

PTHA *POST*



WWW.PATHA.ORG

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SEPTEMBER 2025

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
GATES OPEN AT 10:00 AM
FIRST POST TIME 11:05 AM!

betPARX



SPECIAL THANK YOU

EQUI-PHOTO
COLLEEN MATTY
KIM PRATT

PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PTHA PRESIDENT
Robert "Bob" Hutt



Fall is here and racing has resumed full speed ahead at PARX! We started out with Owners Appreciation Day with huge purses and large fields. Next up is Pennsylvania Derby weekend. It all starts with Pennsylvania Day Friday, September 19th, where we showcase our best Pennsylvania bred horses racing for large purses, featuring several exciting stakes races. A great big shout out to our good friend Brian Sanfratello and the entire PHBA Board. Then later that night we host the Pennsylvania Derby gala cocktail party where we honor the owners and trainers of what is expected to be a star studded three-year old field racing in the one million dollar Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion. NBC Sports will cover all the action on Saturday, September 20th as large crowds are expected so please make your reservations for the dining room early so as not to get shut out.

In other news, Comcast has completed 80/85% of their work on the backstretch as at long last we'll be able to offer state-of-the-art WiFi. Very soon the PTHA will be releasing pricing details for this much anticipated, much needed WiFi service. Kudos to PTHA Board member John Julia who single-handily is responsible for negotiating with Comcast to get them to invest a half-million dollars for the project. And a great big thank you to COO Joe Wilson for "green lighting" it as well. If I had to guess WiFi service will be available by the middle of October. So when we announce pricing please head to the "signup" tent quickly to enroll. Starting September 1st you'll now be able to watch the post position draw as it's happening live in real time as my Board has been advocating for this since 2023.

I would also like to compliment Greenwood Management's COO Joe Wilson for working with me/PTHA for months on solutions to the PARX turf course. We're now in the homestretch as Joe and I work out the last few final details. If all goes as planned in my October newsletter I hope to announce that come next spring PARX will offer THE FINEST ACTIVE TURF COURSE in the MidAtlantic region.

I'm honored to announce that we've changed banks to Mid Penn Bank. Usually this would not be considered a "news worthy" BIG DEAL. However, it really is because under the previous administration, the PTHA was ONLY receiving TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS annually in interest for the past TWENTY years. By switching away from the past President's affiliated bank to Mid Penn bank I'm thrilled to inform you that our new negotiated deal results in our horsemen receiving TWO-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS per year in interest. To put things in perspective, previously over a five-year span, the PTHA earned ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. Under my administration, going forward you'll now earn TEN TIMES that amount, or ONE MILLION DOLLARS. This is a HUGE DEAL, a HOME RUN for our twenty-five hundred PTHA constituents STRONG that we proudly serve.

Lastly, I wish to remind everyone that you can now come by the PTHA office to fill out a WAIVER which will ALLOW YOU, our wonderful PARX horsemen to collect your "hard earned" purse earnings as EARLY as the following THURSDAY of the NEXT week. This feature is available for ALL PARX horsemen whether your horse wins or is "specialed". This will totally ELIMINATE having to wait for drug testing results. In order to AVOID UNWANTED DELAYS your waiver MUST be on file in the PTHA office. Stop by the office today to fill out your waiver as you aren't able to do it AFTER your purse is held up. Better safe than sorry!

In closing I promised you transparency and that's exactly what I've delivered. It's my honor each day to fight as hard as I can for all of you. Until next time wishing you many winners. Please know that my door is always open to listen to your concerns or suggestions. Hope you had a great Labor Day!

HORSEMEN

Update from
PTHA Executive Director

Horsemen,

As we turn the page into September, our focus sharpens on one of the premier events in all of racing, the 2025 Grade 1 \$1,000,000 BetParx Pennsylvania Derby Day, set for Saturday, September 20, 2025. This day showcases the very best of our industry: when world-class horses arrive on our grounds. The fields are beginning to take shape not only for the Derby, but the Grade 1 \$1,000,000 Cotillon and Grade 2 Gallant Bob, along with many others on the day. The PA Derby is not just a race; it's a celebration of our community, a showcase for Pennsylvania racing, and an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of our horsemen to a national audience.

We are also proud to report meaningful progress toward the potential of an improved Turf Course, a long-awaited option for horsemen that will enhance the racing experience at Parx Racing and provide greater opportunities. I have been working closely with Track Management, along with C6 Turf Management, to ensure this vision becomes reality, and I am encouraged by the steps being taken to move this forward. I, along with our board, hope to deliver actual dates and real expectations very soon.

