

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Sullivan County REC

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Staff

Craig A. Harting, CEO
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David L. Aumen – CCD*/BLC/Gold*****
Chairman
Jay Lewis – CCD
Vice Chairman
Kathy A. Robbins – CCD/BLC/Gold
Secretary
Stephan Paul Brady – CCD/BLC/Gold
Jeff Hamilton – CCD/BLC
Ann B. Henderson – CCD/BLC
Jim Lambert
David R. Rakestraw

*Credentialed Cooperative Director
 **Board Leadership Certificate
 ***Director Gold Certificate

Office Hours
 Monday through Friday
 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

From the CEO



Did you get my text?

By Craig A. Harting

JUST ABOUT everyone I know sends a text every day... and some people are texting all the time. After much preparation, I'm excited to say you can now text your outage to the co-op with the simple word "out."

We'll message you when we think your power has been restored, and if you're still out of power, you can reinitiate the outage notification with the message "out." We believe this will help us relieve pressure on the cooperative's phone lines and make it easier for you to tell us about your outage.

Planned outages

We will also be able to text you about an upcoming planned outage, which may be more convenient than a phone call. We think this will help us better deliver the message without the issues associated with answering machines and voicemails.

There will be other uses going forward with the co-op sending you notices and reminders via text. However, we will not bombard you with a lot of messages as we all get plenty of those every day.

It's important to note that you control your entry into the texting system, and you can opt out at any time. Our goal is to provide you with

an easy and convenient way to contact your co-op.

Phone numbers

You will receive a text message offering you the option to opt into the program. I am writing this article in advance, so I am uncertain as to the exact timing, but you should receive this initial text from us this month.

However, the program only works if we have your cellphone number. A few years ago, we sent a survey to get your phone numbers, but we realize phone numbers can change and that you could have forgotten to notify us.

So, if you didn't get a text from us or if you are uncertain as to whether we have your correct phone numbers, here is what you can do: Send an email with all of your correct phone numbers to screcbilling@epix.net.

Please note that we can store up to three phone numbers for each account. Remember to send all of your correct numbers (up to three). We will update your account, and you can then get into the texting program.

I'm excited to see how this texting program can work for you and stay tuned as it develops in the future. Now, don't tell the lineworkers, but I'm kinda hoping for an outage to try it out... ☀

Pier 87 rises from the water to welcome guests once more

By John Zelewicz
Penn Lines Writer

NESTLED in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania, along Route 87 near Loy-alsockville, you'll find Pier 87, a restaurant and bar well known to those in the community and surrounding areas.

Frank Morrone III and Brad Russell are the owners/operators of Pier 87, and both have been in the hotel and restaurant business for most of their lives. Russell was always interested in the business, previously known as Shore Acres.

"At first it was known as Shore Acres, then Last Chance and then Shore Acres again," Russell explains. "I live in the area, just up the road on Route 87, and I've always been interested in the business and discussed purchasing it in the past. We bought it when it went up for sheriff sale."

One of the first things Russell and Morrone decided to do was change the restaurant's name before they opened in 2011.

"We thought that it needed a name change — a fresh start required a new name ... so we came up with the name Pier 87," Russell says. "We chose 'pier' because it was along the water, and '87' because it's along Route 87."

You may imagine that owning and operating your own business is a wonderful thing ... and, in some ways, it is, but it can also be stressful. There are times when you may find yourself having to deal with things you can't control or even anticipate. Such was the case when storms struck the area in August and September 2011.

In late August, Hurricane Irene dropped several inches of rain over the area. But when Tropical Storm Lee hit in September, the massive amount of rain that fell couldn't be absorbed by the already saturated ground.

Floodwaters rise

As the waters began to rise, Russell



STARTING OVER: In 2011, Tropical Storm Lee devastated the area, and Pier 87 was destroyed by rising floodwaters. Owners Frank Morrone III and Brad Russell redesigned and rebuilt the restaurant. Today, guests come from all over to enjoy their delicious food and drinks.

and others frantically worked to do what they could to save the business.

"We knew that the rain was coming, and we had to do something. So four of us came in and started moving what we could to a higher location," he recalls. "Before long, the water came in and the only way we could get out was to use a kayak and canoe. Then we got stuck here because the road was closed due to rising water. It was 24 hours before I was able to get home."

Many will remember the devastation the area had to deal with due to Tropical Storm Lee — homes, roads and bridges washed away.

Once the floodwaters receded, Russell and Morrone surveyed the damage and had to decide what course of action to take. They decided there was only one thing to do: Rebuild. With encouragement from others, they got a disaster loan and reopened Pier 87 in February 2013. What made the new building extra special was



SUMMER FUN: During the warmer months, people stopping at Pier 87 can enjoy the wraparound porch, sandy beach and tiki bar.

the fact that it was a hands-on project from day one.

"We designed the whole thing ourselves," Russell says. "We liked the look that we came up with, and with help from several construction companies, we made our vision a reality. Fortunately, I'm versed in using CAD drawing and chose sort of an A-frame look."

Rebuilding in a flood zone always has its challenges. Fortunately, they had the land required to rebuild. To make it more appealing, sand was

added behind the restaurant as well as a tiki bar, fire pit and wraparound porch.

“We’ve added things over time,” he says. “We have to reinvest to keep our guests coming back. We have a wrap-around porch that provides a nice outdoor vibe. We recently added windows to the porch, which will allow us to extend the time we’re able to use it.”

