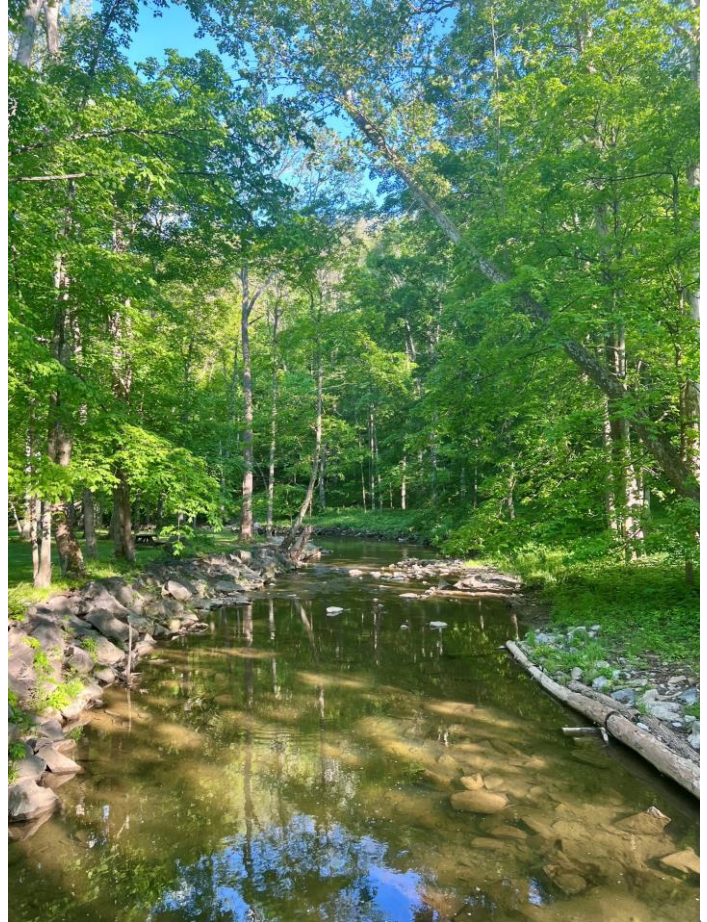


June 2024

Washington County Department of Human Services



Mingo Creek County Park

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American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



WALK WITH US TO PREVENT SUICIDE

REGISTER TODAY

Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk

September 28, 2024

Main Street Pavilion, 139 S. Main Street, Washington, PA
For more information, email rebecca.salsbury@co.washington.pa.us



Register at afsp.org/WASHINGTONPA



EmployHER WASHINGTON COUNTY

READY TO DEFINE SUCCESS ON YOUR OWN TERMS?

June 25th
Noon-6PM

Join us for the Summer EmployHER Pittsburgh-Washington County OPPORTUNITY FAIR & PROGRAM KICK-OFF

DoubleTree by Hilton
340 Racetrack Rd, Washington, PA 15301

- 10 Area Companies Hiring for Open Positions
- 20 Nonprofit Resources
- Wardrobe, Hair, and Makeup Support
- Complimentary Professional Headshot
- Resume Workshop and Support
- Childcare and Lunch Provided



After the fair you'll have 6 months of support for success with: Finding a job, Education and training, Building a network of support.

Can't make it to the kick-off but still want to participate? The Fall opportunity fair will take place October 29 at Dee's Event Center.

Scan to learn more & to RSVP.

EmployHER Pittsburgh-Washington County is a collaborative initiative between Blueprints, Dress for Success Pittsburgh, and When She Thrives.



Are you

- a veteran
- a parent / grandparent
- a caretaker
- an older adult
- not sure where to turn?

Connecting to resources has never been easier...



NEED HELP?

Food Transportation
 Housing Addiction
 Childcare Mental/Physical Health
 Employment Social Connections



724-228-1234



Search for programs by scanning here or call us!



Upcoming Events

Washington County Department of Human Services will be attending...

JUNE 7	First Friday 4:00pm-8:00pm Community Pavilion in Downtown Washington
JUNE 21	Monongahela Farmers Market 3:00pm-6:00pm Chess Park, Monongahela PA 15063
JUNE 22	Midway Summer Outreach 1:00pm-4:00pm Midway Borough Park
JUNE 25	EmployHER 12:00pm-6:00pm Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh - Meadow Lands
JUNE 29	Peters Township Community Day 11:00am-5:00pm Rolling Hills Park

What's the Buzz at the Department of Human Services



Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

On May 23rd Washington County celebrated Mental Health Awareness Day with a wellness fair, hosted by Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The day was filled with testimonials of wellness, yoga, free screenings for adults/older adults, wellness tips and techniques, games, and activities for all ages. The Washington County Commissioners also proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month on May 16th.



Children and Youth Services

On May 25th Washington County Children and Youth Services and Adoption Connection, PA sponsored a foster care night, for National Foster Care Awareness Month, at the Washington Wild Things game. Information tables were set up around the stadium, providing families with resources and information on becoming a foster parent. The Washington Wild Things won the game against the Gateway Grizzlies, but the real victory was the heightened awareness and community support for foster care.

