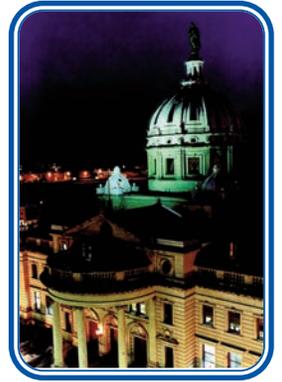


# Washington County Highlights



Vol. 9 Issue 1

May/June 2012

## Planning and Communication - Keys of New Commissioner's Philosophy

By Sandy Sabot

Newly-elected Commissioner Harlan Shober brings an understanding of the workings of government to his new position thanks to 12 years on the Chartiers-Houston School Board and 16 years as a Chartiers Township supervisor.

When asked why he wanted to move up to Commissioner from supervisor, Commissioner Shober said, "I really enjoyed being a supervisor because, number one, I like working with people, and I like getting things done. I left with a good repore and felt I could use my experience to help set direction for the county with a vision for the future."

Commissioner Shober has been making the rounds to the various county offices to meet with the supervisors and department heads and to say hello to the staff. He encouraged all county employees to "introduce yourself to me if I haven't met you."

A firm believer in open communication, Commissioner Shober said his governmental style is that of a planner. "I want to see things for the future. I want to make decisions that are good for now and good for the future. We have a lot of great people working at the county and I believe working together as a team we can do a lot."

He encourages employees to send their communications, ideas, and suggestions to him. One communication goal he has is improving communication within departments between the

directors or managers and their employees. He also wants better communication between the various offices and the public they serve. He emphasized how the county's services, particularly those in the human service area, are geared to reach out to the public to make a difference.



Human Services makes up the largest percentage of the county's budget and most people don't realize that until they need a service for themselves or their family. Commissioner Shober said that when one of his grandchildren asked him what a commissioner does at work, he said that he could give them an answer after a few weeks of meeting the people in the various offices. "We help people."

Prior to getting into government work, Commissioner Shober had worked 32 years as a manager for Bell Telephone, later AT&T, running a data center in Greensburg and Philadelphia.

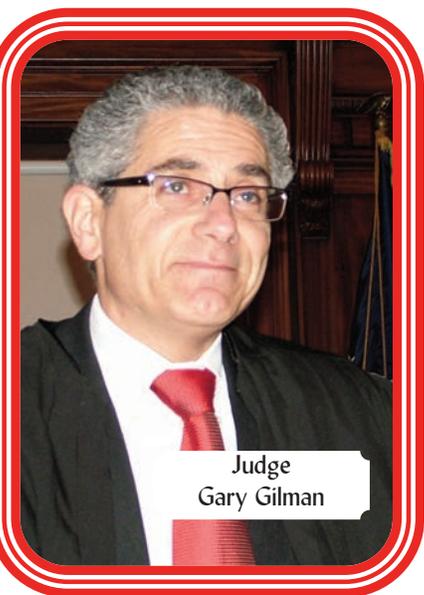
Local involvement has been Shober's trademark. Besides serving in his township, Commissioner Shober has been an active member of Lions Club, Elks, and Bucks for Bucs, a scholarship program at Chartiers-Houston School District. He also served as the chairman of finance for the PA State Association of Township Supervisors and president of the Washington County Association of Township Officials.

... continued on page 8

# Newly Elected Judge Gilman will Impact Families

By Randi Marodi

One month after his swearing in ceremony, Judge Gary Gilman sat in his office on the third floor of the Washington County Courthouse and reflected on the way his career has come full circle.



It was 25 years ago that the law school graduate took a position as a law clerk with Judge Thomas Terputac, and eventually worked as a solicitor for Washington County. He then represented children in family support action in Allegheny County, went into private practice and served as a master for the Court of Common Pleas in Allegheny County. He is now back in the Washington County Courthouse, where he has his own courtroom and an office lined with law books.

It's been a long journey for the 49-year-old Judge, who was born in Brooklyn, New York and at the age of four moved with his family to Belgium so his father could attend medical school. After five years overseas, the Gilman family returned to the states and eventually moved to Upper St. Clair, while his father served his residency at Allegheny General Hospital. The family stayed in the Pittsburgh area and Gilman graduated from Upper St. Clair High School in 1980 and from Washington & Jefferson College in 1984. He attended law school at American University in Washington, D.C., where he graduated in 1987.

"I came back to little Washington and passed the bar," he said.

Gilman met his wife Judge Katherine Emery while the two were serving as solicitors for Washington County. They were married May 26, 1991 and they have a son George, who just turned 16 and is a sophomore at Canon-McMillan High School.