Stop by almost any night and you’ll find the parking lot at Pier 87 filled with cars. Stop by on a summer weekend and you’ll find the parking lot overflowing with cars and motorcycles.

The number of people Pier 87 can seat depends on the time of year. During warmer months, it can seat around 300 people using outdoor seating. During cooler months, it’s limited by the number of indoor seating available.

“Our busiest time is April to September because we’re able to serve three times as many people as we can in the winter,” Russell says, “But we’re still busy and have crowds on the weekends.”

One of the things guests enjoy is the live music. Russell, however, is quick to point out that while bands are for the guests’ enjoyment, they’re not the restaurant’s main focus.

“We have bands play, but that’s not our main focus, which is providing people with quality food



STOP AND VISIT: No matter the time of year, Pier 87’s friendly staff is happy to see you and will make you feel welcome. Next time you’re in the area, stop at Pier 87 and check it out.

and beverages,” he says. “It’s just something that we can provide to entertain our guests. Bands only play outdoors during the summer when weather permits.”

Something for everyone

You won’t have a problem finding Pier 87, but one thing you may have a hard time with is deciding what to eat. Pier 87 offers a wide range of food, everything from pulled pork sandwiches to cheeseburgers and lamb gyros.

Want to try something other than a sandwich? While the menu always changes, some dishes, such as the restaurant’s award-winning fish taco wrap, in-house smoked barbecue ribs and campfire chicken (fresh chicken tossed in a citrus-chipotle barbecue sauce and topped with cheddar jack cheese), are always available.

Guests come from all over to sample the delicious foods and drinks found at Pier 87.

“We get a lot of people ... they’ve come from all around, including seven countries,” Russell says. “We’re very fortunate, and we’re blessed by the support that our guests have shown us. We’re becoming a destination. Even during COVID-19, we had guests coming here because we have so much outside dining available.”

For more information, check out its website, thepier87.com, or you can find it on Facebook.

So next time you’re in the area, why not stop at Pier 87 to get something delicious to eat or, perhaps, just get a refreshing drink. Grab a seat, relax and watch a leaf floating down the creek. And if you’ve been to Pier 87 before, don’t be surprised to find something new.

“We’re always adding something to the building or the grounds,” Russell notes with a smile. “We’re not sure what we’ll do this year, but we’ll have something that will be a surprise for our guests.” ❁



EXPECT A CROWD: While Pier 87’s busiest time is April to September, you’ll still find the place packed with people on any weekend.

Who ya gonna call?

By John Zelewicz, *Penn Lines* Writer

WINTER'S slowly winding down, and it looks like it's going to be a nice weekend coming up. So you decide to spend a few days at a cabin owned by a friend or family member. You can't wait to get to the mountains. You envision a relaxing walk along a babbling brook or roasting a hot dog over a roaring campfire.

Suddenly, an emergency arises. One of the kids gets hurt, or you return after a hike to find you have no electricity ... who ya gonna call?

You may think that such situations never arise, but you'd be surprised how often such unexpected circumstances occur. In the past, there have been instances when people have lost power and called Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative only to discover they're not on our lines. They may get their electricity from PP&L, Penelec or another cooperative. There have even been times when people living in Sullivan County, New York, have called to report an outage.

Here is some information to keep by the phone, not only for visiting family members and guests, but also

as a useful tool in the event of an emergency.

Information to keep handy

- ▶ If you're going away, be sure to leave your location and a phone number where you can be reached. If no one is staying at your home while you're away, be sure a neighbor knows how to reach you, if necessary.
- ▶ With the creation of 911 addresses, it's easier for emergency personnel to find a home or seasonal dwelling. Be sure the address is properly displayed so emergency personnel can see it and write it on a piece of paper that you keep by the phone. You may know the address, but a friend or family member may not know it or remember it, if an emergency arises.
- ▶ Keep a list of emergency phone numbers by the phone. While 911 is now the universal emergency number, make sure to have the phone number for your local utilities and account numbers readily available.
- ▶ While cellphones are helpful in emergencies, not all areas have cell service. If someone is staying at

your home or seasonal residence, make sure they know the phone number there or where to go for cellphone service. This is important if emergency services need to call back for more information. You may want to return to a cellphone service area occasionally to see if there are any messages for you.

Other items to keep on hand are a fully stocked first-aid kit, a battery-operated radio and flashlights. If you're renting or staying at someone's home, make sure you know where the flashlights are and plan an emergency exit in the event something happens. Planning ahead will help you deal more efficiently when an emergency occurs. ❁

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 13!
Set your clocks forward by one hour.



Notice of the 2022 director election

The Credentials & Election Committee met on Jan. 28 and approved the following candidates to stand for election on the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Board of Directors:

DISTRICT 2 – Elkland and Hills Grove townships, Sullivan County

- ▶ Karen F. Beinlich
- ▶ Durwood J. Whiteley

DISTRICT 6 – Shrewsbury, Wolf and Mill Creek townships, Lycoming County

- ▶ Jay O. Lewis, vice chair of the Sullivan County REC Board of Directors

DISTRICT 9 – Cascade, Lewis and Gamble townships, Lycoming County

- ▶ Stephan P. Brady, member of the Sullivan County REC Board of Directors

Note: All members can vote in ALL director districts. Your completed ballot should be returned in the blue envelope, which is self-addressed and postage-paid. The cooperative must receive the ballot by 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 17. Please allow sufficient time for delivery.