

December 2024



CHAMBER CHATTER

The Official Newsletter of the
Greene County Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (724) 627-5926
Email: info@greenechamber.org
www.greenechamber.org



86th Annual Christmas Parade





Parade
Underwritten by: **WestPenn[®] Power**
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CHRISTMAS PARADE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 86th Annual Downtown Waynesburg Christmas Parade. The execution of the Parade was underwritten by West Penn Power, a FirstEnergy Company.

Ninety-One entries were registered representing schools, churches, civic organizations, and businesses from all over the county.

Winners of the Float Entry Competitions are as follows:

First Place Float – First Baptist Church of Waynesburg

Second Place Float – Rain Day Festival/Special Events Commission

Third Place Float – Girl Scout Troop #80012

Best Design – Corner Cupboard Food Bank

Most Spirit – Oak View Methodist Church

Most Original – Waynesburg VFW Auxillary

Waynesburg University's CCTV Department of Communications videotaped, narrated, and edited the parade for broadcast online. The Department is under the direction of Department Chair, Dr. Richard Krause.

** Photographs are available at www.greenechamber.org
Please feel free to use any that you would like.



The Greene County Chamber of Commerce would also like to thank all those businesses and individuals who helped to make this year's parade a success and officially welcomed Santa and Mrs. Claus downtown to kick-off the Holiday Season in Greene County.

Corporate Sponsor – West Penn Power, a First Energy Company
Waynesburg Borough Street Crew and Manager Bryan Cumberledge
Waynesburg Borough and Manager – Athena Bowman
Waynesburg Borough Police Force and Chief Bill Nichols
Greene County Emergency Management and Richard Policz
Greene County Sheriff's Department and Greene County Sherriff Marcus Simms
Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Jeff Marshall
WCTV - Waynesburg University's Department of Communication – Richard Krause
County of Greene – Jeff Marshall
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Marklee Mae Beal – National Anthem vocalist
R&D Watters Enterprises, Inc.
Rocky Ridge Acres - Fred Kiger
First Baptist Church and The Way
First United Methodist Church
Law Office of Hook & Hook
Masontown Trophy
Doug Wilson
DJ Jason Forbes
Waynesburg Central High School FFA
Waynesburg FFA Alumni
David Durbin and Rebecca Cole – Saint Nick and the Missus
Wayne Hart, Jeff McCracken, Randy Durr – Parade Judges
Jeanine Henry – Parade Photographer
Renee Jones – Office Help
Kristy, Nathan, & Paige Borovichka
PA Army National Guard – Sargent Ben Jones

And volunteers who donated their time to line and disband the parade:

David Mason	Alex Shultz	Jeff Cogar
Kathy McClure	Miranda Chapman	Dave Calvario
Brody Varner	Elizabeth Menhart	MaChal Forbes
Johnna Calvert	Christine Arnold	Sandy Throckmorton

Thank you!

Greene County Chamber of Commerce "Business, Boots, & Blue Jeans" 36th Annual Membership Banquet

A delightful meal was served to 150 guests, featuring What's Smokin' BBQ, accompanied by desserts from Canonsburg Cake Company, and beverages from Thistlethwaite Vineyards and Wendy's. C&T Acoustics provided the entertainment, while the awards were beautifully crafted by Kiln to Table Pottery.



The Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Connie Hart, Chuck Wolfe, and Doug Wilson in recognition of their exceptional service and dedication. Introductions included Mike Belding for Connie Hart, Wayne Hart and Donna Arthur for Chuck Wolfe, and Tom Wilson for Doug Wilson.





Jeff McCracken introduced the recipients of the McCracken Legacy award, Ross Tractor



We recognized members celebrating 25 years of chamber membership which were Greene County Tourism, Fox Charter/Fox White Barn and WeCare at Rolling Meadows.



Four members were recognized for milestone anniversaries of their businesses.
50 years - American Judo Hapkido
50 years - Humble Flooring and Decorating Center
100 years - First Federal of Greene County
175 years - Waynesburg University.



Thank You Sponsors!

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M E M B E R S H I P
D U E S

Membership Dues are coming your way!

They are due at the beginning of the new year in January.

You may pay by sending a check to

3157 Mt. Morris Road, Suite #103, Waynesburg, PA 15370

or by credit card through our website

www.greenechamber.org

Please also use your latest Community/Business Resource Guide and Membership Directory to make sure your business information is up to date! Your business should have been given a physical copy or you may view it on our website under the "Members" tab.

You may email us at info@greenechamber.org to update anything or to add any new representatives to our system! Please note, if we do not know about a change, we cannot keep our listings as up-to-date as possible.



**We did it!
Thank you to
everyone that
helped us
achieve Best
of the Best
this year.**



**Thank you to everyone for their support
and congratulations to all our member
business that also made the Top 3 or won
their category for Best of the Best!**

Top 3

- Better Performance Physical Therapy**
- Burns Orthodontics**
- Cornerstone Care**
- Curtis Pharmacy**
- Cypher & Cypher**
- Domestic Violence Service of SWPA**
- Frick Financial Federal Credit Union**
- Greene County Fair**
- Humble Flooring & Decorating Center**
- NovaCare Rehabilitation**
- Peacock Keller**
- Peters Township Chamber of Commerce**
- Rockwell & Sons Pest Control, LLC**
- Thistlethwaite Vineyards**

Named Best of the Best in One or More of Their Categories

- BeeGraphics**
- Blueprints**
- Canonsburg Cake Company**
- Centerville Clinics**
- First Federal Savings & Loan
of Greene County**
- Greene County Chamber of Commerce**
- UMPC Greene/Washington**
- The Washington Wild Things**
- What's Smokin' BBQ**

SMALL BUSINESS SEASON™

November 1st - December 30th

Shop Local!



