

Bloomsburg Fair

Bloomsburg, PA

September 28, 2016

The Bloomsburg Fair does not disappoint. It is the ultimate end of a great picnic season. I advise going during the week because it is a much more enjoyable experience because the crowds are not as huge. The food is very good, although some of the selections are expensive and going up. Parking is not great but that is expected. The tiger show was enjoyable. The diving dogs were a disappointment. They kept trying to make the same dog jump in and he did not want to. My main complaint this year is the person who has control of the microphone must love hearing his own voice. WAY TOO MANY announcements, over and over again. There were plenty of games and rides. I was offended by the moron Trump truck that was at the entry gate to the fair. I do hope fair officials charged Mr. Bolus for parking the truck there. The fair should not be a political arena. The fair is a very nice way to spend a day. Even with a few complaints I can't wait for next year.

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

St. Paul's Parish

Scranton, PA

September 16 & 17, 2016

I was a little disappointed in the picnic this year. The food was very good to excellent. EJ the DJ was very entertaining as always. The band on Saturday was ok. The grounds are large. Parking is close by. The volunteers are friendly and helpful. My main complaint is the police did not control the children acting up. Both days there were children riding their scooters not paying any attention where they were riding. Other children were using water and soda bottles as soccer balls again not paying attention where they were running and kicking the bottles. Last year they had the children under control and there were no skateboards or scooters it was a pleasure to walk around. This year you were lucky if you didn't get bumped by children on scooters or kicking bottles. This is a very nice picnic, get better control of the children and it will be as good as it was last year.

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

Luzerne County Fair

Dallas, PA

September 11, 2016

The fair is rather small. The shows are rather lame. Parking really isn't that bad. Food is ok, some of it is expensive. It is a way to pass away a few hours on an afternoon. It isn't a great fair, but it really isn't a bad fair either. I hope they charged Bob Bolus to park his moron Trump truck on the grounds. I found the truck

offensive and inappropriate for the fair. Will I be back next year, probably yes. I think they should have a lower admission for those who do not ride.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Felittese Festival

Old Forge, PA

September 10, 2016

The food is great. Parking is relatively close. The band is good. The picnic seemed a little smaller than other years. The one church stand and the ice cream truck was not there. It is a very nice picnic. My only complaint was the band was supposed to play until 10 pm, but they stopped at 9:25pm. After the band stopped everyone left. Keep the band on until 10pm. This picnic does not have a beer tent but it is not needed.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Allentown Fair

Downtown Allentown

September 4, 2016

The Allentown fair used to be a great fair, and used to be almost as big as Bloomsburg. When we were there a few years ago it was much smaller and many of the vendors gone. This year it seems to have improved a little. The free entertainment was pretty good, except the magic show was a little lame. They were selling beer for \$7 a 16oz. can on the midway. Which is greed. The food was decent. The admission and parking was expensive. Will I go back next year, probably not. In a few years probably yes.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

La Festa

Downtown Scranton

September 3 and September 5, 2016

La Festa is always a good time. The food is good albeit somewhat expensive. The entertainment is good to great. The Cameos were excellent but I still think the Bronx Wanderers from last year were a little better. It is a good event, that is why I went twice. Now the bad every other year you were able to park for free at the mall. This year they were charging \$5, That is nothing but GREED. To make things worse in the main Linden St. garage they charge the \$5 which is expected but they new company that controls the parking had the elevators shut off. Still people bring their pet dogs, the policy should be no pets except for service

animals. Of course the teens are there riding their skateboards and even bicycles. Have a no skateboard, bicycles, and pets policy and it would be an even better event

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

Pittston Tomato Festival

Pittston, PA

August 21, 2016

It rained most of the day so I couldn't go to see the Poets. The rain stopped, so I said I will go and hear one of my favorite bands. Picture Perfect. I got to the festival, all bands were cancelled. So I thought I am here, get some food. The prices are VERY HIGH, \$3.50 for one slice of pizza. That is what I call greed. Many of the stands did not have a sign with their prices. Way overpriced. Also it seems like a epidemic at picnics this weekend, uncontrolled teens on skateboards and no police or security, they pay no attention where they are skating. This year the festival was very disappointing. Hopefully better next year.

