



# The Anthracite Post

Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events

Volume 2, Edition 11, November 2025



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## Winterfest Brings Holiday Cheer to the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds



The holidays are arriving in full sparkle at Winterfest 2025 at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, happening Friday, November 28, and Saturday, November 29. This festive favorite is free to attend, with free parking, and offers two full days of shopping, music, and holiday fun for all ages.

More than 250 vendors will fill five indoor buildings, featuring handmade goods, local wineries, breweries, and distilleries making it the perfect place to shop small and local this holiday season.

The fun continues all weekend with puppet shows, a chili cook-off, cookie decorating, and live musical entertainment including performances by the Catawissa Military Band, Isaac Cole, The Fiddlers, Mel Rivers, barbershop singers, polka musicians, and more!

Bonus for Early Birds: The first 500

guests each day will receive a free Winterfest tote bag, sponsored by The Wire Guys.

### Friday Night Shines Bright:

The Parade of Lights will light up the town, beginning at 6 PM and ending at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. Enjoy free hot chocolate during the parade and outdoor heaters as the colorful procession wraps up at the fairgrounds!

### Saturday Morning Fun:

Start the day with the festive Fa La La 5K, with registration at 7:30 AM and a 9:00 AM start, featuring a live National Anthem by Isaac Cole.

### Holiday Magic for All Ages:

Children can visit Santa on the front porch for pictures and holiday fun, while hourly entertainment keeps the celebration lively from start to finish.



### Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides:

Enjoy a nostalgic ride through the fairgrounds Friday and Saturday from 11 AM – 3 PM.

### Event Details:

Location: Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – Enter off Main Street at the main gate by Bigfoot Country Radio Station and follow parking attendants.

Friday Hours: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

(Parade of Lights begins at 6 PM)

Saturday Hours: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Admission & Parking: Free

Bring your family and friends for two days of festive fun, community spirit, and holiday sparkle at Winterfest 2025 sponsored by The Wire Guys at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds!

For details, visit [bloomsburgfair.com/winterfest](http://bloomsburgfair.com/winterfest)

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To submit an  
article/event/ad/photo  
to  
"The Anthracite Post"  
please contact  
theanthracitepost@gmail.com

**Lee Ann Davidovich**  
Editor/Sales  
(570) 582-0981  
theanthracitepost@gmail.com

**Shari Roberts**  
Editor/Graphic Artist  
(570) 401-1798  
shari@anthracitepost.com

**Senator David Argall**  
Contributing Writer  
Community Information

**Frank Balon**  
Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

**Joseph R. Barna**  
Contributing Writer  
Veterans Journal

**Jeff and Desiree Bonomo**  
Contributing Writers  
Wine Hops & Road Stops

**William M. Dempsey**  
Contributing Writer  
Escape to the Outdoors

**Lisa Makara**  
Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

**Ron Marchetti**  
Contributing Writer  
Sports Trivia Treats

**Bobby Maso**  
Contributing Writer  
Freeland 150th Anniversary Comm.

**Trooper Anthony Petroski III**  
Contributing Writer  
Community Information

**Walt Shubilla**  
Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

**Rev. Phil Smith**  
Contributing Writer  
Various Articles

**Jamie Walsh, State Representative**  
Contributing Writer  
Community Information

**Dane Watro, State Representative**  
Contributing Writer  
Community Information

# The Anthracite Post

*Highlighting Neighborhood News & Events*

## Letter from the Editors

Hello everyone! Happy November! I can't believe its already November. This year went so fast. I spent most of the year having to work every other weekend so there wasn't much time to enjoy it. I now have a second activities aid at my full-time job, so I am off weekends and plan on having some fun!

October & November are my favorite months. October because I love Fall and Halloween and November because my brother makes the best smoked turkey for Thanksgiving and did I mention, my birthday happens to be in November too, along with a few friends - Angie Rabbitz, Jenn Graff and Renee Williams. I got lucky this year, mine lands on Thanksgiving. Every year, my Dad would tell me the story of the day little Shari was born on Thanksgiving in North Carolina. My Dad was in the Air Force at the time. I wish he was here to tell it to me again.

Speaking of the military, Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11th. Be sure to remember the veterans who protected this great country of ours!

As always, if you have any ideas, stories, recipes, photos, etc., that you would like to submit for **The Anthracite Post**, send us an email, text or give us a call.

