

West Allegheny Edition

Allegheny West

Volume 20, Issue 120
June/July 2019

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Magazine



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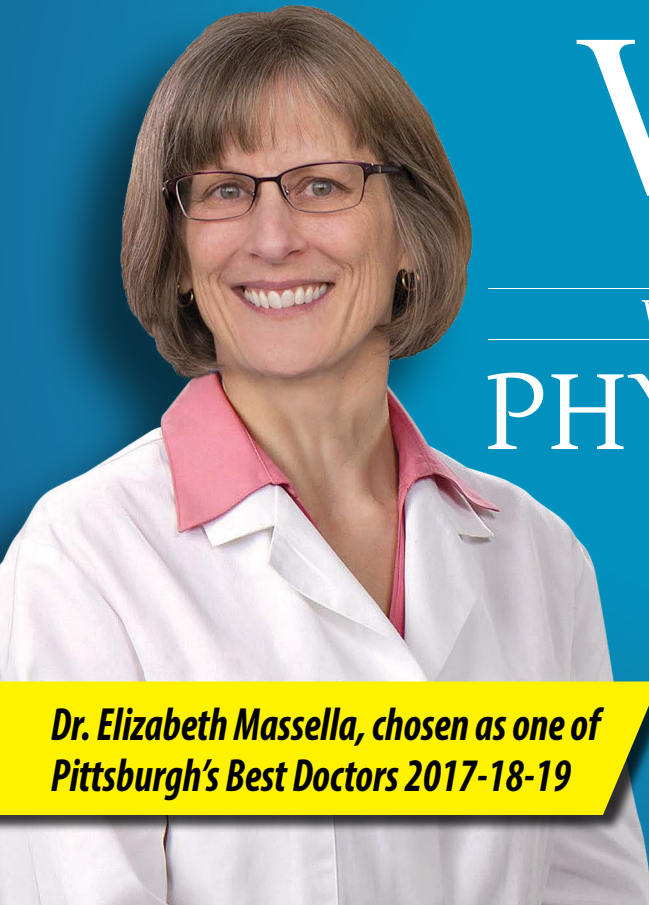
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www.awmagazine.com

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

Doug Hughey

WRITERS

Jill Bordo

Jocelyn Grecko

Pat Jennette

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sarah Kizina

WEBMASTER

www.ddswebdesign.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce,
Findlay Township, North Fayette Township
Oakdale Borough, McDonald Borough, West
Allegheny School District, Western Allegheny
Community Library, Erma Dodd,
Barb Kleyman, Jesse Forquer

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From the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up our June West Allegheny edition of Allegheny West Magazine. I hope you are having a great start to your summer.

One of the challenges that we regularly face with this bi-monthly publication is the long lead-time that we often need to deal with when listing and reporting on events, happenings and other news in the immediate area. While sometimes challenging, this can also be fun, as is the case each year with our May and June editions. In these editions we get to publish our annual summer fun guide with information on fairs, festivals and other fun summer happenings taking place across our coverage areas. With these particular editions, we start planning out and gathering information for this section when the weather is still chilly. Thus, it was once again nice to be thinking of warmer days as we were compiling this year's comprehensive guide to area fairs, festivals, farmers' markets, 5K races, area trails and activities for the kids to do once school is out for summer. Be sure to keep this guide, which starts on page 32, handy for the next few months. If you misplace it, you can still pull it up on our website at awmagazine.com or pick one up around the area. We have a link posted on our website with a Google map showing where we leave extra copies of our publication.

In this edition as well, we take a look inside Findlay Township's new police station. As the township continues to grow, this new station will help the department keep pace with all of the

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Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster watches as the remaining contestants battle it out in one of several balloon tosses he organized at Donaldson Park on May 11. In a magnanimous gesture, the Steelers star awarded the winners of this toss and other contests with \$100. He also treated the community to inflatable rides, lunch and a massive water balloon battle before signing lots of autographs. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

new development in the township. It promises not only to help keep the public safe but also police officers as well. Read more on page 16.

On page 17, our publisher emeritus Pat Jennette writes about the new home of the West Allegheny Food Pantry, which was formerly operating on a temporary basis out of Valley Presbyterian Church. Its new location will significantly aid it as it continues its mission of feeding families in the area. Then on page 18, Jocelyn Grecko writes about a grant that's outfitting the Imperial VFD with new equipment to help it adapt to the times. On page 21, read the latest news out of West Allegheny School District, including the West Allegheny softball team's third consecutive WPIAL championship win. Then on page 19, read about a special, high profile signing day that recognized area trade students and their future plans.

Look for our next edition in August, when we'll be bringing your our special back-to-school, tear-out calendars. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Doug Hughey,
Publisher and Editor



ABOUT THE COVER

Riders on the tilt-a-wheel at McSummerfest get a dizzying - but fun - experience.
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Steubenville Pike Auto announces recipient of seventh vehicle giveaway

STORY AND PHOTO
SUBMITTED

The nonprofit Heroes Supporting Heroes teamed up with Steubenville Pike Auto in Robinson Township to once again donate a refurbished vehicle to an individual in need this past Memorial Day. The donation marked the seventh car that Steubenville Pike Auto had donated through its nonprofit, Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity. HSH once again covered the transfer fees and registration for the car donation.

SPARC and HSH chose Jennifer Hall as the recipient of this most recent vehicle. Hall, a Pittsburgh native, moved back to the area from Colorado in 2017 with her toddler after her husband, Austin, a Navy veteran, committed suicide in 2016. Austin had been battling post-traumatic stress disorder.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has estimated that an average of 20 veterans die every day from suicide.

“Austin, ‘Tino’ as his friends called him, was a handsome man with dreams and a wonderful work ethic,” recalled Jennifer. “He had lived a life full of adventure and travel since his childhood. When we met he owned a home and was a superintendent of a major construction company in Durango, Colorado. He was a builder, fisherman, hunter, and a gypsy at heart.”

At the time that Austin committed suicide he was not only battling PTSD but also coping with severe injuries he had sustained at a construction site. After he passed away, Jennifer realized she and her son were left with only \$200 in their bank account. Because of the manner in which Austin passed, they were ineligible for many of the support programs that benefit families of deceased veterans. Local government resources helped with food and utilities in a small apartment.

With no life insurance to sustain them, Jennifer and her toddler moved back to the area to be with her family. Though she was able to purchase a small house, it had major structural issues. Through the United Way, Jennifer was connected with HSH, which provides home repairs to veterans and the family members of veterans. HSH has since provided more than 300 volunteer hours and over \$10,000 in repairs to assist the family.

When HSH president John Lee noticed that Jennifer was relying



Steubenville Pike Auto president Jason Pottle (at center) presents Jennifer Hall (second from left) with a refurbished vehicle through the company's Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity program in May. They are pictured with John Lee, president of Heroes Supporting Heroes; Stan Lesniak; HSH CEO Kristi Hilbert; HSH board member Anna Cehelsky; Linda Pottle; Russ Pottle; and John Parton. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

on borrowing cars from relatives and friends for transportation, he called Jason Pottle and his wife, Linda, who own Steubenville Pike Auto.

“In the repair side of our business, we often see families or individuals who are struggling to keep their cars on the road so we decided to do something to help some of those families in need,” said Linda “We donate a fully refurbished and inspected used car to an individual or family in need twice each year, in December and May. We are blessed to have the opportunity to help change people’s lives for the better!”

The Pottles are also a military family, as Jason has served in the Air Force is now serving in the Air National Guard out of the 171st Refueling Wing.

“I was stunned, so happy, and overwhelmed all at the same time,” said Jennifer about receiving the donation. “I’m filled with gratitude. Many thanks to HSH and Steubenville Pike Auto for making this happen. This has been a very long and hard road, and HSH is helping transform lives. Love to you all.”

HSH CEO Kristi Hilbert said, “Jennifer has a lovely family and we are honored to play a small part in her healing process. Her story is unfortunately too common. As a community and a nation, we must help to determine the cause of the alarming rising rate of veteran suicide and to be there to support those loved ones they leave behind. It is our duty to those who serve our country.

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Helping Hands celebrating 20 years and recognized for efforts



State Rep. Valerie Gaydos presents Melissa Merritt, owner of Helping Hands Childcare in Imperial, with a citation recognizing her service to the community.

Helping Hands Childcare in Imperial welcomed state Rep. Valerie Gaydos on May 9. During the visit, Gaydos observed the center's educators working with children and learned more about how funding helps such centers better prepare students for future success in school. Gaydos also awarded Helping Hands owner Melissa Merritt with a citation recognizing her 20 years of service to the West Allegheny community.

Helping Hands, which will be celebrating its 20th year of operation in August, holds a STAR 4 rating through the Keystone STARS program. The statewide program awards rankings to schools and preschools based on staff education, learning environment, leadership and management, and family/community partnerships. STAR 4 is the highest ranking awarded through the program.

The center was chosen for the visit by the regional educational advocacy organization Trying Together.

Also in May, Helping Hands continued its tradition of community outreach. On May 4, center staff donated their time to plant flowers donated by Janoski's at the Western Allegheny Community Library. In the past, Helping Hands has benefitted a number of causes in the community through its fundraising and volunteer work.

Staff and children attending Helping Hands assist with planting flowers at the Western Allegheny Community Library.



Two WA in-line hockey teams win divisions

Two West Allegheny in-line hockey teams won division championships this past season. Both the E1 elementary and the high school teams secured their divisions. The in-line teams are open to players in second grade through high school seniors. For more, email coach Scott Kilbourn at skilbourn27@gmail.com.



ABOVE: Members of the West Allegheny high school in-line hockey team include coach Scott Feely, Ethan Morgan, Daniel Wagner, Zachary Tepley, Wyatt Smith, Cameron Justice, Justin Herron, Oscar Feely, Scott Lafferty, Adam Crawford, Sebastian Wiernik, coach Nate Tepley and mascot Austin Vahaly.

BELOW: The E1 elementary team includes (front row) Logan Dietrich, Kayden Tuite, Luke Sawford, Owen Kent, Tyler Lokey, Jonah Luffe, (back row) coach Paul Dietrich, Liam Kilbourn, Nathan Athanas, Dante Deramo, coach Scott Kilbourn, Jimmy Stewart and coach David Luffe.



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Hometown Spine & Sport celebrating third year of treating area's aches, pains and sports-related injuries

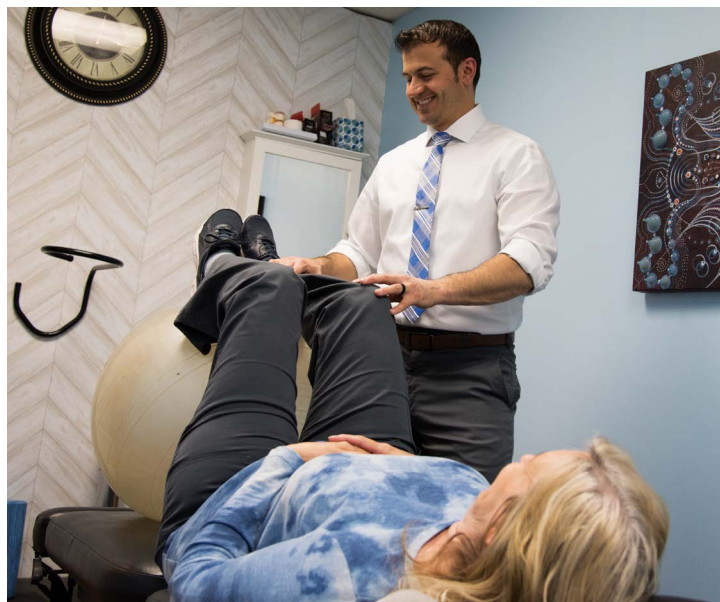
Hometown Spine & Sport Chiropractic is proud to be leading the movement in treating spinal- and sports-related injuries. Their treatments encompass a unique mix of chiropractic, myofascial release and rehabilitative exercises. Owner Dr. Josh Slomkowski specializes in a gentle but effective approach to care, with an emphasis on myofascial release technique. This marks his third year of treating patients at the practice.

Hometown Spine & Sport is a unique facility that addresses a wide variety of aches and pains, including back and neck pain, which are among the leading causes of disability in the U.S.

The clinic not only treats symptoms but empowers people to realize that they can overcome their pain naturally without drugs, medication or surgery.

"My main goal is to make sure that people understand how injuries occur and give them the proper exercises to prevent an injury from happening in the future," says Slomkowski. "We have seen amazing results with myofascial release for a wide variety of conditions, from headaches, to shoulder or elbow tendonitis injuries. This specific technique allows us to fix acute and chronic injuries without pain medications, injections or surgeries. In addition, we not only focus on the site of where the pain is located but also assess how the injury occurred."

For instance, the practice recently treated a runner who had been diagnosed with a strained lower leg muscle by his orthopedist. After a thorough sports movement assessment, Slomkowski found that the runner had injured their other leg in the same manner last year. Slomkowski then came to the determination that the Dr. Josh Slomkowski demonstrates a technique to treat lower back pain.



Hometown Spine and Sport owner Dr. Josh Slomkowski is pictured here with administrative assistants Nancy McKinney and Karrie Spencer.

runner lacked proper stability and strength in the gluteus medius muscle in the hip. That had been causing the runner's knee to

buckle inward while running. After a couple of treatments, the runner felt confident enough to run in the Pittsburgh Marathon in May.

Slomkowski, who grew up in the Pittsburgh area, is also a certified medical examiner for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation physicals for all commercial bus, van and truck drivers.

"We understand that going to any kind of doctor is stressful and we strive to keep a welcoming, friendly environment in our office for the drivers," says Slomkowski.

Hometown Spine & Sport can often accommodate to scheduling physicals within 48 hours. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation physicals are \$90.

Hometown Spine & Sport will celebrate its third year of operation in June.

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Two WA students recognized with President's Volunteer Service Award

West Allegheny High School sophomores Hannah Wagner and Emma Main were both informed in March that they had been awarded the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award.



Hannah Wagner and Emma Main have both been awarded the Gold President's Volunteer Service Award.

The national award recognizes those who have dedicated significant hours of volunteer work, either over the course of a 12-month period or a lifetime. Various levels of the award recognize different amounts of hours donated, with gold being the highest. For teens, the gold award recognizes those who have donated over 100 hours of community service. The letter sent to Hannah and Emma cites Emma's 114.5 hours of community service and Hannah's 189.5 hours of community service. Local causes their work has benefitted include the West Allegheny Food Pantry, the Jubilee Soup Kitchen, the Western Allegheny Community Library, The Girls Scouts of Western Pennsylvania and others.

