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Magazine

Volume 15, No. 86
October/November 2013

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West Allegheny School District communities of Findlay, North Fayette, Oakdale, Sturgeon, and McDonald to connect communities, promote people,
heighten awareness about the richness of the airport region, and build pride in the western suburbs of Allegheny County.

West Allegheny Edition

VOL. 15, NO. 86, ISSUE 2 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013



ABOVE: Ryan Borgo directs the band during a performance. The West Allegheny High School
Marching Band and Band Parents will host the 34th annual Cavalcade of Bands competition at the high
school stadium on Saturday, October 12. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and performances will begin at 7
p.m. See page 21 for more details. PHOTO SUBMITTED

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ABOUT THE COVER

Imperial's Bill Thomas, accompanied by his wife, Betty, with the
plaque presented to him by the Imperial VFD for his 67 years of
service. Oakdale's George Coppola was recently honored by the
American Legion for his continued volunteer service on behalf of
military veterans.

Did You Know?

*Findlay Township was named after William Findlay, one-time governor
of Pennsylvania and U.S. Senator. The township was created in 1822,
and was formerly part of Moon Township.*

MORE INFO

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From the



PUBLISHER

Here at AWM, we are deeply saddened to have lost our long-time sports writer, Dick Glover, who passed away on September 9. Dick was 83, and still a master at showcasing local sports newsmakers with his unique style of writing through his column in this magazine, Sidelines. He had a lifetime of knowledge about the local sports scene. In his memory, we remember Dick in this issue in what will be the last Sidelines column for

this magazine.

As part of our 15th year anniversary celebrating our service to our airport area communities, we're starting to make some changes to what you see inside. Watch for transitions over the coming months during our 15th birthday. Hope you enjoy what you see!

Pat

Pat Jennette - Publisher/Editor

From the



ASST. EDITOR

In our previous West Allegheny edition of *Allegheny West Magazine*, we looked at how a number of businesses and homeowners in McDonald and Oakdale had fared after the July flood. For many, it was the second such major flood they'd experienced in ten years, and a number of those affected whom I interviewed expressed frustration about what little had been done in the wake of

Hurricane Ivan to address this apparent vulnerability.

Since then, though, PennDOT crews have done significant work around some major culverts in Oakdale, hauling away dozens of truckloads of silt in what Senator Matt Smith has called an important first step towards solving this problem. He tells me that, along with Oakdale officials, they were able to get PennDOT to do the stream maintenance, and that he and other officials are consulting with townships to look at longer term solutions. It's a problem that's complicated by available tax dollars and environmental regulations, but one that must be solved. If you haven't seen the work already, we've included some photos on page 55, along with the official announcement from Oakdale.

In this issue, too, we reflect on the life of Dick Glover, whose column for this magazine I had the pleasure of editing for the past two years. This past summer, I met Dick for the first and what turned out to be the last time at a dinner for the West Allegheny Hall of Fame. Dick served on the hall of fame board, and through it, raised money for P.A.L.S.

Dick struck me as an encyclopedia of local sports history, who, through his column and work with the hall of fame, brought pride to this community. Sports serve to inspire, and Dick knew plenty about the sports standouts in this community. In his column, he articulated well just what made them so special, and why people should care. He will be missed.

DH

Doug Hughey, Assistant Editor

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(left to right) Paul M. Zubritzky, M.D.; Tera S. Conway, M.D.; Patrick T. Christy, M.D.; and Paula A. Duncan, M.D.

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Paul M. Zubritzky, M.D., specializes in obstetrics and gynecology. He earned his medical degree at Temple University School of Medicine and completed his residency at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital where he served as Chief Resident. Dr. Zubritzky is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Tera S. Conway, M.D., specializes in obstetrics and gynecology. She earned her medical degree at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Dr. Conway completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital where she served as Administrative Chief Resident.

Patrick T. Christy, M.D., specializes in obstetrics and gynecology. He earned his medical degree at Jefferson Medical College and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Lankenau Hospital. Dr. Christy is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Paula A. Duncan, M.D., specializes in obstetrics and gynecology. She earned her medical degree at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Dr. Duncan completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UPMC Magee Womens Hospital.

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CCAC WEST TAKES MECHATRONICS PROGRAM TO NEXT LEVEL

Earlier this year, the Community College of Allegheny County's West Hills Center began creating a course in robotics. The course, which teaches students how to program robots not unlike those used to run factories across the U.S., was the third in a series at CCAC in mechatronics.

The courses, which combine elements of engineering, electronics, process control, and manufacturing, train students to fill a range of manufacturing jobs. Because of a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, they're free to students, at least through next September. The idea behind the courses, says project manager Sylvia S. Elsayed, is to cover a gap in manufacturing knowledge in the region.

"Baby boomers are retiring, technology is increasing, and people just are not trained to take these jobs," says Sylvia, "and these are good paying jobs."

Sylvia says that CCAC offers the program free of charge to anyone with a high school diploma or GED and who qualifies with an eleventh grade equivalency in a math and reading placement exam, regardless of manufacturing experience. Those with experience can start in one of the higher level courses, but the 140-hour Certified Production Technician (CPT) course gives students with no experience a vital introduction. The course combines class time and e-learning, and is offered every three months, with the next beginning in January.

Those who complete the CPT course, or have prior manufacturing experience, are eligible to take a level one

Advanced Manufacturing/Integrated Systems Technology (AM/IST) course. Graduates of the CPT course are able to fill a range of introductory manufacturing jobs, from shipping, receiving and traffic clerks, to team assemblers.

The 360 hours of instruction in the AM/IST course can be completed in six months or less, says Sylvia, and will prepare

graduates for entry into more technical troubleshooting and repair type jobs.

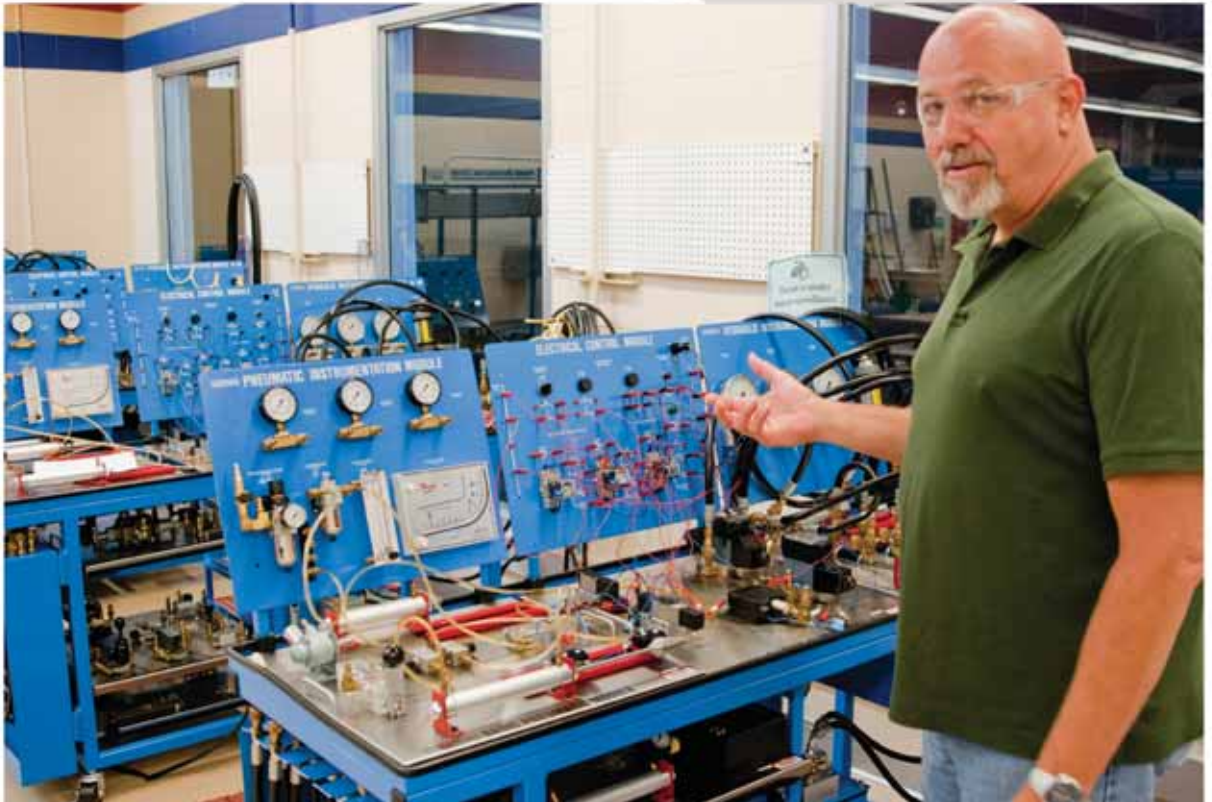
Graduates of that course can also advance to level two, where students begin to focus on areas of interest as they build systems that employ motors, convert AC currents to DC, and utilize electrical and mechanical systems. The course goes beyond the learning premise of level one, and students begin building actual systems using information learned in the first level to complete objectives laid out in textbooks.

Along the way, D. Paul Blackford and his fellow instructors guide students and test them by throwing figurative wrenches in their systems that mimic real life situations. With a twist of a valve or flip of a switch, they create pressure drops and electrical malfunctions that students must assess, diagnose, and correct.

Those same systems, says Sylvia, are used in a range of settings, from water filtration plants to hospitals and schools. Graduates can fill jobs such as electrical and electronic equipment assemblers and perform mechanical maintenance and machinery repair. They can work fixing and maintaining equipment at hospitals, in steel mills, and in high schools and colleges.

"People don't realize the extent to which technical maintenance is used," says Sylvia, pointing out that they have some of their own people taking the classes.

Throughout both levels, students also work on Programmable Logic Controllers. Not much bigger than a toaster, the computers



RIGHT: Paul Blackford demonstrates a training apparatus in the mechatronics classroom.

are the same as those used in factories, and powerful enough to run one. They're also the same as those used by midstream companies at compressor stations in the expanding Marcellus Shale natural gas industry.

"It just crosses over into a lot of different industries," says Sylvia.

Thus far, CCAC's introductory and level one mechatronics courses have proven popular. As of this writing, Sylvia says there are still spots open for the upcoming CPT and mechatronics courses, but that both fill up fast.

The next mechatronics class is set to begin in March of 2014. The grant making all the courses free to students currently runs through September of 2014, but she says that the school is continuing to pursue other opportunities.

Later this year, CCAC will begin offering its level three course in robotics and motion control. During the course, students will use machines similar to the PLC machines they've been trained on to program actual FANUC robots; the type that Paul says are used by about 70% of factories in the U.S. Using grant money, CCAC purchased three robots, two of which are FANUC robots, costing around \$35,000 apiece. The robots, about three feet in height, are smaller versions of the kind often shown on television assembling automobiles. Paul says they use the same program functions, commands, and motions of their big brothers.

"This is making believe we have a factory," says Paul, who spent 25 years in the manufacturing sector before coming to CCAC.



LEFT AND BELOW: FANUC robots used in CCAC's level three mechatronics robotics course.

A former Kent State student and Navy machinist mate, as well as an FMCC graduate, Paul journeyed as an electrician and oversaw factories run by Coleco Toys and Gerry Baby Products. He modestly

mentions that while at Gerry his factory became so efficient that the company brought three product lines back from China. Over the summer, he instructed the first three students entering into the level two mechatronics course at CCAC West Hills.

Among those students was Sacha Pellaton, a self-employed, South Vo-Tech graduate who works as an auto mechanic. The trained electrician says that he's already had one job offer in a related field at \$70,000, and is hoping to work in the oil and gas industry. He says he's looking at a job as a field technician for a third party company leasing equipment to a gas delivery company. Currently, he says that the company is flying technicians in from Louisiana to work on equipment because of a lack of trained local workforce.

Over the summer, Sam Hinterlang, a level one mechatronics graduate, continued with the level two mechatronics course through his company, which runs a steel galvanizing plant. Sam says his employer looked at the curriculum, and saw an opportunity for both he and the company to benefit. Sam took the class during down time at the company, and continued to receive pay while taking courses two days per week.

"It's free training," he says. "Why would I not want to do it?"

For more information please contact Sylvia Elsayed at (412) 788-7534 or via email at selsayed@ccac.edu.



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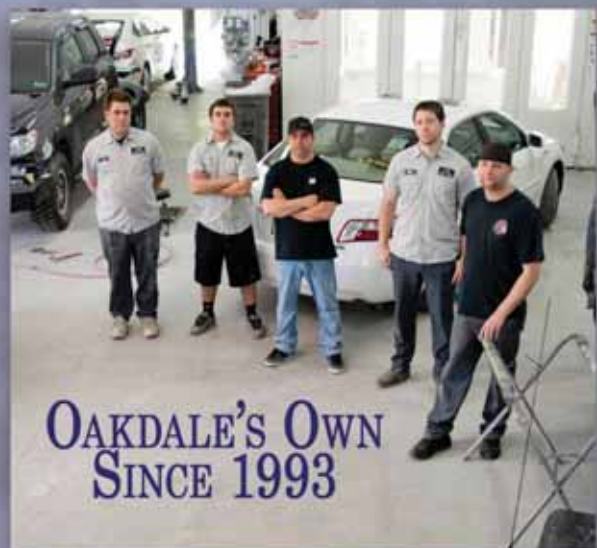
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October 2013
Vol. 32, No. 1

TODAY

Information for residents of Findlay and North Fayette Townships and Oakdale Borough

Opening Day Message Informs and Inspires

The 2013-2014 school year kicked off with an enthusiastic and motivational State of the District Address by West Allegheny superintendent Dr. John S. DiSanti to staff during a teacher in-service day on August 23. The message highlighted West Allegheny's commitment to advancements in technology, infrastructure and curriculum, while an online visit with one of West Allegheny's own enhanced the inspirational message of the day's agenda.

As the District continues on its path toward technological proficiency, teachers were offered an opportunity over the summer to apply for a digital grant to secure additional technology for their classroom. As part of the application process, applicants were required to obtain a Digital Driver License (DDL), a component that demonstrates competency with the technology for which the applicant intends to use in the classroom.

In response, the District awarded several Technology Opportunity Proposal (TOP) grants to applicants who displayed prerequisite skills to integrate technology in a way that will have a positive impact on student achievement and is consistent with pedagogical practice as defined by the new Teacher Effectiveness Model.

Dr. DiSanti also outlined the proposed improvements to infrastructure that include

renovations of both McKee and Wilson Elementary Schools slated to begin at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Addi-



Superintendent, Dr. John S. DiSanti welcomes back teachers and staff with State of the District Address.

tional details will follow upon finalization of the architectural plans and schedules.

Course updates were also highlighted as administration revised curriculum over the summer to align with the Common Core Standards. Specifically, the structure of

course offerings for math and language arts at the elementary level, were the focus of the changes. Specific revisions are detailed on page 20.

Two thought-provoking videos were presented, that challenged staff to view the world, and their role in it, from a different perspective. The first, titled "Celebrate What's Right with the World," was created by National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones. Throughout the piece, he shared how his life changed after looking at it through the lens of his camera. The second one, titled "Wright's Law: A Unique Teacher Imparts Real Life Lessons," demonstrated Jeffery Wright's approach to teaching and how he draws on his disabled child's inner strength to inspire his students.

To the delight of the entire audience, Dr. DiSanti also included on the morning's agenda a surprise Skype conversation with Donaldson Elementary teacher Tonya Curigliano, who was unable to attend due to her ongoing battle with cancer.

Through the use of digital technology, the audience was able to send her enthusiastic well wishes as she inspired all with her optimistic and unwavering attitude of courage and determination.

District to Utilize New Parent Notification System

School notification systems help school districts deliver important, time-sensitive information efficiently, using state of the art technology. Schools are able to distribute a variety of information, including weather advisories, daily attendance and emergency alerts with the use of a notification system. Recently, West Allegheny School District began using SchoolMessenger to provide more effective communication with students and families. Listed below are some important features of the new system.

- SchoolMessenger delivers quicker, more reliable services than our previous provider. A brief message to the entire District will now be

delivered in approximately 5 minutes.

- In addition to District-wide messaging, each building now has the capability to send announcements to target groups such as first grade students so messages will be more specific.
- SchoolMessenger is able to publish messages to social media such as Facebook and Twitter if the District decides to implement these forms of communication in the future.
- SchoolMessenger pulls information automatically from our student information system so parent contact data is always current. It is important that parents notify their child's building with any email or phone number

changes throughout the school year. The new system captures updates daily so changes to student information or contact preferences are in the notification system for use the next day.

- Parents are able to choose preferences that control how and when they are contacted.

While the District will continue to issue emergency notifications, parents are now able to customize how they receive general information such as calendar events, reminder notices, yearbook purchases, etc.

Parents are encouraged to contact the principal's office at their child's school if they have questions regarding SchoolMessenger.

W.A. Foundation Grants for 2013-2014 Announced

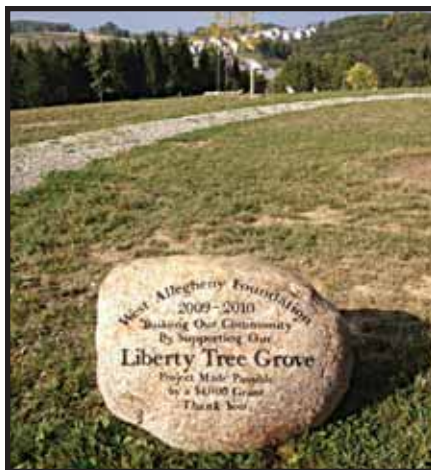
The West Allegheny Foundation Grants for Teachers program awarded 9 grants totaling nearly \$10,000 for the following innovative educational projects for the 2013-2014 school year:

Harvest Days (McKee Elementary) As an extension of the social studies curriculum, students in kindergarten through fifth grade will experience life through the decades. Activities will include such lost skills and activities as carding, yarning on a spinning wheel, cooking on an open fire and tractor rides.

Oakdale Historical Society Formation (High School) Through the formation of the Oakdale Historical Society, a partnership will be fostered between the Borough of Oakdale and high school students. The organization will provide an opportunity for teachers, students and community members to work together to preserve, learn about and share our local history.

Arts Alive (McKee Elementary) This event combines visual arts, music (instrumental and vocal) and drama through an opportunity to display the varied talents of our students. This event highlights what the arts have to offer the students, parents and community.

Young Readers' Choice Awards (McKee Elementary) Sponsored by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association, this program encourages



Besides funding education grants, the West Allegheny Foundation also funds community projects such as the memorial garden in Donaldson Park.

third graders to read a minimum of two books, compose a brief report and be included in a state-wide vote of their favorite book. Students who also pass an accelerated reader quiz will have their name entered into a prize drawing.

