



# Five Star News

Volume 7, No.11

Overview, 2023



2023 Overview



A Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation

Five Star Trail  
 c/o Westmoreland County Bureau  
 of Parks and Recreation  
 194 Donohoe Road  
 Greensburg, PA 15601  
 Phone: 724-830-3950

The Five Star Trail is operated and managed by the Five Star Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation. Six municipal partners: The City of Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, South Greensburg, Hempfield Township, Youngwood, and Westmoreland County combine their resources with those of the 200 chapter members to operate the trail.

Other key organizations that assist include:

Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation and Westmoreland Conservation District

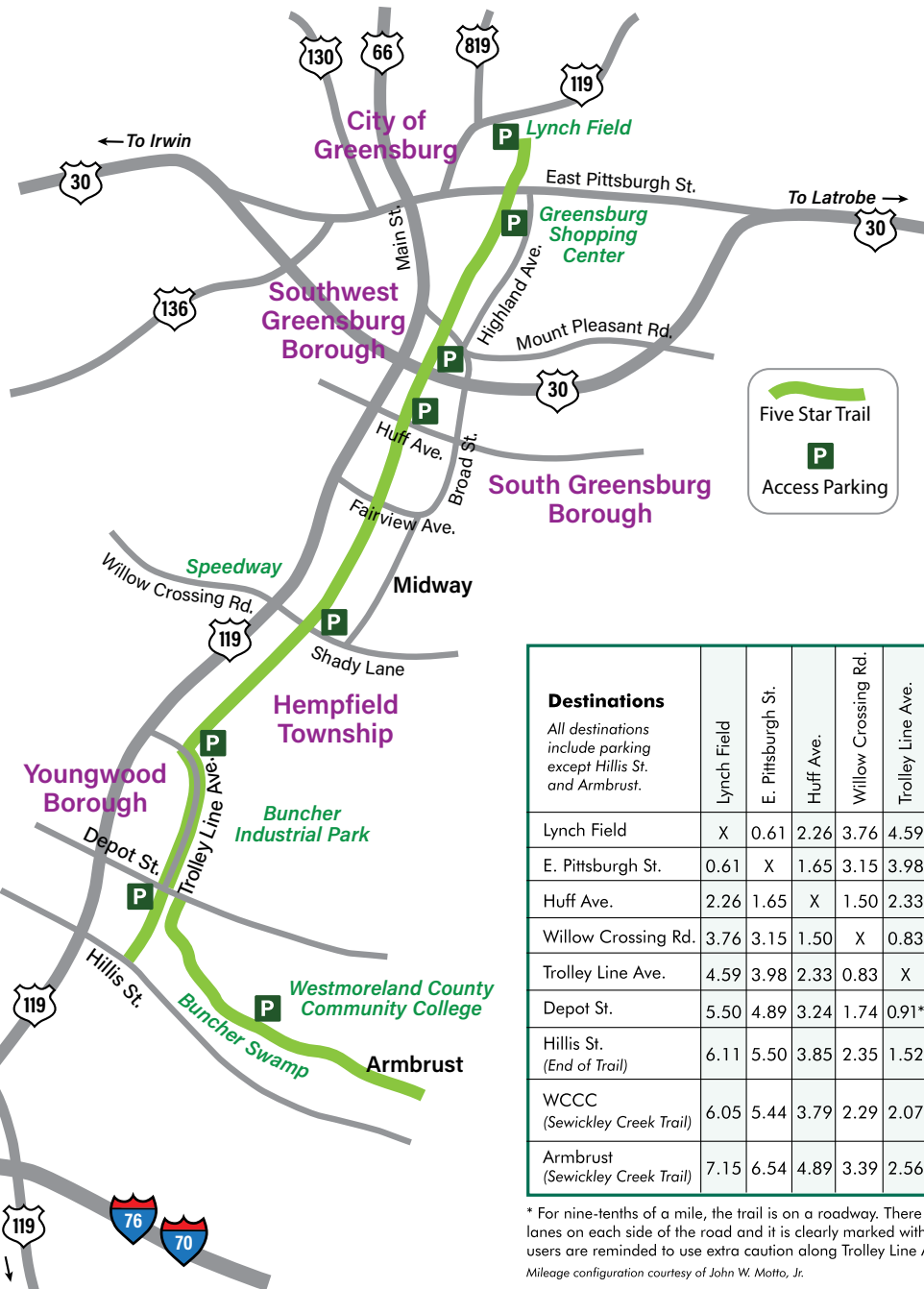
Subchapter affiliates - The Little Crabtree Creek Trail and The Saint Vincent to Latrobe Trail

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Scan to make a donation to support the Five Star Trail.

