MEET & GREET

New members of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce in March and April:
- AmeriCare Staffing of Western PA
- Teolis 19th Century Museum
- Christopher A. Panek, DPM
- Good Samaritan Hospice
- Barry Quick Mart, LLC
- Dalton Service Company, LLC
- Porter House Brew Shop
- Dave Caccia Handyman Service, LLC
- Ellwood City Area Basketball League
- SMC Business Councils
- North Star Kids
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HACK'S PACK PACKS PNC PARK ON ELLWOOD CITY COMMUNITY DAY

Luke Bleakney, 9, holds a ball that skipped away from the Chicago Cubs during fielding practice April 26 at PNC Park, while Mikey DelMarco, 7, holds a foul ball caught by his father, Mike, on the game's eighth pitch. The Ellwood City residents were among hundreds in Pittsburgh for Ellwood City Community Day.

Kids have a ball!

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

PITTSBURGH — It's the first Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park, and Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Tyler Glasnow glances toward Chicago Cubs baserunner Kyle Schwarber at second and Kris Bryant at first in the top of the first inning. From the stretch, the right-hander delivers his first pitch to left-handed batter Anthony Rizzo, the third Cub to stand at the plate. Rizzo swings at the 95.1-mph four-seam fastball, Glasnow's eighth pitch of the game, and the very first baseball to leave the playing field on Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park on this 76-degree spring evening sprints into the purpling evening sky, backlit by the setting sun. The baseball arcs for down the third-base line, slicing toward a pie-shaped wedge of seating known as Section 125.
100 fill country club for luncheon

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ORTH SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP — Shawn Leopardi won the first two prizes, a $118 take from a 50-50 raffle and the initial of 42 door prizes, at the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s employee appreciation luncheon April 26 at the Connoquenessing Country Club.

Denise Bozzi won the grand prize — gift cards for the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry and Ember & Vine — at the luncheon attended by more than 100 employers and employees and sponsored by Leymarie Clark Long P.C.

Among those seated at one of 13 tables adorned with red geranium centerpieces in green foil-wrapped containers and floral bows was Shauna Dorwarth, owner of Diamond Dance Academy on First Street and a member of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce for eight years.

"We get to know some of the people," she said. "I really appreciate this event," said Donwarth, a native of Warren, Ohio. "I have a chance to honor my employees and bring them here, which helps us to network and communicate with other people. Being that we are not on Lawrence Avenue, we get to know some of the people that aren’t as well."

Dorwarth, who employs seven and has a client list topping 100, said she joined the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce eight years ago when she opened her studio.

"I went ahead and joined the chamber so that I could get to know the people in the area. This is one of my favorite (networking) events, but we are also really involved in the parades and festivals."

Seated across the packed reception area was Norina Owens, one of more than 40 guests of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s employee appreciation luncheon won door prizes at the Connoquenessing Country Club on April 26.

Marlene Sofia and Violet Wimer, of the Women of Faith International, presented the awards.

"God put it in my heart to start my ministry here," Owens said. "Seventeen years ago, Owens, of Franklin Township, founded the organization that now has branches in Hawaiian Gardens, Calif., Kenya and Tanzania.

"It’s good to honor people who support you," she said of employee appreciation luncheon. "It makes them feel loved and appreciated and they get to enjoy time together and get to meet new people."

Owens left Ellwood City for Washington, D.C., in 1983, moved to California three years later and in 2006 returned to her hometown — and joined the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I would come back every year to visit, and people would ask me, ‘When are you moving back?’ I said, ‘I never will.’ Then God put it in my heart to start my ministry here."

"The people are very joyful. The food was tremendous" Mary Ford, Megan McCrill and Melissa Crepp were seated with Andrew Beneigh, president and CEO of the Beneigh Insurance Group.

"It’s a nice event, and to get out of the office and have lunch," Crepp said. "The employee appreciation luncheon was the second for McCrill, who echoed Crepp and added that it "gives me a chance to network a little bit."

The event, said Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, was "terrific. The people are very joyful. The food was tremendous. The prizes were plentiful and the committee that served the chamber of commerce really did a nice job."

Guests enjoyed chicken and steak salads, whole grain wraps, a yogurt parfait bar, french fries and assorted pies.

See Lunch, Page 4
"WE ARE ALL CONNECTED. WHAT WE DO HERE AFFECTS EVERYONE ELSE"

Planet's fitness

Children gather in the grass in Ewing Park, Ellwood City, to watch an animal show during Lawrence County Earth Day on April 22.

Hundreds crowd Ewing Park for Lawrence County Earth Day

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY — Her children gathered under her protective canopy of white oaks, silver maples and elms, spread across her blades of grass darkening and her shoots of dandelions announcing her gentle arrival of spring, and aside her neighborly creek, replenished by her overnight rains.

