



November 2025

VOL. XXXVIII No. 2

Welcome to Fall at Bear Creek Lakes

BCLCA Board of Directors

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President

Office Oversight

Jim McElvaney

Vice President

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Services, Special Projects.

Rules, Judge of Elections

Tom Anderson

Treasurer

Finance

Cathy Loftus

Corporate Secretary

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Rules

Robert Alston

Rules, Special Projects

Rand Asher

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Special Projects

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Pool, Recreation

Carla Ferguson

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Lake & Dam

Dawn Gallo

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Rick Monnig

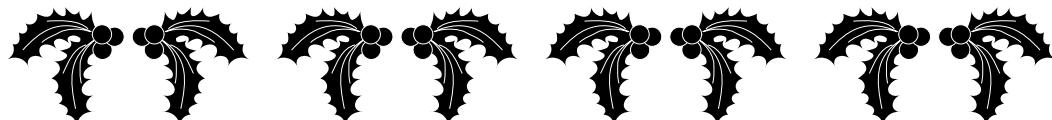
Technology, STR, Special
Projects

Bear Creek Lakes Civic Association property owners, as members of the corporation, are responsible to stay current on updates to BCLCA current business and updates to community rules. The HOA Board publishes essential information in the Members Only section of the BCLCA Webpage (<https://www.bclca.org/>). Regular and daily posting of BCL events on Facebook (Bear Creek Lakes Informational Page), and also in the biannual Community Newsletter (Echoes Around the Lake) which is mailed and on the BCLCA webpage.

President's Message

Elaine Carosella

- Hello, everyone!
- Although we had a wet, chilly start to our summer, the weather eventually turned out nice and the amenities were available to everyone. September and October weather seems to be a mixed bag, going from cold to colder, then back to hot again. Only in Northeast PA.
- The tennis/pickleball courts have been redone and look great. We're working on remodeling the bathhouse to make it ADA-compliant and prepare it for the new pool. One of the best new features is that you'll be able to access the bathrooms from the pavilion area and the playground. While the Pool Committee has been working hard on the changes, no hard completion date has been set.
- And, if you're wondering about the pool project, once the bathhouse is complete, we'll move forward with the new pool. We were instructed by our Project Manager that the bathhouse needed to meet State regulations prior to starting work on the new pool. I know we all want the project to be done, but this is a big project that is subject to lots of regulations. We're dotting every "I" and crossing every "T" to ensure the project is completed in a timely, cost-effective manner. Please be patient.
- Please remember that being a homeowner in an HOA is different than simply buying a house. You wouldn't have access to all the great amenities if it weren't for the HOA. As such, your Board of Directors has a fiduciary duty to maintain all the facilities. Quite often, the Board has to make hard choices when it comes to repairing and/or replacing those amenities. Coming together as a community makes those choices easier on your neighbors who volunteer their time on the Board. The best way to effect change within the community is to participate. Run a social event, join a committee, or even run for the Board. Contribute your special talents and knowledge to the rest of the community. Everyone can help, and everyone can contribute, but please check personal agendas at the door. If it's good for the community, everyone benefits. The more you get involved, the more you'll understand what is happening and why.
- Lastly, we're all neighbors and we all own here in BCLCA. Try to treat each other in a neighborly way – with dignity, respect, and courtesy. We all want to keep BCLCA the best community in the Poconos.
- Wishing you a mild Winter and good health.



Editor's Notes

Madeline Ligenza

- Hello BCLCA neighbors!
- As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, it's the perfect time to reflect on what makes living in BCLCA so special. Fall reminds us of the importance of connection — and there's no better place to feel that sense of belonging than right here in our community.
- The Advantage of Living in BCLCA:
- A True Sense of Community: Our HOA isn't just about homes and rules — it's about people. Living here means being part of a neighborhood where folks greet one another, lend a hand, and take pride in our shared spaces.
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Whether it's bringing in a trash can, offering a tool, or checking in after a storm, our residents continually show what "community spirit" really means.
- Beautiful and Well-Maintained Spaces: Thanks to everyone's cooperation and care, our common areas and homes continue to shine — a reflection of the pride we all share.
- Enjoyable Amenities: From walking paths to parks and gathering areas, our HOA helps maintain spaces that bring neighbors together throughout the seasons.
- Safety and Peace of Mind: With everyone looking out for one another, BCLCA remains a safe, welcoming, and friendly environment for families and individuals alike.
- A Collective Voice: Being part of an HOA means we all have a say in shaping our neighborhood's future — together.
- Let's Keep the Spirit Going!
- As we head into the holiday season, let's carry forward the kindness, cooperation, and community pride that make BCLCA such a wonderful place to live. Take a walk, share a smile, lend a hand — small gestures go a long way in keeping our community strong.
- Wishing everyone a cozy and colorful Fall season!
- A special thank you to all the volunteers. They are very much appreciated.
- A special thank you to Pam Berger and Linda Sott with their assistance with the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Anderson

Back in March, I began working on the 2025-26 budget. On May 10, I had a meeting with the membership to hear their concerns and comments. I believe it is very important to obtain membership feedback in preparing the budget. With that being said, I am announcing that on May 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., I will hold a Treasurer Membership Meeting in Stewart Hall in order to discuss the 2026-27 budget.