Veterans Affairs

Washington County Suicide Prevention Task Force (Pathfinders) and Veterans Affairs hosted a family friendly hero cornhole tournament on May 26th at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Truck Festival. A total of 8 teams competed in the tournament for a chance to win the grand prize, a Yeti Cooler Prize Pack (worth \$500). The 2nd place team took home a regulation cornhole pack and the 3rd place team got a personal backpack cooler.



Employee Spotlights

Michelle Manni, Deputy Director of Aging Services

Michelle received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Waynesburg College (now Waynesburg University). Michelle stated that she spent 26 years at the Washington County Health Center doing admissions and every day they dealt with end-of-life decisions. Now Michelle is the Deputy Director of Aging Services, and she oversees the senior centers that the County operates. She expressed that it is great to help our seniors to remain active within their community both mentally and physically all while living independently. Michelle stated that her mentor was her first boss, Debbie Batley, whom she was lucky enough to have worked with for 21 years. Michelle mentioned that Ms. Batley took a chance on a youngster straight out of college and gave Michelle her first opportunity as a case worker at the Washington County Health Center. Outside of work Michelle enjoys camping, fishing, spending time with her nieces and nephews, and caring for her new puppy, Willow, who is almost 4 months old. Michelle's favorite movie is Phenomenon with John Travolta.



Amanda Spartz, Children and Youth Services Intake Screening Caseworker

Amanda received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Amanda worked as a substitute teacher for 3 years but felt that education was not the right fit. Amanda began working at Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth, and Families in 2015 and transferred to Washington County in 2016. Amanda feels that she has found her calling in child welfare. As an Intake Screener, Amanda is one of the first people the public may see or speak to when reaching out to the Agency. Amanda enjoys meeting and connecting with people whether it be families, other county or state CYS agencies, first responders, or community service/resource providers. As an Intake Screener, Amanda finds it rewarding when she can speak with parents or guardians by phone and assist them in finding appropriate services for their families, possibly preventing an open CYS case. In her free time, Amanda enjoys attending concerts, going on road trips, and spending time with her niece.



Bethany Bowman, BHDS Mental Health Program Specialist II/Complex Case Manager

Bethany received her bachelor's degree in education and her master's degree in community agency counseling from California University of Pennsylvania. She mentioned that the most rewarding part of her job is helping people. Bethany stated that there are always setbacks with an individual's mental health but enjoys helping those individuals obtain the tools to overcome them. Bethany stated that her mentor was her friend Loren who sadly passed away from cancer in 2017. She expressed that Loren was a pivotal part of her life and that there was never any problem Loren couldn't solve or didn't have a solution for. Outside of work, Bethany enjoys spending time with her children, going to Disney, and attending Steeler games. Her favorite movie is Sixteen Candles with Molly Ringwald and her favorite TV series is Greys Anatomy.



PRIDE Month

Guest Columnist: Gay Straight Alliance

The 2nd Annual Washington PA PRIDE Festival last June had over 2100 attendees and over 100 volunteers over five days of preparation, set up, PRIDE event, and clean up. We think this is a testament to the community we live in as well as the goodwill the Washington County Gay Straight Alliance, Inc. has created through the years. We have been a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit since 2012 and have served the community since 2005. We have provided programming, social opportunities, and resources to many over the years in a safe, confidential environment. We have grown our community outreach as well. Check out our website WCGSA.org for more information.

Our PRIDE Festival vendor area was full of health and wellness organizations and businesses that contribute to the well-being of the LGBTQA+ community which we serve. We hosted many nonprofit organizations at the event who shared their resources and great work in Washington County. Our event attracted families that felt safe and comfortable attending. We prioritized safety and are proud to say we were successful. This year we are collaborating with Washington & Jefferson College for a lawn game area that will be fun for all ages. The Wild Things organization is making their bounce house and playground area available for youth.

A move to the Washington Wild Things stadium/field will allow us to have more ready access to parking, restrooms, seating, security, and accessibility in general than our previous venue. We feel this will be a safe and welcoming space to celebrate.

Entertainment on stage will include many fabulous Drag Queen acts and Ballroom/Vogue performances. We are pleased to welcome back singer/songwriter/dancer Erica Perri for the second year. Our DJ and emcee for the day is A J Fresh. Also, back by popular demand will be the Drag Queen Dunk Tank!

Please join us in our celebration as a vendor, sponsor, donor, volunteer, and/or attendee. Applicable forms are on the www.washpapride.com website. Our organization has a place for everyone. If you have any questions, please contact us at prideinfo@washpapride.com or call 724-213-0096. We appreciate that you believe that all people should be treated equally and respectfully and have the opportunity to gather and celebrate in a safe environment. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on June 15th, noon to 6:00 p.m.

Kathy Cameron
WCGSA, Inc. Board Vice Chair/CENTER Director
Washington PA PRIDE Assistant Treasurer/Secretary
Member, Washington County Human Services Advisory Board

