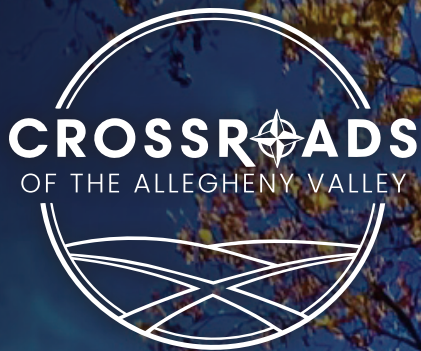




TARENTUM MAGAZINE

13TH EDITION 2026

FEATURING:
**TRAVEL BY
TROLLEY**

REMEMBERING
**WEST END
FIELD**

**LETTERS
TO SANTA**





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Mayor Robert Lang ext. 116

Police Chief William Vakilick ext. 117

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Code & Zoning Anthony Bruni ext. 114

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Public Works ext. 203

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Eureka EMS & Rescue 724-224-3473

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724-448-1470

ADVERTISING POLICY

Tarentum Borough Magazine was created for the Tarentum Borough and the Crossroads of the Allegheny Valley. The Tarentum Recreation Board and Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising that goes against our standards. Advertisement is meant for businesses, fundraising, and etc., not for political or religious issues.

Our magazine is distributed but not limited to: all advertisers in this magazine. Thank you to all the advertisers and readers that support the Tarentum Magazine - Crossroads of the Allegheny Valley.

MISSION

Tarentum Borough Magazine was created for Tarentum Borough residents and surrounding communities to enjoy and engage in the good works and pleasures of others. Tarentum Borough Magazine is available online and in print. The magazine promotes community values that make Tarentum Borough an asset to all.

Thank you to **Georgie Blackburn!**

Selected photos by **Hugh Fox.**

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2026



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SPONSORED BY Tarentum Recreation Board

For more info scan the QR code, contact Carrie Fox at 724-448-1470, visit facebook.com/TarentumRecreationBoard or email tarentummagazine@gmail.com

OCTOBER 10

TARENTUM BOO FESTIVAL 1-4pm

Free event! Bring the family with the exception of food purchases and have fun! No costume required.

OCTOBER 10

SHELLEY DUFF DUO CONCERT 2-4pm

During the Boo Festival

OCTOBER 23 TARENTUM

FALL BUSINESS CRAWL 4-8 pm

Come have some fun and win prizes!

NOVEMBER 21

TARENTUM BRACKENRIDGE CHRISTMAS

PARADE Noon line up, 1pm start

Parade route: Start on Fifth Ave, right on Corbet, left on First Ave., into Brackenridge left on Morgan ending at McIntire Way.

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REMEMBERING LEO GROSSMAN

"The friendly face behind the pump!"

Written by Cindy Homburg

Leo was the friendly face behind the pump at the old corner "Downtown Service Station" as it was called in Tarentum, providing full services for automobiles. Born in Butler, PA on May 26, 1918, Leo spent most of his life in Tarentum, the town he loved. He owned the local Mobil Gas Station on the corner of Lock Street and Fourth Avenue for over 50 years! He always greeted customers with a smile, asked how they were, how much gas they needed, and whether their car needed anything checked.

He not only pumped the gas, Leo also checked the oil, and washed the windows. If he was not busy at the station you would find him sitting in the old building just watching the cars go by. Leo loved it when people just stopped by to chat. He cherished the people of Tarentum, many of whom became his friends and loyal customers. He was even-tempered, generous, calm, and sentimental.

Besides owning the gas station, he loved to travel to his camp, relax, sit on the porch, and go fishing. If not fishing at his camp, he loved to fish at Pine Lake in Canada.

Leo also loved to play cards with his friends at the Elks. Known as a "people person", he was a member of the First Congregational Church, the Elks, the Eagles, the Masons, Eureka Hose Co., and the VFW in Tarentum plus the American Legion in Brackenridge.

He was married to Edith Momberger for 57 years and together, they had three daughters, Linda, Carole, and Mary Ann, all who reside in the local area. Eight grandchildren and a great granddaughter also survived him when he sadly passed away on March 1, 1998, at the age of 79.



