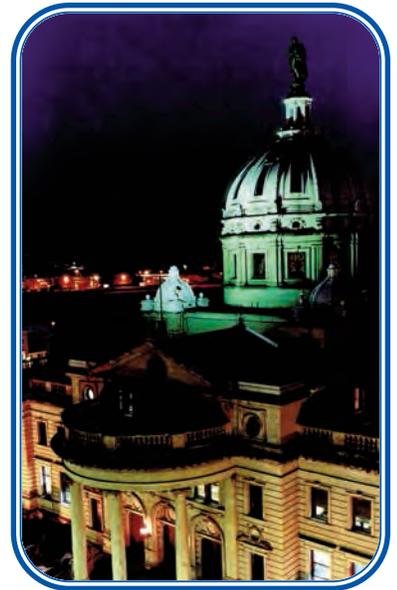


Washington County Highlights

Vol. 10 Issue 2

August 2013



Weather Doesn't Dampen Spirits of Kids at CY& Foster Picnic

By Marie Higgins

For many years the CY& Foster Care Unit has sponsored a summer picnic for Washington County children who are in foster care. The 2013 event was held Friday, July 19, 2013 at Washington Park Stone Pavilion from 5:00pm-7:30pm. Although, there had been some heavy rain an hour prior to the start of the annual picnic, the children's attitudes and enthusiasm were not at all affected. In spite of the rain, their enthusiasm and squeals of delight made the picnic that much more enjoyable for all.

As always, those invited to the picnic include members of the child's biological family, foster parents and CY& families. Commissioner Larry Maggi, former Commissioner Bracken Burns, Judge Emery and our *Guardian Ad Litem* Erin Dickerson were also among the attendees at this year's picnic. The picnic offered lots of fun for the kids including the use of the



playground, a bounce house and train rides on the "Gunnar Express". Everyone's favorite picnic foods, such as hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, assorted chips, baked beans, watermelon, cake and iced cold drinks were in great supply.

The CY& Department is grateful for the picnic's corporate sponsor, Butch's Rat Holer's, a gas drilling company, who donated the hamburgers, hot dogs and ice. Their staff also grilled all of the hot dogs and hamburgers and prepared the baked beans. In addition to donating and assisting with the food preparations, Butch's also brought the train for the kids to enjoy.

Thanks, also to the many CY& staff who helped make another picnic a success. The rainy skies ended our activities a little earlier than we had planned, but the CY& staff is already starting to plan next year's picnic.



Foster Care Picnic
Photos provided
courtesy of Bracken Burns



Save These Dates!!!

National Day of Remembrance of Homicide Victims

Date: September 22, 2013

Time: 1 P.M.

**Location: Crime Victims' Memorial Garden
Behind Family Court Center
Washington, PA**

MARCH AGAINST VIOLENCE

Date: October 5, 2013

**Event begins on
W&J campus**

**Time and Route
to be
determined**

**Show Your Support to End Violence
and Honor Crime Victims by
attending these two events!**

**For more information call
Betsy Dane, Administrator
724-229-5922**

**For more information call
Mayor Brenda Davis:
724-223-4200**

Save the Date



Join us on SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 2013

11 A.M. TO 3 P.M. for the annual

PA Promise for CHILDREN'S EXPO

WASHINGTON CROWN CENTER

1500 W. CHESTNUT ST., WASHINGTON

FREE ACTIVITIES & INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Sponsored by CCIS of Beaver/Washington Counties, SPHS-Washington Family Center, Child Care Consortium,
The Observer Publishing Co. & Washington Crown Center

County Employees Pirate Game Bus Trip

By Marie Higgins

Lumber and lightening! Pirate hitting was frightening! The annual county Bucco bus trip was exciting!

On Saturday, August 3, 2013 a busload of county employees and their guests made the annual bus trip, sponsored by the Washington County Activities Committee, to PNC Park to see the Pittsburgh Pirates play the Colorado Rockies.

