

Bloomsburg Fair

Bloomsburg, PA

September 27, 2015

The Bloomsburg Fair is always one of the best of the season and this year was no exception. The food is good and varied. There are plenty of things to see and do in all the stands and buildings. The games are varied and fun. It seems like they have the parking better organized this year eventhough they make you park back further in the lot. The entertainment on the free stage was excellent. We saw an 80's tribute band called Sapphire which were excellent. I look forward to the fair every year and this year was great as expected. Unfortunately the day ends too quickly at the fair and we have to look forward to what next years fair will bring. Now in October we have to look to next years picnic season because a long and boring fall and winter season is about to begin.

Rating 5 *** out of 5 ***

Our Lady of the Abingtons

Dalton, PA

September 20, 2015

This picnic used to be one of the better ones. It used to be for 3 nights, now it is just one afternoon. They used to have the Poets play, now they just have a DJ. The food was limited but ok. The chicken BBQ looked and smelled delicious. I should have taken one home. This picnic is not bad it is just boring, it used to be quite exciting. The car show was ok but smaller than last year. If they went back to the way it used to be would get a much higher rating. All and all it was ok for an hour or so when there was nothing else to do.

Rating 2** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

Luzerne County Fair

Dallas Twp., PA

September 13, 2015

I haven't been to this fair in many years. I really don't like the fairs that have the one admission price which includes rides, etc. I do not ride the rides. I am not sure if I got my \$10 worth. I did see a dog show which was entertaining, a game show which was stupid. An elephant show which was educational. Also an antique tractor parade and rodeo which would have been better if it started on time. The food was typical fair food, some reasonable, some expensive. Grotto pizza was \$3.00 a slice **WOW THAT IS GREED!!!**. Again did I get my \$10 worth, probably not. Their grassy parking lot is a joy especially right after it rained. All in all will go back again next year. Sure, why not. It got me in the mood for the fair of all fairs Bloomsburg. Also it was a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Fellitese Italian Festival

Old Forge, PA

September 12, 2015

This picnic was good as expected. The food was good and all homemade. They had Revello's pizza. They had some games and henna tattoos for the children. Parking was relatively close. The band "Fuzzy Park band" was good. There was plenty of seats to eat your food. There were less people than I expected, possibly due to the rain on Saturday. It was a nice picnic. My only complaint is the

band stopped at 9pm when other years they would play till at least 10pm

Rating 4 **** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

St. Paul's Parish

Scranton, PA

September 11, 2015

After I left Olyphant, I went to St. Paul's. While walking to the grounds the streets and sidewalks were teeming with children and teens on skateboards, bikes, and skooters. I thought "here we go again". When I got to the grounds **WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!!!**. No skateboards, bikes, or skooters. They had all the basketball nets tied off so they were not able to play basketball outside. They did have children playing basketball in the basement gym. This was great. The food was good, the band was unknown but they actually were quite good. They eliminated bingo, and moved the theme baskets outside. Where the baskets were last year they had a small craft fair and bake sale. I feel sorry for the people working under the food tent, the smoke was quite heavy, hopefully they can fix this issue next year. This picnic gets the **MOST IMPROVED PICNIC** of the year award. Hopefully this picnic will stay just as good in years to come.

Rating 4 **** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

Excelsior Hose Company 125th Anniversary Celebration

Olyphant, PA

September 11, 2015

First of all congratulations on your 125th Anniversary. Also thank you for protecting the community. But! The picnic was boring. I was hoping it was exciting but unfortunately it was not. I was able to park right outside the grounds. There were 7 vendor stands and a huge beer tent. There was only about 25 people on the grounds. I am sure the food was good, and the DJ was entertaining. But this event was boring to me so I walked around a little and then left.

Rating 2 ** out of 5 *

La Festa Italiana

Downtown Scranton, PA

September 4, 6, & 7, 2015

I will give the good and the bad of this event. First let it be known I love this event. It is one of the best if not the best of the season. The choice to go 4 days was excellent. I went 3 of the 4 days, next year possibly all 4. The food is great and many different choices. The bands that I saw, were the Duprees who were very good, Se Acado who were a Santana tribute were good. The Poets were very good as expected (more on that later). My biggest surprise was on Monday the Bronx Wanderers were **FANTASTIC!!!!**. Their almost 2 hour show includes Frankie Valli, Dion, and many many more. I hope they invite them back next year. They were the **BEST** I heard at the festival in many years. Now on to the bad. People should not bring their pets, on Friday I saw people walking multi dogs, dogs in carriges, with over 10,000 people on the grounds this is not a place for your pet dog. I am going to e mail the committee to suggest to them to not allow pets. Service animals should always be allowed. Also I think they need more security, when I was leaving Friday a person who obviously had too many fell into me and asked "if I knew where the beer tent was". Getting back to pets, on Sunday I saw a man with a live Burmese Python around his neck in addition