Destinations	Lynch Field	E. Pittsburgh St.	Huff Ave.	Willow Crossing Rd.	Trolley Line Ave.	Depot St.	Hillis St.	WCCC	Armbrust
Lynch Field	X	0.61	2.26	3.76	4.59	5.50	6.11	6.05	7.15
E. Pittsburgh St.	0.61	X	1.65	3.15	3.98	4.89	5.50	5.44	6.54
Huff Ave.	2.26	1.65	X	1.50	2.33	3.24	3.85	3.79	4.89
Willow Crossing Rd.	3.76	3.15	1.50	X	0.83	1.74	2.35	2.29	3.39
Trolley Line Ave.	4.59	3.98	2.33	0.83	X	0.91*	1.52	2.07	2.56
Depot St.	5.50	4.89	3.24	1.74	0.91*	X	0.61	0.55	1.65
Hillis St. (End of Trail)	6.11	5.50	3.85	2.35	1.52	0.61	X	1.16	2.26
WCCC (Sewickley Creek Trail)	6.05	5.44	3.79	2.29	2.07	0.55	1.16	X	1.10
Armbrust (Sewickley Creek Trail)	7.15	6.54	4.89	3.39	2.56	1.65	2.26	1.10	X

\* For nine-tenths of a mile, the trail is on a roadway. There are six-foot wide bicycle lanes on each side of the road and it is clearly marked with "Bike Lane" signs. Trail users are reminded to use extra caution along Trolley Line Ave.

Mileage configuration courtesy of John W. Motto, Jr.

# FIVE STAR NEWS - SPECIAL 2023 OVERVIEW EDITION

Normally, we like to publish a Spring and Fall issue of the *Five Star News* each year. However, 2023 turned out to be a fast-paced year with a lot of interesting accomplishments - one on top of another. Our newsletters are typically 8 pages long. Getting behind with the Spring issue forced me to combine that news with ongoing news through 2023 resulting in this single, 16 page "Overview" issue covering the entire year. We hope you enjoy this special issue, and we hope to return to publishing Spring and Fall issues in 2024. - Mark Jackson, Editor

## President's Message

By Vaughn Neill

Welcome to our 2023 overview newsletter. The Five Star Trail Chapter had a busy and productive year. Our trail group had four very successful fundraising activities – February's Comedy Night in partnership with the Westmoreland Heritage Trail, the Five Star Trail Poker Run on July 15, the volunteer parking at the Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival (WAHF) at Twin Lakes Park on June 29, 30, July 1, and 2, and an E-Bike Raffle thanks to a donation of a Kona Ecoco E-Bike from Flat Tire Bike, Co. in Greensburg.

I hope some of you were able to participate as "trail ambassador car park attendants" along with our friends in other trail chapters. If you're not familiar, the WAHF arranges with the Regional Trail Corporation (the RTC, the overseeing nonprofit organization) to have volunteer attendants manage the busy parking for festival goers. The proceeds from the parking are shared with the trail chapters, determined by the volunteer hours at the event.

These efforts were on the heels of our successful Trail Members Picnic held at Lynch Field's Kaufman Pavilion on Thursday, June 22. A good time was had, and with only a minimum of business discussed! Many of us took the opportunity to check the progress of the trail tunnel mural just up the hill from the pavilion. Many thanks to Mark Jackson, chapter Treasurer, for getting this in order, and the Board members for making it happen. We look for this to become an annual event.

Our fundraisers are important to help us keep up the trail.



Five Star Trail President Vaughn Neill works as part of the great volunteer team who applied the blue undercoat paint over the primer in preparation for the new mural artwork to be painted in the tunnel near Lynch Field in The City of Greensburg.

For example, this year Eidemiller Construction cleaned ditches in South Greensburg and Greensburg where there were persistent drainage problems. Many thanks to them for the quick and efficient work.

Whether it is fundraising or tending to the trail, there are many opportunities to be involved – joining a work crew, assisting with the newsletter, monitoring trail activity – there is a good chance there is something that works for you as a volunteer. There is membership information here in the newsletter if you wish to join, then you will be on our email list. You can also contact us through our "5 star trail" Facebook page. Our Board meets the 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m., most often at the County Parks building at 194 Donohoe Road, Greensburg.

## "Take a Book, Leave a Book" - Visit the Five Star Trail Little Free Libraries



An ever changing selection of books is available free of charge at the Little Free Libraries located by the Five Star Trail at the Lynch Field trail head in Greensburg and the Depot Street access area in Youngwood. These books are donated and rotate under the principle "Take a book, leave a book." However, if you happen to be passing by and take a book without having one on hand to leave, don't worry. You can always stop back to "leave a book" another time. There is also a selection of youth and children's books available. Just remember to close the doors tightly when you're done visiting to help keep the books safe and dry.