*Lee Ann & Shari*

WRITTEN BY SHARI

538 CENTRE STREET • FREELAND, PA 18224  
Lee Ann ~ 570-582-0981 • TheAnthracitePost@gmail.com  
Shari ~ (570) 401-1798 • shari@anthracitepost.com



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**The Anthracite Post**

*Articles that appear in, or are submitted to The Anthracite Post are not a reflection of the opinion of The Anthracite Post.*

## NOVEMBER 2025

### BIZARRE & UNIQUE HOLIDAYS

- 1 All Saint's Day  
Book Lovers Day  
Dios Los Muertos  
National Author's Day
- 2 Daylight Savings Time
- 3 Housewife's Day  
Pumpkin Toss Day
- 4 General Election Day
- 5 Gunpowder Day
- 6 Men Make Dinner Day
- 7 International Merlot Day
- 8 Dunce Day
- 9 World Freedom Day
- 10 USMC Day
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day  
National French Dip Day
- 13 Caregiver Appreciation Day  
World Kindness Day
- 14 National Pickle Day  
Operating Room Nurse Day  
World Diabetes Day
- 15 America Recycles Day  
National Philanthropy Day
- 16 National Fast Food Day
- 17 Homemade Bread Day  
Take A Hike Day  
World Peace Day
- 18 Apple Cider Day  
National Princess Day
- 19 Have a Bad Day Day
- 20 Beautiful Day  
Great American Smokeout
- 21 World Hello Day
- 22 Adoption Day  
Go For a Ride Day
- 23 National Cashew Day
- 24 All Our Uncles Are Monkeys Day
- 25 National Parfait Day
- 26 International Cake Day  
National Jukebox Day  
National Tie One On Day
- 27 Pins and Needles Day  
Thanksgiving
- 28 Black Friday  
French Toast Day
- 29 Chia Pet Day  
Small Business Saturday  
Square Dance Day
- 30 Advent Begins  
National Mason Jar Day  
Stay At Home Because You Are Well Day



# Winterfest 2025

**Daily Schedule - Over 250 Vendors**

## **Friday, November 28**

- 10:00 AM** *Doors Open - First 500 People Receive Free Tote Bag Sponsored by The Wire Guys*
- 10:00 AM** *Fiddling Blues*
- 11:00 AM** *Horse Drawn Wagon Rides - Until 3 PM*
- 12:00 PM** *Mel Rivers*
- 3:00 PM** *Puppets - Kingdom Kidz*
- 5:00 PM** *Puppets - Kingdom Kidz*
- 6:00 PM** *Seven Mountains Media Parade of Lights*
- 6:00 PM** *Free Hot Chocolate Sponsored by Valley Farms*
- 7:30 PM** *Photos with Santa after the Parade - 1 hour*

## **Saturday, November 29**

- 7:30 AM** *5K Registration Starts*
- 9:00 AM** *FA LA LA 5K Starts*
- 10:00 AM** *Doors Open - First 500 People Receive Free Tote Bag Sponsored by The Wire Guys*
- 10:00 AM** *FA LA LA 5K Awards*
- 11:00 AM** *Horse Drawn Wagon Rides - Until 3 PM*
- 11:30 AM** *Chili Cook Off*
- 12:00 PM** *Photos with Santa - Tina Mart Photography until 3 PM*
- 12:00 PM** *Isaac Cole*
- 2:00 PM** *Catawissa Military Band*
- 2:00 PM** *Cookie Decorating*
- 4:00 PM** *Barber Shop / Polka Music*

[bloomsburgfair.com/winterfest](http://bloomsburgfair.com/winterfest)

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## WORD LIST

|                 |                |              |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| APPLE PIE       | CREAMED CORN   | HAM          | SOUP         |
| BRUSSEL SPROUTS | DINNER ROLLS   | MAPLE SYRUP  | SQUASH       |
| CASSEROLE       | DRUMSTICK      | MULLED CIDER | STUFFING     |
| CHERRY PIE      | GIBLETS        | PARSNIPS     | SWEET POTATO |
| COLLARD GREENS  | GLAZED CARROTS | PECAN PIE    | TURKEY       |
| CORNBREAD       | GRATIN         | POTATOES     | VEGETABLES   |
| CORNUCOPIA      | GRAVY          | PUMPKIN PIE  | YAMS         |
| CRANBERRY SAUCE | GREEN BEANS    |              |              |



**Senator Dave Argall**  
**29th District Pennsylvania Senate**  
Toll Free Number: 877-327-4255  
dargall@pasen.gov  
Schuylkill, Carbon and Luzerne counties



## Problem with State Government? Call Us!

*By State Sen. Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill/Carbon/Luzerne)*

Do you need assistance with a state-related issue? You can visit any of my district offices! So far this year, we've helped address almost 6,000 problems for the people of Luzerne, Carbon, and Schuylkill counties.

Our more common requests include providing help with property tax/rent rebate forms, driver's license applications, and filing for unemployment. Last year, we also worked to recover more than \$400,000 in unclaimed property belonging to our constituents.