**We hold dear
the memory of
Leo Grossman,
whose
joyfulness
always shined!**

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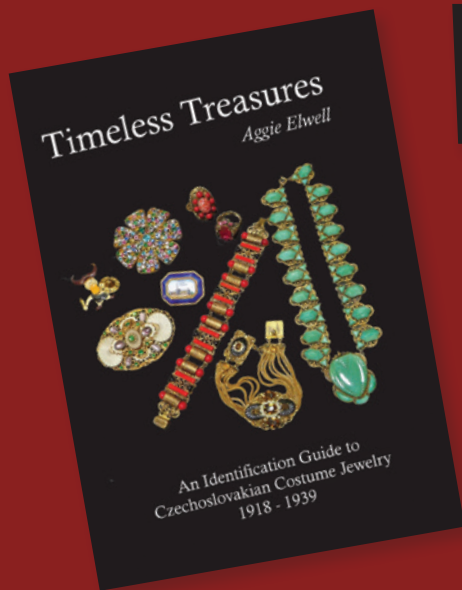


View Past Editions @
<http://tarentumboro.com/recreation>

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For More Information Please Contact
Carrie or Hugh Fox @724-448-1470
email tarentummagazine@gmail.com





DID YOU
KNOW

LOCAL AUTHOR

Info provided by Aggie Klucinec Elwell

Aggie (Klucinec) Elwell, a former resident of Tarentum, has published a book, *Timeless Treasures: An Identification Guide to Czechoslovakian Costume Jewelry 1918 - 1939*. Aggie grew up at 7 Conroy Way and graduated from Tarentum High School class of 1959. She went on to Indiana State College (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania), graduated in 1963 and taught mathematics at Albion Junior-Senior High School, John Dewey Junior High in the Chartiers Valley School District and the Shelburne Middle School in Shelburne, Vermont with her move to Vermont in 1968. She left teaching at the end of that year to start a family, and when her children went on to college she began work as a Payroll Administrator and Accountant until her retirement in 2021.

Her first project in her retirement was the completion of two family genealogy projects. The next project, her book, was one that she wanted to do since she started collecting Czechoslovakian costume jewelry in 1992.

Her passion for the jewelry began when she found a small pin in a dusty bin at a flea market in Waterbury, Vermont. When she brought it home and cleaned it she found a mark — Czecho Slovakia — in two lines. She knew the Czech craftsmen created beautiful crystal perfume bottles but had no idea they also designed and created costume jewelry. She now had new sense of purpose as she scoured flea markets and antique malls during her travels.

After 30+ years of collecting she found over 2,600 piece. All different styles, themes and designs of necklaces, pins, belts, rings and children's jewelry. All of the pieces are showcased in the 274 pages of her book. She also devotes one chapter of her book to her trip to the State Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou, which houses the largest collection (more than 12 million pieces) of costume jewelry in the world. Jablonec nad Nisou is located in the Czech Republic, about a one hour drive north of Prague, and shares a border with Poland.

Timeless Treasures: An Identification Guide to Czechoslovakian Costume Jewelry 1918 - 1939 can be purchased at Amazon, Walmart, Barnes & Noble and many other worldwide online booksellers.

You can also visit her website: www.PinkSkyVT.com where you can scroll through fourteen pages of information about the book and where to buy it.



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Pumpkin Crunch Pie



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pie crust

Blind bake in a pre-heated 400° oven for 15-20 minutes, until edges are lightly browned, allow to cool.

Pie Filling

- 8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- pinch ground cloves

Pecan Crunch Topping

- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 2 Tablespoons butter, small cubes

INSTRUCTIONS

Pie Filling

1. With electric mixer cream the cream cheese until smooth, add sugar and pumpkin and combine
2. Add whole egg and additional yolk, salt, cinnamon, ginger, cloves - mix until combined thoroughly
3. Pour mixture into baked pie shell
4. Bake in a pre-heated 400° oven for 20 minutes - custard will start to puff and set

Pecan Crunch Topping

1. Combine flour and brown sugar in a bowl - add the butter in small cubes using your fingers to work the butter in until the mixture is well combined and crumbly then add in the pecans stir to combine and coat the nuts.
2. After the pie has baked 20 minutes sprinkle the pecan topping all over the top of the pie and put back in the oven for 13-15 more minutes
3. Use a pie crust shield or foil if you feel like the crust is getting dark, center of pie will still be jiggy when you take out of the oven but will set-up as pie cools.
4. Refrigerate pie until ready to serve.

Nutrition values are estimates, for exact values consult a nutritionist.



