

APRIL 2024

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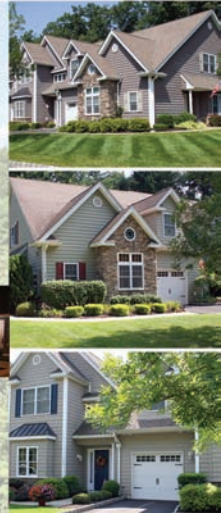
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# CONNECT

APRIL 2024

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## FEATURES

### **6 5 TIPS TO GET YOUR YARD READY FOR SPRING**

As the weather begins to warm and days get longer, it's important to begin preparing your yard for a healthy growing season. While factors like climate, soil type and grass type can all impact how your yard grows, there are a few steps you can take during the spring months to help your lawn thrive.

### **8 7 STEPS TO START GROWING PRODUCE**

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet.

### **10 OPEN HOUSE TIPS FOR SELLERS**

When selling your home, an open house or buyer walkthrough is an outstanding opportunity for potential buyers to see your home. Not only are they able to see your entire house, both inside and out, but they can begin to picture themselves living there.

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### WHAT A DILEMMA

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.  
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.  
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.  
To expose feelings is to risk rejection.  
To place your visions before the crowd is to risk ridicule.  
To love is to risk not being loved in return.  
**\*\*To go forward in the face of overwhelming odds is to risk failure.**  
But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.  
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.  
We may avoid suffering and sorrow, but we cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love or know GOD.  
Chained by our own self-assurances, we are a slave. We have forfeited our freedom.  
**Only the person who dares to take risks and to trust in their GOD will ever be made FREE.**

---

In 1997, Rev. Edwin E. Bailey, father of the editor, gave this poem to his daughter 8 days before he had a stroke and 3 weeks before he died. The poem was adapted from works by Leo Buscaglia. Edwin hand wrote this on a scrap of paper and gave it to his daughter, Deborah, saying the words, "Someday you'll understand these words and use them. God bless sweetheart." \*\*These words were used in making the decision to purchase Connections Magazine in 2002.

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“ If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”

– *Marcus Tullius Cicero*

**T**ime to get dirty with our April issue... this month we're packed with all the *Good Stuff* for growing grass, veggies and your wallet.

As the weather begins to warm and days get longer, it's important to begin preparing your yard for a healthy growing season. Page 6 has a few steps you can take during the spring months to help your lawn thrive.

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet. Dig into page 8 to see how to start growing your own produce.

While playing in the dirt, save your worms and take the kiddos to the Pike County Board of Commissioners annual Commissioners' Fishing Derby. Check out page 24 for all the details.

Get outside, enjoy the spring air, and get dirty!

The CM Team  
570.647.0085  
cmag@ptd.net



# 5 Steps to Get Your Yard Ready for *Spring*





**As the weather begins to warm and days get longer, it's important to begin preparing your yard for a healthy growing season. While factors like climate, soil type and grass type can all impact how your yard grows, there are a few steps you can take during the spring months to help your lawn thrive.**

From dethatching and aerating to fertilizing and mowing, tackling these simple chores can help ensure your yard looks its best and is prepared to fight off seasonal weeds, disease and drought.

## Tune Your Mower

Before it's time for the first mowing of the season, inspect your mower and perform any routine maintenance necessary. That goes beyond sharpening, or replacing the blade, and includes changing the oil, spark plugs and filter as well as filling with a fresh tank of gas.

## Loosen the Thatch Layer

While it's important to avoid working on your lawn until after the final freeze to avoid damaging the grass, raking your yard with a spring tine rake to loosen thatch - the layer of leaves, roots and dead grass that builds up between live grass and soil - before the first mow is equally important. Be sure to rake when the soil is dry; if it's too soft or muddy, you may pull up healthy grass crowns.

## Combat Compacted Soil

If your soil has become compacted - likely the effect of heavy foot traffic - and is too dense for water, air and other nutrients to reach the roots of your grass, aerating can help break it up and reduce thatch. A core, or plug, aerator can introduce tiny holes into your soil by removing plugs of grass and soil,

which lets nutrients more easily reach the roots. An added bonus, the plugs can decompose on top of your grass, supplying more nutrients.

## Fill in Bare Spots

If your lawn is looking sparse, overseeding, which involves spreading grass seed over your existing lawn, can help fill in bare spots. Be sure to choose the right type of seed for your climate and soil type to ensure proper growth. Applying a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer at the same time can provide additional nutrients that are important for promoting healthy growth.

## Start Seasonal Mowing

When the ground is dry enough and your grass is long enough to require cutting, begin seasonal mowing. Be sure to use proper techniques, including varying your mowing direction each time to avoid creating patterns or ruts, and avoid cutting grass too low, which can make the lawn more susceptible to weeds and drought stress. In general, never remove more than one-third of the grass blade at a time.

Find more tips to help get your yard ready for warm weather at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

*Family Feature | Source: eLivingtoday.com  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash | #16969*



# 7 Steps to Start Growing Produce

**Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet.**

---

Maintaining a garden takes some effort, but it's a project even a beginner can tackle with ease. Consider these tips to start growing your at-home garden:

## 1} Select a perfect spot

You'll want to place your garden in an area where you see it often so you're reminded to weed and care for it regularly.

Find a flat area you can access easily, where erosion and other pitfalls (including hungry wildlife) won't be a problem.