Our partnership with Comcast continues to build momentum, which will give our horsemen access to Wi-Fi and Comcast Services in the barns and dorms. These efforts are critical for growing our game, providing new and improved daily life luxuries, and enhancing the overall experience here at Parx Racing's backstretch community.

This past month, our Owners & Trainers Appreciation Day was another shining example of what makes our racing community special. With twelve competitive races, over \$650,000 in purses, and hundreds of horsemen attending our luncheon, it was a pleasure to be a part of such a great day. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making it a memorable experience.

Looking ahead, I am especially energized by the formation of our Next Generation Committee, which I have established. This group of young horsemen and horsewomen is committed to carrying forward the torch of this industry. Their voices, ideas, and passion will ensure that Pennsylvania racing continues to thrive for decades to come. If you know of an individual who may be interested in being appointed, please do not hesitate to notify our office.

As always, the PTHA remains steadfast in our mission: to advocate for the best interests of horsemen, to preserve and expand racing opportunities, and to serve as a unifying force in our community. September promises to be a month of excitement, progress, and forward thinking.

Thank you for your continued support of the PTHA and all we do.

See you at the Derby,

Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.
PTHA Executive Director



PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeffrey A. Matty Jr.



**STAY INFORMED BY
VISITING OUR
WEBSITE:**

WWW.PATHA.ORG

**FOR THE LATEST
UPDATES.
YOU CAN ALSO
SIGN UP FOR TEXT
ALERTS AND OUR
NEWSLETTER.**

**CONÉCTATE
AL SITIO WEB
DE LA PTHA
QUE TAMBIÉN
ESTÁ
DISPONIBLE
PARA TI**

**EN
ESPAÑOL**

Trainers: the end of the year is fast approaching! Check your starts and percentages to maintain your health insurance eligibility. You must have a minimum of 25 starts with 75% based at Parx, as well as being stabled here for six months. A complete copy of the health and pension guidelines can be found on our website PATHA.ORG or stop by the office and see Jaclyn DeSanctis.



**PTHA'S
NON-QUALIFIED
PENSION PLAN**

Trainers, if you're turning 65 in 2025 and are fully vested in our non-qualified pension plan, there's something important you should know: According to IRS rules, once you hit 65, your pension income is considered "constructively received." That means it's treated as taxable income—even if you don't take any money out of the plan.

You'll get a 1099 for the full balance at the end of the year. If you'd prefer to leave the money in the plan but want to withdraw enough to cover the taxes, we can help you. Just reach out to the office and we'll walk you through the next steps.

2025 PTHA ELECTIONS

Attention Owners & Trainers

THE PTHA WILL HOLD THE
2025 NOMINATION MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2025
11:00 AM @ PARX RACING REC-HALL



COFFEE & DONUTS @ 10:30 AM



OWNERS AND TRAINERS

THIS IS A PTHA ELECTION YEAR, SO PLEASE
UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS WITH
THE PTHA OFFICE
AND WITH THE
PA RACING COMMISSION.

****If you have questions about the PTHA elections please stop by our office.****



PTHA's Owners and Trainers Appreciation Day



PTHA'S OWNERS AND TRAINERS APPRECIATION DAY WITH DOUBLE PURSES AND GIVEAWAYS

On August 18th, 2025, our Parx Racing community celebrated its most vital members—the PTHA's owners and trainers—in a truly special event dedicated to their passion and commitment. This event was far from a typical race day; it was a lively celebration of their tireless dedication, featuring double-purse races, an elegant luncheon, an exclusive PTHA merchandise giveaway, and a charitable raffle to benefit PTHA Charities, Inc. It was a day that went beyond the track, emphasizing appreciation and a shared vision for the future of our sport.

The PTHA celebration started with a special luncheon on the third floor, giving owners, trainers, and their families a relaxed setting to gather while the exciting racing activities took place. Adding more purpose to the day, a silent auction and raffle tickets were sold with all proceeds going to PTHA Charities, Inc., allowing attendees to give back to their community by supporting the charity's vital work in providing assistance and resources to those hard working people on the backside.

The highlight of the day was the inaugural \$75,000 PTHA President's Sprint. PTHA President Robert "Bob" Hutt and Executive Director Jeff Matty Jr. were present in the winner's circle to present the trophy to the winning connections for Retribution, owned by Belladonna Racing LLC, Twin Brook Stables, Woodford Racing LLC, B.C.W.T. Ltd., trained by Cherie DeVaux, and ridden by jockey Mychel Sanchez. The excitement didn't end there. The day's special feature offered a unique and thrilling incentive: double purses, a generous gesture that conveyed gratitude and recognized the significant investment owners and trainers make in their horses. Each horse that ran received exclusive PTHA merchandise, and the celebration continued in the winner's circle with some giveaways as well. The winning horse, its owner, and trainer each received a commemorative item and trophy—tangible keepsakes of this memorable day and the organization's celebration of appreciation.