The audit for the fiscal year 2024-25 is already underway. The audit is being performed by Connolly, Grady, and Cha, CPAs. The following expenses were made in the 2024-25 fiscal year:

CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENDITURES

Road paving	\$111,532
Sand replenishment at both beaches	\$5,640
Security camera upgrade	\$657
Salt spreader	\$7,395
Storm water improvement	\$465
Design drafting for additional renovations to existing pool building	\$3,500
Resurfacing tennis courts	\$10,000
Office laptop replacement	\$1,267
Total Capital Reserve Expenditures	\$140,456

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES

Install Heating/AC unit in Stewart Hall basement	\$ 3,875
Storage lockers for lifeguard equipment	\$452
Security camera project	\$11,802
Total Capital Improvement Expenditures	\$16,129

- I look forward to seeing you at the May 9, 2026 Treasurer Membership Meeting.

Communications

Cathy Loftus, Madeline Ligenza

- Interrogative words- Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How! Who is the chairperson for the Pool Committee? What are we supposed to do with the stilt grass? When is the monthly Board meeting? Where can my dog go to get into the lake? Why do I have to wear a BCL badge at the boat dock? How much are the dues?
- When members have questions, 9 times out of 10, the answer can be found on the BCLCA website (www.bclca.org). Our website provides a plethora of information such as:
- Board Minutes, Financial Information, and Governing Documents
- Committee Reports and ways that you can help and join a committee
- Planned events for the development and our social groups
- Our homepage displays the latest updates under What's New on the Website.
- I am currently serving my fourth year as Chairperson for the BCLCA website. While the role can present challenges at times, I take pride in providing members with valuable information to support them. My primary concern is encouraging all deeded members to register for our email blasts. These updates are designed to keep you well-informed about the latest developments at BCLCA.

Environmental and Lake/Dam

Talon Fogal

- Happy Fall everyone! I'm excited and honored to be the new Chairperson for the Lake & Dam Committee, while also still leading the Environmental Committee and tree permits. Thank you to Chloe Greenawalt for hosting a 5K and raising \$300 for the Environmental Committee to use for planting new native plants. We have already put that money to work, having planted several new shrubs & trees at Stewart Hall: 4 Red Chokeberry, 1 Black Gum Tree, 5 Winterberry Holly, 1 Elderberry, and 6 St. John's Wort. Please stop by and check them out! Thank you to the 51 members and volunteers that attended and helped run the Deer Management Information Session with guest speaker Kevin Wenner, our Regional Wildlife Management Supervisor from the PA Game Commission, and thank you to the 13 volunteers that attended stilt grass removal day. We hand-pulled nearly a half-acre of stilt grass on the nature trail. Stilt grass will continue to be an issue in Bear Creek; the more members that pitch in for removal on their own properties, the slower the spread will be. I am quickly getting up to speed on the status of the dam, beaches, and a few other projects such as boat rack lotteries and stocking of fish. Thank you to everyone that has stepped up to help me transition into this new role. I will have plenty of updates for the community this Spring! Have a safe, warm, and snowy Winter.



Human Resources

Jim McElvaney

- At Bear Creek Lakes Civic Association, the Human Resources area of responsibility plays an important role in supporting the people who keep our community running smoothly. While BCLCA is a relatively small employer, we are proud to have a dedicated team of full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees who care deeply about our community and take pride in their work every day.
- Our employees are truly the heart of Bear Creek Lakes. Whether maintaining facilities, working in the office, or monitoring our pool and beaches, every team member contributes to the positive experience our residents enjoy throughout the year. Their commitment and teamwork make all the difference in maintaining the quality and spirit of our community.
- The goal of Human Resources is to ensure that every employee has the support, resources, and recognition they deserve. Through clear policies, open communication, and a focus on both compliance and compassion, HR helps ensure that Bear Creek Lakes remains not only a great place to work — but also a great place to live.

Landscaping

Madeline Ligenza

- Growing together to keep BCLCA beautiful
- Ongoing Efforts: Our Landscaping team continues to maintain and enhance the beauty of our shared spaces throughout the community. Regular upkeep helps ensure that BCLCA remains welcoming and well cared for all year long.
- North Beach Project: Planning is underway for updates and improvements to the North Beach area, with a focus on creating an attractive, enjoyable space for residents to relax and gather.
- Community Input Welcome: We value your thoughts! If you have ideas for landscape improvements, new plantings, or beautification projects, we'd love to hear from you.
- How to Share Suggestions: Please email your ideas to office@bclca.org, and they will be shared with the Landscaping Committee for review.
- Looking Ahead: Together, we can continue to keep BCLCA a vibrant and inviting community that reflects our shared pride and care.

Lifeguards/Gate Attendants

Dylan Bradley

- As we close out another pool season and transition into the winter months, there are many thanks to be given to those who worked to keep the community safe at our aquatic facilities.
- Although just transitioning into the role of Chair of the Lifeguard Committee, I'd like to thank Jamie Kunkel for her work in supervising the lifeguards, all the gate attendants who joined the staff to support the community's needs, our Maintenance team for keeping the facilities looking awesome, and to the lifeguards for keeping our aquatic facilities safe.
- As a former lifeguard in the community for many years, I am eager to lead this committee. Stay tuned for applications and more information in the Spring for interested candidates. Until then, stay warm and stay well!

Maintenance

Bill Gullone, Dawn Gallo

Summer season is behind us ...the crew did a great job keeping our community looking top notch and working in great order. They are currently doing Fall clean-up and preparing for Winter and snow clean-up. If you see anything that needs attention, please leave a message with the office.

Membership Services

Jim McElvaney

- The main goal of Membership Services is to help every member keep their account current and in good standing. We understand that occasionally situations arise that cause delays, and we're here to work with you. If needed, payment plans can be arranged to help bring your account up-to-date.
- Members with accounts in good standing enjoy full access to all community amenities, including the pool, lake, beaches, Stewart Hall, and recreational areas. However, members with outstanding lot assessments and/or unpaid citations are considered not in good standing and will not be eligible to obtain identification badges or access community amenities until their accounts are current.
- Staying up-to-date ensures that every member shares equally in the care and enjoyment of Bear Creek Lakes. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact office@bclca.org — we're here to help you stay current and connected.