He said it's very heartwarming to once again be working with people whom he worked with many years ago.

As a family court judge, his focus is on matters of support, divorce, custody and protection from abuse orders. He admits that there is a lot of emotion associated with the assignment.

"Family work, without a doubt, is emotional and often a charged atmosphere," he said, pointing out that it is very different from other aspects of the law. "The court is now really inside of the family's home. The court is sticking its head inside the home and telling people how they are to manage their family, because for whatever reason, they can't do it themselves. In civil and criminal courts, decisions are made by juries. In family court there are no juries; it's the judge who is now making the decisions about whether you see your child or don't see your child or how much you have to pay in child support. In this area of the law you really have an opportunity to affect children for the better. You have an opportunity and at the end of the day that's what it's all about."

He admits that at times it can be overwhelming.

"After I won the election it just felt great and I was relieved," he said, adding that it wasn't until after his swearing in on Jan. 3 that it all hit him. "You have to be cognizant of the power you potentially have and very understanding of that and how you use it."

Because he has only been seated at the bench for a short while, he believes it is too early to consider any changes. "I want to make the administration of justice more efficient, but now I need to be here and see how the court runs for a period of time before I make any changes."

# Summer is coming - so how are you doing with your New Year's Resolutions??

By Irene Farabee

As we enter into the second half of 2012 and time is flying by, how are you keeping the commitment made just six short months ago on New Year's Eve to change certain aspects of your life? In an attempt to make our life more fulfilling, we vow to lose weight, exercise more, eat healthier, quit smoking, spend more time with family, etc.

We have reflected back on the past year, looking forward to our new year with hope and excitement, and resolve to make changes in our lives that we know we should. But sometimes the excitement and resolve fades as we engage in our daily lives and enter back into routines and habits that just a short time ago we had sincerely hoped and desired to change.

How then can we stay determined and focused on the goals we set regardless of when we vow to make changes?

Well, certainly it helps to set realistic and attainable goals. Establish how you plan to achieve your goals, such as eating healthier or losing weight by changing the routines and planning out meals and food buying habits, etc. Some research may be necessary with regard to nutrition and exercise. Discuss your plans with your doctor, and get people on board with you so you have a "buddy" — someone who will hold you accountable as you strive toward each goal.

If spending time with your family was a goal, establish a specific time that no other work or activities are scheduled, choose an activity your family enjoys, and spend that time together.

Resolutions take planning and commitment to be successful. Life moves swiftly and we get caught up in the current sometimes without realizing it. So we need to make the most of the life we have been given. Be grateful for our many blessings. Have a positive perspective on how to live life on this earth to our fullest potential.

The rewards can be many despite the hardships, but as we enter into the second half of another year, we can't help but to look forward with hope that this

still can be the best year ever. We do it every year. That is how wonderfully we are made. We can continue to embark on the uncertain future with hope, joy and determination...even with a little angst at times. But we strive to be better and desire to thrive and prosper. That is what keeps us going.

If you stumble with your resolution, don't be too hard on yourself. Try to reflect back on how you were feeling and thinking at the time you resolved to make the change. Give it another try. Maybe even change to a more attainable goal if your original resolution was more challenging than you thought.

Make 2012 the year that you succeed in making some of the positive changes in your life that you have been hoping to accomplish! (You still have half a year at least to make those changes!)

## Save the dates:

**The Activities' Committee is announcing the following upcoming events...**

**Come Bowl with the County on June 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Meadows Racetrack and Casino - \$3.00 per game & \$2.00 shoe rental**