Recipients of the award each receive a personalized certificate, an official pin, a medallion or coin, and a letter from the president of the United States.

For more, visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

Crivelli donates to North Fayette baseball



Jim Crivelli Chevrolet sales manager Brock Baird presents a check to the North Fayette Athletic Association.

Jim Crivelli Chevrolet donated funds and baseball equipment to the North Fayette Athletic Association in May. The donated equipment included baseball supplies such as equipment bags, first aid kits, batting tees and t-shirts. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics featuring current and former MLB/MiLB players and coaches, or instructors from Ripkin Baseball.

"Playing the game of baseball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation and sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support," said Jim Crivelli Chevrolet sales manager Brock Baird. "Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball instills in its players."



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Leslie Burns, D.C.

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Offsetting the rising cost of college

With college costs soaring, many parents are left scratching their heads over how to save for their child's college education. We know that obtaining a college degree can result in higher pay and a wider array of career opportunities. But what we really hope a college degree translates to is a better quality of life for our child; a house, a family of their own, the picket fence, a dog named Fido. But how do we, as parents, contend with rapidly rising college costs?

The best strategy for many is to start planning and start saving early on in your child's life. Maybe you know you should start saving but you wonder if investing a small amount of your extra income will make a difference. As it turns out, investing a smaller amount earlier on and adding to it over time can often produce better results than a single larger amount invested later in life. But where do you invest your money? It's not going to grow by stashing it under your mattress and savings accounts provide dismally low returns. A more viable option that has gained in popularity is the 529 plan, which is specifically designed to provide you with benefits while saving for and spending on college.

Here's how the plan works. The 529 allows you to choose from a wide array of investment options, allowing for potential growth. Each 529 plan has an account owner, usually the parent, and a beneficiary. The owner or parent controls the money held in the account and can change the beneficiary to another family member. So, if your oldest child decides not to go to college,

you can change the beneficiary to your younger child. In Pennsylvania, taxpayers can deduct up to \$15,000 of their contributions per beneficiary per year (or \$30,000 if married and filing jointly) from their state tax return. These contributions remain tax-deferred as they grow. Distributions from the plan for qualified college expenses are also tax-free. However, should you have to distribute funds for non-qualified expenses, you will be taxed and assessed a 10 percent penalty on the growth.

A word of caution, however: though parents may want to prioritize their child's future, they should not do so at the risk of jeopardizing their own future. Parents paying off their own student loans and high consumer debt, or struggling to save for retirement or build up emergency funds, should prioritize planning for themselves. It's best to consult with a certified financial planner to figure out which goals are realistic and to advise on how those goals can be achieved.



Mia A. McFadden

Mia A. McFadden, CFP®, is a vice president and a financial consultant with Bill Few Associates. She can be reached at (412) 630-6041 or at mmcfadden@billfew.com.

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Things to consider before adding your child to an account

It's rare that I advise my clients to add their child's name to one of their assets (bank account, real estate, car, etc.) during their lifetime in order to save from probate (a court process designed to pay debts and transfer assets from a decedent's name) and future tax consequences.

For instance, let's assume that you add your child's name to the deed of your home. This means that they are now a legal co-owner of your house. Here are a few reasons why I advise my clients that this may not be a great idea:



1. It is no longer yours! Your child now has to consent to the sale of the home, to you taking a second mortgage or a home equity line of credit on the house.

2. Divorce. Should your child (and now co-owner) get divorced, their future-ex spouse may be entitled to a portion of the value of your house. And if they don't have the liquidity to pay their spouse out of pocket, your house may be at risk of being sold to pay for the settlement.

3. Law suits. If your child gets into a car accident and is sued, their share of your house may be included as an asset in the settlement.

4. Creditor Difficulties. Just like a divorce, if your child falls behind on their bills, their debt could allow their creditor to lien your house.

5. Your child passes away before you. You could end up paying inheritance tax on the portion of the house your child owns. Or your child's portion could be given to his/her heirs such as your daughter-in-law or grandchildren, depending on how the deed is written.

6. More than one child. Adding only one child to the deed means that your other children will have no right to the property upon your passing.

7. When you pass away your child may become full owner. He/she may only receive a step-up in basis on HALF of the asset. Let's assume that you bought the house for \$65,000. Before you pass away, you add your child as co-owner. When you die, your child becomes 100 percent owner of the house, which is now worth \$165,000. Your child must pay both federal and state tax on half of this gain (\$50,000), totaling approximately \$15,000.

While this article provides real estate as an example, a majority of the reasons listed above hold true for bank accounts and other investments as well. Adding a co-owner may allow the beneficiary to avoid probate, and even reduce the inheritance tax owed, but there are much better strategies that allow them to eliminate the need of probate and minimize their liability associated with future capital gains tax, income tax and future inheritance tax.

Before adding a co-owner to any of your accounts, contact us today to find out how we can help you achieve the best results for your family once you pass away.



Michele P. Conti is an estate planning and elder law attorney. Conti attended Allegheny College in Meadville, Oxford University and Duquesne University School of Law. She received her LL.M. in taxation from Villanova University. She can be reached at (724) 784-0239 or michele@contilawpgh.com.

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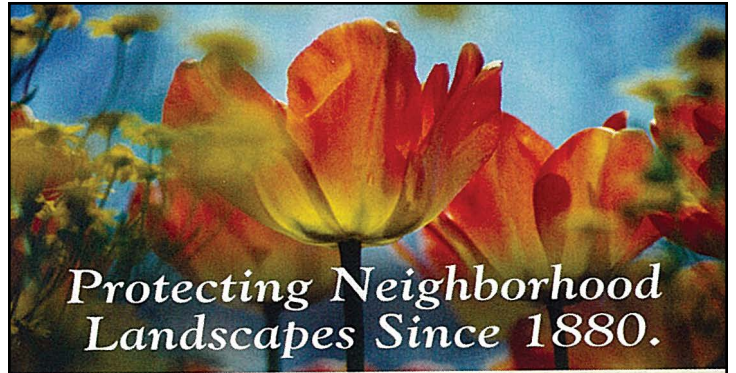
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PAACC partnership leads to new Airport Area Corporate Partnership website

Last year, the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce formed a new partnership with Robert Morris University and the Allegheny County Airport Authority with the goal of creating a unified voice for advocacy among area corporate partners.

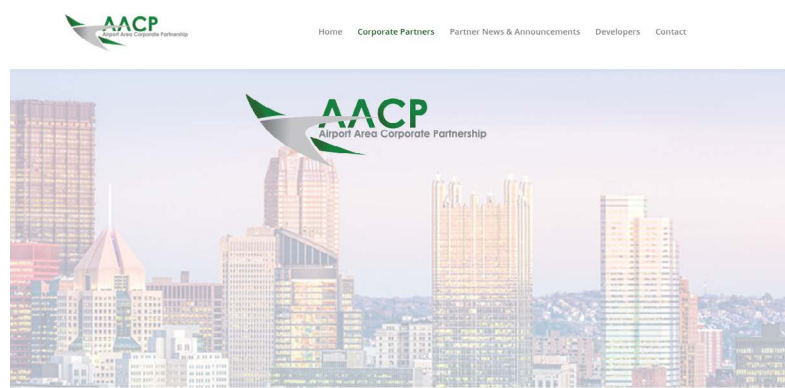
In May, the Airport Area Corporate Partnership launched a new website at pittairportpartnership.com. The new site provides a snapshot of the major employers operating in the corridor and offers resources to businesses considering moving into the area. In addition to the list of corporate interests and their services, the site also lists commercial real estate properties and area developers along with news from Robert Morris University and the airport authority.

“Collectively, the corporate community in the airport corridor is building a powerful brand that reflects tremendous economic growth and the innovative spirit of each of its members,” says Jonathan Potts, vice president of public relations and marketing at Robert Morris University. “This website will tell that story in a way that generates interest and investment.”

To be listed on the site, companies need not be chamber members. Rather, companies can submit a form on the website or call the chamber offices at (412) 264-6270.

“We are thrilled to launch the new website and strongly feel it will serve as a useful, informative portal for the community as well as potential partners to grasp a better understanding of the Airport Area Corporate Partnership and all that we can accomplish,” said Chris Heck, President/CEO of PAACC.

The site was developed by Allison Franz, marketing and communications manager at the chamber, along with Picture This Media.



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The Airport Area Corporate Partnership provides a unified voice for the airport corporate community to promote development, advocate for and help define the needs of our members to grow and sustain the economic viability of our region. The formation of the Airport Area Corporate Partnership is the result of the business community collaborating with Robert Morris University, the Allegheny County Airport Authority and the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce to represent economic opportunity, development and a voice of the larger corporate employers who make up the Airport Area corporate community.

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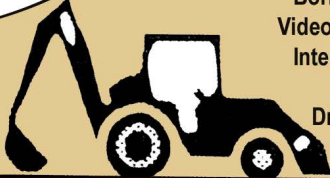
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Findlay PD moves into new station

On May 18, the Findlay Township Police Department welcomed the general public into its new, two-story police station.

Throughout the morning, officers gave public tours of the 13,000 square-foot building, which has been built onto the existing Findlay Township Municipal Building. The station features lots of office space, a gym, a beefed-up dispatch room, new computer systems, a dedicated prisoner processing area, evidence storage rooms and more.

In addition to giving the department plenty of room to expand in the future, it will also allow it to better handle evolving technology as it relates to law enforcement.

Ask Findlay Township Police Chief Jesse Lesko and other officers what the best part of the new station is, though, and they'll point to one thing: "Safety."

Unlike the old building, the new station features a dedicated sally port on its ground floor. Now when officers bring a prisoner into the station, they'll enter through a garage door controlled by dispatchers. Officers will then take the prisoner through a dedicated evidence processing area before placing them in a holding cell. At no point will the prisoner ever walk through the administrative offices or dispatch room on the second floor.

"The top floor will all be police personnel," says Findlay police Capt. John Hart. "A prisoner will never come into that top floor. They'll all be housed downstairs."

That wasn't the case with the old station, where prisoners were brought in through the middle of a single-room station where officers often ended up processing evidence, booking prisoners, filling out paperwork and eating lunch, all at the same table.

As times changed, it became evident that the situation wasn't sustainable.

"It was old fashioned and dangerous at the rate the township was growing," says township supervisor Tom Gallant.

Gallant says the township actually considered building a new station 10 years ago and even went as far as to have architectural plans rendered. Though the project failed to move ahead then, the township was able to utilize some concepts from those original plans when the project was revived a couple of years ago.

Building the new station also allowed the department to install new data cables to help it keep up with evolving technology. Its new server will be able link up with numerous cameras both within the department itself and across the township. Findlay already has cameras installed in parks and other public places but it will also be installing license plate cameras on traffic lights at busy intersections in order to monitor for vehicles involved in crimes. As well, evidence will now be logged via a computer as opposed to the department's old method of pen and paper.



Pictured is the new Findlay Township Police Department's lobby (above) exterior (below) and dispatch office (bottom right).



The building also features some mixed-use spaces that officer Neil Cridge says could either be used for storage or the department's various tactical training programs.

"We try and do as much of it as we can in-house," he says about the training.

As well, the new building includes several new offices that will help make room for new personnel as both the township, and the department, continue to grow.

Cridge says officers were also particularly happy to finally have a locker room. At the old station, officers had to share lockers. The new station's locker room provides officers not only with some privacy but also lockers large enough to store all of their gear.

"It seems just like a locker, but, for us, we live out of these pretty much," he says.

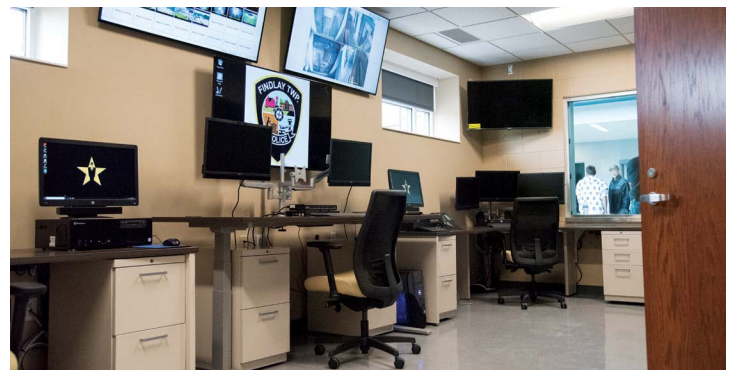
Gallant says the \$3.7 million project was financed by a municipal bond but that various other funding sources helped furnish the building at no cost to taxpayers. For instance, because the department works with the DEA on drug seizures, it was able to tap into \$80,000 of

seized funds to purchase new furniture. Another \$40,000 from the department's insurer, awarded because of its low workers' compensation claims, outfitted the department's gym with new equipment.

Township supervisor Ray Chappell and manager Chris Caruso say that, by building an addition as opposed to a new building, the project saved the township in the area of \$8 million. The new addition will also expand the usable space within the existing municipal building by allowing the township to convert part of the old police station into a 16-table conference room and upgrade the existing restrooms. Chappell says that it will provide the township with a better space to conduct business.

"What we're going to end up with is a truly professional complex," he says.

As construction was wrapping up, Boy Scouts from Troop 830 even found a way to pitch in on the project. Kenny Krisovenski, a junior at West Allegheny, developed an Eagle Scout project that involves relocating plaques from the old war memorial outside the front of the station to a lighted half wall in front of the station. A rededication ceremony is planned during Findlay Township's Fair in the Woodlands festivities.



STORY BY PAT JENNETTE
PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Food pantry settles into new home

Earlier this spring, a small army of volunteers from the community helped move the West Allegheny Food Pantry's supplies, furniture and equipment from its temporary location at Valley Presbyterian Church in Imperial.

The Pantry has relocated to an 80 by 80-square-foot space in a warehouse owned by A.R. Development behind Rite Aid, also in Imperial.

In no time, operations were back up and running, due in large part to the moving volunteers and the volunteers who regularly work at the pantry.

Says Linda Stoner, who coordinates the pantry's operations with Tim Opfermann, "We have a core group of dedicated volunteers who help offload the delivery truck every month, and also stock the shelves and work at distributions."