Office Oversight

Elaine Carosella

- It used to be that the busiest time of the year for the BCL office was a close race between Summer and Fall. What I've learned from overseeing the office is that there's no time of year when it's slow; it's always busy. The staff is constantly working hard to make our community run smoothly. They take pride in their work and try to answer every member's questions. The next time you visit or call the BCL office, be sure to thank them for their efforts and dedication.
- For quite some time, they've been hard at work learning and implementing the new credit card system. Members can conveniently pay their dues using their credit card (a small fee to cover what the credit card processing company charges BCL is added), but the system is new to our staff. Please be patient with them as they perfect the use of the new system.

Long-Range Planning

Madeline Ligenza

Planning today for the community of tomorrow

- Next Meeting: The Committee will meet in November.
- This group will thoughtfully consider, develop, and present recommendations to the Board for approval on long-term improvements to our community amenities.
- Community Involvement: We welcome your ideas! Residents are encouraged to share suggestions for future enhancements or projects.
- To have your suggestion reviewed, please contact the office, and it will be forwarded to the Committee for discussion at a future meeting.
- Email suggestions to: office@bclca.org

Roads

Bill Gullone, Dawn Gallo

- Our annual repaving project will take place again in late Fall. Once the schedule and selected roads have been determined, we will notify everyone via email blast and post on the community website. Stay tuned.

Permits

Rand Asher

- Hi! This is my first newsletter article for permits. I ask you to call the office if you think you might need a permit. This call can save you a lot of heartache down the road. Please note you need a permit for a fence. We permit only the outside of your home. Check with the Township for any inside work, if needed. Any building of additions or homes needs a Township permit first. If you need answers for questions, you may ask the office to call me. I will contact you the first chance I get. Have a warm Winter.
- One of the items for obtaining a permit is a long deed that shows the setbacks and covenants. You received the short deed at time of settlement of your home. If you need a long deed, you can contact the Carbon County Recorder of Deeds, 570-325-2651, Email: anitadietrich@carboncounty.net

Pool

Wylie Johnson, Bill Gullone, Dylan Bradley

- I give thanks for the dedicated and devoted new Pool Committee, some of whom are well into their third year of work on this effort. Members of the Committee, in order of longevity: Elaine Carosella, Bill Gullone, Wylie Johnson, Sarah Louk, Kim Andreacola, Larry Bulanda, Peg Eitl, Marta Riendeau, and Dylan Bradley.
- Guidance to the new Pool Committee from the BCLCA Board is to proceed with the multi-year project renovation of our 60-year-old pool building first, then rebuilding our community swimming pool, while making improvements to the grounds as appropriate.
- In the Spring, the BCLCA Board approved two contracts concerning the new pool project. The first was to approve Mr. Frank Clark from Keystone Consulting Engineers as Project Manager for our entire project – building/grounds & swimming pool. The second was for Mr. William Dougherty from Dougherty Design and Build Group to draw up architectural plans for the pool building renovation.
- After months of patiently working with our designer, we now have a completed architectural plan for the building renovation to present to the entire BCLCA Board at its October meeting. Prior to that meeting, members of the Committee will meet with the individual contracted to be our Project Manager, Mr. Frank Clark. At the October Board meeting, we will seek board guidance on how to proceed.
- Our goal is to develop the BCLCA Pool Complex as a facility that meets and exceeds the needs and expectations of our community for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your support in this effort.

Recreation

Carla Ferguson and Dylan Bradley

- As Co-Chairs of the Recreation Committee, we remain committed to fostering strong communication and collaboration within BCL. Our priority is to ensure that all community members feel informed, welcome, and engaged. We will continue to plan and organize BCL's traditional annual events, along with adding new ones along the way. Our main goals are to bring neighbors together, strengthen community bonds, and celebrate the spirit of Bear Creek Lakes. Through thoughtful planning and open dialogue, we look forward to creating opportunities for residents of all ages to connect, participate, and enjoy all BCL has to offer.

Rules

Bob Alston, Dawn Gallo, Cathy Loftus, Jim McElvaney

- I am Bob Alston, a newly-elected BCL Board Director, a recently retired 50-year Business, Wills and Estates Lawyer. I also served for 12 years as an elected Board of Supervisors member for my residence township where I was the senior member of that Board's Emergency Services and Pension committees. I was a decades-long director of my local Rotary Club. I serve as an Arbitrator privately, resolving

many business cases. In that regard, I am a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators. There are 12 Fellows in Pennsylvania and 235 Fellows nationally. Admission as a Fellow is by invitation of the College's then-existing members and a vote by them. I am also a Diplomate of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. I have my undergraduate degree from Villanova University – a BA Honors Program, where I had a full tuition merit Presidential Scholarship. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law cum laude. I have a Masters of Law degree from Temple's Law School. I have served as a Judge Pro Tem of the Commerce Court in Philadelphia for the last 8 years, holding Settlement Conferences and mediating to settlement cases coming up for trial shortly. My wife and I previously owned a cottage in Bear Creek Lakes where we and our children weekended between 1986 and 2003. We have 9 grandchildren so, in 2024, we purchased a new Bear Creek Lakes lot and had Cozy Cabins build my current recreational home on Midway Drive.

- Rules Committee met October 1. We began reviewing speed control changes needed in our Rule Book & next meeting will be in Stewart Hall November 12 @ 6 p.m. to proceed with that process.