PTHA's Owners and Trainers Appreciation Day was a huge success, showing that the foundation of our sport rests on mutual respect and a strong community. This event was a heartfelt tribute to our owners and trainers' dedication, establishing a new standard for honoring their passion and commitment to the industry.



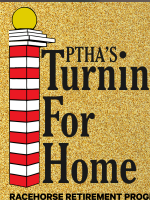
PTHA President Sprint
trophy presentation .
Photos by
EQUI-PHOTO



PARX RACING SPECIAL DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Sep
1



Turning For Home Day on Labor Day, to celebrate and thank our partner farms and all who support our program!

Sep
19



The best of Pennsylvania:
PA Day at the Races

Sep
20



2025 Pennsylvania Derby
and Cotillion:
The most exciting day in PA

Oct
21



A day to honor and celebrate the
2025 Parx Hall of Fame
inductees

Nov
1



Enjoy the action of the
Breeders' Cup races during this
special Saturday at Parx Racing

Nov
28



After a day of shopping, come
to Parx to relax and have a
good time enjoying live racing.

ON A GLORIOUS SARATOGA SPRINGS MORNING, SMARTY JONES IS INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME

by Dick Jerardi



It was, naturally, a perfectly glorious first morning of August, the sky above Saratoga Springs, New York a radiant blue, the line to get into the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavilion on East Ave. having begun to form at 7:30 a.m. two hours before the doors were scheduled to open, the 2025 Hall of Fame ceremony to celebrate horse racing's newest inductees so anticipated for the 100 days since the announcement of the year's honorees.

The star of the show, 24 now, was 300 miles away in Annville, Pennsylvania, but this morning, this ceremony, 21 years and two months since his final race, was always going to be about Smarty Jones, his talent, his will, his impact on the sport. Nine races over seven months at six tracks over nine distances, eight wins, seven stakes, the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, the agonizing second in the Belmont, the lifetime fans made, the home race track's future ensured, the total impact immeasurable, that was Smarty Jones.

On the 75th anniversary of the Hall of Fame, which is located just a few furlongs from the Pavilion, 28 Hall of Fame jockeys and trainers were in the lower seats nearer the stage. The Smarty Jones fans filled the balcony. And, in the front rows, awaiting their time as the last of the day to be honored, were owner/breeder Pat Chapman, trainer John Servis, jockey Stewart Elliott and their families, getting to celebrate a forever moment that served as the perfect ending they were denied on the track by circumstance. Pat, John and Stewart were allotted 10 minutes. They only needed nine, one for each of Smarty's races.

"It's unbelievable to be standing here today as the breeder and owner of Smarty Jones," Pat told the audience and those watching via stream.

"To be here," she said, "is an honor beyond anything I could have ever, ever have imagined. It's amazing. I'm so sorry Chappy (her husband Roy Chapman who died in 2006) is not here to enjoy this with us. He would be loving and cherishing every minute of it. But he's here in my heart. He's always here in my heart."

Pat spoke from the heart about how she and her husband were brought together because of their common battles with addictions and how recovery is possible. She is proof positive of exactly that.

Servis said he spent some serious time on his speech. It showed.

"As his trainer, I had the privilege of witnessing first hand the heart, determination and sheer brilliance of this remarkable horse," Servis said. "Smarty Jones wasn't just a champion, he was a horse who captured the imagination of racing fans everywhere...His grit in the stretch, his unrelenting will to win and his undeniable charisma make him unforgettable, but beyond his talent, Smarty Jones had something even more special, he had a connection with people. He wasn't just a race horse, he was a hero."

If you were there in 2004, you know it's true. And it remains true today.

"His legacy isn't just in trophies and records, it's in the hearts he touched and the dreams he inspired. Smarty, you were once in a lifetime, welcome to the Hall of Fame," Servis concluded.

Elliott has always been a man of few words, but his few words hit exactly the right note.

"I am so grateful and happy that finally Smarty Jones was elected into the Hall of Fame," Elliott said. "He was definitely the best horse that year and he deserves never to be forgotten. Many people know Smarty, but I am fortunate and lucky enough to say that I was the only one on his back and felt how determined he was, how much heart he had and how much he loved to run."