# Comedy Night - Laughs Benefit Trails



Five Star Trail volunteers prepare the Comedy Night dessert, I-r: Valerie Lambert, Vaughn Neill and Patti Sias



Getting the salads ready, I-r: Lois Weaver, Valerie Lambert, Mike Lambert, Vaughn Neill and Jackie Timko



Jill Jackson deciding on basket auction items.



Opening comedian Steve Sabo



Headliner comedian Mike Cheselka

On Saturday February 11, The Five Star Trail partnered with The Westmoreland Heritage Trail to once again host a Comedy Night fundraiser at Colton Hall in Claridge. Those attending enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner provided by the Manor Bar & Grill, which included salad, Chicken Romano, roast beef, green beans, mashed potatoes, dinner rolls and cake for dessert.

Volunteers sold 50/50 tickets for two individual drawings. A silent auction featured an exciting selection of donated baskets and things to choose from. Colorful wall banners thanked the various event sponsors and donors for their support.

After dinner everyone enjoyed loads of laughs with the comedic performances of opening comedian Steve Sabo and headliner Mike Cheselka.

All of this positive energy was channeled to help support the maintenance and development of these two wonderful trails. Special thanks to all of our volunteers, donors and sponsors who helped make this year's Comedy Night a great success!

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail and Five Star Trail Comedy Night will return to Colton Hall on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Tickets can be purchased at the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation office at 194 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



## Five Star News

Five Star News is the official newsletter of the Five Star Trail published twice per year. Photos and story submissions are accepted and should be sent to: Five Star News, Mark Jackson, Editor, c/o Westmoreland Conservation District, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601, email: mark@wcdpa.com, 724-837-5271.

All articles are edited for length, grammar, accuracy and composition. They will be used at the discretion of the editor and directors. Photos should be high quality.

Please advise the editor of any and all needed corrections.



Stabilizing part of a slope with stone rip rap along the trail between Huff Avenue and Fairview Street in South Greensburg.



Resurfacing a section of the trail between Huff Avenue and Fairview Street in South Greensburg.



Opening a clogged drainage channel on the northern trail section near Lynch Field.



Loading the drainage channel sludge which will be hauled away and disposed of.

## Trail Drainage & Surface Improvements

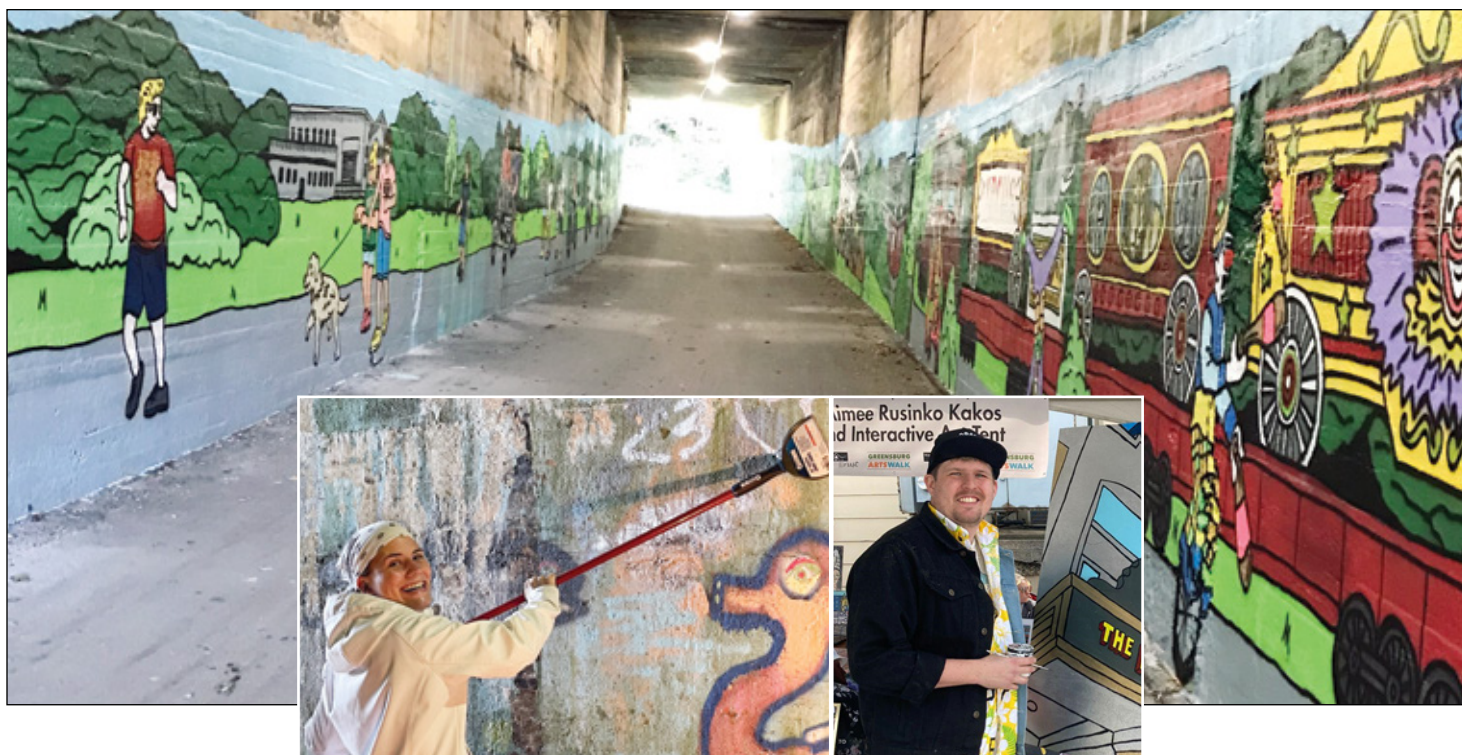
Starting in April 2023, Five Star Trail director and maintenance volunteer Malcolm Sias worked with Adam Eidemiller, Inc. to tackle several sections of the Five Star Trail which have had chronic drainage problems. When poor drainage allows higher volumes of stormwater to run across the surface of the trail, erosion then causes large ruts to form. These annoying ruts take away from an enjoyable trail user experience. Eliminating and minimizing them is a constant challenge.

