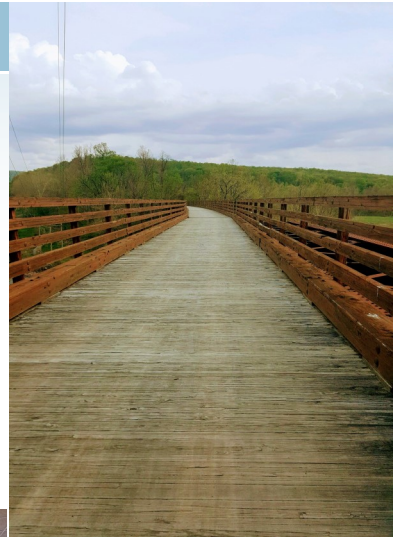


April 30, 2021  
Volume 7, Issue 5

Union Station Clubhouse

## Union Station Clubhouse Weekly

### Union Station Returns to Having Monthly Weekend External Social Outings



We finally starting attending outside activities and it made me feel good! We went bowling with fellow members and staff. The first game I got a 98 and the second game I got a 95. I enjoyed myself getting out for the first time in over a year, besides going with my Dad here and there. I look forward to doing the next activity.  
~Jesse B.

I had a good time Saturday we went bowling with my friends at the Yough Bowling Alley on 119. We had a blast and I'm glad we did. Can't wait to go back out again I want to say thank you to Ashley and Scott. I had a good time. I had stress as this was the first time we had been out since COVID and I hope that we will have more outings.

~Tammy G.



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Meeting Schedule on Zoom	
• Daily 8:30 AM Meeting	
• Daily 12:30 PM Meeting	
• Monday 2:00 PM House Meeting	
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## Current COVID-19 Information

### Pandemic-Specific Relief Programs

- ⇒ [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#)
- ⇒ [Unemployment Programs](#)
- ⇒ [Other Programs](#)

- ⇒ Federal Government Response: [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)
- ⇒ PA Department of Health Information <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- ⇒ Fayette County Fights COVID-19 Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206439277088716/>
- ⇒ Fayette Area Coronavirus Needs / Availability Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/211053520110419/>
- ⇒ Is it your turn for the COVID-19 Vaccine? <https://covidportal.health.pa.gov/s/Your-Turn>
- ⇒ Fayette County Individual COVID-19 Vaccination Registry: <https://www.fayettecountypa.org/795/Individual-Registration>
- ⇒ Clubhouse Calendars:
  - ⇒ [Public Events](#)
  - ⇒ [Stakeholder/Webinar](#)
  - ⇒ [Food Distributions](#)

### Standard of the Week:

9. Clubhouse staff are sufficient to engage the membership, yet few enough to make carrying out their responsibilities impossible without member involvement.

### Resources Compiled

As a part of the hybrid Work-Ordered Day of the Clubhouse. One of those tasks over the last year has been compiling a comprehensive list of resources for our community of in relations to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Also compiled was a listing of entertainment series such as tour series provided by our National Parks in the region and other virtual opportunities. For more information on all resources, visit: <http://unionstationclubhouse.com>

Use the "Links" and "COVID-19" Navigational Menus to get to different resources.

### Community Support Program Updates

- ⇒ Western Region CSP will be meeting virtually until further notice with the April meeting being held April 9, 2021 The Next one will be on May 14, 2021 and will be a general resource sharing session.
- ⇒ [Meeting Link](#)
  - ⇒ 888 788 0099 US Toll-free
  - ⇒ 877 853 5247 US Toll-free
  - ⇒ Meeting ID: 934 6249 8705
  - ⇒ Passcode: 948800
- ⇒ Our CSP, Partners for Recovery will be also meeting via Zoom until Further notice with the next meeting being held at 10:30 AM on Monday, May 24, 2021.
  - ⇒ [Meeting Link](#)
  - ⇒ Meeting ID: 836 6421 5963
  - ⇒ Passcode: 747703

### Beacon Health Options Member and Family Zoom Meetings

Beacon Health Options Prevention, Education, and Outreach Department invites you to join us on a Zoom meeting. The purpose of the call is to share information, updates and provide opportunities to net-work with other Beacon members and family members. The call will be hosted by Beacon's Prevention, Education and Outreach staff. We welcome Beacon members and families to join us. All calls are from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm every other Monday.

Dates of calls are:

⇒ May 10, 2021

To Join the Zoom Meeting [CLICK HERE](#)

If unable to join by the Zoom link above, please dial in on the specific date at 1:00pm EST 1-646-876-9923 to join by phone: Meeting ID: 963 6668 5245

Passcode: 773174



## Food Pantries Next Week

- ⇒ Uniontown Salvation Army, 32 West Fayette Street, Uniontown; Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM; Downtown, Southern and Western Neighborhoods of Uniontown.
- ⇒ Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church, 110 Searight Avenue, Uniontown; Tuesday, 12:00 Noon—4:00 PM; Lower East End of Uniontown
- ⇒ Connellsville Community Ministries, 110 W. Crawford Avenue, Connellsville; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM; Connellsville, South Connellsville and Connellsville Township
- ⇒ McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, 292 Springer Road, Uniontown; Wednesday 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM; McClellandtown and surrounding German Township Areas
- ⇒ YWBA, 624 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown; Wednesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM; South Union Township areas West of US 119
- ⇒ Indian Creek Valley @ Christian Service Center, 3330 Springfield Pike, Normalville; Wednesday, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM; Saltlick and Springfield Townships
- ⇒ Caring People @ Mountain Fellowship Center, 5034 National Pike, Markleysburg; Thursday 11:00 AM to Noon; Henry Clay, Stewart, Wharton Townships, Markleysburg and Ohiopyle