After the ceremony, just about everybody from what felt like Parx North lingered outside the Pavilion, first post nearing at the track across Union Ave., the annual yearling sale three days away in the Pavilion, not really wanting the moment to end, somehow wanting to relive those 209 days from first race to last race and all the years since.

"It's been surreal," PTHA executive director Jeff Matty said. "I was 13-years-old (in 2004). I remember watching every single Triple Crown race with my family. Now, I get to make a career out of this industry because of Smarty so just a full-circle event." It was more than two decades in the making, but that the day happened will be a lasting memory.

"It was pretty emotional," said PTHA president Bob Hutt who really spearheaded the effort a year ago to get Smarty into the Hall. "I had a wet eye...It was so overdue and this was just so tremendous" Rodney Eckenrode's Equistar Farm has been Smarty's home for nearly seven years now. It is something Eckenrode never takes for granted.

"Smarty's 24 and I don't even want to think about a day that he won't be here," Eckenrode said. "He's the first one to talk to me in the morning and the last one to say good night."

Elliott's split-second decision on the first turn of the Derby to get Smarty out of traffic and into the race set up all the magic.

"He wasn't a big horse, but he had a big heart and he stayed in there for me," Elliott remembered. "That part of the race was everything. It was win or lose right there."

Pat Chapman, who was one of the last people to leave the Pavilion, always had doubts about whether this day would ever come.

"I'm so glad I lived to see this day," she said. "This is a little bit of vindication for Smarty because he did not quite win the Triple Crown. But the Hall of Fame, that's the crown."

As his jockey said, that horse really did love to run. Smarty still loves to run around his paddock at Equistar where he is still breeding and will live out the rest of his life.

And now, immortalized in the Hall of Fame for all time with the sport's other legends like Secretariat and Man o' War, there is no chance Smarty Jones will ever be forgotten.



John C. Servis, Patricia Chapman, and Stewart Elliott at the Smarty Jones' Hall of Fame ceremony.
Photo: Kim Pratt

www.LetsGoRacingParx.com

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Every Saturday at 10 a.m. on:



www.LetsGoRacingParx.com
Facebook & YouTube channels



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Check out Parx Racing race day entries on
www.LetsGoRacingParx.com

or scan here:

Let's Go Racing
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AROUND THE OVAL by Dani Gibson

Top turf veterans are commanding for the Butch Reid barn at Penn National

8/15

Trainer Butch Reid was dominant in this year's **\$75,000 Marshall Jenny Stakes** at Penn National, sprinting 5 furlongs on the turf with Fore Harp, overcoming a tumultuous start to strike back and win with determination, with jockey Frankie Pennington riding for owners LC Racing, James Bonner & Wellesley Stable.

10-year-old Veteran Smooth B showed staying power to finish third—another solid performance under Butch Reid's training with jockey Eliseo Ruiz riding for owner LC Racing LLC.

Stakes-Packed Showdown at Parx

8/18 & 8/19

Parx held 5 stakes races over 2 great days of live racing, highlighted by the \$200,000 Smarty Jones Stakes & \$200,000 Cathryn Sophia Stakes

Hall of Famers trainer Todd Pletcher & jockey John Velazquez teamed up with Tip Top Thomas to win the **\$200,000 Smarty Jones Stakes** for 3-year-olds, finishing a neck over second-place finisher Fact. Tip Top Thomas is owned by Jim Bakke & Gerry Isbister, going 1 mile & 1/16th.

3 yr old filly Dry Powder got her 1st stakes win in the **\$200,000 Cathryn Sophia Stakes** by 4 ¼ lengths with jockey Luiz Saez for trainer Chad Summers & owner Gold Square going 1 mile and 70 yards.

Impressive local horse Buccherino notched his 7th win in the **\$75,000 State Representative's Sprint - K.C. Tomlinson** for trainer Alfredo "Freddy" Velazquez & owner Happy Tenth Stable with jockey Paco Lopez riding the 4-year-old colt going the 6 ½ furlongs.

\$75,000 Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo Mayor's Mile Stakes - Offaly Cool & regular jockey delivered a stirring win despite a rocky start after aggressively hopping in the air and bobbling at the break, jockey Abner Adorno recovery expertly and guided Offaly Cool to victory for trainer Jacinto Solis and owner Lawrence Rebbecchi, Jr.

