

Wyomissing Neighbors

JULY 2021

A PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR RESIDENTS OF WYOMISSING AND WYOMISSING HILLS



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

As Publisher of *Wyomissing Neighbors* magazine, I want to hear what you have to say about our publication so... meet me on Thursday, July 29, 10am, at Russo's Market, 1150 Bern Rd., Wyomissing. Join me for free coffee and Italian pastries. Help me make *Wyomissing Neighbors* more of what you want it to be and give me your ideas on how to make it better. We will talk about our plans for the future, events, and opportunities for you to be part of this community magazine. Send me a message to let me know if you will be there - text or call **484-269-9824**.

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John Bieber
Owner/Publisher,
Wyomissing Neighbors
John.Bieber@N2Pub.com



Contributors at Large

We are always looking for our readers to contribute photos, stories or story ideas. Young and seasoned veteran writers and photographers are encouraged to submit anything related to Wyomissing people and places. Let's celebrate the great things happening in Wyomissing! Email us at WyoNeighbors@N2Pub.com or call or text to 484-269-9824


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OWNER/ PUBLISHER John Bieber, 484-269-9824,
P.O. Box 6706, Wyomissing, PA 19610 | John.Bieber@N2Pub.com

COPY EDITOR  Amy Miller

PHOTOGRAPHERS  Mark & Kerri Searfoss, Commercial Art Images, M.Photog., CPP, Cr., PPA Certified, Searfoss Photography, www.SearfossPhotography.com

 Lindsey Hart,
Lindsey Hart Photography,
LindseyHartPhotography@gmail.com
Visit her on Facebook and Instagram

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  Phyllis J. McLaughlin

 Emily Kenniston

Angela Cremer Shauna Osborne
Alice Heffner

Weidner Sweigart

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CLAMBAKES

Clambakes are a fantastic idea for the 4th of July, graduation parties, and summertime picnics!

You can either stop at Adelpia Seafood and pick up everything you need for your clambake or let them do the work for you, then all you have to do is take them home and STEAM!

Adelpia offers 5 different Clambakes -

Plain (includes 12 clams)

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Shrimp (includes ½ pound Gold Label shrimp +12 clams)

Combo (includes 5 ounces Andouille sausage, ¼ pound shrimp, lobster tail ¾ ounce + 6 clams)

Lobster Bake (includes 4/6 ounces lobster tail + 12 clams)

All Bakes include clams, seasoned baby baked potatoes, onion, carrot, and ear of corn.

Instructions for Steaming your Clam Bake

1. TO ENSURE THE FRESHNESS, it is best to keep your bakes refrigerated until ready to steam.
2. COOKING UTENSILS: If you have one, a clam steamer is best, but if you do not, any pot or roast pan can serve as a steamer. In order that the bakes are cooked only by steam, a rack must be provided in the bottom of your pot, to keep the bakes out of the water. If you are improvising, one or more aluminum pie pans, turned upside down, will serve well as a bottom rack. A tight-fitting lid will speed your cooking time.
3. TIME OF PREPARATION: When you have determined what time you would like to serve your bakes, the cooking time is important. Put only enough water in your cooking utensil to cover the bottom rack. Place your bakes in the utensil and cover with a lid. Once a constant level of steam is achieved, the baking time is about 20 minutes. The easiest way to test the bakes for doneness is to pierce the onion with a fork. If it is very soft to the core, the rest of the bake is usually finished and ready to serve. It may be wise to periodically check the liquid level in the pot to make sure the bake is not cooking dry. Add additional water if necessary.
4. SERVING: When your bakes are nearing completion, it is time to melt the butter so you can serve your bakes with liberal cups of drawn butter. When the bakes are served, we suggest that the clams be eaten first, as the clams will cool down more rapidly than anything else in the bake, so why not have everyone enjoy them at their steamy best!
5. DESSERT: If you and your friends are real “clam eaters,” you may want to steam up some additional clams after the bakes have been served. Bring these out as “dessert clams” after the main course.



Share your favorite food stories and recipes with your neighbors by emailing or contacting us at WyoNeighbors@N2Pub.com.