SAVE THE DATE

2026

Tarentum – Brackenridge Christmas Parade

Saturday November 21, 2026

1:00 pm

Starts on Fifth Ave Tarentum, Right on Corbet, Left onto First Ave
Continues into Brackenridge, Left on Morgan ending at McIntire Way

Come One & All - Join the Fun!
“Win A Prize For The Best Float”



Contact Carrie @ 724-448-1470

carriefox170@gmail.com 9

LETTERS TO SANTA

Written by Carrie Fox

One chilly day eight years ago, Joe Lebert, known as Santa Joe, visited his mom in the small town of Arnold, at 303 Rankin Street. Feeling festive, he decided to decorate for Christmas. Wanting to add something new to the holiday display, Joe went out looking for decorations and found a small mailbox labeled “Letters for Santa.” The bright red mailbox brought cheerful Christmas spirit to the display. Little did he know how much joy it would bring him and his mom.

A few days later, Joe noticed papers sticking out of the little mailbox. When he opened it, he discovered they were letters to Santa. Moved to tears, Joe knew he had to do more. A teacher from the New Kensington-Arnold School District had walked students over to place their letters inside.

And so it began! Santa Joe set out to find a larger mailbox.

After searching, he found a real U.S. mailbox on the eastern side of Pennsylvania and traveled to retrieve it. The mailbox needed repairs and reconstruction, so a mail slot was constructed, then the mailbox was taken to Northern Westmoreland Career and Technical School. There, excited students transformed it into a beautiful, vibrant “Letters for Santa” mailbox.



Santa Joe envisioned a magical unveiling, and the event soon began to take shape. Many people stepped up to help, filling the air with Christmas spirit. To create a special family experience. Santa Joe, Arnold #2 firemen, and Joe's helpers organized a free event with food, cookies, reindeer games, door prizes, a Chinese auction, photos with Santa and his Elves, and a station where children could write letters to Santa.

At the 2025 banquet, Arnold #2 honored Santa Joe with a special Community Service Award. His friends even told a few little white lies to make sure he attended.

Santa Joe certainly knows how to create excitement! This determined man wants only to make children smile. He visits school classrooms, sends each child a return letter, and includes a Christmas ornament for their tree. Wherever he goes, he lights up the room with a special twinkle in his eye.

The special event also includes a time slot for children with special needs, offering a quiet, calm environment. Toys for Tots partnered with Santa Joe to provide every child with a toy to take home. Excitement builds at each station families visit. Serving more than 150 families, Joe receives donations and community support, but he also uses his own funds to help make it all happen. He gives his time, talent, and love, something the world needs now more than ever.

"This has become something truly special," Joe says, his eyes filling with tears and his voice catching. Each letter he opens seems to expand his heart. Talking with him brings the spirit of Christmas to life. While Santa is not the true meaning of Christmas, he helps inspire laughter, love, and joy for many.

The mailbox will remain available until one week before Christmas. Santa Joe welcomes everyone to stop by, drop off a letter at 303 Rankin St. Arnold, Pa.



**Follow us
on Facebook!**

Letters to Santa

November 28, 2026

Roy Hunt Gymnasium
1701 Alcoa Drive
Arnold, PA 15068

2 - 4 pm — Children with special needs

6 - 8 pm — Families and friends

**Santa Joe extends his heartfelt thanks
to everyone who works so hard to
support this event!**

NKSantaJoe@yahoo.com
724-321-5126

Tarentum REMEMBRANCE TREE

Honor. Remember. Celebrate.

A LASTING TRIBUTE IN THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Tarentum Remembrance Tree is a beautiful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or leave a legacy that will be remembered for years to come.

\$40.00 / LEAF

Leaf Size 1-3/4" x 3-1/2"
23 Characters & Spaces each Line

3 LINES TOTAL



The Tree is mounted on the street side of the Snack Shack in Tarentum Riverview Memorial Park.

