



# News at N4Cs

Northern Columbia Community and Cultural Center

## Summer Youth Program

*Another Successful Year*

With about 30-70 six-to-12 year olds per day, Janet English has her hands full with the Summer Youth Program at N4Cs. But by all appearances, she loves her job and is very good at it. Janet has been the director of the program for almost four years, and has learned over that time what works with the kids. She manages them with a firm but loving hand, and the kids respect her.

The Summer Youth Program started four years ago averaging about 20-30 children per day. But as it matured, the number of participants increased. Luckily for Janet, the number of youth aids has also increased. Currently, five college students, two per day, and two high-school students daily, help supervise the activities. The high-school students are recruited through Career-Link.

Over the years, an increasing number of field trips were added. This year they included visits to: Magic Museum Scranton, Knoebels, Camelback Water Slide Park, Paws “N” Claws, Nay Aug Park, Hershey Chocolate World, and Ricketts Glen Park. Each field trips requires a separate payment.

Special Event activities are a favorite. These range from games, parties, carnivals, and special programs. This season, Special Events included an Ice Cream Social, a Pet Show and Parade, Halloween- and Christmas-themed parties, a Scavenger Hunt, Movies, a Bike Safety Program, and a Car Wash.

Dodge ball is the kids’ sport of choice. But old standards such as color tag, and capture the flag are also popular.



Summer Youth playing their “favorite”—dodge ball.

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### Special Interest

- *Buy a brick for N4Cs’ Memorial Walk*
- *To Gillian on her 37th Birthday: Sept. 16, 17, 18*
- *Fishing Creek Heritage Days: Oct. 8 & 9*

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## Rob's Corner



Jerry Arcuri the Editor of our Community Center Newsletter asked me to keep my column this month under 200 words. Those members and volunteers who know me, recognize that I am a man of few words. I say what I mean, and mean what I say—very briefly. So it is a pleasure to be write

something short and sweet.

When I decided to come and work at N4Cs I doubted that it could make it through its first two years of operation. All national statistics show that there is not enough population in the area to support the facility. But what I did not know was the passion that so many people in the area have for making the Center a reality, and for their caring and work ethic that has enabled the Center to operate for FOUR YEARS!

Thanks to Elsie Buyers

and her deep concern for the community that she loved. Everything she dreamed about for the Center has come to fruition with the help of some very conscientious and compassionate people. I can say now that "I am blessed to serve our community and the very wonderful members and volunteers that serve and recreate at our new community hub".

Respectfully,  
Rob Hutchison  
Center Director

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## Fishing Creek Heritage Days

*A Time to Remember*

Plans for this year's Fishing Creek Heritage Days celebration are well underway thanks to the hard work of co-chairpersons Lucie Barone and Dave Stemrich. Fishing Creek Heritage Days celebrates the diverse Heritage of the Fishing Creek Valley. The festivities will be held Saturday and Sunday October 8 (9AM-8PM) and 9 (11AM—6PM).

The celebration always boasts excellent food, a wide array of arts and crafts, outstanding music, and living history demonstrations. This year, a Lyceum will be established to provide a wide range of lectures on local history offered by resident experts. There will also be lots of children's activities and a new playground dedication.

Food vendors, artists, craft persons, businesses, clubs and organizations interested in displaying or selling should contact Rob Hutchison (570-925-0163), Lucie Barone (570-304-6914) or Dave Stemrich (610-248-6569). Applications must be received by August 15.

*If you want to exhibit at Fishing Creek Heritage Days contact Rob Hutchison, Lucie Barone or Dave Stemrich*

## *Volunteer of the Quarter: Jerry Arcuri*

Jerry Arcuri has been voted Volunteer of the Quarter at N4Cs. Jerry has been active at the Center since its opening, often behind the scenes. Currently, he handles most of the public relations for the Center, preparing news announcements for newspapers, radio, TV, and public service bulletin boards. He also distributes announcements to Center members via e-mail and writes the quarterly newsletter. In addition, along with his wife Kathy, he helped plant and maintain the landscaping at the Center for the last three years. Recently, Jerry was bitten by the acting bug and appeared in two Fishing Creek Players' productions.

Originally from the Philadelphia suburbs, the Arcuris purchased their property in Benton in the eighties for weekends and vacations and eventual retirement. However, they both fell in love with the area and the community and relocated permanently in 1994. Fortunately, Jerry was able to continue his consulting business for the telecom industry from his home here in Benton, finally retiring in 2009. Jerry and his family lived in northern Japan for three years where he was a Russian linguist with the US Navy. They loved the rural life in Japan, which was so reminiscent of life here.

When not volunteering, Jerry tends his home garden and chicken flock, plays bridge, attends the opera, takes classes at Bloomsburg University, and visits his grandson Toby in the DC area. Political and environmental initiatives also capture his interest. He is grateful for the activities and sense of community provided by N4Cs and is happy to contribute to the effort of keeping this largely volunteer-run organization operating.

It is thanks to all of the volunteers at the Center that N4Cs has become such an important part of Northern Columbia County. With only one full-time employee the Center places consider responsibility and trust in its volunteers.



Jerry Arcuri, Volunteer of the Quarter Q2 2011

*Jerry is grateful for the sense of community provided by N4Cs.*

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In addition to the activities, the children also get a free lunch and snack daily. This service is provided by Tapestry of Health, Berwick, through a

grant from the State.

If you see Janet, congratulate her on a job well done! The Summer Youth Program provides an excellent service to our youth.

