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**BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK OF THE WIELKOPOLSKA REGION** 











"European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas".

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**Krzysztof Grabowski**Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

#### Dear Sir or Madam,

The local government of the Wielkopolska Region has settled the third call for proposals for co-financing such actions as "Construction or modernization of local roads" under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. For this purpose, we provide beneficiaries with more than PLN 120 million. They are much-needed and expected investments that affect the quality of life of the inhabitants of Wielkopolska villages. We asked representatives of local governments who successfully applied for the RDP EU funds to comment on it.

The program, implemented since 2015, has been a series of excellent grassroots initiatives that deserve to be shown and recorded on the pages of the "Our European Countryside" bulletin. I am encouraging you to familiarize yourself with examples of good practices in the implementation of the Program in our region.

Recently, I have also had the pleasure of signing agreements with local action groups for the implementation of cooperation projects, you can find out more when reading the issue of the newsletter.

At the end of June 2023, at the Klonowy Stadium in Mochy, we settled the regional stage of the competition "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of Regions". Selected products and dishes were nominated for the "Pearl", a special distinction awarded during the Tastes of Regions fair held on the premises of the Poznan MTP. We are now revealing the recipe for dishes nominated for this award in 2023

You are cordially encouraged to read.

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# Significant funds for local roads

At the end of April 2023, the Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region adopted a resolution on updating the list informing about the sequence of granting aid for such actions as "Construction or modernization of local roads". Funds to support the investment in the amount of over PLN 120 million come from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. In June 2023, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and the director of the Department of Rural Development Programs Izabela Mroczek signed agreements with beneficiaries of the Programme.



The Leszno Poviat has implemented two road investments co-financed from the RDP 2014-2020. The picture shows an aerial view of the road in Krzemieniewo.

- The available pool of funds currently enables the co-financing of 53 tasks to be carried out by municipal and poviat governments. The limit per beneficiary is PLN 5 million. The EU funds are an effective tool to improve the quality of infrastructure in rural areas - Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, believes.

The co-financed projects cover works related to the construction or reconstruction of municipal, district or internal roads or sections of the roads. Investments can only be implemented in towns with up to 5,000 inhabitants. As part of the third call for proposals for support for investment projects on local

roads, each applicant could submit one application for aid, and therefore the co-financing went to 53 different beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020. Let us remind that 188 investments of this type worth nearly PLN 210 million were implemented in the Wielkopolska Region as a result of previous calls for proposals. Thanks to the EU funds, more than 300 km of new or reconstructed local roads were constructed in the region. Actions planned by the beneficiaries must be completed by 30 June 2025. We asked local government officials who benefit from the EU funds under the RDP 2014-2020 to comment on completed and planned investments. Kalisz Poviat is trying to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Rural



**Krzysztof Nosal** Staroste of Kalisz

Development Program to local governments, especially in the field of modernization and reconstruction of local roads. They are investments aimed at improving the living conditions of our residents, and above all, improving communication with key institutions

in towns, such as schools, libraries and cultural centres. In the Kalisz poviat, we are currently implementing a project involving the reconstruction of the poviat road on the Zbiersk - Zbiersk Kolonia section, and over the past few years we have completed two such investments on the following sections: Pośrednik - Iwanowice - Sobiesęki Drugie and Emilianów - Dębsko. The works performed include more than the construction or reconstruction of the road surface, they also cover the construction of a bicycle lane, equipping the road with elements that improve safety or protective barriers, reconstruction of pavements and drainage of the road. Thanks to the Program, we have already rebuilt several kilometres of local roads, significantly improving the living conditions of our residents.



**Krzysztof Jaworski** *Mayor of Trzcianka* 

From the RDP 2014-2020 funds, Trzcianka obtained funding for the implementation of a project covering three road investments in two villages. The RDP funds will be used for long-awaited modernization of dirt roads with a total length of 1 km. On the asphalt surface, residents will reach

not only their properties, but also public buildings - village halls, school, fire station and church.