MAIL OR EMAIL YOUR REMEMBRANCE INFORMATION



Mail – Tarentum Recreation Board
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Alexis Lilian Arms
Keegan Lee Babinsack
Gracie Alice Baker
Sean C. Baker
Riley Madison Barger
Kolten Michael Bartel
Allison Nicole Bearer
Dean Thomas Besterman
Gabrielle Marie Bey
Troy Charles Bielak
Bryce D. Black
Jocelyn M. Bloch
Margaret Sophia Bolen
Bella Amber Bonnett
Caden Daniel Bosak
Aubry E. Bowser
Coltin T. Brink
Devin M. Buck
Payton Leah Bundy
Brody Burchell
Austin Jon Burkett
Zane Callen
Ngoc Bao Tran Cao
Isabelle Jeanelle Card
Albert Luwan Carter
Darai Ralph Carter
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Javeon Dashawn Chambers
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Diamond Coleman
Ra'keem Gregory Collier
Liam Taylor Collins
Alex Lee Cox

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PHEPLE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**“People Helping People”
Newly renovated branch expands
access, strengthens community
partnerships, and reflects Pheple’s
long-term commitment to the
Tarentum area.**

TARENTUM, Pa., September 1, 2026 — Pheple Federal Credit Union celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated Tarentum branch with focused on community, service, and connection.

The official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony took place Thursday, August 27. Guests heard remarks from John Mango of the Alle-Kiski Chamber of Commerce, Dan DeBone of the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce, Pheple President and CEO Maria LaVelle, and Pheple Board Chair Lyz Marshall.

Pheple welcomed community members, credit union partners, its own team, and representatives from PWCampbell, the design-build firm that helped bring the renovated space to life. “This renovation represents much more than an updated building,” said LaVelle. “It reflects our long-term commitment to Tarentum and the surrounding communities. We are excited to offer expanded access and modern conveniences while continuing to build meaningful relationships with the people, businesses, and organizations that make this community special.”

The full renovation transformed the location into a modern, welcoming branch featuring a state-of-the-art interactive teller machine, or ITM, a night drop, a new teller line, private offices, and a conference room. The Tarentum branch is now open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pheple’s presence in Tarentum began through its April 2025 merger with Valley Wide of PA Federal Credit Union. The merger brought together two credit unions with a shared commitment to personal service and the financial well-being of their members. The renovation builds on that foundation by expanding access to financial services and creating a space designed to serve Tarentum for years to come.

Founded in 1951, Pheple Federal Credit Union is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2026. With a name meaning, “People helping people, it’s who we are, it’s what we do,” Pheple remains dedicated to the financial well-being of the communities it serves.

About Pheple Federal Credit Union

Pheple Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative serving individuals who live, work, worship, attend school, or volunteer in Allegheny, Armstrong, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. Pheple offers a full range of financial products, services, education, and support designed to help members build stronger financial futures.

To learn more, visit pheplefcu.org

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EVENTS



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TRAVEL BY TROLLEY

Written by Carrie Fox

Just like the Toonerville Trolley comic cartoon,
riding the trolley brought joy to many.

Traveling by trolley was a remarkable development for our communities. Progress has given people a more practical, efficient way to move from place to place and made every day travel easier. Everyone walked or rode the trolley to school, the market or work with a simpler purpose.

In 1895 J.B. Crawford, B.F. Rafferty and Mr. Lane organized the first local line called Tarentum Traction Company. W.A. Mellon was the financial support for the line. A name change occurred from Tarentum Traction Co. to Allegheny Valley Street Railway then West Penn Railway as time went on.

The trolley became known as a "rolling melting pot" because it brought together people from many ethnic neighborhoods in one shared space. It was a place for folks meeting folks, friendships and even love affairs. The trolley served the locals well. In the region, 90 neighborhoods were connected because of the life of the trolley. Tarentum to Pittsburgh trip cost 50cents. Pittsburgh trolleys continued until 1985.

Our communities had an extensive trolley system, but several issues had to be resolved before riders could enjoy a simpler, smoother trip.

When the trolley approached Ross Street in Tarentum, the passengers would discharge the trolley, walk a block and hop aboard another trolley to continue the journey to New Kensington. Later a viaduct was built over the railroad tracks near Fifth Ave. which created a nonstop trip to New Kensington.

1903 a street barn was constructed on the corner of Adams Street and Second Avenue. This gave room for nine trolleys that were nine foot long and carried 44 passengers.

The street car barn is now the home of Highland Tire. If you visit Highland Tire today, you can see remains of the trolley tracks still inside the garage.

A second railway, the TB&B — short for Tarentum, Brackenridge and Butler — was intended to run all the way to Butler, PA, but its rails never reached that far. Instead, the three-mile line operated from Tarentum to Birdville. Nicknamed the “Birdville Trolley,” it ran from Ross Street to the dead end at Springhill Road. Because of its style, many people called it the Toonerville or Miss Brackenridge Trolley.