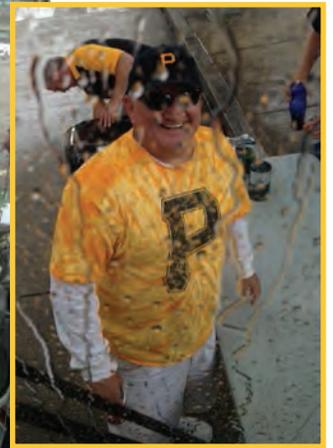
The bus picked up individuals in Charleroi and at the Beau Street Park 'N Ride. Lawn chairs came out and tailgating began upon arriving at the ballpark. Tailgating featured hot dogs on the grill, buffalo chicken dip, fruit, snacks, baked goods and a wide variety of beverages.

Then it was game time and what a great time it

was! Lots of Pirate hits, great fielding, superb pitching with six strikeouts and a home run by Tabata (fire that cannon, baby) brought the fans to their feet. At the end of the game we were wowed by a fabulous fireworks' display that lit up the Pittsburgh sky.

To top it all off, the first place Pirates gained a full game on second place St. Louis Cardinals, as they lost their game.

Arrrrrgh! Hope to see you at next year's game, matey!



Begin a Hobby like Crafting to Help with a Loss

By Debbie Richey

Most people who don't do any crafting of any sort say that they don't have the time, or they don't have the patience. However, my craft hobbies have given me a sense of fulfillment and purpose when I needed it most.

After my mother passed away, I had quite a hard time dealing with the loss. A close friend of mine suggested that I find a hobby and keep my hands and mind busy. If it wasn't for her encouragement, I would probably be a "basket case." She told me to concentrate on a project or just work on a puzzle of some sort, and I would not think of Mom as being gone as much. Lo and behold this actually works!

Pick a simple project at first and go with it. You will feel a sense of accomplishment, and pride in what you have done. If you really want to get involved, sign up for a class or two for your chosen hobby. You could even keep a journal on the things that you have made. You could make a scrapbook, with pictures of your projects in steps as you work on them – another project in itself.

If you find out that you enjoy making crafts, you could make extra items and sell them to make money for your next project or just some money to spend on your fetish (for me, that's purses).

I have learned to relax a little by making crafts. People ask me how I find the time for all the things I make. I crochet, quilt, and craft, so I devote a little time here and there when I can, to work on a project. Sometimes if it is a big project, I will lay it aside, and start a smaller one. That way if I get tired of working on one, I switch to the other and I have found that I make fewer mistakes that way.

A lot of people appreciate handmade items as gifts. You can share your ideas and instructions with your friends, and make a few gifts. Start a small evening get-together, like once a month and work on projects, or just enjoy the socializing, and a little "me time" to help you through your situation or stress. Choosing a hobby such as crafting can be a true life saver and a lot of fun.

Easy-to-Make Patriotic Heart Wreath

By Debbie Richey



For this project you will need:

- Styrofoam heart wreath
- Red/white and blue/white fabric cut into 4
- Centimeter or 1 1/2 inch squares (you will need about 3x more red/white fabric than blue/white fabric)
- Stylus or knitting needle (should not be sharp to prevent damaging the fabric)

Instructions:

1. Cut out a stack of fabric squares. Starting with the red color, proceed by taking the first piece and placing it over the center top of the wreath. Use the stylus or knitting needle and insert it in the center of the fabric and poke the fabric into the

wreath. The styrofoam will normally hold the fabric without glue. If not, you can choose to add a drop of glue to the point of the wreath where you will be poking the fabric into it.



This is how it looks when adding the fabric to the wreath. The stylus pokes the fabric into the wreath.

2. Continue adding new scrap pieces close to the previously added piece and continue in the same manner as step one. Cover the top and sides of the wreath all around with the red fabric, leaving the left top 1/3 free for the blue fabric. Then add the blue fabric in the same manner until the wreath is finished.