**Contact Jackie Cimino@ Ext. 6671 for more details.**

**Cookout on the Plaza - Friday, July 13th at noon**

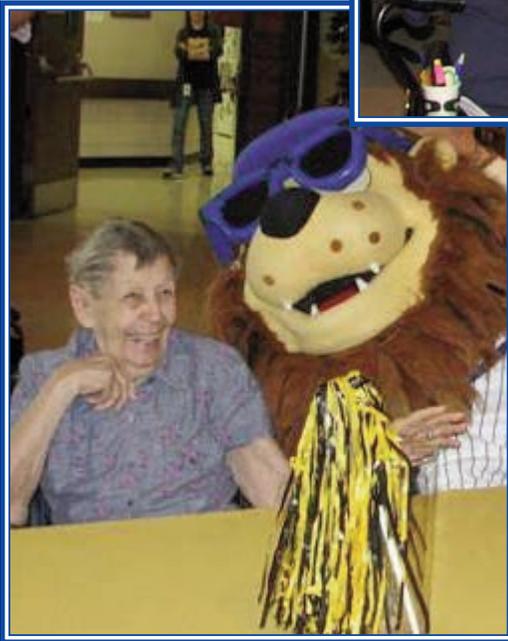
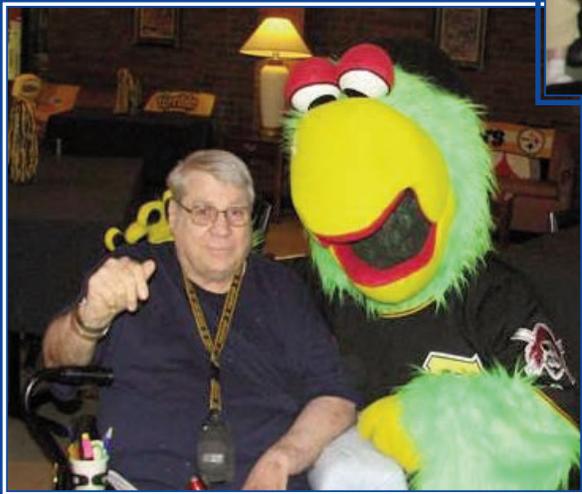
**Fall Festival at Mingo - Saturday, October 6th**

**Christmas Party - Location pending - Saturday, December 15th**

# National Nursing Home Week at the Washington County Health Center



Health Center residents celebrated “National Nursing Home Week” with “trips” to Las Vegas to meet ‘Elvis’ and hear some Rock ‘n Roll - Pirates and Wild Things games, as well as having lots of good food and plenty of fun!





# Parks Activities

from June 5, 2012 thru August 31, 2012

**S'more Campfire  
Pre-School Program (3-5 year olds)**  
 Tuesday, June 5, 2012 Shelter 4  
 Wednesday, June 6, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 Session I - 10:00 a.m.  
 Session II - 1:00 p.m.

**Owl Prowl**  
 Thursday, June 7, 2012 Shelter 1  
 8:00 p.m. Cross Creek Park

**Family Campout**  
 Friday, June 8, 2012 Camping Area  
 Saturday, June 9, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.

**Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop**  
 Wednesday, June 13, 2012 Park Office  
 10:00 a.m. Mingo Creek Park

**Creek Critters for Kids**  
 Thursday, June 14, 2012 Shelter 5  
 Session I - 10:00 a.m. Mingo Creek Park  
 Session II - 1:00 p.m.

**Evening Creek Crawl**  
 Wednesday, June 20, 2012 Shelter 5  
 6:30 p.m. Mingo Creek Park

**Star Party**  
 Friday, June 22, 2012 Observatory  
 Saturday, June 23, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 Dusk

**Wilderness Survival Camp**  
 Monday, June 25 - Shelter 3  
 Friday, June 29, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Star Party**  
 Friday, July 6, 2012 Observatory  
 Saturday, July 7, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 Dusk

**Creek Stompers  
Pre-School Program (3-5 year olds)**  
 Tuesday, July 10, 2012 Shelter 5  
 Wednesday, July 11, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 Session I - 10:00 a.m.  
 Session II - 1:00 p.m.

**Canoeing/Kayaking  
at Cross Creek Lake**  
 Tuesday, July 10, 2012 Shelter I  
 6:00 p.m. Cross Creek Park

**Firefly Frolic & Campfire**  
 Wednesday, July 11, 2012 Shelter 2  
 8:00 p.m. Mingo Creek Park

**Campfire Jam Night**  
 Thursday, July 12, 2012 Shelter 3  
 6:30 p.m. Mingo Creek Park

**Eco-Explorers Nature Camp**  
 Monday, July 16 - Shelter 1  
 Thursday, July 19, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop**  
 Wednesday, July 18, 2012 Shelter 4  
 10:00 a.m. Mingo Creek Park

**Bonkers for Bats**  
 Thursday, July 19, 2012 Shelter 4  
 8:00 p.m. Mingo Creek Park

**Star Party**  
 Friday, July 20, 2012 Observatory  
 Saturday, July 21, 2012 Mingo Creek Park  
 Dusk

**Pond Stew**  
 Tuesday, July 24, 2012 Shelter 1  
 7:00 p.m. Cross Creek Park

continued on page 7





# Parks Activities

*continued from page 6*

## Photo Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, July 25, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 1  
Ten Mile Park

## Pioneer Living Camp

Monday, July 30 -  
Friday, August 3, 2012  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shelter 4  
Mingo Creek Park

## Butterfly Walk

Saturday, August 4, 2012  
1:00 p.m.

Shelter 1 Parking Area  
Mingo Creek Park

## Mosquito Bite Pre-School Program (3-5 year olds)

Tuesday, August 7, 2012  
Wednesday, August 8, 2012  
Session I - 10:00 a.m.  
Session II - 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 1  
Mingo Creek Park

## There's Something Fishy Going On

Thursday, August 9, 2012  
Session I - 10:00 a.m.  
Session II - 1:00 p.m.