## 2} Choose between ground and containers

There are pros and cons to gardening in containers vs. the ground, and there's no universal right choice. Rather, the best garden depends on your goals and preferences. A ground garden usually offers more space and may provide a better growth environment for roots. However, a container garden is often easier to main-

tain and may be all you need if you wish to grow just a few plants.

### 3} Understand the importance of quality soil

You may think any dirt will do, but keep in mind the soil you plant in will be the primary source of nutrients for your produce. Not only that, but quality soil provides stability so plants can root firmly and grow healthy and sturdy to support their bounty. Quality soil also allows for ample drainage. Organic matter like compost, leaf mold or aged manure all help improve soil quality.

### 4} Keep water close

Lugging water can quickly eliminate the pleasure of tending your garden, so be sure you're situated near a hose. You'll know it's time to water when the soil is dry about an inch below the surface.

### 5} Plan for plenty of sun

A bright, sunny spot is a must, since most vegetables, herbs and fruits depend on six or more hours of sun every day. Remember the sun's path changes throughout the year, and as trees and foliage grow, they may produce more shade with each growing season.

### 6} Consider what you'll grow

Starting with veggies you know you like is a smart starting point since you'll be pouring sweat equity into making them grow. Over time, you might add new varieties, but early on, keep your focus on foods you know you like so you can see a meaningful return and avoid waste. You'll also need to consider what you can grow to maturity within your area's growing season. If necessary, you might want to start transplants you can nurture indoors before moving them outside when the temperatures allow.

## 7} Plant according to a calendar.

Knowing how long it takes different foods to mature will help you create a planting calendar. You don't want to harvest everything at once, and if you stagger planting and replant what you can, you'll have a garden that produces food for your family for a longer period of time.

Find more helpful tips for managing your home and garden at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

Source: *Family Features*  
Photo courtesy of *Unsplash* | #15612

## Product Spotlight



### Muck Boots

Muck boots are ready to keep you dry, comfortable and sure footed, no matter what you face this spring. The 6" Arctic Sport II Ankle Boots, \$140 offers flexible, all-day comfort and protection against the elements. The Arctic Sport II boots are designed specifically for a women's foot. Easy on and off with a 5mm neoprene bootie with a printed rubber coating that is 100% muck proof and abrasion resistant. A lightweight EVA Midsole supports the foot while a bioDEWIX™ Dry footbed controls odor and manages moisture. The boots are finished with a rugged rubber outsole for dependable traction for ice, snow and mud.

Available in grey/pink, brown/green, blue/grey and black.

[www.muckbootcompany.com](http://www.muckbootcompany.com)



**Good Stuff**

# Open House Tips for **SELLERS**

*Provided by Disaster Blaster*

When selling your home, an open house or buyer walkthrough is an outstanding opportunity for potential buyers to see your home. Not only are they able to see your entire house, both inside and out, but they can begin to picture themselves living there.

**Often, however, home sellers are unsure what they should do to prepare for an open house and what to expect from the process. Here are a few tips from the pros!**

## Don't be there during the open house

We realize you may want to be there, but trust us, an open house or buyer walkthrough will be much more productive without you there. Not only will buyers be much more comfortable, they'll be more open about what they do and don't like, potentially giving your real estate agent valuable information to make your home more attractive to potential buyers.

The goal of the open house is to provide your real estate agent with an opportunity to engage with interested buyers, and that will be much easier if they're comfortable and relaxed. While we completely understand wanting to be there, it's strongly recommended that you leave the open house and showings to the professionals.

## Tidy up before the open house

Preparing your home for the open house can significantly increase your chances of finding a buyer. Here are a few things you can do now to ensure your home puts its best foot forward:

**Depersonalize:** You want potential buyers to be able to imagine their families living in your current home, and your family photos can be a bit of a disconnect. Depersonalizing may seem like a silly thing, but it can make a huge difference.

**Tidy up and declutter:** A clean, tidy, house looks larger, appears better cared for, and is easier to sell. Before the open house, clear any clutter and clean through the house to ensure that everything is ready for the potential buyers.

**Put valuables away:** Keep in mind that anyone can come into your home during an open house and, while rare, things can go missing. To avoid potential issues, it's always a good idea to put valuables away in a safe place.

**Find a place for pets:** Whether you're able to take your dog with you or find a friend or family member to watch your cat during the open house, it's always recommended to find a place for your pets so they're not home during the open house.

**Make your house smell nice:** You want your home to smell clean and inviting without smelling like you covered something up. Bake some cookies before you leave, lightly spray an

air freshener, put out a couple of oil diffusers, etc.

## Discuss key features with your real estate agent before the open house

Your real estate agent is the perfect person to present your home during the open house but may be unfamiliar with key features like radiant heat, certain home fixtures, or what content items may be sold with the house. Before the open house, take some time to review any items or features that may be a potential selling point with your real estate agent so that they're prepared.

The right real estate agent will be able to help with everything from recommendations to prepare the house for sale, to the open house and buyer showings, right through to the closing, and will be happy to answer any questions that may come up during the process.

## Consider addressing known issues before the open house

Have you been meaning to finish painting a room? Do you have a moisture or mold issue in your basement or attic? Do you have a high radon level? These are all issues that could come up during the buyer's walkthrough or home inspection, so it's a great idea to address them ahead of time.

While we firmly believe that issues discovered during the home inspection can generally be resolved without affecting the ultimate sale of the property, some buyers can be scared off. Instead of waiting for these issues to be discovered by the buyer or their home inspector, addressing them now will help your house show better and could speed up the closing!