Rating 2 ** and 1/2 * out of 5 * (this year only)

Dunmore Summer Festival

Dunmore, PA

August 20, 2016

This picnic was better than last year but still not great. They have to better control the teenagers on skateboards and scooters. Also I think they should obviously cut a person who is drunk or on some "good" stuff. Lucky me, a "me"lennial who had too many sat down next to me while trying to enjoy my pizza and beer in plastic. He must have been a parrot trainer because he kept repeating the same phrase to his friends over 50 times. The food selection was somewhat limited. What I had was decent. The band was good. Parking was in the other end of the park. The picnic is better but still not like it used to be.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Blessed Sacrament

Throop, PA

August 20, 2016

This picnic is small. Rather boring. They had a 3 piece band that was boring. The food is ok, rather expensive for such a small picnic. Parking is right across the street. The potato pancakes are excellent. They use annoying food tickets. This seems more like a backyard bar b que to me than a parish picnic, very family oriented, no beer tent.

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

St. John Neumann

Scranton, PA

August 19, 2016

This picnic was better this year but not great. The food was ok, but not great. The band was good. The beer tent and the grounds were pretty empty. The prices were reasonable. The teenagers were not controlled very well and walk right into you while tapping on their phones. The picnic improved slightly from last year, but still not the way it was. Of course they use annoying food tickets.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Slavic Festival

Downtown Scranton

August 19, 2016

I have always liked this festival. The food is good. They have a big basket raffle. Parking is right across the street. But this picnic never draws a big crowd. Which I do not understand. The only thing which may get a better crowd is to get rid of the polka bands and have a rock band. Also more non ethnic food as an option may bring in more people.

Rating 3*** out of 5 *

Pioneer Nights

Carbondale, PA

August 17, 2016

Last year this event seemed better. This year it seemed to be smaller. There were some strange characters attending the event. I was lucky enough to have one sit by me. The band was good, and the karate school was entertaining. Food was decent. Parking was about a block away. Another thing this year is they did not control the children on skateboards. Will I go again next year. Probably yes.

Rating 3*** out of 5 *

St. Judes Parish

Mountaintop, PA

August 14, 2016

This is a nice picnic the food is good and varied, they have plenty of games for children and adults. They have a big basket raffle. It is held in their grove, the surroundings are nice. This year you parked at the Crestwood High school and they shuttled you to the grounds. For some reason the crowds were a lot smaller this year. My only complaint is they use those annoying food tickets. Get rid of the food tickets and get a higher rating.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

St. Roccas Parish

Dunmore, PA

August 13, 2016

One word WOW!! This picnic was really good before the changes now it is great. They have mostly permanent buildings on the grounds. A huge basket raffle. Parking was easy and close by. The food was great. Plenty of seating. Walk around the grounds with your beer. The band was great. Just as I sat down to enjoy the band the sky opened and it poured rain wicked. The band stopped and that was it for the night. If it didn't rain I would have stayed till closing. Can't wait to see what they do next year.

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

Springbrook Twp Fire Company

Springbrook Twp, PA

August 12, 2016

This is a decent picnic. The food is good, you must try a hot rod sandwich. The band was decent. They didn't have any rides or bouncy rides for the children. The grounds were soggy because of the wicked rain. Fireworks were cancelled due to the weather. They have a huge basket raffle. The cow didn't poop in our square. They don't make you stay in the beer cage. It is definately a picnic worth visiting.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Moscow Country Street Fair COMMENT

Moscow, PA

August 7, 2016

This was the first year for this event and I was somewhat confused. When traveling down 690, Church St. At the school there was a sign parking and bus pickup. There was 1 car in the lot, so I traveled down further Church St. to one of the vendors. I could hear a band somewhere. I asked if there were more vendors, they said further down Church St. and 435. They had no idea where the band stage was. Many of the vendors were on peoples front porches. On route 435 there was a large area with many vendors. I didn't stop because it seems to be all arts and crafts and maybe one food truck. This may have been a very nice event but it was poorly organized, and very confusing. They should have the entire event in a large parking lot such as the school, instead of spread out over a huge area with vendors spread out like grandmas teeth. At least the Kielbasa festival everything is in one area on both sides of the street. I will try again next year, hopefully it will be better organized

No Rating this year

Triton Hose Company

Tunkhannock, PA

August 6, 2016

This was and still is one of the best firemans picnics of the year. Their pizza is excellent. They have great bands. The food is good. The beer tent is huge right inside the firehouse. They have a large variety of food and raffles. You can even play bingo inside the air conditioned fire house. They did not have fireworks this year, they told me it wasn't worth having them because people were not staying to see them. One thing I did find troubling was the operator on one of the rides was tapping on his phone instead of watching the ride, when it was fully up in the air. What if there was a problem or an emergency. They should not be allowed to play with their phones when operating a ride that goes high in the air. Hopefully fireworks will be back next year.