Frequent Reading Incentives (Donaldson Elementary) In an effort to motivate students to read more frequently, and ultimately get them hooked on reading, incentives will be awarded to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The program will be

tailored to specific reading levels.

Preventing Summer Reading Loss (Donaldson Elementary) This program is designed to provide struggling readers with self-selected books to read over the summer, which will be accompanied by tips for parents on how to support their attempts to improve their children's literacy.

Living History Grant (Middle School) As a culmination of study on the Middle Ages, and an extension of a medieval banquet, students will have the opportunity to experience the life and challenges of a knight by wearing and interacting with traditional artifacts.

Literacy Workshops for Parents (Wilson, McKee and Donaldson Elementary) This grant will provide three literacy workshops throughout the year designed to offer reading support for struggling kindergarten and first grade students and their parents/caregivers.

Novel Project (High School) As an addition to the Honors U.S. History curriculum, the novel "First They Killed My Father" will be the focus of study detailing a Cambodian family terrorized by the Khmer Rouge. Comparisons will be viewed between this historic event and the Holocaust.

Welcome New Staff; Farewell to Retirees

The West Allegheny School District welcomes the following new teachers:

Lauren Barry - High School Learning Support

Elizabeth Blank - High School Math Teacher

Jonathan Denk -

Middle School Language Arts/Gifted Education Teacher

Jaime Mahramas - Elementary Music

Melissa Pratt -

Wilson Elementary Third Grade Teacher

Melissa Riley -

Middle School Special Education Teacher

Elise Sunseri -

Donaldson Elementary Fifth Grade Teacher

Bob Yost - High School Biology Teacher

The West Allegheny School District would like to recognize the following retirees for their dedication to enhancing the lives of our students:

Donna Elliott, Aide, 15 years

Linda Groznik, Teacher, 18 years

Dave Sedlock, Custodian, 16 years

Veva Tessmer,

Business Office Secretary, 22 years

Superintendent's Message: **Just Like the Pittsburgh Pirates, "We Are Family!"**

It was 1979 and a group of sisters from Philadelphia had topped the musical charts with their disco classic, "We Are Family." Those of us who have been Pittsburgh Pirates' fans since that magical year will remember that the "We are Family" hit became the Pirates' anthem the last time our Buccos won the World Series. I can vividly picture Phil Garner, Kent Tekulve, Chuck Tanner, and a host of other Pirates' stars dancing with fans in the street as Pittsburgh celebrated one of the most memorable World Series of all time. Willie Stargell, or "Pops," as he was affectionately called, led his team to a championship after being down three games to one.

Well, for the first time in over 20 years, loyal Pirates' fans as old as me, as well as "youngsters" like my own three children, are getting the opportunity to watch meaningful and exciting baseball in the month of September, and hopefully... into October.

At the end of each summer, I have the pleasure of welcoming back students and staff for the start of the new school year. Prior to students' arrival, I am privileged to give my annual State of the District Address to our staff. That address gives me the opportunity to speak to what I refer to as our entire West Allegheny "family." The word "family" finds its origin in the Latin "familia," which means *all members of a household*. Later, the word referred to

people *linked by blood*. My reference comes from the definition meaning *a group of people united by certain convictions in a common affiliation*. I say that we are a "family" because that is what we are. We have a common affiliation. We are educators and share a passion for doing "whatever it takes" to ensure that each student is prepared to go into the world ready to meet its challenges. For students leaving high school, that means additional education and skill development, which should ultimately lead to a productive and meaningful life. Our West Allegheny family also shares a conviction, a common bond, believing that every child can be successful if provided with the appropriate guidance and support. Most of the time, we get along very well, but like all families, we have our moments. Sometimes we do not agree with the means to an end. Nevertheless, we find a way to make things work, because we recognize that the stakes are high. Nothing is more important than building a foundation of hope for our children so they may realize their aspirations and dreams. And yes, just like all loving families, we share our joys, disappointments, trials, and challenges. In my State of the District Address, we celebrated many accomplishments, including numerous individual and collective awards, as well as noteworthy recognition of our academic, arts, and

athletic programs. We welcomed new members to our family and bid adieu and best wishes to those who have retired or just moved on to other ventures. While they are no longer a part of our immediate "household," they will always be in our hearts. We also celebrated new programs and services, some of which are in other articles of this newsletter. We talked about the challenges we face with regard to improving student achievement, changing and adapting how we teach to maximize learning, and how we can accomplish our goals in a cost effective manner. I also called on our family to reach out to all of those who are struggling in any way in their personal lives. Why? Because good family members know that it's important to take care of each other, particularly during the difficult times. I am very proud of our West Allegheny family as we continue to build on our successes and face our challenges together, determined to do our best to be advocates for children and youth. Like the lyrics in the song...*Everyone can see we're together as we walk on by. All of the people around us they say can they be that close? Just for the record, we're giving love in a family dose. High hopes we have for the future and our goal is in sight! Yes, we are FAMILY!*

Dr. John S. DiSanti
Superintendent

Schools Welcome Families at Orientations

The 2013-2014 school year kicked off with orientations at the respective schools where families were invited to get acclimated to the building, teachers, schedules and activities. The information sessions also offered tours and a question and answer period with the goal of making each student feel comfortable and confident on their first day.



Borgo Selected for Summer Music Program

Senior Ryan Borgo was one of fifteen hand-chosen students to participate in Baldwin Wallace University's Intensive Summer Musical Theatre program July 7 – 12, 2013. The training was led by nationally recognized director Victoria Bussert and included private voice lessons, daily workshops, and monologue and dance classes.

Borgo plans on pursuing a musical theatre degree upon graduation, and Baldwin Wallace is one of his top college choices.



Senior Ryan Borgo takes to the stage.

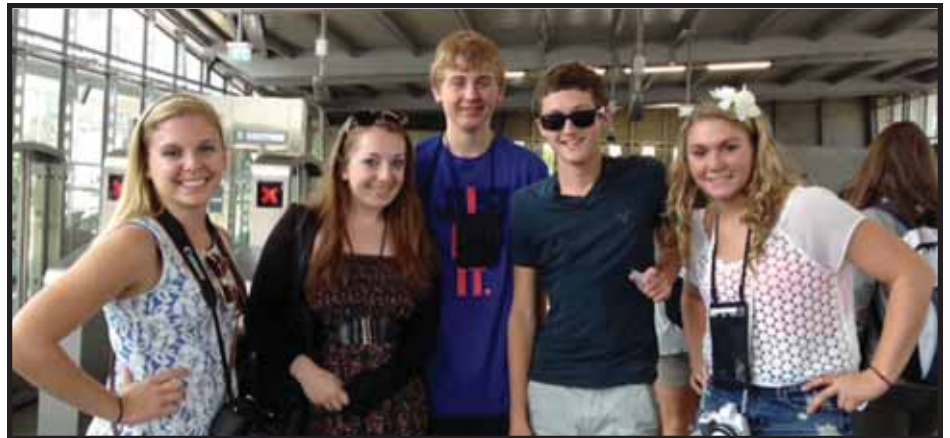
Comcast Offers Discounted Internet Service to WA Families

Through the Comcast Internet Essentials program, West Allegheny School District families may be eligible to receive discounted Internet service. To learn more about this opportunity and to determine if you may qualify, please visit www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376.

Students Travel to Europe



Art students and chaperones tour one of Milan's notable castles.



West Allegheny students (left to right) Emily Kiss, Jessica Fesenmyer and Jarrett Parker travel with students (right) from West Virginia.

It was a memorable summer for two groups of West Allegheny High School students and chaperones when they traveled to Italy and France. Both trips provided the students with a glimpse into the broad cultures of these two countries.

A total of 24 art students traveled to Italy in June for an eight-day tour that highlighted artistic masterpieces, cuisine, language and culture. Destinations visited included the Canals of Venice, the Duomo Cathedral in Milan, the leaning tower and baptistery in Pisa, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and the Coliseum in Rome.

Art teachers Mike Short and Carol DeWitt organized and chaperoned the trip with fellow teachers Brandie Short, Diane Boustead and Lea Hartzog.

In a separate trip, French teacher Shelley Crannell led a group of high

school students to France in July. With the tour lasting nine days, the group experienced such Paris favorites as climbing the Eiffel Tower and visiting Notre Dame Cathedral and Chartres. Their journey also took them to Normandy's Omaha Beach and the cemetery where American soldiers were buried following the invasion of Normandy during World War II. The tour wrapped up with visits to the Loire Valley castle sites of Chambord and Chenonceau.

The three French students and chaperones traveled with students from West Virginia. Offering students the opportunity to apply their French speaking skills, the tour also delved into the rich culture of the region and its ties to American history.

Through these trips, students were able to apply lessons learned in the classroom to their own life experiences and culture.

Four-Year Biomedical Science Curriculum Introduced at High School

Under the heading of what's new in curriculum offerings is the Biomedical Sciences Program for high school students considering the medical track. Provided by Project Lead the Way, the program will integrate one new course a year for four years, and include:

Year One: Principals of the Biomedical Sciences

This course outlines biology concepts through the study of human diseases. Students review the death of a fictional person to determine the cause and if lifestyle choices and medicine may have prolonged the person's life. Areas of study include human physiology,

medicine and research processes.

Year Two: Human Body Systems

Students delve into the role of the body systems and how they interact. This curriculum examines the body's identity, power, movement, protection and homeostasis. Experiments and investigations are student driven, and use software to monitor body functions.

Year Three: Medical Interventions

This course offers students the opportunity to investigate interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease as they follow the life of a fictitious family. Students explore how to prevent and fight

infection; screen and evaluate the code in human DNA; prevent, diagnose and treat cancer; and prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail.

Year Four: Biomedical Innovation

Students design innovative solutions for the health challenges of the twenty-first century. They work through progressively challenging open-ended problems, addressing topics such as clinical medicine, physiology, biomedical engineering and public health.

These courses were designed to be hands-on and project-based, and will be taught by high school teacher Doug White.

“SMALLab” Provides Huge Learning Opportunities

In a recently transformed middle school classroom, learning takes on a new dimension in the Situated Multimedia Arts Learning Lab or SMALLab. Considered an embodied learning environment, SMALLab provides a dynamic technological atmosphere where learning becomes a physical experience as students interact with motion-capture technology that allows them to immerse themselves in the content they are studying.

A \$20,000 STEAM Grant from The Grable Foundation and the Benedum Foundation enabled the District to fund implementation of the SMALLab, which will be utilized by all students in grades six to eight to support the delivery of the District's curricula particularly in math and science.

“Through the application of innovative technology, SMALLab will provide our students and staff with a unique, immersive learning experience designed to motivate and engage all learners,” stated West Allegheny superintendent, Dr. John S. DiSanti. “We certainly appreciate The Grable Foundation and the Benedum Foundation's support of this new and exciting opportunity for

our District.”

After years of research and design, Dr. David Birchfield, along with nine co-inventors from Arizona State University, created this holistic learning approach that integrates kinesthetic, collaborative and multimodal components. The lab encompasses a 15' by 15' space and offers embodied learning scenarios that

address concepts related to physics, chemistry, biology, earth science, and mathematics.

Teachers Kristen Martin, Lauren Siciliano, Erin Rakoci, Rachel Adair, Gabby Monti and Bobbi Jo Buggey received training on the varied applications of the SMALLab, and have already introduced their students to its interactive abilities.



Eighth grader Jessica Packer utilizes the new SMALLab technology during Kristen Martin and Mark Davis' resource class.

Elementary Curricula Changes Reflect Pennsylvania Common Core Standards

Recently revised math and language arts curricula at the elementary level reflect implementation of the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. This shift in coursework echoes the philosophical and instructional recommendations advocated by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the International Reading Association (IRA), respectively.

When viewing the revised math curriculum, there is now more of a balance between practice and content as instruction moves away from the mentality of “a mile wide and an inch deep” and provides a focus on topics with clear progression between the topics. The major shifts from the previous standards to the Common Core include focus, coherence, fluency, understanding, application, and dual intensity.

The revised language arts curriculum now outlines more of a balance between the reading of more complex expository and narrative texts. Writing on a daily

basis is also emphasized as students learn to use evidence from written sources to inform or make an argument.

The standards follow a balanced approach to literacy instruction that incorporate daily lessons on word knowledge, fluency, comprehension, and writing in order to develop a firm foundation of skills and broad literacy experiences.

2013-2014

West Allegheny Assessment Schedule

Keystone Exams - Winter Wave I - December 2013

Keystone Exams - Winter Wave II - January 2014

Grades 6-8 Writing Field Test - February 2014

Grades 3-5 English Language Arts - March 17-21, 2014

Grades 6-8 Math & Reading PSSA - March 17-28, 2014

Grades 3-5 Math PSSA - March 24-28, 2014

Grades 3-5 ELA & Math - Make-Ups

Grades 6-8 Math & Reading - Make-Ups

Grade 8 Writing PSSA - March 31-April 4, 2014

Grade 8 Writing Make-Ups - April 7-11, 2014

Grades 4 & 8 Science PSSA - April 28, 2014

Grades 4 & 8 Science Make-Ups - May 2-9, 2014

Keystone Exams - Spring Window - May 2014

The revised curricula also provide suggested learning activities that include resources designed to enhance instruction and a checklist component that enables teachers to monitor implementation and student mastery of objectives.

To review the revised curriculum, please visit the curriculum tab on the West Allegheny Web site at www.westasd.org.

Helping Hands Reach Out to Others

Seven students from Wilson Elementary School completed a two-day training session over the summer to prepare them for their meaningful role as “Helping Hands.” In its tenth year, the Helping Hands program is a volunteer opportunity for students entering fourth grade who were recommended by a teacher, counselor or principal.

With the ultimate goal of the program being for these volunteers to work with special needs students, the training sessions focused on leadership, communication, team building and working with others. Life lessons of the student training included the themes of “helping with” versus “doing for” and what it is like to be differently-abled.

Upon completion of training, the Helping Hands will utilize their skills volunteering with students involved in the Extended School Year program

sponsored by the West Allegheny School District. In the fall of 2013, the Helping Hands will also begin working with special needs students in the context of social skills activities, and, if the schedule permits, they will participate in physical education and swimming with the life skills students.

Kathy Taylor, school counselor, facilitates the Helping Hands program, and with the assistance of West Allegheny school psychologist Erica Cicero, led the summer training session.

“Some of the concepts are difficult for the student volunteers to grasp, but I



Helping Hands volunteers receive certificates of completion: (Front) Erica Cicero, psychologist, Kayle Pritchett, Mallory McElhaney, Olivia McCracken, Tyler D'Eramo, Devan Zirwas, (Back): Clay Bovalina, Caden Maynard, and Kathy Taylor, school counselor.

am always amazed at how insightful and compassionate these eight-and-nine-year-olds are,” states Taylor.

WA Marching Pride Steps it Up with New Show

The dedicated members of the West Allegheny Marching Pride spent their summer practicing, developing their new show and performing at community events.

Under the leadership of band director TJ Fox, band members attended the annual camp and committed well over 100 hours to perfecting their new fall show: Music of Michael Bublé. Musical selections include "Feeling Good," "Moondance," "It Had Better Be Tonight," "Haven't Met You Yet," "Fever" and "Everything."

Senior Ryan Borgo was named drum major for the season and Ray Haim will conduct the National Anthem and Alma Mater during the pregame.

The Marching Pride also performed at various community events over the summer, including the Oakdale Firemen's Parade, North Fayette Community Days Parade, Imperial Firemen's Parade, Findlay Township Parade and Kennywood's Fall Fantasy Parade.

The new show will also be on full display when the band performs at West Allegheny's Cavalcade of Bands on October 12.



Senior Ryan Borgo conducts a half-time performance.

WA Cavalcade of Bands is October 12

The West Allegheny High School Marching Band and Band Parents will host the 34th annual Cavalcade of Bands competition at the high school stadium on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The gates will open at 6:00 p.m. and performances will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for the Cavalcade will be available at the gate. The cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students and senior citizens. For more information, contact T.J. Fox, high school band director, at 724-695-5279

West Allegheny Teachers Go Back to School



Over the last three years, 10 West Allegheny teachers reversed their roles and went back to school to further their education. Through Gannon University's Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, the participants completed all of their requirements and graduated this past summer. By enrolling in two classes for the last three summers and one class each spring, their courses culminated with portfolio presentations in July.

The West Allegheny School District supports these teachers and their continuing education initiatives.

Teachers (left to right) Lynanne Shaffer, Tammy Chiccarello, Dorothy Brown, Ron Neurohur, Susie Dorman, Kirsten Davis, Debbie Stockhausen, Tina Seybold, Tiffany Mangan and Renae Castelluci earn Masters of Education.

Parent Information Notice

Services for Disabled Preschool Age Children

Act 212, the Early Intervention System Act, entitles all preschool age children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delay or physical or mental disabilities are eligible for early entrance services. He or she is considered to have a developmental delay when difficulties exist in the areas of cognitive, communicative, physical social /emotional and self help development. Services for special needs children, below school age, who reside in suburban Allegheny County, are provided through two different systems linked by a transition process. Birth through age two programming is provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare funding and is coordinated by the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Inc. Students who are three years old to entry age are serviced through the Pennsylvania Department of Education funding. This preschool program is presently coordinated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Early Childhood and Family Support Services program, DART.

For more information, please contact the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Inc. at 412-885-6000 or the Allegheny Intermediate Unit/DART Program at 412-394-5736.

Services for School Age Exceptional Students

The school district provides a free, appropriate public education to exceptional students according to state and federal mandates. To be eligible, the child must be of school-age, need specially designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities as set forth in the Individual with Disabilities Education Act which was re-authorized in 1997 (IDEA –97) and the Chapter 14 Special Education Services and Programs State Regulations: Autism, Blindness/Visual Impairment, Deaf- Blindness, Deafness/Hearing Impairment, Emotional Disturbance, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disability, Orthopedic Impaired, Other Health Impaired, Specific Learning Disability, Speech and Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury.

Identified students are provided with a continuum of services designed to meet the individual needs of eligible students. These services may include supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class or in a special education resource program, placement in a part-time or full-time special education class in a regular school or placement in a full-time special education class outside of the regular school. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the parents and staff at the IEP team meeting and is based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the intensity of the specified intervention. The school district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling services that are required to enable the student to derive educational benefits.

Parents of public school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the Building Principal or Director of Pupil Services. Please contact the Building Principal or Director of Pupil Services for the required form.

Screening and Evaluation

The West Allegheny School District employs the following procedures for locating, identifying, and evaluating specified needs of school age students requiring special programs and services.

Level 1: Review of group-based data

Level 2: Review of hearing, vision, motor, speech and language

Level 3: School Based Intervention Teams

The Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE)

The MDE is a process to gather information that will be used to find out if children really do need special education and if so, the types of services needed. Prior to an MDE, the District must obtain permission via the Permission to Evaluate form. Before an evaluation can occur, the form must be signed by the parent or legal guardian.