We hope this answered some of your questions and hope you have a wonderful open house!

As always, if you or your buyers' home inspector discover an issue like water damage, mold, asbestos, or radon and need professional assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our offices.



### About Disaster Blaster

*Disaster Blaster is an indoor environmental firm serving the Northeastern PA Area. We have been providing our local area with unparalleled water damage mitigation, mold remediation, basement waterproofing, basement waterproofing, asbestos abatement, radon mitigation, and fire / smoke restoration services for decades, and are proud to have been named The World's Greatest Indoor Environmental Firm. For more about Disaster Blaster, as well as more helpful tips, please visit our website at: [www.disasterblaster.com](http://www.disasterblaster.com) or call our office at (570) 963-1123.*



# living green

## *Agrivoltaics:*

### Trends in Solar & Farming

*By Jamie Reeger,  
Development Director SEEDS of NEPA*

**On March 6, Chelsea Hill, a Penn State Extension livestock educator, delivered an insightful webinar as part of the SEEDS Solar Forum series, shedding light on the burgeoning industry of agrivoltaics in Pennsylvania and beyond.**

Agrivoltaics, the integration of agriculture and solar photovoltaic energy generation on the same land, is gaining traction as a more acceptable alternative to traditional solar farms. While facing challenges like permitting, agrivoltaics offers dual benefits that outweigh these hurdles.

Research conducted by various universities, including Penn State, highlights the advantages of agrivoltaics. Elevated solar panels provide shelter for crops, protecting them from adverse weather conditions such as heavy rain, drought, and excessive sun exposure. Moreover, these panels help retain moisture in the soil, enhancing vegetable and fruit production. In times of severe drought, vegetables grown under solar arrays have demonstrated higher yields compared to control groups. During periods of intense sunlight, many plant species thrive in the shade provided by the panels, benefiting both crop yields and farmer comfort.

Additionally, agrivoltaics can foster a symbiotic relationship with native pollinator plants and support beekeeping, leading to increased solar output as solar



panels can be more densely concentrated. Unlike traditional agricultural practices, agrivoltaics require minimal land management and offer opportunities for agro-grazing, where livestock, particularly sheep, can graze beneath the solar arrays.

Agriculture currently utilizes 52% of U.S. land surface, and projections indicate a need for roughly 0.5% of U.S. land for solar production to meet 100% sustainable energy goals; agrivoltaics present a compelling solution by combining food and energy production in the same space. Despite challenges, ongoing research and growing momentum promise a bright future for agrivoltaics.

SEEDS, through its educational efforts, is actively engaging the Northeast Pennsylvania community in building climate resilience and promoting sustainable land use practices, emphasizing the importance of agrivoltaics in this endeavor. As the world moves towards a more climate-resilient future, agrivoltaics emerge as a promising pathway to address the dual challenges of food and energy production.



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# OUR NEW CHURCH

By The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Dear Editor,

Last night we approved the design plans for our new church. After meeting once every two weeks for over a year, the NCC or New Church Committee was delighted to see the architectural renderings of the new design. Ever since our church burned down and we have been holding our religious services in the Unity grange hall, we are all looking forward to being in our new home.

The vote was unanimous. I kept the NCC small so we could be efficient. It consists of five people: me as chairman, my husband Dr. William A. DoGood as vice chair, Ms. Helen Baxter as secretary, Mr. Findlay Lyman Rogers, Esq. the church's attorney and Mr. Barney Sellman, AIA architect.

When I became senior pastor of the church, I took over the building that my father-in-law built. The Reverend Mr. Silas Patriot DoGood founded The First Church of God's Love, and the building structured his philosophy. He believed that the church was a place to enter to be away from the world. One brought one's life into a private space. It was dimly lit with only diffused light coming through the windows.

I wanted clear glass in my church. I wanted the cleansing, forgiving and nurturing sunlight from the outside world to enter my church, and I wanted my congregation's goodness to pass through the glass walls out into the world. So when Barney Sellman recommended a design based upon the Mildred B. Cooper Chapel in Bella Vista, AK, I enthusiastically approved. But Helen Baxter and Findlay Rogers strongly disapproved.

The Cooper Chapel is designed with vertical gothic arches made from thirty one tons of steel with over four thousand feet of glass in between. Upon entering the Chapel one, is struck with the breathtaking architecture of man while viewing the brilliance of the surrounding landscape. The site for our new church has views of open fields, our valley, cow pastures, and several ponds.

Helen and Findlay thought the chapel was too bright. They wanted a church that allowed them to be introspective. For them, candle light, low wattage, and diffused light made it easier to be spiritual. We were at a standstill.

I was expressing my disappointment to my best friend, Alice Bright Light, as we were hav-

ing after dinner drinks in our favorite booth at the River Creek Inn. As we drank our Green Chartreuse, I told her my dilemma.

She said: "Why don't you also build a round house next to the chapel? There are no windows in it, and you can build it with one skylight in the middle of the domed roof. That's where Native Americans had an opening for the smoke to escape from the fire below."

Alice is a full blooded Chippewa Indian from a reservation in North Dakota and is used to Native American architecture. She once saw a sixty-foot wide round house on a reservation used for all social gatherings.

That idea was approved by the NCC, including Helen and Findlay.