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All Wyomissing homes shown in photos were SOLD by Lisa Tiger



Recently Sold Wyomissing Homes

Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Sold Date	Beds	Baths	Sq Ft
101 Robert Road	Wyomissing	\$950,000	\$950,000	5/10/2021	4	3.5	8,356
1336 Dauphin Avenue	Wyomissing	\$625,000	\$611,000	3/26/2021	4	3.5	3,394
1631 Farr Road	Wyomissing	\$600,000	\$600,000	5/13/2021	4	3	4,295
1413 Van Steffy Avenue	Wyomissing	\$500,000	\$500,000	6/1/2021	3	2.5	4,002
1614 Meadowlark Road	Wyomissing	\$469,900	\$469,900	4/30/2021	4	3	3,650
1702 Dauphin Avenue	Wyomissing	\$465,000	\$465,000	6/4/2021	4	3	3,512
1513 Rose Virginia Road	Wyomissing	\$459,900	\$459,900	5/7/2021	4	3	2,625
1788 Reading Boulevard	Wyomissing	\$450,000	\$450,000	4/30/2021	4	3	2,147
1830 Lincoln Avenue	Wyomissing	\$450,000	\$436,100	4/13/2021	4	2.5	2,758
23 Tewkesbury Drive	Wyomissing	\$435,000	\$380,000	4/5/2021	4	2.5	3,000
105 Gail Circle	Wyomissing	\$385,000	\$385,000	3/25/2021	4	2.5	3,192
1130 Albright Avenue	Wyomissing	\$379,900	\$379,900	4/30/2021	4	2	1,981
944 Wayne Avenue	Wyomissing	\$339,500	\$325,000	4/7/2021	4	3	1,885

The information contained herein has been obtained by Wyomissing Neighbors through sources deemed reliable by Neighborhood Networks Publishing, Inc., but cannot be guaranteed for its accuracy. Any information of special interest should be obtained through independent verification.

Jane Runyeon

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Kara Griffin-Rhoads sent us these two photos from the June 5 Wilson High School graduation ceremony and fireworks held at the John Gurski Stadium.

Kara said, "This is my son James Rhoads and his best buddies. They have been friends since elementary school. They haven't left each other's sides, that's how close they all are."

We wish the Wilson Class of 2021 all the best for a lifetime of success and happiness!

Share your photos with *Wyomissing Neighbors*! Text them to 484-269-9824 and you might see them in our next issue!

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Be the first to correctly identify these Wyomissing area photos! Email your answers to WyoNeighbors@N2Pub.com and win a gift card! The June images were: 1. Museum Road Bridge over Wyomissing Creek at RPM 2. Steps from Park Trail up to Parkside Drive North 3. Old Man Echo 4. Opening to the Enchanted Forrest next to Golden Meadow in Wyomissing Parklands 5. Grove of Dawn Redwoods in Wyomissing Parklands




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These two cuties are next door *Wyomissing Neighbors* to each other, and their owners are twin sisters. **Doris Turkes** and **Lois Bender** have loved many Yorkies in their lives and Dudley and Wellington are the current residents of their hearts.

Most of the Turkes/Bender Yorkies have had names associated with English history. The breed originated in Yorkshire, England, and was developed for hunting by serfs because they were not permitted to have dogs large enough to bring down deer on the royal preserves. The dogs also became popular with farmers who used them for rodent control.

Lord Dudley, Dudley, aka “the Dud” is an 8-year-old male. “Dudley was adopted at age 3 through The Cat Works,” Doris told us. “Barrie Pease, former President of the ARL, was instrumental in linking me with The Cat Works, a local pet rescue organization which was aware a Yorkie was going to be coming through their agency. I had just lost a 1-year-old Yorkie to cancer, and Barrie knew if the doggie came to me, he would be going to a home, which understood Yorkies and their behavioral quirks.”

“I named the Dud, after Robert Dudley, the 1st Earl of Leicester and a favorite, perhaps even paramour, of Elizabeth the 1st.” Doris said, “He was a rogue, a statesman, and a ladies’ man. The name seemed suitable for a little doggie intent on winning every-one’s heart.”

“Dudley’s specialty is finding a reason to bark at the least provocation. He seems to enjoy the sound of his voice. Dudley’s size, less than five pounds, makes him very portable and because he enjoys sitting on laps, he isn’t much of a burden. He doesn’t shed but has a long shiny coat which we call his skirt.”

Wellington “Wellie” is a 1-year-old female. “She was only 1.5 pounds when I got her. She is named after the British hero who defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.” Lois said, “Wellie follows other Yorkies named Cardinal Wolsey (called “His Em” by some of his Catholic friends), Admiral Lord Nelson, Lady Emma Hamilton (referred to in her time as The Vixen), and Emmeline Pankhurst (the British Suffragist).