Evaluations are conducted by a certified school psychologist. Additional information is provided by the parents, classroom teacher, and other pertinent individuals who work with the student. All of this information is compiled into an Evaluation Report (ER). This report will recommend whether a child has one or more disabilities or mental giftedness. It also recommends whether or not the child requires special education and the type of program and services that the child needs. The ER may recommend that a child is not exceptional and therefore does not need special education services. If this is recommended, the report will list changes that may be made in the regular classroom to make the child more successful. All members of the MDT, including the parents, are entitled to review the ER.

Reevaluations for students, who are eligible for special education services, are compiled every three years or two years for students with intellectual disabilities or when requested by one or more members of the IEP team (please see information on Individualized Education Plan).

Individualized Education Plan

Children who are regarded to be exceptional by the MDT team are entitled to receive special education services. The document that specifically addresses these services is called an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Required members of the IEP team include: The child's parents, At least one of your child's regular education teachers, At least one special education teacher, A representative from the school district who:(1) is qualified to provide or supervise special education programs (2) knows about the general curriculum (3) knows what resources the Local Education Agency (LEA) can offer, Someone who can interpret the evaluation results, who may already be a member of the team, at your request or that of the school, Other people who know your child well or who have worked with your child, Your child (at age 14 when planning will be done for life after graduation or any time before that age when you want your child to be present), or A representative from a vocational-technical school if a vocational-technical school is being considered for your child.

The IEP will review all of the evaluation material and will determine how your child is performing in school. The IEP team will write annual goals that can be measured and which meet the needs of your child.

IEPs for eligible students are developed on an annual basis, or sooner, if requested by one or more members of the IEP team.

Parent Information Notice (cont.)

Notice of Recommended Educational Placement

Once the IEP has been developed with the IEP team; you will receive a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP). The NOREP explains the placement or class recommended for your child and explains your rights. You must approve the NOREP in writing for your child's first special education placement if you want it to go into effect. You will receive a NOREP with each completed IEP and you have 10 calendar days to return the NOREP. In circumstances when this form is NOT completed parental consent is NOT required, the school will proceed after 10 calendar days.

West Allegheny School District offers a continuum of educational services designed to meet the needs of eligible students including varying degrees of gifted, learning, and speech and language support. In addition, related services such as transportation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision support, and deaf and hearing support are available to those students that qualify.

Detailed information regarding special education procedures may be obtained by calling the Special Education Department at 724-695-5221.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

There are instances in which students are identified as handicapped or disabled, but may not qualify for Special Education services. If it is determined necessary, the school district will provide these students, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to ensure equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school programs and extracurricular activities. To qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. Services and protections for protected handicapped students are different from those applicable to all eligible students enrolled in special education programs. These services are outlined in a Chapter 15 Service Agreement. Questions regarding Chapter 15 should be directed to the Director of Pupil Services at 724-695-5221.

Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

Public special education is accessible to resident students attending nonpublic schools by permitting the nonpublic school student to enroll on a part-time, dual enrollment basis in a special education program operated in a public school. The student must have a multidisciplinary team evaluation completed and an Individual Education Plan must be developed with the public school; parents must sign a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement.

Parents of nonpublic school students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child through a written request to the district Director of Pupil Services.

Public Notice on Student Records

The Education Records Plan for Exceptional Students is a state approved plan for the local school districts within the Allegheny Intermediate Unit which defines all procedures for collection, maintenance, and dissemination of educational records belonging to exceptional students. Education records are needed to provide appropriate educational programs, but at the same time it is necessary to protect the rights of privacy and confidentiality of students and parents.

Official student education records are kept where a student attends a district operated class. Copies of the District Education Records Plan may be obtained from your building principal.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The privacy rights of parents and students are mandated by federal legislation known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), state regulations (Chapter 14 - Special Education Services and Programs, Chapter 12 - Student Rights and Responsibilities), and district policy.

The different categories of information maintained by the school district are as follows: educational and health records, personally identifiable information and directory information. With the exception of receiving school district, educational and health records, personally identifiable information cannot be disclosed or released without parental consent or adult student's (a student who is eighteen years of age or older, married or attending an institution of post secondary education) consent.

Information known as directory information can be released without consent. Directory information means information which would be considered not harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. This information includes the following: student's name, address, date and place of birth, courses taken, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Written, parental or adult student request is required for the disclosure of educational and health records and personally identifiable information. The consent must specify the records that may be disclosed and the purpose of the disclosure; and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. A written record of the disclosure must be maintained by the school district.

Parent or adult students have the right to inspect and review the students' educational records within thirty (30) days of the date the district receives a written request for access. Parents of eligible students should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the specific records they wish to inspect. Parents or adult students can seek to amend the student's educational record that is believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. The parent or eligible student in writing must clearly identify the parts of the record to be changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student will be notified of the decision and advise the individual of his/her right to a hearing regarding the requested amendment.

Parents or adult students have the right to file complaints concerning alleged failures of the district to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Such complaints should be directed to the Health, Educational and Welfare Office, Washington, D. C. With regard to parents who do not understand English, the School District will attempt to inform them of their rights in their native language. Further information regarding the Policy of the Collection, Maintenance and Dissemination of Records is available through the principal's office.

Fall Sports Highlights

The fall of 2013 ushers in expectations and opportunities to showcase the talents and efforts of our student athletes in cross country, football, golf, soccer, tennis and volleyball.

With the nucleus of talent returning for many of our varsity teams, West Allegheny is again positioned to make positives happen on the course, court, pitch and field.

With sectional and conference successes in 2012 for football, boy's soccer and boy's cross country, as well as the anticipated perennial matchups in competition for the balance of our teams, this autumn makes for an exciting regular season.

Post-season aspirations will be on our coaches' and athletes' minds as they grind through the constant challenge of regular season competitions and tournaments. The memories of a WPIAL football title in 2012 garner high hopes for a return to Heinz Field for the boys of fall.

WPIAL championships in other sports, while obtained in the past, remain the focus as our Indians prepare daily for the chance to advance to post-season play.

As has always been the case, the tradition, pride, toughness and commitment to their sport makes West Allegheny athletics something unique to see. Make plans to come and watch WA athletes apply their skills. Indian athletics is just one part that makes West A someplace special.

David McBain

West Allegheny Athletic Director

Senior Project Promotes Fleet Feet and Self Esteem

West Allegheny senior Catherine Roberts took on a fast-paced senior project as she organized and hosted the summer cross country training program for incoming sixth graders. Roberts coordinated her efforts with the cross country and track and field coach, Jim Hamilton.

In its eighth year, the training program was designed to introduce students to running while building their self-esteem and stamina. The program included two sessions a week for eight weeks. Following the philosophy of working while keeping it fun, the practices started out slow with participants getting to know each other during easy jogs. As the weeks progressed so did the runners' confidence and intensity.

The hard work of the students and coaches was on display when they participated in the North Fayette Township Community Days 5K Run held on August 3 and at the Findlay Township Semi-Great 5K Race on August 16.

Catherine's final challenge was to prepare the sixth graders for a real cross country meet against Holy Trinity at Settler's Cabin Park on August 19. Catherine had 12 runners complete the race from her team.



Senior project culminates in cross country meet at Settler's Cabin Park.

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It may only be September but before you know it that Halloween Party will be knocking on your door like the grim reaper! Do you know what it wants? Not you. (phew)

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SMITH AND MUSTIO SECURE BUDGET FUNDS TO SUPPORT EFFORT TO PRESERVE 911TH AIRLIFT WING

In a bipartisan effort, State Senator Matt Smith and Representative Mark Mustio have secured assurances that \$200,000 in appropriated budget funds will go to studying, maintaining, and protecting Pennsylvania's military bases, including the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township.

Senator Smith and Representative Mustio worked with Department of Community and Economic Development officials to ensure that certain funds from the General Government Operations budget line item go to studying the viability of Pennsylvania's bases and protect them from being reduced or closed by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

"These funds will help ensure the Commonwealth's national and regional security as we make the case for these vital military installations," Senator Smith said. "Thank you to Rep. Mustio for working together to ensure these funds would be used for their intended purpose, to protect bases such as the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township that contributes so much to our economy and provides jobs to nearly 2,000 people."

Representative Mustio added, "One of the reasons we have been successful in keeping our bases in the past is because elected officials and volunteers from the community have proactively worked in advance to prepare for the BRAC process. It will be no different this time and that is why Senator Smith and I worked together to make sure funding is available for this purpose."

Smith said the funds would support the Pennsylvania Military Communities Protection Commission, which will conduct various studies, engage in outreach to the public and private sector, work with partners and stakeholder groups at all levels of government, and support projects that enhance the military value of Pennsylvania installations.

The Allegheny County lawmakers noted that the U.S. Department of Defense decided in March to keep the 911th at full staffing levels through fiscal years 2013 and 2014, and operate eight C-130 aircrafts. Smith said the decision was a tribute to the base's military value and ability to work cooperatively with other military and local law enforcement entities.

While Mustio called the decision "promising," he cautioned that BRAC could potentially conduct a review of base operations again next year. He said it was important for the state to remain vigilant and continue making a case for its military installations.

"We recognize the importance the military presence plays in our community," added Mustio. "Senator Smith and I will continue to work with our Congressional delegation, the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Council and the community at large to ensure that we are prepared for next year's BRAC review."

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Community College of Allegheny County Students Sweep Awards in Welding Competition

Two CCAC-West students finished first and second place in the 2013 American Welding Society's Weld-Off competition hosted by the Boilermakers Local Union 154. Benjamin Richey of Greentree and Adam Festa of Cheswick took the top honors, respectively, in the regional competition, which every year sees the four best amateur students from schools in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and eastern Ohio compete to earn prizes such as trophies, money, welding equipment and an opportunity to apprentice with the union. The awards will be presented at the AWS meeting on October 15.

In CCAC's 20-year history competing in this event, this is the third time that the college has secured first and second place finishes, and the first time the college has taken the top honors in back-to-back years. The competition does not award third place honors.

Both Richey and Festa have the added distinction of being CCAC alumni. Richey earned his Associate of Science degree in Accounting in 2011 and has recently completed coursework for a Certificate degree in Welding Technology. Festa earned his Certificate degree in Welding Technology in 2012 and is currently working toward his associate degree.

School Receives Prestigious Automotive Grant

On August 29, #1 Cochran Automotive CEO and president Rob Cochran visited CCAC's West Hills Center, where he presented automotive technology instructors with a check for \$2,000 on behalf of the Pennsylvania Automotive Association. The grant recognizes the center's efforts to train and place automotive students in area dealerships, and promote the automotive trade in western Pennsylvania at high schools and career and technology centers. The grant, made possible by the National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation, helps support that mission.

CCAC automotive instructor George Kerlin explains that at CCAC, automotive technology students pursue an associate's degree by both working at dealerships and attending school. Through a relationship with Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and Chrysler, CCAC receives cars and parts used to train students who in turn specialize in those makes. Rob, who currently serves as PAA chairman, told instructors that CCAC's program has provided vital support to their own operations.

George explains that students at CCAC alternate between school and work in three-month blocks, the idea being that they gain both an education and vital job experience.

"At the end of two years they have an associates degree," he says. "They also have a job."

For more information on CCAC's automotive service and technology programs, log onto ccac.edu, search keywords "automotive programs." CCAC-West Hills Center is located at 1000 McKee Road, Oakdale, PA 15071.



ABOVE: Rob Cochran hands CCAC Ford instructor & department head, Robert Koch, a check from the PAA; CCAC automotive instructors from left to right: Scott Main, Robert Koch, George Kerlin, Jason Nadzam, Roger Kinger, Karl Watson. PHOTO BY DOUG HUGHEY

Rosedale Technical Institute Partnership Benefits School, Valley Church

A field trip to service a real problem resulted in a win-win for several of Rosedale Technical Institute's HVAC students and Valley Presbyterian Church in Imperial.

This past summer, three members of the class, under the direction of their teacher, Wayne Walker, visited Valley Church in early June to diagnose a freezer that had quit working. Using this as an opportunity to simulate a real service call, Wayne instructed his students to utilize their training skills to determine the cause of the problem, write an estimate, and give a timeline for repair.

With their sophisticated state-of-the-art tools, and their classroom knowledge, the students were able to put the freezer back into service in a short time.

The students were winners by getting a real-life education, and the church was a winner by receiving a repair to its freezer at no charge.

Valley Church thanks Rosedale Technical Institute for saving them time and expense and using their repair issue to teach students.



ABOVE: Rosedale's HVAC instructor, Wayne Walker, right, explains how to repair the church freezer to students Zac Helble, Evan Treadwell, and Canaan Tsuris. PHOTO BY JJ

Parkway West Career & Technology Center Graduate Turns Career Dreams into Reality as Underwater Diver

Mike Nadik, a 2012 graduate of Welding Technology and West Allegheny High School, acquired several welding certifications while in school and, after graduation, continued his education at Divers Academy International in Eriel, New Jersey. Divers Academy International is a leader in teaching commercial diving and underwater welding.

Now an alumnus of Diver's Academy, within two weeks of returning home, Mike was offered three employment opportunities. He is currently working for a transportation company that specializes in aquatic transportation services.

When asked if he was nervous about learning how to dive, Mike said, "I wasn't really nervous at all. You never have the same dive experience twice."

Commenting about his welding experience, Mike stated that because of his education through the Welding Technology program at PWCTC, he knew most of the welding component at Diver's Academy, with the exception of welding underwater.

While enrolled at PWCTC, Mike earned American Welding Society certifications in Shielded Metal Arc Welding, known as "stick" welding, and Gas Metal Arc Welding, known as "MIG" welding.

What is Mike most interested in now? He says 'making money' and 'to continue to learn' all he can in both fields of welding and commercial diving.



ABOVE: Mike Nadik. PHOTO SUBMITTED



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Around Your Town

PILOT ARCHERY PROGRAM FOR HUNTERS NOW IN PLACE ON AIRPORT PROPERTY

The Allegheny County Airport Authority announced a pilot program for Archery Only hunting in designated hunting zones on Pittsburgh International Airport property. Hunting will be limited to archery-only (no firearms) October 5 through January 11, 2014. A lottery system was used in order to assign a limited number of permits to hunters who applied.

Rep. Mark Mustio applauded Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald and the Airport Authority board for working together with Senator Matt Smith and the hunting community to reopen a portion of the Airport Authority-controlled land for archery hunting. "This is a good example of government at several levels listening to the concerns of the residents and addressing those concerns," Rep. Mustio said.

Senator Matt Smith stated, "This announcement is good news for area sportsmen and women who will soon have access to additional lands and the opportunity to take part in the rich Pennsylvania tradition of archery hunting. I appreciate the efforts of all parties to arrive at a consensus on opening portions of airport controlled land for hunting. Allegheny County Executive Fitzgerald, Rep. Mark Mustio, and I worked collaboratively with the Airport Authority in listening to residents and developing a thoughtful proposal."

Roughly 2,362 acres will be made available to hunters authorized to hunt. The Airport Authority will issue permits and permitted hunters will be restricted to hunting only within the designated zones and will be sited for trespass if they are found to be hunting elsewhere on Airport property. All authorized hunters are subject to Pennsylvania Game Laws at all times. It is anticipated that the PA Game Commission will periodically patrol the areas in order to ensure compliance with game laws.

WA GRAD OPENS GLOBALLY INSPIRED BOUTIQUE

Culture Cloz, a global fair trade and handmade cultural boutique, opened its doors on September 14 on North Highland Avenue in Pittsburgh.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to open Culture Cloz," says boutique owner and West Allegheny graduate Rukiya McNair. "It has been a dream of mine for a very long time and with a lot of hard work, it has come to fruition."

The independent company offers fair trade and handmade products, and Rukiya, who is also a graduate of Kent State University, says that the overall mission of the store is to facilitate a positive atmosphere within the East Liberty community. The store carries products that are made by hand and/or purchased by fair trade. The boutique offers globally-inspired, fair trade offerings, including natural hair and beauty products, apparel, shoes, jewelry, handbags, and even paintings; some of which Rukiya, a longtime artisan and former art student at West Allegheny High School, created herself.

Each Friday, Culture Cloz offers a Paint and Sip event, during which attendees join in painting, wine, and eclectic conversation. For more information, visit www.culturecloz.com.

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The Mall at Robinson's "Unofficial" Mayor

ABOVE: Photo caption: Harry and friends (counter clockwise): Shirley Nadeja, Bob Wagner, Pat Wagner, Genevieve Kiefer, Kay Sherbondy, Gerry Safko, Kenny Safko, Bob Nadeja, Harry Sherbondy.

In 2003, after Harry Sherbondy retired from 31 years of teaching at West Allegheny School District, he took up a seat next to a Starbucks in the center of the Mall at Robinson with his wife, Kay. Sitting at a table in the mall's central thoroughfare, the couple got to know the mall's regulars, many of whom were seniors, including World War II veterans.

Ten years later, the former history and psychology teacher has an official seat stamped with his name and a group of about twenty friends who stop and convene at Starbucks on any given day. Taking up residence at the cafe area's couches and tables, they tell jokes, share stories and YouTube videos, jibe each other, and celebrate birthdays and milestones.

"It's through him that everyone started getting together," says Pat Wagner, who regularly visits with her husband, Bob, about Harry.

Recently, the group celebrated the final day of work for Genevieve Kiefer, a mall customer relations associate who worked in the adjacent mall information booth. Just like with many of the group's occasions, it was celebrated with cake.

Harry says that for a while, their numbers were up to 20, but

that in recent years they've lost a few who passed on, five of whom were war veterans. Before he started teaching, Harry, too, served in the military, in the Special Forces, and as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He attended Fort Monmouth, and for a time was a member at the 171st Air Refueling Wing in Moon. In addition to teaching at West Allegheny, he also coached wrestling for 13 years, spent 27 years heading up the school's summer paint crew, and ran the football clock for 25 years.

For a long time, Harry joked with mall manager Beth Edwards that his seat should have his name stamped on it. In lieu of his 72nd birthday, Beth gave the go-ahead, and Harry's request was granted.

"We joked about his designated seating at the mall for so long, that I decided he finally deserved to have an official seat," says Beth. "He is the mall mayor who has brought together tenants and shoppers, as well as a very close group of friends."

She says they've celebrated numerous birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions over the years, and become good friends. According to Beth, Kay makes a delectable German chocolate cake, but only once a year on Harry's birthday.



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Sunday:
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Coming Up in October/November

Adult Programs

AARP Driver Safety, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 15 and 16, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fees: AARP Members (\$12/each) OR Non-members (\$14/each). Seniors are invited to take the two-day classroom refresher course designed for drivers 50 and older. Participants must attend both classes. Call the library to register.