to the multitude of dogs. What if these dogs, or worse the snake bit somebody. Or what if there was a dogfight. Leave your pets at home. Another problem of the event was every act I went to see started from 15 minutes to 45 minutes later than what was on the brochure. Now back to the Poets, they were only about 50 minutes into their act, which was very good, and you could hear boom, boom. They started the fireworks while the Poets were mid song. If they had better coordination the fireworks could have waited until the Poets were done. Also I never realized how big the homeless problem is in downtown Scranton, as you can see coming and going down N. Washington Ave. You think at least one of the vendors would give them something to eat and not worry just about profits. Finally the next thing is just a pet peeve of mine. I call them the "**Millenial Smart Phone Zombies**". Even in a crowd of over 10,000 people they cannot look up from their device to see where they are walking, instead they just bump into people. Which is rude. It's amazing that these millenials cannot be without their device for even a short period of time.

Rating ***** of 5 * (should be 10*'s)

Pittston Tomato Festival

Pittston, PA

August 23, 2015

This event is one of the best as expected. The food is very good, but this year it seems like all of the vendors jacked up the prices. One slice of pizza was \$2.75. Getting too expensive for me. A major annoyance this year is the vendor from Mid Atlantic basement waterproofing. Every time you went around the corner by his stand he would ask "do you have water in your basement" This is ok the first time, cute the second time, after that **VERY ANNOYING**. Same question over and over, eventhough you were just there five

minutes ago. The Poets were predictable, they really don't change their show from year to year, but this is really not a bad thing because they are very talented. Unfortunately the festival loses one star rating this year.

Rating **** out of 5 *

Pioneer Nights Block Party

Carbondale, PA

August 22, 2015

It was my first year attending this event. It was a pleasant surprise. This event is a cross between the Kielbasa Festival, La Festa Italiana, The Scrantastic festival, and The Tomato Festival. It is a smaller version of the four. It is held in downtown Carbondale by the fire house. There are many local vendors and stands. For the most part the food was good. The band Farmers Daughter played an enjoyable mix of pop, country, and classics. I am not a big fan of country but these guys were pretty good. Between sets they had a bagpipe band playing in the beer tent and by the stage. I definitely will be back again next year.

Rating **** out of 5 *

St. John Newman Parish

Scranton, PA

August 21, 2015

This picnic used to be one of the best. Lately it hasn't been too spectacular. The food is decent. They use food tickets as they always have. The crowds aren't there like they used to be. Many teenagers with their skateboards. The beer tent was only partially full. No one carding at the door of the tent. The band!!!! They

wouldn't even make it to the first round of America Got Talent. It was a loud and PAINFUL experience. I said it many times get a better band and you will get more people to come to your picnic. I will try it again next year, hopefully it may be the way it used to be.

Rating *** out of 5 *

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Throop, PA

August 15, 2015

This is a small picnic. For the most part it is non exciting. This is not a bad thing. This picnic reminds me of a backyard barbque with your friends and family. It is a very comfortable and relaxing picnic to me, just like the Dickson City Days picnic. The food was good. The pancakes were delicious. No beer. They had a two man band which for this type of picnic is perfect. Advice is to get there a little earlier because several types of food were sold out when I got there at 8:15pm. They do use food tickets, they lose 1/2 star rating for using food tickets.

Rating *** out of 5 *

St. Mary's Slavic Festival

Downtown Scranton, PA

August 14, 2015

This is a nice small picnic in downtown Scranton. The food is good, I am not much on ethnic food but their other food is very good. They have ice cold beer and no beer cage. A huge indoor flea market. They feature polka bands, I am not a big fan of polka but like I said before it is happy music. I can't understand why this picnic doesn't draw a larger crowd, it should. Maybe next year they

should try more non ethnic food and get a band with more mass appeal.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 out of 5 *

Dunmore Summer Festival

Dunmore, PA

August 13, 2015

This picnic is eeh. The band was eeh. The food was eeh. It consisted of two food trucks. A handful of vendors. A few inflatable rides for children. A horsey ride. Also a few other stands and vendors. Staff that gives you "the look" because the ketchup was empty and you requested a new bottle. The area of the picnic is 3/4 the size it was last year. On the upside, no beer cage, plenty of parking, plenty of seating (probably because not many people were there). Two years ago this picnic was great, last year fair. This year eeh.