Security and Community Watch

Cathy Loftus

- BCLCA provides members with a supportive community. One example is our dedicated Security team and Community Watch, both committed to help ensure everyone's safety and well-being.
- Tony Schiano and John Gower from Tri-State Security Solutions, Inc. play an important role in safeguarding our community and monitoring our amenities. Their responsibilities include making sure that all members comply with our rules. The most frequent rule violations are not wearing badges at beaches/dock, bringing dogs onto the beach, speeding, and failing to stop at stop signs. The safety of our community relies on everyone working together—please help keep our community safe and secure by following the rules.
- Community Watch has dedicated members who volunteer their time to monitor our community. They are an asset to our community. If you are interested in joining our team, please email Cathy at cathyloftus@aol.com

Burn Ban

Cathy Loftus

- Please call 1-570-325-9111 (Carbon County Communications Center) if you are unsure if BCLCA is in a Burn Ban. The fine is \$250 (plus Administrative fees and Certified Postage) for the first offense and \$500 (plus Administrative fees and Certified Postage) for additional fines. It is the members/guest responsibility to check.
- A burn ban prohibits any outdoor burning of combustible materials on the ground or in a burn barrel including campfires, recreational fire pits, and controlled burning. Use of propane/gas grills, propane fireplaces, charcoal grills, or tobacco products are not covered by the burn ban.

Special Projects

Bob Alston, Rand Asher, Wylie Johnson, Jim McElvaney, Rick Monnig

- Special Projects, of which I am also a member, is chaired by Jim McElvaney and will be scheduling a meeting before the November Board meeting.

Stewart Hall

Carla Ferguson and Rand Asher

- As Co-Chairs of the Stewart Hall Committee, we are dedicated to ensuring that Stewart Hall remains a welcoming and well-maintained space for the Bear Creek Lakes Community. Our focus is on the continued upkeep of the Hall and making improvements as needed to preserve its quality and usefulness. Our goal is to work closely with BCLCA and its community members to support and organize events that are held at the Hall, fostering an environment where neighbors can gather, celebrate, and connect.

Technology

Rick Monnig

- The camera installation project continues to progress. Power pedestals are installed at South Beach and the Boat Launch, with inspections passed and PPL connection pending at the Boat Launch. Once live, these will power Internet, Wi-Fi, and cameras.
- Temporary solar 4G camera units at the Dam and Boat Launch continue to perform reliably.
- Community support remains strong — Bryan Tanis donated over 3,000 feet of Cat6 cable, and volunteers (special thanks to Anthony Good and John Baranowski) provided in-house labor, helping the project come in about 30% under budget.
- Overall, the project is on track, under budget, and nearing completion.

Windows 10 Support Has Ended – What to Do

- Microsoft ended free support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025. No regular security updates will be provided.
- Home users can stay protected by enrolling in Microsoft's Extended Security Updates (ESU) Program, which offers up to three additional years of security patches. Enrollment is available through Windows Update or the Microsoft Store, with both free and paid options.
- If your computer supports it, upgrading to Windows 11 remains the best long-term solution.

Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Co. #1

Tom Lynd, President

- Fire Company Fall Season Message
- Community Safety and Autumn Preparedness
- A Message from Your Local Fire Company
- As the vibrant colors of Fall begin to blanket our community, the members of Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 would like to extend warm Autumn greetings to all residents. The change of season brings not only cooler weather and festive gatherings, but also important opportunities to review safety practices and ensure everyone enjoys a safe and memorable Fall.

Fall Fire Safety Tips

- Check Smoke Alarms: Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and replace batteries if needed. Fall is a great time for this annual safety check.
- Practice Safe Heating: If you use space heaters or fireplaces, keep them clear of flammable materials and have chimneys professionally cleaned every year to prevent fires.
- Leaf Disposal: Dispose of leaves and yard debris safely. Never burn leaves or brush without following local ordinances and fire safety guidelines.
- Candle Safety: As days grow shorter, candles may be used more often. Always keep candles away from anything that can burn and never leave them unattended.
- Fire extinguishers expire after 10 years; check the date. You should shake dry chemical extinguisher to loosen up the agent inside.

Emergency Preparedness

- Autumn weather can be unpredictable. Make sure your family has an emergency plan in place and that everyone knows what to do in case of a fire or other weather emergencies. Keep emergency kits stocked and accessible including a manual can opener. Keep a blanket and flashlight in your car for those unpredictable traffic events.
- Thank You for Your Support

- We appreciate your continued support and cooperation in keeping our community safe. If you have any questions or would like more information about fire safety, please email the Fire Chief at firechief@pennforestfire.com. Let's work together for a safe and enjoyable fall season!

Penn Forest Twp. Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1

Ladies' Luncheons

Lona Nelson

Calling all BCL ladies to come out for our monthly luncheons. This is a fun activity and a great way to get acquainted with other BCL ladies. We meet the SECOND THURSDAY of each month at 12:30 p.m. at different local restaurants. Time and location are communicated through email. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send your email address to Lona Nelson at lona7@msn.com. No email, please call me at (520) 490-8051 and I will see to it that you receive the monthly location. We all look forward to meeting new ladies.



BCL Garden Club

Kristine Robinson

“Why plant native plants?

Benefits for the environment and wildlife

- Supports wildlife: Native plants are a critical food and shelter source for local wildlife, including pollinators like bees and butterflies, as well as birds and other animals. The loss of native plants directly impacts their food supply and ability to reproduce.
- Promotes biodiversity by supporting a wide range of local insects and animals; native plants help maintain a balanced and healthy local ecosystem.
- Improves soil health: Their deep root systems help prevent soil erosion and increase organic matter, improving soil structure and its ability to absorb water.
- Conserves water: Because they are adapted to local conditions, native plants typically require much less water than non-native species.
- Reduces runoff: The robust root systems help filter and infiltrate water, reducing stormwater runoff and flooding, which in turn lessens pollution entering waterways.
- Improves air quality: They help absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.
- Benefits for you
- Low maintenance: Native plants are well-adapted to local climate and soil conditions so they require less watering, fertilizing, and pest control.
- Saves money: The reduced need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides can lead to significant cost savings.
- Less work: Once established, these resilient plants need less overall care, making gardening easier.