Author Visit, Saturday, October 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
John L. Haigh, Sr., author of *Air Force One*, *An Honor*, *Privilege*, and *Pleasure to Serve*, visits the library.

Mae West's "I'm No Angel," Saturday, October 26, 1 p.m. Karen Dunham performs this one person comedy play that is a delightful mix of history, comedy, music, and nostalgia.

Abraham Lincoln, Sunday, November 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln offers a remembrance to the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and meet Abraham Lincoln and a civil war soldier.

Advantage CCS, Thursday, November 21, 6:30 p.m.
Heather Murray will present a combination of holiday smart shopping tips and budgeting. Learn how to shop without breaking your budget, tips for grocery shopping, and surviving the holidays without paying for them forever at this financial seminar.

Anime/Manga Club, Fourth Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. Adults and teens gather at the library and to share their love of anime and manga.

Wise Walk, Fridays, 10 a.m., The Mall at Robinson.
Join us for a Wise Walk at the food court in the mall. Report your steps and enjoy the company of others while walking inside, away from the elements, whether it is the rain, heat and humidity, or the cold and snow. Bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated. Wise Walk is brought to you by the Allegheny County Library Association, AARP, and Highmark PALS. All ages are welcome to join us.

Save the Date: Cookie Exchange, Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. Make, donate, and take! More info to come!

Teen Programs

Hunger Games Scavenger Hunt, Thursday, October 10, 7 p.m. Do you have what it takes to survive in the arena? Find out at the Hunger Games Scavenger Hunt. Teens will follow clues to find necessary survival items for the arena.

Candy Sushi, Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m.

Learn to make the Japanese delicacy using candy and other sweet treats instead of seaweed and raw fish.

Catching Fire Movie Premier at Cinemark, November 23, Time TBD. Meet at the Settlers Ridge Cinemark to watch the much anticipated sequel to the popular Hunger Games. The afternoon will also include trivia and other games. Special Hunger Games prizes awarded to winners. Check eNewsletter and online Calendar of Events for more information.

Family Programs

Family Day at the Library, Saturday, October 12, 1 p.m.
Come experience a one-of-a-kind installation art piece brought to you by the Mattress Factory of Pittsburgh.

Spook Handy, Wednesday, October 30, 6 p.m.

All ages are welcome to come and enjoy the Spook Handy Show! Spook Handy, a nationally known artist, will perform for us "The Works of Woody Guthrie." About Woody Guthrie: Born in 1912, the "Dust Bowl Balladeer" was America's most prolific folk songwriter of the 20th century. Woody wrote hundreds, if not thousands, of songs that document the history, culture, and concerns of 1930s, 40s, and 50s America. His songs are highly educational, extremely fun, and very sing-along able. About Spook Handy: As part of a 2013 "Folk Artist in Residency" at Rutgers University, Spook performed a variety of folk songs, including songs of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger at the college student center. Although the students were generally unaware of their songs, and in fact, were not even familiar with their names, they stopped, took notice, and even sang along. One student commented that, "there's something authentic about this music that you don't hear in today's songs."

Participants are invited to come in costume and trick or treat around the library following the performance.

Family Yoga, Fridays, 11:30 a.m. \$5 donation.
Practice yoga together with your little one and enjoy the benefits of healthy living.

Save the Date: 20th Anniversary of the Annual Gingerbread Workshop and Contest
Monday, December 2, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
More information to follow.

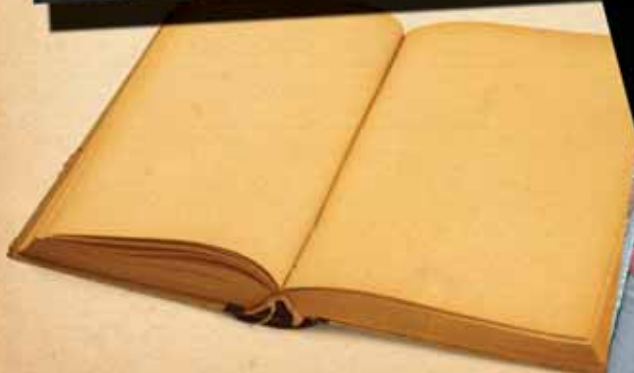
Pass the Book ... Open the Library!



With the official "passing of the book," the Western Allegheny Community Library opened the doors to its new facility, the former Amcom building, at 181 Bateman Road in August.

The Dr. Seuss title, *Oh the Places You Will Go* was the chosen book to take its final ride from the old library to the new one with four-year-old Natalie Zottola in the fire truck, accompanied by members of her family and the North Fayette Volunteer Fire Department.

Following a ceremonial passing of the book up the driveway and across the parking lot, librarian Marianne Sforza accepted the final book for the library's shelves. Comments and accolades were offered by library staff and board, local and state officials. The ribbon was cut, and an open house was held for the community.



Firehouse Subs:

Now Located in The Pointe at NF



On June 17, Brendan and Erika Martin opened their new restaurant, Firehouse Subs, in the Pointe at North Fayette. The restaurant's concept involves serving up hearty subs with top quality steamed meats and cheeses on a toasted bun while supporting those risking their lives in the public safety sector.

Via a partnership with the Public Safety Foundation, Firehouse Subs donates money that goes directly towards buying everything from life-saving equipment for first responders to funding disaster relief. When customers visit the Pointe location, they have the option of rounding up their purchase, the balance of which goes to PSF. The restaurant even donates money generated by selling their empty five-gallon pickle barrels for \$2 apiece, and running additional fundraising efforts.

Patrons will be satisfied, though, not just with their good deed, but also a top quality sub. Brendan explains that for each hot sub, they steam their USDA-choice meats and cheeses and then load them on a toasted bun. Of their most popular so far, he mentions the Hook and Ladder sub: a delicious combination of smoked turkey breast, Virginia honey ham, and melted Monterrey Jack cheese, and the Smokehouse Beef and Cheddar Brisket: a mouth-watering beef brisket smoked for over 16 hours, steamed with cheddar, and finished with special sauces.

"They are meant to feed firemen," says Brendan.

Firehouse Subs also runs limited-time features like the Hawaiian; a juicy combo of pulled pork on a sweet Hawaiian yellow bun.

Customers can spice up their sub using an eclectic collection of about 50 different hot sauces, and customize a drink from 120 flavors with the Coke Freestyle machine. The restaurant's mural, unique to each location, depicts mascots from West Allegheny, Montour, and Moon, fighting over a sailing football with the Pittsburgh skyline and a North Fayette fire truck in the background.

For Brendan, who graduated from West Allegheny, the shop marks a homecoming. After graduating from Penn State University with a degree in industrial engineering, he worked for Levin Furniture as an operations manager. Erika, another PSU graduate who also holds a degree in industrial engineering, currently works for the Connors Group.

The couple lives just a couple miles away in McDonald.

Firehouse Subs is located in The Pointe at North Fayette, 320 McHolme Drive, near Walmart. For information, (412) 788-4070, Twitter - @FirehouseSubs, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/firehousesubs>.

The Sun Club

What happens when you bring the sunshine indoors? Airy, cheerful, upbeat, and spacious all describe the new Sun Club Tanning Salon at 130 Imperial Plaza Drive, Imperial. The salon opened in July.

Bringing her own friendly, cheerful disposition to the salon is its new owner, Monica Gerst. A '98 West Allegheny alumna and life-long North Fayette resident, she wanted to open the space in her hometown to give locals a place where they could enjoy their tanning experience to the ultimate level.

Prior to opening the salon, Monica worked as a payroll supervisor for OK Grocery, then spent the last two years as a stay-at-home mom. Her family includes her fiancé, Paul Miller; and three children, Dakota, 13; Breana, 10; and Luke, 2. Dakota and Breana attend West Allegheny schools, just like their mom did.

Locally owned and independently operated, Monica notes that, while a friend and colleague owns two "sister" salons by the same name in the South Hills, they are not part of a chain.

In a unique business arrangement, the two salon owners share resources, including their online reservation system, graphic design choices, and other business activities.

Additionally, customers at the "sister" salons can use their membership sessions and packages at Monica's salon, and vice-versa.

"We work independently, yet collaboratively," Monica says.

Upon entering the salon, with its full wall of windows facing the sunset, customers will be greeted by a cheerful face at the desk, as pleasant, upbeat music plays in the background.

The light wood panelled tanning areas encompass space once used by the Pittsburgh Pro Performance Center, which has expanded and moved up the street behind the Inn Place.

The Sun Club offers 11 tanning and UV beds. Two of them are stand-up beds. And, unique to the area, the salon offers one of the stand-up beds for handicap access, as well as one of the regular beds. Coming soon are personalized airbrush tanning and spray tanning.

Two full bathrooms are available for customers, one also with handicap accessibility.

Another unique service Monica offers is a six-month membership program. For \$35 a month, billed monthly, plus a \$65 activation fee, customers can use any level bed, unlimited use, seven days a week, every day of the month.

The Sun Club is presently offering a fall football season special through the end of October. Every time the West Allegheny High School football team wins a regular season home game, customers receive a free tanning session on the Saturday after the game.

Monica added that she will soon be offering winter specials, starting in November, including a 25-day countdown to Christmas.

The salon accepts VISA, Mastercard, and Discover.

To learn more about The Sun Club, call (724) 695-1059. Or, visit the Web site at www.thesunclub.net.



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911th DEDICATES MEMORIAL MARKER AT NATIONAL CEMETERY



ABOVE: Unveiling the official memorial marker. PHOTO SUBMITTED

On September 14, the 911th Airlift Wing's Retirees Group held a memorial marker dedication ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in Cecil. The memorial marker represents the 911th's commitment to those who have served both past and present and commemorates the 911th Airlift Wing's 50 years of service to both the nation and community. The 911th Airlift Wing commander, Col. Craig C. Peters, was key note speaker at the event.

WEST ALLEGHENY SENIOR SPEARHEADS CONSERVATION PROJECT, WINS SCHOLARSHIP

This past September, West Allegheny senior Javier Ojeda was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium for spearheading a birdhouse building project in July. The Conservation Leadership Project, writes Javier, "consisted of a birdhouse-building activity that I developed to educate the children of my neighborhood about local bird conservation."

Javier and a group of local children built and painted the birdhouses at Javier's parents' house in Imperial Pointe, and then placed the houses alongside nearby Elm Street Park Trail.

For the project, Javier identified three area species whose populations are abundant but have been threatened by environmental changes.

Setting up mats, chairs, and tables, Javier instructed participants on how to build the houses using kits that he and his father assembled, and about the birds they were intended to attract. Javier credits his family for their help, along with Findlay Community Coordinator Darlene Howell, who found a place to hang the birdhouses.

"You should be very proud of yourself for completing such a well-regarded project," writes the zoo's KidScience Coordinator, Mandy Revak, in a letter to Javier. "...because you worked with local children, you have taken an instrumental step in creating the next generation of conservationists, which is a goal that is near and dear to our hearts."

YOUR THRIFT SHOP PURCHASES SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY

On Route 30 in Imperial, located adjacent to the West Allegheny Food Pantry, is the Thrift Shop. There, shoppers will find clothing, toys, houseware items, and more.

Notes Carole Messner, who oversees the thrift shop, "ANYONE can shop here. When you shop here, you help the food pantry, because all proceeds go to the food bank."

The thrift shop is conveniently located on Route 30, across from Chuck's Bar and Cole's Pub.

Hours are every Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the second and fourth Wednesdays monthly, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

In this age of watching prices and budgeting, it's worth a visit to the thrift shop to see what might be on sale that could save some dollars in the long run, and help the food pantry at the same time.



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Valley Church to Grow a Garden for the Community, Food Pantry

"Build it and they will come." Or, in this case, "plant it and it will grow."

A community garden will begin to emerge on the front lawn of Valley Church, located on Main Street in Imperial, once this winter has passed and Spring 2014 emerges.

The garden is the outgrowth of the church's strategic planning process this past year, which has two goals: to grow the church as a family and reach out through community service.

In its past, Valley Church had always been known as the church for mission.

In 1898, the women of Valley Church formed the Missionary Society to encourage church mission and contribute to the various mission efforts of the church and its members as well as its mission work in the community. That organization remained active for 55 years.

Whether it was the largely popular Mission Auction back in the 80s that raised, in some years, as much as \$30,000, or the support of church members who traveled on mission trips, Valley's role in the past was largely mission-based.

Today, its members want to bring their role of serving others into

their own neighborhood with this new project.

Thus, the church members have adopted the theme, "Growing Together with Valley Church."

The church introduced its new project during Findlay's Fair in the Woodlands in August, where Valley hosted a booth and served freshly-made salsa.

A major recipient of the garden's harvest will be the clients of the West Allegheny Food Pantry.

Pastor Ben Robbins, who leads the church family as their new minister, has reached out to Grow Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization that created a partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, for their help in the garden start-up phase. Grow Pittsburgh will visit Valley Church this month and discuss how it can provide hands-on technical and educational support. Its extension, Allegheny Grows, then provides support for suburban gardens such as what Valley is considering.

The Valley Community Garden, explains Pastor Robbins, will hopefully bring the church family and the community together in a variety of ways.

For example, members hope to share the bounty of the garden with the community by hosting soup and salad meals, and possibly holding a farmer's market in the church lot for local residents and church members to share their crops.

The community will be invited to be part of the planting, nurturing, weeding, watering, and harvesting of the crop.

While no firm decision has been made regarding the final size of the initial garden, Valley hopes that what begins small will "grow" large over time and involve many from the community.

In order to "grow" some "seed" money for the project, Valley Church is hosting a **farm-style spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the social hall.** Freshly-made salad, homemade desserts, and home-style spaghetti will be made by the members and served, farm-style, to guests.

On tap is some good old-fashioned music, too, possibly some banjo playing, and perhaps square dancing by a local organization.

And, in the process, Valley hopes the community will get involved and have fun through the fellowship of gardening.

Donations of time, talent, supplies, or anything garden-related that could help the Valley Community Garden become a reality are welcomed. Individuals looking for a way to get involved in the community through such an outdoor project, including youths, families, and groups such as scouts and other organizations, are welcome to dig in and help.

To learn more, call (724) 695-0300 or e-mail: info@valleychurchweb.com.

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We Remember Dick

With a heavy heart, we share the sad news of the passing last month of our long-time sports writer and respected colleague, Dick Glovier. Dick was an encyclopedia of local sports knowledge, widely respected among his peers, sharing his popular Sidelines column through our West Allegheny edition magazine since 2000. If there was local sports knowledge to be shared, Dick was the source.

He was born in 1930 and graduated from Aliquippa High School in 1948. Dick served in the U.S. Air Force from 1949-51 and was a Korean War veteran.

He attended the University of Pittsburgh, completing his course of study in Vocational Education with a 4.7 GPA, and completing additional classes in Creative and Technical Writing.

Dick worked as a machinist apprentice at J&L Steel, then as a machinist for Pittsburgh Tube Company. He went on to become machine shop supervisor at Crucible Materials Research Laboratory.

During those years and well into retirement, Dick was deeply involved in writing for a variety of local publications, including the *Town & Boro News*, the *McDonald Record Outlook* and *Record Enterprise*, the *Beaver County Times*, the *Allegheny Times*, and, since 2000, *Allegheny West Magazine*.

Pictured, right, is a photo of Dick, center, with the honorees of this year's West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame honorees, all of whom he wrote about at some point in the Sidelines column of *Allegheny West Magazine*. Additionally, Dick was a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame committee since its inception.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou; children, Doug Glovier Donna Faux and husband, Dan, and the late Linda Volle; grandchildren Louis Volle and wife Laura, Dana Stolar and husband Greg, and Derek Faux; great-grandchildren Kaleb and Paige Volle; and siblings Robert, Clarence, Larue, Paula, Peggy, and the late Byron



and Joanne.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for Dick at St. Columbkille Church on September 12. Burial followed with military honors at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Donations in Dick's memory can be made to the West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame, to benefit P.A.L.S., Providing Assistance, Love, and Support, a North Fayette Township group providing sports and recreation programs for children with special needs.



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Patrick Konieczny is the owner of Thomas-Little Funeral Service, Inc. with locations in the McDonald, Midway, Imperial, and Oakdale communities. He and his wife, Kristen, live in McDonald, North Fayette Township, with their two daughters, Mya and Allie.

Patrick is a graduate of Thiel College and Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He is a member of the West Allegheny Foundation, St. Alphonsus R.C. Church, McDonald Lions Club, Oakdale Merchants Association, and Oakdale F&AM Lodge #669. He is a former member of the West Allegheny School Board, served as vice-president and is present superintendent of the Oakdale Cemetery Association.

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STORY BY CAROLYN MORRISON
PHOTOS BY SARAH AND DOUG HUGHEY

HOLT: PRESERVING “THE GREEN”



Following a day of torrential rainfall, flash flooding, and while in the midst of a sweltering evening threatening more storms, Sean Brady is anxiously leading the way into the forest. With a quick step and scanning eye, he surveys ribbons of clay and mud ahead. Whether the trails that he, along with other members of the Hollow Oak Land Trust, and numerous additional volunteers, have built have held up or not remains uncertain.

Looping along the Oil Well Trail, which is named after an abandoned well below Hassam Road, Sean stoops and swerves, shucking fallen limbs and logs back into the brush as he pulls back vines beaten down by the rain. In places, water runoff has been diverted from the elevated trail bed, just as Sean designed. It's a momentary victory, however. Pausing briefly, he marvels at the powerful sound of rushing water farther below. Deeper into the dense vegetation of spicebush and invasive knotweed, water pours across the trail, ankle deep, while other trail arms have completely assumed the role of streambeds.

Sean expresses no anger or disappointment, but rather an energetic mix of awe, even glee, at the power of nature. In light of his goal to guide and channel the natural flow of water away from the carefully crafted, sustainable trails, he admits that the trail building at Meeks Run Greenway area is indeed still a work in progress.

Nearby, a small yet dramatic waterfall - turbid white caps falling over sandstone - lies just upstream of the confluence of where the two recreationally and ecologically significant streams Montour Run and Meeks Run meet. In the same manner that these streams converge, Sean envisions local green spaces in the Western suburbs overlapping, increasing natural biodiversity as well as enjoyment by outdoor enthusiasts.

In 2012, Sean Brady became the newest Executive Director of the Hollow Oak Land Trust, a nonprofit conservation organization that since 1993 has been acquiring and maintaining natural areas in Western Pennsylvania, including areas of Robinson, Moon, and Kennedy. The aim of the organization is to preserve these areas as high quality habitats for natural plant and animal communities, and utilize them for sustainable recreational activities such as hiking, biking, wildlife watching, and fishing.