Rating 2 ** out of 5 *

St. Jude's Parish

Mountaintop, PA

August 9, 2015

This picnic is huge. It is held in the grove which is a beautiful outdoor setting. The food is good, some is a little expensive. They use those annoying food tickets. No beer cage, the bar is huge but the \$3.00 beers were a little rich for my blood. They have a flea market and plenty of baskets and games. They also hold a raffle to win \$10,000.00. There was no band playing when I was there but it seemed like a singer was setting up.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 out of 5 *

Triton Hose Company

Tunkhannock, PA

August 8, 2015

This picnic was quite enjoyable as expected. A fruit flop was finally tried. It is fried dough covered with fruit. All at a very reasonable \$2.50 price. The pizza is excellent as always. The rest of the food was also good. They changed the fireworks to Friday. They always were on Saturday as long as I remember. The beer was ice cold and only \$2.00 a can. The band AM Radio was very good. This is the only picnic that I know where you can buy a bottle of wine. This is still one of my favorite picnics. But loses 1/2 star because they moved the fireworks.

Rating 4 * and 1/2 out of 5 ***

St. Benedict's/ Our Lady of the Snows

Newton Ransom, PA

August 7, 2015

One word disappointing. This picnic used to be one of my favorites. This year they got rid of the poker table, hayride, and several types of food including the meatball hoagie. They greatly increased the seating area for which the most part was empty. The food they still had was good, but rather expensive compared to other picnics. The band Mace In Dickson was good, but not as good as the Poets and the Cadallacs they used to get. It seems like they are cutting back. Other people I know agreed that it is not like it used to be. Parking is still easy at the Red Barn village. I will try again next year to see if is more like it used to be.

Rating 3 * out of 5 ***

St. John The Evangelist

Pittston, PA

August 6, 2015

This picnic was quite enjoyable. The food was good. But they use food tickets. The band HillBilly Deluxe was good for the type of music they do. I am really not a fan of their type of music. Parking was easy. I haven't been to this picnic in years and it seems to have gotten better. I will definately be back next year.

Rating 3 * and 1/2 out of 5 ***

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Dupont, PA

July 31, 2015

The food at this picnic is excellent. All Home Made. The pancakes are excellent. Unfortunately the pizza is Mama Nardones which isn't the greatest. The beer is ice cold and no beer cage. Has the largest bar in all Luzerne county. Very nice picnic. They do use those very annoying food tickets. The music is Polka. Unfortunately I am not a big fan of Polka but it is very happy music, and Doubleshot does an excellent job of playing Polkas. Parking was interesting. Within a 2 block radius of the picnic. I never saw so many garbage cans blocking "my" parking spot in my life. There must have been 100 parking spots blocked off. I parked three blocks away but in the long run it was worth the walk.

Rating 4 ** out of 5 ***

St Joseph's Center

Marywood University

Dunmore, PA

July 26, 2015

The food is great. The variety of food and games is amazing. They had children twirling for entertainment. This supports a wonderful charity. It is still one of the biggest and best of the year. However I do have one big complaint, this year. It's has nothing to do with St. Joe's. It has to do with Marywood University. Whoever is in charge of parking should be **FIRED**. This year there was plenty of parking in the lot on Adams Ave but the "rent a cop" wouldn't allow anyone to park there. Eventhough the shuttle bus was waiting. Instead they make you park way up on the mountain close to I81 by the Marywood sign. No shuttle bus to be seen. It was not fun walking uphill the aprox. 3 blocks from the parking lot to the grounds. Especially for a guy like me who is getting older and carry the "spare tire". I will definately be back next year, hopefully the parking will be better.

Rating **** and 1/2 out of 5 *

Christ the King

Eynon, PA

July 25, 2015

The food is great and homemade. The band Flaxy Morgan is great as expected. Parking was a little tight this year. I had to park about 2 blocks away by the firehouse. The beer tent was very hot because of the outside temperature. This is a very nice picnic. The only thing they could do to improve it is have more seating to eat your food. There is a limited seating area by the bingo tent, more seating would be nice.

Rating ** out of 5 ***

Clifford Hose Company

Clifford, PA

July 24, 2015

The food is great, NO FOOD TICKETS (Hear that all you picnics who use food tickets). The bands are good. They have a new building for pancakes and pizza this year. This is a very nice picnic in a country atmosphere. Surprisingly this year the beer tent was really not that crowded. The fireworks were very good but not as good as last year, no finale. All that said this is still one of the best picnics of the season.