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

St. Benedict's Our Lady of the Snows

Newton Ransom PA

August 5, 2016

This used to be one of the best picnic of the year but lately has only been fair. This year is no better. They got rid of the pony and hay rides for the children. They moved all the stands around. They got rid of the stage where they used to have bands. Now they had a DJ under a tent. The food was good but rather expensive. Many of the food choices and games are now gone. The DJ was entertaining but a band is better. In the coffee shop they had entertainment which was poor at best. Parking is easy at the Red barn village and they shuttle you to the grounds on a school bus. The parking lot was a lot more empty than other years. And of course the annoying food tickets.

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

St. John the Evangelist

Pittston, Pa

August 4, 2016

This is a nice small picnic. The parking is close by right across the street. The food is good. The bands are good. It has a huge indoor flea market. They have plenty of seating. The staff is friendly. The worst thing is they use the annoying food tickets. I will be back again next year.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Christ the King Parish

Eynon, PA

July 31, 2016

This picnic is good. The food is very good the potato pancakes are excellent. The variety of chances and games is wide and varied. It is a nice picnic. Parking is a little tight. I park at the firehouse. The band was excellent. My main complaint is there is not enough seating to eat your food. Also where they have children working they should be sure they know how to make change which was not the case at the pizza stand. Will I be back next year, yes without a doubt.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

St. Joseph's Center

Marywood College

July 31, 2016

This picnic is great as always. The quality and variety of food is excellent. It supports a great cause. They have games for children and adults. There are plenty of things to see and do. The pizza is very good. They even have ice cream. They have childrens baton groups for entertainment on Sunday. This year the parking was great. Right on Washington Ave. The shuttle bus was waiting to take you to the picnic. This year they did everything right. Go Joe!!!

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

Clifford Hose Company

Clifford, PA

July 29, 2016

This was an excellent picnic as expected. What other picnic can you have a pie. Take a chance on a hunting rifle while having an ice cold beer. See an artist at work. The woodcarver is excellent. The food is great. Best roast beef anywhere. They had two different bands. The fireworks were good but not as good as last year. This is one of the best fire company picnics of the year without a doubt. And NO FOOD TICKETS. Hear that Germania.

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

Maria Goretti Parish

Laflin Road, Laflin, PA

July 23, 2016

This is a decent, typical picnic. The food is good but not great. The bands were good. Parking was a little difficult but if you drive around a while you can find a spot reasonably close. The rest rooms are clean. This year it seemed like they had more seating area than stands. They have pony rides for the children. And they use those annoying food tickets. Not a great picnic but definately worth going to visit.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Germania Hose Company

Exeter, PA

July 22, 2016

This used to be one of my favorite picnics, it is still a decent picnic, because the food is good and reasonably priced. The entertainment is good. It loses points because they use those annoying food tickets. Also this year the lines at the food stand were 8 deep at most times. They did not have enough help at the food stand, The teenagers that were working at the food stand were more interested in tapping on their phones than serving the customers. But it is still a decent picnic but not a great picnic. I will definately be back next year.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

St. Barbara's Parish

Exeter, PA

July 17, 2016

This is a nice picnic. The food is good. The band was fair. They had an indoor flea market where you could fill the bag for \$2.00. Plenty of games and stands. Ice Cold beer and you do not have to stay in a beer cage. Plenty of close by parking. Now the downside, they use those damn food tickets, when many picnics are getting rid of food tickets others don't give them up. If you cannot trust your volunteers then do not have the picnic.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 * (get rid of food tickets and get more *)

William Walker Hose Company Corn and Clam Slam

Penn Ave. Mayfield, PA

July 16, 2016

I always liked this picnic. The food is good. Parade night is fun. I thought Jeffrey James was playing on Saturday, but they played on Friday instead. The beer tent is very warm under. Parking is easy at the baseball field a block away. What was missing this year was the rides and games that would appeal to the children, and the crowds were a lot smaller than other years. I will be back next year to see if it is the way it used to be.

