

# From “World of Food” to the West End Block Party: A Fresh New Name, Same Community Spirit!

By “West End Alliance Inc.”

[Allentown, PA] – The beloved neighborhood tradition formerly known as the World of Food Festival is back, bigger and better than ever — now reimagined as the West End Block Party! Join us on Saturday, September 27th from noon to 10 PM on 19th and Liberty Streets for a vibrant celebration of local culture, food, music, and community spirit.

The largest block party in the Lehigh Valley, this year’s West End Block Party is an exciting evolution of the event neighbors know and love, expanding the focus beyond food to include live music, artisan vendors, cold drinks, games, and interactive family-friendly activities — all in the heart of the West End, one of the most walkable traditional neighborhoods in the region.

“We wanted a name that reflected the full experience,” said Liz Martin, Managing Director of the West End Alliance. “It’s more than just great food — it’s music, fun, and connection. We wanted a name to emphasize the festival’s sense of community, inclusivity and celebration.”

Join us and celebrate what makes our community shine. Bring your family, bring your friends — and come ready to dance, eat, shop, and play

Location: 19th and Liberty Streets, Date & Time: Noon - 10PM

Music Lineup:

Noon-2 Mike Lorenz Trio

2:30-4:30 Higbee

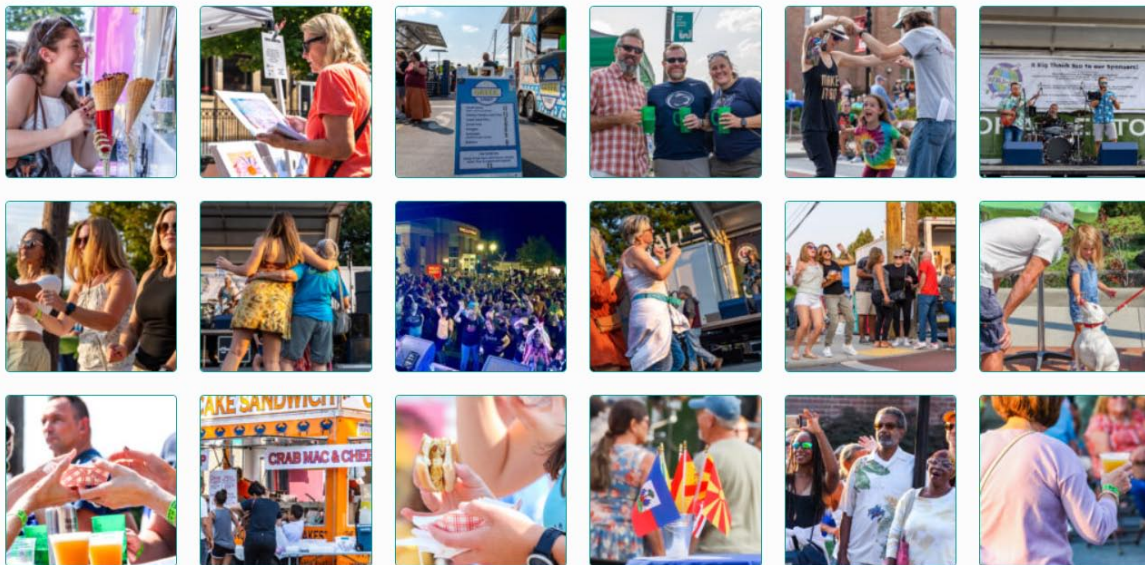
5-7 The Ultra Kings

7:30-9:30 GirlCrüe

Follow us on social media at @westendalliance or visit [www.westendallentown.com](http://www.westendallentown.com) for the latest updates.

Cornerstone Partners: St. Luke’s Allentown Campus, QNB Bank, Muhlenberg College, Friends of Allentown Parks

Sponsored by: Adcomm | Astound | Civic Theatre | Community Bank | Creative Tile | Embassy Bank | Foresight Business Solutions | Penn Community Bank | Friends of Mike Schlossberg | Service Electric Business | Sleek Styles Salon | Sleepy Cat Urban Winery | Smiles 4 Keeps | Studio 924 | Sunburst Property Management | Susan Bella Jewelers | The Udder Bar | Truth Beauty Salon | Weaver Insurance Corp. | WMUH | Working Dog Press | Yocco’s | YourPM.mobi LLC



## RESULTS

This year, purple martins nested in 88 of the 90 condos at Minsi Lake. They produced 367 eggs, of which 245 hatched & 233 nestlings successfully fledged. Our team was able to measure, weigh & band 236 of the 245 chicks that hatched. Of those 236 chicks, three died before fledging, which is well within the expected mortality rate for purple martin nestlings.

In addition to banding martin chicks with numbered aluminum leg bands issued to our licensed bird banders by the Bird Banding Lab in MD, we also began placing color-coded aluminum leg bands on martin nestlings at Minsi Lake this year as part of a regional study to monitor nest fidelity & dispersal of martins in five counties in eastern PA. Lehigh Valley Audubon Society volunteers manage 372 condos on 15 towers at 12 sites. Each site has its own unique color-coded bands. Sighting color bands is the most efficient way to see if martins remain loyal to the colonies in which they hatched or are dispersing to other colonies after they return to their breeding grounds here in eastern PA from their wintering grounds in South America each spring. This citizen science project will help bird biologists better understand site fidelity & dispersal rates of purple martins, which can inform management practices for these fascinating & beloved long-distance migratory songbirds.

The information on both leg bands is submitted to several databases that help researchers track trends in bird populations & conservation, like the Bird Banding Lab in Laurel, MD; the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY; & the Purple Martin Conservation Association in Erie, PA.

### Annual Project Timeline

**March:** Hang condos on the towers & place pine straw in each one for starter nests.

**April:** Martins begin to arrive from their wintering grounds in South America.

**June-July:** Weekly condo nest checks; examine nestlings for parasites; clean out the condo nests & freshen them up with clean nesting material if needed; band the nestlings at 12+ days of age; host interactive public education programs during each nest check.

**August:** Martins leave for South America

**September:** Take down, clean out & store the condos indoors until next March.



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Tuesday, October 28, 2025

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