While not in need of volunteers at this time, Stoner said, "We are grateful for anything people would like to donate. At this time of year, with school getting out, we can use cereal and single serving meals (ravioli, soups, and the like) that children can put into a microwave for lunch."

Donations can be dropped off at the pantry during its normal distribution hours. The pantry is located at 105 West Allegheny Road. Donations can also be mailed to: West Allegheny Food Pantry, P.O. Box 527, Imperial PA 15126.

To be eligible to receive supplemental food, individuals must live within the West Allegheny School District and meet financial guidelines set by the state of Pennsylvania, which is 150 percent of the poverty level. Applicants need to come to the pantry during one of the distribution periods and bring proof of current residence and monthly income.

Stoner noted, "We only look at those papers; we keep no copies of people's personal information."

Distributions are still four times per month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. until noon, and the two Wednesdays that follow from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants are permitted to come to distributions two times per month.

For more information, call (724) 695-1305.

The West Allegheny Food Pantry recently moved into this new space. It now operates out of a warehouse behind Rite Aid at 105 West Allegheny Road.



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STORY BY JOCELYN GRECKO
PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Imperial VFD adapts with changing times, awarded grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation

Since 1924, the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the Findlay Township area and surrounding communities. During those 95 years, the volunteer organization has grown and evolved but never lost sight of its mission to help others. Part of that evolution has meant searching for new sources of funding, modernizing equipment and adapting to the changing needs of the community.

In an effort to help modernize that equipment, the Imperial VFD applied for and was recently

awarded an \$18,050 grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The funding has been used to purchase 10 new Holmatro lifting bags and controls. The equipment will help firefighters respond to an incident where a person is trapped in a confined space.

“The fire service has changed over the past 40 years,” says Imperial VFD lieutenant Steve Dudukovich. “It’s not what it was in the 70s. Fires are more dangerous, but in addition to that, our roles as first responders have changed. We’re responding to car accidents and people who are trapped. We’re doing a lot.”

Imperial VFD president Bob Lambert says that the 40-member, all-volunteer organization receives funding from Findlay Township but relies heavily on direct-mail campaigns and fundraisers like their annual fish fry, craft shows and sportsmen’s bash. Lambert points out that only about 13 percent of their direct-mail envelopes are returned. The department has also applied for federal, state and forestry grants.

According to Lambert, the department’s time is not only spent responding to calls. They’re always looking for ways to raise money and educate themselves on how to best handle first response needs.

“It’s a passion,” he says citing the dedication of the department’s members.

Dudukovich, who frequents North Fayette’s Firehouse Subs, knew about the grant program through their foundation and decided to apply. The foundation has awarded more than \$42 million in 49 states, Puerto Rico and Canada since its inception in 2005. More than \$797,000 of that has been given to Pennsylvania first responders.

“With fewer members in the fire department, grants like this help free up time spent on fundraising and gives members more time to spend on other necessary activities such as training and readiness preparations,” he says.

Lambert explains that the lift bags the department has been using are dated and were last purchased in 1991. So much has changed



Members of the Imperial VFD pose for a picture in front of Firehouse Subs with their new equipment donated by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

since then, so they felt the need to update this equipment. They are hopeful that, with this update, they will be equipped with the latest technology at rescue scenes.

“This will hopefully result in better outcomes,” says Dudukovich. “A grant like this is huge. It frees up time and capital.”

Bradburn says he is so thankful to the foundation and Firehouse Subs for their assistance. The department embraces chances for local partnerships and this grant

program is a perfect example of how business and community can come together in service toward all.

The Imperial VFD is always accepting new member applications. For more information, visit www.imperialvfd.org or find them on Facebook.

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Parkway West Career and Technology Center

STORY BY DOUG HUGHEY
PHOTOS BY NATASHA JOHNSTON,
PARKWAY WEST CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Trade students get recognized during signing day

During Dr. Darby Copeland's tenure as the director of Parkway West Career and Technology Center, the trade school has trained hundreds of students to take on their post-secondary plans, whether those include pursuing an associate's or bachelor's degree, or entering directly into the workforce.

Yet, despite filling critical roles in the local economy, none of those students ever tend to get quite the same amount of attention as student-athletes when they decide on a college or school. That fact bothered Copeland, who, as graduation time was approaching this year, got the idea to organize a signing day for matriculating trade students.

"It was just one of those, sit straight up in bed in the middle of the night moments," he says.

Copeland approached some of the other secondary trade schools in the region, along with the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh, with the idea. On May 7, students from each of those schools "committed" to their post-secondary career choices at an event hosted by the Energy Innovation Center, which works with major corporations like Johnson and Johnson and Siemens to train workers. The event was even attended by Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

In remarks, Peduto described the need for "trained, skilled workers" in the Pittsburgh region as "critical."

"Today's a special day," Peduto told a roomful of family members, officials, trades students and educators. "It's not that much different than the signing days that happen at high schools across this country....It's not that much different than draft day in the NFL....today's signing day is saying what company I am going to work for or what career path I'm going to start on."

Students, including six from Parkway West Career and Technology Center, got to announce their plans in front of backdrops of their graduating schools. Among those students from Parkway West Career and Technology Center was Allora Santucci, who is already working as an emergency medical technician and taking dual-enrollment medical courses at the Community College of Allegheny County. She intends to eventually become a flight nurse. Justin McGee announced his plans to work for Diehl Automotive as a mechanic. He said he's also hoping to take courses at CCAC. Samantha Perrone announced her plans to attend culinary school. She says she hopes to become an educator and train other culinary students like herself. Nick Dreger plans to explore a career at Cochran Nissan. Cody Gallagher has committed to employment with Mascaro Construction, pending the completion of all of his Keystone Mountain Lakes Carpenters' Union requirements. Finally, Adam Simkovich plans to also explore a career in carpentry with Giffin Interior, pending his completion of his Keystone Mountain Lakes Carpenters' Union requirements as well.

In addition to training workers in the region, the Energy Innovation Center has also been working with area high schools to invite schools into the center to work on design challenges. The center's CEO, Dr. Robert A. Meeder, says they have been working with 12 high schools and invite upwards of 30 students in at a time to work on various projects. During the project, students are



ABOVE: Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto poses for a picture with Parkway West Career and Technology graduating students Nick Dreger, Allora Santucci, Cody Gallagher, Samantha Perrone and Justin McGee at a signing day ceremony at the Energy Innovation Center. Not pictured is Adam Simkovich. BELOW: Allegheny County executive Rich Fitzgerald speaks during the event.



sometimes paired with CEOs from major corporations.

"We want this to represent the mission of this place and also the community," said Meeder of the event. "So it came together with helping them and went right into our mission of trying to put people into careers."

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WA TODAY

JUNE, 2019
Vol. 41,
No. 5

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF FINDLAY AND NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIPS AND OAKDALE BOROUGH

Seniors celebrated for their past, present and future

May 17 marked the third annual Senior Celebration and Declaration Day, as the class of 2019 prepared to embark on their future. The day kicked off at the high school, where seniors were welcomed into the gymnasium with much fanfare provided by the Marching Pride and student chants. The soon-to-be graduates proudly declared their future plans, inclusive of two- and four-year institutions, technical schools and the work force. A standing ovation and chants of “USA” spontaneously erupted as Sgt. Maj. Word introduced students joining the various branches of the military.

During the celebration, students were recognized for their achievements in academics, arts and athletics, as well as perfect attendance. The tradition of passing down the Indian Pride totem pole from the senior class to juniors held a special meaning as a block was dedicated in memory of classmate Christian Botwright.

Seniors continued to be celebrated as they exited the gymnasium through a tickertape tunnel of faculty and staff. Traveling back in time, the seniors visited the middle school and appreciated police escorts to their respective elementary schools, where students and staff greeted them with cheers, posters and touching memories. Students donned name tags that included their fifth grade school photo as they sought out former staff members and enjoyed reminiscing about their time in the lower grades.

Upon their return to the high school, a picnic lunch was provided. The celebration concluded with seniors receiving personalized letters of congratulations from family members, friends, staff and administrators.

BOTTOM LEFT: Sgt. Maj. Robert Word proudly introduces seniors who plan to join the military.

BOTTOM MIDDLE: The senior class adds a new block to the Indian Pride totem pole in memory of classmate Christian Botwright.

BOTTOM RIGHT: National Merit Scholarship winner Aaron Silvus declares his plans to attend the University of Alabama.



TOP: Seniors relive their elementary years when they discover their name tags include their fifth grade photo.

ABOVE: Middle school teachers Valerie Meehan and Nancy Watkins enjoy catching up with former students.

#WeAreStudentStrong

West Allegheny musical talent recognized by PMEA

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association recognized the musical talents of several West Allegheny band and chorus students. Throughout the school year, the following young musicians were selected by PMEA through an application or audition process:

PMEA State and Regional Band: Madison Dean

PMEA District Orchestra: Mike Cosnek and Madison Dean

PMEA District Band: Katie Bleil, Alex Berhosky and Madison Dean

PMEA District Chorus: Shannon Clontz and Cerina Wichryk

PMEA Honors Jazz: Alex Berhosky, Victor Colledge and Mike Cosnek

PMEA Honors Band: Alex Berhosky, Mike Cosnek and Madison Dean

PMEA Jr. High Band West: Gabby Holtz

PMEA Jr. High Orchestra: Alexandria Booth and Sarah Rankin



Junior Madison Dean earned a coveted spot on the PMEA State Band.

District announces administrative reorganization

West Allegheny School District has announced a school administrative reorganization. This reorganization stems from the resignation of high school principal Kevin McKiernan, who accepted the position of principal at North Hills High School in his home district. The subsequent reorganization includes the promotion of middle school principal, Dr. Frank Hernandez, to the role of high school principal and the promotion of Donaldson Elementary principal, Patricia Nolan, to the role of middle school principal, effective July 1, 2019. The District will conduct a thorough search to fill the Donaldson principal position and anticipates hiring a replacement by mid-July.

“This opportunity to lead in the district which I currently reside and my three children attend was one I could not let pass,” said McKiernan. “The most difficult part in this decision was departing from the West Allegheny students, staff and community, which I have been welcomed into over the past nine years. I truly appreciate the support provided to me throughout my years at West Allegheny. WA is truly blessed with amazing people and will certainly continue to realize excellence in the arts, athletics and academics for every child who passes through its doors.”

Hernandez has been with the District since 2016 and brings with him a passion for educating students. Throughout his administrative tenure, the middle school has earned the Schools to Watch and the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Fidelity designations. It has also been recognized at the state level for both its middle school career education and attendance programs. Hernandez has raised the academic outcomes for students and staff while building a culture of team-oriented goals, community engagement and communication.

“I am very excited to continue working with all of the students and families who I have come to know during my three years at WAMS,” added Hernandez. “It is very special to me to continue to be their principal, and I cannot wait to meet the class of 2020 and to welcome any new students to West A who did not attend the middle school. I really look forward to working with the staff and rising seniors to further build leadership capacity while continuing to enhance the amazing academic, arts, athletic and extra-curricular history at WAHS.”

Transitioning to the middle school principal role, Nolan brings a background steeped in dedication to her students, parents, staff and the West Allegheny community. She is not only an educator but also a District resident and parent. Under her leadership, Donaldson Elementary earned a prestigious 2014 National Blue

Ribbon Award for being a high achieving school and for growing every practice and cohort of students for five consecutive years. Since the school’s opening in 2003, Nolan has been instrumental to Donaldson’s growth and its transformation into a student-centered school with an inclusive and caring culture. She joined the District in 1997 as an assistant principal at McKee and Wilson.

“I have had the privilege of working at three of West Allegheny’s five schools,” stated Nolan, “McKee and Wilson as an assistant principal and then at Donaldson, opening its doors in 2003 as the principal and seeing the school grow from infancy to now, a full 16 years later. As I look to the next chapter as the West Allegheny Middle School principal, I am approaching it with optimism and hope, knowing that a school is strongest when its people - the staff, students, parents, and community - come together for one purpose, the success of our West Allegheny students. WAMS has experienced much growth thanks to the multiple stakeholders, and we will continue to build on this firm foundation. Reflecting on the last 16 years at Donaldson, I want the students, staff and parents to know it has been one of the joys of my life. As I turn my attention toward the middle school, I will be looking to capture that same joy. The middle school staff and I will work hard to continue all the good in place right now and look for opportunities to grow practices and programs to support our students’ success.”

“We wish Mr. McKiernan the best in his new endeavor and know the North Hills school community will benefit from his leadership,” said West Allegheny superintendent, Dr. Jerri Lynn Lippert. “We are very fortunate to have a strong and diverse administrative team at West Allegheny, affording us flexibility in administrative staffing. Dr. Hernandez’s leadership at the high school having served three current high school cohorts of students and their families will be a tremendous benefit to an already incredibly competent and energetic staff. His expertise in positive behavior intervention systems along with his focus on building relationships and ensuring student success will serve our high school students well. Mrs. Nolan, assuming the leadership of the middle school, is a significant asset given she will have the opportunity to work with students from all three elementary schools, allowing her to expand her expertise to benefit students and families from across the district. Her expertise as an award-winning National Blue Ribbon School Leader, along with her ability to establish strong staff and student culture, will complement the amazing work of our middle school team over the past years.”

Superintendent's Message

The West Allegheny School District 2019-2020 final budget approval is anticipated at the June 19 Board of School Directors meeting, during which we will recommend **no tax increases for the 11th consecutive year**. West Allegheny is one of only three K-12 districts in Allegheny County that has not raised taxes in the last six years. The 2019-2020 budget reflects our deep commitment to being fiscally prudent while providing our students with a world-class education, access to award-winning arts education and athletic programs, and enhanced security within safe and supportive school cultures. The District's last millage increase was .5 mills in the 2008-2009 school year. West Allegheny has the seventh lowest millage rate in Allegheny County at 18.51 mills. The budget includes revenues of \$65,463,972, a 3.5 percent increase from the 2018-2019 final budget, and expenditures of \$65,741,916, marking a 2.1 percent increase.

