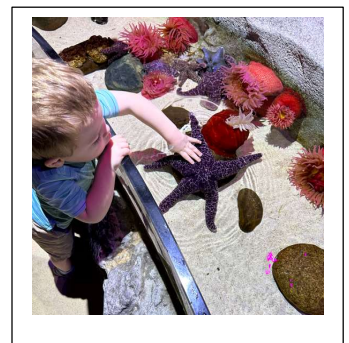
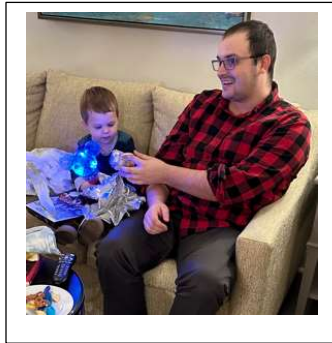


2023

Last year we sent this newsletter out right before our Christmas trip to Orlando. Well, here is how the trip went. Vicki and I along with Megan, Tyler and our grandson Lucas were at the gate around 6:00AM on Saturday, December 24th. Our flight was scheduled to depart at 7:00 AM, it said on-time, but we boarded a little late. Once on, we just sat there for quite a while. The pilot announced they had a problem opening the cargo doors; they were frozen shut. Then luggage was loaded, and now they could not get them to "close" properly. Another announcement that they were bringing over heaters to see if they could get them unfrozen. They tried de-icing fluid. NO luck, still getting another heater. We could see the equipment, big vehicle, and large hoses, but no luck. The crew was really trying to get it working! We were still on plane until about 2:00PM. Still no luck. Then we heard the announcement - FLIGHT CANCELED. After getting off, I asked about our luggage and was told they would have it at baggage claim shortly. We tried to book another flight, with other airlines, checked other airports. Found a flight from Cleveland leaving on the 25th in afternoon. Went to a gate to book it but it was gone by the time we got there. Now what? Tyler suggested we drive to Orlando, 14 hours on Google Maps. After much discussion about driving, what car to take, etc. We decided to re-book our return flights and rent a car one-way. After 4 rental car companies, there were no cars left. Luckily, someone canceled their reservation and we booked an 8-seat mini-van. Great, and we are off at 4:30PM. Roads were not bad, except route 19 in WVA, not an interstate and not salted. Stopped for the night in Statesville, NC around midnight. Vicki got us rooms over the phone. Left on Christmas Day before 9:00. Roads were very good compared to the day before, but temperature was still below zero. After an additional 10 hour car ride, we arrived at the timeshare resort just before 6:00. Kelly and Austin met us there, just a short drive from their apartment. They helped us unload and supplied us with bottles of wine. We ordered Chinese food and enjoyed family Christmas dinner together.

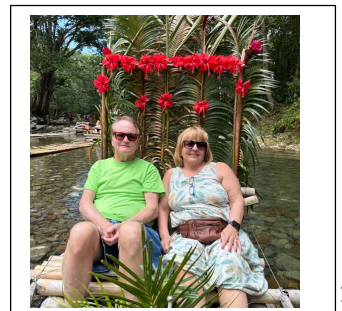
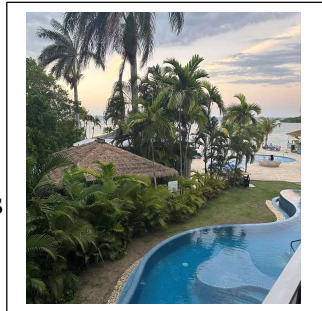
Lucas was happy to see Austin and Kelly. We visited a park, an aquarium and the zoo. Lucas got to feed the giraffes.



On Saturday, December 31st we were at the gate around 10:30 for a 1:50PM flight. Boarding was delayed several times. One passenger went up and asked point blank, will this plane take off? They answered yes, inspectors were late but was being done now. We finally boarded and left around 3:30PM. We landed in Pittsburgh around 5:15, only a little more than one hour after our schedule time. All made it home!