On the section in South Greensburg between Huff Avenue and Fairview Street, Adam Eidemiller, Inc. used their equipment and talented operators to open up drainage ditches along the sides of the trail. They then installed stone rip rap to stabilize hillsides along the trail to help control erosion. They also resurfaced and repaired the

Five Star Trail's limestone surface there.

On the northern end of the trail just south of the tunnel leading to Lynch Field, Eidemillers opened about 800 ft. of a clogged drainage ditch which was causing water to wash over the trail forming a long, wide, wet rut. The rut and impacted trail surface were then filled and restored with fresh crushed limestone.

The Five Star Trail is fortunate to have ongoing help maintaining the trail from dedicated volunteers, the five municipalities which it connects, and the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation. Our memberships, sponsors and fundraisers like Comedy Night and the Poker Run help provide the money for maintenance materials and professional services. Thanks to all who work to keep the Five Star Trail in good condition and make needed improvements along the way.



Thanks to the creative initiative of Greensburg volunteer Natalie Dobrick and artist Zachary Rutter, The Five Star Trail tunnel near Lynch Field now showcases a colorful new mural highlighting various aspects of the trail corridor.

## Tunnel Vision

**V**ision became reality in the railroad tunnel at the northernmost section of the Five Star Trail near Lynch Field during the Spring and Summer of 2023. A new, colorful mural now shines on the tunnel walls.

In 2022, Natalie Dobrick of Greensburg and Pittsburgh mural artist Zachary Rutter made a presentation to the Five Star Trail directors about the possibility of painting a new mural on the tunnel walls to replace a worn and faded “under the sea” theme mural painted by the Girl Scouts over twenty years ago.

Natalie first met Zachary at the Greensburg ArtsWalk event. Living near the Five Star Trail, she often walks through the tunnel, and gradually developed a strong feeling that a new mural would greatly improve it. Upon learning about Zachary’s artistic talent for creating colorful murals, Natalie worked with him to prepare a new Five Star Trail mural concept to present at a trail directors meeting. They presented examples of other local murals Zachary had done, and a new mural concept for the Five Star Trail railroad tunnel. The new mural would be based on a journey along the Five Star Trail, highlighting trail users, activities and landmarks. It would also include elements from the trail corridor’s storied past.

It took several meetings to hone in on the scope of work involved, materials and the approximate cost for this project. Zachary explained the steps that would be needed to prepare

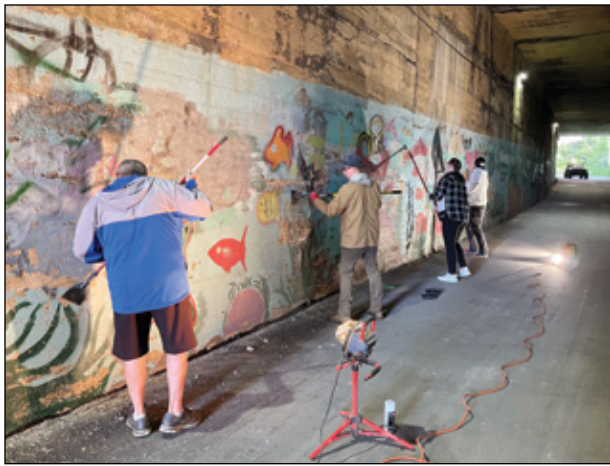
the concrete tunnel walls for the new mural, which included scraping, priming and the application of an overall light blue under-painting. The tunnel is 260 feet long. The new mural would be about 8 feet high. Two walls at 260 feet long each totals 520 feet of concrete surface to be painted.