Rating ** and 1/2 * out of 5 ***

Germania Hose Company

Duryea, PA

July 19, 2015

This used to be a great picnic now it is an eeeeh! picnic. I don't like food tickets. Why all of a sudden they would use food tickets when for many many years cash was ok. New this year they will not give you a take out container for any less than 9 pancakes. The carnival this year was much smaller than other years. The food is decent and reasonably priced. The band was ok. I did not stay around for the fireworks. The crowd really wasn't that big. They have a brand new cell tower on their grounds. I guess this picnic will never get to be as good as it used to be. I suppose I will be back next year, just hoping the old Germainia picnic will return.

Rating * out of 5 * (being very generous)**

William Walker Corn and Clam Slam

Mayfield, PA

July 18, 2015

This is a great picnic especially on parade night. The Jeffery James band is great as always. The beer tent is large and hot. This year they had a different carnival company and did not have the laser tag, which seemed to be a good thing. Also they moved the clams to a different stand not close to the bar. The pizza and clams are at the same stand. The food is good and reasonably priced. The neighbors add to the party atmosphere by setting off fireworks. Parking is plentiful at the baseball field. I will definately be back next year.

Rating 4 and 1/2 ** out of 5 ***

Parish of St. Barbara, Exeter, PA

July 17, 2015

This picnic is a good one. The food is good, the pizza is only ok. The bands are good. Plenty of baskets in the raffle, they also raffle off several larger prizes. There is plenty of places to sit and eat and enjoy the band. My biggest complaint is the food tickets. There is plenty of free and easy parking. It is a nice picnic that is definately worth a visit.

Rating 4 ** out of 5 ***

Nativity of Our Lord, Duryea, PA

July 12, 2015

This picnic is always one of the good ones. The food is good to excellent. The bands are excellent. The beer is ice cold and no beer cage, carry your brew around. New this year is the express pancake line, if you want 3 or less you get them almost instantly. Flaxy

Morgan was playing Sunday and they are excellent. Plenty of seating. Three close by parking lots. My only complaint is they seem to run out of food early. By 7pm they were already sold out of clams and pizza. With such a nice picnic, I was surprised the crowd wasn't bigger.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

St. Patrick's Parish

July 11, 2015

This picnic is very good. It seems like they had less food options this year, than other years. They have over 120 baskets in the raffle. The food is very good especially the potato pancakes. The bands were good. I can't understand why an excellent band such as Old Friends stopped playing at 10 pm when the grounds, especially the beer tent were full of people. I would have gladly stayed until 11pm. Parking is a problem as expected. I parked two blocks away as expected. Luckily the neighbors weren't at home this year to say "You can't take MY parking spot". I will be back again next year and hopefully get a closer parking spot.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 out of 5 *

Covington Fire Company

July 10, 2015

This picnic is good to excellent as always. The food is very good, the variety of food is great. The rides are expensive but professionally and safely operated. The band on Friday was Ehhhhhh!! Well they were loud!!! Very loud!!!! There is plenty of parking both on the fire company grounds and across the street at Bill's plaza. There is plenty of things to do at this picnic. It is one of the best of the season. You are able to walk around the grounds with your beer.

They have the fireworks on Saturday, unfortunately I went on Friday. I will definately be there again next year.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Dalton Hose Company

July 8, 2015

This is the first year that I went to this picnic in many years. It is still a nice picnic. It has rides for the children, all reasonably priced. I never heard of the amusement company but seem to have plenty of rides. The food is good. The Chinchilla Fire Company pizza is excellent. The grounds are large. The band was bluegrass. I really don't like bluegrass but that is who was playing when I went. It seemed to me that there were many more teenagers than adults. It is a good but not a great fire company picnic. Plenty of free and easy parking. I will go again next year.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 out of 5 *

Scrantastic Spectacular

July 3, 2015

This was a very nice event. The Philharmonic put on an amazing show, their soloist was great. It made you proud to be an American. Even proud to be a Scrantonian for a short time. (It's hard to completely forget about the high taxes in Scranton). There were many vendors, I think there could have been a few more vendors since the line at the vendors was very long. The quality of the food was good. The fireworks were great, all done in time with music provided by WKRZ FM. The display was over 20 minutes long. The crowd was friendly and many of your friends were there. My only complaint, and it has nothing to do with the event, or the organizers and will not affect the rating. My gripe is people who

bring their dogs to an event of this type. I am an animal lover, but bringing your dog to an event of this type is **DOWNRIGHT STUPID**. What if your dog bites somebody???, or attacks a child. Even friendly dogs can get spooked by the noise of the fireworks and cause a problem. Only service animals should be allowed. I wish the organizers of this event and LA Festa would realize it is no place for the family dog. Service animals **YES**.

