

Experience A Culinary Stroll Through Mercer County's Wonderful Downtowns (2014-07-02)

For many, food has become as central to their travel plans as scenery and attractions. Sampling authentic cuisines, making a personal connection with the city or taking cooking classes with celebrated chefs is the new travel agenda. Well you don't have to travel outside of Mercer County to experience cuisine that will entice the taste buds. Take a walking tour of our downtowns in Mercer County and taste the transformation that is occurring. VisitMercerCountyPA has developed attractive walking maps of downtowns in Mercer County that are perfect to get your culinary (aka foodie) tour started.

Sharon

If you haven't been to downtown Sharon lately you are missing out because a new Downtown Sharon is emerging. Beautiful Downtown Sharon is a perfect for that easy summer stroll along the Shenango River sampling diverse local fare and stopping at boutique storefronts and world largest retailers. The newest member to the downtown Sharon Culinary Experience is Thyme In The Kitchen. This culinary boutique offers quality dinnerware, bakeware, kitchen accessories and artisan-made gift ideas. Cooking classes are offered for all cooks, from novice to expert. Local chefs lead class participants through the process of preparing a meal to be enjoyed at the end of the class. There is something to delight everyone's palate and meet everyone's cooking skills, from Beginner Basics to French pastries, Turkish delicacies to Indonesian specialties. They also offer a summer cooking camp for teens. Class schedules are available at www.thymeinyourkitchen.com. So get a group of friends together and sign up to prepare your own special meal at Thyme In The Kitchen. This is great way to learn a special recipe, make new friends and enjoy a great meal.

Opening in the near future is Brewtus Brewery. Brewtus Brewers will be the first on premise microbrewery and restaurant in the Shenango Valley. They will offer quality hand crafted beers, fresh deli sandwiches, artisan pizzas and homemade sodas.

Favorites in Downtown Sharon you'll want to sample include:

Marigold Restaurant, The Other Side - Great Burgers, Wings, Pizza and more.

Sharon Hotdog Shop - best Gyro's in the valley, homemade soups and daily specials.

Niko & Lou's Coney Island - famous chili dogs and homemade soups

Donna's Diner - good old-fashioned 50's diner food. Open 7 am to 7 pm, 7 days a week. Fab Friday Nights features live music from 5 p.m – 7 p.m.

Pizza Joe's - traditional & specialty pizza, wings, stomboli, subs, wedges & salads.

Quaker Steak & Lube The original. A motor sports-themed atmosphere. Over 21 signature wing sauces.
Clarendale Cake - gourmet cupcakes, wedding, sculptured and all occasion cakes.

Daffin's Candies - wonderful selection of homemade chocolates, candies, cards, and gifts.

Geno's Our Gang's Lounge - Over 300 wing flavor combinations- Home of the original Pepper-Ranch wings.

Mercer

The borough of Mercer sits on the highest point in the County. The courthouse square is the center of activities with the majestic Mercer County courthouse towering as a beacon. Beautiful Victorian style homes line the streets of this picturesque village. The courthouse square and adjacent streets offer a scenic walking tour, showcasing unique antiques and specialty shops. Mercer Borough turns 200 years old this summer and special celebrations are in the works. This lovely Victorian village with its courthouse square has much to offer the foodie lover.

J Hicks on the Square – Fine Food and Great Brews

Debi's Diamond Street Bakery & Café – Bakery Items – Donuts, Cinnamon Rolls, Buckeyes, Daily Luncheon Specials

Mercer Mercantile & Soda Shoppe – Old Fashioned Sodas, Malts & Ice Cream

The Pizza Shack – Pizza, Wedgies, Lunch & Dinner Specials

Corner Kitchen – Full Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Pizza Joes – Pizza, Sandwiches, Subs

Subway – Subs and salads

Golden Dragon Chinese Restaurant – Chinese cuisine

Greenville

Greenville is located in northern Mercer County and is poised to become the outdoor recreation “capital” of the county. The community is located along the Shenango River which provides an abundance of watercraft and family activities. The downtown has undergone a complete makeover in the last few years and flourishes with coffee house, bakeries, and popular eateries. Downtown Greenville promises many opportunities to entice your taste buds and teach you what makes local products so special.

Strait Settlement – Unmatched Asian Cuisine

Majestic Bar & Grille – known for great hotdogs and scrumptious chili

Padrone's Pizza & Pub – Voted “Best” by Record Argus Readers. Voted Best Pizza by Thiel College

Carini Restaurant & Lounge – Great Italian Food Fresh Grounds Coffee House and Café – An amazing variety of coffees, chocolates and teas, in addition to smoothies and other cold drinks. Homemade baked goods.

Grove City

Grove City is known for exceptional shopping, but there is more to Grove City than just the outlets. Olde world charm abounds in Grove City. Olde Town Grove City showcases a charming, old-fashioned downtown center with unique shops, delicious dining and even a nostalgic movie theatre. Some of the first things you notice as you begin your walking tour are the wonderful murals on the buildings and the unique sculptures gracing the parking lot



entrances. The foodie lover will find culturally diverse cuisine on this walking tour.

Main Street Diner – authentic Greek food offered once a month during their Greek Nights, a two night offering.

Limited Greek food available normal operating days along with the rest of the menu.

Nonni’s Corner Trattoria - authentic Italian cuisine in an elegant atmosphere. Nonni serves outstanding Sicilian specialties, heavenly desserts and delicious cappuccinos

Jordan’s Restaurant and Pizzeria – authentic Philippino dishes

Broad Street Grille – just opened in Grove City, previously the Blue Ribbon Tavern. Underwent complete renovations. Family friendly. “Made from scratch” desserts.

BoBo Rice Bowl – authentic Chinese and Japanese restaurant, including sushi

Summer weather has finally arrived. It’s a great time to get out and explore the diverse downtown offerings in Mercer County. Plan your tour to coincide with summer concerts and special events taking place in each downtown. For a copy of the Downtown Walking Maps and a Spring/Summer Calendar of Events, contact VisitMercerCountyPA at 724-346-3771.

For more information about events in Mercer County, log onto www.VisitMercerCountyPa.com or call 1-800-637-2370.