If you ever have a state government related question or problem, we're here to help! My offices are open weekly, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The locations and contact information for my district offices are as follows:

- Hazleton: 145 E Broad Street, Hazleton  
(570) 521-9441
- Mahanoy City: 1 West Centre Street, Mahanoy City  
(570) 773-0891
- Pottsville: 100 North Centre Street, Pottsville  
(570) 622-3400
- Weissport: 204B Bridge Street, Weissport  
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# Willow Foundation Winter Basics Drive

**Needed Items: \***

- Coats/Thermal Wear
- Hats/Earmuffs
- Mittens/Gloves
- Socks/Boots
- Blankets
- Hot Hands
- Tents/Tarps

*\*New or gently used, clean items will be accepted. All sizes are welcomed.*

**Mondays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in  
November drop off a donation at  
100 South Wyoming Street  
Hazleton.**

**You can also purchase new  
items from our Giving Tree at  
Boscov's in Hazleton.**

## Christmas On The Farm at Pepper Jacks Ceramic & Gift Shoppe

Join Us Saturday, November 15th, beginning at 10 am Pepper Jacks at 17 Coopers Lane in Drums for the Annual Christmas Craft and Vendor Show, Supporting Local Businesses and Crafters. Enjoy Fresh Baked Goods, Food and Coffee.

Seasonal Decor', Christmas Gifts for all and Lots of Laughter and Cheer. We are hosting a Trick Tray Benefit for Little Atlas Angeli.

"Atlas is a 3 year old with the feeding mentality of an infant. We're in the CHOP intensive day feeding program to hopefully get him eating purées. He currently is fully g tube fed and doesn't even know what hunger is. He got his g tube when he was 18 months old. He has a genetic condition that is very rare that is the cause of his feeding issues. It's called KDM3B and is about 1 in a million. He is the happiest little boy with the biggest smile you will ever meet. Unless you meet him right after nap time. Lol. He loves paw patrol and peppa pig and his stuffies. We can't go anywhere without his babies boopy snail and Nemo. They come with the package to every appointment. Atlas has a long road ahead of him as he is a 3 year old with the mentality of one, but is also figuring out how to eat and swallow like a 6 month old at the same time. He is in daycare and sees all his friends eating and doesn't understand why he can't. We also have to watch him so he doesn't choke on anything because he is curious about food. He loves pizza and loves to lick it when we have it! Atlas's day feeding program was supposed to be 4 weeks be we got extended to 5 because his progress was very slow but steady and they see the potential in him. It's like moving a boulder and seeing some progress they told me.

Mom the sole breadwinner had to take off work to be with Atlas for the 5 weeks so no pay. Dad is currently In his second year of college so can't be with us during the program which is emotionally taxing and hard for him as he wants to be there with us also. And only works weekends because of school. Atlas is the strongest, happiest caring kid a lot of people have ever met and we appreciate anything from anyone at all! We know God is with us this whole time and has us in the palms of his hands at all times!

Anyone who wishes to Donate a Tricky Tray or Monetary Donation PM on Facebook Terri Cooper or Ashley Angeli.



**Trooper Anthony Petroski III**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**Community Service Officer**  
Pennsylvania State Police  
Troop N - Hazleton



Scams, unfortunately, are a re-occurring problem that is not going away. The current scam that is affecting many people in our area is called the "Loved One" scam. Scammers will contact you by phone and explain that your loved one (typically grandchild), is in trouble and currently in jail, possibly even citing specific names. The scammers will often say "Don't talk to anyone about this, I'm sure it would be embarrassing to your family". They will then explain that in exchange for cash, their loved one will be released from jail. The scammers will then ask for an address where they can pick up the money. At this point, they will send a courier to pick up the cash, leaving you as a victim.

Here are some tips to help protect you and keep you from becoming a victim of a scam:

- Don't feel pressured to provide payment for something or to someone, do research into it first, run it by a friend or family member.
- Do not give out sensitive information over the phone. Example: social security number or bank account number.
- Do not give remote access to anyone for any of your devices.
- Never make a payment to someone with gift cards – it's a scam!
- Remember, just because someone says they are from a certain "company", it doesn't mean they actually are!
- If you feel a phone call might be a scam or you are being asked for sensitive information – hang up!
- Scams can happen through e-mails also. If there are a lot of misspelled words, it might be a scam. Always look at the e-mail address it was sent from, if you don't recognize it, don't respond or open any attachments.

## Antonia's Jewelry & Repair Donates to ACS Telethon

Antonia's Jewelry and Repair, a family-owned jewelry sales and repair business, is donating an outstanding white gold diamond flower heart necklace with white gold chain, for a pledge drawing to take place during the upcoming 47th Annual American Cancer Society-Greater Hazleton Telethon. The pendant style totals .50cr total weight and the value of this outstanding gift is \$2200!!

To make your pledge, call 570-459-1212, 11am-9pm Saturday, November 15th.

- Only one pledge on the necklace per person will be accepted.
- Pledges must be \$100 or more.
- Pledges will be placed in a goldfish bowl and the final winner's name will be drawn on Saturday at 9:00pm.
- The winner will be notified regarding pickup.

"We are so very grateful to the Christmans who have once again, taken extra care in choosing a special piece of jewelry to donate to the ACS Telethon," says Telethon Co-Chair Jane Dougherty. "It is absolutely fabulous!" "Consider a \$100 pledge and possibly win this for yourself or wouldn't it make a wonderful Christmas gift for someone you love?" asks Pat Korb, ACS Publicity Chair.

