



SAW CREEK NEWS



The official publication of the Saw Creek Estates Community Association

June/July 2020



JUNE 2-25

VOTE

**Your VOTE makes a difference
in how your community is run**

This is your way of having a VOICE in our community

All homeowners in good standing should have received letters in early June with electronic voting instructions and an individual PIN/Code. If you did not receive a letter by June 8, please contact Member Services or nominations@sawcreek.org. VOTE for the 3 candidates of your choice TODAY. EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

If you missed Meet the Candidates on 5/29, you can see the entire session on our website www.sawcreek.org

2020 ELECTION & VOTING TIMELINE

- MAY 29 The Meet the Candidates event was recorded and a video of the event will be posted on our website soon after.
- JUNE 2 Electronic voting begins
- JUNE 18 Last day to request your personal voting code*
- JUNE 25 Electronic voting ends
- JULY 11 Newly elected board members announced to the BOD
- JULY 18 Annual Membership Meeting - newly elected board members begin their 3 year term

**Voting assistance: please bring your voting letter with the unique code in order to vote.*



OFFICAL NOTICE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS

**JULY 18
10AM
TOW
Tennis Courts**

1. Call to Order and Officer Roll Call
2. Determination of a Quorum
3. Acceptance of Minutes of Prior Meeting
4. Board's Report on Budget and Assessment
5. Committee Reports
6. Report on Balloting and Election
7. Question & Answer

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President's Message

May You Live in interesting times.

- Austen Chamberlain, Noble Peace Prize recipient

This last year has been almost too interesting. We started by asking, "What happened to the \$3.2 million dollars from PPL?" Bottom line-it all has been spent and not by the current Board. In the last 20 years we have received \$8.2 million dollars in what could be called windfall money from two different lawsuits. We do greatly appreciate the efforts of a few homeowners who saw the injustices and took first the developers to task for reserve monies of \$5 million and second, PPL for the rest. We are indebted to them for their wisdom and foresight.

But think about it, almost any HOA in the Poconos or elsewhere would look good with that kind of 'extra' cash to supplement their operations and capital projects. But was it wisely spent? Could we have had new amenities or expanded facilities or lower dues? That is for concerned homeowners to debate and conjecture into the wee hours at the TOP over a brew or two.

While we are in good financial shape, there is little fat in reserves, capital projects and our annual operating budget continues to increase if only by the cost of living index. The fact is we need to start living within our means. Like realizing that in the last 5 or more years, we have only added 5 new dues paying members, all other home buyers were replacements of people who sold their houses. That is a net revenue gain per year of about \$7500, not even enough to pay our monthly electric bill. Yet we increased the full-time staff by 5, about a 13% increase of our total budget representing at a minimum of well over \$100,000 of salaries not including benefits for fulltime staff. What is wrong with this picture?

No new amenities, less than .01% increase in dues paying members, yet significant increases in operating and capital costs! To keep up, our dues must significantly increase, or we need to learn to live within our means.



Counting on windfalls is not an option. We need to operate more efficiently and effectively. We need homeowners to be actively involved in the decision-making process and hold management and our elected representatives accountable. More interesting times are yet ahead!

And despite all that, we ARE #1 in the Poconos.
I can't believe I live here!

In Service to Saw Creek,

Suzanne Mark

President, Saw Creek Estates Community Association

Manager's Report

Greetings everyone. As you may have heard by now, in March, the Board of Directors decided to terminate my employment contract one year early, without cause. As things stand right now, my last day as your General Manager will be June 16, 2020.



Being a part of the growth and success of Saw Creek Estates for the past 15 years has been the highlight of my career. Together we have accomplished much. And surely, more challenges and greater success lie ahead.

It was my sincere hope and desire to continue serving this great community for many years to come. Nonetheless, I must accept that the Board has a right to cancel my employment contract if they choose to do so.

First, I want to say THANK YOU to each of my fellow employees for all the things that you do, day after day and night after night, around the clock and all throughout the year. Your hard work and determination, especially in these times of uncertainty, is truly commendable. Thank you for your cooperation and support over the years, for your teamwork and for your steadfast commitment to each other and to the good people of Saw Creek Estates.

It is possible that my pending departure may cause you some degree of concern. I ask that you please refrain from any sort of conflict or negativity. Stay positive and continue delivering the high level of customer service and support that is a hallmark of the entire Saw Creek Estates team!

And to the many members and residents of Saw Creek whom I have come to know and respect, THANK YOU! It has been my great pleasure and privilege to know each of you, to serve you and to count you among my trusted friends and colleagues.

My time at Saw Creek Estates has been the most rewarding part of my 40 years in the property management business. I wish you all much success and happiness along with my sincere thanks for your friendship, guidance and support over the years. May you all stay safe and well!

Kindest Regards,

David W. Martin, CMCA, AMS

General Manager



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Happy 20th Anniversary!

by Jessica M. VanDerVliet, Director of Community Relations

During times like these, it's always nice to have something to smile about or to look forward to. On April 10th, Saw Creek Estates celebrated the 20th Anniversary of becoming an independent member-controlled community. It's no surprise that many of us may have missed this important milestone because of the current pandemic. Please stay healthy so we can all celebrate together...real soon!

All of us have had to change our lifestyles and develop practices that are often challenging, but also necessary. We are doing our part by staying home, social distancing and ensuring that one day we can hopefully get things back to "normal."



I think this experience has humbled many and made us realize we have much to be grateful for. Many of us are in the comfort of our homes, with our family and kids, here in the Pocono woodlands, still able to enjoy our properties and love our community. That includes our friends and neighbors who continue to work on the front lines of this crisis and for that, we are thankful!

When you think of the word "community," what comes to mind? After 19 years here as an employee myself, "community" makes me think of things like the parachute game at Community Day, campfires at the VIP, ski races on the ski hill, BBQs poolside at The Top, a packed dance floor at the restaurant, fruity cocktails at the Tiki Bar, summer camp and so much more.

But how did we come to know and love all the great things Saw Creek has to offer each year for all to enjoy? I'll tell you how: through the hard work and dedication of our founders! Those who had a vision of what their "community" would be and then put those aspirations into action to ensure we have what we have today.

These founders or "pioneers" as I like to call them, were a group of homeowners who banded together and met countless hours with the developers, attorneys, and key players during the transition to negotiate for all we have. We owe a lot of what we have today to those pioneers!

One of my favorite things to do when meeting new residents is to ask, why Saw Creek? What brought you here? Then I watch with excitement as they answer, "Well, why wouldn't we - with all you have to offer." or "We've looked other places but you are above all the rest." I have a sense of pride when people mention things like "best in the Poconos." Of course, we are!

Recently, I've had the pleasure to meet with some of the pioneers that are still among us today and reminisce about the story of Saw Creek and which homeowners were there along the way. We should be proud of where we are today and thank those pioneers that made it happen. Now more than ever we need to appreciate be careful to ensure things remain moving forward!

I asked the founders why they wanted to become independent from the developer and what motivated them to this transition. A common thread kept being mentioned by all. It was because it was the right thing to do for

our community and our residents! They say that many parts of Saw Creek were not being maintained and promises were not being kept. It was time for a change but change comes with hard work, countless hours and many, many meetings and conversations.



So, during this current crisis, while everyone has had some of their normal routines interrupted, let's take some time to remember and thank those who gave their time and effort for what we have today!

We need to be careful of how we do things to ensure we have wonderful things to look forward to in the future! We have celebratory plans once things get back to "normal" and will have some sort of event to honor these pioneers. Stay tuned for details, and most importantly, be well!



Saw Creek Home Sales

- **Currently Listed:**
62 homes as of May 27, 2020
- **Pending Settlement:**
17 homes as of May 27, 2020
- **Sold in 2019:** 167 homes

Information provided by the Pocono Mountain Assoc. of Realtors

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OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Members in good standing may write a Letter to the Editor. Letters of 300 words or less, in MSWord format must include name, lot and section number. Lot and section numbers are used for verification of member status only and are not printed. Before submitting a Letter to the Editor, please review the Letter to the Editor Policy in the Saw Creek website Resource Center, in the folder named Important Information. The Public Information Committee makes every effort to see that facts are printed as available space permits. Send your letter to the Public Information Committee at PIC@sawcreek.org.

Dear Editor:

COVID-19! Mother Nature has once again reminded us that she is in charge!

No one person or group holds exclusive rights to the pain we are all feeling. We've all endured an emotional, physical or financial loss. From my perspective, money may come and go, but time is a limited commodity, and like it or not, this pandemic has given us the gift of time. For some, that may mean spending quality time with the family, or getting around to those gardening projects, or doing some interior house painting. For me, that means all of my closets are finally in order!