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

Covington Township Hose Company

Route 502 Daleville, PA

July 15, 2016

This used to be one of the best of the season, it is still one of the better of the season. The food is good and for the most part reasonably priced. Parking is easy at Bills Supermarket across the street. The band The Fallen were not great, but they were not bad either. They took out several of the stands near the back of the grounds and added more rides. Almost everyone in the beer tent were using those vaporizers which are much more offensive than cigarettes. The mens rest room stunk so bad it would gag a maggot. This picnic used to be better, but I will be back.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Dalton Hose Company

Off Rte 6 and 11. Dalton, PA

July 14, 2016

This is my second year going to the Dalton picnic and it is a nice picnic. Parking is free and easy. The food was good. Last year I thought the pizza was better. Old Friends were playing which they are great. Just like last year it seems like there are more teenagers than adults, but they are very well behaved. I am glad I don't ride the rides. The rides looked and sounded like they came from World War 2, and most rides were about \$3. Also almost all the ride operators were smoking cigarettes which in my opinion is not a good example for the children. All in all a nice picnic and I will be back next year.

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

Nativity of Our Lord

Stephenson St. Duryea, PA

July 10, 2016

The picnic is nice, the food is good, get there early or potato pancakes will be sold out. I was lucky enough to get them and they are delicious. The workers at the food tent are mainly teenagers and they are more interested in tapping on their phones than waiting on the customers. Once you get their attention the food is good. The band was ok but they were definately entertaining. They sang "Dead skunk in the middle of the road" which I haven't heard since the 70's. Which was cool since I never heard a band do it before. The beer is cold and no beer cage. This is definately worth visiting each year.

Rating 4 **** out of 5*

Queen City Nights

Downtown Olyphant

July 9, 2016

The band was good, the food was sparse, there were less rides than last year. The crowd was small. It is good for a short visit, grab a pizza, maybe a glass of beer. But it is actually quite boring. I like to go because it supports the fire company, but if there are other picnics I would recommend them instead.

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

St. Pats Parish

Jackson St. West Scranton

July 9, 2016

The band was excellent, the food was very good, they had over 130 baskets. All your friends were there. They had a beer cage but people were walking around with their beer. It was a very nice picnic. Only two complaints the band stopped playing at 10pm, and parking was blocks away. At least this year I didn't get yelled at for taking someones parking spot. I parked far away and walking to the picnic was up hill which is no fun for someone like me who has "the old spare tire" but what could I say, I love food.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Scrantastic Spectacular

Downtown Scranton

July 3, 2016

The Scrantastic Spectacular was good as expected, but this year not great. The lines at the food vendors were terrible, some lines had about 25 people in them. The Philharmonic was good, but I expected conductor Lawrence Lohn, he was not there, the conductor was a lady with a heavy accent, sometimes hard to understand. She didn't react with the crowd the way Lawrence did in other years. I didn't realize until I was told today that this year the fireworks were not in sync. with the music like they have been others years, eventhough they were still good. Finally people bring their pet dogs to the event. I am an animal lover but this is not the place for your pet dog. Service animals yes, pets no.

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

NE Fair

Pittston Township, PA

June 26, 2016

Lucky I only spent \$7.00 for admission. Last year I must have been lucky with the better experience. The Ron Diamond magic show was good BUT he did all the same tricks as last year except for one new trick. Unfortunately I like magic shows. The Moo Mania show was stupid. There were no motor sports this year. The concert stage didn't have an act when I was there. The beer tent was closed. A single dip ice cream cone was \$3.50 which is way too expensive. I didn't even try other food. I wish I had paid more attention to my Spanish class in high school because 98% of the Reithoffer ride operators had very little knowledge of the language. Did I waste \$7.00, yes, but some of the money supports the fire company, so that is a good thing. And if you have kids who like to ride the rides then it is not a bad deal. Will I be back next year NO!!!!!!

Rating 2 ** out of 5 * (being very generous)

Throop Booster Club Cow Flop

Throop, PA

June 25, 2016

This picnic is not bad but not great. The parking is ok eventhough it was a block away from the event. The bands were good. The fireworks were good. I didn't get there early enough to get a cow flop ticket. The food was good, eventhough some of the selections were sold out and it took over 20 minutes to get served which is unacceptable. They definately need more people working at the food stand. There was a nice crowd and there was excitement waiting for the cow to do his duty. It was an enjoyable picnic. It was only held for one day this year. I will be back next year.