"It means a lot to us to be able to make this donation to the American Cancer Society-Hazleton because my mother and Rob's father passed away from cancer," explains Toni. "We know that it's so very difficult to fight this disease and we want to do what we can to help others engaged in this battle"

Rob adds, "It really makes us feel great to be able to do something to help an organization that helps people who have to deal with cancer on a daily basis."

Antonia's is located at 289 Airport Road, Hazle Township, PA and they are open Tues-Fri., 11:00am-6:00pm and Saturday, 11am-3pm. They will have extended holiday hours. Antonia's sells fine diamond jewelry including, but not limited to engagement rings, pendants and earrings etc. Watches and clocks can also be found there. It is a full-service jeweler repair store and Antonia also designs jewelry. The business was started in 2015, but Toni has over 40 years' experience in the jewelry business.

Other pledges for the telethon can be made by calling 570-459-1212 or donating on the website, [acsmove.org/hazletontelethon](http://acsmove.org/hazletontelethon).

# Della Croce Dental Celebrates One Hundred Years of Dentistry in Freeland

In 2025, Della Croce Dental in Freeland marks one hundred years of continuous dental care provided by four generations of the same family.

The practice began in 1925 when Dr. Joseph M. Della Croce graduated from Temple University School of Dentistry and returned to his hometown to begin his career. He initially opened his office at 521 Centre Street in the Pollakoff Building before moving to 462 Centre Street.

His son, Dr. John B. Della Croce, also pursued a career in dentistry. After completing his education, he joined the practice and later relocated the office to 450 Washington Street in 1968. This location remains the current home of the practice.

In 1981, Dr. John J. Della Croce, the third generation, joined the practice. He is a graduate of Temple University School of Dentistry and continues to serve patients in the Freeland area.

The fourth generation of the family, Dr. Melissa B. Della Croce, joined the practice in 2006. She also completed her dental education at Temple University and works alongside her father, continuing the family's tradition of service.

The Della Croce family has maintained an uninterrupted presence in dental care in Freeland for one hundred years. Their practice is one of the few in the region to have remained within the same family across four generations, each trained at the same institution and committed to serving the local community.

Della Croce Dental's century-long history reflects a strong commitment to patient care, professional education, and local continuity. This one hundred-year milestone represents both a professional achievement and a significant part of Freeland's community history.



**Representative Dane Watro**

**116th Legislative District**

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

570-453-1344

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## Veterans Day Message

*By State Rep. Dane Watro (R-Luzerne/Schuylkill)*

Veterans Day, observed annually on Nov. 11, marks the armistice that ended World War I in 1918, but it has since evolved into a day to honor all who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

But Veterans Day is more than just a date on the calendar; it is a solemn reminder of the courage, duty and sacrifice of those who have worn the uniform of our nation. It's a time to reflect on the defining moments that shape both our nation and the lives of the men and women who serve it.

America has endured triumphs and tragedies, but through every test, our freedoms have survived because generations of veterans were willing to step forward, wear the uniform and defend our nation at all costs. From the founding of our country to the challenges we face today, our service members have stood against tyranny and terror so that liberty may endure.

As a U.S. Army veteran, I have seen and experienced firsthand the sacrifice required to preserve our way of life. I have also seen the strength of the military families who bear the quiet burden of service with courage and grace.

On Veterans Day, let us pause to honor all who have worn the uniform, remember those we have lost and thank and pray for the men and women defending us around the globe. We must never take our freedoms for granted or forget the price paid to protect them.

May we always strive to be worthy of their sacrifice.

## Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a holiday rooted in gratitude, reflection and the enduring belief that even in difficult times, we are a blessed people.

While many of us were taught that America's Thanksgiving traditions began with the Pilgrims in New England, far fewer know that Pennsylvania played a defining role in establishing the holiday as a national observance.

On Nov. 1, 1777, while meeting in York after the British captured Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving. The proclamation called for Americans to give thanks for the Continental Army's victory at the Battle of Saratoga, which was a turning point in the Revolutionary War and in our quest for independence. From our earliest days, Pennsylvania helped lead the nation in pausing to give thanks.

For nearly four centuries, Americans have gathered with family and friends to express gratitude for the blessings of faith, freedom and community. Thanksgiving asks us to look beyond life's challenges and recognize that, even in adversity, we have much for which to be thankful.

As we ask God to bless our families and neighbors this Thanksgiving, we should also remember those who are struggling, serving or alone. A simple act of kindness – a shared meal, a phone call, a donation or a helping hand – can make the spirit of this holiday real for someone who needs it most.

From my family to yours, may you have a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving filled with peace, gratitude and the warmth of loved ones.