The renderings we approved last night showed our new church with a double wide front door. This opens into a large vestibule from which congregants can decide to either enter the steel and glass chapel or the round house. Meditation will be allowed in both when services are not being held. All services will be held in the glass chapel, but all of our social gatherings, including those after service, will be in the round house.

You will recall that before our church burned down, we used to have all of our social gatherings in the "Great Hall" which is what my father-in-law called the old church's basement.

In my Sunday sermons, I often speak of having faith and hope. I was put to the test of my own words when our church burned down. But through the kindness and strength of my family and you my congregation, I am renewed in my own testament. Believing is sometimes very difficult. Now it is time for thanks.

Amen.



**The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood**

Senior Pastor  
Executive Director  
President  
Chairman

Choir Master (part-time)

**The First Church of God's Love**

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# Changing Jobs?

## Know Your 401(k) Options

..... Provided by Michael Krupa

**If you've lost your job, or are changing jobs, you may be wondering what to do with your 401(k) plan account. It's important to understand your options.**

### What will I be entitled to?

If you leave your job (voluntarily or involuntarily), you'll be entitled to a distribution of your vested balance. Your vested balance always includes your own contributions (pre-tax, after-tax, and Roth) and typically any investment earnings on those amounts. It also includes employer contributions (and earnings) that have satisfied your plan's vesting schedule.

In general, you must be 100% vested in your employer's contributions after three years of service ("cliff vesting"), or you must vest gradually, 20% per year until you're fully vested after six years ("graded vesting"). Plans can have faster vesting schedules, and some even have 100% immediate vesting. You'll also be 100% vested once you've reached your plan's normal retirement age.

It's important for you to understand how your particular plan's vesting schedule works, because you'll forfeit any employer contributions that haven't vested by the time you leave your job. Your summary plan description (SPD) will spell out how the vesting schedule for your particular plan works. If you don't have one, ask your plan administrator for it. If you're on the cusp of vesting, it may make sense to wait a bit before leaving, if you have that luxury.

### Don't spend it

While this pool of dollars may look attractive, don't spend it unless you absolutely need to. If you take a distribution, you'll be taxed, at ordinary income tax rates, on the entire value of your account except for any after-tax or Roth 401(k) contributions you've made. And, if you're not yet age 55, an additional 10% penalty may apply to the taxable portion of your payout, unless an exception applies. (Special rules may apply if the lump-sum includes employer stock.)

If your vested balance is more than \$5,000 (\$7,000 beginning in 2024), you can leave your money in your employer's plan at least until you reach the plan's normal retirement age (typically age 65). But your employer must also allow you to make a direct rollover to an IRA or to another employer's 401(k) plan (if permitted by that plan). As the name suggests, in a direct rollover the money passes directly from your 401(k) plan account to the IRA or other plan. This is preferable to a "60-day rollover," where you get a check made payable to you and then roll the money over yourself, because your employer has to withhold 20% of the taxable portion of a 60-day rollover. You can still roll over the entire amount of your distribution, but you'll need to come up with the 20% that's been withheld until you recapture that amount when you file your income tax return.

### Should I roll over to my new employer's 401(k) plan or to an IRA?

Assuming both options are available to you, there's no right or wrong answer to this question. You need to weigh all of the factors, and make a decision based on your own needs and priorities. It's best to have a professional assist you with this, since the decision you make may have significant consequences — both now and in the future.

#### **Reasons to consider rolling over to an IRA:**

- You generally have more investment choices with an IRA than with an employer's 401(k) plan. You typically may freely move your money around to the various investments offered by your IRA trustee, and you may divide up your balance among as many of those investments as you want. By contrast, employer-sponsored plans may offer a limited menu of investments from which to choose.

- You can freely allocate your IRA dollars among different IRA trustees/custodians. There's no limit on how many direct, trustee-to-trustee IRA transfers you can do in a year. This gives you flexibility to change trustees often if you are dissatisfied with investment performance or customer service. It can also allow you to have IRA

accounts with more than one institution for added diversification. With an employer's plan, you can't move the funds to a different trustee unless you leave your job and roll over the funds.

- An IRA may give you more flexibility with distributions. Your distribution options in a 401(k) plan depend on the terms of that particular plan, and your options may be limited. However, with an IRA, the timing and amount of distributions are generally at your discretion (until you reach the age at which you must begin taking minimum distributions).

- You can roll over (essentially "convert") your 401(k) plan distribution to a Roth IRA. You'll generally have to pay taxes on the amount you roll over (minus any after-tax contributions you've made), but any qualified distributions from the Roth IRA in the future will be tax free.

**Reasons to consider rolling over to your new employer's 401(k) plan (or stay in your current plan):**

- Many employer-sponsored plans have loan provisions. If you roll over your retirement funds to a new employer's plan that permits loans, you may be able to borrow up to 50% of the amount you roll over if you need the money. You can't borrow from an IRA — you can only access the money in an IRA by taking a distribution, which may be subject to income tax and penalties. (You can give yourself a short-term loan from an IRA by taking a distribution, and then rolling the dollars back to an IRA within 60 days; however, this move is permitted only once in any 12-month time period.)

- Employer retirement plans generally provide greater creditor protection than IRAs. Most 401(k) plans receive unlimited protection from your creditors under federal law. Your creditors (with certain exceptions) cannot attach your plan funds to satisfy any of your debts and obligations, regardless of whether you've declared bankruptcy. In contrast, any amounts you roll over to a traditional or Roth IRA are generally protected under federal law only if you declare bankruptcy.