End of Summer Marked by Labor Day Celebrations

By Julia Sprowls

Labor Day is a holiday dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. The first Labor Day celebration was in 1894 when President Grover Cleveland declared it a holiday to be celebrated the first Monday of September.

Its purpose was to recognize and honor the contributions of the workers who further strengthen our country and increase our prosperity. However, since that original celebration, the day has changed over the years to become a last rite of summer. Since most people have Labor Day off from work and school, it's a great time to get friends and family together for a picnic.

Barbequed and grilled meats are good all year round, but will be especially so on September 2 this year because Labor Day is typically the last holiday you can comfortably grill outside. It's also the last chance to try out those summer salad recipes on

honest family members. Macaroni salads are always a good picnic food, but instead of using heavy mayonnaise, try using a more healthy plain yogurt and feta cheese instead. Potato salads can be dressed up, too, by adding vinaigrette and spicy mustard to the dish. One may also substitute sweet potatoes instead of white potatoes in the salad. Fruity cobblers always go well with a last-of-summer cookout.

Throw in some good conversation, relaxation and a few games of cornhole between dinner courses and everyone is full and fulfilled with the Labor Day holiday!

Note: Julie Sprowls is a college student and the daughter of Commissioner Maggi's secretary Joy Orndoff.

Alzheimer's Walk

Saturday, October 12th

**2013 Walk to End Alzheimer's
Washington, PA**

9:00 a.m.

**Location: Washington Park
283 Dunn Avenue
Washington, PA 15301**

**Coordinator: Abby Spreng
Phone: 412-261-5040
Email: aspren@alz.org**

**Anyone can join our team at the Health Center!!
You can register by going online to www.alz.org!**

Activities Keep us Going

By Kelly McGowen

Cook-outs, outdoor games and field trips have all been a part of the summer at the Washington County Health Center (WCHC). Our residents have a great time being active and involved.



A big thank you to the County for letting us, once again, fish at Cross Creek Lake and another thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department for organizing such a wonderful event for our residents. The biggest fish caught was a Blue Gill. The weather, the food and the scenery were perfect; we couldn't have asked for a better day. Not only did we go fishing this summer, but other field trips were visits to the Trolley Museum, Heinz Field and the Pittsburgh Aviary.



The Charleroi Boys' baseball and Girls' Softball teams came for an evening to play a game of kickball for our residents' amusement. Cheering on the teams and refereeing the game were very exciting and engaging for

our residents. After the game everyone enjoyed grilled hot dogs. Thanks to Kathy Keranko, our recreational specialist, for planning a great multi-generational event.

WCHC residents were also busy working on our helping hands project, 'One by Won to Jamaica'. A homemade candy basket was made by the residents and raffled off to help raise money to send school supplies to underprivileged students in Jamaica. After the raffle, residents went shopping for school supplies that they could fill backpacks with; there were also a ton of donations brought in by staff, family members and visitors to assist with our cause. Thanks to Kathy Dice, recreational specialist for a great project; it always makes us feel great to help others.

More recently, we have been working extremely hard on our fair projects. We are getting our vegetable gardens ready, making jams, pies, spaghetti sauces, craft projects and getting our woodworking entries prepared. A number of blue ribbons may be awaiting our works!



Summertime is a busy time, but throughout the year there are activities to keep us going and growing as we learn and share with one another. Come see how we do it at the WCHC! Volunteers for activities are always welcome.

Just a reminder that the Alzheimer's Walk is scheduled for October 12th. There are raffles, casual days and penny wars with all the proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Walk. If you would like to donate or join in the walk please contact Christina Wehner for any information at ext. 7184.