John J. Della Croce, DMD, MAGD



Melissa B. Della Croce, DMD, FAGD



Tanya Cheeseman-Fanning, DMD



Kenneth Cross, DMD

570.636.0660

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**Hill's Angels Helping and Healing Caregiver Support Group**

Hill's Angels Helping and Healing Caregiver Support Group meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at Heritage Hill Senior Community, 800 Sixth St., Weatherly. This free support group offers a safe and welcoming space to share your caregiving experiences—the ups, downs and uncertainties. Led by Executive Director Lisa Perla and Memory Care Director Kit Donish, we'll connect, learn from one another, and explore supportive ways to navigate the changes that come with dementia. Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 4:00 p.m. Please let us know you're coming by Nov. 10. Call Rachael at 570-427-4500 or email [rtimm@heritagehillssenior.com](mailto:rtimm@heritagehillssenior.com).

**Thankful for You Bingo**

We're in the season of gratitude, and to show our thanks to you, Heritage Hill Senior Community, 800 Sixth St., will host a free bingo on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. Join us for some lively games of your favorite game of chance to win gift cards and other prizes! Reserve your seat by Nov. 14. Please call Rachael at 570-427-4500 or email [rtimm@heritagehillssenior.com](mailto:rtimm@heritagehillssenior.com).

**Hill's Angels Tree Trimming Contest and Open House**

Save the date: Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy the most wonderful time of the year with Heritage Hill Senior Community during our annual Hill's Angels Tree Trimming Contest and Open House. There will be refreshments, holiday shopping, and more! Visitors can vote for their favorite tree, and one lucky attendee will win our grand prize giveaway. Call Rachael at 570-427-4500 or email [rtimm@heritagehillssenior.com](mailto:rtimm@heritagehillssenior.com) for additional info.

Follow Heritage Hill Senior Community on Facebook for community news and events, including the latest updates and announcements.

**Sunday, November 23**

**at 1 pm**

**Hazleton Philharmonic  
Symphony Orchestra  
Christmas Concert**

**at**

**St. John Bosco RCC in  
Conyngham.  
Admission is free.**

**Ham and Chicken Dinner**

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church  
Zion Grove, PA

**Saturday, November 8, 2025  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Adults \$15

Children (12 & under) \$7.00

Ham, Chicken, Potato Filling, Gravy  
Green Beans, Coleslaw, Bread, Dessert

**No ticket needed  
pay at the door!**

**JOIN US SATURDAY, DEC 6, 2025  
AT THE CVCO & ON MAIN STREET FOR THE**

**CHRISTMAS IN  
Conyngham  
PARADE & FESTIVITIES**



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## Restoring Traditional Interpretation of Sex as a Protected Class in PA Statute

By State Rep. Jamie Walsh (R-Luzerne)

I recently introduced legislation that would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to restore the traditional interpretation of sex as a protected class to avoid legal confusion and provide greater clarity for schools and other entities to comply with the law.

Prior to a 2023 change made by regulation on the part of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), the law's prohibition on sex discrimination applied to biological sex. This clarity provided governments, schools and other public accommodations with the clear understanding needed to avoid litigation and ensure their operations were free from sex discrimination.

By unilaterally changing the law through regulation, the PHRC not only usurped the General Assembly's proper role in making new law but put many organizations in the state in an impossible position of compliance within a shifting legal environment and with fundamentally incompatible goals. For example, a school that attempts to avoid discrimination on the basis of gender identity by allowing a biological male to change in a girl's locker room is then engaging in sex discrimination against all of those girls by violating their privacy in a single-sex space. At the moment, the school cannot have any confidence about which approach the law demands.

Our communities and our schools should not serve as testing grounds for this legal conflict, and our children should not be victims of its misapplications. By restoring the statutory focus to solely be on eliminating discrimination on the basis of biological sex, we can provide clarity for schools and other accommodations to protect our children and make individual accommodations for students that do not come at the cost of their classmates.

House Bill 1956 is now awaiting assignment to a House committee.



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# Celebrate the Ability to Give

By Bobby Maso

As I sit down to write this article, Thanksgiving is just under a month away. The air seems to have settled into a predictably cool pattern. The outlook for any more summerlike weather appears to have drifted firmly out of reach. In just a few days, we will decisively be on the road to the biggest holiday season of the year. By the time this column is in print, we will be even closer to the hustle and bustle that goes with it.

For many of us, the prospects of meeting with family and close friends to celebrate these beautiful traditions is the focal point- a chance to gather, share, and savor everything from precious memories to delicious food. On Thanksgiving Day in particular, quite a few of us will surely give thanks for the opportunity to partake in these rituals, just as we should.

This year, the members of the Freeland 150th Celebration Committee are among those who will be especially thankful to live and work in our beautiful community. For us, the work we have undertaken these past few months ahead of Freeland's most historic birthday next year has instilled us with a much greater appreciation for our town. We have made celebrating all aspects of Freeland a cornerstone of our mission. We've also sought to demonstrate just how much there is to truly be proud of in our cherished town.