## This N' That Around The Area

- The Connellsville Area Garden Club is announcing how its geranium sale will be conducted this year. For many reasons — state mandates on outside gatherings, social distancing requirements, masking, and most importantly, to guarantee the safety of the club members and the community — the club will not be holding the geranium festival as a full-day event with vendors and entertainment. Geraniums will be sold following the same format used for last year's sale. It will be a drive-through event on May 29. Beginning April 18, you will be able to call or go online and pre-order/prepay for your geraniums so that everyone is guaranteed the amounts and colors they desire.
- Connellsville Church of God, 126 Breakneck Ave., will hold a flea market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 1. Tables are available at \$15 for the first and \$10 for each additional table. Call Denise at 724-628-0594.
- Otterbein United Methodist Church will have a rummage sale 8am. To 1p.m. May1. No one will be allowed in before 8 a.m., and everyone will be required to wear a mask. Also, for safety, there will be a barrier at the table where people will pay for purchases.
- World Christian Outreach Ministries, 109 East End Road, Connellsville, will hold a treasure sale from 8am.to 4 p.m. April 29 and 30 and May 1. Hot dogs will be sold. Masks are suggested.
- Albright United Methodist Church will sell 12-inch hoagies beginning at 8am.on May 1. Cost is \$8 each. They will be outside the church at 1626 S. Pittsburgh St. for curbside pickup, and they will be on Crawford Avenue.
- The Constance Ranson Native Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 8th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Sugarloaf Sledding Area in Ohiopyle State Park, Universal Masking and Social Distancing are required..

## Little Free Pantries

Little Free Pantries are available around the clock at the following locations

- ♦ Highlands Hospital, 401 E. Murphy Ave. Connellsville
- ♦ Connellsville Christian Church, 212 S. Pittsburgh St.
- ♦ Fayette Resources ATF, 1300 Connellsville Road, Lemont Furnace
- ♦ Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, 533 Royal Road. Smock
- ♦ Hutchinson Park Pavilion #4—Uniontown, PA\*
- ♦ Areford Park—Frankhoover Street, Uniontown PA\*
- ♦ Smithfield United Methodist Church—20 Church Street, Smithfield
- ♦ Tyrone Presbyterian Church—402 Jimtown Road, Dawson (Pavilion)

\* Denotes During Park Hours Only

These boxes operate under a take what you need, give what you can basis..

For more information on the Little Free Pantry Movement, visit: <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

**You may be able to sign up for SNAP.**

We can help you apply today!

Visit [pittsburghfoodbank.org](https://pittsburghfoodbank.org)  
Call 1-833-822-SNAP (7627)

Take a photo of this QR code with your smartphone to go to our website. Text "SNAP" to 412-435-4446

### Why sign up for SNAP?

- SNAP creates income for stores that accept it.
- SNAP dollars keep truck drivers, farmers and food packagers employed.
- You can buy groceries online with SNAP.

### SNAP Income Guidelines

Age 59 and Under	
Household Size	Monthly Gross Income*
1	\$1,702
2	\$2,299
Add \$598 per household member	

Disabled and Age 60 and Over	
Household Size	Monthly Gross Income*
1	\$2,128
2	\$2,874
Add \$748 per household member	

\*Gross income is gross pay before deductions and taxes cut.



Greater Pittsburgh **community food bank**  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

## Getting Help With Food

- ⇒ Find a Food Pantry (PA.gov)<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/about/Ending-Hunger/Pages/Food-Pantries.aspx>
- ⇒ Fayette County Community Action is modifying some Food Pantry Operations due to the Coronavirus
- ⇒ Website: <http://fccaa.org/>
- ⇒ Facebook (Most Current): <https://www.facebook.com/FCCAA.org/>
- ⇒ Our Map of Food Pantries in Fayette County / Other Grocery Resources <http://corona-virus.unionstationclubhouse.com/resources/grocery.html>
- ⇒ Honey's Helping Hand Mondays and Thursdays at Biererwood Acres at 1pm! Curbside service!  
Info: <https://www.facebook.com/Honeys-helping-hand-108365237359113>
- ⇒ Uniontown Salvation Army has a Pickup Soup Kitchen daily at the Service Center on Fayette Street from 11 AM to Noon During the Week.
- ⇒ Christian Church of Connellsville holds free community lunches from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday. It is takeout only.
- ⇒ Trinity United Presbyterian Church has a food pantry open solely to residents of Uniontown with proper verification of ID. Food is dispersed in relation to the number of people in the household. You will be asked to provide the number of adults and the number of children. The food comes in pre-packaged grocery bags. The Food Pantry pickup is located in the front narthex. Enter through the front doors on Morgantown or Fayette Street. Pickup is the second and last Mondays of the month at NOON.
- ⇒ Albright United Methodist Church, 1626 Pittsburgh Street, South Connellsville, will hold its monthly luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 29.
- ⇒ Takeout and limited seating available. Donations are accepted but not necessary.
- ⇒ FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Fresh Fire Church located at 171 Connellsville Street In Uniontown will hold a food distribution THURSDAY MAY 13th and THURSDAY MAY 27th from 10am-12pm or until we are out of food. We plan to serve over 1,080 families. This is a drive-thru distribution. Please have your trunk open or back seat unlocked and have space available for the food to be placed in your car. This is a contactless distribution, we cannot rearrange items in your vehicle for the food in an effort to protect our volunteers and you.
- ⇒ The next free soup distribution at Indian Head Church of God, 691 Indian Creek Valley Road, Indian Head, will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 1. Soup will be packaged cold in containers and distributed via drive-through while supplies last. Everyone is welcome.

