



The Board Walk

from

Greene County Board of Commissioners

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For Immediate Release

Greene County Board of Commissioners

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WAYNESBURG, Pennsylvania – April 18, 2005

CHILD FEST

Human Services, CCIS

The Department of Human Services, Child Care Information Services, will be holding their 11th Annual Child Fest on April 23, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Greene County Fairground. The theme for this year's Child Fest is "***Forever Greene***". The program is directed towards children 8 years and younger but children of all ages (brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents) are more than welcome to attend. Each child who attends will receive free a book, safety CD – a \$12.95 value provided by Greene County, and a stuffed animal provided by the Salvation Army. Also, 5 lucky participants will receive a swimming pass to the Greene County pools. Everyone will be entertained by music, activities, games, arts and crafts, and music. For additional information, please call the CCIS office at 724.852-5277.

COLLECTION EVENT

Department of Planning and Development, Solid Waste and Recycling

The Greene County Office of /Solid Waste and Recycling in conjunction with the Greene County Chapter of PA Cleanways will sponsor a Special Collection Event on Saturday, April 30, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the Arena Barn area of the Greene County Fairgrounds. Items being accepted will be used tires, white goods (major appliances), used motor oil, used printer cartridges and old cell phones. There are minimal charges for dropping off tires, white goods, cartridges and cell phones. There is no charge for dropping off used motor oil. Questions or requests for rates are available by calling the Recycling Office at 724-852-5300.

GREAT PA CLEAN-UP DAY

Department of Planning and Development, Conservation District

The Greene County Commissioners, Department of Planning and Development and the Conservation District would like to encourage participation in the Kick-off of the Great PA Clean-up Day, which is scheduled for April 23, 2005. This is a community based clean up sponsored by Governor Rendell, PENNDOT, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection and the PA Fish and Boat Commission. This is an effort being undertaken to clean up our local highways, neighborhoods, trails, parks and open space. You can register your organization or self online at www.dot.state.pa.us. Upon registration, bags, gloves and vests will be provided and trash will be collected by PENNDOT. If you need assistance or have questions please contact Lisa Bennett at 724-852-5278. The Greene County Commissioners, the Department of Planning and Development and the Conservation District are working with PENNDOT and other community organizations to rid Route 188 of debris from Dry Tavern to Waynesburg.

This event will also kick off the County's role in litter pick up and the beautification of Greene County. Please come out and join our collaborative effort in restoring beauty to our local highways. Let's work together in "Keeping Greene Green".

JEFFERSON MANUFACTURING PLANT TO CLOSE

Board of Commissioners and Planning and Development

The Board of Commissioners was formally notified last Tuesday that the Fechheimer Brothers Company will be permanently closing their manufacturing facility in Jefferson. The plant produces uniform shirts and blouses for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Postal Service and fire, police and emergency personnel. The closure of this facility, formerly known as Flushing Shirt Company, will affect 107 workers, many of whom have been with the company and its predecessor for over twenty years. The Commissioners are deeply concerned for the workers and have contacted the Chief Financial Officer of the company to discuss the situation. Every effort is being made to identify available resources to assist the displaced workers. The County will partner with the Governor's Action Team, the Team Pennsylvania Career Link and other organizations to assure as smooth a transition as possible for the workers who are affected.

WAYNESBURG PROSPEROUS AND BEAUTIFUL

Department of Planning and Development

As noted in a previous edition of the BoardWalk, the Department of Planning and Development is partnering with Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful to offer technical assistance to the Main Street program with small business development, business retention and overall community development activities. The Board of Commissioners is very supportive of this partnership and has made a commitment to support the efforts of this endeavor. Darlene Urban Garrett, Planning and Development Manager, has been invited to participate as a speaker at a retreat being held by Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful on April 18 and 19. She will address participants at the retreat regarding the partnership, both what it is currently and what it can be in the future. Stay tuned for updates as this effort moves forward.

WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Department of Planning and Development

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause encephalitis, or brain inflammation. The WNV vector control program began in Pennsylvania and in Greene County in May of 2000 due to an outbreak of WNV in New York City in 1999. Since WNV is a disease spread by mosquitoes and affects human health and animal populations, such as birds and horses, the PA Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Agriculture, and the 67 counties began a comprehensive network to track this vector-borne virus throughout the state. In 2001, the first human cases of WNV appeared in Pennsylvania and surveillance was enhanced across the state to include prevention and control of mosquito breeding areas using an Integrated Mosquito Management Plan that incorporates education, surveillance, larviciding and adulticiding as effective components. The Greene County Conservation District, has applied for and received funding for surveillance that monitor's for the presence of the virus and the prevention of its spread through larvicidal activities at sewage plants, tire piles, illegal dumps, and storm water retention areas. As of January 2004, WNV had been found to be present over most of the continental United States with 9,100 human cases being reported, as well as effecting 225 bird species. In Greene County, Field Technician, Terri Davin will once again lead the WNV control effort, which was extremely successful last year. In 2004, no positive mosquito pools or birds were identified, nor

were any human WNV cases reported. **What can homeowners do?** Because mosquitoes need standing/stagnant water to lay their eggs, homeowners can reduce their risk of West Nile Virus by eliminating mosquito breeding areas around their property. This can be accomplished by removing or turning over all artificial containers that hold water such as; wheelbarrows, children's swimming pools, flower pots, as well frequently changing the water in birdbaths. *Most importantly*, remove or puncture holes in all tires that are on your property, they are the most common breeding areas for mosquitoes and have the potential to effect the health of the community. In addition, residents who find a dead Crow, Blue Jay or Hawk can call the PA Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH. For more information or to report an area of concern, please contact the Greene County Conservation District at 724-852-5278.

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