Rating 4 **** and 1/2 *

Northeast Fair

June 28, 2015

This is the first year that I went to the fair in many years. I went on Sunday when they had a discount admission of \$7.00. Eventhough I do not ride the rides. I feel that I got my money's worth. I saw a magic show, most of the tricks I had already seen, but he had a great stage presence. I also saw a monster and tough truck race and display. Also a Neil Diamond tribute show by Tom Sadge which was excellent. I remember when Tom was first starting out, he used to call himself the singing DJ. Now he is a national performer and is excellent. The food was expensive and so so just like typical fair food usually is. I will probably go again next year if I can get the discount admission again. For me full admission at \$10 would not have been worth it for me, but if you like rides it is well worth it.

Rating 3*** and 1/2 *

Elmhurst, Roaring Brook Fire Company

June 26, 2015

This is one of my favorite picnics of the season. Good food, Good bands, Good friends, Excellent potato pancakes, Good games including a new game called the eliminator that I never saw before.

This is a must go picnic. My only complaint is they must get rid of that very annoying siren at the wing stand. Get rid of the siren and this picnic would easily get 5 stars.

Rating 4** and 1/2 ***

Mary Mother of God Parish

June 18, 19 & 20, 2015

Excellent picnic, great food, Great bands on Thursday and Friday, OK band on Saturday. Only wish the rain held off until after 11pm on Saturday. Fun and games for all. Thank you, everyone who attended our annual block party. Especially those who stopped by to play a game of Irish Poker or Beat the House in my area in the back of the grounds. This picnic gets better every year. See you next summer.

Rating 5 *****

Jefferson Twp. Fire Company

Saturday June 13, 2015

This is your typical picnic and carnival. The food is good. I did not like the way way the pizza stand changed the price of a slice of pizza during the night because they made it more cheezy. They have plenty of rides so there are things for both children and adults, eventhough seems to be more child oriented. The band was very good. The fireworks show was good and long. Possibly a little too long. My biggest complaint is the parking situation is terrible. They have you park in a mud bog. They do not have any attendants in the lot so the people parking blocked in the only way for the people in the back rows to get out. I don't blame the people. The fire company should have an attendant in the lot. My car came home with an inch

of mud on it. I would give this picnic a higher rating if they did something about their parking lot.

Rating 2 ** and 1/2 * (Would be at least one star higher if the parking situation was better.)

Queen City Days

Saturday June 6, 2015

This is the third year that I went to this picnic. The last two have been poor. The food is ok but expensive. The entertainment was a DJ who did the best that he could. The fireworks were so so. They did that fireball thing again. This year at the end of the show, so I guess it is just part of the fireworks. This picnic is just boring. Next year I probably will not go unless it is the only picnic that week.

Rating 2**

Divine Mercy Parish

Friday June 5, 2015

This is the first year I was able to go to this picnic in several years, because they usually have it the same week as my parish block party. The food is very good as expected. The entertainment is very good as expected. It is still a very nice picnic. One of the better ones for the season. The only thing lacking was the crowds. Usually this picnic has huge crowds, so you expect to see all your friends there. This year the pancake line was large as expected, and the beer tent was crowded, otherwise not very full. I hope next year people realize what a nice picnic this is and have record crowds.

Rating 4****

St. Judes International Food Festival

Sunday May 31, 2015

This is the first time I went to this picnic. This is not their normal picnic, which will still be held in August. They have food from ten different countries of the world. I like the concept. But my pallet is very limited so I really couldn't fully appreciate the event. All in all it is a very nice family friendly event (they had children performing on the stage). The potato pancakes were excellent. The strange thing is some stands took cash or tickets which is good, while other stands took only food tickets. Food tickets are nothing but a pain. If there were no food tickets I would easily give this event a 4 and 1/2 * rating, but with the food tickets the best I can give is 3 and 1/2 *.

Rating 3* and 1/2 ***

Jessup Hose Company # 2 Annual Carnival

Saturday May 23, 2015

Like I previously said this picnic, has good food, but not great. The entertainment was good, but not great. S & S Amusement had a variety of amusement rides, some which look quite exciting. To my shock some of the rides were \$5.00 for a 2 minute ride. If you have several children this is very expensive. To me this was more of a carnival than picnic. More geared to teenagers than adults. What is amazing about the area teenagers is they walk 4 abreast not paying any attention to where they are walking, all 4 with their thumbs busily playing with their smartphones, not communicating with the people who they are

at the picnic with, and don't care if they walk into someone. Why can't they watch where they are walking, or put the damn smart phone down. All in all since it is the first picnic of the season, it feels great just to go to any picnic. So I am generous with the rating.

Rating 3***