Focus on: Fayette County Advocacy Network: Fayette County GSA

**The Fayette County GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) is a network of people dedicated to providing a safe environment for LGBTQIA+ residents of Fayette County. Meetings are on hold at the present moment, however feel free to visit their social media channels on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)**

## Ohiopyle, DCNR land swap complete

HARRISBURG – A land swap between Ohiopyle borough and the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is complete, state Rep. Matthew Dowling (4R-51st) said Friday.

Under Act 60 of 2020, the state was authorized to convey land it owned in Ohiopyle borough in exchange for borough land.

The swap will provide additional water access for DCNR and the state park, Dowling said in a press release.

It will provide developable property for Ohiopyle borough, which could lead to a future revenue stream, he said.

The property conveyance would also allow the borough additional room to update an adjacent sewage-treatment plant, should it become

necessary.

Dowling said residents — as well as anyone who chooses to visit the state park — benefit by gaining additional, high-quality recreational opportunities.

"Through the continued partnership between the borough of Ohiopyle and the DCNR, this land exchange will enable Ohiopyle to increase its community base footprint, thus stabilizing and securing the heritage and culture of its citizens, which makes Ohiopyle special," Ohiopyle borough Councilman Conrad Hamather said. "This is a logical step in the planning and continuation of the borough into the future for new generations to share the rich natural capitals afforded to its stakeholders."

The land swap was completed in mid-April.

## Webinars / Stakeholder Meetings

⇒ [\*\*The Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children \(WIC\)\*\*](#)

**Date: Thursday, May 11, 2021**

**Time: 10:00am - 12:00 Noon**

The May 11, 2021 webinar will be on The Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children (WIC). WIC has improved the nutrition and health of families in Pennsylvania since 1974 by providing nutrition services, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals, and healthy foods. Through WIC, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of infants and young children learn about good nutrition to keep themselves and their families healthy! Please join us to learn about the WIC Program, the eligibility criteria, and how to apply.

## Member Spotlight: Krysta C.

Krysta has been a member for almost five years and likes to be with her friends and working along with them everyday. At Clubhouse, she has learned a lot including how to live on her own. All the skills that Krysta has learned at the Clubhouse has helped her get where she is today with the goal to keep getting things done as she needs them in life.

## Refund, Rebates and Economic Impact Payment Trackers

- [IRS Where's My Refund?](#)
- [IRS Get My \(Economic Impact\) Payment](#)
- [Where's My PA Personal Income Tax Refund?](#)
- [Where's My PA Property Tax/Rent Rebate?](#)

## Celebrate Trails Day Observed, Spring Clean-Ups Observed.

[Celebrate Trails Day](#) (formerly Opening Day for Trails) is an annual celebration of rail trails organized by the [Rails to Trails Conservancy](#) to be held on the third Saturday in April (April 24th, 2021).

This year, the dedication of the new Sheepskin Trail Picnic Park took place along the South Union Township section between the Township Drive and Redstone Furnace Rd.

Along with several Creekside picnic tables, the dedication included the celebration of a custom bike-themed stained glass art installation.

Also with it being Earth Day the Junior Rotarians of Uniontown High School with assistance of the Uniontown Rotary Club assisted in the trash removal on the Rotary Walk in Downtown Union-



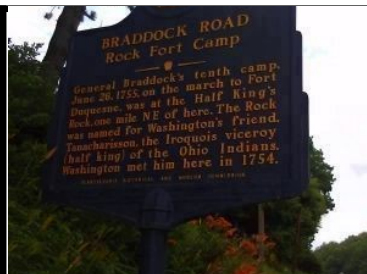
town and South Union Township as part of the City of Uniontown City-Wide Spring Clean up event. The latter was held in conjunction with the Fayette County Hard-To-Recycle Event that was held at its new location the Convenience Recycling Center, formerly known as the Goodwill Recycling Center.

## Fayette County State Historical Marker of the Week

### Braddock Road (Rock Fort Camp)

This marker, dedicated on Tuesday, June 17, 1952 by the PMHC is located at the intersection of US 40 atop Summit Mountain at the Jumonville Road (SR 2021) at the Jumonville Camp and retreat center in North Union Township. It states the following:

"General Braddock's tenth camp, June 26, 1755, on the march to Fort Duquesne, was at the Half King's Rock, one mile NE of here. The Rock was named for Washington's friend Tanacharisson, the Iroquois viceroy (half king) of the Ohio Indians. Washington met him here in 1754. "



## VOLUNTEERS PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN CONQUERING COVID-19

**Uniontown, PA** – Retirees. Health care workers. Members of a religious community. They come from diverse backgrounds, but these volunteers and many others are united in a common cause: to do what they can, in whatever way they can, to mitigate the spread of one of the deadliest viruses in history.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the chief health concern across the nation for more than a year, but the advent of vaccines could mean the end of the battle against this deadly virus is near. Now, the focus is on getting those vaccines to the public in a quick and efficient manner.

The Fayette County Vaccine Taskforce has stepped up to organize those efforts locally, working to help residents receive shots as soon as possible.