Aligned to Priority 1 - Academic Rigor, Equity and Excellence for all students, with a goal of all graduates being career- and college-ready with a viable post-secondary plan - the budget includes expenditures of \$809,517 to directly enhance academic options for our students. These enhancements encompass Parkway West Career and Technology Center tuition for ninth- through 12th-graders. It also includes District-paid exam fees of \$80,000, accounting for over 850 Advanced Placement course enrollments, as well as approximately \$40,000 in tuition fees to support the second year of the new CCAC Early College in High School Cybersecurity, Multimedia Game Simulation and Mechatronics certificate programs. Our current projected enrollment in our Early College in High School program is 596 students, representing 60 percent of our high school students. The 596 students account for enrollment in 1,012 West Allegheny courses with over 4,500 eligible college credits. West Allegheny offers 30 courses that account for 48 CCAC concurrent classes with 150 college-eligible credits. Also in support of Priority 1 with a goal of academic preparedness, the budget includes expenditures to continue academic program enhancements and curriculum adoptions in the amount of approximately \$245,000, supporting literacy and mathematics intervention programs, instructional technology programs, career awareness and exploration programs, and professional learning opportunities for our educators.

Aligned to Priority 2 - High Quality Instruction in Every Classroom, Every Day within a Safe and Supportive School Culture - the 2019-2020 budget allocates for the addition of one part-time and two full-time teachers to support the redistricting plan of approximately 85 Wilson students who are moving to

McKee and Donaldson to alleviate overcrowding and reduce class size. The budget also includes the addition of three contracted behavior crisis intervention therapists to support ongoing triage and support for students who are in crisis and/or struggling with mental illness.

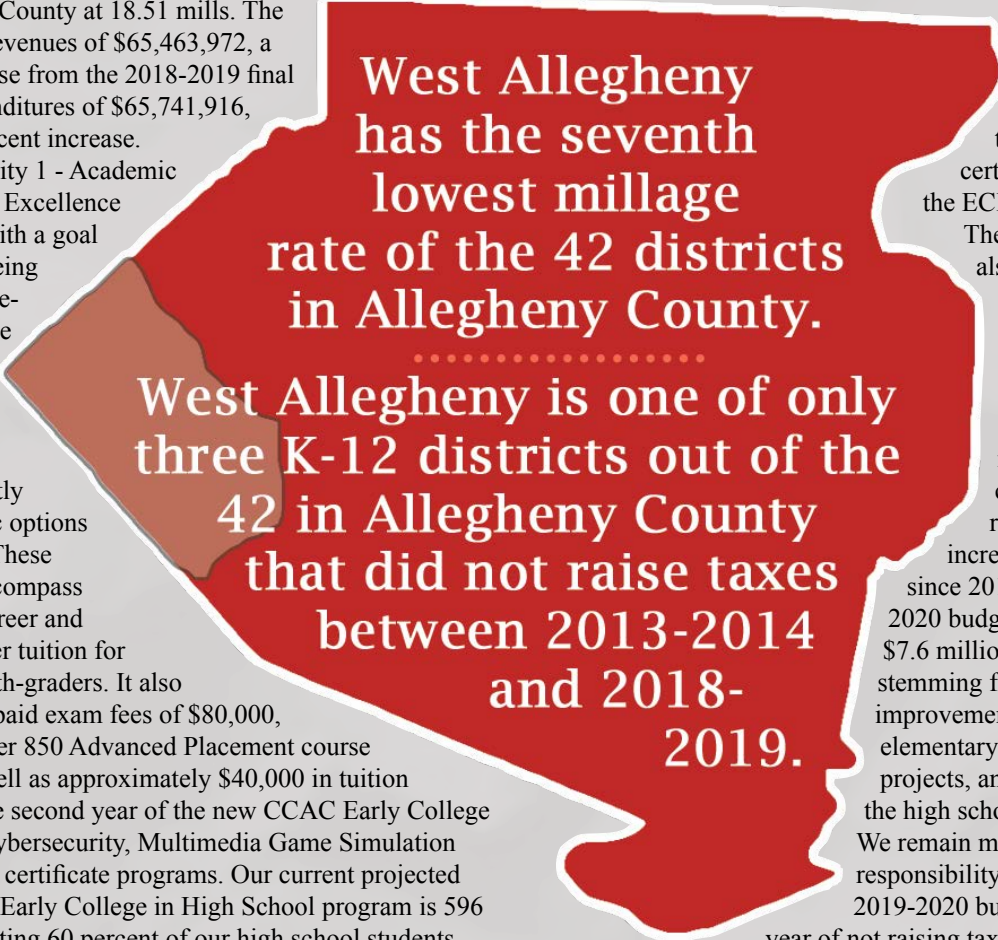
Aligned to Priority 3 in our Framework for Excellence - Family Engagement, Financial Responsibility and Operational Efficiency with a goal of safety and emergency preparedness - the 2019-2020 budget includes a commitment of \$900,000 to support technology enhancements, including \$110,000 to refresh three computer labs supporting the Early College in High School Academy of Cybersecurity and Multi-media game simulation

programs. As well, \$125,000 is allocated for mechatronics equipment to support the launch of the new certificate program as part of the ECIHSA.

The 2019-2020 budget also includes increases in employee salary and benefit costs of \$1.03 million over the 2018-2019 budget, including a 7.8 percent increase in retirement contribution costs. The District's retirement costs have increased by \$4.85 million since 2010-2011. The 2019-2020 budget includes a total of \$7.6 million in loan repayments stemming from capital project improvements, two recent major elementary school renovation projects, and recent completion of the high school athletic complex. We remain mindful of our fiscal responsibility to taxpayers, as the 2019-2020 budget marks our 11th

year of not raising taxes while also avoiding employee furloughs and program cuts. As one of only three districts out of 42 K-12 districts in the county that has not raised taxes within the last six years, we also maintain one of the lowest millage rates in the county. We continue to maintain a fiscally sound budget while dramatically advancing and accelerating academic programming at all levels, adding extraordinary opportunities for post-secondary career and college preparatory credits, expanding access to career and technical education, renovating two elementary schools, providing state-of-the-art athletic facilities and other major capital project improvements, enhancing safety and security measures, and absorbing escalating employee costs. We are proud of the financial excellence that complements and supports our tradition of excellence in academics, arts and athletics.

Dr. Jerrí Lynn Lippert, Superintendent



West Allegheny has the seventh lowest millage rate of the 42 districts in Allegheny County.

West Allegheny is one of only three K-12 districts out of the 42 in Allegheny County that did not raise taxes between 2013-2014 and 2018-2019.

Talented cast and crew of “The Addams Family” earn eight Gene Kelly nominations

When the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera announced this year’s Gene Kelly Award nominees, West Allegheny was the proud recipient of eight for its musical production of “The Addams Family.” West Allegheny’s musical was also one of three nominated from among eight schools in the budget category III for best musical and one of six nominated from all 33 participating schools for best supporting actress (Lindsey Sabo), best scenic design, best costume design, best ensemble, best execution of choreography, best execution of direction, and best execution of musical direction. The CLO’s 29th Annual Gene Kelly Award ceremony was held on May 25 at the Benedum Center, where the cast and crew won best ensemble.

Mara Greer served as director, assisted by Michael Greer as choreographer/assistant director. Robert Neumeyer was the musical director and the show was produced by Tom Snyder.



The cast and crew of West Allegheny’s musical production of “The Addams Family” earned eight Gene Kelly Award nominations.

Marching Pride makes its mark in Virginia

The Marching Pride proudly upheld West Allegheny’s tradition of excellence when it competed in the 66th Annual Parade of Nations, which is part of the Norfolk NATO Festival in Norfolk, Virginia. The Marching Pride competed against bands from across the country, including Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Virginia. West Allegheny brought home second place as they represented the West Allegheny community with great pride. Members of the high school chorus also performed to a large crowd of choral enthusiasts at Busch Gardens.

While in Virginia, students visited the Norfolk Military Tattoo, which draws more than 1,000 performers, including fife and drum corps, bagpipers, military bands, precision drill teams, and performance ensembles ranging from step dancers to motorcycle stunt drivers. Students will no doubt remember the trip for years to come.

The Marching Pride performs along the Parade of Nations route.



District’s music education program receives national recognition for second year

For the second consecutive year, the District has been recognized with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. West Allegheny was one of only 623 districts in the nation to receive this distinction. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, West Allegheny answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.



Mock crash organized by SADD

As a prelude to this year's prom, the Students Against Destructive Decisions organization staged a mock crash for over 200 students April 29. Through the support of local and regional first responders, SADD members reminded fellow students of the dangers resulting from distracted driving while demonstrating the realities of crash site scenarios.



ABOVE: Life Flight arrives on campus to simulate evacuation procedures during a recent mock crash staging.

BELOW: High school students look on as SADD members and first responders stage a mock crash.



Students in Action earns Gold Leadership designation

The high school Students in Action club presented a summary of their yearlong efforts at the Jefferson Awards/Multiplying Good Pitch Day on April 4. Students competed against a variety of other schools, all of which completed service projects within their respective communities. The West Allegheny Students in Action team detailed their impressive leadership skills as they outlined three student-led initiatives: a district-wide recycling program, which helped to increase school-wide recycling by up to 50 percent; a blood drive, which assisted in saving the lives of 108 individuals; and West A & Co., a community closet at the high school where students in need will be able to access clothing and hygiene products. Ultimately, the West Allegheny Students in Action team earned the designation of Gold Leadership School and students are already exploring new opportunities to help the community throughout the next school year.

Teacher Kateri Meinert and Sgt. Mike Hayes serve as the club sponsors.

Members of the Students in Action club display their Gold Leadership banner at the Jefferson Awards ceremony.



Students learn sustainability from design challenge



Student participants earned certificates for EIC design challenge submissions.

Students in the high school's environmental sustainability class participated in a design challenge through the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh. West Allegheny students worked with students from neighboring school districts to design food kit options for EIC employees to purchase from the center's in-house kitchen. Parkway West Career and Technology students prepared the food variations while Montour students designed the packaging. West Allegheny then created the directions and nutritional food cards.

The design challenge provided students with the opportunity to partner with peers from other districts in order to design a comprehensive and viable end product.

Students proudly stand together

Students from the school's Stand Together club attended an end-of-year recognition event at Heinz History Center on April 10. The event was held in order to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the national Stand Together movement, which seeks to raise awareness of mental health and substance abuse while reducing the stigma of school environments. West Allegheny was one of 17 school districts in Allegheny County to participate in Stand Together. This is the District's second year in the program. Two student representatives from West Allegheny, Michael Cosnek and Mallory McElhaney, were chosen as speakers for the event in order to recap projects the club has facilitated this year.

Students, staff and administrators attend end-of-year presentations at Heinz History Center for Stand Together.



Six middle school students excel in academic competitions

Following school-level bees, six middle school students advanced to state and national levels of competition recently. Sixth-graders Cadence Durnell, Evan Kreg and Bobby Kartychak, along with seventh-graders Hope Fronczek, Blake Schwarz and Jonah Durnell, qualified for the International Academic Competition in Windber on March 30. Qualifying for the National Championship, Cadence finished first in the history and academic bee for sixth grade; Bobby qualified in history and took third place in the academic bee; Jonah finished third in the history bee; Hope was a finalist in the science bee; and Evan and Blake were finalists in the academic bee. The students will compete in the national championship in June in Chicago.



Middle school principal Dr. Frank Hernandez recognizes National Academic Championship qualifiers Blake Schwarz, Hope Fronczek, Bobby Kartychak, Jonah Durnell, Cadence Durnell, Evan Kreg and faculty sponsor Jeff Kiser.

#WeAreInnovators&Designers

West Allegheny students inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Several West Allegheny students were inducted into the Parkway West Career and Technology Center's National Technical Honor Society in a ceremony April 9. The honorees were Salvador Hernandez, Staci Hoberek, Rhiannon Holeva, Jacob McCready, Racheal Nuckels and Alexis Zerr.

West Allegheny students are recognized at the National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony.



SHASDA honors seniors for perseverance

Seniors Kalieaha Ives and Allen Fink were honored by the South Hills Area School District Association at a banquet April 27 at the Hilton Garden Hotel, Southpointe. They were joined by seniors from neighboring districts, all of whom received SHASDA Awards for embracing opportunities that will help them achieve great success.



Kalieaha Ives (front) and Allen Fink (back) receive their SHASDA Awards during a special ceremony.

Middle school students learn math applications during Dobil Laboratories visit

Dana McCaskey's geometry classes visited Dobil Laboratories on March 27. There, they rotated through sessions titled sound/audio, light properties/video, elements of design/blueprints and an interview/resume session. The field trip provided an opportunity for students to: demonstrate real-world math applications using algebra and geometry, learn about specific jobs within the business model and practice professionalism.



Technology demonstrations show students real world applications of mathematics.

#WeAreWestA

Pennies for Patients adds up to student recognition

Sixth-grader Aubrey Police was recognized as a Student Hero All Star by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for her generosity and commitment to helping raise funds for the middle school's Pennies for Patients campaign. Aubrey was nominated to represent the school at an award ceremony sponsored by Robert Morris University and the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

Award recipient Aubrey Police meets the Pittsburgh Penguins mascot, Iceburgh.



Fun and games cap school year at middle school spring carnival

The middle school PTA hosted a spring carnival on May 3 that drew over 250 students. The evening included games, prizes, inflatables, food, music, wax hand art and ice cream from Scoops & More. A dunk tank was a student favorite as they enjoyed dumping principal Dr. Frank Hernandez and others.

Flower pot painting was a student favorite at the spring carnival.



Donaldson counselor knocks it out of the park

Donaldson counselor Kristen Tracy was named an All-Star Teacher by the Pittsburgh Pirates during a surprise assembly held at the school April 8. Representatives from the Pittsburgh Pirates, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3, Intermediate Unit 1, The Grable

Foundation, Chevron and Kidsburgh - along with the Pittsburgh Pirate Parrot - were on hand to honor Tracy. She was one of 18 educators selected among more than 300 nominees. As an awardee, Tracy was recognized on the field during the Pirates game May 26. She received a game day jersey, was featured on the JumboTron and listed in the game day program. Tracy also received a check for \$1,000 to be used for her programming.

"Kristen Tracy's commitment to support students and do whatever they need to meet success makes her stand out," said Trish Nolan, Donaldson principal. "She does so many things to make our school a better place and warm the school climate and environment! Kristen Tracy's dedication embodies what our school theme is at Donaldson Elementary: Lifting and Supporting Our Students Every Day!"



Kristen Tracy (center) was celebrated by students, staff, family, administration and even the Pirate Parrot after being named an All-Star teacher by the Pirates organization.