Any creditor protection your IRA may receive in cases outside of bankruptcy will generally depend on the laws of your particular state. If you are concerned about asset protection, be sure to seek the assistance of a qualified professional.

- You may be able to postpone required minimum distributions. For traditional IRAs, these distributions must begin by April 1 following the year you reach age 73 (75 for those who reach age 73 after December 31, 2032). However, if you work past that age and are still participating in



your employer's 401(k) plan, you can delay your first distribution from that plan until April 1 following the year of your retirement. (You also must own no more than 5% of the company.)

- If your distribution includes Roth 401(k) contributions and earnings, you can roll those amounts over to either a Roth IRA or your new employer's Roth 401(k) plan (if it accepts rollovers). If you roll the funds over to a Roth IRA, the

Roth IRA holding period will determine when you can begin receiving tax-free qualified distributions from the IRA. So if you're establishing a Roth IRA for the first time, your Roth 401(k) dollars will be subject to a brand new five-year holding period. On the other hand, if you roll the dollars over to your new employer's Roth 401(k) plan, your existing five-year holding period will carry over to the new plan. This may enable you to receive tax-free qualified distributions sooner.

When evaluating whether to initiate a rollover, always be sure to (1) ask about possible surrender charges that may be imposed by your employer plan, or new surrender charges that your IRA may impose, (2) compare investment fees and expenses charged by your IRA (and investment funds) with those charged by your employer plan (if any), and (3) understand any accumulated rights or guarantees that you may be giving up by transferring funds out of your employer plan.

### What about outstanding plan loans?

In general, if you have an outstanding plan loan, you'll need to pay it back, or the outstanding balance will be taxed as if it had been distributed to you in cash. If you can't pay the loan back before you leave, you'll still have 60 days to roll over the amount that's been treated as a distribution to your IRA. Of course, you'll need to come up with the dollars from other sources.



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# POCONO

## secrets

## QUIET VALLY LIVING HISTORICAL FARM

Preserving 19th Century Agricultural Heritage

By LA Guzda

**I subscribe to NewsBreak Hawley, an email that delivers (mostly) local news. In February I read an invitation to the Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm's members only maple-syrup tasting. Two things came to mind immediately... 1) I have wanted to visit the farm for some time but just hadn't gotten around to it. 2) I wanted in on the maple syrup tasting! So I went online and procured my senior membership for \$20! (Regular membership \$35) Worth every penny and more!**

Located in Monroe County – between Honesdale and Allentown, it's a beautiful drive from any direction. I arrived and met the nicest people who immediately made me feel welcome. This is definitely a family vibe (some actual family) with a warmth and shared interest in preserving agricultural heritage.

They offer a variety of workshops, festivals and events. They operate year-round, but the Farm is open to the public from the 3rd Saturday in June through Labor Day, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., providing tours to take you back to the 19th century.

Some of the events you will enjoy include a Civil War encampment reenactment and the Heritage Craft Day in August. Workshops include backpack basket weaving, art, knitting and more. Farm Animal Frolic weekends in May is a family favorite. They provide hundreds of school programs. This is NOT a petting zoo – they are a living historic farm focused on history and farming.



The Farm has been operating as a non-profit organization since 1974. But this family farm's beginnings date back to the mid-18th century under the care of the Depper Family until 1913 when it was sold to the Hess family. In 1958 it was sold to Alice and Wendell Wicks.

The Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm strives to inspire visitors by interpreting the culture of 19th century farm families, helping people to better understand the past and how it connects with the present as well as the future.

I can't say enough about how much I enjoyed "dis-



covering" this Pocono jewel. This is a fun and passionate group of folks with great humor and dedication toward education, entertainment, and engagement. I highly recommend a membership as they offer several "members only" events. It's a great location for photographers, and there is space for your special events.

Visit their website at: [QuietValley.org](http://QuietValley.org) to check out upcoming events and put it on your calendar! Or you can follow them @QuietValleyFarmMuseum.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @PoconoSecrets  
[www.PoconoSecrets.com](http://www.PoconoSecrets.com)



# THE AREA'S *GOOD STUFF*

## APR '24

### Ongoing Events

#### DAILY

##### Rotating Art Gallery

Three Hammers Winery, Honesdale. Art Gallery presents a harmonious balance of contemporary fine art, fine wine, & local history. It showcases the mastery of artists from Northeastern PA & beyond, working in a variety of mediums. All artist receptions are free & open to the public.  
Info: [threehammerswinery.com](http://threehammerswinery.com).

#### TUESDAYS

##### Gentle AM Stretch with Maryanne

8:30-9:30 a.m. Lake Region Fitness, Hawley Silk Mill, Hawley. Info: 570-390-4GYM (4496) or [info@lakeregionfitness.net](mailto:info@lakeregionfitness.net).

#### WEDNESDAYS

##### Yoga with Maryanne

8:30-9:30 a.m. Lake Region Fitness, Hawley Silk Mill, Hawley. Info: 570-390-4GYM (4496) or [info@lakeregionfitness.net](mailto:info@lakeregionfitness.net).

#### WEDNESDAYS

##### Taste of Tokyo

5-8 p.m. Glass Restaurant, Hawley. Enjoy authentic Izakaya style small plate & Japanese brew featured on Wednesdays.  
Info: 570-226-1337 or [info@ledgeshotel.com](mailto:info@ledgeshotel.com).