1918 after WW I, a decline in trolley travelers was seen because of the arrival of automobiles.

The great flood of 1936 shut down trolleys until the workers dried out the trucks and repaired the railway.

The West Penn # 832 ran the valley until 1937. From Aspinwall to Natrona, this trolley carried many. Today you may find this trolley at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Washington PA. The trolley car is restored and functional to this day.

1937 the state of Pennsylvania condemned the trolley right of way to widen the state highway which forced the end of the trolley line. The last trolley left Tarentum at 2:00 am.

In the 1960's, the Pennsylvania Commission authorized the Harmony Bus Company to merge with the Port Authority Transit Company. Bus companies took the place of trolleys in everyday travel between home, work and play.



MOTORMEN, conductors, and other rail personnel use bells and whistles to communicate. The conductor sounds one bell to say “stop,” two bells for “go,” and three bells for “back up.” A motorman sounds one bell to acknowledge the conductor’s stop signal, two bells to request or acknowledge the go ahead signal, three bells to warn that the car will be backing up, and repeated bells to warn people the car is moving through a busy area. Whistles or horns are used the same way.

On our trolley, the motorman signals all traffic by blowing the horn in a pattern of long, long, short, long as they cross Main Street. This pattern dates back 200 years and is the Morse code pattern for “Q”, a homage to when the Queen traveled on a ship in England.

Courtesy of Pennsylvania Trolley Museum



When I worked summers at Allegheny Steel, my daylight shift in No.3 Finishing Department was from 6:00am to 6:00pm {at 40 cents per hour}, so I would catch the 5:30am trolley at the west end of the streetcar line near Stockdale's Hardware, corner of Ross Street and 7th Avenue. As I stumbled downhill in the half dark, Harry Mosley, the Skipper, would see me coming and would tramp his football to get me there in time. Early sparrows were twitting in the horse trough at the bottom of the hill, and the arc lights still sputtered and blinked in the cobble square. I hopped aboard and slid into a seat as Harry collected the nickel fares from his drowsy passengers and rang them up on the big round meter with rhythmic jerks of the conductor's cord and a flashing of numbers.

Harry then stepped smartly to his place, swung the big brass rheostat control arm, and poured the power to Tooney. She careened out 7th Avenue into the pink sunrise, stopping once at the double track bypass where we waited for the westbound car from the Morgan Street barns. Then we were off in a shower of blue sparks and a cloud of ozone, the wheels groaning and squealing around the "S"curves onto 6th Avenue, Brackenridge and thence past the Old Anchor Brewery to Mile Lock Lane and the end of the line.

As we all piled off the trolley car, bucket-sized lunch pails in hand, Skipper Harry was right behind us, reversing the woven rattan seats for his return run. He shifted the long brass brake lever, the power arm, and his black tin cash box from one end of Tooney to the other. Then he pulled down the overhead trolley arm, walked it around the car, let go the rope, and jumped it expertly into contact with the gleaming copper wire overhead. He tapped out his signature on the foot-bell—clangity-clang-clang clangity-clang clangity-clang-clang.

This is a section from the poem "The Toonerville Trolley" by Richard Curry Esler

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LOCAL SCOUT RESTORES ORR BLOCKHOUSE

Info provided by Ashby Strauber

Local Scout Restores Orr Blockhouse for Eagle Scout Project Ashby Stauber, a member of Scouting America's Troop 653 of West Deer and a rising 10th grader at Deer Lakes, has completed an Eagle Scout service project that will benefit Tarentum and the surrounding areas for years to come.

For his project, Ashby knew he wanted to focus on improving local history while commemorating the 250th anniversary of America. Ashby said, "18th century history has always been an area of interest of mine since I was little. I enjoyed visiting local history sites, learning history in school, and volunteering at historical places." The current Orr Blockhouse, a replica of the original 18th century Orr Blockhouse, was suggested by his former History teacher, Mr. Steve Kubicko. Upon further review and research of the Orr Blockhouse, Ashby determined that it was important to fulfill the need of significant repair to benefit the community.

The project required approximately 152 volunteer hours and counting. This project involved the help of numerous community members and volunteers that included fellow scouts, adults in the troop, family members, and friends. Ashby said, "There was a lot of communication with Borough Manager, Mr. Dwight Boddorf to make sure everything fit the needs of the borough and the community. I wanted to make sure Tarentum and the community would be happy with the outcome." The project also involved coordinating materials, scheduling work dates, and making sure the work was completed safely and according to the plan. The Orr Blockhouse needed vandalism removed, holes patched, the whole structure painted, and edging around it improved.