Shelter 5  
Mingo Creek Park

## Campfire Jam Night

Thursday, August 9, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 1  
Cross Creek Park

## Star Party

Friday, August 10, 2012  
Saturday, August 11, 2012  
Dusk

Observatory  
Mingo Creek Park

## Reptiles & Amphibians Camp

Monday, August 13 -  
Friday, August 17, 2012  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shelter 3  
Mingo Creek Park

## Needle & Yarn Craft Workshop

Wednesday, August 15, 2012  
10:00 a.m.

Park Office  
Mingo Creek Park

## Canoeing & Kayaking on Ten Mile Creek

Thursday, August 16, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

Audia Shelter  
Ten Mile Creek Park

## Primitive Fire-Making

Wednesday, August 22, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 6  
Mingo Creek Park

## Spider Mania

Tuesday, August 28, 2012  
6:30 p.m.

Shelter 4  
Mingo Creek Park



Several child care centers came to sing for the commissioners and be on hand for the Week of the Young Child proclamation on April 19, 2012.



# Families Who Love Children Needed by CYS

By Marie Higgins

Do you have a soft spot for children and want to help them? The Washington County Resource Unit (Foster Care) of Washington County Children & Youth Services (CYS) is looking for people who love children and believe that our children are a valuable resource — our future.

Families are entrusted with meeting the needs of their children and providing for their safety and welfare. Unfortunately, we all know of circumstances when a parent is unable or unwilling to meet his or her children's needs. It is in those circumstances that Children & Youth Services (CYS) is responsible for assuring that the children in Washington County are safe and that their needs are being met. The resource unit works with children who cannot remain in their own homes for various reasons.

Children who are placed with foster parents will stay in foster care until it is safe for them to return home, or their parents resolve the issues that prevent them from caring for their kids. Sometimes, the children cannot return to their homes for days or weeks, but often they are out of their homes for several months or longer. That's why good foster parents are needed.

Foster children are out of their homes through no fault of their own and they are like any other kids who live in our neighborhoods, go to school, play Little League games at our local parks and

community centers or participate in all the activities that children should. However, when children cannot remain in their own homes for their own well-being, we want to place them in the most homelike environment possible.

CYS is always searching for caring, nurturing families who want to make a difference in the life of a child by becoming foster parents. We do not discriminate based on age, sex, race, ethnicity or marital status. Interested applicants should be able to demonstrate stable housing, verify their source of income, possess a valid driver's license and working vehicle, and be able to pass background criminal checks. We are looking for people from all walks of life with a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. Won't you open your home and heart to local children who need you?

CYS staff would be happy to answer any questions you might have and we are willing to speak in person at your church, PTA, or other organizations. Please post this article in your lunch room, on your bulletin board, or anywhere that your staff and other interested parties may see it. To receive more information, call Linda Kowalewski, in the Resource Care Unit at CYS at 724 228-6884.

Washington County Foster Care thanks you in advance for your willingness to open your hearts and homes to children who need you.

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## Planning and Communication - Keys of New Commissioner's Philosophy

*continued from front cover*

Harlan Shober learned a lot about good communication, raising four children with his wife of 44 years, Jackie. He said that all four children and now 12 grandchildren live within Chartiers Township and he has been blessed to watch them grow and also participate at various levels of community involvement.

He is proud that he and his youngest son Dean have built 70 custom homes so far through Shober Homes, and that his son will run that company while he is a commissioner. His daughter Stacy is

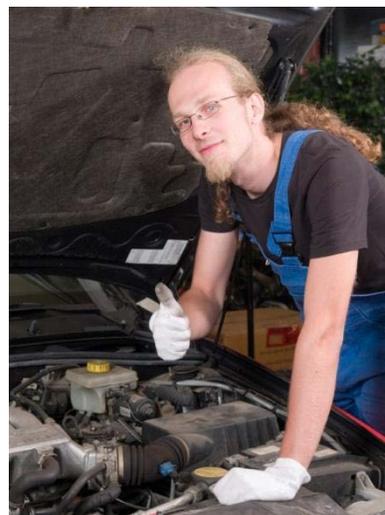
a McGuffey teacher and Dawn is a stay-at-home mom with three children. And his son Harlan is an assistant development technician for R.J. Lee Co.

"I've found that busy people get things done." Commissioner Shober said. With the experience and resume he brings to the county's already forward-looking leadership, Washington County should continue to be a great place to live, work, and play.