The investments in Straduń and Biała were selected taking into account the needs of the inhabitants of the villages and the recruitment criteria, not easy for a large and industrial municipality to fit in. Thanks to PLN 4.8 million from the RDP 2014-2020, we will improve safety (by building sidewalks), improve access to public places and social events, and undoubtedly affect the quality of life of 1.5 thousand people.



**Przemysław Majchrzak** Head of the Wągrowiec Municipality

The RDP 2014-2020 perspective for the action "Construction or modernization of local roads" is a very important instrument of support in improving the quality of life in rural areas. In the past, the Wagrowiec municipality im-

plemented, among others, road projects co-financed by the RDP: "Reconstruction of the municipal road Bartodzieje-Kopaszyn", "Reconstruction of the municipal road in Łaziska", "Reconstruction of the municipal road in Łęgowo, plot no. 24" and "Reconstruction of the road in Rudnicz". The completed tasks had a very positive impact on the improvement of the life of rural residents, the development of the municipal road network, the satisfaction of residents, shortening the travel time to houses and public facilities, in a word, they had a positive impact on the development of rural areas. We want to achieve similar goals with the project "Reconstruction of the municipal road Toniszewo - Grylewo" with the support of the RDP in 2024.



**Hubert Gruszczyński** Mayor of the Miłosław Municipality

I received with great satisfaction the information that the Miłosław Municipality managed to obtain funding from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 in the amount of PLN 2.65 million for the construction of a road on the Skotniki - Biechówko

section. As part of the investment, a pedestrian and bicycle path will also be constructed. Drivers and cyclists will be pleased. Residents of the surrounding towns will gain very good access to their homes and fields. The comfort and safety of road users will be improved. The walking and cycling path will certainly contribute to the development and promotion of cycling tourism in the region. All visitors to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Consolation in Biechowo will also be pleased with the new road. This investment would not have been possible without the EU funds.



**Robert Kasperczak** Head of the Włoszakowice Municipality

We are looking forward to signing the contract for co-financing the construction or modernization of local roads planned for implementation in 2023. The "Reconstruction of Jana Otto and Podgórna Streets in Włoszakowice" pro-

ject will be granted funding from the European Union under the RDP 2014-2020 in the amount of PLN 2,632,345. The investment will contribute to the support and improvement of the quality and accessibility of road infrastructure in the Włoszakowice Municipality. It will also improve the living conditions and economic development of the inhabitants. The granted EU funds are a very important support for our municipality, without which it would be difficult for us to collect funds for the implementation of the planned investment. I am convinced that the renovated road will serve the local community well for many years to come.



**Paweł Adam** *Mayor of the Town and Municipality of Buk* 

We hear every day how important each kilometre of a constructed or modernized road is from residents who constantly report their needs in this respect. The EU funds for local roads provide a chance to meet many of their expectations.

In the last call for proposals, the interest of municipalities was huge. It is even more gratifying that the Buk municipality has successfully obtained funding from the program for "Construction or modernization of local roads" for the first time.

The allocated funds will enable the construction of the municipal road Wygoda - Otusz. The total cost of the task will be PLN 4,900,000, including co-financing from the RDP 2014-2020 funds in the amount of PLN 2,799,540. The investment will improve the quality of commuting to work, schools or municipal institutions, increase road safety, and also increase the quality of life of the inhabitants of our municipality. Finally, two villages will be connected, which will definitely improve travel in the area of the municipality, and farmers will gain easier access to their fields.



**Włodzimierz Fraszczyk** Head of the Olszówka Municipality

In 2017, the Olszówka Municipality implemented the investment "Reconstruction of the municipal road Dębowiczki-Grabina-Krzewata on the 3+091 to 4+165 section" for the amount of PLN 798,901.85 with the co-financing of the

RDP 2014-2020 in the amount of PLN 508,341. In the current edition of the program, the municipality was on the ranking list with the task "Construction of the municipal road G496046P in Szczepanów", the length of which is 1.311 km. The main advantage of the use of funds from the program is the creation of opportunities to improve road safety conditions for which local governments do not have sufficient funds. Obtaining extra-budgetary funds and the possibility of implementing road investments enable integrating small towns that often have unpaved roads, which is particularly important for local public transport and children's access to schools.