Ashby maintained the original look of the Orr Blockhouse replica. "The only change I decided to make was improving the edging around the base by using pea gravel instead of mulch. This will prevent decomposing and last longer." There are also other possible plans. Ashby is coordinating with Mr. Jim Bonner to create a sign about the Orr Blockhouse history on the Chimney Swift near the Blockhouse. There is also a possibility of an event to commemorate the 250th anniversary of America and the 50th anniversary of the building of the Orr Blockhouse replica in 1976.

This project was made possible by donations and help from the following: A.J. Vater & Co. (paint), Tarentum Borough Manager – Dwight Boddorf, Tarentum Public Works, Harvest Moon Coffee and Chocolates, Allegheny Lumber and Supply Company, and Eureka Fire-Rescue Station 281. Also, the help and advice from so many community members made this project happen successfully.

Ashby in front of the newly restored blockhouse



Tarentum Recreation Board's

BOOFESTIVAL

Saturday – October 10, 2026

Tarentum Riverview

Memorial Park

1-4 pm

Food, Sidewalk Chalk Contest,
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MUSIC FEATURING

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WEST END FIELD

Written by George Guido

Anyone looking to take in a baseball game in Tarentum during the mid-decades of the 20th Century had an easy choice – West End Field.

The facility, located along West Tarentum's riverfront hosted Tarentum High baseball, American Legion Post 85, Catholic Youth Association games and the adult Tri-County League's Tarentum Merchants/Swerlings, along with the Jednota Slovak Club Branch 831 softball team.

Baseball truly was the National Pastime in that era – and Tarentum was daily proof of that. "Growing up, I could see about a quarter of the field from our home on West Eighth Avenue," said Andrew Wargo, a 1956 Tarentum High graduate now living in Scottsdale, Ariz. "There was something going on there about every evening during the 1940s and 50s."

But baseball wasn't all West End Field had to offer. There was a playground and a youth baseball diamond on the 5-acre tract that abutted the Allegheny River. The playground included swing sets, a sandbox and the always-dangerous monkey bars.

"The borough owned the field," Wargo said. "There was a blockhouse there storing(field) equipment where you could check out items from the borough."

It was more than just a baseball field for many, including Dr. Robert Hohman, PhD.

"Friends and family gathered there, I have lots of fond memories of the place," said Hohman, likewise a 1956 Tarentum grad who now resides in Hilton Head, S.C. "It was a great experience there and it taught me a lot about life."

Opposite page (l-r)

Jednota Slovak Club Branch 831 softball team that won the state championship in 1952. Front row: R. Leopardi, B. Woods, G. Cannon, Manager J. Moore, M. Phillips, G. Campbell and A. Olzewski. Back row: J. Couch, B. Powell, E. Krajci, P. Prazenica, Clark Miller, A. Planavsky, J. Woods, M. Leopardi, Business Manager B. Proietti.

Don Garrett, also a 1956 graduate, remembers watching many Tarentum High School baseball games there. "It was the only place to play," he said. "The field had a great spirit." Besides being bordered by the Allegheny River parallel to the left-field line, West End Field was bordered by the Tarentum Paper Mill, West Sixth Avenue between Western and Center streets and a vacant lot.

The site is now occupied by the P.J. Greco salvage yard and Weleski Transfer's fleet of Atlas moving vans.

The Ultimate Game

It can be argued that the biggest sporting event at West End Field was the 1941 state American Legion baseball championship game.

On Aug. 30, 1941, Post 85 defeated Bethlehem, 4-2, to become the first Alle-Kiski Valley team to win a state Legion title.

Tarentum defeated Culmerville Legion, 6-1, for the Allegheny County championship and the right to move on to the state playoffs. After winning the Western Pennsylvania regionals, Tarentum was set to face Eastern PA champ Bethlehem, representing a much larger drawing area than Tarentum. Bethlehem had big-game experience, winning the state in 1938.

As opposed to the present when one neutral site would host the state finals, Tarentum and Bethlehem alternated a best-of-three series that lasted four games.

Four games?