She, Mother Earth, was celebrated here in Ewing Park, her chilly morning air greeted warmly by Levi Smith, of Portersville; Samantha Castor, of Grove City; Laura Huffman, of North Sewickley Township;

Thomas Lane, of Beaver Falls, teaches Samantha Castor, of Grove City, how to shave a walking stick during Lawrence County Earth Day on April 22 in Ewing Park, Ellwood City.

Sadie Demco, of Shenango Township; Susan Dexter, of New Castle; and hundreds upon hundreds of Ellwood City residents such as Megan Squinquero and Beth Ann Gladman.

"Every year the Lawrence County Earth Day festival gets bigger and bigger," said Smith, a 14-year-old member of Boy Scout Troop 806, of Ellwood.

See Earth, Page 5

"Small Town, Big Living" The Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce Page 3
THANK-YOU COOKOUT IN EWING PARK

Picnic could draw record 150

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY — The hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and Italian cheeseburgers crackling on the barbecue grill manned by members of the Ellwood City Wolves Club “always smell good,” says Denny Boariu, a member of the organization’s board.

“The taste,” he says, “is the best.” Boariu is expecting up to 150 guests on May 10, when the Ellwood City Wolves Club hosts the third Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce Thank You Picnic at Ewing Park.

The event, free to chamber members, begins at 5 p.m. at Wolves Club Shelter No. 4 — where up to 15 members of the organization will also prepare and serve fries, baked beans, homemade macaroni salad and beverages.

“The Wolves take great pride in food preparation,” Boariu says. “Our cooks have been doing this a long time.”

Boariu says, “We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month and during the summer months we meet at the shelter so our cooks keep in practice. The Wolves take great pride in food preparation. Ninety guests attended the first Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce Thank You Picnic in 2015, and 130 in 2016, says Boariu, who also serves as a chamber director.

“This free picnic is a relaxed forum where people can come to interact and possibly meet someone who may have a service that they could offer to get leads from other members,” Boariu says.

The Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, he says, has done a great job of increasing its membership, and its board of directors “thought that this would be a good networking opportunity for current and future members.”

Boariu says he loves “just watching all of their interaction and the gratitude offered by the members” and those Italian cheeseburgers, which he calls “nothing more than a sausage patty served with a slice of provolone cheese. Try it. They are quite tasty!”

Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce members can bring guests.

Lunch, From Page 2

Members of that panel were Stacy Court, Lisa Fox, Mark Smith, Karen Trozzo, Allison Frickanish, Kristin McKelvey and Jillian D’Amico. Smith also served as master of ceremonies.

“The people are so genuine at these events,” Santillo said. “They are so grateful and thankful.”

Door prizes were donated by The Car Wash of Ellwood City, Connoquenessing Country Club, Shakespeare’s Restaurant, Blank Concrete & Supply, INMETCO, Good Samaritan Hospice, Ellwood City Community Enrichment, Laura Goering, consultant with Perfectly Posh; Jen Albertini and Nancy Fenton, consultants with Mary Kay; Nico Lucano’s, Mary Jo’s Catering, Vintage Grace; Walumpum Underground; McElwain Motors; and Trozzo Tax and Accounting Service.

In addition to Leopardi and Boariu, door prize winners were Owens, Dorwarth, D’Amico, Trozzo, Linda Gottuso, Michelle Hand, Coleen Daughtry, Starr Jones, Angela Rue, Misra Yembra, Sharee DeCooman, Ron Geddes, Lauri Paxton, Melody Carney, Judy Kline, Ken Hastings, Cathy Ioannilis, Alexis Bodenschatz, Daniel Swartz, Lois Hoffman, Nikki DeLuca, Tracy Schultz, Kaitlyn Harrison, Pat Bishop, Adela Yarzebinski, Tom Bishop, Barbara Hood, Karin Dowker, Stephanie Munteran, Cindy Daniels, Trish Phipps, Renee Butler, Melissa Carusone, Lynn Carothers, Rob Trimble, Luann Santillo, Gina McKenna, Cindy Leymane, Tara Majors, Mary Beth McGwire and Nicole Catalano.

Guests enjoy the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s employee appreciation lunch at the Connoquenessing Country Club on April 26.

“Small Town, Big Living”
Hundreds crowd Ewing Park

TRASHION SHOW WINNERS
Winners and participants in the first Trashion Show, held April 22 as part of Lawrence County Earth Day in Ewing Park, Ellwood City:
1. Lauren Stich; 2. Caitlin Stich; 3. Brooke Bartolomeo. Other participants: Jennifer Eiler; Cassandra Douglas; Layla Brewer; Shammy T. Gonilla; Sophia Minkus; Sam Kelly; Alyssa Simpson.

"I hope the Earth doesn't become a wreck" says one winner.