BCL Library

Linda Sott

Thank you to Sue Whiteley for many years of maintaining the library. I will now be taking over for Sue. The library is located in the basement of Stewart Hall and is open when the office is open, so it is open 5 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.). The weather is changing, cozy up with a blanket and a good book. We have all types of books, including cookbooks, quilting books, children's books, and DVDs. If you borrow books, please return them to the shelves. Book donations are accepted in March and September. Thanks for your cooperation. Questions: email Linda Sott at sandyshores44@aol.com.

TGIF Spring Fling

Diana Bochantin

The annual TGIF Christmas party will be Friday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall. Please bring an appetizer, salad, entree, or dessert to share, and a wrapped gag gift (\$10) for each person. Call Diana at 570 732-4262 for reservations.

Dirty Bingo

Diana Bochantin

Dirty Bingo will return on January 9, February 13, and March 13, 2026. As in the past, please bring a wrapped gift (\$15-20). Coffee and tea will be available. Feel free to bring any other snacks.

BCL Book Club Happenings

Leta Thompson

Our Book Club meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 10:00 a.m. in Stewart Hall. There are no dues to pay, and we choose the books that we want to read through consensus. We read and discuss one book a month. Members volunteer to facilitate the meetings and to bring refreshments. We are always glad to catch up with each other and enjoy rating the books that we read. Through discussions, we learn to appreciate others' viewpoints and see possibilities that we had not seen before. If you enjoy reading, this group will brighten your day. If you are interested in learning more about Book Club or joining us, please contact Leta Thompson at 570-325-2121 or at drletat@gmail.com. New members are always welcome!

Annual Family Softball Game

Elaine Carosella

- Everyone loves softball on a clear summer day. And this year was exactly that, a beautiful day, with a wonderful turnout. We had all ages and genders turn out, and everyone had a great time. We also had an amazing turnout of fans to cheer the players on. We had hot dogs and beverages for all. Be sure to mark the date on your 2026 calendar so you can enjoy all the fun.
- Thanks to the managers: Dave Stokes and Tom McKeon, thanks to Susan Koszelak for getting everyone signed in to play, and I can't forget our cook, Gordon Dunlop, for making all the hot dogs.
- See you August 8, 2026!



BCL Water Aerobics 2025

Elizabeth Pushaw



Thank you to everyone who participated in WA this summer at our beautiful pool. We enjoyed 28 sessions in spite of often chilly temperatures and rain. When there was no sunshine, we all WERE the sunshine

and your enthusiasm always made me smile. Enjoy the change of seasons and hopefully see you all next year. We're one day closer to summer, my friends! Keep an attitude of gratitude and let nothing touch your inner peace.

BCL Annual Golf Tournament

Bill Gullone

This year's BCL Golf Tournament was held on Friday June 27 at White Birch Golf Course. We hosted a smaller group of 28 this year and followed-up with a lunch buffet at Reiley's Pub. The winners for this year's event were: 1st place team: Ed Casey, Marty Casey, and Pete Pavelka; 2nd place team: Bob Swensen, Pete Matone, Terry O'Brien, Rod Annable; Closest to the Pin: SR- Jim Creighton & JR- Eric Domski; Longest Drive: SR- Tom McKeon & JR-Mike Gruber; Closest to the Line: Mike Gruber....See you all again next year!

Quilters

Irene Pyne

- Happy Fall to you all! We had a great summer, but it is good getting back to our regular routine. The quilters are very busy with their new projects for the 2025-26 season and it's wonderful being together again. We would like to welcome anyone who loves to sew and create, and who enjoys great fellowship. We meet each Monday afternoon (weather permitting), from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Stewart Hall. All are welcome (beginner to experienced).
- Stay well and see you soon. God Bless!

BCL Arts and Crafts Show

Kristin Tanis

This was my 2nd year for organizing the BCL Arts and Crafts Show and I think it turned out really well. I was so impressed with the amazing talent we have here in BCL. This was our 7th year of hosting the event in Stewart Hall. I wanted to thank Earlene Russell who had organized this event in years past when it was mostly an Art Show but over the years it has morphed into both Arts and Crafts. Thank you for all those who signed up and for all who came and supported our crafty BCL neighbors. If you are interested in signing up next year as a vendor, keep an eye out in June 2026 for the sign-up information that will be posted on the different community bulletin boards.



BCL Snack Cart

Diana Bochantic and Harriet Zetelski

- Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who gave of their time and money to make the snack cart a success. Even though this year was not as great as previous years due to the weather and less buyers, we were still able to give to the community. We have provided the prizes for the golf cart parade and a pizza party for the lifeguards. Money has been put aside for the Christmas decorating contest.
- We have enjoyed all the years we have spent organizing the cart, but Diana and I have decided it is time for us to retire and let someone younger take over. We wish the best for a successful future.

BCL Merchandise

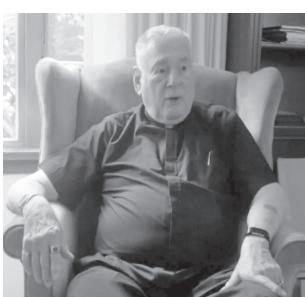
Kathy Curran and Lona Nelson

We had two sales in 2025 and hope all of you are enjoying your BCL t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, and hats. This coming year, we are looking into having an on-line store for those of you who cannot make the day of the sales, along with three in-person sales around President's Weekend, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. Watch for further information as we get closer to forming the on-line store sale and the upcoming in-person sales in 2026.