“Wellie is the busiest Yorkie we have ever provided support services for. She is always hilarious to watch. We see her as a source of relatively inexpensive entertainment.



Dudley



Wellington



“Wellie is accused of having a smile on her face after she has behaved poorly. She has refused to learn how to navigate steps so she is carried frequently and can save her energies. Her ears do not stand erect as a proper Yorkie’s should and this led to her being assigned the theme song, ‘Do Your Ears Hang Low?’ (a kid’s song by the Countdown Singers). Dudley’s song is the ringtone on Doris’ phone – the Dudley Do-Right of the Mountie’s cartoon theme.

“Wellie likes to bark, but we like our trainer’s terminology better: ‘She is expressive.’ Dudley is convinced that her favorite activity is tormenting him. On the other paw, Dudley notes that the frequency of treats has dramatically increased with Wellie’s training regimen. Every time she gets a treat for doing something, he gets one just because.”

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1964 Wyomissing Warriors Football Team

Wyomissing's own Bill Gage sent us this photo of his Midget Football team. Bill said, "When I was growing up, Wyomissing grade-school boys could get involved in football by playing at three different levels - Mites, Midgets, and Juniors. The next level was high school, junior varsity, and varsity. The picture is circa 1964, probably Midgets. It was a lot of fun and I remember most of the classmates and still see some of them in the area. A number of them, including myself, eventually played at the varsity level."

We thought our Wyomissing readers would enjoy this 57-year-old photo and may be able to help us identify a few of the boys we could not. If you know any of the players we indicated as "skip," let us know and we will update this photo. We believe four of the players are now deceased.

Top Row Coaches: Mr. Hartman, coach on right unknown

Top Row Players: Bill Keffer, skip, Rick Charles, Jim Savadelis, Jamie Rogers, George Bennethum, skip, Dave Smith, skip, Rick Law

Next Row Down: Scott Jones, Dave Bennethum, Jim Glosser*, Bill Gage, skip, Jim Levan, Harold Kretz, Jeff Brisani*, Bob Diddlebock, Rodney Robitzer(?)

Next to Bottom Row: Mike Steltz, Tim Edwards(?), Bill Restrepo*, Andy Soussloff, John Sheneamen, skip, skip, Joe Fister, Scott Robitzer, Bob Sharman

Bottom Row: Dwight Willman, Mike Mitchekowski, Terry Brennan, skip, Chip Derr, John Hoppe*, Kent Olsen, skip, Bill Kautter

*deceased

One of the boys in the photo, Bob Diddlebock, who now lives in Billings, MT, and Denver, CO, said, "Something that comes to mind about the 1964 photo is, in those mid-1960s days, the aged equipment and uniforms - were never washed or cleaned during the season and the same jerseys, pads, helmets, and pants were handed out year after year."

"Wyomissing had always been the Wyomissing Warriors." Gage said, "Our biggest rival was the West Reading Cowboys. The two schools merged in 1970 and I remember how great it was meeting many new classmates and getting additional players for the football team. The school asked all students to vote on new a team name. One option was, of course, the Spartans, another was the Trojans.

"As eighth and ninth graders, Bob Diddlebock, Scott Jones, and I were the football managers helping the high school coaches and players with various needs. Geez, did the older players ever have fun picking on us - all in good



1964 Wyomissing Warriors Football Team

fun! We got to go to all the games including away games. I then played varsity football starting in 10th grade."

Help us identify the unknown coach and players by emailing to WyoNeighbors@N2Pub.com.



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The Donofrio-Galley Family

Photos by Mark Searfoss, www.SearfossPhotography.com



Tessa, David and Emma



David Donofrio

Lori B. Donofrio-Galley, Richard Galley, and their son, David Donofrio reside in Spring Ridge. Their daughters, Tessa Fedalen and Emma Donofrio-Galley, live in the Philadelphia area.

Lori grew up in Wyomissing. She lived in Wyomissing Hills from 1967-1971 at which time her family moved to Garfield Avenue, Wyomissing. Richard was born in the Lehigh Valley and lived in Montgomery County for most of his childhood.

This couple met in 1979 as freshmen at Elizabethtown College. Both Lori and Richard graduated from Elizabethtown College in 1983. Lori has a B.A. in English/Communication Arts. Richard has a B.S. in Computer Science/Business Information Systems and an M.S. in Information Technology. They were married on February 3, 1984.