# MEN'S HEALTH

## IT'S A GUY THING

Just as your car needs regular oil changes to run efficiently, you need regular “tune-ups” with your health care provider to keep your body running smoothly. Preventive screenings can detect most life-threatening illnesses, including cancer, heart disease and diabetes. These can be treated and managed if they're caught early.



### STEPS TO GOOD HEALTH

Making small changes to your lifestyle now can add up to big results, like lowering your risk of diabetes or heart disease.

#### **Be Tobacco Free**

It is never too late to quit.

#### **Be Physically Active**

Even if you have an active job, you still may not be getting enough exercise to condition your cardiovascular system and to reduce your risk of heart disease. If you are not already physically active, start small and work up to 30 minutes or more of moderate exercise most days of the week. Walking briskly, jogging, swimming and biking are a few examples.

#### **Eat a Healthy Diet**

Focus on a balanced diet that includes plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Choose low-fat dairy products and lean meats, poultry, fish, beans and other protein sources. Cut back on second helpings and pay attention to portion sizes. Go easy on foods high in fat, cholesterol, salt and sugar.

#### **Stay at a Healthy Weight**

Step on the scale to know where you are and measure your waist circumference. Try to balance calories consumed with the calories you burn off through activity. Reduce your calorie consumption by 250-500 calories per day to promote gradual weight loss if you need to lose weight.

#### **Drink in Moderation**

Men should consume no more than two alcoholic drinks per day. A standard drink is one 12-ounce bottle of beer or wine cooler, one 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits.

#### **Manage Your Stress**

Try to seek balance in your life and practice daily stress management. Learn when to say “no” and avoid the “burning the candle at both ends” trap. Strive to take 20 minutes every day to do something to relax and manage your stress (exercise, read a book, take a walk).

<b>AT-A-GLANCE RECOMMENDED EXAMS AND SCREENINGS FOR MEN</b>				
<b>SCREENINGS AND EXAMS</b>	<b>AGES 19-39</b>	<b>AGES 40-49</b>	<b>AGES 50-64</b>	<b>AGES 65 &amp; OLDER</b>
<b>GENERAL HEALTH</b>				
Physical Exam	Every 1-2 years	Every 1-2 years	Annually	Annually
<b>HEART HEALTH</b>				
Weight/Height/BMI	Every 1-2 years	Every 1-2 years	Annually	Annually
Blood Pressure	Every 1-2 years; unless elevated	Every 1-2 years; unless elevated	Annually; unless elevated	Annually; unless elevated
Lipid Screening	Every five years beginning at age 20. More frequent testing for those at risk for cardiovascular disease.			
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening	Not applicable			One time screening for males who have ever smoked
<b>REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH</b>				
HIV/Sexually Transmitted Diseases Screening (gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes)	Based on risk factors			
Prostate Exam	Not applicable	Discuss risks/benefits of prostate cancer screening with your health care provider.		
<b>IMMUNIZATIONS</b>				
Diphtheria, Tetanus (Td/Tdap)	One time Tdap. Td booster every 10 years for all adults.			
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)	One to two doses as recommended by physician.			
Pneumococcal	Based on risk factors			One to two doses as recommended by physician
Flu Shot	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
Chicken Pox (Varicella)	One series of two doses at least one month apart for adults with no history of chicken pox.			
Hepatitis A	Based on individual risk or physician recommendation: One two-dose series			
Hepatitis B	Based on individual risk or physician recommendation: One three-dose series			
Meningococcal	Based on individual risk or physician recommendation: One or two doses per lifetime.			
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	For individuals age 9 to 26, one three-dose series. Dose 2 at 2 months from Dose 1. Dose 3 at 6 months from Dose 1.			
Shingles	Not applicable	Not applicable	One dose age 60 years of age and older.	
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>				
Depression Screening	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
<b>DIABETES</b>				
Blood Glucose (Sugar)	Based on risk factors	High-risk patients should be considered by their physician beginning at age 45 at 3-year intervals.		
<b>COLORECTAL HEALTH</b>				
Colorectal Cancer Screening	Based on risk factors	Based on risk factors	Every 1-10 yr. based on screening	Based on risk factors
<b>BONE HEALTH</b>				
Bone Mineral Density	Not applicable			Starting at age 70 every 2 years based on risk factors.
<b>VISION CARE</b>				
Eye Exam	Once between the ages of 20-29, twice between the ages of 30-39.	Baseline at age 40, then every 2-4 years	Every 2-4 years	Every 1-2 years
<b>ORAL HEALTH</b>				
Dental Exam	Professional cleaning and dental exam is recommended every 6 months.			

