

Pickle Me Poconos 2025 was a BIG DILL!

By Sierra Lefurgy

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - The Pickle Me Poconos Festival enjoyed seeing all of you pickle people this past weekend! What a dill-lightful, sunny afternoon we had on Saturday, October 4th! Let's recap all the exciting, jar-packed activities Pickle Me Poconos brought to you this year!

We hope you had the chance to enjoy all the fun pickle-themed surprises we had in store for our festivalgoers! The main stage featured live music courtesy of The Hannah Noel Band, Miller's Way, and Who Knows Band. We also introduced for the first time ever; a second stage filled with family-friendly fun in the Gherkin Garden! We showcased The East Stroudsburg Area School District Pep Band, NEPA Comedy Fest, a princess Cabaret with Rebel Stages, and a DJ to emcee it all! Our NEW Pickleball Court presented by Keystone Sealcoating & St. Luke's Sports Medicine was a smashing success! With over 130+ vendors, we hope The Pickle Me Poconos Festival was successful in meeting your pickle standards!

We would also like to take the time to thank our sponsors and event partners because we wouldn't have been able to put on this festival without them! A special thanks to Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono, Toyota of Stroudsburg, ESSA Bank, Sparkle Car Wash, Weseloh Carney & Company, Retro Fitness, Pocono Pickle Guy, Club Exploria, Beth Moloughney Statefarm, The Dreher Agency, Spice Route, First Keystone Community Bank, Cove Pocono Resorts/Cove Haven & Paradise Stream Resorts, Mountain Valley Orthopedics, George Roberts Productions, Hampton Inn & Suites Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg University, NEPA Comedy fest, Quantifi Media, Kelly Lombardo for Judge, Steele's Hardware, Susquehanna Brewing Company, Tolino's Winery, Backyard Bar Co, Adams Outdoor Advertising, Signal of Eastern PA, Monroe County Transit Authority, Keystone Sealcoating, Brewskies, and We See Productions.

We look forward to seeing you relish in the fun for Pickle Me Poconos 2026! As always, on the first Saturday of October we anticipate seeing you support the business community next year!



Juxtahub To Launch New Ceramics Studio

By Ryan Hill

EMMAUS, PA, - The JuxtaHub arts and innovation center will open a new 2,200 square foot ceramics studio at 375 S 10th Street in Emmaus later this month, starting with free demonstrations to the public at their monthly JuxTuesday event on October 14, and then with a series of classes starting the week of October 20.

"In exploring how technology can intersect with the arts, we are excited to consider how the resources of our Convergence Makerspace will complement a traditional hands-on medium like ceramics," explains John Oetting, a founding board member and VP of Programming at JuxtaHub. "In juxtaposing these two program areas, we can help ceramic artists bring their vision to life in new ways – creating their own custom decorative tools with our 3D printers as well as cutting intricate stencils with our laser and vinyl cutters. We're offering state-of-the-art resources at JuxtaHub, and the possibilities are endless."

JuxtaHub has secured the services of two of the most respected ceramics instructors in the Greater Lehigh Valley region: Deb Slahta and Lisa Caruso. Both Slahta and Caruso will lead free-to-the-public demonstrations during the October JuxTuesday, JuxtaHub's monthly open house that also includes live demonstrations in the Convergent Makerspace, running from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14.

Slahta is a resident artist at JuxtaHub and a lifelong resident of the Lehigh Valley who attended Moravian College where her passion for clay began. She has exhibited her work in national and regional shows, including the State Museum in Harrisburg, Lehigh University, and the Allentown Art Museum. She was a long-time resident of the former Banana Factory in Bethlehem.

"I'm so excited to be part of this new opportunity," said Slahta. "I can't wait to share my passion for all things clay and to be a part of a community engaged through art."

Slahta's Adventures in Wheelthrowing classes, which will run on Tuesday afternoons, Thursday mornings, and Thursday evenings from October 21 to December 18, are geared for anyone to attend, whether they have ceramics experience or not. All students will work on centering, shaping, trimming, and glazing with an emphasis on expanding throwing skills through demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and plenty of individual instruction.

Lisa Caruso taught ceramics at Emmaus High School for 24 years. She has a BFA with a concentration in clay, an MFA in ceramics that included studies in Italy, and a variety of other Master's level fine art and education courses. She is an active professional artist using ceramics as a primary main medium in the production of her sculptural work as well as her pottery forms.

"The unseen potential in clay is what draws me to it," said Caruso. "Engaging in the processes that change it from formless dust and water to solid permanence is my passion and I plan to share it with the community at Juxtahub!"