Despite the total acquisition to date of over 400 acres of green space, Sean is concerned HOLT has become too "quiet" of an organization, and hopes to entice local residents to utilize and fully appreciate the natural beauty of their own neighborhoods. A long-standing goal of the organization has been the development of a "green corridor" encompassing the perennially popular

OPPOSITE: Laurie Plummer, Austin Jepsky, and Carolyn Morrison along the Oil Well Trail.

ABOVE: A small waterfall along Meeks Run.

Montour Trail. This environmentally-sound buffer zone would protect the surrounding woodland habitat from detrimental commercial and housing development while maintaining the scenic pleasure experienced by trail users, along with the ecology of the watershed.

Hollow Oak's initiatives, such as the Meeks Run Greenway and Trout Run Greenway, greatly advance this goal, simply with their protected status. Together, these greenways will form a 10-mile loop that utilizes a three-mile section of the Montour Trail.

Sean wants to see this goal taken a step further. He envisions not only a connected corridor of land trust property alongside the Montour Trail, but a vast network of integrated and contiguous green space that seamlessly connects Hollow Oak's conservation areas to the resources of Moon Township's expansive municipal parks: Olson, Robin Hill, and Moon Community.

Sean emphasizes that land trust purchases or easements often aid municipalities when it comes to stormwater management, while also increasing quality of life and property values without incurring any additional expense from maintaining township parks.

Long-term community involvement will be the key to the greenway's success, says Sean, but Hollow Oak has already been getting some help. Numerous volunteers from airport area businesses, such as Eaton Corporation, FedEx Ground, and The Mall at Robinson, have been laboring together under Sean and Hollow Oak Board members Laurie Plummer and Darin Shaffer to create and advance trails at Meeks Run.

On July 20, over a dozen members from the Pittsburgh Trail Advocacy Group (PTAG) joined HOLT members for a major trail advancement and picnic. PTAG is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create and maintain single-track trails abiding by strict International Mountain Bicycling Association standards that minimize environmental impact. Peter Greninger, President of PTAG, adds that "Sean has actually worked with PTAG for years as our volunteer park steward in Riverview Park, which made Hollow Oak Land Trust a great partner for PTAG to explore expanding our efforts into privately owned open spaces designated for public recreational use." Thanks to regular volunteer participation from these groups, the Oil Well and Hemlock Trails are now completed, tying in with the Meeks Run and Powerline trails for two connected loops.

Most recently, Robinson Mall volunteers dug a rainwater

diversion ditch near the parking area on Hassam Road in Moon Township approximately 100 yards uphill from the Montour Trail. Laurie credits Sean's "unbridled passion for the outdoors, combined with really spectacular people skills," for all of the volunteer dedication. Sean's previous leadership experience also includes working with the Pittsburgh-based environmental and recreational organizations Venture Outdoors and Riverlife.

In addition to local corporate participants, educational institutions both public and private are investing in the greenway. Frank Todd, Science Department Chair and educator at Moon Area Middle School, will include a "Trout in the Classroom" project this coming school year for eighth grade students sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The ultimate goal is to raise Pennsylvania's state fish, the Brook Trout, from eggs to fingerlings, for release in a local PAFBC-approved waterway. Frank is hoping it will either be Montour or Meeks Run. He says that the goal of "Trout in the Classroom" is "to educate young people about cold water conservation" and how to achieve healthy aquatic environments in the state. Frank adds that, "Sean Brady, in particular, has graciously donated a 55 gallon (fish) tank and equipment for us to use in the classroom



and will help provide ideas for activities."

Sean, who is also an avid fly fisherman, cites a 2012 study led by Duquesne University professor Dr. Brady Porter that shows the related Brown Trout is already reproducing in Meeks Run.

Austin Jepsky, a member of the Moon High School Cross Country team, has been a regular trail builder at Hassam Road on Wednesday evenings. Austin understands the long-range potential and personal pride of building trails that the team can use for years to come. He is attempting to organize his fellow students to take on this site as their community service project, even after the trails are completed, to help steward and maintain them. Simple tasks, like clearing the trails of fallen hickory or walnuts, will be needed.

He says that while the team currently runs the relatively level Montour Trail, the ten miles of trails at Montour Woods will offer new challenges, such as the steep, cool slopes of the Hemlocks Trail, the stream crossings of Meeks Run Trail, and the ravines along the Powerline Trail.

Robert Morris University's campus trail committee, aka "Trail Nuts," recently sought Sean's advice on how to enhance the natural wooded areas of their 230-acre campus. Armand Buzzeli, Director of Campus Recreation, says the group met with Sean

Brady and Amy Ottaviani, Assistant Executive Director of Moon Township Parks and Recreation, to discuss, "working together to create a community that is connected by trails and designated shared and/or dedicated bike lanes." They plan to reconvene monthly to explore potential sources of grant funding for the project with Sean, who earned his master's degree in professional writing at CMU. According to Amy, "Moon Parks is focusing on ways to connect people to nature...there are many exciting opportunities on the horizon".

Jessica Mann, Assistant Director of Student Civic Engagement, recruits 20 to 30 students to clean up the campus trail each academic year, and adds that it is a very popular service choice among students. Mann believes the relationship with Hollow Oak will expose students, "to a wonderful resource that is minutes away from them."

Back on the Oil Well Trail, Sean stops at what he says was once an impenetrable mud hole, covered by invasive multi-flora rosebushes; until he and fellow volunteers dug it all out by hand. The now small, channeled stream is so crystal clear that Sean can't resist cupping his hands in it. He says that the rusted remains of an old oilrig, nestled between some nearby hemlock



LEFT: Volunteers from Robert Morris University working on the Oil Well Trail. MIDDLE: Remnants of an historic oil rig along the Oil Well Trail. RIGHT: Sean Brady shares some spicebush with an RMU volunteer.



trees, will become an historical exhibit. As he rushes back to the parking area to meet volunteers, a brilliant red fox trots up the rocky slope leading to Hassam Road, gives an attentive glance, and then vanishes.

In the next five years, Sean anticipates the completion of two other greenways besides Montour Woods. One will connect their Boggs Run Conservation Area with Olsen Park and the Becks Run valley. The other will link the Robert Morris Campus with

Robin Hill Park and the Moon Ohio Riverfront Park, which will be built near the Sewickley Bridge. The goal of uninterrupted green space will be achieved by linking green spaces such as farms, golf courses, and bike routes, along the way.

"By that point, I expect to be working with other municipalities and organizations throughout the airport corridor," he says, "to extend the network of greenways connecting their communities to nature so that we can all capitalize on perhaps Pittsburgh's greatest asset: our rich natural heritage of streams, wooded valleys and wildlife."

Please visit hollowoak.org to become a member or email Sean at sbrady@hollowoak.org to explore upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Steubenville Pike Auto Grows to Meet Needs

On five acres of property along Steubenville Pike in Robinson Township, Jason Pottle has established a one-stop-shop auto center. Being in the automotive business wasn't on his radar when he was younger. It all just emerged over time, because he saw a need and an opportunity.

After graduating from Kiski Area High School, Jason joined the active duty Air Force. He went on to college, then took a job with KDKA-TV as an account executive.

During his seven years at KDKA, he had an opportunity to purchase an existing automotive business in Robinson. Jason purchased the business in 2002 and in 2008 created Steubenville Pike Auto. He noticed that his customers needed more than just mechanical repairs, so he opened a body shop right next door. With space getting tight, Jason purchased an additional two acres of adjacent property and consolidated another business he had begun, Foreign Fix, and brought those services to the property.

"I learned that sometimes people would bring their cars to us for repairs because they were in accidents, so I thought a used car lot would be of help to them, as well as anyone looking for an affordable used car," Jason explained.

In 2010, his auto sales division was born.

The space provides room for 100+ cars, whether they are on site for repairs or inspections.

In 2011, Steubenville Pike Auto became the exclusive day-time towing company for AAA in western Allegheny County. Jason explains that this new opportunity gives his company exclusive first access to providing towing within a ten-mile radius of his facility. Over time, he added eleven trucks to handle the towing and service calls.

"We anticipate upwards of 20,000 calls this year alone for towing services," he

explains.

Over time, Jason said that the different aspects of the business have been good for customers.

"We can offer people big savings with repairs based on our size and ability to negotiate with vendors, our ability to utilize services we already offer onsite, and our ability to provide a diversity of expertise across the many aspects of our service operations," he said.

Jason is also proud of the fact that his facility is the only independent body shop in Robinson Township. Steubenville Pike Auto's employment of 34 includes some that hold the highly respected ASE Blue Seal certification.

Over the years, the company has been very involved in local charitable efforts, and has established its own charity, SPARC, Steubenville Pike Auto Repair Charity. This effort encourages nominations from community people to suggest individuals in the community who put themselves before others and are in need of a vehicle. Steubenville Pike Auto will provide a totally refurbished pre-owned vehicle to the chosen recipient. More information is available on their Web site at www.steubenvillepike.com.

With a full-service, neighborhood facility that provides automotive repairs, inspections, auto sales, and towing, Jason still finds time to continue to volunteer with the military. He is a member of the 171st Air Refueling Wing stationed at the Pittsburgh International Airport.

When not working or volunteering for his country, Jason enjoys time with his wife, Linda, and three children. The family resides in North Fayette Township.

For information about services offered by Steubenville Pike Auto, call (412) 787-9800.

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LOCAL ATTORNEY EARNS LL.M. IN TAXATION LAW

This past summer, local attorney Fred Liechti graduated from the University of Alabama with an LL.M. in taxation law; a difficult area of law not only due to the complexity of Federal-IRS, state, and international tax laws, but also because of its ubiquitous nature in the field. Areas of the law including estate planning, wills and trusts, retirement and financial planning, contracts, real estate transactions, and even criminal law, all intertwine with tax law.

The Latin LL.M. designation stands for "Legum Magister," and translated means Master of Laws. Once an attorney obtains an LL.M., he is officially recognized as a tax attorney. Attorney Liechti's U.S. Tax Court certification reflects his ability to handle complex tax cases.

Fred has earned numerous awards in his prior career. A former Clarion University wrestler, Fred has coached high school and Division I College wrestling. During his two-year high school career, his team set the national single match scoring record. While coaching West Virginia University Mountaineers, Fred received honorable mention for rookie coach of the year. His team set the record for most wins in a season, and his skill earned WVU a place in the then powerful NCAA Eastern Wrestling League.

He is currently serving as president of the Parkway West Rotary club.

Fred resides in North Fayette Township with his wife, Michelle Mason.

MOTIVATED TO RUN FOR A CAUSE

Findlay Township resident Jeff Holdrieth started running over the summer to get in shape. Taking on a cause close to his heart gave him the motivation he needed to keep at it, and complete his first 5K race at North Fayette's Community Days on August 3.

Taking to Facebook, Jeff asked for friends to sponsor him in the race, with all donated funds going to the Danny Arnold Scholarship fund. Just like Jeff, Danny attended Bishop Hartley High School in Columbus, Ohio, where Danny's parents had set up a scholarship in his name. Jeff went to school with Danny's parents; the same school his own brother, Phil, attended. Before passing away, Phil was an aspiring actor who had appeared as an extra in the "Secret of My Success" with Michael J. Fox, played a lead role in some commercials, and performed as a minor character in a soap opera.

As an added bonus, Jeff, a Michigan fan, reached out to Ohio State University Buckeye fans by pledging to wear an OSU shirt during the race if he raised at least \$600. The day after, he posted a photo on Facebook of him wearing the shirt of Michigan's bitter rival, but feeling proud doing it. Any distaste at wearing the shirt, or exhaustion running his first 5K, was mitigated by the achievement of completing his first race and the money raised for his cause.

"We raised \$1,500 in memory of my brother Phil and for the Danny Arnold Scholarship Fund," he wrote the next day. "I was proud to be a Buckeye today."



NEW DENTIST JOINS STAFF

A new associate has joined the team of Dr. Judy DiSanti, DMD. Lindsay Jodon, a native of eastern Pennsylvania, moved to Pittsburgh in 2001, where she earned her bachelor's of science degree in biology. She

continued on to dental school and graduated in 2009 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

WA ALUMNUS TO PERFORM AT O'REILLY THEATRE IN PITTSBURGH

Patrick Cannon, a 2007 West Allegheny graduate, will be playing George Gibbs in Pittsburgh Public Theater's OUR TOWN. The show is currently running through October 27 at the O'Reilly Theater downtown. The show also stars Tom Atkins and Emily Krom.

Mr. Cannon is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and a member of the Actors Equity Association. Since graduating from West Allegheny, he has appeared in over 30 productions across the country.



LOCAL TEEN FINISHES THIRD IN GOLF TOUR

Paige Colicchie, 13, finished third out of 11 girls in her age group (12-14 years old) in 2013 U.S. Kids Golf Pittsburgh Summer Tour. Paige competed in five of the eight tour events. She came out a winner in one and a runner-up in two other events.

Paige is an eighth grader at West Allegheny Middle School.

She continues to play and practice golf year-round at Robert Morris University Sports Center on Neville Island with her swing coach.

As a neighborhood based and community focused good news publication, "**Allegheny West Magazine**" encourages complimentary submissions of all types of community news, including informational (non-promotional) news from community groups, nonprofit organizations, and churches. Please submit via e-mail to: alleghenywestmagazine@comcast.net.

LITTLE MUDDERS EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



ABOVE: The Leopold family and volunteers who helped with the Little Mudders competition.

On September 7, Jan and Ernie Leopold of Findlay Township hosted a scaled-down version of a mudder competition not unlike those that have become increasingly popular among adventure race enthusiasts. The 31 kids in attendance completed a 0.35 mile loop with 14 different obstacles more than 10 times per person, emerging from each all the muddier. Upon completion, children received a bracelet and a medal for their efforts.

The idea for the event came from Jena Turner of Imperial and her cousin Shannon Sacco, both of whom had children wanting to run a mudder course not unlike ones adults in the family had enjoyed. The two figured they could make their own course, and set about planning to convert the property around Jena's parent's house.

With an emphasis on authenticity in mind, the group ironed out details over several meetings. The day of, the Leopold property was transformed into an official adventure racecourse, complete with a registration table, medical tent, snack bar, DJ, and on-site t-shirt printing – all of which were created and staffed by relatives. Instead of admission, the family collected donations for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, accounting for a total of \$402.25.

Photos this page and previous all submitted

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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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- Business Valuation
- IRS & State Tax Resolution

BY ELIZABETH ALLISON, LMT

Massage, Chiropractic Help with Migraines

Healthy muscles can have a variety of benefits, but did you know that maintaining your muscle health could also help to prevent migraines? If you suffer from migraines, you know that when one occurs the impact on your life is relentless until the severe symptoms subside. Consider the following to assess and treat your migraines using therapeutic muscle management.

Chiropractic Care: A chiropractic adjustment can greatly reduce the strain on the muscles in order to alleviate migraine symptoms. If the skeletal structure is not properly aligned, the muscles connected to those particular bones and vertebrae can become stretched and twisted, causing a trigger point to form. After an adjustment, the muscles that could be causing your migraines are able to resume their neutral position and become less strained.

Massage Therapy: Any number of activities can cause the muscles of the head and neck to become strained. The end result is the same - an uncomfortable muscle with an associated trigger point. A massage therapist trained in trigger point therapy can help to relieve the strain of these muscles by locating specific points in the muscle tissue and applying sustained pressure to them until the muscle is able to relax.



Supplements: Key vitamins and nutrients are necessary for our muscles to function properly. If you are not getting enough magnesium, calcium and B vitamins, your muscles can become “stuck” in their contracted state and form trigger points. It is necessary to make these vitamins a part of your daily diet, and that can be done by taking supplements, such as whole food Standard Process supplements that we have available in our office.

At-Home Treatment: Managing your muscle care and migraines goes beyond the therapies performed in the office. Specific stretches targeting the muscles that could be causing your migraines are given for you to practice at home, as well as instructions for hot and cold therapies.

This information is provided courtesy of Robinson Chiropractic. Contact Robinson Chiropractic at (412) 706.7129 or visit www.myrobinsonchiropractic.com.

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Coming Up . . .

October 11

Sally Haas Memorial Golf Outing & Dinner, 10 a.m. shotgun start at Chartiers Country Club

November 1

Breakfast Briefing: Sustainability in the Airport Corridor, 7:30 a.m. at the Sheraton

November 7

Progressive Lunch with the Beaver Chamber of Commerce
11:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Airport

Member Milestones

5 YEARS

Legacy Leather Care and Repair

New Members

AdvaCare Systems
Consolidated Graphic Communications
First Class Caterers, Inc.
Just Dance Conservatory
KEYTEX Energy
Obermaier Insurance Agency
Outback Steakhouse
Sweet Shoppe & Nut House
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

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Alisa Faulk - Vice Chair

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Tammy Lynn - Bookkeeper
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Lauren Margerum - Administrative Asst.
Kelly Burgos - Communications Specialist

Ribbon Cuttings and Celebrations



TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: On August 27, Chamber Ambassadors gathered for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony of Allegheny Medical Integrated Health Services Sports Care Clinic; on September 6, the team at Firehouse Subs was joined by Chamber Ambassadors for a Ribbon Cutting ceremony

BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: On August 27, Highlands of Montour Run celebrated their 15-year Milestone Anniversary with Chamber Ambassadors; Smoke Cigar Shop & Lounge Inc. enjoyed their Ribbon Cutting ceremony with Chamber Ambassadors on September 4.