And I also think this might be the "time" ask everyone reading this letter to join me in being thankful for: our nurses, doctors, EMT's, fire-fighters, truck drivers, restaurant workers, supermarket employees, plumbers, electricians, teachers, essential workers and other professions too numerous to mention here, including Saw Creek volunteers and employees, who give us hope and a sense of normalcy during these unprecedented times. To those who are still donating to local foodbanks or homeless shelters or animal shelters, I thank you also. We who are lucky enough to stay home or practice social distancing are grateful to all of the above.

I don't mean to minimize the hardships being endured by many, but before you let negative thoughts or complaints fill your mind, remember, now is the time for just the opposite: we must be positive and grateful for all our blessings. I am grateful that I have food or can seek medical attention or take a walk around the beautiful lake Saw Creek. It will be hard, but we will make it through the financial struggle after stay at home restrictions have been lifted. In the meantime, stay safe everyone!

MJ Stigliano

Dear Editor:

We have been residents of Saw Creek for almost 35 years. During that time there have been many new Board Members. Each time the board has changed, the board has made decisions for the community, some of these decisions we have agreed with and some of these decisions we have disagreed with. But we have always felt that the board had the best interest of the community in mind when they have made their decisions, up until now.

The current board has made a decision to fire the community manager at a time when the world is facing a crisis. The only explanation is that the current Board wants to go in a different direction. Why?

Saw creek has been identified as the number one community in the Poconos and has had a gold star rating with CAI for the last two years thanks to the management team under Dave's direction and guidance.

Dave and his management team have taken us through many improvements in our community. Dave and his team have overseen the major renovations of all our key amenities including Mill pond, two mailbox areas, the ski hill equipment. The list goes on and on.

Do we want to trust our community to the hands of the unknown, even possibly an outside management organization, or do we want to keep the manager that has proven that he has the community's best interest at heart.

What are the Board Members thinking?

David & Karen Stagg

Dear Editor:

For the barely unanimous Board members who decided to terminate our General Manager prior to his contract expiring, we know who you are. To the other Board members who decided against this, thank you for using your common sense.

Let's examine their thinking: #1 Community in the Poconos; Gold Star Community; and named CAI Association of the Year. So, let's move into a different direction – that can only be a downward direction. Hopefully we can put a stop to this before it's too late.

In our "Service to Saw Creek" it's time to remove these Board members and stay the top Community in the Poconos and keep the General Manager that brought us there.

James W. Wood

Dear Editor:

Re: Replacing Our General Manager

On March 23rd, the Board issued an E-mail/Letter stating that they are replacing the current Association General Manager, Dave Martin. Dave has been the GM for 15 years. The Board states that this action is being taken because they, the Board, feels that Saw Creek needs to move in a different direction.

Based on that and other statements made in that document, I have some questions. Exactly what is meant by the statement "move in a different direction"? Be specific! What are the pros & cons of this action? Was replacing Dave Martin a unanimous Board decision? If not, it should have been for such a serious action. Was this action cleared by the Association's Attorney? Why was the Board's E-mail/Letter not published in the April/May Saw Creek Newspaper? Are any of the current Board members applying for the GM Position?

I also have some comments. I have lived in Saw Creek for many years; served multiple terms on the Board; been Board President and Vice-President; was appointed to and chaired many Committees; have supported countless community events and activities. While doing so, I interfaced/ worked with Dave Martin numerous times.

I know Dave Martin to be professional, knowledgeable, accessible, open-minded and fair. I never heard a negative comment about Dave from his staff or vendors. I personally know many other community residents that feel the way I do.

The Board should make every effort to keep Dave Martin. If it's not too late! I request that this letter to the Editor and the Board's response, be made available to the Association Membership.

Robert Palmer

Dear Editor:

To: Bettyann Ricci Gorman, Saw Creek Homeowner

Hey lady, just wanted to take a minute to thank you for notifying the Board about Rosemary's work with the Governor over closing down STRs. As a result, the Board acted quickly and at 10:58 PM the Board passed a resolution to institute the shut down after the Governor's announcement is public.

In today's world, it seems it's all about global and New York and little about the impact right here next door or down the street!

Thanks to your contacting us, we were able to move as quick as possible on this critical situation that was endangering the safety of all of us here in Saw Creek. What an excellent example of the impact of one person on an entire community.

In Service to Saw Creek,
Suzanne Mark, President
Saw Creek Estates Community Association

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Shame on this Board!

On March 23rd, in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, our Board announces it has terminated our General Manager, Dave Martin without cause! Reason: They felt that "Saw Creek needs to move in a different direction."

For many long-term residents, they have seen Dave and his great staff transform a fledgling community into a premier "Gold Star" community. Financially strong while navigating through the 2008 housing crisis and the PPL debacle, Dave has overseen a strategy to upgrade all our amenities while holding the line on the expenses. This while dealing with fifteen different Boards!

Given the fact that our General Manager has been terminated before his three-year contract expires, our association will be required to pay him 6 months severance!

Question for all – Should Dave Martin be fired, or the Board!?

Peter Derrenbacher

Dear Editor:

At the End of the Day, Love Wins

I am writing this letter in response to the short-term rental haters in our community.

We purchased our first house in Saw Creek Estates in 2016. Our permanent residence is on the Jersey Shore. I had lost my mother after caring for her for 15 years. I was very emotionally exhausted and wanted to go to a place where I could sit on a porch and listen to the birds. I found the most beautiful home in Saw Creek which I call my "Happy Place." We come up frequently and have such wonderful times relaxing and making memories for our family.

This past August, we purchased another home in Saw Creek as an Airbnb investment. I am close to retiring from a 40-year nursing career and wanted to share Saw Creek with other people who needed to get away to relax, rewind and reconnect with their friends and family.

Frankly, I am quite shocked at the short-term rental haters in our community. And now Covid-19 has hit. I have had to work several extra shifts on the frontline to pay for my Airbnb expenses. I don't mind waiting until this crisis is over. But, the hate for short-term rentals needs to stop. There are many full-time residences that have tarps on their roofs, loud music and garbage everywhere.

I recently saw a commercial by Governor Cuomo about the Covid-19 crisis. He said we will get through this. He said it is a long day. And yes, it is a very long day. But in the end, love wins. We stand together, blacks, whites, Hispanics, straight, gay etc.

But in the end, love wins.

Our world is changing. That world is us. That is who Saw Creek is.

With Love,

Lisa Carter, RN, MSN, CCRN

Dear Editor:

Our Saw Creek Estates Community Association has been well managed by Dave Martin over the past 15 years. He has contributed to the improvements and upgrades that we have seen implemented over the past years. He has provided stability and guidance, for a dedicated staff of employees, who support his vision and direction.

He has worked tirelessly with every board of directors placed before him. His successful management of Saw Creek Estates has earned him recognition and respect from neighboring communities, and local and state government officials.

His promotion and support for the SawCreek.Org website has elevated the values of our homes, and the perception of our community local real estate offices and by prospective home owners. He has accomplished all of this while minimizing SCECA dues increases.

We have been fortunate to have had the benefit of Dave Martin's experience and expertise, along with that of his dedicated staff. The value of this benefit is difficult to quantify, but represents stability and assurance to vested homeowners.

The SCECA Board has voted to terminate Dave Martin. This termination is out of sync with his contract, which had about 12 more months to go. This will cause our community to incur significant financial penalties.

What "NEW DIRECTION" is being sought that wouldn't include the valuable experience and service of such a qualified manager?

I disagree with the "new direction" decision made by the SCECA board members.

Concerned Home Owner,
Joseph Doe

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Let Our Family Serve Your Family

Coping with COVID

by Donna Dillon, Public Information Committee Chair

For many of us, this is the first time in our lives that we are dealing with a pandemic. There is so much uncertainty in our day to day lives that many of us don't know how to cope with our altered routines and social isolation. On top of everything else, many of us have unexpected financial hardship.



We are on information overload with misinformation and rumors causing us to feel that we are totally out of control. We may experience anxiety, fear, stress, sadness and loneliness. If you already have anxiety and depression, your symptoms can worsen.

Take care of your body

- Get enough sleep
- Get some physical activity into your day
- Eat healthy
- Avoid excess alcohol and drugs
- Limit your screen time
- Relax and recharge your body

Take care of your mind

- Try and keep your regular routine
- Limit your news viewing
- Try to keep yourself busy
- Try and keep positive thoughts

Social distancing doesn't mean no connections. With today's technology, we can and must stay in touch with family and friends and coworkers. Why not be creative and try to find ways to help others?

I know that these times are truly different to what we are familiar with. But hang in there; this too shall pass.

Stay well, Saw Creek. I hope to see you all at the pool sometime this season.