**Rafał Szelągowski** Head of the Mycielin Municipality

The Mycielin Municipality obtained funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 under the action "Basic services and village renewal in rural areas" for "Reconstruction of poviat road 4585P on the Przyranie-My-

cielin section". As part of the project, a road with a length of 3,598 km will be reconstructed. Currently, the road has an asphalt surface with many irregularities and defects in the wearing course. As part of the investment, a new bituminous surface, exits, sidewalks and traffic safety elements will be made. The implementation of the task will contribute to improving the quality of life of residents, as well as the safety of road users. We are glad that the limit of funds per one beneficiary of the RDP 2014-2020 for the implementation of road investments has been increased to PLN 5 million, thanks to which we were able to obtain funding in the amount of PLN 4,484,933.



The Lwówek Municipality obtained funds from the RDP 2014-2020 for the reconstruction of the municipal road in Konin. The agreement on co-financing was signed by the mayor of the town and municipality of Lwówek and the director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office, Izabela Mroczek. The signing ceremony was also attended by a councillor of the region, Zofia Szalczyk.



The Komorniki Municipality received funding of nearly PLN 5 million. Jan Broda, the Head of the village, signed an agreement with Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski on this matter. The funds allocated will enable the reconstruction of Kolejowa Street in Plewiska.

# **GOOD PRACTICE**

# New life of the "Wicynt" windmill

The post windmill was built in Boszków in 1882. It was transported to Bukówiec Górny and reassembled by Tomasz Szulc in 1924. The windmill operated until the mid-1960s. Groats and middlings were produced there, but grain was not ground into flour. Its last miller - the owner was Wincenty Bura, called Wicynt by Bukówiec residents and this is the name given to the windmill during the ceremonial opening after a thorough renovation carried out in 2022 from the funds of the RDP 2014-2020.



Regional lessons are conducted in the windmill, they can be benefited from not only by the inhabitants of the Włoszakowice Municipality, but also by all tourists visiting it.

At the end of the 20th century, the windmill was bought by the Włoszakowice Municipality, they carried out a security renovation - the roof was made of roofing felt and the walls were secured with boards. In 2013, the windmill was leased by the Association of Bukówiec residents MANU and revitalization started. The first stage included the renovation of the windmill outside: the propellers, the gazebo, the drawbar for rotating the windmill were restored, the roof and the shed wall were covered with shingles. The windmill was strengthened and repainted. Then, in 2022, thanks to co-financing from the European Union under the "Support for local development within the LEADER initiative" of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, the inside of the windmill was renovated.

As part of the renovation, rotten ceilings on all levels (beams and floors) were replaced and stairs were installed. The front façade was also repainted and the steel elements were conserved. Inside, interactive exhibitions of agricultural and craft tools have been prepared. Visitors can see carpenter's or shoemaker's workshops, wheelwright's and carpenter's tools and products of the craftsmen. On a large monitor you can see how and what the tools were used for. Similarly with old

agricultural tools, such as haka, heber, dygocz, arfa or gramasy, located on the top floor of the windmill. The total amount of co-financing from the RDP funds for 2014-2020 amounted to nearly PLN 140,000. zloty.

Other floors of the windmill also hide puzzles to solve, in the ground floor you can see not only the complete mechanism of the windmill, but also undertake various activities: weigh yourself on a decimal scale, cut wood with a band saw and hammer nails. A recreational shed was also constructed near the windmill.

The windmill has become part of a regional path run by the Association of Bukówiec residents MANU. It consists of the Regional Chamber (a house dated back to 1872), a workshop of a folk sculptor and classes in the Municipal Folklore Centre. The windmill is often visited by school groups, visiting it and having fun in its surroundings. Individual tourists and organized groups also go there. The tourist infrastructure at the windmill will be gradually expanded as the Association raises funds.



The post windmill in Bukówiec Górny has been restored thanks to funding from the RDP 2014-2020. Photo: MANU Association of the Bukówiec residents.