Volunteers have been a crucial part of this stage of the battle, whether they are manning call centers to schedule vaccination appointments or coming out of retirement to help administer shots.

"They are completely important," said Highlands Hospital Director of Pharmacy Matthew Mascia during a vaccine clinic at Pleasant Valley Masonic Center in Bullskin Township in March. "Without the volunteers, it doesn't work. Right now, the hospital is not staffed to do this kind of extra outreach. We absolutely rely on all of the volunteers. There are five of us from the hospital here today. The rest are all people who decided to come help us and volunteer their time. It really is the volunteers putting the long days in."

Among those volunteers was Robin Brooks, a retired registered nurse "It's important that everyone gets the vaccine, and I had time now that I'm retired," Brooks said. "It's important that we do this, that we try to help get this virus under control."

Highlands Hospital Pharmacy Coordinator Jodie Menear said helping out at vaccine clinics is sometimes part of her job, but at other times, she turns up to volunteer.

"I think this is really helping to control

this pandemic," she said. "I feel like I'm really helping every time. It's important."

Still other volunteers, like Mary Saylor, are private citizens who just want to do something.

"My granddaughter is a nurse, and she asked me if I'd volunteer," Saylor said, adding that she also volunteers with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and "anybody else that needs it."

Sonna Domer and Bernee Coffin are two of the volunteers working the call center at the WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital clinic held in the former Burlington Coat Factory space in the Uniontown Mall.

Domer is a member of Spring Valley, a Bruderhof community in Farmington. She said she is one of five members of the community who turned out to help.

Domer said she enjoys volunteering, and in the case of the pandemic, doing so was an easy choice.

"People are dying," she said. "Five hundred and fifty thousand people are dying."

Domer said manning the phones at the call center and hearing people's stories has given her insight into their pain, their grief, and their day-to-day struggles.

"People are losing their families, not to mention their jobs," she said.

"They are having to homeschool and teach their kids at home."

Coffin said she also does volunteer work at a hospital and a senior center and is helping out at the clinic and call center "however I can, with the phone lines or disinfecting or whatever they need me for."

Coffin said the work she and the other volunteers is doing is "very important. It's vital to this whole thing."

County officials and their staff members also have been involved in the volunteer effort. Officials and staffers from the county commissioners' offices, as well as the offices of state senators and representatives, have manned the phones, done paperwork, or helped keep the vaccine clinics clean and sterile – whatever

was needed.

Many around the area felt they owed volunteers a debt of gratitude – and a few rewards. Numerous local businesses and private individuals donated toward the volunteer effort, some providing meals and snacks, and others donating funds to pay for those meals and other items the volunteers may need.

Among the donors was Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. Communication specialist Corrine Brewer said the company recently partnered with the Leadership Washington County program for its Feed the Fight Campaign.

"We were given kind of an opportunity to do the same thing in Fayette County," she said. "We connected with the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, and they offered up the vaccine clinic as a way to use some of those funds."

The funds went toward providing meals for volunteers staffing the vaccine clinic. Brewer said the company's local employees really like to get involved and help the community, something they haven't been able to do in person because of the virus. So, they were more than happy to do something to benefit the volunteers.

"The volunteers helping with the vaccine clinic, the frontline workers, the nurses – they're all vital to helping everything get back to normal," Brewer said.

Chip Giannetti of Phil Giannetti Motors in Brownsville was inspired to do something to thank volunteers as well.

"I was so overwhelmed by the organization and the process that it was just fantastic," he said. "It made me proud to be from Fayette County."

So, Giannetti provided doughnuts for the volunteers as a token of his support.

"I didn't know what else to do," he said. "I'm not used to Fayette County knocking it out of the ballpark like that, and they definitely did. It's a really, really sweet thing to be able to participate in."

## Yard Sales

- ⇒ Connellsville Community Yard Sale (Including South Connellsville Borough )(May 1)
- ⇒ Masontown Community Yard Sale, (May 15)
- ⇒ National Road Yard Sales (May 21-23)
- ⇒ Union Station Clubhouse Yard Sale (May 22)

## Goal Achieved!!! And Not Stopping!!!

This past week has been a busy week with me continuing to walk the Youghiogheny River Trail North (YRT-N), which is a part of the larger Great Allegheny Passage that links Pittsburgh through Connellsville to Cumberland, where if one wishes they can connect to the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal Towpath, a National Historical Towpath to Washington D.C. There are also plans to go beyond Pittsburgh to points North (Erie) and West (Ohio), in part making it part of the USA Rail Trail.

This week's weather has had its ups and downs. We had breaks for two days at one time and one day in between due to rain, however we went at least a mile and a half every day getting to that fourth set of benches.

As I mentioned last week I had made it as far as a rockslide, and I continued to do that late last week, however, I saw a FIFTH set of benches not too far in the distance. This past weekend we went to those benches where a Old Mile Marker saying it was 57 miles to Pittsburgh via the former Pittsburgh and Lake Erie (P&LE) railroad that the trail surface is on one track today. The other track is for horseback riders and they can ride all the way to "little" Boston near McKeesport in Allegheny County.

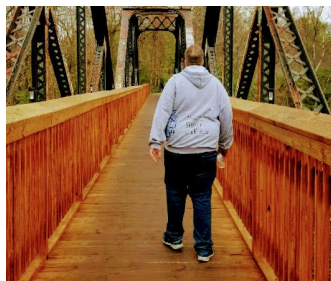
Meanwhile, while sitting at this bench, I notice that the West Yough Bridge Scenic Overlook is not too far in the distance. After contem-

plating for a moment, we decide that we would venture the 1 tenth or so of a mile to the bridge, which was nice. Some improvements were made since our visit last fall, but one has to remember that I had gained thirty pounds since that visit and have lost almost twenty of that or so.