#### THURSDAYS

##### Jazz Nights at Here & Now Brewing Company

6:30-9 p.m. Here & Now Brewing Company, Honesdale. Musical guests appear weekly, and each week takes you on a different journey of sound. Free. Info: 570-253-0700 or [info@hereandnowbrewing.com](mailto:info@hereandnowbrewing.com).

#### FRIDAYS

##### Yoga with Diane

9-10 a.m. Lake Region Fitness, Hawley Silk Mill, Hawley. Info: 570-390-4GYM (4496) or [info@lakeregionfitness.net](mailto:info@lakeregionfitness.net).

#### FRIDAYS

##### Hawley Farmers Market

1-4 p.m. Hawley Hub, Hawley. Through April. Pre-orders available from online vendor list, & pick up at the market.  
Info: 570-226-1644.

#### FRIDAYS

##### Live Music Fridays

4-7 p.m. Runaway Train Brewery, Honesdale.  
Info: [info@runawaytrainbrewery.com](mailto:info@runawaytrainbrewery.com).

#### FRIDAYS

##### Fireside Live

6-9 p.m. The Dock on Wallenpaupack, Hawley. Live music. Info: 570-226-4388 or [info@silverbirchesresortpa.com](mailto:info@silverbirchesresortpa.com).

#### SATURDAYS

##### Yoga with Diane

10-11 a.m. Lake Region Fitness, Hawley Silk Mill, Hawley. Info: 570-390-4GYM (4496) or [info@lakeregionfitness.net](mailto:info@lakeregionfitness.net).

#### SATURDAYS

##### The Main Street Farmers Market at The Cooperage

11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Cooperage Project, Honesdale. Market brings food directly from the local farmer or artisan to the customer. Pre-order from the online vendor list and pick up at the market for your convenience. The Cooperage Project will host an open-air market outdoors on fair winter days. During inclement weather, they will host the market indoors. Free. Info: 570-253-2020 or [info@thecooperageproject.org](mailto:info@thecooperageproject.org).

### April 2024

#### APR. 2

##### Acoustic Bluegrass Jam

7-9 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. All levels of players are welcome. All instruments are welcome, too. Just be sure to leave your amps at home; this jam is entirely acoustic. Or you can lay low and pick along while learning a thing or two from the amazing musicians here in our community. Come and support the performers for a finger-snappin', knee-slappin' good time. Info: 570-253-2020 or [info@thecooperageproject.org](mailto:info@thecooperageproject.org).

#### APR. 3

##### Living the Happy Dream

4:30-5:30 p.m. Honesdale Public Library, Honesdale. Doug Bill, psychotherapist, author, student of A Course In Miracles offers an alternative to the negativity that often

seems to surround us. He will discuss ways to see the world from a balanced, loving perspective. Contact Miles to register at 570-253-1220 or [mkeesler@waynelibraries.org](mailto:mkeesler@waynelibraries.org).

**APR. 6**

### Painting with Natural Dyes

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Join artist Pam Rice in learning how to create paints and dyes from natural pigments found in nature. Children will experiment with the dye-making process, then make artworks using brushes made from other natural materials. This program is ideal for ages 6-10. Please call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 6**

### Bridge the Gap: Frogs, Salamanders, and More

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Spend the afternoon on the ponds and streams at PEEC. Learn about some amphibious friends as you gently catch and release these slimy critters. Wear boots and plan on getting wet and muddy. Please call to register. Free. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 6**

### Healing Mandalas

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Carol Mainardi. All materials included. Info: 570-251-1181 or [info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com](mailto:info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com).

**APR. 6**

### "Over and Under the Pond" and Craft

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Van Scott Nature Reserve of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Beach Lake. Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to read the story "Over and Under the Pond" by Kate Messner and learn all about animal life in and around the water. Following the reading, create a small craft to take home. Space is limited and prior registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the program. Info: 570-226-3164 or [rachel@delawarehighlands.org](mailto:rachel@delawarehighlands.org).

**APR. 6**

### Alcohol Ink

1-2:30 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Carol Mainardi. All materials included. Info: 570-251-1181 or [info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com](mailto:info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com).

**APR. 6**

### Bridge the Gap: Ecozone Discovery Room!

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education

Center, Dingmans Ferry. Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. Free.

Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 7**

### Acrylic Painting

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included.

Info: 570-251-1181 or [info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com](mailto:info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com).

**APR. 7**

### Wet-on-Wet

1-2:30 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Info: 570-251-1181 or [info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com](mailto:info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com).

**APR. 7**

### Bridge the Gap: Pond Paddle

1-3 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Join PEEC for a paddle around their ponds. Beginners are welcome -- PEEC will teach you everything you need to know. Dress appropriately; you may get wet. Call in advance to reserve a boat. Free. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 7**

### Pocono Express

The Stourbridge Line, Honesdale Station, Honesdale. Take in the natural beauty of the northern Pocono Mountains. Join The Stourbridge Line for a 1.5-hour round-trip excursion from Honesdale to Hawley. This is one of the best ways to take in the natural beauty of the northern Pocono Mountains. Keep your eyes open for bald eagles and other wildlife along the river. The railcars are heated, and restrooms are available on-board. Info: 570-470-2697 or [info@thestourbridgeline.net](mailto:info@thestourbridgeline.net).