3 yr old colt Retribution & jockey Mychel Sanchez won our **\$75,000 PTHA President's Sprint Stakes** going 6 ½ furlongs for trainer Cherie DeVaux with jockey Mychel Sanchez riding for owners Belladonna Racing LLC, Twin Brook Stables, Woodford Racing LLC, B.C.W.T. Ltd., Savvy Stables, GRC Racing LLC and Taylor Creek.



Pennsylvania Derby Golf Outing



**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNTRY CLUB

- ✓ Individual Golfer \$135.00
- ✓ Foursome \$540.00

SPONSORSHIPS

Grade 1	\$3,000.00
Grade 2	\$2,000.00
Grade 3	\$1,000.00

AGENDA

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Registration / Coffee / Lunch
10:45 AM	Shotgun Start
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Open Bar
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Banquet Dinner

Register Now
215-638-2012
Jmatty@patha.org Vmangini@patha.org



Pennsylvania Derby Golf Outing



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Grade 1	2 Foursomes, 4 Additional Dinner Tickets, Venue Signage, Full-Page Ad in the PTHA Newsletter, and 8 VIP Cigars	\$3,000
Grade 2	2 Foursomes, 4 Additional Dinner Tickets, Half Page ad in PTHA Newsletter and Venue Signage	\$2,000
Grade 3	1 Foursome, Logo / Silks on Hole Sign	\$1,000

Business, Stable or Individual to be listed:

Email:

Phone Number:

Address:

Packages:

☐ Grade 1

☐ Grade 2

☐ Grade 3

☐ 1 Foursome

☐ Hole Sign Only - \$500

☐ Individual Golfer - \$135.00

☐ Dinner Ticket - \$50

Team Name

Player 1:

Player 2:

Player 3:

Player 4:



Checks Payable to PTHA, Charities Inc.