The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce presents

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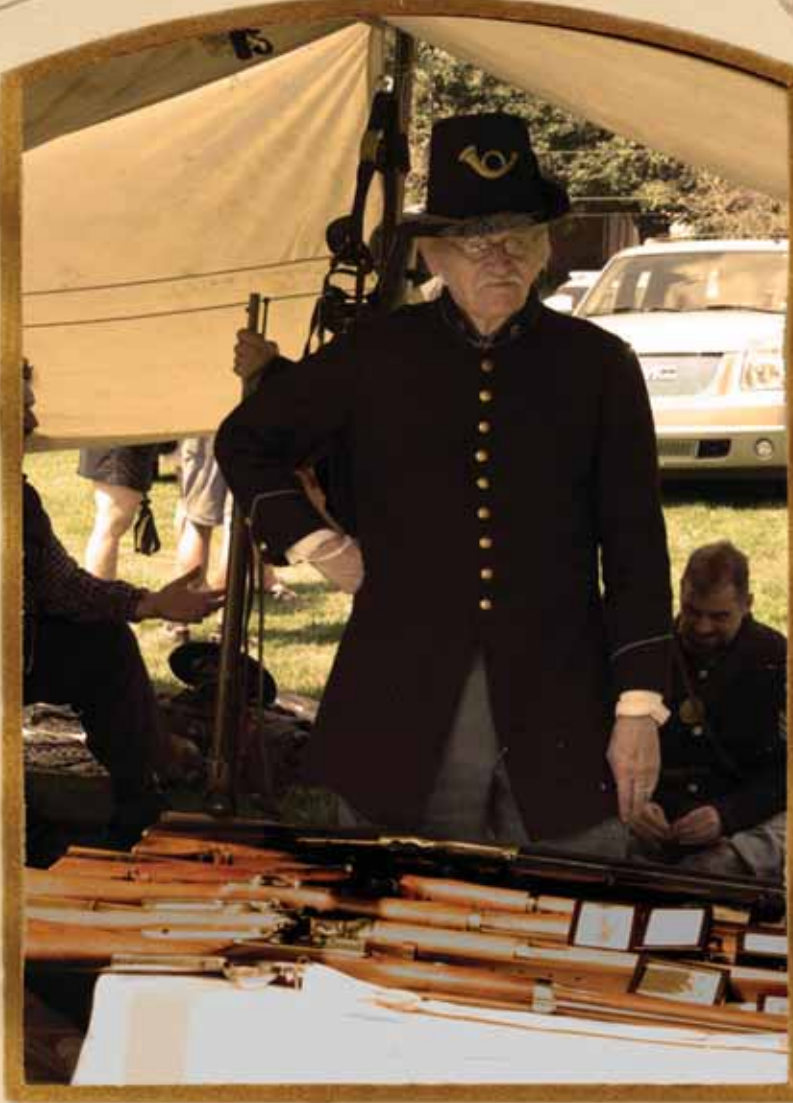
Civil War History Comes to McDonald

The 9th Pennsylvania Reserves fought in some of the most notable battles of the American Civil War, including at Antietam and Gettysburg.

On August 31, reenactors interpreting soldiers and nurses from the 9th, and more specifically the 38th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry - a division of the 9th largely made up of enlistees from Allegheny County - descended on Heritage Park in McDonald. In the company's first reenactment there, interpreters talked with curiosity seekers and history-philes alike about everything from the period's unwieldy rifles to the limited medical treatments available to field doctors. They also explained the social taboo confronting female nurses, and the roles of freed slaves and immigrants in the Union Army.

The reenactment was coordinated by Heritage Public Library and the McDonald Parks and Recreation Department, and took place on the hill overlooking Heritage Park along West Lincoln Avenue. There, reenactors set up period tents and created noise reminiscent of a battleground with live firing demonstrations and drum corps sets.

John L. Ford, who led an all-teenage group interpreting the role of a United States Colored Troop drum corps, says that such corps existed after 1863. That was the year following Abraham



Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, which made it legal for freed slaves to become paid members of the Union Army. He says that learning the sets is not easy, and describes the work for his young musicians, who are organized through Soldiers and Sailors, as "constant training."

"It's a commitment on their end," says Soldiers and Sailors Director of Education, Tim Neff, who points out they give up a lot of Saturdays and weekends traveling to events like these.

For Sascha Buchantis, a graduate student studying applied history at Shippensburg University, the event marked a chance to gain experience in her field of study. A retiree of the modern U.S. Army, Sascha interpreted the role an Irish-Catholic nurse named Molly Maguire with a convincing faux Irish accent.

Sascha explained that at that time it wasn't socially acceptable for women to become nurses. Molly, though, who had escaped the Potato Famine in Ireland, grew up farming,

and came from both a low social and economic standing, filled an important role as a field nurse. Sascha explains that not only did Molly have experience tending to wounded from living on a farm, but that she also had a knowledge of local plant life. She knew how to make herbal remedies, and how to read and write from her religious upbringing. She wrote letters home for illiterate and wounded soldiers.

Ann Redd also interpreted a female nurse, though one from the opposite social spectrum as Molly. Interpreting a volunteer with the evangelical organization the United States Christian Commission, she says that the two likely wouldn't have gotten



along. Ann says she got involved in Civil War reenacting through her husband.

"I realized after I got married that this isn't just a hobby, it's a lifestyle, and if I ever want to see him on the weekends, I've got to check it out," she says.

In order to better fill the role, Ann says she is researching a mother-daughter nursing duo who performed volunteer work at military hospitals around Washington, D.C., in the weeks after Gettysburg.

Female nurses, though, even with the USCC, says Ann, were still rare.

"Most of the volunteers were men," she explains. "Some were female."

At another nearby tent, Bob Fark, donning a cavalry hat and uniform, stood behind a table of period military rifles. Over the booming of the drum line, he explained the evolution and technological advancements leading up to the rifle of the time.

Heritage Public Library Director Jen Swearman, who herself donned a period dress, says that she thought the reenactment went well on their first try, even if there wasn't a Confederate division to engage in any staged battles.

"Everyone was very nice and approachable," she says.

Next year, she's hoping to do it again, and possibly bring in an additional company. She says that the crowd generated a nice profit for the library, which is still trying to buy a new roof, at their concession stand and book sale. The day of the event, the library also unveiled a Civil War-era American flag quilt donated by the McQuilters of McDonald that it is selling via auction. The winner will be announced at the library's second annual Meet a Vet Day on November 9.



OPPOSITE: Bob Fark displaying period rifles.

ABOVE CLOCKWISE: John L. Ford and reenactors of a United States Colored Troop drum corps; a Union reenactor with the Union flag; Ann Redd; Sascha Buchantis as Molly Maguire.

More Flights and New Destinations



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Did you know that the airlines are offering more flights and more passenger seats at Pittsburgh International Airport compared to last year? That's right, the number of flights is up and many of the aircraft are larger now, so that means more seats!

New air service announcements include American Airlines upgrading its aircraft to the E175 on its Pittsburgh-Chicago route and launching new daily nonstop Pittsburgh to Los Angeles August 27. Southwest added new service to Nashville in September. Delta Airlines will add Saturday only nonstop service from Pittsburgh to two Caribbean destinations, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and Nassau, Bahamas on December 21, 2013.



www.flypittsburgh.com

Airport in Best Ever Financial Health

The Allegheny County Airport Authority has received favorable ratings on its airport revenue bonds by numerous rating agencies, including Fitch, Standard & Poor's and Moody's. These ratings reflect a long-term improved and stable financial outlook.

"I think this is a successful result based upon recent events such as the lease agreement for gas drilling at the airport. The ratings agency recognized that Pittsburgh has been successful in converting from a hub to a market where most begin and end their trips here," said David Minnotte, Chairman, Allegheny County Airport Authority. The higher bond rating is a result of the Authority's new lease agreement with CONSOL Energy for oil and gas drilling rights on airport property.

Zipcars Come to PIT



Pittsburgh International Airport now has the Zipcar, which is a car-rental service with five vehicles for rent at either \$8.25 per hour or \$65 per day.

Zipcar is the leader for cars on demand by taking the simple concept of car sharing to new heights. They are very popular because they are easy to reserve on line with 24/7 access to thousands of cars around the globe and they contribute to a greener environment due to fewer cars, less congestion and less pollution.

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Firearm Safety Class Offered

Have you been considering purchasing a firearm for the first time? Do you already own a firearm, and unsure how to properly and safely use, clean, and store this firearm?

The North Fayette Township Police Department will host a ladies' firearms fundamentals and gun safety program in the coming months. This program is geared toward teaching those wanting to learn how to safely own a firearm. It will cover basic firearms types, proper handling, storage options, safety principles, basic maintenance, and liability concerns. The course will begin with classroom time, and will be followed by live fire of firearms on the range.

This course will be run by the North Fayette Township Police Department's certified firearms instructor, Sergeant Michael Hayes, and assisted by other members of the police department and volunteers. Anyone wishing to attend must first attend the "Refuse to Be a Victim Seminar" (see below), also provided by North Fayette Township Police Department Instructor, Sergeant Hayes. For questions regarding these programs, contact Sergeant Hayes at (412) 787-8900 or via e-mail: nfpdmh@north-fayette.com.



Victim Class Coming

The award-winning crime prevention and personal safety seminar, Refuse To Be A Victim®, will be offered at Pittsburgh Technical Institute, 1111 McKee Road, North Fayette campus. The seminar lasts three to four hours. Refreshments will be provided.

Seminar dates are October 9, 10, 16, or 17, starting at 6 p.m. This is the same seminar each night; pick the best night for your schedule.

The seminar is open to the public and free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class size is limited.

To register, contact certified Refuse To Be A Victim® instructor and regional counselor, Sergeant Michael Hayes, at (412) 787-8900, by e-mail at nfpdmh@north-fayette.com, or leave name, address, phone number, and e-mail with the North Fayette Police Dispatch, 400 North Branch Road Oakdale PA 15071. The dispatch center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Refuse To Be A Victim® Seminars teach methods to avoid dangerous situations and prevent criminal confrontations. Experts agree the most important factor in surviving a criminal attack is to have an overall safety strategy before you need it. Seminar topics address personal safety issues as well as home, automobile, telephone, technological, and travel security. Seminar participants are presented with a variety of common-sense crime prevention and personal safety strategies and devices they may integrate into their daily lives.

Refuse To Be A Victim® was developed by the National Rifle Association in 1993 in response to nationwide requests for crime prevention seminars. Members of the law enforcement community across the country have endorsed the program. The program is appropriate for teenagers and adults. With more than two thousand instructors, seminars have been held in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago. Tens of thousands of men and women have benefited from the program and its life saving message.

NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP Round-Up

The township will expand the road treatment program to include a second truck that will allow the crews to pre-treat all township roads in one day in advance of a storm. In addition, the crew will start to pre-wet salt in order to make it more effective. These changes will enable the township to use less salt during each storm and keep winter maintenance costs under control. These changes being implemented are paid from the savings that North Fayette has already seen in its salt budget.

North Fayette welcomes its newest employee, Cindy Turner. She will work as a customer service representative in the front office.

With the addition of Cindy, the front office is now open from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. This will make it more convenient for residents to pay trash and sewer bills during that time as well as provide the ability for the township to conduct other business.

North Fayette gives a big "Thank You" to JT Landscaping for doing a great job in the maintenance of the new 5 Points Gateway Garden this year. Joe assisted PennDOT with the selection of plants during construction last year and has maintained the garden all year.

Township Police Department to Add K-9 Dog; Seeking Community Support

North Fayette is getting its own K-9 dog soon, Corporal Todd Heufelder of the North Fayette Police Department has announced. Corporal Heufelder said the dog, a German Shepherd, will come from the Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville. The facility is certified as a master trainer through the North American Working Dog Association.

By late spring 2014, Corporal Heufelder and the dog will attend six weeks of training together before introducing him to the community. The dog and Corporal Heufelder will complete the rigorous program, which will focus on obedience, narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, evidence and area searches, and apprehension.

"It has been well received by the public so far," he said, "and local businesses are starting to contribute."

He explained that, as a startup program in the township, it is generally not part of the annual budget. He continued, "Community support is important to sustain the program. Contributions will go toward the healthcare, maintenance, and training of the dog."

In the meantime, the police department has applied for several grants to secure additional funding.

A fundraiser event has also been scheduled in the community. Parkway West Career and Technology Center will host a spaghetti lunch for the public on Wednesday, October 30, from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All proceeds go to the North Fayette Township K-9 Fund.

With the continued population increase, the police department has experienced incidents in which a properly trained K-9 would have been a significant asset. These incidents have involved drugs or missing person calls.

Corporal Heufelder shared several key points that indicate why a K-9 dog is important to North Fayette. These include building a bond with the public, educating the public, narcotics detection, tracking, and officer safety.

Once the dog has been trained and integrated into the North Fayette Police Department team and operations, he will be introduced to the community at such public appearances as local fairs, parades, and other community functions. He will also visit the schools to meet the students and staff.

The North Fayette Police Department joins the ranks of neighboring communities that have engaged a K-9 dog as part of their operations. Findlay Township's Axel has been around for several years now, and, last year, Robinson Township welcomed a K-9 dog to its force.

To donate to the fund, contact Corporal Heufelder at (412) 787-8900, or via e-mail at nfpdmh@north-fayette.com. Or, send a contribution to: North Fayette Township K-9 Fund, 400 North Branch Road, Oakdale, PA 15071.

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP

GFS Breaks Ground on Largest Distribution Center in Allegheny County

Gordon Food Servicew (GFS) broke ground on September 23 for construction of a brand-new distribution center in Findlay Township to serve restaurants, healthcare facilities, schools, and more in a multi-state footprint. At 420,000 square feet, it stands to be one of the largest – if not the largest – distribution center of its kind in Allegheny County.

A family-owned business, GFS will have a total of 13 U.S. distribution centers when the Findlay Township facility is completed in the spring of 2015. The company expects to employ 300 people at the facility within three to five years of opening.

The proximity of I-376 was critical, since moving goods quickly and efficiently to a multi-state market is a priority for GFS. I-376, as it has been designated since 2009, comprises 64 miles of roadway previously designated as three separate routes. It links I-80, Pittsburgh International Airport, downtown, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

At the time of the re-dedication of the roadway as I-376, Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky said it was, “one more important step in putting southwestern Pennsylvania on the map for more business investment,” and, “will help move the Pittsburgh region onto the lists of site selection consultants and other business investment decision-makers.”

GFS’s decision to build a facility in this portion of the region is proof of the value of the I-376 re-designation.



ABOVE: Architect's rendering of the new GFS facility to be built in Findlay Township.

OAKDALE BOROUGH

In Memory of the Borough's Public Works Supervisor

Tom Wagner, Supervisor of the Oakdale Public Works Department, died on August 15. Tom worked as the mechanic for Oakdale Borough for many years. He was hired as the public works supervisor in the spring of 2012.

Tom will be missed by all who worked with him or knew him in Oakdale Borough. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Pauline (Hartz) Wagner; children, Karen (Tim) Ault of Collier, Karla Karanza of Los Angeles, and Thomas Wagner of Carnegie; grandchildren, Michael (Danielle) Ault, and Michelle (John) Desiderato.

Borough, State Officials Partner to Address Creek Cleanout Following July Flooding

State Representatives Jesse White and Matt Smith attended an Oakdale Borough council meeting in August to talk with council and residents regarding creek cleanout under state road bridges by PennDOT. As a result, work has been completed under the bridge located on Clinton Avenue by a PennDOT contractor.

Additionally, Rep. Jesse White and Oakdale representatives attended a meeting in McDonald with Congressman Tim Murphy and other government agencies to help form a multi-municipal stormwater consortium going forward.

These efforts are intended to mitigate future flooding that has continued to plague both Oakdale and McDonald over the years.



ABOVE AND LEFT: PennDOT crews have cleared dozens of truckloads of silt from beneath the bridge on Clinton Avenue, above, and as of this writing begun preparations to clear brush, trees, silt, and debris from the confluence of Robinson Run and North Branch, left. Senator Matt Smith has called the work an important first step toward addressing Oakdale's flooding issues and says that his office and fellow representatives are consulting with other townships on flood control strategies. PHOTOS BY SARAH HUGHEY



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Imagine a group of almost 500 teens, with their leaders, arriving in the West Allegheny community all at once, to spend a week of their summer vacation helping our residents and making their lives better. Imagine the impact such a community-wide project would make on those young people and the recipients of their good deeds. And all at no cost to any resident! During the week of June 22-28, 2014, the West Allegheny community will be a sea of young volunteers who will spread out across the neighborhoods to help the elderly, disabled, and those facing financial, physical, and other difficulties fix or clean up their homes. Many applications (below) are needed, as well as donations. A few hours of time during that week, and other small tasks anyone can



Free Home Repair

22 - 28 June 2014

APPLICATION



Workcamps are intensive one-week trips that help people grow in Christian faith through service. Youth and their Adult Leaders, from around the country, will spend one week in our community performing hands-on home-repair projects for elderly, low-income, and disabled families. The work at each home will be done by 5 young people, and at least one adult leader, representing many Christian denominations. Eligible repair projects may include:

- Porch repair/construction
- Step repair
- Exterior painting
- Interior painting
- Weatherization
- Wheelchair ramp repair/construction
- Mobile home skirting
- Roofing (roof overs only)

Both labor and materials are free to qualifying households. To learn how your home *might be included*, please complete this confidential application and return via email, fax or USPS to:

West Allegheny Workcamp
P.O. Box 787
Imperial PA 15126.0787
FAX #: 412.235.1737 | Info@westaworkcamp.org

Your name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Your address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ Do you own your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your home within a 30-minute drive from **West Allegheny Middle School** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Directions to your home from **West Allegheny Middle School** (please be as specific as possible): _____

Describe the work you would like to have done: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Brought to you by **West Allegheny Workcamp**, affiliated with West Allegheny Ministerial Association (a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)

News from Heritage Valley Health System

Heritage Valley Health System has expanded its medical neighborhood locations to include Edgeworth in the new Esmark headquarters building. The new location offers a variety of health care services in one convenient location. Other Heritage Valley medical neighborhoods are located in Chippewa, Moon Township, Ellwood City, and Robinson Township.

A "medical neighborhood" is a one-stop shopping concept and design that provides patients with the convenience of accessing primary care, as well as ambulatory and diagnostic services in one community location.

• • • • •

Heritage Valley Health System is partnering with Life Line Screening, the nation's largest provider of preventive screenings, to identify such things as risk factors that lead to stroke or fractures before these disabling or deadly events occur.

Provided screenings include, but are not limited to: Carotid Artery Screening, Atrial Fibrillation Screening (Afib), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening – PAD, and Osteoporosis Screening.

A special Wellness Package of all four screenings is available for only \$149. The whole process takes less than an hour.

To pre-register, www.lifelinescreening.com or call 1-800-690-0295.

• • • • •

Heritage Valley Health System is pleased to welcome Piper Kilpatrick, MD, as the Medical Director of Heritage Valley SportsCare, a collaboration between the Health System and Associates of Specialty Physicians (ASP) Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

The highly trained and experienced sports medicine health care providers at Heritage Valley SportsCare provide care to athletes of all ages. Additionally, SportsCare offers education to area athletic trainers, schools, and athletic organizations on a variety of sports training and injury prevention topics.

Heritage Valley SportsCare is located in Beaver in the Beaver Medical Commons, 1030 Beaver Hollow Road, across from Heritage Valley Beaver. To schedule an appointment, call (724) 770-0416.

• • • • •

Heritage Valley Sewickley was recognized in the September issue of *Consumer Reports*, which included a special section on hospital surgery ratings. This news complements Heritage Valley Sewickley's recent recognition by Cleverly + Associates as a Community Value Five-Star Hospital® as well as the hospital's renewed designation as an Aetna Institute of Quality®.

Aetna, a leading health insurer nationwide, recently recognized Heritage Valley Sewickley as an Institute of Quality® Orthopedic Care facility for spine surgery and total joint replacement and an Institute of Quality® Bariatric Surgery facility for treating individuals living with morbid, or extreme, obesity. Aetna makes information about the quality and cost of health care services available to its members to help them make informed decisions about their health care needs.