Yet, even after bringing the community together through multiple events and promotions (and many more to come in 2026), we are painfully aware that not every corner of our humble borough is equally celebratory or fortunate. Undoubtedly, there will always be some to whom the approaching holidays will find encumbered by any number of burdensome conditions. These could be financial, social, or even spiritual in nature.

~ FOURTH ANNUAL ~

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Remembering Our Veterans - November 11th

# A New Tradition: Family-Friendly Trails for Thanksgiving Weekend

By William M. Dempsey

We have just finished our turkey dinner. This is usually the time to curl up on the sofa and indulge in a nice afternoon nap while the television plays the football game in the background. For years, following the holiday meal, we have sat in this same chair or napped on the same sofa. The house has a warm, comfortable atmosphere, and the food was delicious, all of which is conducive to our becoming couch potatoes. The excitement and fun of the special day are over. This year, I suggest another way to spend the time following dinner. Grab the family and step outdoors into the cool, crisp air. The woods and fields that characterize November are ready for you.

A walk after a holiday dinner is the simplest way to connect with nature and family. It is also a great way to express your gratitude after the feast of food has been served. Not only do we owe thanks to our family, but thanks also to nature. The misconception is that the woods look dead at this time of the year. The bare trees, however, give clear, long-distance views from the hills into the valleys. The muted colors of the few beech and oak leaves that remain, gauged against the grayish-white of the sky, provide an interesting natural palette. Nature has calmed enough to give you a little time to enjoy her at her best.

Why not delight in a family experience that is different this year? If you are up for a change, below are five family-friendly local walks where everyone can get a good stretch after gathering at the dining table. Continue the conversation outdoors and establish a new family tradition for the holiday.

## **The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail**

Running through the heart of the Lackawanna Valley, this trail offers a convenient route along the scenic river. The trail is a former railroad bed with a reasonably flat, wide surface, making it a good choice for families with children, baby strollers, and bicycles. The section of the trail that runs through Scranton offers a

distinctive feel. Starting at the historic Iron Furnace, one can proceed northward along the river and read several historical signs along the way, which tell the story of the area's industrial history. As you walk through the center of the city, you encounter a delightful combination of rippling streams, abundant trees, and a quiet path, something you may not expect in the heart of the town. The contrast between the newly created natural space and the remains of the long-gone industrial age gives rise to a story of restoration emphasizing recreation.

## **The D&L Trail at White Haven**

The Delaware and Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor is vast (over 140 miles long), but to enjoy the character of this trail, you only need to visit the short section near White Haven. There is plenty of parking at the White Haven trailhead, and the flat path

follows the same path once travelled by mules pulling the canal boats of anthracite coal on the river. By this time of year, the crowds have diminished, and most of the leaves have fallen from the trees, offering views of the river and the mountains rising from the gorge. This option is an easy walk with beautiful surroundings.

## **The Lake Loop at Frances Slocum State Park**

Frances Slocum State Park has an excellent trail for pleasant family strolls. The 3.5-mile loop around the 165-acre lake is well marked. The

benches found along the route allow one to take a seat and enjoy the beauty of the season's changing landscape. The trail includes sections through the woods and along the open lake shore. In the stillness of the afternoons in November, the trees cast mirror-like reflections on the lake. Look for the migratory geese and ducks that often stop here before the approach of winter. Frances Slocum has ample parking, comfort stations, and picnic areas, making it an ideal place for walks of any length.



*A peaceful scene of pitch pines along the Ponds Loop Trail at Nescopeck State Park, an ideal setting for a Thanksgiving hike.*

William M. Dempsey/Photographer

through the trees. Take time to disconnect from the busy world and temporarily escape while spending quality time with the family. If it's a cold day, warm up at the park's Environmental Education Center and learn about local wildlife and conservation efforts.

## **Walking Your Own Neighborhood Parks**

It's possible to disconnect right in your backyard. The community parks offer great outdoor experiences. Chances are, you live close to a park in your town or neighborhood. If so, take advantage of those green

spaces. They typically offer flat, not too strenuous walks on paved paths, ideal for a brief family walk. It's as easy to get the whole gang out for a short holiday walk when a trail is close to home.

Remember, to make this a new family tradition, the experience shouldn't be overly challenging or require covering a long distance. Start small. The outing should focus on togetherness, conversation, breathing fresh air, and enjoying the family. A half-hour walk can provide a reset after the Thanksgiving rush.

## **Continuing The Tradition Through Winter.**

The peaceful satisfaction you experience outdoors on Thanksgiving doesn't have to disappear when turkey day is over. Continuing hikes and walks can help combat winter doldrums by reducing stress and anxiety. Physical activity can improve mental and physical health. A walk is a great way to release mood-elevating endorphins, which help lift your energy levels. Prepare for the cold temps by dressing in layers. Wear moisture-wicking clothing that permits perspiration to escape. Add layers for warmth as needed. Waterproof boots and wool socks keep your feet dry. Carry a small backpack with a few snacks for energy, at least 2 liters of water, and a headlamp for the shorter winter days. Daylight disappears quickly when hiking during this time of year.