Tarentum defeated Bethlehem at West End Field to open the series. The teams crisscrossed the state to Bethlehem for Game Two. That contest ended in a 5-5 tie that was called because of darkness. Legion officials decided Tarentum would host a doubleheader the following day to decide the Keystone State. Bethlehem took the first game of the twin bill, only to see Tarentum Post 85 garner the state crown in the nightcap by a 4-2 score.

But Tarentum wasn't finished yet. The following season, Tarentum won the western sector, only to lose to eastern champ Coplay in the 1942 finals.

West end Field from corner of Ross & East 9th



Tarentum Legion's manager at the time was Charlie Stoops, who later became Tarentum High School principal.

Sometimes world events found their way to West End Field. During a Tarentum High baseball game on May 7, 1945, word came that Germany had surrendered and World War II in Europe had ended. With Redcats runner Bill Burns on third base, the game promptly ended and the celebration that came to be known as V-E Day was underway. The game was never completed.

Burns' brother, Thomas, was in what was known as the Army/Air Force at the time and flew B-17 bombers.

People of all races were welcomed to play at West End Field. In 1953, East Deer native Dan Hawkins had two triples in a Tri-County League showdown between Tarentum Merchants and Oakmont. Hawkins later became the first African-American teacher at the former New Kensington High School and later Valley High baseball coach. At age 102, Hawkins is living with his daughter, Lisa, in San Diego.

And The End Came

West End Field was built on land originally occupied by a 1902 PPG plant that served as a compliment to the company's huge plant about a mile downriver in Creighton. Glass was an important industry starting in the 1880s when Capt. John B. Ford – the man for whom Ford City is named – discovered the sand along the banks of the Allegheny River was conducive to glassmaking.

PPG, in fact, built company housing on Conroy Way, just a stones throw away from plant location.

Ultimately, the borough sold the field property to Resco Products Inc. in 1962. Resco was a major industrial brick and firebrick manufacturer.

Though West End Field no longer exists, the memories of the facility have lasted well into the 21st Century.

George Guido is a retired journalist living in Lower Burrell. He has written three Alle-Kiski Valley-based history books.

AI enhanced image of West end Field.



AI enhanced image of West end Field view from the outfield.





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1980 HIGHLANDS ALUMNUS **OPENS** **RECORDING STUDIO** AFTER LEGAL CAREER

Written by Dick Henry

After a very successful career in law, Brian Henry, a 1980 Highlands High School graduate, has fulfilled a lifelong dream by opening a professional recording studio outside Atlanta, GA. A drummer for 58 years, Henry played in Highlands school bands beginning at Birdville Elementary School and has now turned that lifelong passion into a new chapter.

Brian's roots run deep in Tarentum. His great-great-grandfather, Noah Henry, founded the Summit Hose Co. His great-grandfather, Roy Henry, was one of the first Summit firemen, a Tarentum Councilman, and the manager of Penn Builders Supply. His grandfather, Dale Henry, was an electrician at Allegheny Ludlum Steel Co. and a fireman at Highland Hose Co. for many years. His father, Dick Henry, was a 1952 graduate of Tarentum

High School, who spent more than 40 years, becoming an executive at Bell of PA, Bell Atlantic, and Verizon. Each family member served on the church council at United Lutheran Church, Tarentum, until it was demolished due to structural problems.

Brian's legal career began with a pre-law degree in criminal justice from Edinboro University, where he was awarded the Criminal Justice Award. He then received a JD from Case Western University in 1987, where he had several papers published in the Law Review. He became a law clerk to the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh, PA. He went on to spend four years as an associate at the prestigious law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis, and Pogue, followed by three years at the prominent law firm of Shannon, Rill, and Scott in Washington, DC. Seeking broader experience, he then joined the Michelin Tire Company of North America in Greenville, South Carolina, as Senior Antitrust Counsel and, two years later, was appointed Managing Attorney.

Henry joined the Coca-Cola legal team in 2002 as Competition Law Counsel, beginning a 23-year career with the company. A temporary assignment in Zurich, Switzerland, as Acting General Counsel expanded his international experience. After returning to the United States, he held several roles of increasing responsibility, advising consumer and industrial product businesses on competition, business, marketing, and advertising law.

In 2021, after serving as Senior Marketing Counsel for Venturing and Emerging Brands, including leadership responsibilities for the Minute Maid Company, and after eight years as part of the North American Competition Law Counsel, Brian was appointed General Counsel for North America. In that role, he led Coca-Cola's North America legal team, capping a 40-year legal career, which included 23 years with the company. During these periods, he was an active member of the American Bar Association and became the Chairman of the Antitrust Law Division before he left the organization.

