

February 2025

Washington County Department of Human Services



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UPCOMING EVENTS FEB 2025

08

FEB, 2025

MONONGAHELA LIBRARY PRESENTATION

11AM-12PM 813 W MAIN ST
MONONGAHELA PA 15063

12

FEB, 2025

HARMONY LIFE CENTER

11AM-1PM 75 E MAIDEN ST
WASHINGTON PA 15301

15

FEB, 2025

NEIGHBOR 2 NEIGHBOR LOADS OF LOVE

TBD WASHINGTON, PA &
CANONSBURG, PA

26

FEB, 2025

CHARTIERS HOUSTON LIBRARY PRESENTATION

2PM-3PM 730 W GRANT ST
HOUSTON PA 15342

COME SEE US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Dementia Support Group

For Family, Friends and Caregivers

DATE: Third Tuesday of every month
(Jan 21, Feb 18, March 18, April 15)

TIME: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

WHERE: Peter's Township Public Library
Reading Room
616 E McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Are you caring for a loved one living with dementia? Join us in a monthly support group with a safe and supportive environment that is designed to help those who are caring for a loved one with dementia. Participants will receive practical advice, learn how to develop methods and skills to solve problems, have an opportunity to develop social relationships, receive support from others, learn about resources and more.

Theresa Lalak
Community Liaison, Seniors Helping Seniors
Certified Dementia Practitioner and Dementia Friends Champion
Theresa.Lalak@swpaseniorcare.com / 412-944-2470



Seniors Helping Seniors®
...A WAY TO GIVE AND TO RECEIVE®



MILITARY COMMUNITY CAN ACCESS EXTENSION RESOURCES FOR FREE

New program serves veterans and military members

Expand your knowledge, build new skills, and explore topics that matter to you—all at no cost.

Penn State Extension proudly supports Pennsylvania's military community with free access to a host of educational resources.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- + Animals and livestock
- + Forage and food crops
- + Trees, lawns, and landscaping
- + Insects, pests, and diseases
- + Natural resources—water, forests, and energy
- + Food safety and quality
- + Business and community development
- + Youth, family, and health

CHOOSE FROM:

- + Workshops
- + Webinars
- + Conferences
- + Online courses
- + Guides and publications

This program is generously sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and its Agriculture Business Development Center.

We're honored to serve those who serve our country. Thank you!

GET STARTED

Access your free promo code and explore our wide range of educational resources. Scan the QR code or visit: extension.psu.edu/military.



WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS

Save The Date
Intellectual Disabilities
&
Autism Event

April 23, 2025
10AM - 7PM

Chartiers Township Community Center
2013 Community Center Drive
Houston, PA 15342



What's the Buzz at the Department of Human Services



Washington County Aging Services in partnership with Washington County Veterans Affairs are sponsoring Heroes' Breakfasts at the Burgettstown and Canonsburg Senior Community Centers. Veterans and their families are invited to attend to be honored for their service, share their military experiences and to hear speakers on various topics. The first Breakfasts were wonderful successes with over 30 veterans sharing comradery and enjoying breakfast. The next Heroes' Breakfast will be from 9am to 10:30am at the Burgettstown Senior Center on Friday, April 11th, 2025, and at the Canonsburg Senior Center on Friday, April 25th, 2025.



Every year, the Department of Human Services takes on the vital responsibility of coordinating and conducting the Unsheltered Point in Time Count. This important initiative, mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, serves as a crucial tool for capturing a snapshot of homelessness within our community. The Point in Time Count not only evaluates the effectiveness of existing programs but also underscores the urgent need for additional funding and services. This year our team successfully located 20 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in Washington County. To address their immediate needs, the team provided thoughtfully assembled care packages that included vital items such as blankets, food, hygiene supplies, and a resource book detailing services available to them.

Employee Spotlights

Stacey Stapleton, Human Services Administrative Assistant

Stacey attended ICM School of Business & Medical Careers, where she obtained an associate's degree in office administration. She also went to California University of Pennsylvania where she obtained her bachelor's degree in business management. Stacey expressed that the most rewarding part of her job is helping others. She has been with the county for almost 11 years and has worked in many different departments including Adult Probation, Washington County Board of Commissioners, and now Human Services. Stacey stated that no matter where she is placed, her heart places others in her path to help whether it is a coworker or someone from the community. Stacey's mentor is her grandpa Edwin Cowden. She expressed that he is currently 96 years old and has been a dairy/beef farmer his entire life. She looks up to him because he has always worked hard, doesn't give up, and helps anyone and everyone he encounters. Stacey owns a Pet Sitting/Residential/Commercial Cleaning Business. She enjoys gardening, fishing, crocheting, and spending time with her family.



Carly Zofchak, BHDS ID/A Quality Management and Incident Management Certified Investigator

Carly attended Slippery Rock University where she obtained her undergraduate degree in recreational therapy. She also attended Clemson University where she obtained her master's degree in parks, recreation, and tourism management. Carly stated that the most rewarding part of her job is getting out into the community, meeting individuals, and making sure their needs are being met. Carly expressed that she looks up to her college professor because she taught Carly many life lessons including to always choose empathy. Carly likes to work out and play pickleball. Her favorite tv series is Gilmore Girls.





VetPets of SWPA

**Guest Columnist: Katie Robinette, Marketing Manager
& Director of Outreach and Advocacy**

VetPets was founded in 2020 by Omar Brooks and Nicole Malesic after a veteran/friend of the family passed away due to the side effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This event made VetPet's vision and mission clear: To empower veterans and first responders to regain control of their mental and emotional well-being by providing them with the tools and support to thrive.

VetPets of SWPA is a nonprofit organization that raises money and releases funds (in the form of grants) to help veterans and first responders:

1. Adopt dogs for emotional support
2. Work with our therapy dog or service dog training organizations to gain a sense of purpose and provide mental health activities to combat the invisible signs of war
3. Attend activities and events as part of our Assisted-Animal Therapy (AAT) Outreach to help community members, and their families heal in a safe, nonjudgemental atmosphere.

Education and a sense of urgency stand at the core of our values. Each dog training team cost starts at \$10,000 per participant and can reach \$30,000 by the time the dog is fully trained. We strive to help participants achieve full-service dog training. We believe a bonded warrior wellness dog plays a vital role in providing life-saving benefits.

Our organizations greatest need currently is a facility to operate our mission successfully. We have overgrown and outpaced previous projections and have received many requests for assistance but are limited in how we can accomplish handling these requests. We are also currently looking for volunteers to assist with tasks from Monday through Friday, 10:30AM-2:30PM, totaling 20 hours per week, as well as volunteers with flexible schedules beyond these hours.

Don't forgot to get your tickets for our Gala for Heroes...In Memory event on March 8, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh – Meadowlands.

For more information on our programs or to access our services, please visit our website at pavetpetsorg.