Saw Creek Community Unites and Adapts

by Arthur and Katie Kalpin, Homeowners

My wife and I have owned our Saw Creek home for nearly twenty years. During that time, we have ridden the ups and downs of the waves in the community, mostly ups. But we have never been prouder of being a part of the community as we are now.

Sure, there are currently some hotly contested issues in the community, but despite this, we've been watching a community embrace the concept of being a good neighbor by uniting through generosity, assistance and hope. We've also been watching a community collectively adapt to the current crisis by thinking outside the box in an effort to continue community affairs and a life as normal as can be. For those who have not seen all that we are seeing, I'd like to provide a short list.

In terms of uniting, we have witnessed residents making and offering free face masks, volunteers providing free school lunches, organized drive by's to help children celebrate birthdays, sharing of ideas for games and educational tools for children, offering to make supermarket and post office runs for those who cannot, offering free firewood for those in need, residents policing dumpster areas of discarded gloves and trash, nurses giving advice, and residents offering ideas for outdoor activities that maintain social distancing.



In terms of adapting to community life, all the above apply. With respect to adapting community affairs, we just witnessed our first virtual Board Meeting via Zoom which allowed membership participation without having to leave home. Our Member Services (MSO) team is coordinating an effective work from home plan that has been keeping the community's day to day operations going.

Efforts and contingency plans are being made to adapt the re-opening of amenities in a manner that will comply with the states various levels of restrictions coming out of the COVID-19 crisis. The Top of the World (TOP) Restaurant is offering take-out service for those who need the comfort and convenience of their mouthwatering meals.

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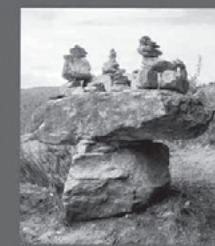


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RECREATION UPDATE

by Renee Hojnowski, Program and Event Coordinator and Darcie Ackerman, Fitness and Aquatics Supervisor

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”
—Helen Keller

In mid-March we all watched as doors closed one by one. At that same moment, some amazing community volunteers, Cassandra C. and Michelle L., sprang into motion to help our students and their families to continue receiving their school lunches by delivering house-to-house. How amazing are they? They are our super heroes!

These wonderful ladies with the help of Jessica V, school staff and SCE volunteers moved the program into the VIP so there can be a safe centralized location for our residents to retrieve lunches (and often breakfast). Mill Pond soon followed so that we were able to service both ends of our large community. Cassandra along with Jenny C, Angelina C and AJ C serve the lunches out of the VIP. Karen C, Bill S and Renee BP give out lunches at Mill Pond. Bill and Michelle continue their home deliveries for those that are unable to stop by the buildings. A big thank you to Sara K, Jen K and Cristy who have also graciously helped and the numerous people who have offered their time but due to social distancing have been unable to physically join them. These volunteers are grateful that the school and Saw Creek have given them the opportunity to provide an easier way to handle this program. Through our buildings this gives our residents more of an open window for pick up rather than leaving the community or having a ten-minute window



at the gates with the buses. Other inventive ideas have also evolved out of this program. Our volunteer Bill S inspired the group to begin creating masks for Saw Creek employees, residents and beyond. In return some of our residents have thanked them by donating material, cleaning and paper products. Recently Pizzaro's, a local pizzeria, kindly donated a delicious pizza lunch to the group of volunteers. A very talented Stacey R. had brightened up the VIP building with her beautiful balloon creations. Volunteers like this is what makes a community, to serve for the greater good and all of them are amazing human beings; thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving so selflessly!!

Though some events were canceled, the Easter candy purchased for the Egg Hunt was handed out alongside the lunches to bring a smile to the faces of our residents. Another event designed to brighten and lift the community's spirit we initiated was the rainbow art program. Our inspired families were very resourceful in using items such as pool noodles, pipe cleaners, crepe paper, crayons, chalk to craft their beautiful rainbows for all to see. People were then encouraged to walk or drive by using a scavenger hunt technique to locate all the wonderful artwork. The winners of this creative idea are listed in the May bulletin. Thanks to all who participated. We are currently working on a "lego" like building contest, it should be revealed very soon and we are very excited about this contest. If you have another great idea, please share it with us by emailing recreation@sawcreek.org. We will eventually get things back up and running, and until we do, please stay healthy!

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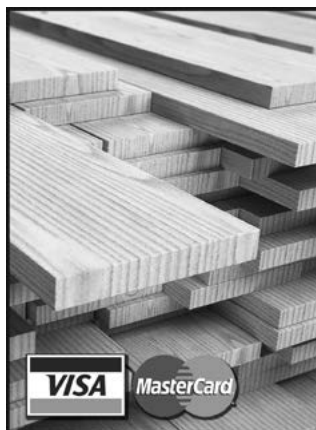
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| Doors | Windows | Painting | Roofing |
| Siding | Plumbing | Masonry | Dry Wall |
| Electric | Additions | Snowplowing | |

Saw Creek Resident — Insured — 56 Years Experience

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Kudos to the Restaurant Staff!

by Barbara Beltz, Public Information Committee

Many thanks and kudos to the always hard-working staff of the Top of the World Restaurant as they keep us safely supplied with delicious take-out dinners during the extended quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus.

If you haven't taken advantage of the offerings from the TOP, check their website for the on-line menu. Take a night off from cooking and support our restaurant.



Patrick takes social distancing and safety precautions seriously while serving takeout to Saw Creek residents.



SAVE THE DATE

September 13, 2020

TRICKY TRAY & SPAGHETTI BUFFET

4:00pm - 7:00pm

BIG A RESTAURANT

1 Fox Run Lane, East Stroudsburg

October 3, 2020

1000 PINK LIGHTS WALK

VIP POND

SAW CREEK ESTATES

As we all know, COVID-19 has put our lives on hold. The Pink Walk Team would like to think positive and decided to move forward. There are still many breast cancer patients who are dying and need our help.

We intend to follow all guidelines given by the government of PA. If we are still in "Stay at Home" guidelines and we have to cancel, we will cancel. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy.

This was to be our 5th year anniversary with lots of special events.

We will keep you informed as the information is given to us.

If you would like information send Betty Ann an e-mail to librasangel109@gmail.com or pinklightswalk@gmail.com

We will just come back next year bigger and better.

Jo's Outreach Food Pantry Distribution in Saw Creek

by Ida Mathew, Director

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jo's Outreach Food Pantry has seen a steep increase in requests for food assistance. I saw the need in our community and decided to bring some perishable and non-perishable food items from Jo's Pantry with the permission of the Board to the VIP building so our members can come and get food.



For many people, this has been the first time that they have ever sought help to feed their families. We have distributed food 3 times in March and 4 times in April and twice in May. We have served over 150 households. We have heard many stories of lost jobs, of grandparents taking in grandchildren into their homes so parents who are essential workers can go to work, and countless instances of not enough food to feed all.

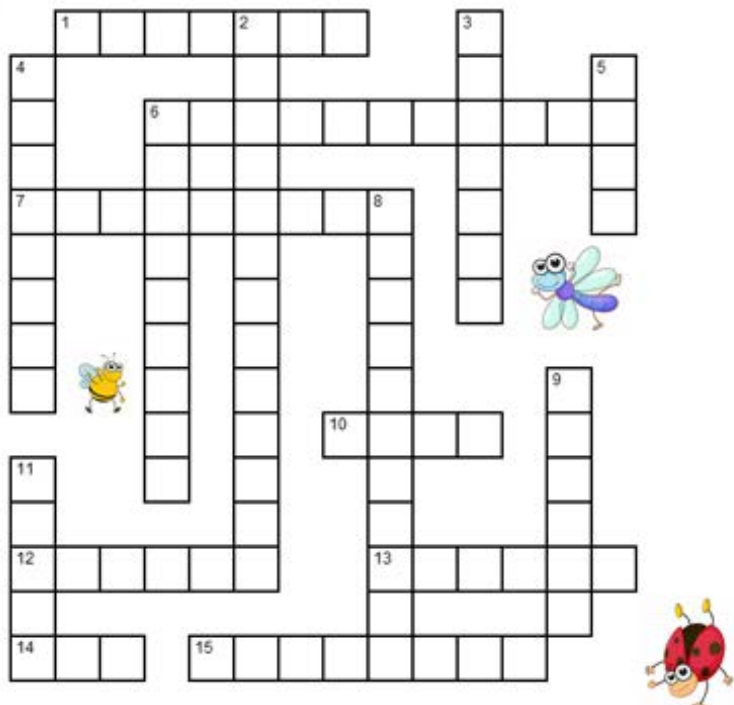
These are truly unprecedented, heartbreaking times, and we know that our community will be feeling the impact of the pandemic for many months to come. A special thanks to all the volunteers, Jessica VanDerVliet, Renee Hojnowski, Darcie Ackerman, and the Board. I could not have done it without their help and support.