Students roll out their racing skills in Pinewood Derby

The District's annual Pinewood Derby was held April 25, with students from Wilson Elementary, the middle school and high school participating. A total of 30 colorful and creative cars made with the assistance of high school students faced off in a series of races.

Derby participants demonstrate their good sportsmanship.



Word Warriors win the battle

The elementary schools hosted their annual Battle of the Books competition April 4, with a total of 44 teams vying for the title. Teams comprised of fourth and fifth grade students read books from a selected list and came together at the tournament to answer questions. The champions of the 2019 tournament were the Word Warriors from Wilson Elementary, which also had team members from McKee. The competition was organized by elementary school librarians Kathy Denniston, Denise Medwick and Beth Schultz.

The winning teams were:

Champions: Word Warriors Wilson

Logan Hagenstein
Raegan Bolind
Carter Glasspool
Grayson Goodlin (McKee)
Maxwell Fiscante (McKee)



Maxwell Fiscante, Grayson Goodlin, Logan Hagenstein, Carter Glasspool and Reagan Bolind of the Word Warriors celebrate their Battle of the Books win.

Runners-Up:

Book Warriors Donaldson

Carson Quadrini
Aashrith Nalluri
Maryam Mazin
Addison Malloy
Vanessa Pendel

The Bookosaurs McKee

Aidan Fellows
Logan McFall
Sophia Swoager
Addison Tokos
Anna Yerkey

Color fun run comes to Wilson

The Wilson PTA hosted its first annual Color Fun Run after school on May 10. Students, staff, parents and even principal Rachel Gray got in on the colorful event.

Principal Rachel Gray joins students in the colorful fun.



#WeAreTeacherProud

#WeAreWestA

Donaldson student council enjoys a visit with a furry guest

Donaldson student council received a visit April 24 from Cpl. Todd Heufelder of the North Fayette Police Department and K-9 officer Nevo. Heufelder explained to students the role of a K-9 officer and the extensive training required to work with Nevo. Students presented Heufelder with a \$900 donation and a box of treats to express their appreciation for the unit's positive impact on the community.

K-9 officer Nevo poses for a photo with Cpl. Todd Heufelder, the student council and faculty advisor Tiffany Mangan.

WA



This month, our #WACARES spotlight shines on McKee Elementary School

From the desk of Melissa Wagner, McKee Principal

Every Monday, the McKee school community gathers in the gym for school-wide "Community Time." At McKee Elementary, coming together to actively and purposefully cultivate a caring and supportive school culture is a top priority. We strongly believe that when schools develop a strong sense of community and stress the development of qualities essential to good character and citizenship like caring and compassion, these positive characteristics begin to shape daily interactions.

McKee has a special school pledge to help shape these caring qualities. The final lines of the pledge read: "I care about you - I care about me - I care about my McKee family." At McKee Elementary, being a caring and kind scholar is just as important as reading, writing and arithmetic. The #WACARES initiative was not only embedded into a school pledge, but also into the culture of our school.

The 2018-2019 school year was planned with monthly #WACARES McKee themes. Among our monthly care themes was "We Care about Bus Drivers." As such, McKee students delivered cold bottles of water to our amazing, hardworking bus drivers on hot days. For another theme, "We Care About Custodians," students left treats and caring messages for custodians in their classrooms at night. For "We Are Caring and Giving," students gave each other gifts that did not cost money



ABOVE: One way to show someone your care is to give them a hug. They are free at McKee.

to show one another that they care. These gifts included gestures such as "you can have a turn before me," "you can use my new crayons" and "a free hug for someone looking sad." February's theme "We are Loving" challenged students to complete 15 to 20 loving acts of kindness within our school community before the end of the month. "Be an Includer" was our #WACARES theme for March. Students looked for opportunities throughout the month to include others at lunch, during recess, in the classroom, in learning, or any other way needed. We also wore silly socks to support Downs Syndrome Awareness Day and advocate for the inclusion of people with special needs.

We showed support for our third through fifth grade students during the testing month of April. Our caring focus was "We Support You." Students gave support to one another before and after tests, posting words of encouragement on each other's lockers, hanging motivational signs in the hallways, distributing

positive post-it notes to friends before taking tests, and engaging in chants and cheers to rev up for testing endurance. Learning how to support one another through the rigorous testing month bonded our school community!

We could not be more proud of our CARING school community! We will continue to grow our caring school culture and challenge it to strengthen its impact within our school community and beyond.

BELOW: McKee students take time to care for their bus drivers.



Softball team makes history, baseball reaches playoffs and girls track secures MAC in spring season

After an impressive string of victories this post-season, the varsity softball team found themselves in familiar territory. Following an historic chain of events, the girls advanced to the WPIAL championship game as a result of a 4-2 semi-final victory over Franklin Regional. With the win, the team accomplished something no other West Allegheny athletic team has done in school history: qualified for a fourth consecutive WPIAL championship appearance. Following several weather-related cancellations, the team took on Connellsville in the championship game May 31. In a nail-biter, the team came out on top by a score of 3-2 to win their third consecutive WPIAL title. At the time of this writing, the team is moving on to the second round of the state playoffs after defeating Exeter, 15-6, in the first round.

The baseball team also advanced to post-season play, reaching the quarter-final round after a bye in the first round. Their season came to an end after falling to Mars, 4-3, in extra innings.

In track and field, the girls team secured the section title and MAC championship after a successful season.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: The softball team celebrates winning its third consecutive WPIAL championship.



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All material has been prepared,
written or edited by
Karen Ruhl,
School Community
Relations Coordinator,
West Allegheny School District
(724) 695-5274

**FOOT
FACTS**

Bunions are among the most common type of foot ailment today's podiatrist treats, especially in women. Studies show that women are anywhere from two to nine times more likely to develop a bunion than men! While your high heels and peep toes are partially to blame, your foot type (passed down through your family) is the true culprit. Here's the good news! Today's podiatrist is the true expert when it comes to diagnosing and treating bunions.

For more information about bunions and their treatment, visit the American Podiatric Medical Association Web site at: www.apma.org.

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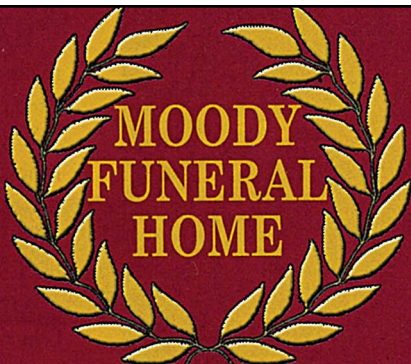
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Summer Fun Guide

The lowdown on fun summer happenings in and around the area.



Kennedy Township Community Days draws a nice crowd with inflatables, rides, live music, carnival games and fireworks. See the listing on page 38 for upcoming event details.

Festivals & Cookouts

McDonald Lions Club Rib Cookouts

Order some ribs from this series of annual cookout fundraisers and you'll be supporting a Lions Club charity. Lions Club volunteers will be barbecuing mouth-watering ribs at the McDonald Trail Station in McDonald on **June 29, July 27, Aug. 24 and Sept. 5. They sell from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,** or until all are sold.

One-pound boats are \$9. Water, soda, Lions brooms and trash bags will also be available. To pre-order, call Charley at (724) 926-8823 or Gene at (724) 622-3359.

McSummerfest, June 29-July 6

Twenty-six years ago, the McDonald VFD revamped its annual street fair fundraiser when it moved it from a parking lot into Heritage Park and booked some fair rides. Each year since then this local festival has grown, to the point that upwards of 20,000 people now visit throughout the week. This year, the department will be bringing back the same amusement rides, carnival games, nightly live rock bands and food vendors that have turned McSummerfest into a summertime staple. As is customary, it will also be hosting a fireworks show on a night other than July 4. **This year, fireworks will be on July 5.** The department will also again be pulling in a large portion of its annual operating budget by selling fried Oreos, fried Twinkies, fry buckets, beer, fry boats and more. Be sure to bring a chair and grab a good spot in front of the stage or, on July 5, the hillside overlooking the park to watch the fireworks. **McSummerfest kicks off nightly at 6 p.m.**

Check www.mcdonaldfire.com for a band schedule.

Moon Township's July 4 Celebration

Fireworks will cap off the fun at Moon Park this July 4 but there will also be plenty going on throughout the day, including inflatables, balloon artists, a trackless train, a dunk tank and more. As well, there will be lots of food trucks and live entertainment by the Doo Wop All-Stars, Michael Christopher and Totally 80s. **The fun kicks off at 4 p.m.** For more, visit moonparks.org.

Janoski's Wine Festival, July 20, 3-8 p.m.

For the past six years, local wineries have turned out to make the Janoski's Wine Festival in Clinton a premier event. Each year, this open-air wine tasting features over a half dozen local wineries pouring around 100 varietals ranging from Riesling-style chocolate sweet wines, to crisp, un-oaked chardonnays, to robust merlots.

Janoski's also serves a buffet of fresh food for the event, much of it grown on the farm. For \$39 (or \$49 at the gate) attendees get a souvenir wine glass for tastings, unlimited access to a home-cooked food buffet, unlimited wine tastings and a chance to win a basket donated by the wineries. Once you find a wine you like, buy a bottle, grab a spot on the deck by the pond and enjoy some live music.

The largest wine festival in the region, last year's event drew 900+ wine aficionados.

Email info@janoskis.com for details. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Janoski's Farm and on Eventbrite.com by searching Janoski Farms Harvest Wine Festival. This adult-only event takes place rain or shine and is sponsored by Janoski's. Visit the Facebook page Janoski's Wine Festival for updates.

Ingram Days Celebration, July 20-21

This annual celebration in Ingram Park will be celebrating its 40th year this July. **The fun kicks off on July 20 at 5 p.m. and wraps up on July 21 at 11 p.m. with a fireworks show.** Come prepared to enjoy lots of great fair food, games, crafters, vendors and live music. There will be free **face painting and airbrush tattoos for the kids from 5-7 p.m.** and a **balloon artist from 6-8 p.m. both nights.** Silent Partner takes the stage **Saturday night around 7:30 p.m.** Casanova Band performs Sunday night before a fireworks show to cap off the fun and the big milestone. Check out www.facebook.com/IngramDays for more.



Rides and carnival games are part of the fun at McSummerfest.



Janoski's sets up tables by the water and hosts live music for its annual wine festival in Clinton.

McSummerfest

27th Annual McSummerfest 2019

At Heritage Park - McDonald, PA

June 29th - July 6th

Closed Sunday, June 30th

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Ducky's Car Wash
Express Employment Professionals
First Commonwealth Bank
First Energy Foundation
Golden Triangle Construction
Harrington's
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McSummerfest Parade at 5pm

Ruff Creek

Monday, July 1st

Steel Town Horns

Tuesday, July 2nd

Bobby Thompson & The Groove

Wednesday, July 3rd

Northern Comfort

Thursday, July 4th

Dirty Confessions

Friday, July 5th

Fireworks at Dusk
Willow Creek

Saturday, July 6th

Timothy Earl Band

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FOR MORE INFORMATION 724-926-9190 • www.McDonaldfire.com

Oakdale Hose Company Street Carnival, July 20-27

Head to downtown Oakdale for this annual celebration and enjoy carnival games, live music, great food and more **starting at 7:30 p.m. nightly. A parade takes place July 26 at 7 p.m. and an impressive car show will be held July 23. Bike night is July 24.** Call (724) 350-6795 with questions.



The fireman's parade during the Oakdale Hose Company's street fair gives children the opportunity to bag some treats.

Crafton-Ingram Rotary Rib and Chicken Fest, Aug. 1

Come celebrate this annual cookout on its 27th anniversary in Crafton Park from **4-7 p.m.** Choose between baby back ribs or a barbecue chicken dinner. In addition to great food, count on raffles, auctions, door prizes and a llama plop. **Live entertainment kicks off at 7:30 p.m.** Dinners include all the fixings. Proceeds support Rotary charities. For questions, call (412) 922-8824.

Holy Trinity Festival, Aug 1-3

Head to Holy Trinity Catholic Church and enjoy some family fun at the Holy Trinity Festival **from 6-11 p.m. nightly.** There will be rides, games, bingo, a casino, food trucks and entertainment. This festival marks its 42nd. For questions, call (412) 787-2656. The festival benefits the new Archangel Gabriel School.

North Fayette Township Community Days, Aug. 3-4

North Fayette's fair takes place Aug. 3 in picturesque Donaldson Park and kicks off with a 5K in the morning (see 5Ks for race info). Expect live music throughout the day, plenty of fair food vendors, a beer tent, inflatables, pony rides, a petting zoo, clowns, games and a Zambelli fireworks show at the end. **The fun runs 2-11 p.m. A car cruise takes place Aug. 4** (see cruises for more information). Organizations wishing to participate should contact the North Fayette Parks and Recreation Department at (724) 307-3725.

For more, visit www.north-fayette.com/199/Recreation.

Moon Township Rotary Corn Roast, Aug. 13

This annual cookout takes place in Moon Park and helps the Moon Township Rotary Club raise money for its charities. Count on live music, quite possibly in the vein of polka, beer and cookout fare. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the event. **The party runs 5-8 p.m.**

Call (724) 695-1134 with questions.

Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands in Clinton Community Park, Aug. 16-17

Findlay Township's annual township fair at Clinton Community Park hasn't been an agricultural fair for some time, but it still retains many of the same trappings. Prizes are still awarded for best livestock, vegetables, baked goods, sewing and more. There's also pie eating and hula-hoop contests, a petting zoo, bounce castle, and miniature train rides. The fun starts **the evening of Aug. 16** with a hilly 5K (check 5Ks listing for more) followed by a **parade the next morning at 10:30 a.m.** The fun then goes throughout the day. Count on live entertainment as well as inflatables for the kids. A fireworks show takes place that evening. The fun takes place under the shady, comfortable canopy of the woodlands. For more, call (724) 695-0500 x 240 or visit www.findlaytpw.org/184/Parks-Recreation.



Findlay Township's fair takes place under the canopy of the woodlands.

Feastival and Ringing' the Rocks

Details for this year's Feastival in downtown McKees Rocks are still in the works. For the past five years, though, this hip and family-fun festival has taken place in August and featured lots of great live soul and funk music. You can also expect food trucks, kids' activities and more. Stay tuned to www.mckeesrocks.com. In the meantime, be sure to check out these **"Ringin' the Rocks" Art and Wine Crawls on June 7 and Sept. 6 from 6-9 p.m.** Both are free to the public and, for a \$5 donation, participants ages 21 and older who check in will receive a wristband and access to wine samplings throughout the crawl. The June 7 event focuses on the Broadway business district in Stowe Township and will feature pop-ups from area artisans and businesses from McKees Rocks. The Sept. 6 event will be held on the lower Chartiers Avenue business district in McKees Rocks and will feature pop-ups from local artisans and Stowe businesses. Email ringintherocks@gmail.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram for more.