Heritage Valley Sewickley also remains a Blue Distinction Center® for Bariatric Surgery, recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield Companies for its expertise in delivering Bariatric Surgery.



CONGRESSMAN BREAKS GROUND ON NEW POST EXCHANGE

During a groundbreaking ceremony on August 29, Congressman Tim Murphy heralded the new Post Exchange being built in Moon Township as a key element in the region's growing military community. The groundbreaking was the capstone to years of work and coordination spearheaded by Rep. Murphy alongside other local leaders and military officials.

"The new PX has been years in the making, but will be worth the wait for soldiers and military retirees across the region looking for a local place to shop on a budget who would otherwise have to travel great distances," Rep. Murphy said. "During discussions with the Pentagon and Air Force, a new PX was a major difference maker in our successful effort to keep open the 911th Airlift Wing and ensure the 171st Air National Guard was on the shortlist for the new KC-46 refueling tanker."

The new Post Exchange for qualified military retirees and enlisted soldiers is the latest addition to the growing military community near Pittsburgh International Airport. The PX will be located between a new commissary and the 316th Army Reserve. The PX will be across the street from the 911th Airlift Wing, the 171st Air National Guard, and a new Navy Reserve Operations and Support Center. A grand opening for the PX could follow as soon as June of 2014.

The groundbreaking follows years of work to replace the soon-to-be closed PX at the former C.E. Kelly base near Oakdale. In June, Congress approved the plans for a new 11,000-square-foot Post Exchange located at McGarity Army Reserve Center. As part of the review, Rep. Murphy received a briefing about the new store from officials of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), a division of the Pentagon that will own and operate the new facility. The Post Exchange will feature a barbershop, retail space, and a military clothing store.

WA YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE FINISHES UNDEFEATED POST SEASON

The West Allegheny Baseball League 10U All-Stars completed an undefeated, 15-0 post season while winning three tournament championships. The players hail from Findlay, North Fayette, and McDonald. Pictured with their championship trophies from the Montour, North Shaler, and Brad-Mar-Pine tournaments, front - Sean Seamon, Liam Routh, Matt Lockwich, Matt Lacek, Zach Lockwich; second row - Lane Miller, Christian Reynolds, Eric Diffendal, Brady Holeva, Ty Johnson; back row - Assistant Coach Joe Lockwich, Head Coach Kris Routh, Assistant Coach Bryan Miller.



CROSS CONNECTIONS' ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY CELEBRATES THIRD YEAR



On August 24, Cross Connections Alliance Church in McDonald held its third Annual Block Party and Back to School Giveaway in the church's parking lot.

Church volunteers helped distribute 150 backpacks and school supplies from notepads to pencils to local residents, while serving up free hot dogs, nachos and cheese, and even freshly pressed galettes throughout the morning until early afternoon.

While 101.5 Word-FM DJ Kenny Woods played music and spun a prize wheel every half hour, children played miniature put golf and slid down a giant, inflatable castle. Emergency Medical Technicians were also on hand to provide free blood pressure screenings.

The event, says church member Barbara Arndt, helps to offset rising school costs, and has been well received by the community. She says that the church has been operating in McDonald now for 110 years, and offers a number of activities, including men's, women's, and kids ministry, as well as youth group. Contemporary services are held on Sunday both at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

News from the PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN

Peek & Preview Tours!

We are hosting public Peek & Preview Tours until our Opening Day (mid-2014). These one-hour tours will introduce visitors to the Woodland Gardens and its historic homestead front door.

Learn about the history of the area, our current work, and our future plans! Contact the Botanic Garden office for details.

Senator Smith Joins Botanic Garden Board

Sen. Matt Smith has been elected to the 32-member volunteer board of directors. "With Senator Smith's interest in conservation, education, recreation and water quality, the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is pleased to have him join the board to help advance those same issues that are primary to the garden's mission," stated Greg Nace, President Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

Sen. Smith was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in November and represents portions of Allegheny County including the airport corridor, Sewickley Valley, and much of the South Hills as well as Peters Township in Washington County.

Smith has championed green building and sustainable development projects during his tenure in the state House and Senate.

Help Us at "Grow the Garden Days!"

Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m. to noon.

These are times for community volunteers to help us with various on site projects such as planting, removal of invasive species, fence building, and more!

Wear gloves and long pants and help the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden GROW!

This is the last one for 2013!

Signs, Signs, Everywhere Are Signs.....

Newly installed signage makes navigating the trails at the Garden much simpler! The trail markers are made of locust - a wood that can easily withstand outdoor weather conditions. The wood was harvested at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden site. The signs were designed by a summer intern from Chatham University's landscape architecture program.

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is transforming 460 acres of abandoned mining land—just 20 minutes west of the city—into a world-class botanic garden, including 18 distinct gardens, five diverse woodland experiences, a visitor center, an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and performances, a celebration center to accommodate weddings and corporate events, and a center for botanic research.

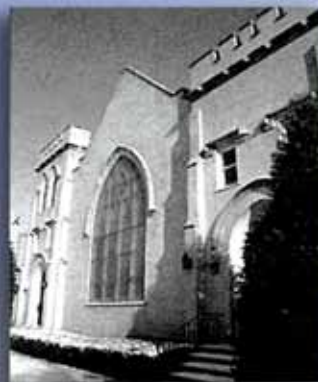
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Learning Curves

Should You Put Your Home Into a Trust?

BY GARY KLOBCHAR, JR.

Uncommon, or uncommonly wise? Occasionally, a couple or a family will elect to put their home into a revocable living trust, a charitable remainder trust (CRT) or a qualified personal residence trust (QPRT). There are advantages and disadvantages to doing this.

People make this move for a variety of reasons. They may want to save money on probate and reduce estate taxes. They may want a little more protection against “creditors and predators.” They may be looking for a way to gift real property to their adult children. They may want an orderly transfer of such property to a particular heir, free of interfamilial squabbles. By putting a house into a trust, they may accomplish some or all of these objectives.

Putting your home into a revocable living trust. In this arrangement, the title to your house is transferred to the living trust during your lifetime. Besides being the grantor of the revocable living trust, you may also name yourself trustee and beneficiary. This gives you the power to a) add other real estate to the trust, b) gift or sell the real estate held within it while you are alive, c) unwind the trust and put the real property back in your estate within your lifetime.

At your death, the trust becomes irrevocable. Control of

the real property is then transferred to a named successor trustee, presumably one of your adult children.

A revocable living trust may spare your home from probate and facilitate the transfer of title to your heirs. There may be some estate tax savings, and if you become incapacitated, another trustee can be chosen to manage the trust.


Putting your home into an irrevocable living trust. The irrevocable variation offers you similar benefits, but the difference here is that you are giving up control – once you transfer real property into an irrevocable trust, it is out of your taxable estate and no longer yours.

A last word. Even simple trusts invite complexity into your financial life. You must weigh whether the cost of trust creation and administration will be worth it. After you pass, the trust has to file tax returns and value assets, and the resulting expenses may compare to the money saved by keeping the home out of probate. A transfer-on-death deed (permitted in some states) or other estate planning tools may help you realize your goals more cheaply.

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Gary Klobchar, Jr. may be reached via telephone at 724-544-2489 or by email at gary.klobchar@milestonesfg.com. Learn more about him and his company by visiting www.milestonesfinancialgroup.net

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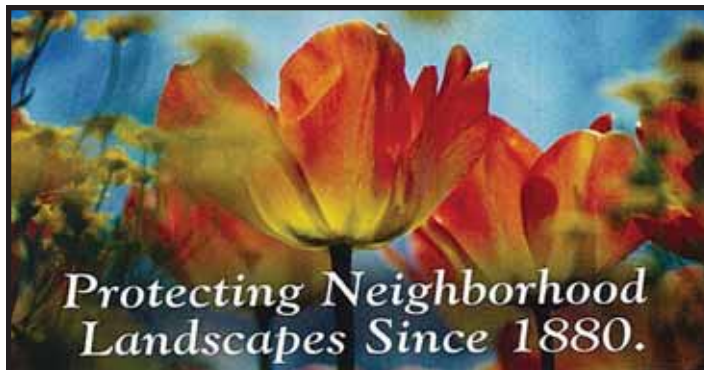


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Seniors in the News

Imperial's Bill Thomas Serves VFD for 67 Years



ABOVE: In August, Bill Thomas was presented with an award for 67 years of volunteer service by fellow members of the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department, as his wife, Betty, joins him.

Presented with an award that his wife, Betty, said would take a whole room to fit into, Imperial resident Bill Thomas was honored by the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department during opening ceremonies of the annual Findlay Fair in the Woodlands in August.

Bill received the award for his 67 years of service as a volunteer firefighter. He retired from the fire department earlier this year. Bill remembers when the current fire hall was constructed in 1959.

In an article this magazine ran in October of 2000, Bill noted, "We practically built the place ourselves. We carried block and scaffolding after work each night...we were all very dedicated."

He also shared this information in that article, "There were no fire hydrants back then, (referring to a 1937 White model pumper that continued its life after firefighting under the care of the late Chuck Stickley). That piece of equipment pumped 500 gallons of water per minute."

He continued, "All of the water had to be pumped out of the creeks or ponds."

A proud military veteran, Bill joined the fire department after completing his service to his country. He has shared his experiences as a military veteran through the years with community members and school students.

The 67-year milestone as a volunteer firefighter isn't the only milestone that Bill celebrated last month. Together with his wife, Betty, they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.



ABOVE: Oakdale's George Coppola carries a memorial wreath during a military service.

Oakdale's George Coppola Serves Military Vets

Oakdale resident George Coppola, Service Officer of American Legion Post 171, was selected as the recipient of the 2013 Samuel F. Naples Award for consistently rendering volunteer service and assistance through the American Legion Rehabilitation and/or Hospital Entertainment programs.

George dedicates two days a week to travel to the Veterans Administration hospital in the East End to meet with, talk with, mentor, and provide emotional support to military veterans.

George was presented with the award at the American Legion's 95th Annual Department Convention in July.

As recipient of this award, George has not only brought honor to him, but to the American Legion Oakdale Post 171 as well.

George is a certified veterans service officer through the VFW. He explains that this means he is qualified to help veterans with questions regarding their claims, benefits, and other issues they face as vets.

He is one of five people in the region certified for the No Vet Dies Alone program.

Findlay HS Class Reunion:

On Friday, August 9, an annual reunion was held at the Findlay Activity Center in Imperial for anyone who graduated or attended Findlay High School.

Altogether, 65 people attended, representing six states: Arizona, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Bill Barton, 94 years old, was the oldest graduate from 1938. Graduates from 1938 to 1950 were present.

Findlay High School had its beginnings as far back as 1917. That's when the Smith-Hughes Act was passed by U.S. Congress to provide federal funds for vocational education.

Because this community, at that time, was a rural area made up largely of farm children, the residents voted to take advantage of the government's offer to help build a new school.

Construction started in 1920, and the first classes were held in the building in 1921.

The academic program included math, French, English, chemistry, and shop. The agricultural portion of the program included agriculture, shop, cooking, drawing, household construction, and English.

The school changed over time, with a second building later added. By 1949-50, Findlay High School became part of the jointure of schools now known as West Allegheny School District.

CLASS OF 1939

FRONT: Idilla Wilson, Jean Phillips, Bill Barton; **BACK:** Helen Shannon Craig, Elsie Boustead, Anna Mae Miller

CLASS OF 1944

FRONT: Wilma White Thomas, Verna Beck, Betty Stickley, Ellen Yolton, Grace Lutz; **BACK:** Bill McElhaney, Norman Drugmand, Joanne Bruno, Bill Kennedy, Jack Smyers, Harold Cain

CLASS OF 1948

FRONT: Harry (Corky) Craig (class of 1946), Bill Reddinger, Betty Reddinger; **BACK:** George Chambers, Bill Kisow, Ed Kennedy, Jack Chamberlain, David Brown

CLASS OF 1949

FRONT: Norma Jones, Betty Moore, Sara Bobro, Emmalee Kovac, Anna Lou Burgess, Janet Fairbanks; **BACK:** JoAnn McElhaney, Donald Beasen, Steve Skarupa, Edward Schmidt, John McCoy, Sam Wilkinson, Tom Mustio, Gerald Yoho

CLASS OF 1950

FRONT: Earl Fluharty, Mabel Wilson, Pete Cain, Cathy Reddinger; **BACK:** Bill Fluharty, Regis McElhaney, Betsy Gray, Olin Bradford, Dale Reddinger

Renewing Friendships and Memories



1939

**FINDLAY
HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS REUNION
2013**



1944



1948



1949



1950

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 and
State Sen. Matt Smith
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Ongoing

Imperial VFD Super Bingo,

first Monday monthly, **October 7, November 11, December 2**, Findlay Township Activity Center, 310 Main Street, Imperial. Doors open **5:30 p.m.**, kitchen opens **6 p.m.**, bingo starts **7 p.m.**, throwaway cards used, bring a bingo dauber.

Western PA Kidney Support Group, second Sunday monthly, 2:30-4:30 p.m., King's Restaurant, Imperial, (724) 796-1603.

Findlay Republican Committee Meeting, first Tuesday monthly, **7 p.m.**, Findlay Township Municipal Building, Clinton, guest speakers monthly, (412) 860-4331.

2013-2014 West Hills Symphonic Band

Season, now in its sixth season of residency at West Allegheny High School, Stewart Morgan Auditorium, free admission, **October 20, 3 p.m.** "Fervent Colors," **December 8, 3 p.m.**, "That Christmas Feeling," **March 2, 3 p.m.**, "Verdant Pathways," **May 4, 3 p.m.**, "The Heart of Spring," www.whsb.org.

Listen Locally: Chamber Music Series, Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall, **October 29**, Cuidado (tango band), **November 25**, Academy Chamber Ensemble, (music for string duo, quartet, and quintet), **February 24**, Freya Quartet (string quartet), **March 31**, Ferla-Marcinizyn Guitar Duo with contralto Daphne Alderson, **April 28**, Matt Murchison Mutiny (euphonium, flute, piano, bass, drums), (412) 276-3456.

October Weekends

Pumpkinland at Janoskis, 1714 Route 30, Clinton, Saturdays and Sundays, **10 a.m.-5 p.m.** (gate closes at 5, activities run until **6 p.m.**), \$5/person, includes hayride, donkey/goat viewing area,

corn maze stroll, haunted barn walk, straw jump area, face painting, pony rides, pumpkin painting (pumpkins sold separately), use of picnic area (bring own picnic lunch, if desired), (724) 899-3438, www.janoskis.com.

October 5

11th Annual Help Kids Lose the Blues! music benefit, Clarion Hotel, Greentree, **7 p.m.**, benefits Circle C's programs to help local at-risk children, teens, and young adults, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, appetizers, cash bar, raffle, silent auctions, (412) 937-1605 x224.

October 6

West Allegheny Foundation Golf Outing, Quicksilver Golf Club, details: www.wafoundation.net.

October 11

Odyssey Day, CCAC West Hills, annual event hosted by Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities, theme is Pennsylvania: Refueling America for the Next 100 Years, learn about alternative fueled vehicles and machinery, experts on hand to answer questions, representatives making presentations starting at **9:30 a.m.**, in conjunction with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium, a program of West Virginia University funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

October 17

MOMS Club of Pittsburgh-West Open House, **11 a.m.-2 p.m.**, Shawnee Pavilion, Settlers Cabin Park, www.momsclubpgghwest.org.

October 19

Ohio Valley General Hospital "A Toast to the Community", **5:30-8 p.m.**, Montour Heights Country Club, \$60/person, (412) 777-6359.

October 20

Antonio Sciulli Memorial Spaghetti Dinner, **1-5 p.m.**,

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North Fayette Community Gym, proceeds benefit Magee Women's NICU and the Pittsburgh Pro Elite Gymnastics Team.

October 12

Heritage Library's Second Annual Safety Fair, 12-2 p.m., self defense demonstration by Nam's Karate, Oakdale Masons on hand to register children for Child Identification Program (CHIP).

October 22

Montour Run Watershed Association Annual Dinner, 6 p.m., Embassy Suites, 550 Cherrington Parkway in Moon. Andy Baechle, Director - Allegheny County Parks Department, will speak after dinner on the upcoming Sports Legacy Park to be built near Coraopolis. Early registration required. See www.MRWA.INFO for registration forms or (412) 787-7875.

October 25

Heritage Library's Second Annual Halloween Spooktacular, 6-8 p.m., after the trail walk "scare" on over to the library for some crafts, games, and more.

October 28

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Class, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Findlay Township Activity Center, newly revised one-day class, ages 11-13, learn basic childcare, handling emergencies, keeping yourself and children safe, handling bedtime and discipline issues, communicating with parents, finding and interviewing for babysitting jobs; certificate awarded upon completion, bring bagged lunch, pre-registration required, class size limited, \$76.50 payable to Findlay Township.

November 1-2

Writer's Workshop, Crossroads Church, Crossroads Drive, North Fayette, **6:30-9 p.m. Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday**, \$25/person,

bring brown bag lunch, drinks provided, connect with other writers, practice your writing skills, learn the "ins and outs" of publishing, grasp the value of editing, taught by author and Christian counselor Jennie Newbrough and Pam Eichorn, owner of Ajoyin Publishing, Inc., to register or questions, Jennie Newbrough, (304) 224-6955, jennie-newbrough@yahoo.com.

November 2

Boy Scout Troop 830 Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast, Findlay Township Activity Center, **7:30 a.m.-noon**, benefits troop, Chinese Auction, accepting food/paper products/cash, for local food pantry and children's gifts to help stock the food pantry's "birthday closet," adults \$6, seniors \$5, children 5-12 \$4, under 5 free, (412) 951-9009.

November 3

Sixth Annual Kidz Bowling For Kidz fundraising bowling tournament, AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes, ages 5 and up, benefits Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, sponsored by Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh, registration begins at **11:30 a.m.**, food, prizes, and commemorative t-shirt, minimum \$25 in sponsorships to enter, Karen Pintar, (724) 695-1100, kpintar@snpj.com, www.bowling4kidz.org.

November 6-7

Western Allegheny Friends to Enhance the Library (WAFEL) Semi-Annual Book Sale, Western Allegheny Community Library, \$5/bag all week, silent auction, chocolate chip cookie sale, benefits summer library program, **Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**, (724) 695-8150.

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On the Horizon

November 9

Unique Boutique,

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Edgeworth Club in Sewickley, sponsored by Heritage Valley Sewickley Foundation, benefits foundation programs, \$10 admission or \$35 admission with lunch, (412) 749-7052, www.heritagevalley.org.

Holy Trinity Church Craft/Vendor Show,

November 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 5718 Steubenville Pike, Robinson, over 100 crafters and vendors featuring Christmas items, ethnic lunch food available, Chinese Auction, handicap accessible, free, (412) 787-2140.