In 2003, Lori and Richard moved from Lancaster County to Wyomissing. The couple has lived in Spring Ridge for almost 11 years.

We asked Lori and Richard to tell us about their family. "Both our girls graduated from Wilson School

District, Tessa in 2009 and Emma in 2012. Our oldest daughter, Tessa Fedalen, and her husband, Tim Fedalen, and their 6-month-old daughter, Evelyn, live in Plymouth Meeting, PA." Richard said, "Being first-time grandparents, Evelyn has given us a whole new perspective on life, a new lease on life. She is so wonderful. I think about her all the time."

As a proud mother, Lori described her children, "Emma Donofrio-Galley, our second-oldest daughter, lives in Havertown, PA. Emma graduated from Philadelphia University (now Thomas Jefferson University) in 2016 with a B.S. in Graphic Design Communication. Emma is very active, artistic, and creative. In 2012, Tessa graduated from BTI with an associate degree in Specialized Technology. Tessa was always a reader and has a super technical aptitude. Our son David Donofrio will enter eighth grade at Wilson West this fall. David plays drums in the Wilson West Concert and Marching Bands, participated in Middle School spring Track & Field, and is passionate about family history and genealogy."

The family has two dogs, "Rex (senior male Bichon) and Yummy (senior female Chug). We adopted them as a bonded pair from Zoe's House Rescue in January 2019."

Richard is the Director of Technology and is a Middle School Science Teacher at La Salle Academy, Shillington. He has more than 30 years of experience in the field of technology and education.

For Lori Donofrio-Galley, 2021 has been an exciting time. After more than 30 years of working in leadership roles in for-profit and non-profit sectors, and most recently as Executive Director for the Northeast Berks Chamber of Commerce, Lori launched her own agency, The Right Angle Strategic Storytelling LLC.

As an experienced public relations consultant and strategist, Lori said, "Making your business or nonprofit organization visible through strategic storytelling that elevates brand identity and reveals the human identity behind the brand to attract and engage clientele or supporters is my mission." Lori told us, "For the past 23 years as a nonprofit executive, I have catalyzed a personal passion to leverage connections and cultivate resources using innovative strategies to raise the visibility of an organization. The creative public relations strategies and tools I have used to build nonprofit capacity can be applied to business to achieve parallel successes." Before entering the nonprofit sector, Lori gained professional experience as a writer, editor, researcher, and instructor.

"The Right Angle Strategic Storytelling LLC recommends a tested approach that relies on the skills of investigative journalism." She explained, "Working methodically with a client, I will conduct an 'investigation' of the business or nonprofit as a precursor to designing a public relations plan. The PR Plan will advise, among other strategies, leveraging the powerful tool of storytelling to connect with new audiences, strengthen rapport with existing audiences, and distinguish a business or nonprofit from its competitors."

"Finding your point of connection, your 90 degrees of opportunity has never been more vital than in our post-pandemic business climate," Lori noted. You can contact her at www.rightangle.us.com.

Discussing life in Wyomissing, Lori said, "Growing up in Wyomissing, my family always found recreation within beautiful natural settings, all close to our Garfield Avenue home. Whether walking or riding our bikes as kids, playing box hockey or folk dancing at the playgrounds, playing tennis or jogging around the track at the A-Field, ice skating at the Stone House, collecting crayfish in the Wyomissing Creek, or swimming every day of the summer at the Wyo pool, and my dad's home movies, all these things have created wonderful memories. We have always loved the sense of a small, connected community that Wyomissing is."



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D&B Elite Custom

From Rendering to Reality. We Care.

By Angela Cremer



D&B Elite Custom has humble beginnings that date back to 2010 when Dan Gring (CEO) and Brennan Reichenbach (COO) began flipping houses together in their spare time. From here, they transitioned into residential general contracting before they began building entire custom homes from the ground up. They officially started their business in February of 2011, and D&B just celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

Today, D&B Elite Custom is a residential construction firm offering services for custom homes and remodeling projects. Their remodeling projects span from powder room remodels to entire master suite renovations or home additions. They have completed many unique projects for clients, including custom outdoor living spaces and even an NBA-sized basketball court.

The D&B Elite team is comprised of dedicated individuals who anchor themselves to one of the hallmarks of the company's business model – People come first at D&B. This mindset, coupled with their quality work, has led to D&B being the recipient of many awards in the last decade, including Builder of the Year, Remodeler of the Year, Remodeling Magazine's Top 550, Qualified Remodeler 500, Lehigh Valley's 45 Fastest-Growing Businesses, Best Places to Work in PA, INC 5,000's Fastest Private Growing Companies, and Greater Reading Chamber Alliance's Top 50 Businesses.

