

NOTICE!

July's Hometown News is an abbreviated version. We are taking the month of August off; there will be no Hometown News in August. See you in September!



MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Items of interest to MERA Members
July & August 2025

Want to know more?
Check us out at
merasite.org

A Note from MERA's President

The weather cooperated and our picnic was enjoyed by 100+ retirees and friends. The food was delicious and the ICE CREAM BAR was a huge success. Thanks to Gary who was responsible for the event and all the people who supported it with setup and cleanup.

The picnic was the last event/meeting until September. Mark your calendars for the chicken bake on Thursday 9/18 at Dietrich's Park. NOTE: THE BAKE IS ONLY \$5 for 1 member and \$5 for 1 guest.....WHAT A DEAL!!!!

Enjoy the rest of the summer!
Jim

MERA Calendar of Events

You won't want to miss any of these great MERA events!

- **NOTE: No general meetings in July or August. See you in September!**
- **Hike and Happy Hour Wednesday July 30. Take a walk at 2:30pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE) at the Berks County Agricultural Center**, 1238 County Welfare Rd, Leesport. Master Gardener Becky Wingenroth will guide us through ten or more differently themed gardens created and cared for by the Master Gardeners of Berks County. We will then relocate to cool off and refresh at **4pm at Tobias Frogg Restaurant**, 2613 Hampden Blvd, Reading
- **Happy Hour Wednesday August 27.** No Hike is planned for August. Let's just escape the heat at **4pm for Happy Hour at Beverly Hills Tavern**, 710 Old Fritztown Rd, Sinking Spring.
- **Happy Hour Wednesday September 17 (NOTE DATE CHANGE).** No hike planned at this time. **Happy Hour at 4pm at Liberty Taproom**, 237 N. Prospect St, Mt Penn.
- **MERA Annual Chicken Bake Thursday September 18, 11:00 – 1:00 at Dietrich Park.** Always a favorite date on the MERA calendar! Lunch will be catered by Kauffman's Chicken Barbeque. *Cost: just \$5.00!* Registration deadline is September 8. Contact **Gary Pleiss** at (610) 927-7590 with any questions and to register.
- **Mystery Trip Wednesday September 24.** Come join us for a fun-filled day on an exciting Mystery Trip. This tour will keep you guessing from start to finish which is exactly the point. It's so much fun to enjoy the scenery and the comfortable ride going from one place to another,

just letting all the secrets of this day pleasantly unfold. We can't tell you where we're going, but you can be sure you'll have a great time! We promise you it will be delicious, fun, and interesting. Cost is \$155 per person and includes: lunch inclusive of taxes and gratuity; admissions; driver gratuities; motorcoach transportation; all applicable taxes; snacks and more. For questions contact: **Barb Seidel** at 484-794-0857 or bseidel3523@comcast.net

Save the date: MERA Annual Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 11!

MERA Bus Trip Summary **Gardens, Historic Mansion, Exotic Animals and Ice Cream** By Barb Seidel

What a great trip! The weather was beautiful on June 4 as the MERA group of 27 rolled up to Winterthur Museum and Garden. The group split up to tour the acres and acres of lavish gardens – some walked and others took the tram. The group toured the various sites on the estate grounds beginning with the historic garden and then toured the other properties on the estate. Once a DuPont family country retreat, this massive estate's spectacular gardens surround a 175-room mansion housing one of the world's finest collections of American decorative arts from 1640-1860.

Next, we had lunch at historic Buckley's Tavern. Originally built in 1817 as a private residence when Kennett Pike was just a dirt road. Stagecoaches stopped at Buckleys to pay the tolls for traveling to and from Wilmington. The food was delicious and the company even better!

Fortified by a good meal, we moved on to the Brandywine Zoo and visited the animals in this small zoo – great way to walk off lunch!

Our last stop was at Maggie Moo's Ice Cream in Exton where everyone enjoyed 2 scoops of ice cream. We returned to Met-Ed approx. 5:30 PM

On a side note: On our way to Winterthur our bus driver Monty showed us the video of the 69 News clip where he and his wife returned to the diner where Monty proposed 50 years ago. He proposed again to her fifty years later at the same spot!

Everyone agreed this was an excellent day out!

MERA Member Profile correction to last month's profile

Hometown News profiled **Roy Gehris** in our June edition. We got something wrong. Roy did require medical attention following an encounter with poison ivy but *not* an overnight stay in the hospital as reported. We apologize for the error!

Calling All Volunteers!

Hometown News would like to hear more about your volunteer activities for a new newsletter feature starting in September! Reach out to **Karen Baxter**, kbaxter@ptd.net, with information about the organization where you give your time.

MEMA Member Milestones

Happy July & August Anniversary!

July

Scott & Jan Berglund
Bob & Jean Bonneville
Cheryl & Jeff Fick
Janice & Brian Grill
Melanie & Michael Hart

George & Barbara Kunder
Richard & Marcia Laedlein
Donald & Rosemary Ludwig
Kimberly & Gerald Lutz
Larry & Carol Miller
Beverly & Larry Moyer

Kevin & Lisa Straub
Cindy & Jeff Thomas
Nancy & Allen Wenrich

August

Marshall & Ellen Azrael
Robert & Theresa Bates
Stephen & Eilene Bauer
Richard & Vivian Faust
Dean & Jackie Fenstermaker
Alexis & Harold Green
Alan & Barbara Harris
Bob & Debi Hartz

Paul & Sharon Henry
Willard & Louise Lutz
Georgine & Joe McCool
Edwin & Barbara Ogden
Barbara & Barry Patterson
Robert & Manice Peace
Robert & Marion Reber
Russell & Jane Rogers
Henri & Mike Santoro

Kim & Mario Scaffidi
Leonard & Ruth Ann
Schlegel
Ken & Pat Snyder
Robert & Priscilla Steger
Rosalyn & Carl Strassner
David & Sue Topper
Gary & Patricia Wright

Happy July & August Milestone* Birthday!

*A milestone birthday is one that ends in "0" or "5."

July

Scott Berglund
Jean Bonneville
Sandra Eidle
Gloria Gemmill
Daryl Hendricks
Robbie Hoffman
Verlin Renner
Ted Seaman
Maxi Shirey
Mark Shomgard

August

Kathy Heffner
Mike Santoro
Mohamed Sillah