WINNER WINNER!

Congratulations to Wayne & Connie Hart! They held the winning ticket for the Christmas Cash and Gift Card prize package. A huge shout out to all our local merchants and business owners for participating. Here's to Shopping Local and Shopping Small this holiday season!



"There's room for everyone on the nice list."



Attorneys Phillips & Ross volunteered at the Corner Cupboard Food Bank Extra Christmas Cash Bash! Thank you for spreading cheer within the community.



Waynesburg University Serves as Cooperative Nursery, Hosts 800 Catfish for Release into Local Waterways



Waynesburg University's Marine Biology Program recently welcomed 800 channel catfish juveniles Cooperative Nursery Program with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Through this project, the University aids in raising catfish for the Commonwealth and then releases them into local waterways.

"The Cooperative Nursery Program provides a unique opportunity for WU marine biology students to gain hands-on experience working with native fishes, learn aquarium techniques that will aid them later on in their careers and interact with the public in a meaningful way," said Dr. Christian Hayes, director of marine science and assistant professor of biology at Waynesburg University.



Shortly after the arrival of the fish, Washington County Commissioner Nick Sherman and Pennsylvania State Senator Camera Bartolotta, along with several of their staff, visited the University's Marine Biology Lab to discuss the University's participation in the Program with Dr. Hayes and their interest in developing a similar nursery of their own in Washington County.

As part of the Cooperative Nursery Program, students have the opportunity to take over the responsibility of feeding, measuring and monitoring the health of all of the catfish during their stay in the University's Marine Biology Lab.

The catfish are later sent to local elementary, junior and senior high schools participating in the Catfish in the Classroom program, where students care for and later release them. Every April, Waynesburg University students help with the release into local waterways.

"Due to the gracious support of the PA Fish and Boat Commission, who have provided several grants to WU, we have been able to expand the capacity of the nursery to double the number of catfish we can rear and stock in local streams to help promote local fish populations," Dr. Hayes added.



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission recently awarded another grant to the University for the purpose of updating the filtration equipment in the lab's nursery. With their help, this yearly project can continue to benefit the local community in future years.

Waynesburg University's 3/1 Marine Biology Program offers a combined curriculum toward a Bachelor of Science in marine biology in conjunction with Coastal Carolina University (CCU). Students complete their first three years at Waynesburg and finish their final year of coursework at CCU.



Thank you for a wonderful year to our members! The chamber office will be closed from December 18th through January 5th.



Charitable Spotlight



Special Olympics Pennsylvania

WINTER KICKOFF

Megamixer & Networking Reception on the Mountain

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2025 | 5-8PM

SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT

WINTERBERRY ROOM
777 WATERWHEEL DR. CHAMPION, PA 15622



2025 Winter Kick Off & Multi-Chamber Networking Reception at Seven Springs

Kick off 2025 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort for a joint collaboration with over 18 first-class regional organizations for a business networking reception you won't soon forget! The reception is from 5-8pm, but feel free to come earlier to ski and take in the resort atmosphere. Enjoy special discounted guest rates for lodging!

Location: Seven Springs Mountain Resort - Winterberry Room, 777 Waterwheel Drive, Champion, PA 15622

Date and time: Fri, Jan 10, 2025 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Organizer: Amy Clever, (412) 265-2315, events@pbex.org

Workers Consider Wellness Programs a Top Priority

As companies are increasingly requiring their employees to return to the office, company leaders and human resource department personnel are hearing their workers and future talent prospects ask for programs and services that go beyond traditional benefits. Specifically, individuals are looking for those with a greater focus on benefits that will allow them to maintain and enhance their personal health and well-being.

For many workers, wellness programs offer practical solutions to modern challenges, such as managing chronic conditions, coping with mental health issues, or achieving a better work-life balance. Benefits like gym memberships, increased access to mental health resources, flexible work hours, the ability to work at least part-time from a remote location, increased PTO, ergonomic support, nutritional advice, a robust health care program and even on-site physical amenities like gyms are all benefits that can improve wellness and boost employee well-being.

Companies that prioritize well-being

send a signal to employees that their well-being is valued, contributing to stronger loyalty and morale. Moreover, wellness programs help employees manage stress and avoid burnout, which has become especially relevant in the post-pandemic world. In a competitive job market, wellness programs are often viewed as a deciding factor when choosing an employer. As employees increasingly seek a holistic approach to health and well-being, these programs have become essential for attracting and retaining top talent while fostering a positive and supportive workplace culture.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce offers its members access to My Benefit Advisor as a solution for employee benefits, including voluntary offerings. For more information about My Benefit Advisor, visit our website at greene.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Rob Higginbotham at (800) 377-3536.

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Want To Volunteer But Don't Know How To Get Started? **R S V P TODAY!**

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of Greene County offers meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities for adults ages 55 & over.

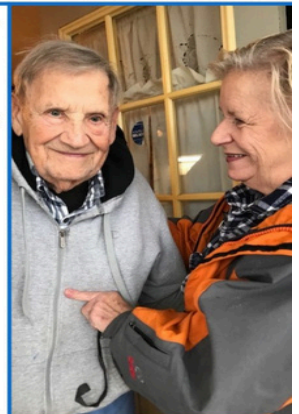


Benefits of Volunteering:

- Supplemental Accident Insurance
- Mileage Reimbursements
- Opportunity to Meet New People
- Make a Difference in your Community

RSVP volunteers may serve as:

- Financial Literacy Course Instructor
- Food Bank/Pantries
- Home Delivered Meals Drivers
- Store to Door Grocery Delivery
- Telephone Reassurance
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Tax Preparer



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For more information, contact Arielle Rick, Membership Services Coordinator, at membershipservices@eqtreccenter.org

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