As the project was further discussed, everyone realized that the only way the new mural could be done efficiently and economically was with the help of many volunteers. Zachary told the directors that he often works with volunteer groups painting murals in simple, fun phases. The Five Star Trail Tunnel would be the largest mural project he has handled to date. Zachary and Natalie’s enthusiasm was contagious, and Five Star Trail directors voted to pursue the project and seek supportive funding.

A budget was prepared in early 2023, and a Westmoreland County Arts Grant was applied for and received. In April and May, materials, logistics and work sessions were planned and scheduled to prepare the tunnel for the new mural.

### Scrape, Primer and Prep

The first step was to scrape the old mural on the tunnel walls to remove any loose paint and concrete scaling. Next, a good white primer needed to be applied over all. For final preparation phase, Zachary asked that a light blue “under-painting” be applied over the white primer as a color base for the final,



Volunteers scrape the old seascape mural removing loose paint and scaling concrete.



Bright shop lights strung through the tunnel helped everyone see what they were doing.



Longtime Five Star volunteer Bob Kostelnik applies primer.



Applying the white primer over the old mural with drop cloths in place.



After the white primer dried, mural artist Zachary Rutter asked that the walls receive a light blue underpainting to help boost the colors of the final mural artwork.



Primer painting work day volunteers stop for a group photo in the tunnel.



Longtime volunteer Malcolm Sias gathers tools and what's left of the light blue paint.

detailed mural art.

Calls went out for volunteers by email and social media to anyone interested in helping with the project. An article on the new mural featured in the Trib-Live online publication also rallied some volunteers from local communities. However, the most effective recruiting method was good old-fashioned asking in person. The Five Star Trail would provide primer, paint and some brushes and rollers. Volunteers were

also asked to bring whatever brushes, rollers and step ladders they thought would be helpful.

To help everyone see better as they scraped and painted, The City of Greensburg provided electrical hook ups to run extension cords and shop lights. Long time Five Star Trail director Malcolm Sias then provided the shop lights and extension cords. He also gathered all of the primer, light blue paint and

*continued on page 8*



To paint the mural, volunteers first worked with Zachary to “block-in” larger areas of color according to a numbered layout that he developed. Afterwards, Zachary went through and added the fine details and black outlining.

tools that the Five Star Trail furnished for each work session.

The tunnel scraping work session was scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 26 starting at 8:00 a.m. At first, only a few volunteers showed up. But that number gradually grew until there were enough people cheerfully working together, so that the entire 520 feet of tunnel walls were scraped with loose debris swept up by around 1:00 p.m. that day.

When the white primer application session followed the next morning, the volunteer turnout was fantastic. Malcolm arrived early for each tunnel preparation session and worked with a few other volunteers to get everything organized and ready to go. He also stayed after each session was finished, gathered the equipment, and prepared it for the next work session.

Natalie and Zachary were also on hand for each preparation session. Natalie smiled and encouraged volunteers to return and enjoy this beautiful work in progress. Zachary told those working alongside him about the colorful mural he had designed, and invited them to help with painting the final mural details once the tunnel walls were ready. The final blue under-painting work session went just as well as the first two sessions.

## The New Mural Comes to Life

Being an older underground structure, some areas on the concrete tunnel walls were rough, while a few others were susceptible to moisture and seeping. These areas were challenging to work with, but addressed with a little creativity and hard work. Shortly after the walls were prepared, Zachary returned with paints, paint box and a crew of artistic volunteers to plot out and paint the final mural.

Based on the design sketches he developed with input from the Five Star directors, Zachary plotted out the mural details along the tunnel walls in such a way that volunteers could help paint in much of the background and larger details using a paint-by-numbers system. Then Zachary went back over the

blocked-in color areas quickly adding fine line details using small cans of special black spray paint. This step pulled everything together. It took much talent and control.

From start to finish the job took about 16 days over the course of two months thanks to the help of all the volunteers. Close to 60 gallons of paint and primer were used, not including the three full garbage bags filled with spray paint cans which were thrown out when the job was finished.

All in all, everything about this project was smooth sailing, and after over two weeks of painting a lot of the volunteers felt like family. There was a humidity and moisture situation that did end up delaying progress by about a week or so. But once it dried up Zachary and the volunteers were back at it with no problems.

During the final painting there was one weekend when the tunnel was marked up with graffiti. Fortunately, that was an easy fix using a special graffiti remover. Zachary enjoyed working with everyone in the community on this unique and lengthy mural. In his words, “We all bonded each day over good music and the task at hand.”