## *Benton Food Bank and Plant a Row*

*A Wonderful Collaborative Effort Helps Those in Need*

*Special thanks to Forrest and Rosie Fronheiser and John and Charlotte Sibley for sharing their abundant bounty of blueberries.*

The Benton Food Bank together with the Plant A Row program demonstrate the good community service that can result through collaboration. The joint efforts of both programs help those in need in Columbia County.

Peg Krum manages

produce to Food Bank recipients. As part of that program local gardeners share their produce, and Memie Christie, a Penn State Cooperative Nutrition Educator, provides recipes on preparing the vegetables—even offering home-cooked samples!

pints of blueberries—bringing thoughts or blueberry pies and jam.

As part of a grant from Columbia County, the Harvest 4-Health program, with donated help, built four raised beds at the Penn State extension office to grow produce for area food banks.

Memie Christie harvests the vegetables from those beds and shares them as part of Plant A Row.

It is thanks to the collaboration of so many people that the Food Bank and the Plant A Row program serve the needs of many families in the Northern Columbia county area.



Dot Winther and Plant A Row's bounteous produce.

the Benton Food Bank operation, with a host of local volunteers who unpack boxes, organize, fill grocery bags and do paperwork. Also lending a hand are Benton Alternative Education students and some juvenile probation youth who typically carry bags. This past week, several enthusiastic N4Cs' Summer Youth Program helpers were also recruited to help (see photo).

Kathy Arcuri, Dot Winther and Memie Christie manage the Plant A Row program which provides locally-grown

Recently, Food Bank recipients got a huge treat when Forrest and Rosie

Fronheiser and John and Charlotte Sibley donated 100 neatly packaged



William Butler, Ayden Branas, Benjamin Butler, David Buma

*Collaboration among a wide range of people contribute to Benton Food Bank's and Plan A Row's Success.*

## *Memorial Walk*

*A Real Community Effort*

N4Cs' Memorial Walk has evolved into a real community effort, in keeping with the atmosphere created by the Community Center itself. It started with the well-received Veterans' Memorial. Many people liked the idea of remembering veterans, and hoped for something similar to honor other loved ones.

That idea is taking shape with the Memorial Walk, which is under construction now. It includes a brick walk leading to a gazebo sitting next to Fishing Creek—a serene environment that lends itself to quiet thought or conversation.

The sense of community was apparent from the outset when members of N4Cs' Sit 'N Fit program donated nearly all of the money necessary to purchase the gazebo. That sense of community was extended when two local businessmen donated hundreds of dollars in time and material to create the setting.

Rick Iddings, owner of Innovative Building and Design, donated all machine time, labor and materials to build the elevated foundation upon which the gazebo now sits. (Rick also donated the beautiful entryway to the Center in 2007.)

Doug Vincent, owner of Benton Mobile Concrete (who donated time

and material during N4Cs' construction) provided all machine time and labor to create the handicap-accessible ramp upon which the bricks will be laid. His men worked more than two days in the hot sun, laying forms and pouring concrete, and kept their good humor throughout.

Finally, Red Rock Job Corps Center automotive students stained the gazebo, and brick shop students will lay more than 1,000 bricks to complete the Memorial Walk. As you may recall, Red Rock Job Corps students also did much of the interior brick and tile work.

If you haven't purchased your Memorial brick yet, pick up an order form at the Center. A 4x8-inch brick costs \$50 (\$40 per brick if more than one is purchased.) Any personal memory can be honored: a loved one, a special date or event. You can choose to honor whom or what you like.



Joe Young and Jeff Laubauch from Benton Mobile Concrete putting final touches on Memorial Walk.

*Rick Iddings, Innovative Building and Design, and Doug Vincent, Benton Mobile Concrete, contributed labor and material for Memorial Walk.*

*The Memorial Walk is a real community-based effort.*

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**Become Part of  
Our Family**  
Visit...  
Enjoy...  
Join!

N4Cs provides social services, cultural and educational opportunities, sports programs, and health and wellness activities for people of all ages. Thanks to the dedication of our founders, donors, staff, and volunteers, the greater Northern Columbia County and surrounding municipalities have become a better place to live and raise our families.

## *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*

*A Play by Michael Brady*

Fishing Creek Players will present Michael Brady's play *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*, directed by Kevin Hickman on September 16, 17 and 18. The play is a beautiful and sensitive drama about mourning and the subsequent emotional rebirth of a young widower, David, following the death of his wife, Gillian.

During the play, which takes place over a long weekend at the beach, David's family and Gillian's spirit try to lift his depressed mood. Although the drama deals with serious subject matter, it leads the audience along an emotional path of love and devotion. It ultimately shows the evolution of various family relations, and examines how David learns to

honor the past without being stuck there.

Cast includes: Amy Ferretti, Liane Hayman, Leah Hickman, Carl Kishbaugh Jr, Marilyn White-Kishbaugh, Robert Ridall, and Jen Trewhella

For a thought-provoking evening of drama, we hope you will plan on attending. The play will be performed at the Center.

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## *Mark Your Calendars*

- **September 3: Gymnastics and Tumbling programs start**
- **September 3: Ballet, Jazz and Irish dance programs begin**
- **September 16, 17 & 18: To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday by Fishing Creek Players**
- **October 8 & 9: Fishing Creek Heritage Days**
- **October 15: N4Cs' Annual Dinner**
- **October 15: Alchemy Dance Troupe**