Kennedy Township Community Days, Aug. 7-10

Rides, live music, fair food, inflatables, games and more await at this year's Kennedy Township Community Days. Details are still in the works, but in the past the fair has taken place each evening at Fairhaven Park and the fireman's parade has taken place the final day on Saturday. Fireworks cap off the fun that evening as well. Stay tuned to www.kennedytwp.com.

Seventh Annual Autumn Festival, Sept. 14

Close out the festival season with Robinson Township's Autumn Festival at the Burkett Sports and Recreation Complex in Robinson Township. **Festivities kick off at noon and go until 9 p.m.** There will be live bands throughout the day, youth performances, amusements, arcade games, a rock climbing wall, a bungee trampoline and more. It also wouldn't be a festival without the food vendors and a fireworks show to wrap up the celebration. Check www.facebook.com/townshipofrobinson for more.

Foodie happenings in Findlay

For more, or to register, call (724) 695-0500 x 240.

Ice Cream For All, July 12

Celebrate National Ice Cream Month with this ice cream social at the Pavilion at Leopold Lake. Create your own sundae with a wide variety of toppings. There will also be face painting for the kids. The cost is \$3 but kids 3 and under are free. **The fun runs 6-8 p.m.**

Farm to Table Dinner, Aug. 7

This special plein air, four-course dinner at the Pavilion at Leopold Lake will feature fresh produce and fruit from local farms prepared by Chef James. The menu includes a creamy spinach dip with grilled pita, a fresh Tuscan white bean salad, fresh zucchini stuffed with Italian sweet sausage and served with creamy polenta and grilled asparagus, and homemade Sarris milk chocolate mousse for dessert.

Reservations and payment are due by July 24. Ages 21 and over only. The cost is \$30 and **dinner is at 6:30 p.m.**

Food Truck Thursdays

If you're in the mood for some cookout fare in between festivals, then head out to the Findlay Township Municipal Building on the **last Thursday of every month through September.** There, you'll find food trucks serving up their fare in the parking lot. When the weather's nice, the township puts out tables and benches. When the weather's nasty, take-out is still available. The lot is located at 1271 Route 30 in Clinton.

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3 - 8 pm

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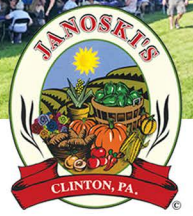
Buy Your Tickets
at

Janoski's Farm Market

Or, Order Online at Eventbrite:
janoskiwinefestival2019.eventbrite.com



7th
Annual



Janoski's Farm WINE FESTIVAL & FARM TO FORK BUFFET

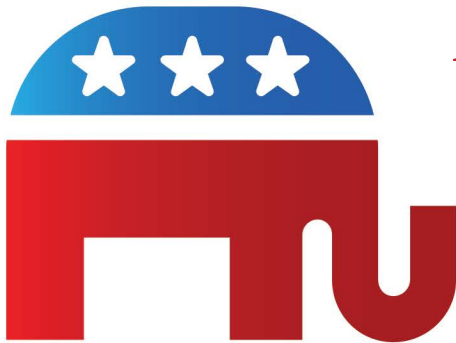


On the Farm
Under the Tents
By the Lake

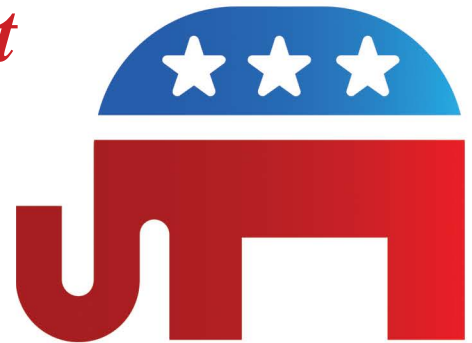
<http://www.facebook.com/janoskiwinefestival>
[@harvestwinepgh](https://twitter.com/harvestwinepgh)

724.899.3438 www.janoskis.com

Janoski's Farm is located at 1714 SR 30, Clinton, PA 15026, in western Allegheny County



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★ of Findlay Township ★

FindlayGOP@gmail.com
www.FindlayGOP.com

Meetings on first Tuesday
Of every month 7 p.m.
Findlay Township Municipal Building
1271 US-30, Clinton, 15026



Want to keep the kids busy this summer? Then check out these camps, which offer a range of times, venues and activities.

Kona Ice Kids' Summer Camp

Each day of this weeklong morning camp starts with 30 minutes of yoga followed by STEM exercises, where campers build projects out of

Lego Bricks. There will be a short break for a snack (be sure to bring one) before going on to the "Kona

Lab." Campers will then tour the inside of a Kona Truck and learn just how it works. The camp finishes with a taste testing to help campers cool off on a warm summer day. The camp runs **July 22-26, 9 a.m. to noon**. It meets at the Oriole Pavilion in Clinton Park and is for ages 6-12. The cost is \$125 per child, payable to Kona Ice. Call (724) 695-0500 x 240 to sign up.

North Fayette Parks and Rec. Camps

North Fayette is running a few different weekly summer camps this summer alongside a big lineup of summer sports programs, all at the North Fayette Community Center at Donaldson Park.

Its summer camp runs Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., through Aug. 16. The camp is for grades one through eight and the cost is \$35 per day for Community Center members, or \$45 per day for non-members. Campers get to play sports, go on field trips, create art, swim, and more. Pre-registration and payment in advance is required.

Kits Camp is also offered for ages 4-5 **from 9 a.m.-noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays through Aug. 9.** The cost is \$20 per day for members and \$25 per day for non-members.

As well, there's a Summer Theater Camp being offered for ages 4-13. Call for details.

The rest of the youth sports programs are as follows:

- Super Kids T-Ball, ages 3-5, **Mondays through July 8**
- Developmental Volleyball League, ages 9-15, **Wednesdays, through Aug. 14**
- Youth Volleyball Summer Camp, ages 9-16, **June 10-14 (not on June 13), and July 15-18**
- Super Kids Soccer, ages 3-5, **through July 9**
- Youth Floor Hockey, ages 6-11, **through July 18**
- Youth Tennis Lessons, ages 6-17, **through July 30**
- Super Kids Floor Hockey, ages 3-5, **July 22-Aug. 26**
- Youth Team Handball, ages 6-11, **July 23-Aug. 27**
- Summer Lacrosse, ages 6-11, **July 25-Aug. 29**
- Youth Outdoor Flag Football, ages 4-14, **Aug. 18-Oct. 27**

YMCA Summer Day Camps at Settlers Cabin Park

The YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh is partnering with Allegheny County Parks and Recreation to offer several day camps this summer. Locally, two camps are being offered at Settlers Cabin Park and both have work-friendly schedules. **They run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with a before-camp starting at 7 a.m. and an after-camp wrapping up at 6 p.m.**

The Spencer Family YMCA Camp Olympus is for ages 6-14 and will offer themes each week ranging from "inventor's workshop," where campers are challenged to build a marble run, to "beach week." Campers also get exclusive time at the wave pool.

The other, in association with L.L. Bean, is called YMCA Discovery Camp and is for ages 8-15. Kids in this camp will be engaged in outdoorsy pursuits like backpacking, orienteering, archery, ecology, fly-fishing, geocaching and more.

For more, including prices and registration, visit www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/activities/youth-camps.aspx and click on Settlers Cabin Park.

Allegheny County Sports Programs at Settlers Cabin Park

Allegheny County Parks and Recreation is offering a number of youth sports programs this summer at Settlers Cabin Park, including dekhockey, preschool aquatics, Red Cross swimming lessons and scuba lessons. There's also a dekhockey camp **July 15-18**. For more, visit alleghenycounty.us/summercamps and click on Settlers Cabin Park. You can also view the full list of the county's youth programs at its other parks.

Karen Prunzik's Broadway Dance Summer Camps

Do you have a budding performer between the ages of 3 and 18 in the family? Then cultivate their talent by signing them up for one of the following summer camps at Karen Prunzik's Broadway Performing Arts Studio:

- Princess Camp, **June 24-28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**
- Broadway Mini Camp, **July 8-19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**
- Broadway Bound Camp, **July 8-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**
- Paw Pals Camp, **July 22-26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**
- Greatest Star Camp, **July 22-26, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

Students can also get a 50 percent discount off summer classes when they register. Visit www.prunziksbroaddwaydancestudio.com or call (412) 920-1841.



The Rock Flea Market, Aug. 17, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 18, 1-3 p.m., pre-sale: Aug. 16, 5-8 p.m., \$5, 150 West State Street, Oakdale, benefits The Rock Youth and Family Center programs, donations accepted through Aug. 9, question and drop-off times: Bunny Donaldson, (412) 526-4945.

Not a Kid? Check out 5K, Golf and Adult Fitness listings, starting on page 42.

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of 2 days!





Tour some beautiful area private gardens

Like gardening? Want to get some ideas from a handful of local gardens to use in your own garden? Then sign up for the **Moon Township Garden Club's annual tour, which takes place this year July**

6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This self-guided tour features six local gardens selected by the Moon Township Garden Club. Proceeds benefit the club's various charitable efforts. A map and program will be available for pickup the day of the tour at Robin Hill Park. While you're there, be sure to visit the Fleur de Lune garden. A registration form is posted at moontownshipgardenclub.com. Tickets are \$10 if purchased ahead of time on Eventbrite and \$15 the day of the tour.

Fly with GPARCS

Want to see a turbine-powered jet model airplane fly? How about one that uses a gyroscope that reduces the chance of crashing? Then take a drive out to the K. Leroy Irvis Radio Control Model Airport located at 80 Model Airport Road in Burgettstown **any Thursday at 5 p.m. (so long as the weather is nice)** and meet up with members of the Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society. Since the mid-1970s, model airplane enthusiasts have been flying model airplanes at the airstrip, which is situated in the middle of Hillman State Park. GPARCS members are happy to lend a hand to help prospective members get started in the hobby with a little instruction. The airstrip's remote location also means there aren't any overhead power lines, buildings or annoying neighbors to ruin the fun. Visit www.gparcs.org for more information.



Get healthier with this local cycling club

Whether you're an experienced cyclist or just looking to improve your skills, consider joining up with the Premier Bicycle Club of Western Pennsylvania. This local club offers regular area rides led by trained ride leaders and offers six special events per year, the largest being its Shenandoah and Skyline Drive Tour through the picturesque hills of Virginia. Founded by chiropractor Dr. Robert Vano of Oakdale and some of his cycling friends, the club encourages members to stay healthy not only through exercise but also by adhering to a diet of whole foods. Annual memberships are \$25 per person or \$40 per family. Donations help the nonprofit pay operating expenses. For more information, including a calendar of upcoming rides, visit www.PremierBicycleClub.org.



Members of the Premier Bicycle Club of Western Pennsylvania pose for a picture during a special trip to Italy.

Take a trail hike (or bike)

Strap on your hiking boots or break out the bike. You can hit these trails with either.

Hollow Oak Land Trust trails

Take a hike back in the woods or get your mountain bike tires dirty in the Montour Woods on the Hollow Oak Land Trust trails. Trailheads are located off Hassam Road and at 949 Thorn Run Road. Trails range from easy to intermediate. They also connect with Moon Township trails that explore Moon Park. Visit hollowoak.org for maps and more. HOLT organizes a casual evening hike on Tuesdays throughout the summer that meets at the Thorn Run Road trailhead.

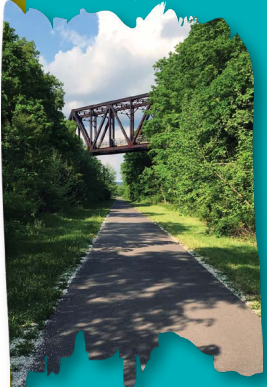


Hollow Oak Land Trust's single-rail trails in the Montour Woods are perfect for mountain biking or a nice nature hike.

Cruise on this lengthy paved section of the Panhandle Trail

Pump up your bike tires and jump on the Panhandle Trail at the Washington County line and you'll be able to cruise on a paved surface 17.3 miles all the way to West Virginia. Park for free at the McDonald Trail Station at 110 South McDonald Street. The Tandem Bike shop has a location just across the street for any bike supplies you may need, including the most important one: ice cream. Visit www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com for more.

If you want to bike the Allegheny County section of the trail, head right out of the McDonald lot or park along the trail in Oakdale. Then you'll be able to grab a beer at Helicon Brewery and enjoy their wide selection of craft brews and pinball machines at the finish.



The Panhandle Trail is paved all the way from the Washington County line to the West Virginia border.

Take a long trip on the Montour Trail

With 36 continuous miles open for hiking and biking, the combination of day trips on the Montour Trail are endless. The longest dedicated route of course starts at Mile 0 in Coraopolis and ends in either Bethel Park or Clairton but the spur connecting to the Panhandle Trail near Mile 17 opens up even more options - not to mention the spur connecting the trail to the Great Allegheny Passage between Clairton and McKeesport. Visit montourtrail.org for an interactive map and more.

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 1009 Beaver Grade Road, Suite 300, Moon Twp. PA | www.coraopolisdentist.com

Visit the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

Head out to Collier Township just outside of Oakdale this summer and stop by the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. This massive project aims to convert upwards of 460 acres of former strip mine into a world-class garden. Currently, visitors can explore 60 acres of the garden,

including several miles of paths that meander through a woodlands section, a dogwood meadow, a lotus pond and more. There are also regular tai chi classes offered that take



The lotus pond is a highlight at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

place next to the garden's lotus pond, educational programs for various ages and volunteer days. Visit pittsburghbotanicgarden.org, then click on explore and event calendar for more.

Through Oct. 31, the garden is open Tuesday-Sunday. It opens daily at 9 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m., except on Wednesday and Thursday, when it stays open until 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 but discounts and memberships are available. The garden is located at 799 Pinkerton Run Road, Oakdale.

Swimming

Robinson Township Community Pool, Clever Park

The Robinson Township pool got a big update in time for its opening last year. Among those updates were new tube slides, a climbing wall, dump buckets and an extended, zero-depth shallow area for children that also provides ease of access.