A few months after the mural was completed The City of Greensburg, Five Star Trail director Austin Erhard from Hempfield Township and Malcolm Sias coordinated the installation of eight new LED overhead lights in the tunnel. This much improved lighting makes it easier to see and enjoy the colorful details of the new mural. It also helps make a trail journey through the tunnel a lot safer. Security cameras were also installed in the tunnel with feeds going to The City of Greensburg and The City of Greensburg Police. Special thanks to Schaedler Yesco Distribution for donating four of these new LED lights.

Thanks to all who gave of their time and talent to help with this bright and wonderful Five Star Trail project, which will give trail users and visitors a “sense of place, history and community” for many years to come.

# The New Mural Highlights Trail Activities, Sites and History



Joggers, walkers and bicycle riders enjoy the trail.



The railroad & industry are integral parts of Five Star Trail history.



Many people like to walk with their dogs on the trail.



In the 1930s and 40s the circus would set up in South Greensburg.



The popular Five Star Trail Poker Run fundraiser happens in July.



1902-1909, Lynch Field was the site of The Greensburg Racetrack.



The Joy Riders help physically challenged individuals enjoy the trail.



The Youngwood Historical & Railroad Museum is along the trail.



Buncher Swamp along the south section is great for bird watching.



Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood Campus

# Poker Run Fun!



Ready to draw another Poker Run playing card at a check point.



Their dog enjoyed the Poker Run walk too.



A family strolls by the Pittsburgh St. Bridge



It was a great day for a bike ride!



Heading back to Lynch Field.



Stopping at the Pittsburgh St. Bridge check point to draw a playing card for the Poker hand on his score card.

The 24th Annual Poker Run took place on The Five Star Trail Saturday morning, July 15, 2023. In past years Poker Run participants could designate their entry fees to either benefit the Five Star Trail or the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. This year the Westmoreland Heritage Trail chose to host their own Poker Run. So all entry fees for the 2023 Poker Run on the Five Star Trail directly benefited the Five Star Trail.

There were 110 preregistered Poker Run participants this year, along with 30 registering the day of the event at Lynch Field in the City of Greensburg, which was the start and ending point. Participants were given a Poker hand score card and a 2023 T-Shirt. Then they choose a 12 mile bicycle ride or a four mile walk/jog. It was a nice day overall. However, later that morning the shaded sections of the Five Star Trail

remained fairly comfortable, but the open sections got pretty hot. Many worked up a good sweat. Those who chose not to go the full distances could adjust their route lengths accordingly.

Five different check points managed by volunteers were located along the trail. During the Poker Run participants stopped at these check points and chose a playing card from a deck to build a Poker hand on their score cards. The highest scoring hands received trophies and prizes at the end of the Poker Run back at Lynch Field.

Participants were also encouraged to stop along the way during the Poker Run to take “selfie” photos and submit them to be posted in the 2023 Poker Run Album on the Five Star Trail website. Each participant who submitted a “selfie” earned a chance to win fun prizes, which were drawn after the event.

After completing the Poker Run score cards were turned in at Lynch Field. While the scores were tallied everyone could enjoy some light refreshments including fresh baked goods donated by Panera Bread. There were also basket raffles, door prize drawings, a 50/50, fun activities and a display of Poker Run T-shirts from the last 23 years.

The 2023 Poker Run winners were: Third Place - Annalena Cunningham, Second Place - Linda Peck, and First Place - MiJa Smith. Special thanks to the Greensburg Bike Shop of Youngwood, who donated a beautiful, Haro adult BMX bicycle, which was raffled off that day. Mark Jackson of Greensburg won the bike. Also special thanks to our 2023 Poker Run Sponsors, volunteers, The City of Greensburg and the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation for their support in making this year's Poker Run a great success.



This year's Poker Run T-shirt design featured Poker playing cards in the spokes of a bike wheel. This concept harkens back to the 1950s and 60s when many kids took baseball cards and attached them to their bike frames with a clothes pin so that the cards stuck into the bike wheel spokes. When pedaling this gave a loud sputtering motorcycle sound, which was considered "really cool".

## Thank You 2023 Poker Run Sponsors!

- Angelo and Friends
- Bill and Barb Botti
- Design 3 Architecture
- Farzati Manufacturing
- Flat Tire Bike Shop
- GMI Electric
- Greensburg Bike Shop
- Greensburg Classic Car Wash
- Mains Chiropractic
- The Neill Family
- Pace Analytical
- PES Material Testing & Evaluation
- Jim and Jackie Timko
- Turik's Electric



Gathering around the Kaufman Pavilion at Lynch Field after the Poker Run for light refreshments, prizes and awards.