This year, after Thanksgiving dinner, say no to the couch — get outside instead. Whether you walk through the local park or along a favorite trail, starting a new holiday tradition will help you appreciate family and nature.



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## MMI Preparatory School Increases College Credit Scholarship to 50%

(Freeland, PA – October 27, 2025) – MMI Preparatory School Head of School Mrs. Theresa Long is excited to announce that The Dr. Philip A. McHale '58 and Ms. Linda Tishko Scholarship for College Credit will now cover 50% of the cost of Concurrent Enrollment college credits for students participating in MMI's Pre-College Credit program with Lackawanna College. This increase builds on the scholarship's inaugural year in 2024-25, when it covered 30% of the per-credit cost.

MMI students can earn college credits through three pathways:

- **Concurrent Enrollment Classes:** College-level courses taught at MMI by our faculty using Lackawanna-approved syllabi. Students earning a grade of C or higher can receive college credit at a significantly reduced cost. This is the pathway covered by the McHale–Tishko Scholarship.
- **Dual Enrollment Classes:** Online or in-person courses taken directly through Lackawanna College, typically in 8-week sessions during the academic year or summer.
- **Level Up Program:** A structured pathway beginning the summer before junior year, combining concurrent and dual enrollment courses to enable students to graduate from MMI with an Associate Degree.

Mrs. Long commented, "This scholarship is a wonderful milestone for MMI. It not only supports our students' growth and academic success, but also strengthens the School's mission to provide meaningful, college-level opportunities. We are deeply grateful to Dr. McHale and Ms. Tishko for their continued generosity and commitment to our students and to MMI."



Above: Dr. Philip A. McHale '58 and Ms. Linda Tishko

Dr. Philip A. McHale '58 added, "I have always felt strongly about supporting collaborative efforts at MMI. Programs like this give students a real advantage and help them explore their interests while still in high school. I am proud to support both the School and its students through this scholarship."

Dr. Tammy M. Chrin, Director of College Counseling, noted, "The McHale–Tishko Scholarship makes concurrent enrollment courses more accessible to a wider range of our students. By reducing financial barriers, we are giving students the chance to challenge themselves, earn college credit, and prepare for their next steps with confidence."

This year, the scholarship will support junior and senior students in nine courses, including AP Chemistry, Human Physiology, AP Calculus AB, AP U.S. History, and more.



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# A Veterans Journal #105

By Joseph Barna • Freeland  
USMC, Korea 1952-1953



## Veterans Day 2025

As we near Veterans Day, some Americans will be celebrating and honoring their comrades. To a Veteran, there are two very important holidays in their lives: Memorial Day and Veterans Day. These two days should be nearly as important to all Americans as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Of course, all of us get together and celebrate these holidays in our own ways. We get together and pray in Church and we celebrate with our friends and families. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, veterans ask all Americans to join them in remembering all those who came home from war and especially, all those who never came home. Many people think that everyone who enters the military faces death day after day. Although many veterans have seen combat, some have not. However, the combat veteran knows that everyone who does his or her job in the military supports those fighting on the front line. Everyone has a part to play and is a link in an endless chain of dedication, loyalty, and courage.

Together, all veterans fight our wars while the average American stays home. We must not forget that during wartime, we all have to sacrifice some of the things that we previously enjoyed. But some Veterans have to sacrifice the greatest gift that he or she received at birth: Part of their bodies or even life itself. We must always remember this fact. The families of military personnel pray, hope and sometimes cry. Try to remember what not only the service member endures, but also remember what the military family goes through, day after day. Veterans do not want to be heroes nor have statues put up for them. They just want to be remembered. When Veterans Day comes on November 11, please attend a local Veterans Day service. The service is always held on the 11th month, the 11th day, and the 11th hour in our town of Freeland at our beautiful Veteran's Memorial Area of the Freeland Public Park. Stand alongside the veterans and maybe, just maybe, you will be able to feel a little of the pride that they are feeling that day.

I would like to close by telling a story of a late July day in 1953. It was the day that I returned to California after my duty was completed in the Korean War. I returned home on the same ship that had carried me and 6000 brother Marines into combat, thirteen months earlier. On this return voyage, only 750 Marines returned. As we departed the troop ship many people lined the dock, waving. A band was playing and a young Doris Day was singing the song "My Hero." I remember hearing the ship's captain announce "All Marine personnel have left the ship." We boarded the buses and I remember taking a last look back. There along the dock were a number of people still waiting, looking at the gang plank, hoping, and praying for someone else to leave the ship. I realized then that these people were waiting for someone, who would never come home. On this Veterans Day, please remember them.

### Veterans ★ Day ★

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**HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**

Sandy Appleman

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## MMI Preparatory School to Host Veterans Day Drive-Thru Breakfast

(Freeland, PA – November 3, 2025) – MMI Preparatory School will honor local veterans with a special drive-thru Veterans Day Breakfast on Monday, November 10.