The pool is open seven days a week through Sept. 2. The township is also offering a bunch of swim programs for ages 1-15+. Passes are available for both residents and non-residents. Walk-ins pay \$7 per day. For a complete list of prices, programs offered and pass rates, visit the pool office in Clever Park, see the township's newsletter or visit townshipofrobinson.com.



Robinson Township's pool at Clever Park features a zero-depth shallow area and lots of amenities for children.

The township has a few community events planned at the pool, too:

Luaua, **June 22, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.**

Spirit of Dixie Band Concert, **July 14, 7:15-8:45 p.m.**

Glow in the Dark, **Aug. 3, 7:30-10 p.m.**

Allegheny County Pool Passes

If you frequent the wave pool at Settlers Cabin Park then consider picking up a pool pass at alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses. The pass gives you unlimited access not only to the local wave pool but also the county's other pools in Boyce Park, North Park and South Park. Packages are available for individuals, families and seniors. To view membership packages, select "memberships" and then search for "pool."



YOUTH SPORTS & CAMPS AT SETTLERS CABIN PARK



Soccer: Ages 2-8



Summer Camps: Ages 6-15



Dek Hockey Clinics: Ages 4-12



Dek Hockey Camp: Ages 6-15



Swimming: Ages 4+



Basketball Camp: Ages - 10-17

STARTING MID-JUNE THROUGH MID-AUGUST

For details, visit alleghenycounty.us/youthsports





Entertainment

Catch a show at The Roxian

Fourteen years ago, the McKees Rocks Development Corporation began the momentous task of rescuing the deteriorating Roxian Theater on Chartiers Avenue in downtown McKees Rocks. After pulling the property out of bankruptcy and putting some much-needed initial work into the project, the MRCDC entered into a partnership with John Pergal, owner of the Thunderbird Café in Lawrenceville, in 2017. Since then, the theater has gone through a massive renovation. In all, about \$9 million total has been invested in the property. The Roxian finally reopened at the beginning of May as a two-level concert venue with a 1,470-person capacity. About 20 shows are already planned this year, with acts like Iron and Wine, Toots and the Maytals, The Psychedelic Furs, and more. The historic, vaudeville-era theater with original plaster moldings and reliefs features all new amenities and will make for some memorable concert-going experiences. While you're downtown, check out some of the newly refurbished bars in the area, like Rocks Landing Bar and Grille across the street and Rudy's Dive Bar around the corner on Island Avenue, where you can still get the bar's famous ham sandwich. Or stop by Black Forge Coffee, which is renovating the space at the corner of Chartiers and Thompson avenues in preparation to open in the coming months.

Visit www.roxianlive.com for more.



An Evening with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra June 22, 5:30 p.m.

This special event to benefit the Heritage Valley Health System Foundation will feature the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performing music by Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole, with special guests Byron Stripling, Dee Daniels and Denzal Sinclair. The event kicks off at Heinz Hall with a courtyard reception catered by The Common Plea Catering, with passed hors d'oeuvres, dinner stations, a dessert station and a cash bar. Main floor seating is available for \$30 and family circle seating for \$21. Coach bus transportation is also available from Heritage's Sewickley and Beaver locations.

For more, and to order tickets, visit www.heritagevalley.org or call (412) 749-7050.

Free concerts

Most of the fairs and festivals listed in this guide feature live music. Here are some additional free concert dates scheduled throughout the area.

North Fayette Summer Concert Series, June 22, 27, July 11, 18, Donaldson Park Amphitheater, check Facebook page for details.

Spirit of Dixie Band, Robinson Township Pool at Clever Park, **July 14, 7:15-8:45 p.m.,** New Orleans-style jazz, bring blanket or lawn chair, www.facebook.com/townshipofrobinson.

The West Hills Symphonic Band Concert, July 21, 6:30 p.m., Findlay Recreation & Sports Complex, commemorates 75th anniversary of D-Day, popular World War II medleys, stirring marches, patriotic themes, salute to armed forces

Robin Hill Lunchtime Concert Series, third Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m., bring lawn chair or blanket, snacks available for purchase, **June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18,** www.moonparks.org.

Cruises & Racing

Show off your ride at these cruises, or just show up to drool

Whether you restore classic cars, tune imports or just like gawking at custom rides, these car cruises are for you. Awards entitle winners to bragging rights but the real fun is getting up close to these great cars and talking with customizers. Cruises are free to spectators. Many benefit good causes.

SNPJ Lodge 106 Car Cruises, noon, 255 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, with live entertainment, food, drinks, 50/50, level paved parking, door prizes, air conditioned clubroom, bikes welcome, dash plaques for first 50 cars; **July 21:** The HEDGG Band; **Aug. 11:** Elvis Lives: A Tribute to the King; **September:** Black and Gold Car Cruise, **details TBA,** (724) 695-1411.



The SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial has lots of regular cruises throughout the year.

Paradise Island Bowl Cruise, 5-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Paradise Island Bowling on Neville Island, oldies music.

Kosbar Ranch/Twisted Metal Car Club Car Show, third Saturdays, May-October, noon start, 363 Coraopolis Road, Coraopolis, hot rods, custom cars, bikes, beer and food available.

Wheels, Wings and Wishes, June 23, Moon Park, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., custom and high-end sports cars, classics, concessions, live entertainment, raffles, awards, \$5 donation per car, benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation, wheelwingswishes.com.

Ultimate Sunday Car Cruise, June 30, July 28, Aug. 11, 4-9 p.m., Kennedy Center in Kennedy Township, 1800 McKees Rocks Road, music, prizes, food available at Rockefeller's and Rita's Italian Ice.

McKees Rocks Super Cruise, July 18, 4-9 p.m., Kennedy Center in Kennedy Township, 1800 McKees Rocks Road, music, prizes, food available at Rockefeller's and Rita's Italian Ice.

Oakdale Hose Company Street Carnival Cruise, July 23, downtown Oakdale, coincides with carnival, food, games, entertainment, (724) 350-6795.

Friday Fun Nights at Moon Park, Moon Park Amphitheater, concerts start **7:30 p.m.,** movies start at dusk, drinks available, free popcorn, www.moonparks.org, schedule:

- June 21** - Safety Last and Gumband
- June 28** - Dan Buben and the Delta Struts/
The Gillie Brothers Band
- July 12** - Wild World of Animals / "Zoo"
- July 19** - Windjammer Orchestra
- July 26** - Community Camp Out / "Lego Movie II"
- Aug. 2** - Josh & Gabby / "Wonder"
- Aug. 9** - Jim Kanfousch / "Coco"
- Aug. 16** - Hip Hop Dancers / "Mary Poppins Returns"
- Aug. 23** - Whipper Snappers / "Teen Titans go to the Movies"



North Fayette Police Department Car Cruise, Aug. 4, 12-4 p.m., Donaldson Park, hosted by the North Fayette Police Department, www.north-fayette.com/335/Parks-Recreation.

Rosedale Technical College Car Show, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., live music, food, auction, judging categories, climbing wall, kids' corner, www.rosedaletech.org/carshow.

Moon Township VFC Car Cruise, Aug. 25, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Moon Park, www.moontwpfire.com/events/annual.php.

Robinson Township Car Cruise, Oct. 5, noon-4 p.m., Robinson Town Centre, \$5 donation per car, live entertainment by Gumband and oldies by DJ Dan, jtallon@townshipofrobinson.com.

Catch a race at "dirt's monster half mile"

Want to see sprint cars reach upwards of 150 miles per hour on a dirt track as they duke it out in a circuit race? Sure you do, so head to Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway in Imperial for those and lots of other races this summer. The racetrack, located at 170 Kelso Road, is open every Saturday night through October. There are also lots of fun, family-friendly events, like a kids' bike night, \$1 hotdog nights, a monster truck night, late model races and more. Check ppms.com for a complete schedule.



Sprint cars race around the dirt track at Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Motor Speedway.

Affordable Family Fun
 170 Kelso Road,
 Imperial, PA 15126
 Noblestown Exit of Rt. 22
 724-695-3363 or 0393

June 15	410 OUTLAW SPRINTS 2018 Champions Night
June 22	MONSTER TRUCK SHOWDOWN Facility leased to Top Notch Motorsports Promotions Inc.
June 29	SIZZLER - HERB SCOTT MEMORIAL
July 6	LATE MODELS, SPRINTS, MODIFIEDS & EMODS!
July 13	BERKS/Nickles - \$1 Hot Dog Night!
July 20	SIZZLER - RED MILEY RUMBLE
July 27	410 BOSS WINGLESS SPRINTS FALCONI'S SPRINT SERIES
Aug. 3	KIDS BIKE RACES! DIEHL AUTO RUSH LATE MODEL
Aug. 10	JOOK GEORGE CLASSIC KIDS FEST 2018 - 3PM*
Aug. 17	PENN OHIO SERIES

Tentative and subject to change *RAIN DATE - AUG. 11

Every Saturday Night April through September
Log on to www.ppms.com
for more schedules and special offers!

INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019

(Raindate: Friday, July 5)

Findlay Township is excited to announce the Independence Day Celebration 2019!

DJ Tim will kick off the celebration with music at 7:30 p.m. Speedies Pizza and Kona Ice will be on hand selling refreshments. Bring your chairs and blankets and hang out with your friends, family and neighbors. FREE giveaways will be available!

Fireworks, by "Pyrotechnico", will go off at dark (approximately 9:45 PM).

In order to prepare for this event, all facilities at the complex, including the Dog Park will close at 4 PM.

FOR SAFETY PURPOSES OF THOSE ATTENDING:

NO SPARKLERS, PRIVATE FIREWORKS OR DRONES ARE PERMITTED!!!

To date, this celebration has been made possible by the generous donations of the following sponsors:

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**THERE WILL BE
NO PARKING
ALONG ROUTE 30****

Fireworks Shuttle

** Monark Bus Company will provide shuttles every 1/2 hour from 6:30-9:15 PM. Shuttle pick up at the Activity Center, 310 Main St., Imperial and the Findlay Township Municipal Building, Clinton.

Pick up at the Activity Center: Upper Level (additional parking on the lower level and Valley Presbyterian Church).

Pick up at Municipal Building: Parking lot behind building. Due to the success of the event, please consider riding the shuttle as The Rec and Sports Complex fills up quickly! Handicap parking available until 8 PM, limited availability.

Family Fun Color Run in Clinton Park

July 26, Rain or Shine

6-6:45 p.m. registration,
7 p.m. start, all ages.

What better way to spend a Friday night than being blasted with color? Bring the whole family for a ONE MILE COLOR WALK/RUN in Clinton Park. Participants will walk/run the mile loop around Clinton Park while being blasted with colors along the way. At the end, participants will receive their own packet of color to throw for a GROUP BLAST on the ballfield! Water and snacks will be available in the pavilion after the walk/run. The color is non-toxic, safe both for people and for the environment. It is cornstarch based; however WEAR OLD CLOTHES AND SHOES! Bring a cover for your car seats just to be safe.

**IF POSSIBLE, WEAR A WHITE T-SHIRT
FOR BEST COLOR RESULTS!**

Pre-register by July 12 and get sunglasses for the event. Call Stephanie at the recreation department: 724-695-0500 x240.

After July 12, sunglasses given on a first come, first serve basis, while supplies last.

Register at Oriole Pavilion the day of event. Payment and waiver due at that time. Download waiver from website.

Checks payable to Findlay Township. Participants under 18 must have parent or guardian's signature.

**\$10 per person,
3 and under free.**
Spectators welcome.

*We hope that you will join us
for this family friendly event!*

Farmers' Markets

Robinson Farmers' Market, Mondays, 3-7 p.m., May 13-Oct. 14, upper parking lot at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, live music, children's programs, more, www.robinsfarmersmarket.org, @robinsfarmersmarket on Facebook and Instagram.

Moon Township Farmers' Market,

Wednesdays, June-September, 3-6 p.m., Moon Township Municipal Building, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, baked goods, hot prepared foods, beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, plants, flowers, antiques, arts, crafts, free coupon for ages 5-12, www.moontwp.com/farmersmarket.html.



Fresh produce is among some of the many offerings at the Moon Township Farmers' Market. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

The Original Farmers' Market, starts 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, May-November; Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, June-September; Mondays and Fridays October-November; Bridgeville area; take left on Route 50 off Bridgeville I-79 South Exit; 151 Parks Road, McDonald; www.theoriginalfarmersmarket.net.

McDonald Trail Station Farmers' Market, Saturdays,

mid-July-September, 9 a.m.-noon, McDonald Trail Station parking lot in McDonald, 161 South McDonald St., fresh local vegetables, fruits, local honey, homemade baked goods, jams, jellies, fresh farm eggs, preordering of locally raised and butchered beef, specialty animal treats, local crafts, www.mcdonaldtrailstation.com, (724) 926-4617.

St. James Farmers' Market, St. James Catholic Church in Sewickley, 200 Walnut St., Saturdays through November, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., vegetables, organic farm products, meats, honey, pierogies, pasta, more, (412) 741-6650, www.saintjames-church.com.

5K Races

Are you a runner? Looking for some motivation to reach your goal? Sign up for these area 5K races for a little friendly competition.

Moon Township Glow 5K Run & Walk, July 3, 9:15 p.m. start,

begins at Moon Township Public Library, face painting, glow sticks, music, dancing, after party, moonparks.org.



ABOVE: Moon Township's Glow 5K run lights up the night. BELOW: The Findlay Township Semi-Great Race is a hilly course that starts off in the woodlands section of the park.

North Fayette Township Community Days 5K, Aug. 3,

Donaldson Park, awards, \$15 entry fee, race starts 9 a.m., one-mile kids' run and family fun walk coincides, register at community center, (724) 307-3725.

Findlay Township Semi-Great Race,

Aug. 16, starts and finishes at Clinton Community Park, race starts 7 p.m. in woodlands section, hilly course, \$10 entry fee, awards, two-mile fun walk coincides, sstrain@findlaytpw.org, (724) 695-0500 x 240.



Heitz of Heaven 5K, Aug. 24, starts 9 a.m., RMU Island Sports Center, level course along river, music, auction, food, drinks, awards, \$25, benefits Heitz 61 Memorial Foundation, runsignup.com/Race/PA/Pittsburgh/HeitzofHeaven5KRunWalk.

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Golf Outings

Get out on the course, play some golf and network while enjoying the weather at one of these outings. Best part is, you'll be benefitting a good cause.