If you need food assistance, please contact us at 570-242-3663 or email us at josoutreach@gmail.com. You can also visit us at www.josoutreach.org. Our pantry is open first Friday of every month from 9am to 12pm. We are located at 114 Academy Drive, Minisink Hills, PA.

KIDZ KORNER



INSECTS



ACROSS

- 1. last of the three segments of an insect
- 6. baby butterfly
- 7. chemical odor used to communicate
- 10. first of the three segments of an insect
- 12. young insects that look almost identical to their parents
- 13. middle segment of an insect
- 14. number of legs on an insect
- 15. long sense organs covered with tiny hairs

DOWN

- 2. process of changing shape
- 3. process of shedding the exoskeleton
- 4. eye with many lenses
- 5. beetle larvae
- 6. protected place where metamorphosis takes place
- 8. hard external shell of an insect
- 9. young insects that look very different from their parents
- 11. many, but not all, adults insects have these

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MOBILE 570-656-7151

Saw Creek Homeowners, It's Time to Vote!



**by Betty Ann Ricci-Gorman,
Nominating Committee Chair**

First and foremost, every HOMEOWNER must VOTE.

The Bios and ByLaw Amendments are in the Centerfold of this paper. Read and research what you can about every candidate and please JUDGE for yourself who YOU think will do great things for the people of Saw Creek as a community.

If you have any questions for the Candidates, you can contact them individually by their email address shown underneath each candidates name on their bio.

We want a FAIR Election. Each Candidate should be promoting what they feel they can do for the betterment of Saw Creek. Please, once again read the Bios and make your own decision, but VOTE.

Voting Starts: Tuesday, June 2, 12:00pm

Deadline to Request Voting Code: June 18, 5:00pm

Voting Ends: Thursday, June 25, 11:59pm

Homeowners, we all have differences of opinions. We all think we are correct. The only way for your voice to be heard is to VOTE. Let's try to become "ONE Saw Creek Estates" again. Thank you and PLEASE VOTE!

ATTENTION: TWO VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS!!

Are you ready to take advantage of our EXPLODING real estate market?

Sellers are in short supply and buyers are shoulder to shoulder, more than ready to purchase!

Are you ready to invest in the gorgeous and popular Pocono Mountains?

The local market is hot, homes sell fast -- everyone wants to be here, regardless of the season!

If you answered 'Yes!' to either of those questions, then we are the people you need to contact **ASAP**. The Lisa Sanderson Team has a wealth of local knowledge and expertise to help you succeed with your real estate goals. Don't be the last one to realize what an incredible opportunity this could be!



Lisa Sanderson, ePro, RSPS
Associate Broker
Keller Williams Real Estate
570.350.9905 mobile
570.421.2890 office
poconolisa@gmail.com



Ali Cabrera
Realtor®
Buyer Specialist
570.731.3173 mobile
570.421.2890 office
alicabrera@kw.com



CALL THE LISA SANDERSON TEAM TODAY!



Bylaw Amendment 2020-02

Note: Changes are indicated with underlining, which will be removed in the Final Version.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Mission Composition and Selection

Section C. Board Composition

Current Bylaw:

The Association members in good standing shall elect the Directors. Each and every Director must be a member in good standing, and at least 21 years old. A member and the member's spouse may not serve on the Board at the same time. The Board shall have nine Board members. Members of the Board shall receive no financial compensation for their service, but may recover reimbursement of expenses approved by the Treasurer.

Proposed Bylaw Change:

The Association members in good standing shall elect the Directors. Each and every Director must be a member in good standing, and at least 21 years old. A member and the member's spouse may not serve on the Board at the same time. The Board shall have nine Board members. Members of the Board shall receive no financial compensation for their service, but may recover reimbursement of expenses approved by the Treasurer. At any time that a Director or a candidate for election as a Director ceases to be a member in good standing, that person's status as a Director or candidate for Director shall have five (5) business days to become a member in good standing. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, any Director who loses member in good standing status shall have five (5) days to regain such status before losing his/her seat on the Board.

Reason/Justification:

To clarify the outcome of failing to maintain member in good standing status of either Board Directors or candidate for Director.

Bylaw Amendment 2020-03

Note: Additions are indicated with underlining, deletions are indicated with ~~strikethrough~~, both of which will be removed in the final version.

ARTICLE III. ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Section G. Voting/Ballot Handling

Current Bylaw:

(2) Neither cumulative voting nor proxy voting shall be permitted. Where a lot is owned by more than one owner, the owners must designate in writing to the Secretary of the Association which owner is to cast that lot's vote. In the absence of this written notification, the owner listed first on the deed on file in the Association office will be the owner designated to cast that lot's vote. Amended July 2012

Proposed Bylaw Change:

(2) Neither cumulative voting nor proxy voting shall be permitted. ~~Where a lot is owned by more than one owner, the owners must designate in writing to the Secretary of the Association which owner is to cast that lot's vote. In the absence of this written notification, the owner listed first on the deed on file in the Association office will be the owner designated to cast that lot's vote. Amended July 2012~~

Reason/Justification:

Due to electronic voting, there is no way to confirm if the deeded member is voting. Changing this bylaw also provides the opportunity for any deeded member to vote when a special membership meeting occurs, as outlined in Article III. Association Meetings, Section C. Special Meetings.



VOTE
JUNE 2-25

Bylaw Amendment 2020-05

Note: Additions are indicated with underlining, deletions are indicated with ~~strikethrough~~, both of which will be removed in the final version.

Article VIII. FINANCES

Section H.(3) Assessments (page 24)

Current Bylaw:

(3) Annual bills should be mailed to members prior to December 15. Unless otherwise decided by the Board, assessments shall be payable in one installment on January 15. The Board may grant a discount for payments received for assessments earlier than the due date. Assessments shall be delinquent if not paid within 30 days after the due date. The Board may impose a one-time late fee for delinquent assessments, and annual interest of 15 percent per year, which interest shall continue until all charges are paid in full. Interest applies also to any delinquencies by members under special payment schedules. All owners shall remain responsible for payment despite the owners' failure to use the Common Facilities or by abandonment of the lot or unit.

Proposed Bylaw Change:

(3) ~~Annual bills should be mailed~~ assessment invoices shall be sent to members electronically or by regular mail, prior to December 15. Unless otherwise decided by the Board, assessments shall be payable in one installment on January 15. The Board may grant a discount for payments received for assessments earlier than the due date. All assessments, fines, fees and other charges shall be delinquent if not paid within 30-days after the due date. The Board may impose ~~a one-time late fees~~ for delinquent assessments, fines, fees and other charges, and annual interest of 15 percent per year, which interest shall continue until all charges are paid in full. Interest ~~and late fees applies also~~ shall also apply to any delinquencies by members under ~~special~~ any installment payment plan or schedules. All owners shall remain responsible for payment despite the owners' failure to use the Common Facilities or by abandonment of the lot or unit.

Reason/Justification:

For the first sentence, the proposed amendment will allow the Association to deliver annual assessment invoices electronically or by mail. Electronic mailing is far more cost effective than regular mail. Delivery by regular mail will continue to be available as an option. The Association will save on labor, office supplies, printing supplies, postage, and coordination of volunteer time.

For the remainder of this bylaw paragraph, these changes will allow the Association to charge monthly late fees for all delinquent assessments, fines, fees and other charges. Late fees are currently equal to 10% of the annual assessment or \$165.50 and charged once for delinquent payment and non-payment of assessments. The proposed amendment will reduce late fees to an amount approved by the Board (currently \$35) and provide for the application of monthly late fees for delinquent payment or non-payment of assessments, fines, fees and other charges. This will significantly reduce late fee amounts payable by members who might occasionally miss a payment or two, while ensuring that those with a poor payment history are charged appropriately for recurring delinquencies.

2020 SAW CREEK ESTATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES



Luis C. Bernardo

masterbarberloo@yahoo.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

My name is Luis C. Bernardo , attended Hackensack high school in New Jersey, graduated in 1993, joined the U S Navy right after graduation, served in The USS CAMDEN AOE 2 , did 2 tours in Desert Storm, also did Humanitarian work in Mombaza Kenya during Black hawk OPERATIONS, supplying foods and medicine to the people in Africa. My motivation as a board member is to keep Saw Creek Estates a family environment community at its highest level to keep all our residents fully satisfied in all aspects.