**APR. 7-12**

### Pocono Mountains Restaurant Week

Discover new flavors and take advantage of great deals during Taste of the Poconos Restaurant Week. Perfect for date night or a meal out with the family, participating restaurants throughout Wayne, Pike, Monroe, and Carbon counties are cooking up exclusive special menus and savings that are sure to please. To view a map of participating restaurants and a list of Restaurant

Week specials: [poconomountains.com/pocono-restaurant-week/](http://poconomountains.com/pocono-restaurant-week/)

**APR. 9****Working Pike Job Fair**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing, Matamoras. Join the Pike County Workforce Development Agency for this working job fair. There will be over 70 employers and hundreds of employment opportunities available. Free. Info: [workforce@pikepa.org](mailto:workforce@pikepa.org).

**APR. 12****Wild Night**

5-9:30 p.m. Glass Restaurant, Ledges Hotel, Hawley. Enjoy a tasting menu of small plates featuring wild game. Full menu will not be available during this event. Info: 570-226-1337 or [info@ledgeshotel.com](mailto:info@ledgeshotel.com).

**APR. 12****Bridge the Gap: Spring Peeper Search**

7:30-9 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. These tiny tree frogs have thawed out and are active again in the forested wetlands. Listen to the impressive choir made by these vocal amphibians as you carefully catch, study, and release them. Bring a flashlight for better searching. Free. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 13****Girl Scout Badge Festival**

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Brownies will work on their Bugs and Outdoor Arts badges, and Juniors will complete their Gardener Badge. Cadettes will complete their Tree and Outdoor Art badges. Seniors will be working on their Eco Advocate badge. Overnight options are available for all age levels; ask for more information. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited; call early. Don't forget to bring a lunch. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 13****Mediterranean Cooking Class**

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Learn to create traditional Mediterranean fare. In this class you will make a falafel platter (falafel, Israeli salad, homemade pita, babaganoush, and hummus), as well as a "Shawarma" style chicken. Class includes all supplies and lunch. Class is recommended for ages 13 & up. Pre-registration required. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 14****Bridge the Gap: Frog Frolic**

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Spend the morning with PEEC at the ponds and streams! Learn

about some of our frog friends as we gently catch and release these hopping amphibians. Wear boots and plan on getting wet and muddy. Please call to register. Free. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 14****Scenes of the Season: Paint and Sip**

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Experience an afternoon of seasonal splendor as you create a winter landscape painting with artist Terry Kloiber, and sip on some delicious seasonal (non-alcoholic) beverages perfect for a spring day. Cost of program includes materials and refreshments. Space is limited to 12 participants. Ideal for ages 13 and older. Please call to register. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 14****Ecozone Discovery Room!**

1-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, explore a beaver lodge, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

**APR. 17****Essential Oils to Balance Mind, Body, Spirit**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Honesdale Public Library, Honesdale. Join Helen Mele Robinson, PhD, to explore a natural, nontoxic approach to daily living. Bingo & prizes, DIY take-home, fun while learning. Contact Miles to register at 570-253-1220 or [mkeesler@waynelibraries.org](mailto:mkeesler@waynelibraries.org).

**APR. 18****Countryside Flowers Sip & Snip**

5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Gorgeous Floral, Hawley. Create your own wildflower inspired arrangement with locally grown flowers. Info: 570-576-0490 or [info@gorgeous-floral.com](mailto:info@gorgeous-floral.com).

**APR. 19****Ben Rosenblum Trio with Laura Anglade**

7 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. All ages. Rosenblum is an award-winning New York City jazz pianist and accordionist. French/American singer Laura Anglade is reminiscent of many of the great traditional vocal stylists of the 20th century, but her voice is uniquely her own. Seating is theater style; first come, first served. BYOB. Info: 570-253-2020 or [info@thecooperageproject.org](mailto:info@thecooperageproject.org).



**APR. 20****Scouts BSA Badge Festival**

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Bears will work on the Insect Study merit badge. Weblelos will complete their Mammal Study merit badge. Scouts will work towards their Reptile and Amphibian Study merit badge. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited -- call early. Overnight accommodations with meals are available. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

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**APR. 20****Pocono Express**

The Stourbridge Line, Honesdale Station, Honesdale. Take in the natural beauty of the northern Pocono Mountains. Join The Stourbridge Line for a 1.5-hour round-trip excursion from Honesdale to Hawley. This is one of the best ways to take in the natural beauty of the northern Pocono Mountains. Keep your eyes open for bald eagles and other wildlife along the river. The railcars are heated, and restrooms are available on-board.

Info: 570-470-2697 or

[info@thestourbridgeline.net](mailto:info@thestourbridgeline.net).

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**APR. 20****Dinner Train**

Noon-1:30 p.m. The Stourbridge Line, Honesdale Station, Honesdale. Scenic trip along the Lackawaxen River while enjoying an amazing dinner catered by Sidel's Restaurant. Three-course dinner including salad, entree, starch and dessert. Dining car has tables of two or four, please note if you book less than a party of four, you may be seated with other guests. This is a BYOB event. Please let them know if you are bringing wine or beer.

Info: 570-470-2697 or

[jhiller@thestourbridgeline.net](mailto:jhiller@thestourbridgeline.net).

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**APR. 20****Bridge the Gap: Evening Pond Paddle**

5-7 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Join PEEC for a paddle around the ponds. Beginners are welcome -- PEEC will teach you everything you need to know. Dress appropriately as you may get wet. Call in advance to reserve a boat. Free.

Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

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**APR. 20****Sour Bridges – East Down and Out Tour!**

7 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. They call it Browngrass -- "like bluegrass, but a little dirtier" -- but it grows from that same country-rock soil. In fact, you can almost hear the history of American roots music in the strong harmonies

and intricate arrangements.