2013 Washington County Recycling Collection Events Successful

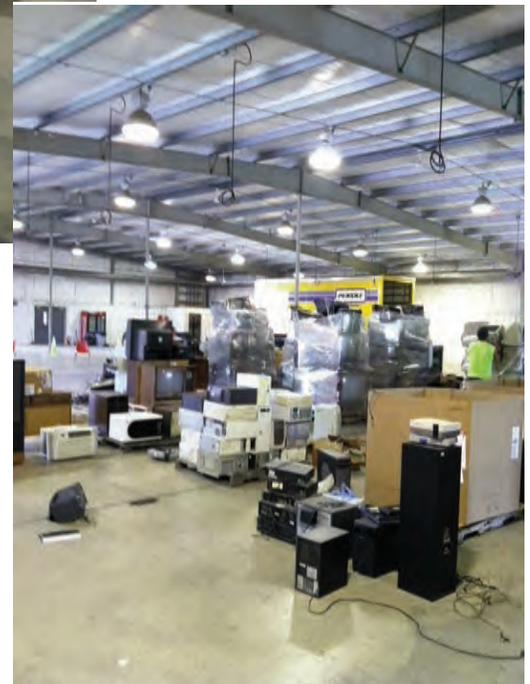
By Jason Theakston

Washington County hosted two successful recycling collections for residents to dispose of non-traditional recyclables in the greater Washington City area.

First, on May 11, Washington County held its second Used Tire Collection in partnership with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Washington County Beautiful, the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful local chapter. The county worked with Mahantango Enterprises, Inc., a tire processing company from East Liverpool, PA, for the collection and hauling phases of the program and for the processing of the tires collected. The county collected over 1,600 tires this spring, which equaled over 51,500 pounds of old tires. Recycling the used tires allowed them to make rubber mulch, horse turf for horse arenas and playground surfaces.

The second event was the county's Sixth Annual Electronics Recycling Collection on June 15th at the Washington County Fairgrounds. More than 22,000 pounds of old TVs, computers, and other electronics were collected by JVS Environmental, an electronics' recycling company from Rockwood, PA. The company takes the old devices and destroys all data, while salvaging what equipment can be refurbished and remarketed. All unsalvageable materials are de-manufactured and the raw materials are then returned to the raw materials' market.

In total both collections this year have helped to keep over 73,500 pounds (or 36.75 tons) of waste out of local landfills. More importantly, the collections helped to keep hazardous and unsightly waste out of the environment. For more information, and to find out about future recycling events in the county, please visit the Washington County Planning Commission's Recycling Page at www.co.washington.pa.us or call 724-228-6811.



Variety, the Children's Charity, Provides Bikes for Children with Special Needs

By Sue Orrick

On May 15, 2013, four Washington County children, including Casey Adams, Martin Hric, Alexis Federer and Taneeyah Rhoads, were able to experience for the first time what most children take for granted – riding their very own bikes. All four children, who have special needs received their very own adaptive bikes made specifically for them and had the opportunity to ride around Courthouse Square's Plaza. Their smiles were contagious and everyone who watched them, including CEO of Variety Charlie LaVallee and the Board of Commissioners, enjoyed the children's first bike ride with them.



If you know of a child who can benefit from Variety's *My Bike Program*, please visit their website at www.varietypittsburgh.org or contact them if you wish to make a donation to help a child with a special need receive his or her very own bike.

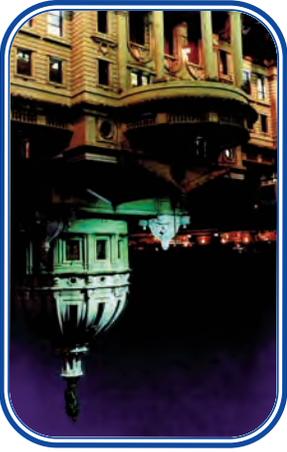
LaVallee explained that Variety, the Children's Charity, works to provide adaptive bikes to children with various disabilities through the generosity of its donors and that each bike is uniquely made for a specific child. The cost per bike is about \$1800, but the bikes are free to the children because of the generous donations from throughout the area's communities.

Since the program began in November 2012, 330 children have received bikes, including 45 children in Washington County.



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