I have experienced weight gain at my worst. It got to points I couldn't get through Walmart without being out of breath. I could hardly stand up for long periods of time. I would worry if I could make it through a fire drill at work if one occurred there a day I am there and be able to stand through the evacuation process.

It has been a month almost to the day that we planned this goal to get to this point of the trail. My mother was excited too. Because we encourage each other, although she claims I encourage her more than she encourages me. Its just getting there and heading down the trail that is the hardest part of it all . On the day I reached the bridge for the first time, I didn't dream of making it past the third bench. Surprises come in little ways.

~Dustin M.



On the Bridge Sporting my Union Station Hoodie Active Members got for Christmas

## FAYETTE VACCINE TASKFORCE MARKS PROGRESS, ANNOUNCES NEW GOALS

Uniontown, PA – The Fayette County COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce has made significant progress with its homebound vaccination initiative, since launching only weeks ago.

Created with guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention, the new system allows the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency, as well as various EMS partner providers and WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital, to provide homebound residents with vaccinations.

A homebound resident is defined as someone who is unable to leave their home due to illness.

EMS will travel to residents' locations to administer both first and second doses of secured Moderna vaccine via appointment, vastly expanding the county's successful vaccination program.

Task Force Co-chair Muriel Nuttall said there are already more than 100 residents on the homebound vaccination list, and members are in the process of identifying more.

"We're trying to make our appointment list as comprehensive and complete as possible, before we begin administering any homebound vaccinations," Nuttall said.

Those who are homebound, or caregivers of homebound residents, are encouraged to call the Fayette County Vaccine Scheduling Center at 724-430-3900; or register the individual at [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

Once on the website, select the yellow COVID-19 tab and "Individual Registration" from the dropdown menu. On the registration form, there is now

an option to select if you are homebound.

After providing the entity with all necessary information, the Fayette County COVID-19 Taskforce will then contact you to schedule your appointment.

Additionally, if you are physically able to travel but do not have transportation, you may contact the Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation (FACT) office to arrange for transportation to one of the county task force clinics. Call FACT at 724-628-7433 for more information, as the cost of transportation can be covered in many cases.

Please note that there is no charge for the vaccine.

Earlier this month, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf announced all Pennsylvania adults would be eligible to schedule appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine beginning April 13. The state decision mirrored a federal decision to accelerate the vaccination timetable for citizens in Phases 1B, 1C and 2.

As a result, the Fayette County COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce has set a new goal of vaccinating all county residents who wish to receive the vaccine by May 31.

The task force's partner providers have updated their clinical schedules to now include after-hours appointments. Additionally, the task force will specifically target the working population and younger people, ages 16 to 18, encouraging them to get vaccinated.

For more information about the Fayette County COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce, its homebound initiative or latest eligibility expansion details, visit [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

## Beacon Health Options Continues Virtual Training with New Series

With the COVID-10 Pandemic still on the horizon, Beacon Health Options has decided again this year have another Virtual Training Series. The Prevention, Education and Outreach (P,E, & O) department of Beacon gathered input from Adult and Family Members throughout the 12- county Pennsylvania Service area. Our very own Dustin M. has been asked to serve on the Adult Planning Committee. Between the Adult and Family Committees along with a committee from the Northwest Three Partnership (Adults and Families from Crawford, Mercer, and Venango Counties). There are over a dozen of trainings planned, although some are geared for youth and families, while some are for adult members and some are for all audiences.

Confirmed Upcoming Trainings include:

- Tuesday, May 4, 2021 @ 2:00 PM—Complaints, Grievances & Member Rights  
[Registration Link](#)
- May 18, 2021 @ 2:00 PM—Ride the Wave with Gab Bonesso  
[Registration Link](#)
- Tuesday, June 1, 2021 @ 2:00 PM: - Mental Health Crisis Management (Part 1): Recognizing Warning Signs & Offering Support  
[Registration Link](#)
- Tuesday, June 15, 2021 @ 1:00 PM—Pregnancy and Medications  
[Registration Link](#)
- Tuesday, June 29, 2021 @ 1:00 PM—"The Impact of Bullying Throughout the Lifespan: Facts, Figures and Coping Strategies"  
[Registration Link](#)
- Tuesday, July 27, 2021 @ 2:00 PM; "Mental Health Crisis Management (Part 2): Triaging Risk & De-Escalation Skills"  
[Registration Link](#)
- Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 1:00 PM: "What the heck is Spirituality and what does it have to do with Mental Health?"  
[Registration Link](#)

Beacon Health Options is the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization (BH-MCO) for Health Choices and Community Health Choices Members in Fayette and 11 other Western Pennsylvania counties. For more information or to contact Beacon, dial their 24/7/365 Member Hotline at 1-877-688-5972.



## Stefano, Dowling: Grants awarded to enhance area recreation

Two municipalities in the 32nd Senatorial district have been awarded a total of \$304,900 in state funding for projects to enhance recreational opportunities for area residents, according to state Sen. Pat Stefano (R-32) and state Rep. Matt Dowling (R-51). The grants were awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority under its Trails and Recreation Program.