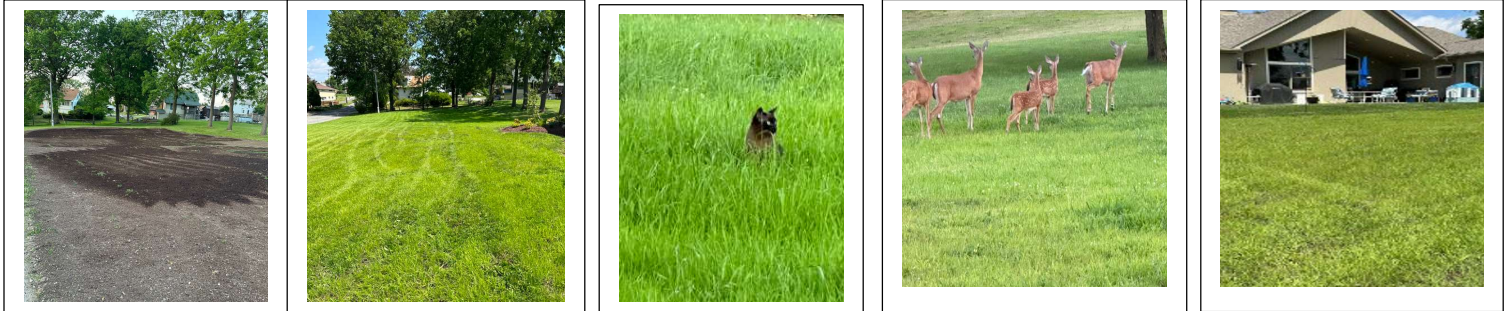
St. Patrick's Day weekend, Andy had a meeting in Virginia Beach, we visited Vickie Lojek on Thursday and Friday, and then went to the beach on Saturday.

At the end of March, we visited Kelly and Austin in Orlando. We then went on to Jamaica for four days right on the beach and took a raft ride on a river.



Since we were out of town for St. Patrick's Day, we decided to have a Cinco de Mayo party. On Mother's Day our in-laws Amy and Denise, invited us along with the kids to spend the day on a boat ride. We enjoyed a lovely day with beautiful weather.

Since we have very little grass, we had to have the yard redone. Herrman's Landscaping did a great job, and we now finally have a yard. Piper and the deer like the new grass!

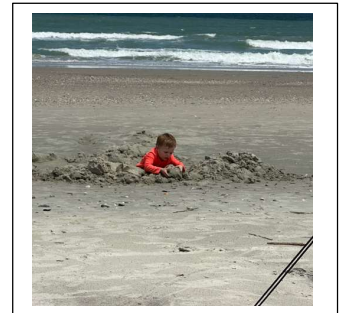


In June we went for our Pawley's Island beach vacation. Megan, Tyler and Lucas as well as Kelly and Austin joined us. Lucas loves the beach. Kelly came back to PA with us.

We all attended the family reunion the next day. We were pooped out!

Kelly and Austin are planning on getting married next year back here in PA. We helped her look for a venue to have it. We visited it and have booked it for August 10th, 2024.

Kelly stayed with us until the next weekend for Miranda's sprinkle in Virginia.



We went on a short cruise to Bermuda, with Andy's cousins, Patty and Bill Speshock, and John and Beth Balazik.

We had planned on two others couples as well, Bill and Henrietta Rerko and Stush and Chris Rerko, more of Andy's first cousins. We had some sad news. Henrietta unexpectedly passed away a few weeks before the trip.

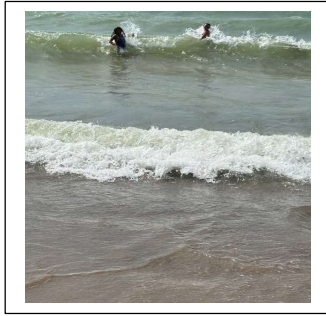
Kelly flew in for a couple of days to attend the Funeral.

Henrietta had a deep impact on all of us!

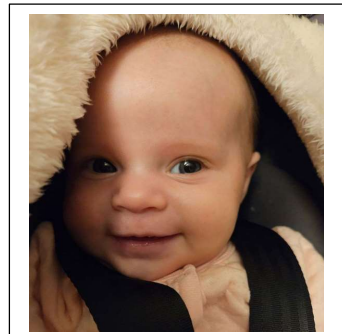


At the end of August, we had a sprinkle for Megan. Kelly again made the trip up, as well as Vickie Lojek and Ann drove up as well from Virginia.

In September we had neighborhood picnic. We also went to Erie at the end of summer. We forget about how close we have a beach. It was very busy on Labor Day!



On October 14, Isla Grace was born. First picture by the hospital. Lucas meets his sister. Lucas came to stay with us for the night. Andy updated the stork. Megan captured Isla's vary cute smile!