Gone, but Not Forgotten



Ned Ramm passed away on May 4, 2025. Ned previously lived in BCL and was a BCL Board Director. He made friends everywhere he went. He first served as a strategic reconnaissance pilot and flight instructor in the USAF in Alabama. He left to put his mechanical engineering degree to use designing heavy equipment for use in agriculture, railroads, and the military—while casually teaching college math and earning a law degree along the way. He launched a software company to make the home inspection process more efficient. In his personal life, he found deep joy and love in nature. As an avid fisherman, bird watcher, hiker and adventurer, he found beauty in the world around him. At 70, he began to take this beauty and created pieces of art with it, becoming an award-winning carver who created dozens of beautiful bird and fish carvings that remain treasured works of art. Ned loved his family and his fur babies, and he will be missed.



Father Joseph Whalen passed away on May 11, 2025. He was Pastor Emeritus of Saint Richard Chichester Parish, Barnesville, PA. He entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and was ordained to the Priesthood on March 27, 1971. Father Whalen's first assignment was Professor of Theology, Marian Catholic High School, Tamaqua, where he later served as Vice Principal. He served as Vice Principal of Allentown

Central Catholic High School, Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Parish, West Reading, and Prison Ministry as a Chaplain at the State Correctional Institute, Mahanoy. Father Whalen's Pastoral assignments included Saint Fidelis Parish, Mahanoy City, Saint Canicus Parish, Mahanoy City, Annunciation B.V.M. Parish, Shenandoah, and Saint Richard Chichester Parish, Barnesville. Father Joe was named Pastor Emeritus, Saint Richard Chichester Parish, Barnesville, in 2018. Father Joe was known for his boundless generosity, freely sharing his time, talents, and passions with everyone around him. His heart held a special place for animals, particularly dogs. A memorable highlight of his life was a visit to the Vatican, where he had the extraordinary opportunity to meet John Paul II. Father Joe found peace and pleasure in the simple act of reading books on his front porch. His love of trains inspired multiple generations. Father Joe will be deeply missed by his family and friends.



Brenda Hill passed away on August 25, 2025. Brenda was a kind person who gave a lot of her time to volunteering with the Edge Hill Fire Company in Glenside and the Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Company #1 in Jim Thorpe. Brenda always had a smile and a kind word for everyone. Brenda will be missed by her husband, Bud, her daughters, Susan and Betsy, her family, the Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, and many friends.

Mari Gruber, The Butterfly Lady, passed away on August 25, 2025. Mari touched the lives of thousands of children, families, and friends through her art, her love of nature, and her endless generosity and kindness. She was an incredible artist, a devoted environmentalist, and a joyful presence in every community she was a part of. Bear Mountain Butterfly Sanctuary was the love of her life and she will be missed by everyone.



Tom Whiteley passed away on September 4, 2025. Thomas leaves behind memories cherished by the community. On June 1, 1972, Tom married the love of his life, Suzan, and together they built a life filled with love, family, and community. He was a devoted husband, father to his daughter Amanda Ahlers, and adoring grandfather to Mackenzie Ahlers. Tom dedicated much of his life to service through the Clinton Fire Department, where he was a proud member and volunteer. He served as Chief of the Clinton Fire Department from 1985 to 1989 and again from 1996 to 2000. In his career, Tom worked as a dispatcher for Van Doren Oil Co., where his reliability and steady nature made him a trusted colleague. Outside of work and volunteerism, Tom found joy in stock car racing in Flemington, attending fire company activities, and cherishing time spent with his family. When Tom and Sue moved to Bear Creek Lakes, Tom became involved and volunteered with the Penn Forest Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 as a firefighter and President of the Fire Company.

Peter Hillman passed away on September 4, 2025. Born and raised in the Ambler area, Peter was a devoted family man and friend to many. He was known for his fun-loving spirit, his caring nature, and his willingness to always put others first. Peter enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, playing golf, and cheering for the Philadelphia Eagles. He especially loved going to the mountains and spending time at the lake. Peter's warmth, generosity, and passion for life will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



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When you sign up for the website, you will also be added to the **Email blasts** that are sent to members for emergencies, monthly Board Meeting Agenda, Zoom information, and reminders for events coming up. We understand some may be intimidated with technology, so we are willing to help you. If you email **webmaster.bclca@gmail.com** we can set up a date to assist you.

- Directions to set up **BCLCA website**: Go to **www.bclca.org** If you click on Members Only, a Log In window will pop up. Click on the New to this Site? Sign Up. Enter your information. Make sure to put your BCL address. The information will be verified that you are on the deed in a day or 2 and then a message will be sent if approved.
- The only official Facebook page for our community is the **Bear Creek Lakes Informational Page**. Comments are not allowed on this page. When an emergency occurs, this page may have information put on earlier due to the availability of the administrators of the website.

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EVENTS FOR 2025/2026

Information for the following events will be posted on the website www.bclca.org
More events will be added to the calendar when they are finalized.