"These projects are crucial to showcasing our natural resources and providing area residents with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors," Stefano said. "I'm pleased that this funding will help to improve the quality of life for area residents."

"It's exciting to see two worthy municipalities at opposite ends of the county receive this funding to stimulate recreation," said Dowling.

"These local parks are so meaningful to our communities here in Fayette County. Comfort in recreation leads to a better sense of overall wellness and well-being; an investment in recreation is an investment in better health. I'm proud to see that this funding will come to benefit both German and Wharton townships."

German Township received a \$225,000 grant to construct Phase 1 of a municipal park at 208 Edenborn Road, several miles from the Browns Run Trail along the Monongahela River.

The construction will include site preparation, construction of sidewalks, installation of picnic tables and playground equipment, and fencing for the neighborhood park, which will be particularly targeted to toddlers and younger children.

"Combined with the Brown's Run Trail, the County's German Masontown Park, and the proposed neighborhood park, this region will be greatly served by an abundant amount of recreational opportunities," Stefano said.

Wharton Township in Philipsburg received \$79,900 to construct additional restroom facilities at the Municipal Park located on Elliottsville Road just behind the Municipal Complex Building.

Regarding the awards, Stefano and Dowling noted that the park currently has one compost restroom facility, but with the high demand of users and organized sporting activities and events at the park, another permanent facility is needed to accommodate demand.

The grants were awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority under its Watershed and Restoration Program and Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program. The program is funded with money assessed by the Commonwealth through the state's Impact Fee, which is paid by the state's unconventional natural gas producers.

## FAYETTE COUNTY MARKING BROADBAND PROJECT EXPANSION

**Uniontown, PA** – Fayette County officials celebrated their latest broadband infrastructure expansion with a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday morning.

Last year, county commissioners Dave Lohr, Chairman; Vince Vicites and Scott Dunn utilized a portion of the county's allotted CARES Act federal funding to expand WiFi Internet capabilities along the state Route 40 corridor. "CARES" stands for Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security.

The work, completed in December by Vitalink LLC of Markleysburg, was part of a Design Build Broadband Deployment contract focused on installing broadband "hotspots" countywide.

Since its completion, the project has had a major impact on citizens, businesses and visitors, by making the internet more easily accessible to those in our many rural areas. Signage is currently being installed countywide, designating the broadband hotspots.

Hosted by the Fayette Chamber of Commerce and Fayette County Board of Commissioners, the project ribbon cutting took place at the Canaan Church of the Brethren in Gibbon Glade. Local, state and federal legislators were represented during the event.

The once-remote church, located in a rural portion of Wharton Township, is now so well-connected that it attracts internet users from far and wide to its hotspot. One such user, Christal Burnsworth, spent several months making daily trips to the church, seeking connectivity.

"Our schooling has been greatly impacted by the pandemic," Burnsworth said. "We did several months of remote and virtual learning due to COVID."

Affectionately referred to as "Miss B" by her students at Kingwood Elementary School in Kingwood, W. Va., Burnsworth is a kindergarten teaching assistant who resides in Gibbon Glade. She is also an academic instructor for the school's After School Explorers Program (ASE), which has been virtual for the past year due to the pandemic.

"I didn't have reliable internet access at all, and I was told the county had put a

hotspot in the Gibbon Glade area, at the church. Thanks to that, I was able to drive just a short distance to get reliable internet," Burnsworth said. "This allowed me to teach online and help students for a few hours in the evening. These were students who were falling behind due to the pandemic; really struggling with remote learning and needing the one-on-one interaction."

Burnsworth's success with the broadband hotspot eventually led her to contract with Vitalink LLC as her home internet provider. "I can now teach from home with no issues, and the service has been stellar," she said. "I cannot thank the county and Vitalink enough for making it possible to reach out to students and help where the need was so great. I hope many others are enjoying it as much as my family has."

Commissioner Dunn said expanding Fayette County's broadband infrastructure is important for so much more than just the educational opportunities it creates for our students.

"Our outlying communities will be able to have the same opportunities as our urban centers, creating equality in education, business and residential development," Dunn said. "I pledge to continue to expand this infrastructure as money becomes available."

Commissioner Vicites said the ribbon cutting signifies that the county's initial efforts to expand its broadband infrastructure have become a reality.

"We spent our CARES Act money very effectively by expanding broadband, and now we're ready to take it to the next level in the future. Our ultimate goal is to offer connectivity to every household, school, medical facility and business that wants it," Vicites said. "This is the infrastructure of the future, and we don't want to miss that opportunity, because funding is finally available to complete these important upgrades across Fayette County." Vicites said Fayette is already at the cusp of being much further ahead in its broadband development than other rural counties across Pennsylvania and nationwide. "Our efforts as county commissioners have allowed us to seize this opportunity and

position Fayette County for many economic development opportunities that haven't existed in the past," he said. "Not only are we laying the groundwork for new infrastructure, but we can increase the connectivity and speeds of existing broadband through deployment of this activity."

Commissioner Chairman Lohr said he's "excited beyond words" to see a project he's been working toward for "quite some time" come to fruition.

"While broadband access is something that so many people take for granted, here in Fayette County, there are vast regions with little or no access. The barriers that presents really came to the forefront through COVID, as people were needing to work or attend school remotely," Lohr said. "But how do you do that effectively when you don't have reliable broadband?" Lohr said the project opened the door to future development and connectivity to even more industries, such as medical, psychological and social services, as well as churches.