# Special Tire Recycling Event Nets Great Results

By Jason Theakston

More than 42.59 tons of tires were collected on May 12 from the special tire collection coordinated by Washington County, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and Keep Washington County Beautiful committees at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

Everything from golf cart tires to large agricultural tires were brought in for recycling with more than 220 vehicles processed at the drop off point. While some people had to wait in line for 50 minutes or more, most didn't mind because the service was so valuable to them. "Many people asked when we would be holding the next tire collection", said Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Program Manager Todd Crouch. "We are hopeful that this can become an annual event."

Through a grant received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Household and Small Business Hazardous Waste Collection Program, participants paid about one half less to recycle their tires than they would if they went to a commercial business. Funding for advertising and other support also came from a grant from the Utilities Programs, United States Department of Agriculture.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 87 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. In 2005, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful surveyed Washington County identifying 126 illegal dumpsites containing an estimated 317.5 tons of trash and tires.

To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org).

Keep Washington County Beautiful was formed in July 2009 with support from local residents and partnering organizations concerned about illegal dumping in the county. As an affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, its focus is on

cleanups of illegal dumps, special collections, and educating the public on the detriments of illegal dumping and littering. People interested in volunteering can sign up by calling 724-836-4121, or on-line at [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org), or emailing [washcokpb@gmail.com](mailto:washcokpb@gmail.com).

Holding these recycling events is great, but more manpower is essential. "Two gentlemen that were there to drop off tires actually started volunteering to help us out." said Keep Washington County Beautiful Affiliate Coordinator Laurie Popeck. "It was great to see community residents not only participate but lend a hand. Those gentlemen made a big difference."

Participants represented 38 of Washington County's 67 municipalities, with a handful of participants from municipalities outside the county. "While the tire collection was a great success," said Washington County Recycling Coordinator Jason Theakston, "for any future collections to be successful, we need the help and support from communities in the region, and in particular, we need volunteers to help direct traffic, unload vehicles, and collect information."

Events like the special tire collection aim at giving residents of Washington County an affordable way to properly recycle hard-to-dispose items, including tires, rather than illegally dumping them over a hillside. Additionally, items disposed of improperly can have unwanted effects on the community. For example, tires just left outside can fill up with water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. West Nile Virus, carried by mosquitoes, has been a primary concern for environmental and health officials.

The tires collected for this event were hauled by Lawver Tire Disposal of Brownsville, PA, to Mahantango Enterprises of Liverpool, PA. Mahantango Enterprises recycles tires into new products such as rubber mulch, horse turf for horse arenas, and playground surfaces.

# Washington County Recycling Collection Events

## July 7 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual County Electronics Recycling Collection

Washington County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall #1.  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Call 724-228-6811 for more information.

## July 14 – Household Chemicals Collection

Washington Mall Parking Lot.  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Call 724-228-6811 for more information and fee schedule.

*\*Washington County will be creating posters for each collection listed on this flyer.  
Posters will include items collected and any applicable fees.\**



*Volunteers Needed!*

for both of the  
above-listed events.

**Great Community Service  
Project!!!**

Please call  
724-228-6811 for more  
information.

# County Personnel Changes

*County Personnel Changes from  
January 1, 2012 through May 15, 2012*

## RESIGNED:

Jacqueline Anderson  
Benjamin Benney  
Kennetta Bird  
Aprel Cange  
Jane Erstfeld  
Andrea Evans  
Dawn Fasset  
John Filson  
Anthony Gennacco  
Mark Hamilton  
Brett Harkreader  
Shauna Hendrick  
Brent Holbert  
Chasity Hoover  
Kimberly Knapper  
Alicia Kuhn  
Alexander Lee  
Amanda Leonard  
Karen Lockoski  
Angela Mancino  
Julie Mounts  
Amy Popeck  
Dennis Popojas  
James Rega  
Matthew Rogers  
Constance Salyers  
Kasey Seeber  
Michael Spilak  
Robin Stegenga  
Michele Stoner  
Sandra Strauss  
Dawn Woodward  
Techla Yankura

## RETIRED:

Bracken Burns  
Paula Brova  
Judy Cap  
Richard Cario  
Karen Crooks  
James Fazzoni  
Beverly Dellaria  
Charles Howard  
Janet McCusker  
JoAnn Metz  
Gary Riley  
Pat Stavovy  
Jacquelynn Salyer  
Barry Vlanich  
James Wood

## NEW HIRES:

Erica F. Cunningham  
Carmine Molinaro, JR.  
Kacey Simpson  
Kristen Lynn Kalamaras  
Victoria I. Shape  
Christopher Michael Erickson  
Bradley Boone Poland  
Brittany Rose Boeltz  
Kayla Marie Henry  
Harlan G. Shober, JR.  
Marie Trossman  
Clifford Roy Warnick  
Cameron Michael Banasick  
Wendy Sue Kudaroski