Like many visitors to Lawrence County Earth Day, she said she too could do more to protect the planet.
"Too many pollutants and litter," Squiculo said. "I worry about litter a lot. I don't think about pollutants as much as I should. I try to make healthier choices. I use essential oils when I can over drugstore options."

Youngster Beth Ann Gladman also found a natural way to create her first peanut-butter-filled pine-cone bird feeder -- with the help of Dorothy Buquoc, of Ellwood City.
"It felt really nice making it," she said. "I am going to hang it on a tree in my yard. Birds are going to come and eat the seeds."

"It is awesome to see the benches filled with kids," Caroline Golmic, president of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, was elated at the hundreds of visitors who meandered among the nearly 30 displays, particularly in light of the 43-degree temperature.
"It's a great turnout," Golmic said. "It is awesome to see the benches filled with kids. Jillian and her committee did an awesome job putting everything together. I think this is great for our community."

Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, said he sees progress in the environment.
"We grew up with smog and soo and oil sticks in the rivers and didn't have the safety requirements that we have today," Santillo said. "The kids in school learn a lot more about protecting the environment than we did, but I think the awareness is hitting all age groups."

"Jillian, ... really paid attention to all the details"

"Small Town, Big Living"
**Kids young and old have a ball!**

**Ball, From Page 1**

That’s where at least 218 fans – many of whom loaded onto three buses to attend Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park – are seated.

Or were seated, as many Ellwood City residents stand to try to grab the game’s first foul ball on Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park.

**“It’s the first time I ever touched a foul ball”**

Standing tallest was Mike DeMarco, of Ellwood City, who snagged the ball out of midair and presented it to his 7-year-old son, Mikey.

“It’s the first time I ever touched a foul ball,” says Mikey, who with his mother, Jamie, and sister, Eli, 10, were among Ellwood City residents in the crowed of 16,904 celebrating Ellwood City native and former Cuba slugger Hack Wilson.

Prior to the game, the Pirates honored Wilson, raised on Cresco Avenue and whose record of 191 RBIs in the 1930 season remains a Major League record.

The first Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park was held on April 26 – on what would have been Wilson’s 117th birthday.

The foul ball was also the first snared by Mike DeMarco, whose strategy, he says with a laugh, was to “just catch it.”

**“He holds the most RBIs. And he’s from Ellwood!”**

Luke Bleakney, 9, who plays second base and pitcher in the Minor Division of Little League Baseball, has long known about Hack Wilson. His grandfather Everett and Dom Voccaro, of the Ellwood City Historical Society, organized Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park.

“He holds the most RBIs,” Luke says of Wilson. “And he’s from Ellwood.”

Luke was among 14 representatives of Ellwood City invited onto the field at PNC Park for a pre-game ceremony honoring Wilson. Others invited to stand behind home plate for 30 minutes while the Cubs took batting and fielding practice included Anthony Court, Ellwood City’s mayor; Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce; Dan Vogler, Lawrence County commissioner; Everett and Luke; Dave Lauterbach, Frank and Kevin McElwain; Brad Meehan; Eric Poole; Robert Stakeley; Ken Turner; and Voccaro.

“A lot of wonderful things are happening in Ellwood City”

Vogler, raised in Wampum, says he could speak “all night” to the 16,904 fans about Ellwood City, where his father and grandfather grew up.

“It’s a great town,” he says. “It’s a well-maintained town with a lot of good people. It’s a walkable town. It’s got a wonderful park and a nice downtown business district, but the bottom line is the people. They are what make the town that it is.”

Court agrees.

“It’s special,” he says. “A lot of wonderful things are happening in Ellwood City. We like to call it home. Home sweet home.”

Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park “is good for our city, and it’s good that we are doing this,” Court says. “Dom Voccaro and Everett Bleakney did a tremendous job putting this together. It was a lot of work, and we are looking forward to honoring Hack Wilson every year here.”

So is Mike McAllister and his wife, Becky, seated in that pie-shaped wedge of seating known as Section 129.

“It’s a great night for Ellwood,” Becky says.

“It’s just nice to recognize someone who grew up there and was born there,” Mike McAllister says. “And finally get recognized for what he’s done.”

“A lot of family values. And I wish I still lived there”

Wilson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. in 1979 by the veterans’ committee.

“It’s long overdue,” Mike McAllister says, adding that Ellwood City is a “nice place to live. Quiet.”

And, Becky is quick to add, “It is very family oriented. They do terrific things like this. It’s just a great town.”

Margherita Davis and her son, Reno, traveled from Columbiana, Ohio, to attend Ellwood City Community Day at PNC Park.

“Ellwood City is a very nice community in which to live and to raise a family,” says Margherita Davis, an Ellwood City native who moved to Ohio after she became married. “There are a lot of good people in Ellwood City. A lot of family values. And I wish I still lived there.”