"It also let our citizens stay connected with family and friends. Those living in outlying communities will have the access to goods and services that everyone with reliable broadband takes for granted," he said.

"Although some of our more remote regions are attractive to companies looking to do business in Fayette County, no modern business entity is likely to come here without reliable broadband access. Development is good for those communities because with it comes job opportunities, as well as new residents and their families. When we increase our tax base, everyone benefits."

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

*We have created a map and webpage of these hotspots on our website:*  
[https://  
www.unionstationclubhouse.com/  
broadband-expansion-wi-fi-hotspots](https://www.unionstationclubhouse.com/broadband-expansion-wi-fi-hotspots)

## Department Of Health Updates Mask Guidance Following CDC Announcement

**Harrisburg, PA** - Department of Health Acting Secretary Alison Beam announced that the department has updated its mask guidance to reflect the announcement made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) earlier today.

"Today's CDC announcement allows those who are fully vaccinated the opportunity to spend time outdoors, in some situations, without wearing a mask," Acting Secretary Beam said. "This is both welcomed and exciting news for individuals who are fully vaccinated and are at a significantly lower risk to serious illness from COVID-19. However, those who are not vaccinated will still need to wear a mask in most situations, and those who are fully vaccinated should still wear a mask when in crowded spaces."

The CDC provided information today about activities that fully vaccinated people can do, including:

- Visiting with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visiting with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Participating in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, except in certain crowded settings and venues.
- Resuming domestic travel and refraining from testing before or after travel, or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refraining from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refraining from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refraining from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings.

- Refraining from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

● **Refraining from routine COVID-19 testing** if asymptomatic and if feasible. However, for now, fully vaccinated people are still advised to continue to:

- Take precautions like wearing a well-fitted mask in indoor public settings.
- Wear masks that fit snugly when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- Wear well-fitted masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people from multiple households.
- Avoid indoor large-sized, in-person gatherings.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers.
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations. Additional guidance for those who are fully vaccinated is available on the [CDC website](#).

"Today's announcement underscores the importance of getting vaccinated to protect yourself from COVID-19," said Acting Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson. "It is important that people who have compromised immune systems consult with their physician as to whether they may need to continue to wear a mask in some of these situations."

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's [masking order from March 2021](#) incorporates CDC masking guidance for fully vaccinated individuals, including this guidance.

Dealing with losing a loved one effects me really, really bad because I was very close to them. I grew up with them and I would always see them everyday and spend time with them all the time. I sure do miss them each and everyday and I wish they were here with me.

~Krysta C.

I started working with the day time janitorial crew at Goodwill on April 7, 2021. I love working and I enjoy everything I do. I like working with people who are kind, have faith in you, and are always there to help you when ever you need them.

~Krysta C.

## Library Statuses

⇒ **Brownsville Free Public Library** is open for curbside services. Request books, get your faxes and copies as well. Monday & Tuesday 9am-2:30, Wednesday 10-5, Thursday & Friday 10-2:30

⇒ At the **Carnegie Free Library of Connellsville** Appointments are required for curbside service to pick up or return loaned materials, as well as for computer use. Call 724-628-1380 for an appointment. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday, and 2-4 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday. Patrons can request materials by phone or online at [www.waggin.org](#). Computer use is limited to 1 hour. Printing is available. Cost is 25 cents per printed side for B/W and \$1.00 per side for color. Only cash will be accepted, and only exact change at this time. Reference assistance is available by calling 724-628-1380. Guidelines from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the CDC will be enforced. Masks must be worn and social distancing followed by anyone inside the library.

⇒ The **Dunbar Community Library** will be open to patrons beginning Tuesday February 2nd. We encourage patrons to please call before coming. All CDC guidelines currently in place must be followed. Revised hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

⇒ At the **German-Masontown Public Library** You may come inside to use the computer or browse for your books. 15 minute time limit. CURBSIDE PLAN beginning Jan. 4th: Curbside hours: M-T-W-TH 10am-4pm Items may be returned to our drop box (located outside front door).

⇒ The **Frazier Community Library** lobby remain s open to the public only on Wednesdays from 5-7 PM and on Saturdays from 10-11:30 AM. Books must be ordered through e-mail and phone to the library.

⇒ The **Point Marion Public Library** will be open Monday through Thursday from 5pm to 8 pm. The library will continue limiting per person computer usage during library hours. One person can use the computer for a limit of one hour. Please call the library at 724-725-9553 to schedule your computer time. Patrons are allowed in the library to check out books during those hours also. MASKS must be worn at all times. The library's book collection index can be found on the web page for your convenience. Books can be returned to the drop box during the hours the library is closed. Books have a 4 day sanitizing period before being checked out again

⇒ **Republic Community Library** remains Closed

⇒ The **Smithfield Public Library** will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-5 PM

⇒ The **Uniontown Public Library** OPEN during the week from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM for browsing and computer use. Due to limited occupancy, call: 724-437-1165 or write: [upl@uniontownlib.org](mailto:upl@uniontownlib.org) to schedule a time to visit. Curbside Pickup is still available. Reserve your items and schedule a pick up time

## Recipe Corner

### Help with Applying for SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) better known by its former name of Food Stamps, helps individual and families make ends meet. More Information on SNAP is available. Call the Fayette County Community Action Agency for help applying. 724-430-6452

### Apple Cake

- ⇒ 3 Large Eggs
- ⇒ 2 Cups Sugar
- ⇒ 1 Cup Oil
- ⇒ 1 Tsp. Vanilla
- ⇒ 1 Tsp. Salt
- ⇒ 1 Tsp. Baking Soda
- ⇒ 1 Tsp. Cinnamon
- ⇒ 3 Cups Flour
- ⇒ 4-5 Medium Sliced apples
- ⇒ 1/2 Cup nuts, optional

Mix Ingredients & Bake in loaf pan for 1 hour at 345 degrees.