B/H & D/S  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Correctional Facility  
Booking Center  
CYS  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Health Center  
Controller  
Health Center  
Housekeeping  
Sheriff  
District Attorney  
Health Center  
CYS  
Health Center  
Health Center  
District Attorney  
District Attorney  
Judge DiSalle  
Public Safety  
Public Safety  
Flood Control  
Health Center  
Correctional Facility  
Health Center  
Correctional Facility  
Health Center

Commissioner  
CYS  
Judge Emery  
Community Service  
Judge O'Dell Seneca  
Recorder of Deeds  
Airport Operations  
Correctional Facility  
M. D. J. Kanalis  
Commissioners  
Tax Revenue  
Law Library  
Sheriff Department  
Health Center  
Liquid Fuels

B/H & D/S  
Booking Center  
Booking Center  
Children & Youth Program  
Commissioner  
Commissioners  
Community Service  
Community Service  
Controller

Jessica M. Potter  
Brian Daniel Lattanzi  
Daniel John Michalski  
David Arthur Doty  
Eugene A. Vittone  
Jennifer Marie Chmiel  
Steven M. Rothermel  
Timothy Clayton Dames  
William Allan Marnich, Jr.  
Chad Jeffrey Gwynn  
Benjamin John Baran  
Carl E. Miller, III  
Cheryle L. Walton  
Jonathan A. Madaras  
Carole Lynne Tammaro  
Joyce D. McCracken  
Erin Elizabeth Skrabski  
Megan Lynn Riggs  
Jalea Ann Provance  
Angela Marie LeJohn  
Kelley Sue Milligan  
Angeline Anyango East  
Shannon Lee Gazvoda  
Katie Marie Shaffer  
Katie Lee Kilgore  
Kimberly Ann Jackson  
Nancy Joann Hines  
Shannon M. Anderson  
Clarissa Ann Burgard  
Terri Roxanne Bingiel  
Brandi M. Wanto  
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Court Administrator  
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Courts-Data Processing  
Courts - Data Processing  
District Attorney  
District Attorney  
Domestic Relations  
E&M-Flood Control  
E&M-Parks  
E&M-Parks  
E&M-Parks  
Emergency Services  
Emergency Telephone-911  
Emergency Telephone-911  
H.C.-Business Office  
H.C.-Business Office  
H.C.-Business Office  
H.C.-Dietary  
H.C.-Dietary  
H.C.-Housekeeping  
H.C.-Nursing  
H.C.-Nursing Admin.  
H.C.-Nursing Admin.  
H.C.-Rehab. Therapies  
Housekeeping  
Housekeeping  
Housekeeping  
Human Resources  
Jail Security  
Judge Gilman  
Judge O'Dell Seneca  
Juvenile Probation  
Law Library  
Liquid Fuels  
Purchasing  
Purchasing  
Sheriff  
Sheriff  
Sheriff  
Sheriff  
Solicitor  
Tax Revenue  
Tax Revenue

*Our Deepest Sympathy to the Co-workers and family  
of Bernard Diesel of JPO who died May 25, 2012.*

# Summer in Washington County

## by Bracken Burns



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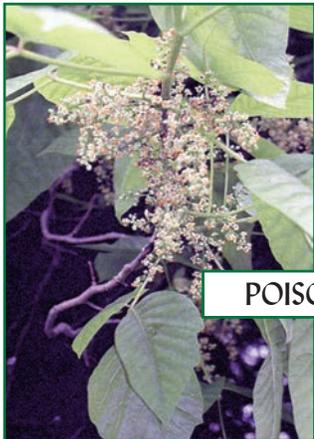
# Beware of Poison Ivy!

by Jeff Donahue, Department of Recreation

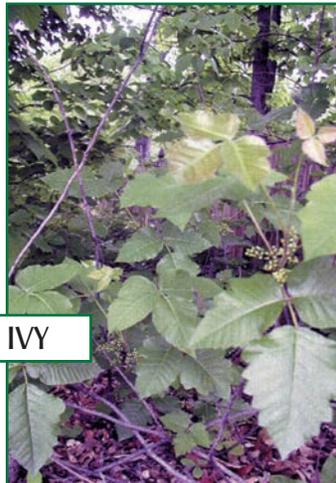
Toxicodendron radicans - the name sounds ominous. Approximately 85% of humans who come in contact with the white sticky resin from this plant will attest to the unpleasant rash left behind. Poison Ivy or "poison" as some call it, is a very common plant in Washington County. A member of the Cashew family, it is closely related to the sumacs, mango and ginkgo. Poison ivy is an adaptable plant that grows just about everywhere. Look closely along the edges of forests, in overgrown fields, the edges of agricultural fields, urban, suburban and rural waste areas, in flowerbeds and along gardens for poison ivy.