# Workplace of creative craftsmen

Piano Studio Piotr Kostera is a company located in Latowice in the Sieroszewice Municipality, it developed its activities thanks to funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020.

Local craftsmen repair pianos for music schools, cultural centres, as well as private individuals in Poland and foreign clients from all over Europe.

The task "Development of the Piano Studio Piotr Kostera company for a piano renovation plant to create an innovative base for craft activities", the value of which was co-financed from the RDP 2014-2020 funds amounted to PLN 300,000, it was carried out under the sub-measure "Support for the implementation of operations under municipality-led local development strategy" under the "Support for local development within the LEADER initiative" in the field of business development.

Thanks to the co-financing, it was possible to build a new facility that meets restrictive standards. After the expansion and completion of the investment in 2021, employment was increased to 14 people and the group of contractors was expanded. The company started cooperation with customers from all over Europe. The modernly equipped facility enables full control of the ambient conditions and maintain appropriate humidity and temperature during the renovation,

it is a guarantee of the quality of services provided.

Individual approach to work, as based on individual treatment of each instrument, is the distinguishing feature of the co-financed enterprise. All repairs, from the disassembly of the instrument, through carpentry preparation, renovation of the acoustic section, correction of the mechanism, including varnishing the casing, are carried out on site in the workshop. Work on the mechanism is the most critical point of an instrument's renovation, because a well-adjusted and efficiently operating mechanism guarantees a satisfying lightness of play, and hammers with proper intonation provide clean and clear sound. The company's employees are also experienced craftsmen and qualified piano construction technicians who, to maintain the high quality of repaired instruments, attach great importance to the work they do. Renovations of instruments are not carried out in a standard way and on a massive scale. In the case of historical instruments, the company's employees go back to the workshop from two hundred years ago, it was based on the use of, among others, natural resins. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out the renovation process very precisely to meet expectations of customers.



 $Co-financing from the RDP funds for the years 2014-2020 \ enabled \ creating \ a \ modern facility \ where \ the \ renovation \ of \ pianos \ takes \ place.$ 

# What are the benefits of cooperation between Wielkopolska LAGs?

We are presenting interesting cooperation projects co-financed from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. Three subsequent agreements on granting financial aid from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development were signed in April 2023.



Four Wielkopolska LAGs will implement a cooperation project "Spectacle of Intergenerational Culinary Attractions". Representatives of partner associations signed an agreement with Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski. The signing of the agreement was also attended by MP Krzysztof Paszyk, vice-chairman of the regions; assembly Jarosław Maciejewski and director of the RDP department of the Marshal Office Izabela Mroczek.

Local Action Groups, as part of the implementation of the municipality-led local development strategy, carry out tasks related to the activation of residents, as well as raise funds for cooperation with other LAGs. Within the so-called cooperation projects, they jointly take up issues important for their local municipalities. Funds for the purpose come from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, extended by two years.

- LAG cooperation brings benefits to the inhabitants of the Wielkopolska Region, they are involved in interesting projects that meet local needs. In April 2023, I had the pleasure of signing three contracts for the implementation of cooperation projects - says Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Region.

Four local action groups have engaged in a joint project "Spectacle of Intergenerational Culinary Attractions". We mean the "Solidarity in Partnership" Association, the "Eastern Wielkopolska" Association, the Local Action Group Association of the Land of Three Rivers and the Czarnków-Trzcianka LAG. The aim of the project is to develop areas covered by local development strategies, increase attractiveness and cultiva-

te and promote culinary heritage through the organization of culinary events. The authors of the project also focus on strengthening the social sector, especially farmer's housewives' associations, through increasing their knowledge in the field of cultivating and promoting the local culinary heritage. Thanks to the implementation of the joint project, partners will integrate through participation in events and study trips. The organized events include study trips (including a three-day trip for 40 people to Spain and a three-day trip for 30 members a Farmers' Wives' Association to the Sandomierz Region), culinary workshops and competitions, promotional events and publications. The total value of the grant awarded for the implementation of this project is PLN 588,728. It is expected that the tasks will be completed by the end of 2023.