~The Late Bertha M. submitted by Chum D.

### Cookies 'n' cream cheesecake bar

#### INGREDIENTS

- ⇒ 2 x 150g pkts Oreo Classic biscuits
- ⇒ 70g unsalted butter, melted
- ⇒ 2 tablespoons boiling water
- ⇒ 1 tablespoon gelatin powder
- ⇒ 500g cream cheese, at room temperature
- ⇒ 155g (3/4 cup) caster sugar
- ⇒ 125ml (1/2 cup) thickened cream
- ⇒ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

#### CHOCOLATE GANACHE

- ⇒ 100g dark cooking chocolate, finely chopped
- ⇒ 60ml (1/4 cup) thickened cream.

#### METHOD

##### Step 1

Line a straight-sided 7cm-deep, 9.5 x 19.5cm (base measurement) loaf pan with baking paper, allowing 2 long sides to overhang.

##### Step 2

Process half the biscuits in a food processor until finely crushed. Add the butter and process until well combined. Spread the biscuit mixture firmly over the base of the pan. Chill for 30 minutes or until firm.

##### Step 3

Meanwhile, place water in a heat-proof bowl. Sprinkle with gelatin. Place bowl in a larger bowl half-filled with boiling water. Set aside, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until gelatin dissolves. Cool slightly.

##### Step 4

Process cream cheese, sugar, cream and vanilla in a food processor until smooth. Add the gelatin mixture. Process to combine. Pour into a bowl. Quarter remaining biscuits. Stir into cheese mixture. Pour into pan. Smooth surface. Chill for 6 hours or until set. Transfer to a plate.

##### Step 5

For ganache, place chocolate in a heatproof bowl. Bring cream almost to the boil in a small saucepan over medium-low heat. Pour the cream over the chocolate. Set aside for 5 minutes, then stir until smooth. Set aside for 10 minutes to cool slightly.

##### Step 6

Pour the ganache over the cheesecake..  
~Jesse B.,





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#### NEED HELP ??

- ⇒ Fayette County Crisis Line  
724-437-1003
- ⇒ National Suicide Prevention  
Lifeline  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
Veterans Press 1
- ⇒ Crisis Text Line: Text "PA" to  
741-741
- ⇒ Disaster Distress Helpline:  
1-800-985-5990
- ⇒ Get Help Now Hotline (for  
substance use disorders):  
1-800-662-4357
- ⇒ Pennsylvania Sexual Assault  
Helpline – 1-888-772-7227
- ⇒ National Domestic Violence  
Helpline – 1-800-799-7233
- ⇒ Persevere PA (COVID-19 Crisis  
Counseling Program) - 1-855-  
284-2494

More Helplines are at:

[http://  
www.unionstationclubhouse.com/  
hotlines.html](http://www.unionstationclubhouse.com/hotlines.html)



<http://goodwillswpa.org>

Union Station Clubhouse presents

## Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, May 22, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Union Station Clubhouse (off Main St., near Fay-Penn Business Center)  
100 Corporate Crossing Rd.  
Uniontown, PA 15401



Housewares, clothing, yard items, toys, furniture and so much more! Stop by Saturday, May 22 to see what treasures you can find.

Have extra items you don't need anymore? Donations for our yard sale will be accepted until May 21, 2021. Assistance is available to pick up items in the surrounding area. *Sorry, we cannot accept TVs or refrigerators.*

**For more information, contact us at 724-439-9311.**

*Proceeds from the yard sale benefit the Union Station Clubhouse's Member Education & Recreation Fund.*

*To find out about the Union Station Clubhouse, a program of Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, please visit [www.unionstationclubhouse.com](http://www.unionstationclubhouse.com).*



Union  
Station  
Clubhouse



*We take safety seriously. Read  
about our approach to COVID-19  
at: [www.goodwillswpa.org/covid19](http://www.goodwillswpa.org/covid19)*

### Online Support Groups Offered During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- ⇒ Several NAMI Affiliates in Pennsylvania offer  
Virtual Support Groups, mostly through  
ZOOM, including
  - ⇒ NAMI Bucks County, PA  
<https://namibuckswpa.org/>
  - ⇒ NAMI Philadelphia  
<https://namiphilly.org/>
- ⇒ PMHCA Virtual Drop In's  
[https://pmhca.wildapricot.org/resources/  
Documents/Virtual%20Drop-Ins%20\(w.%  
20Meeting%20Info\)%20\(1\).pdf](https://pmhca.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Virtual%20Drop-Ins%20(w.%20Meeting%20Info)%20(1).pdf)

### NAMI Fayette Online Support Groups Offered During the COVID- 19 Pandemic via Zoom

- General Support Group—Tues. 1-2:30p for  
anyone filling effects of COVID-19  
[Zoom Link](#) or 646-558-8656, meeting id 310  
563 489 audio only
- Family Members support group Weds. 2p-  
3:30p  
[Zoom Link](#) or 646-558-8656 for audio  
meeting ID 849 897 305
- Individuals/Peer Support Group Thurs. 6p-  
7:30p  
[Zoom Link](#) or call 648-558-8656 meeting id  
984 334 883