At D&B, "we care" is more than just a tagline. Their pre-construction and selection processes are one of a kind and allow for transparent communication between the D&B Elite team and clients, so every project is completed on time, within budget, and to the customers' vision. It is one thing to be able to take an image a client saved on Pinterest of their dream kitchen and make it a reality, but it is another thing altogether when the completed job is life-changing to a client. This is a responsibility that the D&B Elite team does not take lightly.

Currently, D&B Elite Custom is working with two wonderful local families who have faced adversity head-on within recent years. At the end of May, the D&B Elite team smiled from ear to ear as they watched the Kline family start to move into their custom home, and they look forward to doing the same when the Rochino family moves into their re-imagined home soon.

A Transformation Like No Other

The feeling of seeing a client view their completed new home or renovations for the first time is always rewarding but watching the Kline family step into their new home meant so much more to the D&B Elite Custom team after all this couple has endured over the last two years. On December 14, 2019, Dave and Kathy Kline had a fire that destroyed their home. The only thing left from the house was part of the foundation, so their hand was forced to build a new home.

Their friend and President/CEO of Olsen Design Group Architects, Lee Olsen, told the couple, "There's only one choice. You've got to go with D&B. I've worked with them. They'll do a great job, pull together some amazing subcontractors, and the process will all flow very smoothly." Following the recommendation of Lee, the Klins met with D&B Elite Custom's Director of Residential Construction, Larry Adam, in January of 2020. Larry remembers walking through the house with the couple to "look over existing amenities and go over their insurance claim proposal so they could start budgeting for the rebuild based on sketches from their architect." Although the pandemic put the design process to a halt for a bit, they restarted the design phase in May of 2020, and demo of the existing structure took place in October of 2020.

"When we started the demo, Dave and Kathy were on site. This was a moment of closure for them as the house they raised their children in was torn down to make way for the new and improved version of their home," recalls Larry. He loved watching the couple's reactions as their new home progressed. "I could see their excitement as their design and selections came together and they could physically walk through what they had created on paper," he says with a smile.

The Klins made lemonade out of lemons, turning the loss of their old home into an opportunity to build a home guided by form and function. The end result was a home "more suitable for senior citizens" with everything they need all on one floor as they enter the next season of their life. Every detail of the home, from the breathtaking timber beams right down to the paint color in each room, was carefully selected with a purpose. The Klins wanted a style that was both rustic and comforting while paying homage to their travels in the mountains and Dave's 35 years of guiding ski and sightseeing groups in the Alps. Influence came from a blueprint Dave obtained in Zermatt, Switzerland, and from the architecture of northern Italy, southern Austria, and Bavaria, Germany. "It's sort of our vacation home that we live in full-time now," Dave said.

Describing their home as a "labor of love," D&B Elite Custom's Project Coordinator, Beth Varone-Barrer, says, "What they love to do and what they have experienced in life is incorporated into their new living space. Their home tells a story. Kathy told me she never thought they would be building a home at this stage in



The Kline's home after the fire



Kline home near completion



From left to right – D&B Elite Custom Superintendent Paul Gent / D&B Elite Custom Project Coordinator Beth Varone-Barrer / Homeowners Dave and Kathy Kline / President and CEO of Olsen Design Group Architects Lee Olsen / D&B Elite Custom's Director of Residential Construction Larry Adam. Photo by REUTER STUDIOS

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their life. When I toured her completed home and she gave me a hug I could have cried. It made me feel so good to see her happy with her home.”

The Superintendent in charge of this project, Paul Gent, says his favorite part of his career is the relationships he builds with the homeowners he completes work for. “This wasn’t your everyday, normal home,” reflects Paul. “The Kline house was completely customized to their liking and included memorabilia from their old house that we were able to save and incorporate into their new home, such as a custom decorative glass piece that everyone sees as soon as they walk through the front door. My reward was seeing how happy they were.”

All in the Family: A Fifty-Year Milestone in Wyomissing Hills

Lori and Avelino (Av) Rochino are another local family making something beautiful out of the hand they have been dealt. “With recent life changes, such as Av’s disability from an unfortunate accident and his mother’s recent passing from pneumonia, we knew we were ready to make changes to accommodate our new life situation,” says Lori. “With the house turning 50 years old next year, we thought this would be a great way to celebrate new beginnings!”