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

Blakely June Fest

Peckville, PA

June 25, 2016

This picnic had just moved to a new location. The parking was easy and close by. The band was good. The food at some of the stands was non traditional for picnics. It supported a great cause. The crowd was non existant. It could be a much better picnic if they could draw a better crowd. I hate to say it, but it was boring again just like two years ago. Next year I will probably not attend unless there is nothing else going on.

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

Elmhurst Roaring Brook Fire Company

Elmhurst, PA

June 24, 2016

This is a very nice picnic, one of the best of the season. The parking is free and easy. This year you could even walk around with your beer. The food was very good and reasonably priced. The games were fun. This is a very enjoyable picnic EXCEPT for the very annoying siren that they have at the hot wings stand. This year it only went off 100 times. Lucky the band was loud enough to block the sound of the siren. The band was very good, especially the female lead singer who did a great version of Patsy Kline, and the one singer who did a fun version of Garth Brooks. And I am really not that big fan of country music but they were good. This picnic would easily get 5 stars, all they have to do is get rid of the annoying siren.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Mary Mother of God Block Party

North Scranton

June 16, 17 & 18, 2016

Excellent picnic, excellent bands, excellent foods, this is by far one of the best picnics of the year. I don't just say that because it is my parish. I say that because last year I attended over 35 different picnics and without a doubt the Mary Mother of God picnic is definately one of the very best. Also I would like to thank everyone who came in back by the food tent to play a game of Irish Poker or beat the house at my stands. If you didn't make it this year. be sure to make it next year.

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

Jefferson Twp. Fire Company Carnival

Mt. Cobb, PA

Saturday June 11, 2016

This picnic is a good picnic, but not a great picnic. The food is decent and reasonably priced. They have many rides and games for the children. They have a large beer area. The fireworks weren't bad but nothing new. Parking was slightly better this year, I at least got to park in the first parking lot. But like last year there is always some idiot for parks either completely blocking or partially blocking the driving the lane. This picnic would get one extra star rating if they did something about parking. They should learn a lesson from Clifford, Elmhurst, or Germania all who have great parking.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

St. Jude's International Food Festival

Mountaintop, PA

Saturday June 4, 2016

This is a very nice picnic. Unfortunately I am not brave enough to try the food from the various countries (I have a very limited pallat) The potato pancakes were delicious. The American food was also very good and reasonably priced. They did not have any entertainment. My only complaint is they still use annoying food tickets. I would have easily given this picnic 5 stars but with the food tickets the best I can do is 4 stars. Will I be back next year. You better believe it!!

Rating 4***** out of 5 *

Queen City Days

Olyphant, PA

Friday June 3, 2016

I thought I would go on Friday instead of Saturday this year to see if it is any better. Naw. The food is fair and overpriced. The crowd was a little bigger. They did not have any entertainment this year. Just like the last several years, this picnic is boring. The two good things were there is plenty of close by free parking, and the picnic does support the fire company which is a good thing.

Rating 2** out of 5 *

Jessup Hose Company # 2

Jessup, PA

Sunday May 29, 2016

This is much more of a carnival than a picnic. The food is ok but not great. When I was there was no band. There was plenty of close by parking. Most of the ride operators "no speaka the language". It isn't a bad picnic, but it is not a great picnic. But in the beginning of the picnic season, it is a chance to get outside and enjoy a picnic. Like last year the teenagers walk blindly not watching where they are walking tapping away on their cell phones.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

St. Joseph Murullo

Pittston, PA

Saturday May 28, 2016

I would not have known about this picnic if I didn't hear it advertised on Magic 93. This is the former Our Lady of Mt Carmel picnic. I am glad that I went. The food was good and reasonably priced. They had indoor bathrooms. A nice flea market. A good band, Flaxy Morgan was playing, and plenty of seating. This was an enjoyable picnic as it has been in the past. My two complaints are "those damn food tickets". I have been saying this for years, if you can't trust your volunteers don't have the picnic. I would have given this picnic easily 4 and 1/2 stars but with food tickets only 3 and 1/2. The other complaint is the bubble machines that they were selling to the children. It was like being on the set of Lawrence Welk. All in all a good picnic.

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