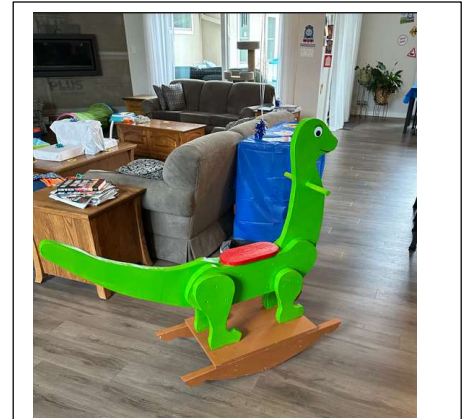
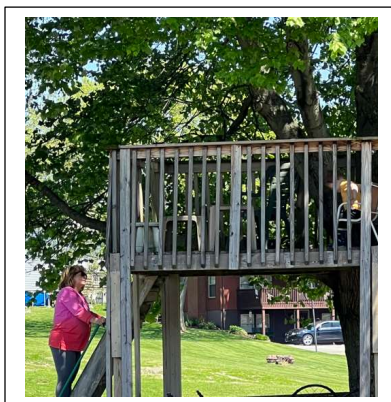
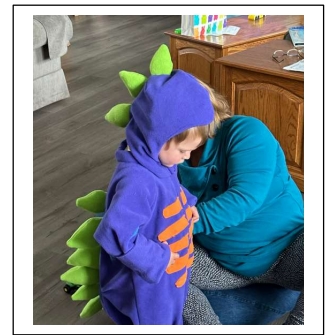


At the end of October Vicki made a trip to Orlando to visit Kelly and do some wedding planning. We also had our annual Halloween Party We hosted Thanksgiving with the kids and our in-laws.

Vicki did a fitting for the costume she made for Halloween.

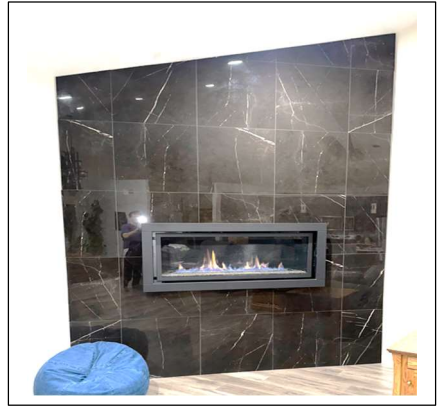
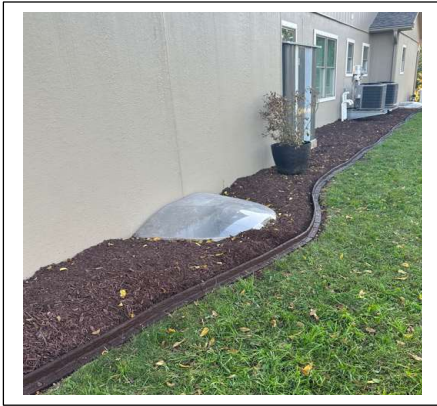
There are no fences in our community. Lucas can run free, and we have to run to keep up with him. Here he is in the neighbor's tree house.

We are hosting Lucas' 3rd birthday party. The theme is Dinosaurs, of course.



We also did a few things around the house. Vicki and Andy decided to do some mulching around the house. Andy did an oval around some trees. It makes grass cutting a lot easier.

We have been in the house for 3 years. The fireplace was in and we used it in the winter. It had the cement backer board on the wall around it. If you look at the dinosaur picture above you can see it in the upper left corner. After looking into different ways to complete, we decide on large ceramic tiles. It really looks great!



We have had a Christmas Cactus for many years. It has been amazing that it always bloomed around Christmas. Two years before last it did not bloom at all. Last year it bloomed a week before Thanksgiving. It is the third year in the new house and it is back on schedule. There are several new blooms getting ready to open for Christmas this year! It lives on the window sill facing the back of our house, getting the morning sun.



We wish everyone a safe and healthy new year and hope we can keep on the path back to normal

Merry Christmas!

If you are in the area, give us a call if you would like to stop by for a visit. We would love to hear from you!

Vicki 412-874-3623
Andy 412-874-0672

Our new address: **107 Rabbit Run Ln
Monroeville, PA 15146**

Please visit our website www.rerko.com A copy of this newsletter is posted there as well as several of previous years letters.