In 2010, Lori and Av had the opportunity to buy Av’s parents’ home when they retired to Florida. This allowed the Rochinos to keep the home that Av’s father, Avelino Sr. built, in their family for, hopefully, generations to come. Av attended the Wyomissing School District with his older brother up until junior high. Today, their son Andre now attends the same school as a third grader. This Wyomissing Hills home was the perfect starter home for Lori and Av. “When we bought it, we knew it had plenty of potential, but since it was built in 1972 we knew we’d be making some changes one day. However, life got busy and any home improvement projects got placed on the back burner,” says Lori.



D&B Elite Custom team members and trade partners meet with Lori and Avelino on-site in Mid-May.

The perfect storm changed all that. Lori, a marketing / communications professional for Philly and Boston-based organizations, and Av, a software engineer for a Boston-area-based company, both worked from home prior to the start of COVID-19. Life events, coupled with the fact that their son was now attending school remotely due to the pandemic, resulted in a need to make more space so everyone wasn’t on top of each other. Another plus side to renovating their home? The Rochino family has close ties with extended family in western PA, NJ, and DE. These renovations will allow the family to have more space to entertain them. With interest rates at their lowest, the Rochinos knew now was the time to secure the finances to help make their renovation dreams come true.

At the beginning of April this year, D&B Elite Custom began renovations to the family’s beloved home. These renovations include adding a second-floor master suite and updating every aspect of this 1970s home. In addition, the first floor will be completely ADA compliant for Av, with hardwood floors throughout, wider hallways, an open concept living plan, and a bigger shower with a flip-up seat. “When I found out that this home was Av’s childhood home and they are now raising their son in it, I thought ‘How cool is that?!’ The Rochinos are just enjoyable to be around and easy to work with. They did their homework and knew what they wanted to achieve. We are excited to make their ideas a reality,” says D&B’s Project Coordinator, Beth.

When Lori and Av contacted D&B Elite Custom, they had some ideas but didn’t know what to expect, as this was their first home renovation project. “We didn’t know anything about the design process,” reflects Lori. “We watched HGTV and all the home videos and always thought, ‘That would be cool to do.’ Then when you actually do it, you realize it is not a short 30-minute sprint. It is a marathon in some ways. There’s a lot of little moving parts throughout the process.”

Prior to the start of construction, Lori and Av said they felt it was “surreal and a little overwhelming.” One thing that gave them both peace of mind was Av’s mother, Merian, who was able to see the plans that the couple put together with Team D&B prior to her passing. Lori said, “She got very excited about the changes for her former house, so the ‘new house’ seems to have her blessing.”

D&B Elite Custom 8 Morgan Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Follow their Projects: @DandBelitecustom
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WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION



Fire Not Part of Their 60-Year Celebration

As a result of a two-alarm fire on Feb 19, 2021, Western Berks Ambulance Association’s Station 1, located on Belmont Avenue in West Lawn, suffered extensive damage to the building, offices, vehicle fleet, and medical equipment, as well as a loss of medical and office supplies. Thanks to the quick response of area emergency services providers, the damages were not more severe. No one was injured, the vehicles, equipment and supplies will be replaced, and the building is in the process of being restored.

The Western Berks Ambulance Association extends their sincere gratitude to every fellow first responder who helped both on the scene of the fire and behind the scenes so WBAA could continue to provide 24/7 emergency medical services to residents of the municipalities served. This year, Western Berks is celebrating its 60th Anniversary as a community founded and community funded non-profit provider of top-notch emergency medical services in Berks and surrounding counties. While celebration events are planned for 2021, the fire was not part of those plans.

Anthony Tucci, Executive Director of WBAA, told us the restoration has been difficult. “We had to terminate our agreement with our first remediation company, the second company just started. We had to bring in an architectural firm to complete a set of drawings for a level 3 restoration. We lost one vehicle entirely, and we do not expect the delivery of a new unit until late August due to the Covid related delay in microprocessors. Our other truck that had smoke damage is now on its third cleaning.”

Tucci continued, “We have received numerous donations, but we need more help. We run on a very tight budget with some help from our surrounding municipalities with our membership program. Insurance companies do not pay for the cost of readiness and only pay a fraction of the entire bill leaving the rest on us, so every little bit helps, and we are grateful to the community for helping out.”

