directly by the auto

salvage company and is working on saving money to secure an apartment and complete the independence process. About his future, Kariem stated, "I love having a job where I feel appreciated and know that I'm somebody in this world." He looks forward to his new life as "a soldier of God, following Him, and knowing that God will guide him."

Annual Harvest Shoot will Benefit Project Self-Sufficiency

The Hudson Farm Club will host a sporting clay shoot to benefit Project Self-Sufficiency on Monday, October 19th. The event will kick off with a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Activities on the 4,200-acre hunting preserve will be followed by a festive lunch in the facility's Crow's Nest event space. A silent auction will round out the day's events. Those who are unable to participate in the sporting event are welcome to attend just the celebratory luncheon. All proceeds will benefit Project Self-Sufficiency's services for low-income families in Sussex, Warren, and Hunterdon Counties.

The Hudson Farm Club has hosted a sporting clay outing on behalf of Project Self-Sufficiency for years. Like a golf outing, the sporting event invites participants to shoot at an assortment of clay targets available at 20 different locations throughout the sprawling grounds. Each

shooting station offers a different presentation of targets, allowing participants to simulate game shooting in a variety of ways. Teams will have the opportunity to take aim at 100 clays over the course of 3 ½ hours.

The Hudson Farm Club will provide cartridges, ear and eye protection, and instruction and guidance tailored to each participant's experience level. With 20 different electronic stations, the Hudson Farm Club provides one of the most extensive shooting layouts in the country. While guests are asked to bring their own break-open shotguns, rentals may be arranged for those who don't own a gun and/or who may have limited shooting experience.

"We are particularly grateful to the membership of the Hudson Farm Club for their support of this unique event year after year," commented Deborah Berry-Toon,

Chief Executive Officer of Project Self-Sufficiency. "The Harvest Shoot is an important component of Project Self-Sufficiency's annual fundraising campaign and we rely on the funds raised with this event to assist low-income families in northwestern New Jersey to attain economic self-sufficiency and family stability."

Project Self-Sufficiency Board of Directors member J.P. Perry has served as event chairperson for several years. "It is exciting to welcome everyone to the Hudson Farm Club. This is a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy a beautiful place, and spread the word about Project Self-Sufficiency."

A wide range of sponsorship packages for the Harvest Shoot are available; individual tickets can be purchased for \$500. For information, visit <https://www.projectsselfsufficiency.org/autumn-harvest-shoot>.

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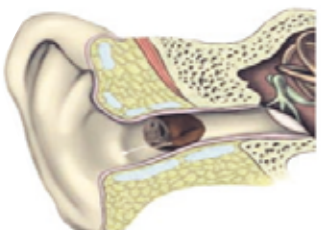
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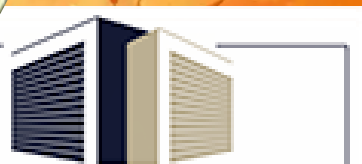
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