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNTRY CLUB

✓ Individual Golfer \$135.00

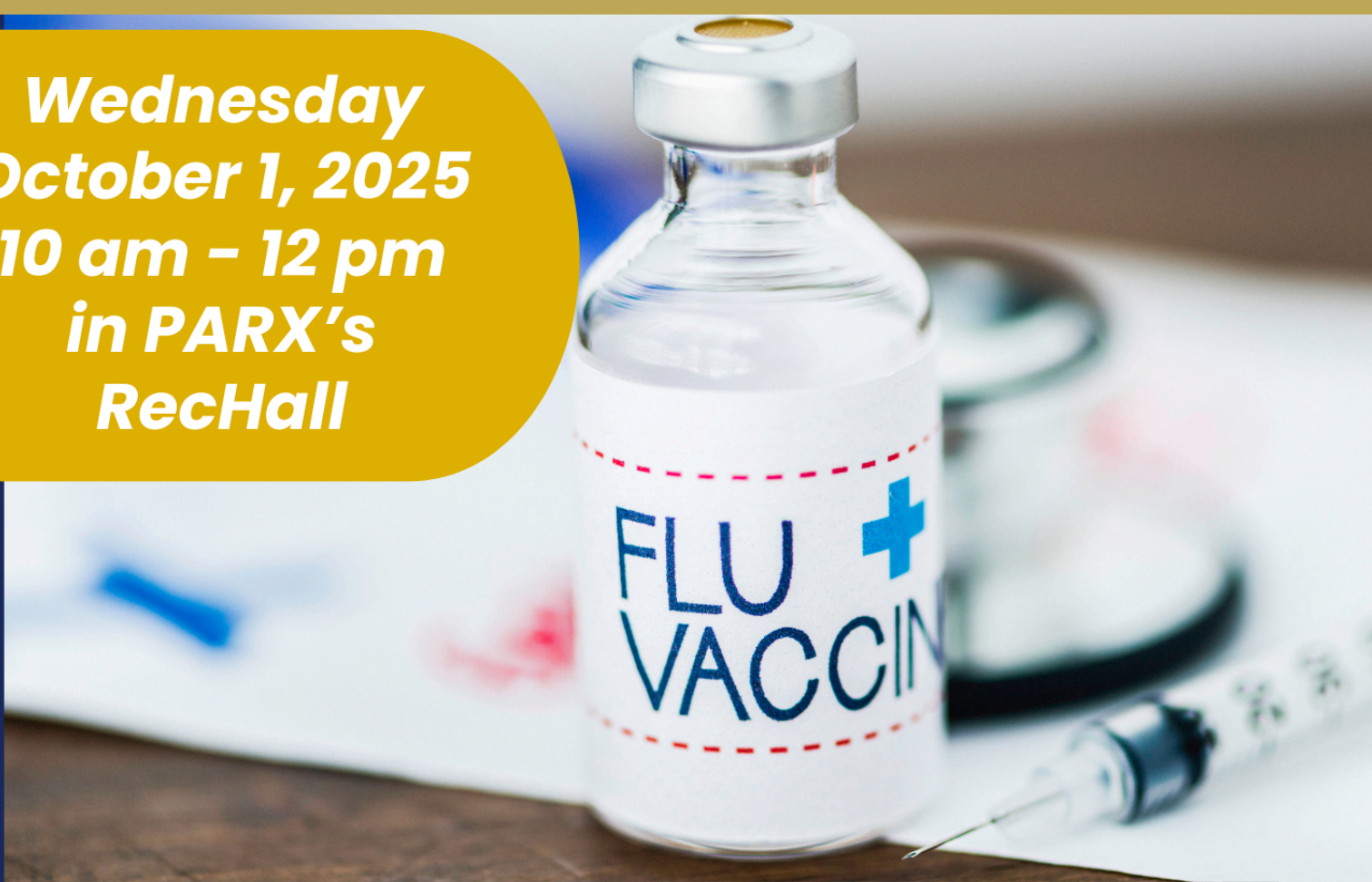
✓ Foursome \$540.00

**Register Now
215-638-2012**

Jmatty@patha.org / Vmangini@patha.org

PTHA Charities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

**Wednesday
October 1, 2025
10 am – 12 pm
in PARX's
RecHall**



FREE FLU SHOTS

***FREE flu vaccination sponsored by the
PTHA. Available for all licensed
backside employees and trainers.***



**Register at the PTHA
office with Jackie
DeSanctis by
September 24th.**

PENNSYLVANIA's
DAY at the RACES



PENNSYLVANIA
DERBY

Enter to win a JOHN DEERE ZERO TURN MOWER MODEL Z315E

Winner will be chosen
SEPTEMBER, 20TH 2025
at Parx Pennsylvania Derby Day.

Come out and join us for a great weekend of racing,
which includes 10 stakes races featuring the G1 \$1 million
Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion.

\$10/entry



Generously donated
by the NTRA!
Permit #254

Winner does not need to be present to win.
Proceeds benefit the PHBA & Turning For Home



\$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES
\$100,000 PRINCE LUCKY STAKES
\$100,000 IMPLY STAKES

3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards
3YO PA-Sired, PA-Bred, 7 furlongs
3YO fillies, PA-Sired, PA-Bred, 7 furlongs



Wednesday, Oct. 22

\$75,000 JUMP START STAKES
\$75,000 DISCO CHICK STAKES

3 & up, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs
3 & up, f&m, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs



Wednesday, Nov. 26

\$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES
\$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES

2YO, 7 furlongs
2YO fillies, 6 furlongs



Tuesday, Dec. 30

2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS:

\$75,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES
\$75,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES *Non-Black-Type

2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs
2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association
701 East Baltimore Pike
Suite E, Kennett Square
PA 19348 • 610.444.1050
www.pabred.com



#PABred on social media



From the desk of.....

Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



Labor Day is Turning For Home Day at Parx Racing!

We're so excited to invite everyone to the **11th Annual Turning For Home Day on Labor Day, Monday, September 1st** right here at Parx Racing! It's our favorite day of the year to celebrate everything this program stands for — **safe retirements, second careers, and the horses who make it all possible.**

This year's celebration is sponsored by **Parx Racing and Someday Farm**, whose support helps us showcase the heart of this program and the horses we all love.

We'll be featuring **five of our Turning For Home alumni** who have gone on to do incredible things after leaving the track:

- **Spirit's Hero** — retired by Dee Curry and now partnered with **5-star eventer Ryan Wood**, leading the Turning For Home Classic post parade.
- **Kingsville** — preparing for the **Retired Racehorse Project Makeover** with Jason Hillman, leading the post parade alongside Spirit's Hero.
- **Dancin Debbie** — a 12-time winner turned **eventing competitor** with rider Sophie Reed.
- **Mouse** — retired with a tendon and now a **fox hunting favorite** with April Winco.
- **Marisa's Mission** — our **Horse of the Year**, starring on this year's TFH Day T-shirts and thriving in his second career as a fox hunter.

Trainer **Dee Curry** couldn't be prouder to see Spirit's Hero back at Parx leading the post parade under Ryan Wood:

"He was always a big, handsome horse who needed a job that matched his presence," Dee said. "I knew he would excel at something like this. It makes me so proud to see him out there, doing exactly what he was meant to do."