Improving public space and the quality of recreational infrastructure is the goal of the "Unia Nadwarciańska" Association and the Wrota Wielkopolski Association, jointly implementing the project "Local Social Activity Zones". As part of the project, 15 creative playgrounds will be constructed. They will be interactive (scientific) playgrounds that will enable learning through play, conducting experiments by children

# **LEADER**



A joint initiative of three Wielkopolska LAGs "Honeybees Alarm in the Social Interest" was co-financed in the amount of PLN 230,256.

and involving adults in explaining to children the phenomena they encounter on a daily basis. The creation of objects will contribute to the stimulation of the senses, the development of creativity, logical thinking and many other skills. New playgrounds will be constructed in Słupca and Kępno poviats, as LAGs cooperating with each other operate in the area. Infrastructure will be constructed in the towns of Ląd in the municipality of Lądek, Stara Olszyna in the municipality of Ostrowite, Powidz, Zagórów, Strzałkowo, Słupca, Poniatówek in the municipality of Słupca, Donaborów and Grębanin in the municipality of Baranów, Bralin, Opatów in the municipality of Łęka Opatowska, Kępno, Koza Wielka in the municipality of Perzów, Drożki in the municipality of Rychtal and Smardze in the municiality of Trzcinica. The project partners obtained funds for the purpose in the total amount of PLN 978,590.

"Honeybee Alarm in the Social Interest" is the title of a cooperation project co-financed in the amount of PLN 230,256, it will be implemented by the "Okno Południowej Wielkopolski" Local Action Group Association, the Wrota Wielkopolski Association and the "Trakt Piastów" Local Action Group. Its essence is to strengthen social capital by promoting honeybees and beekeeping, informing about the significance of honeybees in nature and their significance to human life. The authors of the project want the residents of the LAG partner area to increase their knowledge about environmental protection and climate change. The task will consist in broad education of children, youth and adults. The undertaking involves the organization of a five-day study trip to Spain, during which

beekeepers from Wielkopolska and representatives of local action groups will exchange experiences with beekeepers operating in the Iberian Peninsula. As part of the project, a film promoting honeybees and beekeeping in the area of operation of the project partners will also be recorded, and a photo competition "Bees and beekeeping in our region" will be announced. Beekeeping workshops for children in early school age planned for May and June 2023 will be an interesting element of the operation. Schools participating in the project will receive boards informing about the anatomical structure and life cycle of bees, as well as beekeeping curiosities. For adults, beauty workshops are planned.



Thanks to the implementation of the cooperation project between the associations "Unia Nadwarciańska" and Wrota Wielkopolski, modern public infrastructure will be created in Słupca and Kępno poviats.

# **Asparagus cooking with Karol Okrasa**

On June 24, 2023, Mochy in the Przemęt Municipality became the culinary capital of the Wielkopolska Region for one day. Numerous participants of the Asparagus Festival held there could taste delicious dishes prepared on the basis of this healthy vegetable, but not only. The event was accompanied by the final stage of the region competition Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of Regions.



The Asparagus Festival in Mochy was an opportunity to taste a lot of dishes prepared by Farmers' Housewives' Associations.

- I am glad that this year's 22nd edition of the competition organized by the Local Government of the Wielkopolska Region in cooperation with the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products takes place in the municipality of Przemęt, it is famous for asparagus production. The Wielkopolska Region can boast of a very rich culinary heritage, as evidenced by the number of products submitted to the competition - said Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

The special guest of the asparagus festival was the well-known chef Karol Okrasa, he conducted a workshop on how to prepare asparagus dishes. He also presented prizes to the circles of rural housewives from the municipality of Przemęt, they competed in the competition for the best asparagus dessert. The winning dish was ice cream by the Farmers' Housewives' Association in Bucz. The prizes in this competition, as well as the workshops, were financed by the National Rural

Network for 2014-2020 as part of competition No. 7/2023 for Polish National Rural Network partners.