The urushiol oil that is contained in the sap of poison ivy is responsible for what many physicians refer to as Contact Dermatitis or Toxicodendron Dermatitis. Toxicodendron Dermatitis can be contracted by humans through either direct or indirect contact with the urushiol oil. The oil can also be transported on the fur of animals, clothing, shoes or carried in smoke from fires - it's everywhere!

Poison ivy grows as a vine, a small plant, or a shrub and is identified by its three leaflets that have either smooth or irregularly toothed leaflet edges. Mature poison ivy plants have beautiful greenish white flowers in the spring that ripen



POISON IVY



into grey berries in the late summer or early fall. These berries are a valuable winter food source for many songbirds. The bark of poison ivy is also eaten during the winter months by small rodents and rabbits. The phrase "leaves of three, let it be, leaves of five, let it thrive" is often tossed about as a quick simple way to distinguish poison ivy from other plants.



BOX ELDER

However it's not quite that simple. In fact, there are quite a few plants that display three leaves that are not poison ivy. For example Box elder or "Ashleaf Maple" is a small tree that is often mistaken for poison ivy. Brambles such as blackberry and black raspberry (even though they have spines), Indian Strawberry and avens are often incorrectly identified as poison ivy.

Poison Oak and Poison Sumac, however, are hard to find growing in Washington County. Poison Oak is a plant very similar to Poison Ivy except the three leaflets of poison oak resemble the lobed leaves of a White Oak Tree, there are also clusters of white hairs on the veins on the underside of Poison Oak leaflets. Poison Oak grows as a shrub specifically in sandy soils, and mostly likely is not found in PA The Virginia Creeper vine is often mistakenly called Poison Oak, displaying five leaflets (not three) and beautiful purplish berries that are poisonous to eat. The Virginia Creeper sap contains no urushiol. Poison Sumac looks nothing like Poison Ivy, and as its name implies it looks like a sumac, hence the confusion. Growing as a shrub or small tree,



POISON OAK

Poison Sumac can be found growing in bogs of the North and the swamps and river bottoms of the South. The Vascular Plant Atlas of Pennsylvania compiled in 1993 does not specifically include Washington or Greene Counties as areas where Poison Sumac was found to be growing. So to answer the question, is there Poison Sumac in Washington County? Probably, however its occurrence is rare. The Poison Sumac leaf is comprised of 7 - 13 untoothed leaflets and the fruits are duping and yellowish-gray in color. Staghorn Sumac is often mis-identified as Poison Sumac. This very common shrub or small tree is found along the edges of many forests and fields in our area. Staghorn Sumac has 11-31 leaflets, however the leaflets are toothed. The upright bright red cone-like Staghorn Sumac fruits become visible in the late summer and remain through the winter. Staghorn sumac fruits are an important winter food source for wildlife. Clusters of the ripened Staghorn Sumac fruits can be collected, bruised (smashed up a bit) and steeped in water to make a drink that looks and tastes similar to pink lemonade.



VIRGINIA CREEPER



POISON SUMAC



STAGHORN SUMAC

## Poison Ivy Myths & Facts

**Myth: *The Poison Ivy rash is contagious***

**Fact:**

Rubbing a poison ivy rash will not spread poison ivy to other parts of your body or another person. The rash is only spread by the urushiol oil.

**Myth: *You can catch poison ivy simply by being near the plant.***

**Fact**

Direct or indirect contact with the urushiol oil is required. Urushiol oil can be transmitted on animal fur, on clothing, towels, bedding and through the air by smoke, lawn mowing or weedeating.

**Myth: *Don't worry about dead plants or vines.***

**Fact**

Urushiol oil can remain active on surfaces, including dead plants for up to five years. Sap may still be present during the winter months in poison ivy vines and roots.

**Myth: *Breaking the poison ivy blisters releases urushiol oil and causes the rash to spread.***

**Fact**

There is no urushiol in the poison ivy rash or blister, however scratching the rash or breaking open poison ivy blisters may lead to **infection or scarring.**

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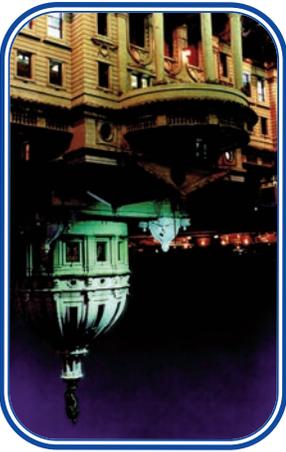
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Washington County  
Highlights

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