Labor Day will be filled with **special races** honoring our owners, trainers, union workers, breeders, and the entire aftercare team who make this program possible. Plus, there's so much to see and do:

- **Raffles** for Turning For Home Day prizes and the **PA-Bred John Deere Raffle**
- **Smarty Jones Jerseys** for sale
- **County Saddlery** on-site with tack and supplies
- Meet the voices behind **OTTB on Tap** — the leading OTTB podcast
- **Family fun** and horseshoe and T Shirt decorating
- **Partner Farms** on hand to answer questions and make connections with adopters and fans.



Since 2008, we've provided safe retirement, rehab, and rehoming for **over 4,600 Parx racehorses**, and we've **never turned away a single eligible horse**. Turning For Home Day is our chance to celebrate that success with the people who make it possible — **our owners, trainers, and supporters like you.**

Join us in the **Picnic Area and Cotillion Room on Monday, September 1st**. Luncheon tickets are **\$30 per person** — come early to grab a **free TFH Day T-shirt** featuring Marisa's Mission, cheer on our alumni horses, and help us show the world what second chances look like.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Turning For Home

HORSE UPDATES

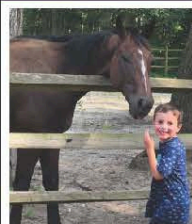


Flight Risk (FL)

Bay Gelding foaled February 19, 2014
 (Unbridled's Song - And Away We Go, by Awesome Again)
 Trainer: Regina Brennan
 Owner: Krakow Racing, LLC and America's Pastime Stables
 Breeder: Sally J. Andersen

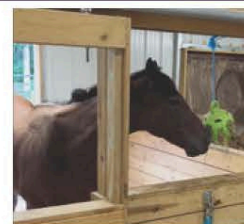


Flight Risk retired in 2022 after 46 starts from trainer Regina Brennan's barn. As a true warhorse on the track, he has since transformed into a gentle giant off it. Now happily adopted in Wisconsin, he has quickly become a barn favorite. He is kind, steady, and adored by all the kids, who often feature him in their Snapchat stories. Despite his racing name, there's nothing flighty about him; instead, he's calm, loving, and endlessly patient. His adopter says it's hard to believe he ever ran fast at all.



Omerta Code (PA)

Bay Gelding foaled February 4, 2019
 (Honor Code - Twirlin Curlin, by Curlin)
 Trainer: Josue Arce
 Owner: Trending Stable
 Breeder: Foxcroft Farm LLC



Omerta Code retired this May after earning just over \$100,000 on the track. He was adopted by Little Hooves Farm in New Jersey, where he's now part of their open-barn petting zoo filled with rescued animals. A farm naming contest gave him his new name—Sir Maverick—announced in a special ceremony. Today, Sir Maverick is happily settled into his new role, greeting visitors and soaking up attention from guests of all ages.



King Swansboro (PA)

Chestnut Gelding foaled April 28, 2019
 (Lord Shanakill - Sandtique, by Sandpit (BRZ))
 Trainer: Bobbi Anne Hawthorne
 Owner: Jane E. White
 Breeder: Jane White



King Swansboro—adopted by Aubrey Graham eventing as a project horse and affectionately nicknamed “Pint” for his small stature—walked into the barn and instantly became a favorite. Though he's missing his right eye, Pint more than makes up for it with presence, confidence, and personality. Now starting his new career, Pint is eager to please under saddle and shows no hesitation. Around the barn, he's endlessly curious—whether it's watching the dogs play, riders schooling in the ring, or even the simple task of filling water buckets, Pint is always engaged and learning.



Myheartwillgoon (KY)

Dark Bay Gelding foaled April 24, 2021
 (Cinco Charlie - Bella Cardona, by Bertrando)
 Trainer: Miguel A. Rodriguez
 Owner: Miguel A. Rodriguez
 Breeder: Le Jardin



Goonie retired after 13 starts from Miguel Rodriguez's barn and headed to partner farm Maui Meadow to begin his second career. With some retraining and a little education over small jumps, he quickly showed his potential. Now adopted by Audrey, Goonie is thriving—fun, brave, and polite, he's proving to be a great partner.

PTHA TROPHY RACE

AUGUST 2025

AUGUST 19



**Miss Anna
Bella**

Owner
Carguys
Racing LLC

Trainer
John C. Servis

Jockey
Abner
Adorno

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

AUGUST 26



Owner
Philip Rubin
Stable, LLC

Trainer
Michael V.
Pino

Jockey
Francisco
Martinez

**Union
Purrfection**

Photo Credit: Dani Gibson

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Heartbeat of the Backstretch

By : Nikki Guzman

Carlos Diaz was born in Guatemala and raised in Mexico City, where his parents hoped to provide him with more opportunities. As a teenager, he made the bold decision to come to the United States in search of his own version of the American dream. Like many immigrants, his first jobs were humble ones: washing dishes, picking crops, and doing whatever work came his way. He had grown up a city boy—horses were completely foreign to him.