- For years, we have been consistently promoting asparagus as a local good of which we are proud - admits the host of the event, the municipality head of Przemęt, Janusz Frąckowiak.

Participants of the Przemęt Asparagus Festival could get acquainted with the wide range of products and dishes submitted to the competition Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of Regions. Among them there was no shortage of cheese, bread, honey, tinctures, cold cuts, confectionery, as well as dishes prepared on the spot. For this year's edition of the competition, 43 products and 5 teams preparing dishes were submitted, and they were presented by Farmers' Housewives' Associations, local manufactories and processing companies based on traditional production methods. The Competition Commission assessing the products, chaired by the President of the Management

# **EVENTS**



Winners of the competition "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of Regions" in the category of dishes. The awards were presented by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-President of the Regional Assembly, Jarosław Maciejewski, President of the Management Board of the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products, Izabella Byszewska, Head of Przemęt, Janusz Frąckowiak and Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Paweł Zbierajewski.

Board of the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products - Izabella Byszewska, awarded: 11 main prizes, 8 distinctions and 7 recommendations for nominations for the Pearl 2023 award. In turn, the Competition Commission assessing the dishes chaired by Grażyna Kurpińska, the Plenipotentiary of the Board of the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products, recognized the best dishes to be the Wielkopolski gzik with flatbread, smoked trout, linseed oil and herbs and flowers from the garden in Olandia, and Dumplings with pulled goat meat by the chef of the restaurant Olandia, Paweł Ludek.

The dish prepared by the Farmers' Housewives' Association "Grupa dla Rybna Wielkiego" - Pyrczanka with smoked meat and Dumplings with beetroot stuffing - was nominated for the Pearl 2023 award.

The final settlement of the national stage of the competition and the awarding of Pearls will take place on September 30, 2023 during the final held as part of the Tastes of Regions fair in Poznan.



 $This year's \ Asparagus \ Festival \ was \ marked \ by \ excellent \ weather \ and \ enjoyed \ great \ interest.$ 

# **CULINARY CORNER**

# Pyrczanka with smoked meat and dumplings with beetroot stuffing

You are invited to learn the recipe for the dish that was nominated for the Pearl 2023 award. Farmers' Housewives' Association "Grupa dla Rybna Wielkiego" is the author of the delicious dish.

### **PYRCZANKA WITH SMOKED MEAT**

### **INGREDIENTS**

(POT 5 L):

- Potatoes 1,5 kg
- Carrot 2
- Celery ½ of a big one
- Leek ½ of the white part
- Parsley 1
- Smoked bones 1 kg
- Raw bones 1 kg
- Spices to taste

#### PREPARATION:

Prepare meat stock with vegetables, then add potatoes. Cook until soft. Remove the bones, peel the meat, mash the rest of the soup with a pestle and blend. Add marjoram, garlic, grainy pepper and meat.

# **DUMPLINGS WITH BEETROOT STUFFING**

## INGREDIENTS FOR THE STUFFING:

- Potatoes ½ kg of boiled potatoes
- Cottage cheese ½ kg
- Horseradish 2 tbsp
- Beets 3
- Walnuts 3 tbsp, chopped walnuts
- Green parsley 1 bunch
- Smoked bacon to garnish dumplings
- Salt, pepper

### **DOUGH FOR DUMPLINGS:**

- Flour ½ kg
- Water 1 glass
- Salt

# **PREPARATION:**

Pour warm boiled water and a pinch of salt into the flour. Knead the dough, we roll it. Fill the dough prepared in this way with the stuffing prepared earlier.

#### PREPARATION:

Boil potatoes, mash. Add fried onion and cottage cheese. Knead the mass and cool it. Grind the cooked beets on fine meshes, add to the mass, add nuts, add horseradish. Season with pepper and salt.



Pyrczanka with smoked meat and dumplings with beetroot stuffing prepared by the Farmers' Housewives' Association "Grupa dla Rybna Wielkiego" during the final of the national competition "Our Culinary Heritage -Tastes of Regions" 2023.

# **PHOTO CORNER**







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