After serving as General Counsel for North America, Brian retired from Coca-Cola to pursue his lifelong dream of building his own recording studio. That dream became a reality in Alpharetta, Georgia, following his retirement on March 31, 2026.

He began building his studio, "Rhythm Ranch Recording," in his spare time while still working and was able to officially open it soon after retiring. The studio

has been busy from the start, already welcoming numerous artists and bands, and launching a youth singer-songwriter collective where participants 21 and under share their original works, receive mentorship, and have their songs recorded. He recently released several songs for play on Spotify, is making audio and video albums for performers, and he is currently sponsoring a Battle of the Bands in his community.

Recording examples and more information can be found on Facebook under "Rhythm Ranch Recording ATL."

Inside Rhythm Ranch Recording



724.226.3301

101 Station Dr. Tarentum, PA

Hours:

Monday - Thursday 11:00 am 9:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am 10:00 pm

Saturday 5:00 pm 10:00 pm

www.jgsstation.com

An advertisement for Tarentum Hardware. The top part features a hand holding a hammer, with the text "TARENTUM HARDWARE" in large, bold letters. Below this is the tagline "When it comes to value... We hit the nail on the head!" and the text "YOUR LOCAL STOCKING COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY HOUSE". The bottom part of the ad includes a circular logo for "HYDRAULIC REPAIRS" with a phone number, the address "633 First Ave Tarentum, Pa 15084", the hours "Monday thru Thursday 8:00am - 3:00pm", and the phone number "724-224-7253". The ad is decorated with autumn leaves and pumpkins.

**TARENTUM
HARDWARE**

*When it comes to value...
We hit the nail on the head!*

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TARENTUM

BUSINESSES

NOW & THEN

Unscramble the letters to reveal the names of Tarentum businesses past and present.

1. AUNMTTRE AOTTNSI _____
2. DANIMOD UNEITAQS _____
3. ASTARMSS _____
4. RUYPHM LNUGIIDB _____
5. TAGRSN _____
6. S880 RUIFREUTN _____
7. CHCKSU GTIECRNPA _____
8. SSAM DCPROUE _____
9. OMSAN AETTEHR _____
10. YSSIA'L _____
- 11 . ASEVTRH MNOO _____
12. AELHMN LOWREF PHSO _____
13. NTLASYA _____
14. KAY RETUNR SASLG _____
15. INKC VCTELHERO _____
16. EIRGSUSBW _____
17. GNSLIHBU NMOO _____
18. VELYAL SEWN AHCDTPSI _____

ANSWER KEY: 1. Tarentum Station, 2. Diamond Antiques, 3. Massarts, 4. Murphy Building, 5. Grants, 6. Bobs Furniture, 7. Chucks Carpeting, 8. Sams Produce, 9. Manos Theater, 10. Isaly's, 11. Harvest Moon, 12. Lehman Flower Shop, 13. Altany's, 14. Turner Glass, 15. Nick Chevrolet, 16. Weissburg, 17. Blushing Moon, 18. Valley News Dispatch

LOOK AT

WHAT'S NEW IN TARENTUM



TARENTUM MINI MART

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Convenience Store

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VIBRATIONS CENTER OF LIGHT

135 E. Sixth Ave., Tarentum PA, 15084

Holistic Shop

Offering a place to heal with Tia Chi Classes,
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Check out the gift shop!

A large promotional graphic for the Tarentum Business Crawl. The background shows a street scene with brick buildings. The text "TARENTUM Business CRAWL" is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below this, a calendar icon shows "OCTOBER 23 2026" and a clock icon shows "4-8 PM". A banner reads "SPONSORED BY TARENTUM RECREATION BOARD". A starburst shape says "PRIZES AND Fun!". A location pin icon points to "CORBET ST AND FIFTH AVE". A circular badge says "SHOP LOCAL SUPPORT LOCAL LOVE LOCAL" with a heart icon. The page number "31" is in the bottom right corner.

TARENTUM
Business
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OCTOBER
23
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PM

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PICK UP YOUR
GAME CARD
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CORBET ST AND FIFTH AVE

PRIZES
AND *Fun!*

SHOP LOCAL
SUPPORT LOCAL
LOVE LOCAL

31

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GRANDVIEW
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