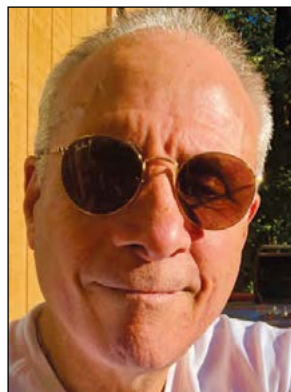
In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

The way that I will ensure the stability of this community is by having a complete service to all our residents and keeping our community the best place to live in Bushkill, PA. Keeping all our amenities at its best all year around and keep our public safety trained for any emergency that our community needs . Our Gold Status can become a Platinum Status by keeping our standards high and upgrading yearly in all aspects . Our community has a lot of potential and let's keep climbing the ladder towards perfection.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

The most important aspects of living in our community are safety 24/7/365 , great environment for family and

(continued)



Bruce Jacobson

brucej118@gmail.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

Cold call sales/marketing veteran n NYC, face to face, still active since 1975. Communicating with people, taking care of their problems and needs 44 years. Integrity, honesty, frank and transparent communication is what I bring.

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

We must not spend money we don't have. We must inform the community of all spending decisions in a totally transparent way so that each project of \$175,000 or more, when voted on by the community, includes all costs anticipated to complete the project. Explain what a BCR is... when and how it's used.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

Keeping the balance of rustic woodlands with our safety concerns. Having a security force with enough teeth to protect us from inconsiderate 'party houses' as well as the criminal element. Having a 'clubhouse' like the TOW that can encourage folks to come and gather besides planned events. Why not encourage card games (hearts, bridge, etc...) as well as poker, dominos,). And what about getting actual use from those beautiful TV screens with sports?



Kathi Connell

kathic58@hotmail.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

Having served nine years on the Board, including past President and Secretary, I am knowledgeable in all Association business operations. My education and experience as an HR consultant allow me to share my project management, administration and customer service skills for the benefit of our community. I bring energy, creativity and enthusiasm to all that I do. I'm motivated by the opportunity to serve all members fairly and objectively, with no tolerance for personal agendas. Together with the current management team, I'll work to ensure we continue protecting and improve our amenities, quality of life and property values. #SawCreekProud

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

The best way to achieve this is to be nonpartisan and to be attentive to all the different voices in the Sawcreek community. This can and will be achieved when I am elected to the board. Amenities, such as our restaurant, can be expanded and improved. Security concerns will be addressed. The rules and regulations for short term rentals must be strengthened. It will be done with a pragmatic and open-minded view. It's time to make Sawcreek an even greater community. I know that by being elected to the board, this will be quickly and efficiently accomplished. #SawcreekStrong

(continued)



John Graham

johnh24kt@gmail.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

My whole adult life has been interacting with people in both a management and ownership capacity. I love challenges and working on finding solutions to situations that arise. We are in the greatest community in the Poconos, but there is always room to improvement. I promise I will be that individual whose door is always open to each and every homeowner. I have been a guest, homeowner and landlord over the last 20 years I believe I am uniquely qualified to listen and to empathize with all points of view. Please contact me anytime at Johnh24kt@gmail.com. #SawcreekStrong

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

The best way to achieve this is to be nonpartisan and to be attentive to all the different voices in the Sawcreek community. This can and will be achieved when I am elected to the board. Amenities, such as our restaurant, can be expanded and improved. Security concerns will be addressed. The rules and regulations for short term rentals must be strengthened. It will be done with a pragmatic and open-minded view. It's time to make Sawcreek an even greater community. I know that by being elected to the board, this will be quickly and efficiently accomplished. #SawcreekStrong

(continued)



Michael S. Rudolph

MikeR@TYW4L.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

I am a retired institutional trade instructor and teacher of culinary arts for over 20 years in the NJ prison system. I also set up and implemented the culinary arts program for 2 residential community homes for NJJJC. I was solely responsible for the economic program for two residential community programs for NJJJC. While in college I studied computer operations and data processing. During my career as an institutional trade instructor I studied food science and economics. Before retirement I helped set up an ongoing culinary arts program and economics program for two residential community within NJJJC.

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

I am interested in helping SCE to grow while saving homeowners expenses. I also believe keeping the minutes of meetings and budget. I want to make sure that SCE continues to hold the required amount of insurance. I want to work on resolutions that will be kept with the BOD minutes. I would like to work on getting a yard waste recycling area setup within the community so that yard waste doesn't go into the compactors. I would work with other board members in curb side yard waste removal, to help keep the community clean and raise property values.

(continued)



Jason Kurz

kurzjsn@yahoo.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

Since 2006 I have worked in the financial industry in wealth management. For the past 13 years I been with the same company and currently serve as financial advisor to individuals, corporations, foundations and retirement plans. I have extensive experience working with high net worth clients on investment plans and budgeting. In addition I am a volunteer firefighter with over 11 years serving my community. As a homeowner who has family ties in the area for four decades, as well as being a responsible short term rental owner I am running to encourage a fair and balanced approach to STR's.

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

My first and foremost goal is keeping the Saw Creek community safe for both the full time residents and part time residents. This includes strict rules on short term rentals to ensure homeowners, both full time and part time, do not have to endure groups of disrespectful guests. Additionally as important is the goal of continuing on the success of the current board in keeping the community rated as a Gold star4 season community. As a financial advisor, I have experience managing money. As a volunteer firefighter I have the integrity needed to protect and serve all of Saw Creek.

(continued)



Robert T. Shregast

rshregast@aol.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

My wife and I have been owners for 38 years. I'm a retired chief financial officer with an accounting degree from St. Peter's University and continuing education courses in community management from Rutgers. I've always served the communities where I've lived: Board of Education, school funds custodian, and member of social organizations (including treasurer roles). I've also been a youth basketball coach. Specific to Saw Creek, I currently serve on the finance and building architect committees. I was a board member from 2013-2016 (treasurer 2013), and served other committees as well. (Property Owners-Chairman, Community Association-VP, By-Laws, Steering, Transition and more).

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

The world is facing much uncertainty and I have experience providing leadership to Saw Creek in times of change. As chairman of the Property Owners Study Committee in 1995, I had the privilege of initiating negotiations with Saw Creek's former owner/developer resulting in the turnover of all facilities to the property owners plus over \$5 million in cash. Going forward, we must adhere to sound fiscal budgeting and spending measures that ensure financial stability. Some tough decisions may need to be made.

(continued)



Peggy Gottschau

pgottschau@gmail.com

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

As a previous member of the Saw Creek management team, I am more than familiar with the operations of the Association. My current position as a community manager for FirstService Residential, the leading residential property management company in North America, means I bring a wealth of knowledge regarding the successful management of community associations as a whole. I also possess a clear understanding and respect for the differing roles the Board, Committees, and Management play in the operations of a successful community association. #sawcreekdetermined

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

In the wake of COVID-19, now, more than ever, is the time for strategic thinking and planning. The financial impact of COVID-19 on the association is yet unknown and we need leadership who can put aside their personal agendas and work towards assuring Saw Creek continues to be viable. Now is not the time for "cute" and "feel good" projects. During this unprecedented crisis, it's time to pull up our sleeves, think outside the box, and work together towards not only keeping Saw Creek's Gold Star status, but ensuring the continued success of the community. #sawcreekdetermined

(continued)



John D. Raba

johnraba@ptd.net

What is your pertinent background, education, or experience and motivation as a Board Candidate.

I have a BA in History and a MAT in Education but have been working as a Database Administrator(DBA) for 25 years. As a DBA, i have to make split second decisions related to code, security, and design relating to database design, structure, and operation while at the same time weighing in long term effects of said decisions. I have a very analytical background. My motivation for being a Board Candidate is seeing the downward movement of our community with regard to safety, cleanliness, and enforcing of "only certain rules". I have also seen MANY improvements at the same time.

In what ways will you ensure the ongoing stability of Saw Creek and its Gold Star status.

Saw Creek is generally a very clean community. The staff of Saw Creek is Platinum Star status but they cannot do everything on their own. The community needs to be more involved with the strictest enforcement of litter laws, speeding, noise pollution, and overall security. I feel very safe in Saw Creek and have been helped by Public Safety on many occasions. Residents need to be more proactive in assisting the community in these areas. With my analytic background, i would like to compound data to help improve the "smoothness" in these areas.

(continued)



Candidate Bios cont.

Luis C. Bernardo cont.

friends to enjoy the great outdoors of Pennsylvania in a safe healthy way. A place that's always clean and well kept all year around for families to feel comfortable in their homes and enjoy their residents after a long week of work.