WBEMS administrative services are temporarily operating from rented office space in Sinking Spring. Their ambulances from the West Lawn location are being housed at the former Lower Hiedelberg Fire Company and at the Township of Spring Fire Department building, which generously donated the temporary use of their facility.

Funded by memberships and donations, Western Berks Ambulance Association has been a strong and sustainable non-profit organization that continues to grow within Berks County and beyond. Over the past year, Western Berks has expanded its coverage area to 17 municipalities and added two additional stations.

Since 1961, Western Berks Ambulance Association has provided EMS services to western Berks County. WBAA currently has 55 Paramedics and 68 emergency medical technicians on staff and last year responded to over 15,000 calls with their current fleet of 14 ambulances and nine wheelchair vans all outfitted with the most advanced lifesaving technology. Anyone wishing to join or donate can call or contact wbems.org online or via social media.

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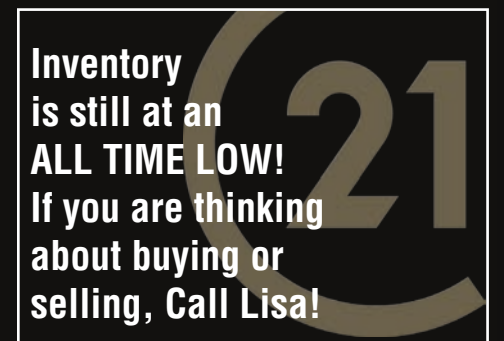
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SOPHIA HARRIS



HER SKATING JOURNEY

By Emily Kenniston

Photos by Mark Searfoss, www.SearfossPhotography.com



Sophia Harris, a 2021 graduate of Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School, vividly recalls the first time she fell in love with ice skating. “I attended a New Year’s Eve skating party when I was 7,” she shared. “I loved it and I signed up for lessons and have been skating ever since.”

After moving to Wyomissing from the Philadelphia Main Line four years ago, Harris discovered that this area was the perfect location to foster her love of ice skating. She specifically mentioned how understanding Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Dr. Corey Jones, was whenever she had to miss classes due to her competition schedule. “With synchronized skating, I have gone all over the country since freshman year,” she said. Over the last four years, Harris has earned an impressive number of awards, including a Triple Gold Medal in U.S. Figure Skating. She specializes in freestyle skating, ice dancing, and synchronized skating at the national level. “I’ve been fortunate enough to do a lot of different types of skating,” she said.

Harris trains at Body Zone Sports and Wellness Complex in Wyomissing, where she also works manning the front desk, volunteering for their bridge program to attract new members, and teaching youth ice skating classes. “I enjoy getting to share my love of skating with the next generation,” she said, noting that she is also currently working on obtaining her certification to become a private skating instructor. In addition, Harris also volunteers with the Olivet Boys and Girls Club in Reading and the Helping Harvest Food Bank. Last summer, she interned with the Reading City Council, and she also volunteered for the Reading City Victory Garden Project, where she managed their social media accounts and wrote press releases.

This fall, Harris plans to attend the University of Delaware, where she received a Presidential Scholarship. While she dreams of one day auditioning for Disney on Ice, Harris is excited now to work hard representing her college as a part of their competitive skating team, just as she has represented her beloved Wyomissing community with so much strength and talent over the last four years.

You can follow Sophia Harris’s skating journey by following her on Instagram, [@sophiaskater1](https://www.instagram.com/sophiaskater1).



Photo by Mark Searfoss using the Stone House Pond as background. This is a photo-painted rendition using the giclee process.

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1966 Corvair



Roy & Sandi Kissinger - Wyomissing

“A Corvair was not what we were looking for. My son Chad and I started out searching for a '55 Chevy to buy with the idea that he and I would work on it together and by the time he turned 16, he would have a good appreciation of cars. At that time, '55s were so high priced we didn't find one.” said Roy Kissinger as he and his wife Sandi gave me the history of their 1966 Corvair Monza.

“We were at a flea market in Shillington talking to someone about our search for a car, and they told us about this '66. I wasn't too interested at first, but they said it was a Monza which is a sportier version, and it

was a convertible - that got my attention - so we went to look at it. It was owned by a very old man who was the second owner of the car. I took it for a drive and fell in love with it. This was 1987 when we bought it making us the third owner. It is the original color that I had re-painted once. It has the original interior. It is a three-speed on floor, and it isn't an easy three-speed to drive. It's not like today's cars with fuel injection where you have immediate response. There is a fine balance between the gas and the clutch because it has two carburetors that are connected with all the linkage instead of modern electronics. I told my grandson Coen, if you can drive this, you can drive any stick or any manual transmission vehicle. He drove it to the Exeter Junior Prom this year. There were kids at the prom looking at the Corvair and they were asking what this one knob was for - it was the crank for the window.”