The breakfast, sponsored by Dr. Philip McHale '58 and Ms. Linda Tishko, is part of the Open House food projects being organized this year by MMI's 8th and 11th graders. Breakfast service will run from 9:00 – 11:00 am.

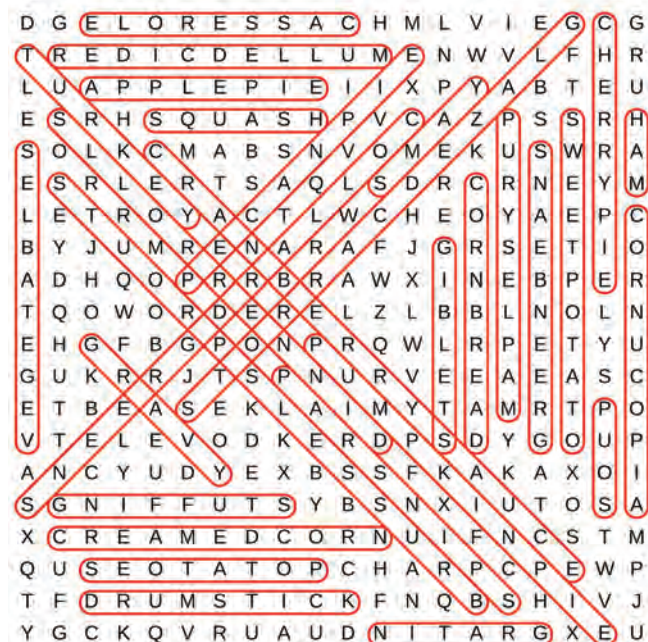
Guests will enjoy pancakes and sausage in to-go containers, available in a convenient drive-thru format. Attendees will pull through the drive-thru loop at the front of the School, where 8th-grade students will deliver food and 11th-grade students will be preparing the meals.

Advising the students in this project are Mr. Tony Bianco, Mrs. Lisa Ferry, Ms. Jen Gerhard, Dr. Heather Grimm, and Mr. Kyle Falatko.

"At MMI, we strive to weave collaboration and service into everything we do," said Head of School Mrs. Theresa Long. "Our students are not only preparing a breakfast to honor our veterans, but in the process, they are learning the value of teamwork, responsibility, and giving back to the community."

Any questions can be emailed to Dr. Heather Grimm at [hgrimm@mmiprep.org](mailto:hgrimm@mmiprep.org).

## THANKSGIVING FOODS





# Sports Trivia Treats

By Ron Marchetti



Coaching genius and trophy namesake John Heisman.

## Football's Worst Rout of All Time

Hazleton High School once lost a football game to Nanticoke (118-0) in 1922 and scored its biggest rout over Edwardsville (88-0) in 1925. In my lifetime, Hazleton's most embarrassing loss that I could remember happened in 1952. HHS lost to Sunbury (55-0). That was not near what happened in October 1916 when Georgia Tech crushed Cumberland College 222-0. How could that possibly happen? Well, the president of Cumberland College, a small football force at the turn of the century, but no longer competitive, wanted to get some national exposure. Why not play a game against a major college power? Bad idea. Georgia Tech Coach John Heisman agreed to play the Lebanon, Tennessee school on October 7th, but only if the challenger deposited a \$3000 check as forfeit money in case it could not field a team? Cumberland did round up 15 players for the trip to Atlanta, but did not even bother to practice. What followed was, to put it kindly, a blowout.

Tech had 32 possessions in the game and scored touchdowns on all of them. The Ramblin Wreck didn't need to attempt a pass. Tech scored on 19 of its 29 rushes, netting 501 yards on the ground. Tech also scored on six interception returns, five of nine punt run backs and one of five kickoff returns. Everett (Strup) Strupper scored 49 points, making eight touchdowns and kicking one extra point. He rushed eight times for 165 yards and six touchdowns and he scored on both sides of his punt returns. The score was 63 - 0 after one quarter, 126 - 0 at halftime, 180 - 0 after three quarters and 222 - 0 at the end of the game.

## Wine HOPS & Road Stops



## Should You Add Salt To Your Beer?

Adding salt to beer is actually an old-school trick that can enhance flavor, change mouthfeel, and even reduce the bitterness or carbonation bite. Just a dash of salt can wake up flat or "off" beer by encouraging a quick fizz and masking off-flavors. This common hack works best with certain styles.

### Light Lagers

Salt smooths out bitterness, enhances malt sweetness, and complements these beers perfectly.

### Wheat Beers & Witbiers

A small amount of salt can balance the natural citrus and spice notes.

### Sour Beers

Salt can round out the tartness and bring out fruit flavors. Many already contain salt so adding a pinch can boost its tangy character.

-Jeff & Desiree Bonomo

Watch Jeff & Desiree talk about all things in the craft beverage world on

Wine Hops and Road Stops on Service Electric Cable and Blue Ridge Cable or online at

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