Kathi Connell cont.

voted #1 in the Poconos, with a properly functioning Board and management working together. #SawCreekProud

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

There are a multitude of reasons why people choose to live in gated communities: safety, security, peacefulness, social opportunities, building rules, design uniformity and being part of a Gold Star community in the Poconos can all be factors. Those living in gated communities tend to take pride in their home; plus there are often rules to ensure that nobody allows their yard or home to become untidy where the community roads, lawn areas, amenities, pools, ponds, and landscaping are normally well-maintained and managed by the Association, typically making a good investment with increasing of home values. #SawCreekProud

Michael Rudolph cont.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

The most important aspect of living in a community would be the sense of respect and belonging. Living in the community is a good way to make new friends and being able to help out when the need arises. Living in the good community also means there is access to all the amenities without discrimination. To live in s community means being part of the community.

Robert T. Shrekast cont.

But we still have to consider strategic forms of flexibility and organize guidance of volunteer services, if necessary.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

Many compliment our commitment to our facilities, infrastructure and security services. Upkeep of our roads, restaurant, pools, tennis courts and planning activities provide a cornerstone to our community. However, its the diversity, friendship and support that we have come to expect from those who either visit or live in Saw Creek that makes us special.

Peggy Gottschau cont.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

The most important aspect of living in a community is having a voice and playing a role in ensuring the community continues to improve. Whether it's by joining a committee, volunteering for events, running for the board, or just voting in the yearly election, everyone has a right to participate and should be encouraged to do so! #sawcreekdetermined

John D. Raba cont.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

Cleanliness, friendliness, safety, security, and not "over governing" but governing in the proper areas. Everyone should have an equal voice regardless of what that voice may be. People should not be afraid to speak up about any issue that they see within the community and worry about repercussions from whether it be a neighbor, a board member, or a SCE staff member as long as it is within their constitutional rights. I am very pro governing bodies as long as said governing body does not overstep their legal boundaries and i expect the same from the residents.

John Graham cont.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

I could tell you the greatest reasons to live here but you already know them. I have only one real mission, and that is to devote every effort of my mind and my spirit to lead our community to even greater achievements. One way will be to take abandoned and foreclosed properties in Sawcreek and to put them in new ownership. Abandoned houses are a blight on our community and should be dealt with. But, I don't have every answer. I need your help. Tell me what will make Sawcreek ever better. Reach out to me at Johng24kt@gmail.com. #Sawcreekstrong

Jason Kurz cont.

In your opinion what are the most important aspects of living in a community.

Saw Creek offers a unique place for full term residents as well as vacationers to come together as a community. If it weren't for both, this community wouldn't survive. We need each other for the community to exist. We need the responsible short term rentals to support the community. The irresponsible short term rental owners should be shut down and that is what I plan on doing. This community can thrive with a responsible mix of full time owners and vacationers whether short or long term. This is an amazing community and I would never want to see it collapse.

Bylaw Amendment 2020-10

Note: Changes are indicated with underlining which will be removed in the Final Version.

ARTICLE VII. COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Section A. Employment

Current Bylaw:

The Board shall employ Community Management with compensation set by the Board.

Section B. Function and Qualifications of the Community Management
The Community Management shall be responsible to the Board for administration of the affairs of the Association, and for execution of Board policies and decisions. The Community Management shall be subject to the oversight by the Board. The Community Management must be a full-time professional manager employed either by the Association or a contracting management company.

Proposed Bylaw Change:

The Board shall employ Community Management with compensation set by the Board.

Section B. Function and Qualifications of the Community Management
The Community Management shall be responsible to the Board for administration of the affairs of the Association, and for execution of Board policies and decisions. The Community Management shall be subject to the oversight by the Board. Community Management must be a one or more full time professional managers employed either by the Association or a contracting management company.

Reason/Justification:

Only one singular "manager" is allowed who, pursuant to Article VII, Section D, has very broad power over the day-to-day operations of the Association where this amendment change allows the Board to hire co-managers with shared and/or divided responsibilities.

Ad Hoc Bylaw Committee News

by MJ Stigliano, Committee Chairperson

As mentioned in the last 2019 edition of the Saw Creek News, the Ad-Hoc Bylaw Committee was formed in October 2019. In addition to reviewing the bylaws to make it more "user friendly" for homeowners, we also reviewed several bylaws and proposed changes based on input from the committee, homeowners or Saw Creek (SCE) management.

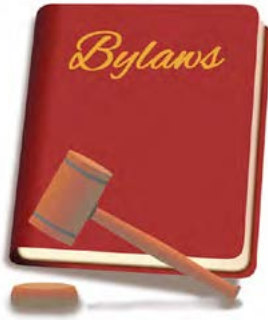
At the request of the board, we also proposed wording for a deer management question that would appear in the election materials for this year's annual ballot.

Our first meeting was held on December 7 and from that date until March 7, 2020, we met twice every month. Then, SCE meetings and events were cancelled due to COVID-19. That meant that our scheduled March 21 face-to-face meeting was cancelled, but we conducted email discussions regarding the deer management question.

The last submission date for bylaw changes was April 1, and from nine proposed bylaw amendments, the board decided to place four proposed bylaw amendments and the deer management question on the ballot this year.

Our committee is still actively formed until December 2020 and our next meeting is scheduled for June 6 via teleconference. We still have openings for committee volunteers, so if you are interested in reviewing one of the Associations Governing Documents to determine if changes or updates need to be made, please complete a committee application, which can be downloaded from the Resource Center on the Saw Creek website, and email it to our Board Liaison, Jack Burchill, at jack@sawcreek.org.

Have a happy, healthy summer! Be well everyone!



Deer Management Ballot Question

In order to sustain the natural landscape, variety of wildlife and health of the deer themselves, the Board of Directors has authorized several deer culls over the past six years. The need for a deer cull is reviewed yearly and the Board votes on any additional deer herd management actions.

QUESTION: Should the Board of Directors authorize the reduction of the size, concentration, and/or density of the white tail deer population within Saw Creek, to occur over the next 365 days?

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

WATER DAMAGE? MOLD?

Due to BROKEN or FROZEN PIPES, SEWAGE BACK-UP, WET BASEMENT, LEAKS, DAMP CRAWLSPACE...

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
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Resident Spotlight: Marquis Wooten

by Barbara Beltz, Public Information Committee

Frequent visitors to the Top of the World Restaurant (TOP) may be very familiar with the mellow sounds of this month's featured Saw Creek resident, R&B balladeer Marquis Wooten, Jr.

Born Nathaniel Wooten, Jr. in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Marquis was raised in Newark, New Jersey. His interest in music began early. By the age of 9, he was playing the trumpet and appearing as a vocalist and/or instrumentalist in local clubs.

By the age of 14, Marquis was playing eight to ten different instruments. He played with local bands where his abilities landed him the opportunity to play lead trumpet with the American guitarist and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Chuck Berry. Any time Berry was in town playing at local venues, Marquis played trumpet with the band, the Third Power.

While attending West Side High in Newark, Marquis was the drum major for the high school band, in addition to performing with The Electric Traffic, a top local band in New Jersey. Eventually, the band was awarded a contract with Sugar Hill Records. In his 20's, Marquis signed briefly with Hush Production before striking out on his own.

In 1985, Marquis released his club single entitled "I Won't Treat You That Way." Four years later, his romantic love ballad entitled "Give Me Your Love" was released, gaining tremendous popularity on the West Coast and earning Marquis a spot on the 1989 Ebony Awards.

An audience of over 4,000 heard Marquis perform in Dallas, Texas at the first annual Juneteenth for the New Decade Education Equality and Justice program, commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S.

The sensual, romantic appeal of Marquis' music can be heard in his three-track album, "Tangalang," which title is a combination of the words Tango and Body Language, featuring the title track and "You're the Only Woman for Me."

In recent years, Marquis has performed with the legendary Drifters at various locations around the country. In 2019, he performed in the first annual Monroe County Hospice House telethon sponsored by Lehigh Valley Hospital, and he performs for senior citizen and charitable events in our local area.

Currently, Marquis is writing his own music and performing as a solo artist in local venues up and down the east coast.

If you haven't already, please check out the vocal talents of this Saw Creek resident when he next performs at the TOP!



Doggie Swim Pool Safety

by David J. Henon, Saw Creek Critters

I am reminded of our doggie dip last year that we should allow our dogs to go in at their pace and only if they want to, by way of the steps is best, unless you have a seasoned swimmer that jumps right in. The pool is an excellent place to spend your summers. There's the sun, the toys and the refreshing drinks with the tiny little umbrellas. Oh, and lest we forget — the water!

However, pools can also be dangerous for our dogs. Not all dogs are good swimmers and some breeds like the bulldog may even drown if left unsupervised around a pool. Here are few great tips to help prevent such a tragedy from happening to your dog.

1. Teach Your Dog to Swim When possible, train your dog to swim. Not comfortable with such a task? Enlist the help of a dog trainer. They are more than equipped to handle your pooch's fear of water and teach him or her a few swimming basics.