A historic display of past Poker Run T-shirts at the Kaufman Pavilion at Lynch Field



2023 Poker Run First Prize winner MiJa Smith



2023 Poker Run Second Prize winner Linda Peck



The Membership Picnic registration table



Patty Graff and Bob DePasquale served by Jackie Timko



Jill and Regis Jackson - ladderball

# 1st Five Star Trail Membership Picnic - Meet, Greet & Eat



A wonderful picnic under the Kaufman Pavilion at Lynch Field



At the dessert table, l-r: Carolyn Falcon, Louise Vrable and Keith Neill

**F**ive Star Trail members gathered at the Kaufman Pavilion in Lynch Field to enjoy the first Membership Picnic on Thursday, June 22, 2023, which started at 5:30 p.m. The Kaufman Pavilion is located along side the beginning of the Five Star Trail north section as it winds up hill to the railroad tunnel. Five Star Trail President Vaughn Neill welcomed everyone and invited them to take a short walk up the trail to the tunnel to see the progress on the new mural being painted on the tunnel walls.

If members had not yet renewed their annual memberships they were able to do so at the registration table. Any guests also had the opportunity to become a member upon registering.

The Five Star Trail provided fried chicken, Italian beef and rolls, which were prepared by Gianni's II, and mac n' cheese, which was prepared by Giant Eagle. The Five Star also provided beverages. Members and guests were asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, if possible. The picnic ended up with a wonderful variety of scrumptious selections, which were served by the Five Star directors and volunteers.

The weather was beautiful and there were also some games to enjoy including ladder ball and corn hole. About 50 attended this special event, which gave all a chance to socialize and meet new trail-minded friends. Thanks to all who came and supported the Membership Picnic. We plan to do it again in 2024.



Getting to know Dr. David and Megan Mains and their dog.



l-r: Westmoreland County Commissioner Doug Chew and Hempfield Township Supervisor Doug Weimer

# Five Star Bridges - Refreshed and Repaired

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT ADDS BEAUTY AND LONGEVITY



Logan Williams and his team stained the fence, rails and bench at the bridge over Jack's Run in South Greensburg.



This newly stained bridge is in the Hempfield Township section.



The Pittsburgh Street Bridge in The City of Greensburg

Logan Williams of Youngwood completed his Eagle Scout Project this year along The Five Star Trail. The rails of three bridges now sport an attractive, fresh coat of red stain. The bridge decks also got a coat of clear coat stain. This staining will help preserve the wood.

Logan planned and coordinated the staining with his Scout Troop

457 and attained funds to support the project as overseen by his project advisor, Malcolm Sias. Logan began the project in late 2022, but changing weather conditions pushed the finish into 2023.

Many thanks to Logan and his Scouting volunteers for this fine work.

## VOLUNTEERS REPLACE DAMAGED ALUMINUM POLE FENCE



An aluminum pole, wire mesh fence along a bridge on the Five Star Trail was heavily damaged by a fallen tree limb earlier this year. The bridge is located just south of the Willow Crossing access area. Trail maintenance volunteers Malcolm Sias and Barry Attenberger do



a lot of bridge work on our regional trails. They acquired the lumber and supplies. Then replaced the damaged wire fence by building a sturdy wooden bridge railing. The new railing will be stained to match the other Five Star Trail bridge railings sometime in the future.



The winner of the E-Bike raffle, based on the PA Lottery Pick-3 number drawn at 7:00 p.m. on November 17, 2023, was longtime regional trail supporter and advocate Linda Boxx of Latrobe.

## *E-Bike Raffle Benefits Trail*

**E**-Bikes (Electronic Bicycles) are becoming increasingly popular. Thanks to a generous donation from the Flat Tire Bike Co. Bike Shop in Greensburg, The Five Star Trail had an exciting and successful fundraising raffle with the prize being a Kona Ecoco Electric Adult Bicycle (Small) with a Shimano E6100 20MPH motor, valued at \$2,999.

Raffle tickets sold for \$5.00 each. They featured two three digit numbers, which gave purchasers two chances to win per ticket. The winning number was determined on the PA Lottery Pick-3 number drawn at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023. A total of 500 tickets were printed in early August and they sold out.

Five Star Trail volunteers promoted the raffle with printed flyers, on Facebook and in-person. When the November 17, 7:00 p.m. Pick-3 PA Lottery number was drawn, the winner was Linda Boxx of Latrobe. Linda is a longtime supporter and advocate for the development and improvement of trails in our region. Congratulations Linda!

Special thanks to the Flat Tire Bike Co. in Greensburg for donating the beautiful Kona Ecoco E-Bike. And special thanks to all who sold and purchased tickets to support the Five Star Trail.

## How to Schedule Special Events on the Five Star Trail

by Malcolm Sias

**O**rganizations, businesses, and municipalities host a variety of special events annually on the Five Star Trail. Multiple 5K Run/Walks, Poker Runs, walk-a-thons and other miscellaneous fundraising events are held on the trail throughout the year.