Second Annual Meet a

Vet Day, November 9, 1 p.m., McDonald Heritage Library, arranged by VFW, learn about wars from the people who were

there, with accounts from real war veterans, including displays with uniforms, medals, and artifacts.

November 14

Holiday Vendor Fair, 6:30-

8:30 p.m., Moon Area Middle School, supports student enrichment activities, local vendors to help you get your holiday shopping and list making done.

November 16

McDonald Heritage Public Library Annual Fall

Auction with bake sale, tickets go on sale October 12: 2 for \$1 and 12 for \$5, chance to win prizes from businesses including Texas Roadhouse, The Pittsburgh Symphony, LA Fitness, Mary Kay products, Nam's Karate, two Pitt versus Miami tickets, (724) 926-8400, www.heritagepublib.org.

Fall into Fun at the Western Area YMCA



Personal Nutrition Coaching

To schedule an appointment: (412) 787-9622. A personalized Highmark program designed by a registered dietician to address the needs of an individual seeking nutrition counseling related to weight management, heart health, and diabetes.

Insanity

Visit the Welcome Center or www.westernarea-y.org for class dates and times. Group exercise class that uses MAX Interval Training for insane results, free to facility members, \$60 for 10 classes for program members.

Tai Chi

Visit the Welcome Center or www.westernarea-y.org for class dates and times. Ancient practice that uses movement and breath to reduce pain and improve mental and physical well-being, free to facility members, \$60 for 10 classes for program members.

Purse Bingo featuring Vera Bradley Purses

October 20, 1 p.m., doors open at noon. Play bingo while winning Vera Bradley designer purses and accessories, proceeds benefit Western Area Y Building Bridges Campaign, includes lunch, Chinese auction, purse raffles, door prizes, and bingo, at Holy Trinity School, Robinson, \$25 in advance, purchase at Western Area YMCA on September 20.

Tricks, Treats, and Fun

October 25, 6-8 p.m. Family fun night filled with fall and Halloween activities, magician, pumpkin painting, games, crafts, snacks, wear your costume, bring the family, free and open to members and non-members, pre-registration required.

Ten & Under Tennis

October 28-December 14, no classes week of November 25. Tennis gets kids moving, improves balance, agility, and hand-eye coordination, teaches self-confidence and self-assurance, safe, supportive environment, classes ages 3-5 and 4-10 available, see program guide at www.westernarea-y.org.

For more information on these programs, call (412) 787-9622.

Findlay Activities Coming Up

NEW TUESDAY TIME FOR TODDLERS (for new participants).

Due to the overwhelming number of participants last year, a Tuesday session has been added for toddlers age four and under. Bring your toddler to the Findlay Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial, for an hour of movement, music, activities, and snack. This is a great opportunity to meet other families and toddlers. An adult must stay with the child, registration required, **Tuesdays, October 15 and 22, November 19 and 26, December 3 and 10, and January 7, 14 and 28, 10:15-11:15 a.m.**, \$3/session; program follows West Allegheny School District schedule for inclement weather. If school is cancelled, so are our programs.

MONDAY TIME FOR TODDLERS (for those already enrolled in and participated in the Monday class in 2013). **Mondays, October 14, 21 and 28, November 18 and 25, December 2 and 9 and January 6, 13 and 27**, times, cost, and location same as Tuesdays, above.

KIDS' CREATIVE COOKING

Prepare a variety of easy and delicious seasonal recipes to satisfy after-school hunger pangs, kindergarten through grade 5, after school, \$8/class payment due at each class. Pre-register at least two days before class to attend, **Thursdays, October 10, November 14, December 12, January 23**, Findlay Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial.

WATER AEROBICS

Must pre-register, payment due at the first class, discount for attending both Monday and Wednesday classes, Wilson Elementary School, Boggs Road, Imperial, **6-7 p.m., MONDAY CLASS – October 7, 14, 21, November 4, 11, 18, 25 and December 9, 16; WEDNESDAY CLASS – October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18**, \$60 for each ten-week session or \$110 for both sessions, bring towels, locker rooms available, program follows West Allegheny School District schedule for inclement weather. If school is cancelled, so are our programs.

ADULT LAP SWIMMING, adults 18+, Wilson Elementary School, Boggs Road, Imperial, **Wednesdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18, 7-8 p.m.**, \$3 per evening (bring correct change if possible).

COMPUTER AND APPLIANCE RECYCLING - **Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**, township municipal building, 1271 Route 30, Clinton. Last January, that law began requiring landfills and solid waste disposal sites to no longer accept these items: all computers, monitors, printers, laptops, non-Freon appliances, telephones, keyboards, mice, radios, and televisions. At the recycling event, these items will be accepted for FREE. Appliances with Freon will be accepted, including dehumidifiers, for a \$15-30 fee. For information, contact Cynde, (724) 695-0500.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

PRE-PARADE PIZZA PARTY - Findlay Township Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial, **Saturday, October 26**, pizza and Chris the ventriloquist and puppeteer, **12-1:30 p.m.**, \$1/per person, reservations required-LIMITED SEATING.

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE - **Saturday, October 26, 1:30 p.m.**, meet at Findlay Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial and march to the Imperial VFD hall for treats. All ages welcome, prize drawings in each age group, prize tickets distributed to those in costume only! In the event of inclement weather, event moves into the activity center for prize drawings.

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT - **Thursday, October 31, 6-8 p.m.**

WILSON PTA FALL BAZAAR & HOLIDAY SHOW

Saturday, November 23, Findlay Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial, **9 a.m.-1 p.m.**, \$30/table for crafters and independent sales consultants, all table fees benefit the Wilson PTA and its programs throughout the year for students, contact Meghan Adams, (724) 899-2326 or e-mail meghanradams@yahoo.com.

ADULT BEGINNER GUITAR LESSONS

Tuesdays, October 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 19, Findlay Activity Center, Main Street, Imperial, adults 18+, **7-8 p.m.**, \$90 for six-week program, instructor is Jonathan Cordle.

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North Fayette Activities Coming Up

Donaldson Elementary School pool, Silver Sneakers Splash, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 p.m.; Water Walking, Monday through Thursday, 6-8 p.m., \$2/class, BlueCross/BlueShield members can use their cards for Silver Sneakers Splash.

Community Center gym, opens daily at 7:30 a.m. for walking inside.

Senior Citizen Luncheons, Thursday, October 24 (Halloween Party), November 21 (Thanksgiving Luncheon), Cornerstone at Tonidale, 11 a.m., \$5/person.

Bingo, every Monday, Community Center, noon.

Bowling, Latitude 40, October 14 and November 11, 1 p.m.

P.A.L.S. program, Friday night programs, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Community Center gym, free.

P.A.L.S. Halloween Party, Saturday, October 19, Community Center gym, free.

Fall Festival, October 19, 6-9 p.m., Donaldson Community Park, costume parade, hayrides, bonfire, music, food, haunted trail and more, free. Trunk or Treat costume parade starts at 6 p.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, Friday, December 6, 6:30 p.m., township building. Songs, snacks, train rides, and Santa will be on hand for pictures.

The outdoor skating rink will open that evening, weather permitting. The township's ice skating rink is set to open with help from the West Allegheny Hockey Association. The rink will be open for public sessions Fridays, 7-9 p.m., Saturdays, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m., and Sundays, 2-4 p.m. The rink is available for rentals; contact the Parks & Recreation office. Public sessions are \$3; some skate rentals available. Goals are available for pond hockey.

ALSO: Parks and Recreation and West Allegheny Library will host **Parents Day Out**, Saturday, December 14, 2-6 p.m. For \$10, parents can drop their children off with parks and recreation and library staff for games, arts and crafts, and a movie while they take time to Christmas shop, set up the house, or run other errands.

Future Stars Basketball, (ages 4, 5 & 6) starting November 2.

CPR/First Aid, October 16, 6:30 p.m.

THANK YOU! Special thanks to this year's Community Days sponsors: Comcast, PTI, Penn Lincoln Plaza, Ferrellgas, Wharton-Herrick Funeral Home, Piper Jaffray, People's Gas, Allegheny West Magazine, GT&N, Wojanis Supply, Huntington Bank.

"On the Horizon" provides space for nonprofit organizations and groups to post upcoming events and programs. Send announcements by e-mail to: alleghenywestmagazine@comcast.net. Please follow format as indicated above. Items will be edited to fit. For municipal activities/programs, contact the Findlay Township Recreation Department, (724) 695-0500, ext. 246 or e-mail: dlarson@findlaytownship.com, North Fayette Township Recreation Department at (412) 788-4888 or (724) 695-3118 or e-mail: rbrozovich@north-fayette.com, or Oakdale Borough, (724) 693-9740

Oakdale Activities Coming Up

HALLOWEEN PARADE - The Oakdale Hose Company will sponsor a parade on Thursday, October 31, line up at Willow Creek Crossing at 5 p.m., parade starts at 5:30 p.m. and continues to the Oakdale Fire Department where children will receive treat bags. "Trick or Treat" in the neighborhood is 6-8 p.m.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY DAY - October 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oakdale Hose Company invites residents for a day of fire prevention activities and demonstrations, with activities for kids and adults about fire safety and prevention. Anyone 16 years or older interested in joining the fire department can ask questions and obtain an application. Food and prizes available throughout the day.

BINGO - Oakdale Hose Company will host Bingo on Saturday, October 5 at the Oakdale Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m., early bird games at 6:30 p.m., regular games at 7 p.m. For information, call the fire department, (724) 693-0791.

ANNUAL HAUNTED CABIN - Boy Scout Troop 248 of Oakdale hosts its Annual Haunted Cabin, October 23, 24, 25, 26, 7-9 p.m., 248 Clinton Avenue, Oakdale, \$5/person, scouts and youth groups attending as a "group" are \$3/person. For group reservations, (724) 693-0549, limited parking (overflow parking is 1/4 block from the cabin), refreshment stand is available.

LIGHT-UP NIGHT: Saturday, November 30, 7 p.m.

Raccoon Creek Park Happenings

Fall Foliage Walk - Sunday, October 13, 2-3:30 p.m., meet at the Wildflower Reserve of Raccoon Creek State Park (along US Route 30), free program. As cool fall breezes approach, deciduous trees begin their annual transformation into brilliant colors of reds, yellows and browns. Join us for a one-mile guided walk and learn about the causes of this spectacular transformation.

Halloween Night Hike - Saturday, October 26, 6:30-8 p.m., meet at the Wildflower Reserve of Raccoon Creek State Park (along US Route 30), free program. Venture with us along the darkened trails of the Wildflower Reserve as we listen and strain to look for creatures of the night. Learn about the nightlife in the park associated with Halloween and tell a few ghost stories about the park. Bring a flashlight.

For program information, (724) 899-3611.



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North Fayette Township

400 North Branch Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4888, www.north-fayette.com

Oakdale Borough

6115 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9740, www.oakdaleborough.com

McDonald Borough

151 School Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-8711, www.mcdonaldboro.com

CHURCHES

Church of The Living Christ

220 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7188, www.cotlc.com

Church of the Nazarene

(moved to Clinton)
(724) 947-9223, www.nazarene.org

Clinton UP Church

25 Wilson Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7993

Clinton Wesleyan Church

1022 Clinton Road, Clinton, PA 15026
(724) 695-7076

Covenant Family Church

P. O. Box 15533, Pittsburgh, PA 15244
(724) 263-7147, www.covfamchurch.org
(meets at Courtyard Pgh. Airport)

Crossroads Methodist Church

1000 Crossroads Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 494-9999, www.crossroadsumc.org

First Baptist Church

141 N. McDonald Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-4216

Hebron Presbyterian Church

1767 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026
(725) 899-2276

Independent Bible Presbyterian Church

112 Dempe Street, McDonald, PA 15057
(724) 926-3355

Montours Presbyterian Church

3151 Montour Church Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 787-1050, www.montourschurch.org

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS K-12

West Allegheny School District

600 Donaldson Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 695-3422, www.westasd.org

Parkway West Career & Technology Center

7101 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 923-1772, www.parkwaywest.org

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Noblestown United Methodist Church

7313 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-2755

Noblestown United

Presbyterian Church

7427 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-8250

Oakdale United Presbyterian Church

62 Hastings Avenue, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-8950

Rivers of Living Waters Church

7120 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 787-1888, www.rolwc.tripod.com

Resurrection Lutheran Church

7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071
(412) 788-4513

St. Columbkille Church

103 Church Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-7325, www.saintcolumbkilleparish.org

St. Patrick's Church

7322 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071
(724) 693-9260, www.saint-patrick-parish.com

The Church of Jesus Christ

57 Moore Road, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 899-3935

The Bible Chapel

@ Pittsburgh Technical Institute
(724) 941-8990, ext. 124
www.robinson.biblechapel.org

Valley Presbyterian Church

237 Main Street, Imperial, PA 15126
(724) 695-0300, www.valleychurchweb.com

West Ridge Christian Community Church

100 Gorwood Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(724) 695-7500, www.wrccc.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Al-A-Non, West Area, TBA

American Legion Post 171 Oakdale, (724) 693-8759

American Legion Post 335 Imperial, (724) 695-0491

Boy Scouts-Grtr. Pgh. Council-Frontier,
(412) 325-7971 or 7995

Faith in Action, (724) 921-0027

Findlay Athletic Assn., (412) 874-9348

Girl Scouts WPA, (724) 774-3553

Heritage Public Library-McDonald, (724) 926-8400

Kiwanis Club, TBA

Lions Club Imperial, (724) 513-7616

Masonic Lodge #669, (724) 693-8274

McDonald Area Redevelop. Assn., (724) 926-4617

Meals on Wheels-W.A., (724) 695-0634

Montour Run Watershed Assn., www.mrwa.info

Montour Trail Council, (412) 257-3011

Montour Valley Grange, (724) 695-0481

Mothers of Preschoolers-

Crossroads, (412) 494-9999

Mothers of Preschoolers-Hebron, (724) 899-2276

North Fayette Athletic Assn., (412) 580-0655

North Fayette Garden Club, (724) 693-8413

Oakdale Youth League, (724) 693-8951

Rotary - Parkway West, (412) 787-5280

Senior Citizen Groups:

- Findlay Township, (724) 695-0500

- North Fayette Township, (724) 693-3118

- St. Columbkille, (724) 695-7325

SNPI Lodge 106, (724) 695-1411

Sturgeon Athletic Association, (724) 926-2150

The ROCK Community Center, (724) 693-2777

VFW Ladies Auxiliary, (412) 788-4674

VFW Post #7070 Oakdale, (412) 427-9195

VFW Post #7714 Imperial, (724) 695-8866

West Allegheny Food Pantry

& Thrift Shop, (724) 695-1305

West Allegheny Foundation, inquiries@wafoundation.org

West Allegheny Friends to Enhance the Library
(WAFEL), (724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Ministerium, (724) 693-8950

West Allegheny Booster & PTA Groups, www.westasd.org

Western Allegheny Community Library, (724) 695-8150

West Allegheny Aqua Club, (412) 608-4583

West Allegheny Arts Advocacy, TBA

West Allegheny Inline Hockey, (412) 334-2640

West Allegheny Youth Assn., www.westayouth.net

West Allegheny Youth Soccer Assn., (724) 693-8073

West Allegheny Youth Wrestling, (724) 695-8132

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By
Erma Dodd
North Fayette Township
resident

What mom wouldn't go a mile for their kid, or maybe 710 miles for her Boy Scout?

It was a challenge, and Joseph Honeychuck, 14, from Walden Woods, took up the challenge to bicycle from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. along with four other scouts and four scout leaders.

Joseph's mom, Heather, drove her SUV, loaded with equipment, tents, and food. She was at every fueling point, and at the end of the day, at the pre-arranged destination where the scouts set up camp.

The adventure took six days on the trails.

Heather, fortunately, was able to work on the road's side and set up an "office" via the Internet. Finding an Internet signal, though, was often a challenge.

The problem was that three scouts had the same name Joe. Well, Joseph had a nickname, because he took a whole jar of peanut butter to a scout outing. His nickname was "Peanut Butter," and another Joe made the statement, "I don't care what you call me." Scouts Mike and Brody helped nickname him "Susan." The third Joe stayed "Joe."

Joseph's fun memory is from the first day near Connellsville. Scoutmaster Fisher gave instructions: "Do not stop on the bridge." One kid did. His stop caused a domino effect. Bikes fell and scouts and scout leaders fell off bikes;

early lesson learned.

It rained the first night, but the boys stayed dry in their tents. One day, they had to use the rain gear they carried on their bikes. Each night scouts aged 14 to 16 checked bikes and cleaned chains in preparation for the next day.

Arise and shine at 6 a.m. Scouts cooked their own breakfast, along with all their other meals. After they packed up their lunches and gear, they were on the trail each day by 8 a.m.

Scoutmaster Fisher drove a truck with the cooking gear and an extra bike, in the event of a breakdown, along with tools to fix bikes.

A wonderful man, a bike fixer named Hutch from Cumberland Trail Connection, stayed open late to fix Mike's bike in Maryland.

Another memorable meeting was with a park ranger who spent a lot of time with the boys.

At midpoint, the boys were determined to ride hard. Then one scout saw it: "There's a cave." That led to exploring.

In Fort Frederick, Maryland, the troop toured the fort and stayed in the campground on fort grounds.

The pin, a technology technique on the trails, was used when needed. If there was any kind of situation where the scouts needed help, they simply dropped a "pin" on the trail. A dropped pin is a feature in the Google Maps on smart phones, where you can pinpoint and get directions from your location to theirs.

That pin gave Heather the exact location of the scouts. She called

Scoutmaster Fisher. Twice, scouts had broken down bikes and had to swap out a bike with Scoutmaster Fisher.

One scout was diabetic. When he used more test strips than expected, it was Heather to the rescue.

She located a Rite Aid and replenished the necessary strips.

The scouts improvised and made a portable heating pad for a fellow scout who had pulled a calf muscle. They taped hand warmers to his leg and he was able to bike.

Finally, they arrived in Washington, D.C. That last night they spent at a Holiday Inn, in a real bed, with the luxuries of home. It happened to be Peanut Butter's mom's fortieth birthday.

"You are all taking me out to dinner," she said; a dinner the scouts did not have to prepare.

Scoutmaster Fisher drove home with all eight bikes.

Weary, yet excited, the scouts toured Washington, D.C. on Saturday until 2 p.m., when it was time to head home on a train. The train's route home paralleled the 355 miles of trails the scouts had just biked.

"Most amazingly," Heather recalls, "I did not hear one boy complaining about one thing. Five amazing scouts, and they worked together."

"They all want to do it again."

They want to bike to Washington, D.C. again next year.

Five scouts, five mentors; it is all good.

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