NOVEMBER

Sat Nov 1 Mac & Cheese Cook-Off (Stewart Hall)
Thur Nov 13 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30PM (location TBD)
Sat Nov 15 BCL Board Meeting - 9AM In person and via Zoom (Stewart Hall)
Tue Nov 18 Book Club - 10:00AM (Stewart Hall)

DECEMBER

Sat Dec 6 Kids Christmas Party – 5PM (Stewart Hall)
Thur Dec 11 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30PM (location TBD)
Sat Dec 13 House Decorating Contest. Deadline to register TBD. Email Dylan @dmbradley25@gmail.com to register/more info
Tue Dec 16 Book Club - 10:30AM (Stewart Hall)
Fri Dec 19 TGIF Adult Christmas Party – 6PM (Stewart Hall)

JANUARY

Thur Jan 8 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30PM (location TBD)
Fri Jan 9 Dirty Bingo - 6:30PM (Stewart Hall)
Sat Jan 10 Chili Cook-Off (time/registration TBD) (Stewart Hall)
Sat Jan 17 BCL Board Meeting - 9AM In person and via Zoom (Stewart Hall)
Tue Jan 20 Book Club - 10:00AM (Stewart Hall)

FEBRUARY

Thur Feb 12 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30PM (location TBD)
Fri Feb 13 Dirty Bingo - 6:30PM (Stewart Hall)
Sat Feb 14 Boilo Cook-Off (time/registration TBD)(Stewart Hall)
Tue Feb 17 Book Club - 10:00AM (Stewart Hall)
Sat Feb 21 BCL Board Meeting - 9AM In person and via Zoom (Stewart Hall)
Sat Feb 28 Whine About Winter – (Time TBD) (Stewart Hall)

MARCH

Thur Mar 12 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30PM (location TBD)
Fri Mar 13 Dirty Bingo - 6:30PM (Stewart Hall)
Tue Mar 17 Book Club - 10:00AM (Stewart Hall)
Sat Mar 21 BCL Board Meeting - 9AM In person and via Zoom (Stewart Hall)

APRIL

Date TBD Kids Easter Egg Hunt (Time and Location TBD)
Thur Apr 9 Ladies Luncheon - 12:30PM (location TBD)
Sat Apr 18 BCL Board Meeting - 9AM In person and via Zoom (Stewart Hall)
Tue Apr 21 Book Club - 10:00AM (Stewart Hall)

Morning Coffee 9-11AM every Monday (Stewart Hall)
Quilters 2:30PM every Monday (Stewart Hall)

STAY TUNED FOR NEW SUMMER EVENTS COMING MAY – AUGUST

Interested in hosting an event or volunteering? Contact Dylan @ dmbradley25@gmail.com or Carla @ carla.bclca@yahoo.com

BCL BOAT RACK LOTTERY REGISTRATION FORM – YEAR 2026

ALL information must be completed and returned to the office
no later than March 31, 2026, to be eligible for the lottery.

Name: _____

BCL Address: _____

Non-BCL Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Type of Boat/Weight: _____ BCLCA Sticker #: _____

In order to be eligible to participate in the lottery for a boat rack, I hereby agree to the following terms and conditions concerning the use of the boat racks for 2026.

- 1. Annual boat rack rental fee is \$25.00; if NOT paid by May 23, 2026, your rack will be given to the next member.**
- I understand and agree, during any period when the boat is in the boat rack, Bear Creek Lakes Civic Association (hereinafter referred to as ("the Association") is not responsible in any manner if the boat is stolen or damaged and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is stolen or damaged.
- I agree to remove my boat from the rack area prior to December 1, 2026. I understand and agree that if my boat is not removed by December 1, the Association has my expressed permission to remove the boat(s) from the boat rack and store it at a storage charge of thirty dollars (\$30) per boat, per month, which I agree to pay. I also understand and agree, during any period when the boat is stored by the Association, the Association is not responsible in any manner if the boat is stolen or damaged and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is stolen or damaged.
- I understand the Association will only store boats for a maximum of nine (9) months and any boat remaining in storage after nine (9) months will be disposed of by the Association as it deems appropriate, and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is disposed of.
- I understand only one rack will be assigned in the original lottery. Any additional racks may be requested (on separate form) after the Memorial Day weekend of the current year.
- I understand each rack has a maximum capacity of either: one rowboat, one canoe, two kayaks, or two SUP's (stand up paddle boards), and all must be registered with the office.
- Any watercraft found on a BCLCA rack without a BCLCA sticker will be secured to the rack by Maintenance until the required stickers are obtained, applied, and a \$25 maintenance fee is paid.
- I agree I am the owner of the property listed above and understand only the member may apply for the boat rack.

9. Date: _____ Registrant: _____

Special requests & notes: (rack location preference – Boat Launch, North Beach, South Beach, Indian Trail)

When you have completed the form, save it and email it to Office@bclca.org or print a copy and mail or deliver to the office at 57 Pool Drive, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229