With the advent of our new Trail Lease Agreement with the railroad, there are some small changes to the process and the event application rules that we want you to know about.

- First, we ask that applications are completed and filed a minimum of three months prior to the event so there is plenty of time for reviews and approvals. The earlier the better!
- Special event hosts will now have to furnish a Certificate of Insurance for the event that covers all of the following entities: Regional Trail Corporation, Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation, Carload Express, Inc. and the Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad Company.
- To obtain a new application form and instructions please contact the Regional Trail Corporation by either email or phone: [regionaltrails@comcast.net](mailto:regionaltrails@comcast.net) or 724-872-5586.
- The permittee is bound by all the trail rules and regulations and must accept responsibility for the behavior and actions of every person in the group at all times.
- The Permittee must remain on the trail and must ensure that all the event participants do not enter onto or cross over the railroad tracks at any time.
- The permittee is responsible to see that nothing is placed within twelve (12) feet from the centerline of the nearest railroad tracks.
- Permittee may place temporary Special Event Signs on the trail. These signs shall not be displayed for more than seven (7) days prior to the event and must be removed immediately once the event is completed.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration. We want to be sure that every event participant as well as every trail user is safe at all times. All Permittees must understand and acknowledge that portions of the trail are located on active railroad lines used for railroad operations and that trains may operate at any time, in any direction, and at any speed. Railroad operations entail or cause loud noises, smoke, emissions, dust, steam, odors, vibrations, bright lights and other conditions. Please encourage all event participants to be aware at all times and to pay attention to their surroundings.

# Five Star Maintenance Volunteers Thwart Vandalism



Vandalized fence at the Willow Crossing Access Area



Repaired and restored by our trail maintenance volunteers.

Although the popular Five Star Trail passes through urban areas and communities, vandalism is a relatively rare occurrence. Our dedicated maintenance volunteers more often repair and refurbish trail elements which are damaged by storms and regular wear and tear. When vandalism does occur it's reported quickly by trail users on our Facebook page, or by contacting the Five Star directors through the Westmoreland County Parks office. People who live near the trail also take pride in it and keep a careful watch.

Wooden rail fences, as in the photo above, define the

perimeter of our trail access areas. Shortly after this vandalism at the Willow Crossing Access Area was reported this Fall, Five Star Volunteers Malcolm Sias and Barry Attenberger were at the scene with fresh lumber and tools to repair the damage - bravo and thank you!

Trail maintenance is a chronic demand. Our Five Star municipalities also help when needed. Five Star Trail memberships help support these efforts. Please see the form below to become a new member, renew your annual membership for 2024, and sign up to volunteer.

## Become a Five Star Trail Member or Renew Your Annual Membership

Support the trail and stay updated on trail-related activities & improvements.



**2024**

### Type of Membership

New Member     Renewal

Annual Individual .....\$20

Annual Family.....\$30

Lifetime Membership.....\$200

Annual Organization.....\$50

Annual Small Business....\$100

Annual Corporate .....\$250

Tax Deductible Donation..\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to FSTC-RTC  
Mail to:

**Five Star Trail Chapter**  
194 Donohoe Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601

I would like to get involved by volunteering for:

- Trail Monitoring     Trail Maintenance  
 PR & Membership     Poker Run & Events



Five Star Trail  
c/o Westmoreland County Bureau  
of Parks and Recreation  
194 Donohoe Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601



## Comedy Night

*A Night of Laugh Out Loud Fun!*  
Proceeds Benefit Westmoreland  
Heritage Trail & Five Star Trail projects

**Saturday  
February 10, 2024**

**6:00pm-10:00pm**

**Colton Hall**

3100 Blocks Road, Claridge, PA 15623

**Dinner included with ticket!**

**Tickets \$35 per person**

**Ages 21 and up**

*Tickets must be purchased in advance!  
No tickets will be sold at the door*

**A fun evening  
with good food,  
cash bar,  
50/50 drawings,  
basket auctions,  
and lots of laughs!**

**Purchase tickets  
at the following  
locations:**

Westmoreland County  
Parks Office,  
or call (724) 830-3950

Hosted By:



*Save the Date!*

## Five Star Trail Poker Run

**Saturday July 20, 2024**

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Location:** Start at Lynch Field, Greensburg

T-shirt included with registration

Pre-registration fee \$25, Day-of \$30

100% of proceeds go to the maintenance  
and development of the Five Star Trail.

This is not a race! Each participant will stop at various  
check points along the trail where they will choose a  
playing card from their deck. At the end of the event,  
each participant will have assembled a complete poker  
hand. The best three hands will receive a trophy and  
prize package. Collect your cards from 1 or several  
stations; walk, bike, or jog however far you'd like!