That changed when his brother-in-law, Gabriel Garcia, introduced him to the racing world. Gabriel took him to Fair Hill to try galloping a horse, but things didn't go as planned. The first horse ran off with Carlos on its back, and it was clear he'd need to start from the ground up. Instead, he landed a job at Philadelphia Park walking horses. "It was around 2002 or 2003, and they used to pay you \$5 a head," Carlos recalls with a smile. "I thought it was great compared to what we were making at the other jobs, so I grabbed as many horses as I could."

It turned out that Carlos had a natural way with horses. Soon, trainer Allen Iwinski offered to teach him to groom. At first, Carlos admits, he was slow—meticulous to a fault. "It would take me until 1 in the afternoon just to groom three horses because I wanted to be perfect," he laughed. But with time and patience, he grew into the role, and for 18 years, grooming became his trade. Later, he learned how to gallop horses and worked alongside trainer Bobbi Anne Hawthorne. Still, Carlos says his favorite role was hotwalking: "You get to chill with the horses. It's less money but not as many responsibilities. You get to be more personal with the horses."



Today, Carlos has returned to grooming, now for trainer John Kirby, while also pursuing a new dream. For the past year and a half, he has been attending farm school to learn the art of horseshoeing—training to become a blacksmith.

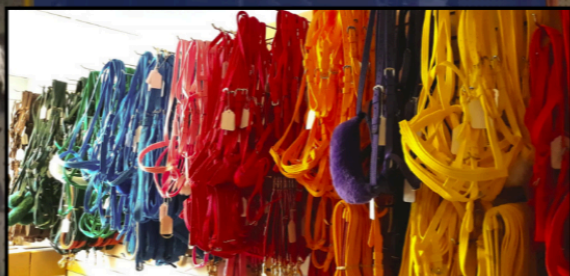
But above all, Carlos's greatest source of pride isn't in the barn—it's his daughter, Olivia. A devoted single father, Carlos treasures the steady, year-round work at PARX, which has allowed him to raise her and provide stability. Olivia, inspired by her father's dedication, has recently begun taking riding lessons herself, continuing the family's bond with horses.

From a young man who had never seen a horse to a seasoned horseman with nearly two decades of experience, Carlos Diaz's journey is a testament to resilience, hard work, and the quiet love of a father determined to give his daughter the best life he can. At the racetrack, Carlos may be known for his gentle hands and steady presence—but at home, he is simply Dad, Olivia's biggest supporter.

If you would like to nominate someone for our feature, please stop by the PTHA office or email nguzman@patha.org.



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From the Race Track Chaplaincy of America at Parx

DONATIONS FRUITS, VEGGIES & FROZEN FOOD

Assorted produce, fruits, and frozen meals donated by the "Caring for Friends" food bank are available to the entire Parx community every second and fourth Monday of the month at the Rec Hall.



Caring
for Friends



**ROLLING HARVEST
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Connecting local farmers with neighbors in need

Rolling Harvest of Bucks County food donations are available every Tuesday during late spring, summer, and early fall and from Bensalem AME Church every Wednesday.

Grace Church Food Distribution and Bucks County Opportunity Council also donate a few times a month throughout the year and weekly during the summer .



"The Chaplain's Back-to-School Backpack and School Supply Distribution helped over 100 Racetrack families!

Students in grades K-College received backpacks filled with supplies according to their needs for the 2025-2026 school year."



OUR CONDOLENCES...

On August 3, 2025, the racing world lost a beloved figure as jockey Barrington Harvey passed away peacefully at his home in Jamaica. He was 62 years old and still actively competing at Los Alamitos, a testament to his enduring passion and dedication to the sport he loved.

Barrington's career as a jockey spanned several decades and coasts. He began his journey on the East Coast, racing in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, where he quickly gained respect for his skill, work ethic, and sportsmanship. In 1990, he moved his tack to the West Coast, where he continued to thrive and make his mark in the competitive world of horse racing.

His presence at the track lifted the spirits of those around him, and his love for the sport never waned. Barrington Harvey will be remembered not only for his accomplishments in the saddle but also for the kindness, joy, and humility he shared with everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.



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