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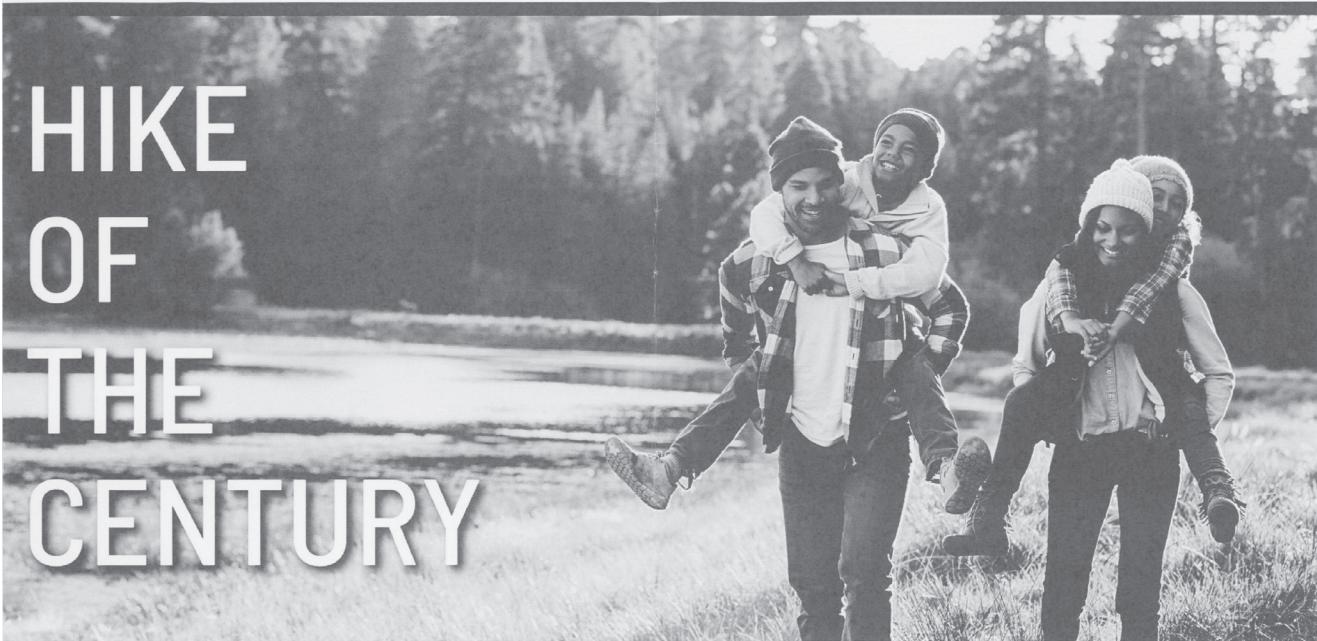


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Bear Creek Lakes Civic Association

BCLCA Office	570-325-3334
Maintenance	570-325-8270
Security	570-325-9322

Note: Calls revert to the Communications Center of the outside Security firm when officer is not on duty.

State Police, Lehighton Barracks	610-377-4270
Road Conditions Carbon County	610-377-1880
Pa. State Turnpike	800-331-3414
Game Commission Dead Deer Reporting	610-926-3136
Dead Deer or Road Issue	800-FIX-ROAD

Penn Forest Township

Township Secretary	570-325-2768
Building Inspector	570-325-2760

Carbon County Communications Center

Fire Company #1	911
Ambulance (Lehighton-903 Substation)	911
Non-emergency number, Burning Permits	570-325-9111

Carbon County

Court House Information	570-325-3611
K-9 Dog Control (M - F 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	570-325-4828

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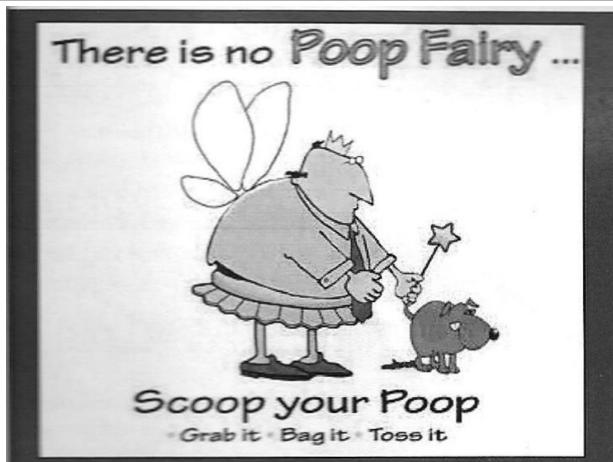
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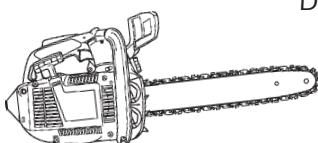
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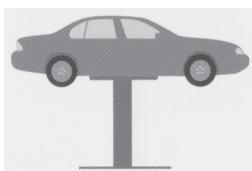
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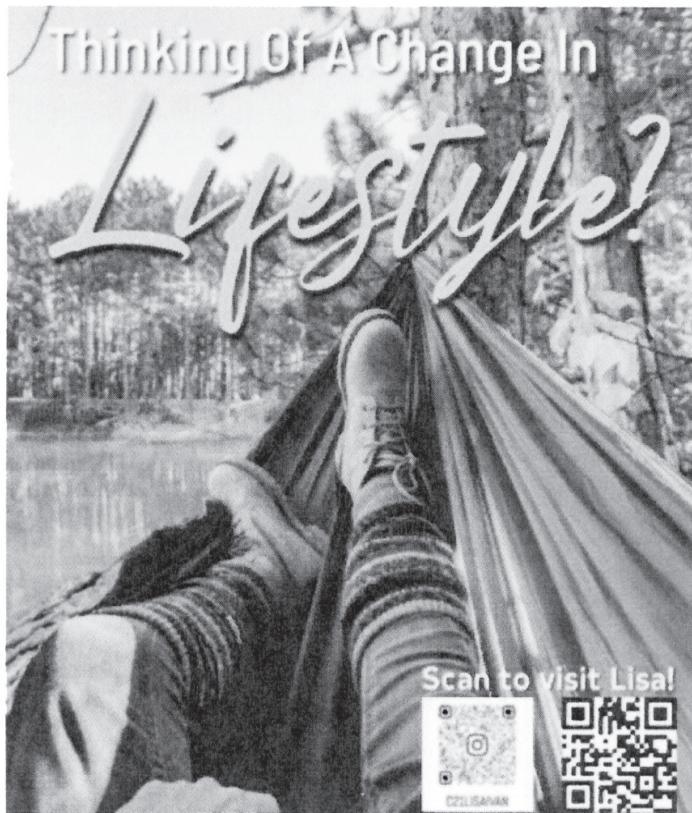
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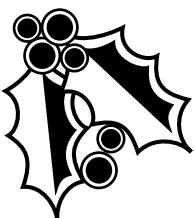
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