2. Invest in a Dog Life Vest Life vests and life jackets are perfect for the dog that will never be a great swimmer. They provide extra buoyancy and a dash of bright colors so that your dog can stay afloat and remain highly visible. Just don't rely on the life vest so much that you leave your dog unattended.

3. Take Care with Older Dogs Senior dogs are more likely to suffer from arthritis, vision loss, seizures and a host of other health issues that may require your special attention around the pool or prohibit them from swimming altogether. Confirm with your veterinarian if your dog is healthy enough to swim in the pool.

4. Learn Dog CPR Being able to properly administer artificial respiration and CPR on a dog is vital should your dog accidentally drown in your pool. Some animal organizations and shelters even offer classes on the proper techniques. I was prepared as one dog started to sink to the bottom last year. Scary but glad my reflexes kicked in and I jumped in.

Be safe and enjoy your summer with your furry companion and we will see you at the 2nd annual doggie dip. Stay tuned for more information.

Woof!

The New Normal for Pets

by David J. Henon, Public Information Committee

I am sure your pets have enjoyed you staying home. Some might even be saying, "When the heck are they going to go back to work?" Canines, like humans, are more comfortable when they have a routine. Our routine has been anything but routine. As much as it takes us to get used to going back to work it will be an adjustment for them as well.

Some dogs may experience separation anxiety. They were used to having you around. I would suggest employing a dog walker to walk and play with them. I know a few good ones in our area. Another option would be to have one of the many doggie cameras where you can talk to them and some even let you dispense a treat. However, what we have found out during this pandemic is nothing can take the place of human contact.

One of the most important things we can do for them is condition or socialize them to people wearing masks. I would suggest wearing your mask around the house and slowly introduce them to people wearing masks that come over. If they seem uneasy with it have the person throw treats to them. People wearing masks equals good treats! Maybe their favorite treats.

Canines mostly focus on eyes; however, the mask still can present itself as scary. Keep in mind we know they are masks and what they are for but they do not. I have a feeling it might be part of our new normal and it should be theirs as well.

Secondly, we need to get them used to the smell of sanitizer. Let them smell your hands after you have gotten the sanitizer on your hand and it has dried. Make it all low key, no need to say anything. Keep in mind your dog has no idea what social distancing is and try to have control of them at all times while walking. It is the same with service dogs, give them plenty of space because they too are not used to the new normal for pets.

Felines are less sensitive to things. However, you can use the same technique with them. Be safe. Woof! Meow!



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SENIOR CORNER

by Debra Wulff

Spring has arrived, much to the disappointment of snow lovers, myself included. But, as I see early budding of trees and the sprouting of perennials, you can't help but feel excitement that winter is over. The challenge for me in this article is suggesting activities that you, the reader, would consider pursuing, with the ongoing discussion of the coronavirus permeating the media. Activities are being cancelled so I do caution that before you venture out, to check to be sure they are still being held. I have avoided mentioning activities with large groups purely for that reason. Hopefully by the time the Saw Creek News is disseminated the worse will be over!

So... here are some suggestions to get out. Great for a family, couple or friends. I love road trips and PA has a very scenic route #6 that provides all kinds of activities and scenery throughout its 427 miles. US Route 6 in Pennsylvania, through the eleven counties of Crawford, Erie, Warren, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike, is the focus of an effort to preserve, enhance and promote the transportation heritage of one of the nation's first transcontinental highways; to sustain and enhance the small rural communities linked by the highway; and to preserve and enhance the natural, scenic beauty of one of America's favorite "road trips". When I was a teenager I drove Rte#66 and in many ways this reminds me of it. From artisan eateries to fine art galleries, public murals to museum gift shops, yarn shops to community theaters, you'll never lose inspiration when traveling Route 6! Request a PA Rt. 6 Visitor Guide Planning a tour across Route 6. Or just planning a weekend "staycation"? We can help! *Sign up below to receive the PA Rt. 6 Guide, Motorcycle Loop Map, and/or our quarterly email newsletter. <https://youtu.be/twt99lgbzG0> check out the video about the artisan trail on rte #6.

Based on the guide I have chosen the Route 6 Road Trip through the PA Wilds, Named "one of America's most scenic drives" by National Geographic, you'll come across breathtaking views of unspoiled forests and mountains in the Pennsylvania Wilds, perfect for a road trip. What follows is their narration of what my trip will encompass.

Day 1

Pick up Route 6 in the quaint town of Wellsboro, with gas-lit streets and Victorian mansions that date back to the early 1800s. While in Wellsboro, stay at the Antlers Inn located on Route 6, offering fine cuisine with country elegance. Continue along Route 6 and visit Pine Creek Gorge, also known as the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, as it offers spectacular views and abundant wildlife. Approximately 12 miles off of Route 6, the drive along the west rim of the gorge provides colorful fall scenery and an impressive density of northern PA birds. Migratory and breeding birds can be seen, including woodpeckers, mourning and black-and-white warblers; wild turkey; and wood and hermit thrushes. The 17-mile Pine Creek Gorge is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts. Adventurers can enjoy the riverbanks by renting a raft, canoe or kayak at Pine Creek Outfitters.

Day 2

While you are in the PA Wilds, take a short detour to the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum located along Route 6. The rough and rugged life of the lumber business, once Pennsylvania's largest industry, is portrayed in a recreated lumber camp. More than 3,000 artifacts and objects, from everyday tools to a logging Shay locomotive, a Brookville Switch Engine and a Barnhart Log loader are displayed. Visitors are invited to walk through the weathered wooden buildings of the logging camp, sawmill and Sustainable Forestry Trail, and the renovation of the new visitor's center is expected to open by summer.

As night approaches, enjoy some of the darkest skies in PA at Cherry Springs State Park, Pennsylvania's first Official Dark Sky Park, and the best place in the northeastern United States for amateur stargazing. Just 18 miles off of Route 6, Cherry Springs State Park boasts a 300 by 600 foot observation field with a 360-degree view of the sky set atop a mountain. Under ideal conditions, visitors can see more than 6,000 stars blanketing the sky from horizon to horizon, as well as satellites, planets and moons of our solar system.

Day 3

Next, head west and visit the village of Smethport. Nestled in the Pennsylvania Wilds, the historic town offers a glimpse of its opulent past. Visitors can take a self-guided walking tour through the Smethport Mansion District, a village of 30 properties boasting history and architecture and showcasing the luxurious life of Smethport's past, including Dr. S.D. Freeman, a famed surgeon during the American Civil War. There's plenty to see among the Victorian houses and quaint shops. Awaiting you in Smethport is a good night's sleep and the small town charm of the Mansion District Inn. You'll be hard pressed to find a better view of the surrounding hillsides vibrant with color than from the comfort of your room. In the morning, you'll wake up to gourmet coffee and fresh-baked biscotti.

Hit the road and venture 24 miles off of Route 6 to the edge of the Allegheny National Forest; you couldn't ask for a better setting for a road trip. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kinzua Bridge State Park by walking across the sky on the Kinzua Sky Walk that extends 625 feet into the Kinzua Gorge. The park was designated in 1963 to showcase the Kinzua Viaduct, an amazing engineering structure which when constructed in 1882 was the highest and longest railroad viaduct in the world. Partially destroyed by a tornado in 2003, the towers of the viaduct were re-engineered into a skywalk in 2011 with a partial glass overlook. Visitors can now enjoy scenic vistas, picnicking, geo-caching and hiking trails at the park.

Your next stop is the National Historic District (Bradford), with great antique shopping and handmade chocolates along Bradford's Main Street. Tall trees tower over the area like nature's skyscrapers. Bradford's most famous store is at the Zippo/Case Museum, the only place in the world that carries the complete line of Zippo lighters and Case knives. Enjoy a self-guided tour through the 15,000 square foot attraction that includes the world famous Zippo Repair Clinic. Finally, head east from Route 6 for a scenic 20-minute detour before reaching the little town of Eldred. Eldred was the site of a large British and American munitions plant that produced countless bombs, shells and fuses 24 hours a day. Today, the Eldred World War II Museum preserves our country's history by commemorating the 40 million Americans who supported the soldiers during the Second World War.

Day 4

Continue along Route 6 where you'll end up in the historic city of Warren. In the early 1800s, settlers came to this region to drill for oil. Walk downtown to view the great Victorian homes built by early settlers that are still standing today, as part of the National Historic District. While visiting the town, head over to Struthers Library Theatre. The building was built in 1883 and shows the styles of the late Victorian period. Autumn brings a spectacular display of foliage and events, including the Johnny Appleseed Festival, to relive the history of the great logging boom era. While driving through the town you'll see country road side stands displaying harvest items.