Info: 570-253-2020 or

[info@thecooperageproject.org](mailto:info@thecooperageproject.org).

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**APR. 21****Watercolor 101**

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included.

Info: 570-251-1181 or

[info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com](mailto:info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com).

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**APR. 21****Bridge the Gap: Salamanders, Frogs and More**

1-3 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Amphibians are stirring in the woods. Join PEEC as you explore nearby breeding pools for salamanders, frogs, and egg masses. PEEC will provide nets and collection jars for gentle, up-close study. Wear boots and clothes that can get muddy or wet. Please call to register. Free. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

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**APR. 24****Past Lives**

4:30-5:30 p.m. Honesdale Public Library, Honesdale. Linda Bartels presents the basic concepts of reincarnation as well as the spiritual implications and purpose that this serves in each lifetime. Linda has an M.A. degree in Psychology with over 20 years experience as a therapist. Contact Miles to register at 570-253-1220 or [mkeesler@waynelibraries.org](mailto:mkeesler@waynelibraries.org).

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**APR. 27****Bridge the Gap: Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk**

10 a.m.-Noon. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Join the Botanical Hiker, Heather Houskeeper, in discovering the many edible and medicinal plants that inhabit the Pocono region. Heather will share tips for positive identification, methods for sustainable harvest, and practical ways to work with these plants for food and medicine. You're sure to meet these plants again in your own backyard or along other favorite walking paths. The walk will be easy to moderate in nature with many stops along the way and appropriate for all ages. Feel free to bring a notepad or use your phone to jot down notes. Please call to register. No collecting will be done in the Park. Info: 570-828-2319 or [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

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**APR. 27****Recycle Your Electro-Junk**

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale. Electronic Recycling Event. Join

the YMCA, Honesdale National Bank, Wayne County Fair Association, Advanced Disaster Recovery, Inc. & Advanced Recycling in being environmentally active & recycling your broken & unwanted household or business electronic junk. Funds raised for YMCA Financial Assistance. Info: 570-253-2083 or wcy-mca.com

#### APR. 27

##### Earth Day Festival at PEEC

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingmans Ferry. Help PEEC celebrate the Earth. At this Earth Day festival, there will be hands-on learning stations, interpretive hikes, conservation exhibits, crafts, food, music, and much more. Pre-registration is not required. Info: 570-828-2319 or peec@peec.org.

#### APR. 27

##### Contra Dance

7:30-10 p.m. The Cooperage, Honesdale. Grab your dancing shoes and bring a partner, or find a partner here. All are welcome to dance along to live music performed by Cherry Orchard and others, no experience necessary. Caller Laurie B. will do a beginner lesson starting at 7:15. Beginners are most welcome. Contra dance is a folk dance made up of long lines of couples. Info: 570-253-2020 or info@thecooperageproject.org.

#### APR. 28

##### Abstract Alcohol Ink

10:30 a.m.-Noon. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.

#### APR. 28

##### Abstract Painting with Alcohol Markers

1-2:30 p.m. Art Factory of White Mills, White Mills. Workshop with artist Rosellyn Grohol. All materials included. Info: 570-251-1181 or info@theartfactoryofwhitemills.com.



## The Annual Pike County Commissioners' Fishing Derby

The Pike County Board of Commissioners is proud to announce the annual Commissioners' Fishing Derby is back for the 26th year, rain or shine on April 20, 2024, from 8:00 am until 12 noon at Lily Pond on Schochopee Road.

Prizes including fishing poles, tackle boxes, and various baits, bobbers and lures will be awarded to the largest trout among each age group. The derby is open to children 15 and under.

There is no fee to participate. Each child must have their own registration form signed by a parent or guardian to participate.

Paper registration forms will be distributed within the school districts, but you may also register online at [www.pikepa.org/fishingderby](http://www.pikepa.org/fishingderby). On derby day, please visit the cabin to check in or submit your paper registration form on arrival.

Lily Pond will be stocked with a combination of rainbow, brown, golden, and brook trout for the derby. Stocking of the pond will take place at 7:00 am on derby day. All are welcome to come to help!

To ensure a fun and safe event for all, a few rules will be enforced:

- PA fishing laws and regulations will apply
- Participants must be accompanied by an adult
- Fishing is permitted anywhere on the pond
- Participants must provide their own tackle and bait
- Participants must only use one fishing pole
- Each participant is allowed only one trout to be measured for the contest
- Parents, please remember this event is for the children

Refreshments will be available for purchase provided by the Friends of Warrior Football.

For those unfamiliar with Lily Pond, signs will be posted directing participants to the pond.

There are still sponsorship opportunities for this year's derby. Interested parties should contact the Pike County Commissioners Office at (570) 296-7613.

*Photo Id: Left to right: Dylan DeFebo, Landon DeFebo, and Liam Payne*



# First Front Door

## *Buying your first home?*

**You could get up to \$15,000 to help with your down payment and closing costs!**

Talk to us to learn more about the First Front Door (FFD) program.

### Who Qualifies

FFD recipients must be first-time homebuyers and have a household income of no more than 80% of our area's median income.

### How to Apply

Talk to us about a mortgage, and let us know you are interested in FFD. *We'll take it from there!*



Visit [www.firstfrontdoor.com](http://www.firstfrontdoor.com) to review all FFD requirements.



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