Bob Pompeani Charity Golf Classic, June 17, Chartiers Country Club, 9 a.m. registration/brunch, 10 a.m. start, 10:30 a.m. \$100,000/\$1 million shoot-outs, 10:45 a.m. shotgun start, 4:30 p.m.

cocktail reception, 5 p.m. putting contest, 6 p.m. awards program, sponsorships available, (412) 446-0702, pfq.org.

20th Annual Gerry Dulac Charity Golf Classic, July 8, Sewickley Heights Golf Club, 9 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. shotgun start, \$210/golfer, includes continental breakfast, dinner, auction, photo, gift, sponsorships available, (724) 947-1234, supports Parkway West Rotary charities (this year Coraopolis Train Station Project), www.parkwaywestrotary.com.

PALS Charity Golf Outing, Sept. 7, Quicksilver Golf Club, 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. shotgun start, 1 p.m. lunch, awards, hole-in-one cash and car prizes, auction, \$125, benefits PALS programming.



Adult Fitness

Findlay

Programs take place at the Findlay Township Activity Center in Imperial.

Yoga for Beginners and Beyond, Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., \$5.

Senior Yoga and Qi Gong, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

North Fayette

Tai Chi Ch'uan, Saturdays, 9:00am-10:00am

Yoga, Saturdays, 11:00am-12:00pm, and Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm

Insanity, Mondays, 9:45am-10:45am

Body Sculpt, Mondays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Total Body Strength, Tuesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

PiYo, Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm and Fridays, 9:00am-10:00am

Boot Camp, Thursdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm and Saturdays, 10:00am-11:00am



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Just looking for the fireworks? Many of these are listed throughout this guide along with contact information, but here's the shortcut and a few additional dates. Show up early for festivities and to grab a good spot.

Fireworks go off around dusk. Plans, however, may change due to inclement weather.

Independence Day

Festivities:

Findlay Township, July 3 (rain date July 5), Recreation and Sports Complex (810 Route 30).

Robinson Township, July 4, Burkett Sports and Recreation Complex.

Moon Township, July 4, Moon Park.

McSummerfest, July 5, Heritage Park in McDonald.



Fireworks cap off the evening at McSummerfest.

More Fireworks:

North Fayette Township Community Days, Aug. 3, Donaldson Park.

Findlay Township Fair in the Woodlands, Aug. 17, Clinton Community Park.

Autumn Festival, Sept. 14, Burkett Sports and Recreation Complex.

Ingram Days Celebration, July 21, Ingram Park.

Robinson Township Autumn Festival, Sept. 14, Burkett Sports and Recreation Complex.

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A Better Cut Granite and Tile, p. 6, 440.342.2560, abettercutgranite.com

Advanced Dentistry, p. 11, 412.788.6300, www.facebook.com/advanceddentistry412

Allegheny County, p. 39, Youth Sports & Camps, alleghenycounty.us/youthsports

Allegheny Muscle and Massage, p. 31, 724.695.5300, www.alleghenymuscle.massagetherapy.com

American Renal Associates, p. 7, 412.331.2423, www.americanrenal.com

Bill Few Associates, p. 11, 412.630.6041

Business Legal, p. 156, 724.693.0588, www.businesslegal.net

Carousel Kennel, p. 31, 724.683.0794, www.carouselkennel.com

Clearview FCU, p. 7, 800.926.0003, clearviewfcu.org

Conti Law, p. 12, 724.784.0239, contilawpgh.com

Cowden Creek Realty, p. 17, see ad for phone numbers, www.cowden creek.com

Davey Tree, p. 13, 724.746.8852, www.davey.com

DDS Web Design, p. 42, 412.965.0688, www.ddswebdesign.com

DiSanti, Dr. Judy, DMD., p. 38, 412.264.6229, www.coraopolisdentist.com

Express Employment Professionals, p. 31, 412.494.2000, expresspros.com

Findlay GOP, p. 35, www.FindlayGOP.com
Findlay Township, p. 41, 724.695.0500, www.findlay.pa.us

First Steps Pediatrics, p. 20, 412.788.1999, www.fspkids.com

Heritage Valley Medical Group, p. bk. cover, 412.749.6934, www.heritagevalley.org

Herrick Compassionate Funeral Svc., p. 13, 724.695.7332

High Tech Housing, p. 13, 724.695.3900, www.hightechhousinginc.com

Holy Trinity Festival, p. 36

Hometown Spine and Sport, p. 9, 412.490.1700

Imperial Tax, p. 20, 724.695.7354, www.imperialtaxandaccounting.com

Janoski's Farm & Greenhouse, p. 44, 724.899.3438, www.janoskis.com

Janoski's Harvest Wine Festival, p. 35, 724.899.3438, www.janoskis.com

Fred E. Liechti, Attorney, p. 44, 412.787.5280

McCracken Driving School p. 38, mccrackendriving school.com

McDonald VFD, p. 33, 724.926.9190, www.McDonaldfire.com

Meyers Plumbing, p. 15, 724.693.2880, www.tommeyersplumbing.com

Moody Funeral Home, p. 31, 724.695.0411

My Laundromat, p. 18, 724.227.0513

Oakdale Foot and Ankle, p. 31, 412.787.8380, www.oakdalepodiatrist.com

Padgett Business Services, p. 17, 412.458.0639, www.padgettbusinessservices.com

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Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Motor Speedway, p. 41, 724.695.3363 or .393, www.ppms.com

Play Academy, p. 31, 412.299.0616, www.play-academy.org

Pustover Financial Services, p. 20, 724.695.8885, www.pustoverfinancial.com

Robinson Chiropractic, p. 10, 412.706.7129, www.myrobinsonchiropractic.com

Robinson's Run Cemetery, p. 47, 724.926.8511, www.RobinsonsRunCemetery.org

John G. Rohm, DMD, p. 8, 724.695.2100

Snowy White Laundromat, p. 37

SNPJ Lodge 106 Club, p. 43, 724.695.1411, www.snpjimperialpa.com

Self Storage North Fayette, p. 43, 724.695.8875, SelfStorageNF.com

Stuebenville Pike Auto, p. 11

Thomas-Little Funeral Svc., p. 19, 724.926.2800, www.thomas-littlefuneralservice.com

Today's Hair, p. 15, 724.695.0478

Tonidale Yarn and Needle, p. 42, 412.788.8850

Wade Heating and Cooling/Pittsburgh Ductless, p. 3, 724.DUCTLESS, www.PittsburghDuctless.com

Weirton Medical Center, p. 2, 412.505.8171, wmcpcphysicians.com

West Allegheny School District, p. 21-30, 724.695.3422, www.westasd.org

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LIBRARY PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

DISCOVER SUMMER LEARNING @ THE LIBRARY

School is finally out and we are SO looking forward to Summer Learning! Join us at the library in celebrating all the exciting things to **Play, Read, Make, Explore,** and **Discover**. Throughout the months of June and July, we have a wide variety of programs and events scheduled for children and their families. In addition to our regular storytimes, we are bringing back some of our most popular camps from last year, including printmaking, messy art, cooking, and woodworking. Brand new to our summer lineup are a Superhero Training Camp and WACL's School of Witchcraft & Wizardry—adventures galore! Plus, join us for visits from the Heinz History Center, Allegheny Parks, Gateway to the Arts, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Pittsburgh Zoo! Check our website for details & be sure to sign up online.

FUN FOR ALL AGES

For older students, our events include a cool jewelry making workshop and SAT prep. You can even bring a group of friends for our very own Escape Room (for teens & adults). Plus don't forget our adult programs—we haven't forgotten you! Check out the Instant Pot craze, bust some internet myths, and learn how to cut the cable cord. There's something for everyone at the library! Check our website for the full lineup & be sure to sign up for some of the awesome summer programs we have planned.

PLAY. READ. MAKE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

We are once again keeping track of how we spend our time this summer. Stop by and toss in a token in one of our special activity trackers each time you use your summer time to do something awesome and educational. With so much to play, read, make, discover, and explore, we hope to see you at the library all summer!

SAVE THE DATE (OR MAKE A DATE!) FOR FFYL 2019

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Summer's only just begun—and we're already planning for the fall! Save the date for our annual fundraiser and look for more details to come. Join Western Allegheny Community Library for our annual Fall for Your Library Event! FFYL is our largest fundraiser and the community's premier wine tasting event, with nearly 300 guests from the local community and beyond enjoying special food and wine pairings, games, & auctions. FFYL will take place on Saturday, September 14, at 6:00–10:00 p.m. at the Celebrations Banquet Hall, 8110 Steubenville Pike, Imperial, PA. Tickets are \$50. For information, call the library or visit westernalleghenylibrary.org.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Incentives for sponsors may include free tickets, advertising, and more! Contact Amy McDonald at 724-695-8150 x5 or mcdonalda@einetnetwork.net for details.

For more information on all programs & events, visit www.WesternAlleghenyLibrary.org or call 724-695-8150.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Please check our website for specific dates & to register for all programs.

ADULT

Bookworms

1st Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

We Be Book'N Book Club

3rd Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

4th Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.

TEEN

Teen Anime Club

Mondays, 4:00 p.m.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Baby Circle Time

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Little's Storytime

Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Play K

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. OR
Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.

Sensory Storytime

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Baby Café

Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

Rollin' & Strollin' @ Clinton Park

Mondays, 9:30 a.m.

Location:

181 Bateman Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

Library Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Closed Sundays for the Summer



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"I Have a Question!"

The story that has long been in Carole "Judy" Stewart is now out, published and on book shelves. For years, Stewart, of Hankey Farms, had a story that needed to be written and told.

"I Have a Question!" 'A Tormented Journey to Language'" is the life story of Carole and Jim Stewart's daughter, Julie, who had questions all the time. Her parents had questions, too.

Carole writes, "Somewhere in Julie's wounded brain are thoughts and words still clamoring for connections." Julie has severe language deficits and has long spoken in a language that's all her own and that her family has grown to understand. At the age of 10, she was hit by a car and suffered a closed head injury that compounded her speech problems.

But what would cause the Stewarts' 19-year-old daughter to go from lovable to raging on a day when her mother did not see it coming and missed the clues?

"It had been years since I last found myself sprawled on the living room carpet, dumbfounded as always," Carole writes. "The full force of Julie's sudden right punch caught my left eye, and when she charged - she slammed me into the wall and I was down for the count.

"Stop!" I ordered. "I don't have any idea what's the matter with you."

She writes, "In a split second, I was on my feet fleeing for safety toward the kitchen, a regrettable move I discovered, as my body was slammed again, this time into the cupboards.

"If you tell me what's going on..' I gasped, 'Maybe I can help!'

"The words fell on deaf ears and glaring angry eyes. "Nobody can help me. Don't you understand that you witch.*"

"I don't need any help from anybody!"

For a long moment, Julie stared at her mom. Then Julie grabbed her mom and "got a stranglehold on my hair with both hands - yanking me back and forth with all the vigor of her youth - until I was able to twist free, minus some fistsful of hair." Using the last of her energy, Carole ran for the garage: "I leaped to safety inside the car - quickly pressing the automatic lock button."

A regimen of estrogen therapy had turned Julie's life into hell and "our home into a battlefield. Her attacks grew worse as she became stronger, and her terrors more complicated, resulting in a dozen different hospitalizations, endless testing and three decades of empty diagnoses." Her brothers, George, John and Todd, had questions, too.

Finally, in 1998, at age 34, Julie experienced a respite from her difficulty with speech. A doctor prescribed her an anti-seizure medication that had been available for years. "It connected her words to the mountain of unsorted meanings stored inside Julie. Just 24 hours after the first dose of the powerful medication, Julie had language."

Actually, she had two languages, one being the language that was all her own.

Julie wanted her mom to write the book. She wanted her story told so people with disabilities such as hers would be better understood.

Her mom writes, "I cannot begin to express my admiration for her courage and endurance in this lonely endeavor. Because of it, I

will continue to walk with her when the burden is too heavy and loneliness too great, as long as it is her desire. While

she has made us crazy with worry, she has, also, made our lives rich, joyful, sad, funny, and beautiful."

Julie, now 55, is continuing her education. She hopes to transition her hospital volunteerism into a career. She works part time at Main Event and they love her. She enjoyed being a part of the North Fayette VFD and participates in a local Christian writers' group. Julie is one busy lady.

Julie's dad battled cancer for four years and went blind. Carole cared for Jim in their home. The last page of "I Have a Question" is written by Julie about her father. She was with him when he took his last breath on earth in 2012. One of the stories she reflects on is fishing with her dad. He taught her how to put a worm on a fishhook: "He spent so many hours untangling my fishing lines," she writes. "I never will forget his face, when during one of the last couple trips to our big steel hulled sailboat, Gad-A-Bout, he watched my determination to get Walter, an enormous fish thought to be a bass, but when I did finally pull him almost out of the water, 'he' turned out to be about a 35-pound Lake Erie Drum."

The book ends with: "He will be with me every day of my life and I will try to show him how much a Father's love means".

There will be a book signing at the Barnes and Noble at Settlers Ridge on Sept. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



"Ingeborg, what's a 'yarn crawl?'"

First, who is Ingeborg? Inge (Inga) was born in Germany. Her grandmother taught her to knit, beginning with socks. That's how her passion for knitting began. Then one day an American soldier who looked exactly like Elvis Presley came into her family's pub and won her heart. Inge became Mrs. Chuck Lang and an American living in the hills of West Virginia with his family and no running water.

They moved to Hankey Farms when their son, Sonny, was 7. Inge became a single mom and a bartender at a former Holiday Inn. Richard Saveikis managed the Tonidale Restaurant across the street and they became friends. He later became her second husband.

Always, Inge's dream was to one day open a yarn shop. Her dream came true when she opened Tonidale Yarn and Needlecraft 32 years ago. Six years ago, the Steel Valley Yarn Crawl began. Tonidale Yarn was invited to be one of 11 privately owned shops in a 220-mile radius involved in the 10-day crawl. Each day, passionate knitters arrive at Inge's shop by the van- and car-loads. They shop and spend. Inge loves it. After 10 days, she's exhausted and happy.

This year's Steel Valley Yarn Crawl takes place Aug. 2-11. Tonidale Yarn and Needlecraft is located at 7231 Steubenville Pike. For more, see her ad on page 42 and save 20 percent.



Julie Stewart

STORY BY ERMA DODD
PHOTO SUBMITTED



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