Sandi said, “We drive it spring, summer, and fall - May through November. When the weather is nice we take it out, mostly with the top down. We got caught in the rain twice where we got soaked and had to stop and put the top up. It has been a lot of fun over the years.”

The Corvair was Chevrolet's answer to Japanese imports and the Volkswagen Beetle. The Corvair's engine was rear-mounted and air-cooled - the first such mass-produced American car with those features. Selling for half the price of a Ford Thunderbird, it was an answer to the clamor for economy compacts. Other



cars to follow suit were the Ford Falcon and Plymouth Valiant.

In his 1965 book *Unsafe at Any Speed*, the outspoken political activist Ralph Nader claimed that the Chevrolet Corvair was the most dangerous automobile on the road in the 1960s. While Nader certainly made some valid points, most Corvair owners will tell you Nader was full of baloney and the Corvair is an amazing car that was dealt a dirty hand by Nader.




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Wyomissing Area High School CLASS OF 2021

Photo by Phil Marabella, www.philmarphotos.com

Congratulations to the Wyomissing Class of 2021. Here's wishing you all the best life has to offer and long and happy lives!

Photographer Phil Marabella captured this image of the Class of 2021. To purchase a copy of the photo, you can visit Phil's website, www.philmarphotos.com.

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Plan to be with us Sept. 24, 5:30pm, for Wyomissing Neighbors Family Night at Weaver's Orchard, Rt. 10, Morgantown, for a Fall Festive time. Stay tuned for details!

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Dancing with the Reading Stars Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Emily Kenniston

Photos By Lindsey Hart, Lindsey Hart Photography



The Yocum Institute for Arts Education held their tenth annual “Dancing with the Reading Stars” fundraiser the evening of Saturday, May 22, at Stokesay Castle in Reading, with all proceeds benefiting arts education.

The stars aligned at Stokesay, which provided a beautiful venue for “Dancing with the Reading Stars.” From the stunning stone turrets towering above the surrounding pine trees to the elegant vaulted ceiling above the dance floor to the delicious food and drinks that all audience members and dancers enjoyed, it was certainly a night to remember. COVID-safety protocols were observed, and viewers had the choice to either purchase an in-person ticket or to watch a live stream of the event.

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“Dancing with the Reading Stars” involves ten dance pairs from throughout Berks County representing our diverse community. In addition to creating a 90-second dance routine, each pair solicits sponsorships and votes. Dancers choose their own music and either create their own dance number or work with a Yocum Institute choreographer to assist them in developing a routine.

According to Susan J. Rohn, Yocum’s Executive Director, the funds raised by the event this year were unprecedented. “More than \$220,000 was raised. As for the event, there was lots of talent, high energy, and fun. It brought the community together again,” she shared. “It really is the most fun fundraiser in Berks County and all for a good cause.”

This year’s lineup of dancers consisted of Shawn Barczynski and Nicole Vega, MaCherie Dunbar and Bethany Bower, Guy and Ryan Griffin-Silveri, Jason and Amy Hendrix, Holly James and Chris Madara, Dillon and Emily Kenniston, JR and Emilee Koch, Ginelle and Eric Miller, Kate Pieres and Tim Greusel, Helene Reeser and Erich Cawalla, and a special exhibition performance from dancers Ethan Blakeney and Emma Flammer. Every dance that each partnered couple performed was unique, and audience members were treated to performances that included a sweet father-daughter tap dance routine, a romantic waltz, a sexy tango, and a hip hop performance. “Dancing with the Reading stars was a wonderful experience,” shared competitor Helene D. Reeser. “I was very grateful to be a part of this event for a great cause.”

The winners of the evening included JR and Emilee Koch (Audience Favorite In-Person and Grand Champion First Place), Guy and Ryan Griffin-Silveri (Audience Favorite Virtual), Helene Reeser and Erich Cawalla (Comeback Kid Award and Grand Champion Second Place), and MaCherie Dunbar and Bethany Bower (Grand Champion Third Place).

Visit www.yocuminstitute.org for more information.



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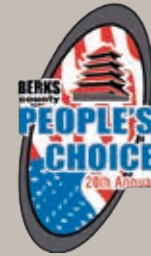
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