While in Warren, stay at the Horton House Bed & Breakfast. This bed and breakfast is in one of the historical Victorian homes that was built in 1895. This 22-room Victorian mansion offers wood-burning fireplaces in the rooms, a music room, a ballroom and a sun deck for you to relax and enjoy nature's beauty. Back home!

Well that is it for now. Enjoy, keep active and have some fun. Most of all remember, life doesn't have to stop because of this virus, just use common sense and good planning and enjoy your life!



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Ginni Cozzi

Bow Ties with Sausage, Tomatoes, and Cream

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (12oz) pkg bow tie pasta
- 2 TBL. Olive oil
- 1 lb sweet Italian sausage, casings removed and crumbled
- ½ tsp. red pepper flakes (I use less for less heat)
- ½ cup diced onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (28oz) can Italian-style plum tomatoes, drained and coarsely chopped
- 1½ cups heavy cream
- ½ tsp salt
- 3 TBL minced fresh parsley

DIRECTIONS

1. Cook pasta in boiling water for 8-10 minutes until al dente; drain
2. Heat oil in large, deep skillet over medium heat. Cook sausage and pepper flakes until sausage is evenly browned. Stir in onion & garlic, and cook until onion is tender. Stir in tomatoes, cream, and salt. Simmer until mixture thickens, 8-10 minutes.
3. Stir cooked pasta into sauce, and heat through. Sprinkle with parsley.



Men's Club News

by Bill Montgomery, Club President

Here we are approaching summer, (the busiest season here in Saw Creek) and the only topic of conversation is the COVID-19 virus. We have been in a "Stay at Home" order and instead of planning family gatherings, vacations, and trips to the pool, we are staying close to home in order to stop the spread of this terrible virus. The Men's Club has cancelled many events, including a Car Show in Bethlehem, Pa., "Motown" show in Hawley, Pa., and a collection at our gates to fundraise for our Scholarship Fund and our annual Golf Tournament at Pocono Hills.

We are living in such uncharted territory here and I hope everyone is taking the necessary precautions (wearing masks, etc.) to stay safe.

Upcoming 2020 Events (hopefully!)

- August 7 - Red Cross Blood Drive (co-sponsored with Women's Club)
- August 28 - "Iron Pigs" Baseball Game at Coca-Cola Stadium, Allentown PA
- September - Date TBD - Annual Men's Club Picnic, Bushkill Falls

If you would like any additional information about our club, please contact our club secretary, Joe Doe at Josdoe@yahoo.com or call him at 570-588-6858.

When this issue comes out, we will have started our annual Board Election. PLEASE VOTE! We need your voice to be heard. Thank you.



Women's Club News

by Ginni Cozzi, Club President

Like all of you, the members of the Saw Creek Women's Club (SCWC) have spent the past two months trying to stay well and safe by staying home and not gathering for our monthly meetings. We really miss seeing each other and talking and laughing, but we know for awhile we must not gather in order to protect ourselves and each other. We stay in touch by phone, text, and email (thank goodness for modern technology!).

We are hoping to meet in June, but our annual Baby Shower to benefit The Angel's Closet, which is traditionally held at that meeting, is postponed until the Fall. We have also postponed our annual Spring Tea and a bus trip to an undetermined place until the Fall, so if you are thinking of joining the SCWC when group meetings will be safe and ok to attend, you can look forward to experiencing some fun events with all of us.

We meet the first Thursday of every month in the Mountain Room at the Top of the World Complex at 12:30PM for lunch and a business meeting, so when the time is right, please come join us. For further information call Ginni at 570-588-0555.

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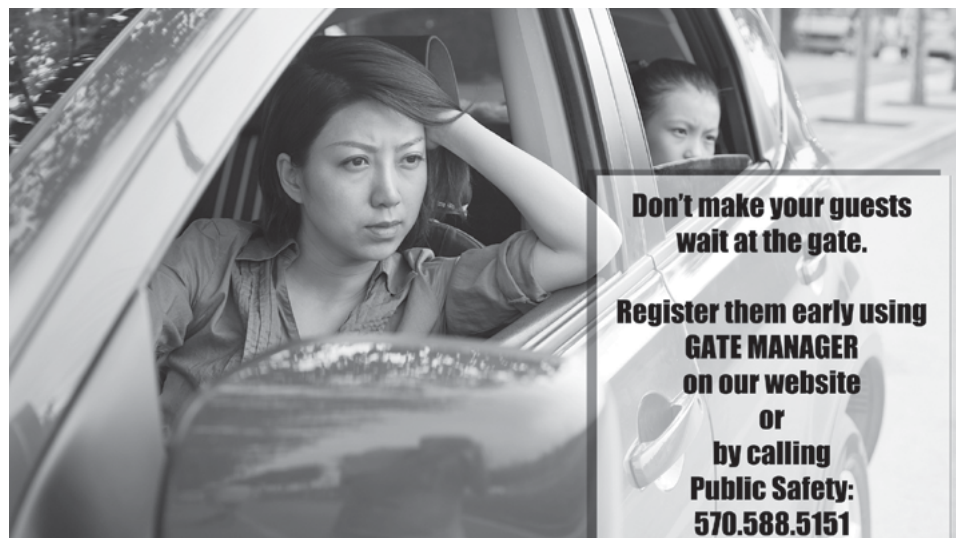
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Are you a guest and waiting at our gates to get in? Please be sure the member you are a guest of has registered you. This not only helps you get through faster but those behind you won't have to wait as long for their turn.

The following was submitted as a Letter to the Editor for this edition of the Saw Creek News. I suspect it won't be printed in that section, so I have PAID with my own money to express my opinion here.

The Business Dictionary defines transparency as a "lack of hidden agendas or conditions, accompanied by the availability of full information required for collaboration, cooperation, and collective decision making" and an "essential condition for a free and open exchange whereby the rules and reasons behind regulatory measures are fair and clear to all participants."

I have previously addressed the transparency, or lack thereof of SCE leadership. If anyone needs a good example of the "clouded" window I have previously spoken of, you need look no further than the March 23 email we received regarding the Board's decision to "exercise their options and ... pursuing the employment of a new General Manager ... (as they) felt that Saw Creek needs to move in a different direction."

It would have been nice to know what "new direction" we are going in? Didn't we just win "Community of the Year from the Community Association Institute?" Don't the criteria to win that title include exhibiting excellence in the areas of management, governance, finance, and/or community building? Maybe I am wrong, but I thought winning was a good thing?

The timing of the decision clouds the window even more. Aren't we in the middle of a global pandemic where we are all forced to stay at home, many of us losing our livelihoods? Now more than ever don't we deserve honest and transparent leadership?

We are coming up to our elections. I encourage everyone to use their voice and VOTE in the next election. Now is as good a time as any to clean our windows!

Peggy Gottschau

Paid for by Peggy Gottschau



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Vote Robert Shreckgast

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**Kathi
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- Work cooperatively with the management team to provide critical input to the board in managing community operations and association business.
- Remain committed to providing full transparency and encouraging more members to participate in all community affairs.

SEE FULL BIO www.sawcreek.org



**John
Graham**

#SawCreekStrong

- Streamline the operation and improve the quality of our restaurant at Saw Creek Estates to establish better quality food with more consistent service.
- Promote the development of programs engaging association members, volunteers, guests, and staff.
- Create a plan to protect and enhance the natural environment that makes Saw Creek such a special place.
- Establishing guidelines for both the short term renters and the property homeowners to minimize the "party house" reputation most Short Term Renters wrongly deserve.

SEE FULL BIO www.sawcreek.org



**Peggy
Gottschau**

#SawCreekDetermined

- Work together with management and marketing team to enhance and expand levels of communication to all current and prospective members.
- Work together with committees, board, staff, and members to ensure everyone across the organization is treated professionally and with dignity and respect.
- Fight for what is right for all members. No personal agendas.
- Work on ensuring a community where all members have a voice without fear of intimidation.

SEE FULL BIO www.sawcreek.org

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Saw Creek 2020 Board Elections

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photo by Mario Cirillo



Mario & Dominic Cirillo enjoying a rainbow during quarantine

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Reminder From the Saw Creek Deer Society

Last year, we successfully voted to update the bylaws so that if the Board/ Management want to do a deer cull, they first have to obtain a homeowner vote.

This year, we don't know if a decision has been made to do a deer cull, but if you see a deer management question during any year's annual election written materials or online, please remember to read the question carefully and vote that you are NOT in favor of a deer cull or recreation hunting.

**Remember: a deer cull is not humane.
Deer are killed by sharpshooters or bow and arrow, right in our community.**

If you have any questions, we can be contacted at nohuntinginsce@mail.com OR nohuntinginsce@gmail.com. Click <https://bit.ly/2WdnUMS> to visit our website.

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