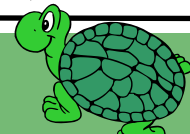


Turtle Creek Community Calendar



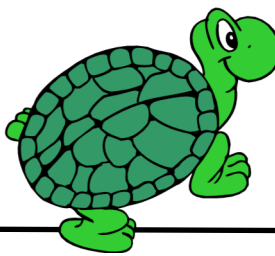
Who	What	When	Where
Turtle Creek's Human Services Center	Hosts offices for service agencies	Open Monday—Friday 7 AM—5 PM	529 & 413 Penn Avenue
Most HSC agency offices are closed due to the pandemic, some open by appointment, some operating remotely. Contact the agency to learn of their availability.			
Calvary United Church of Christ	Opportunity Shop (Thrift Store)	Please schedule an appointment at 412-823-4347, Masks must be worn	125 Shaw Avenue
Food Pantry Distribution	Food Pantry	August 8th 8:30—10:30 am Sept. 12th 8:30 — 10:30 am	Human Svcs. Ctr. 413 Penn Avenue
Rotary Club	Rotary Meeting	First and third Fridays at noon, as long as indoor seating is allowed in restaurants	Papa Rocks Pizza (Haymaker Village) 4512 Broadway Blvd, Monroeville
Senator Jim Brewster	Office Hours	Local office closed. State capital office: 717.787.5580	Human Svcs. Ctr 413 Penn Avenue
Turtle Creek Borough	Council Meeting Social distancing & masks required.	First Monday of each month, August 3 7 pm Sept. 14 7 pm	Borough Building
SNAP Outreach	Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	Local office closed. Contact 1-833-822-SNAP (7627)	Human Svcs. Ctr. 519 Penn Avenue
Turtle Creek Crime Watch Postponed indefinitely	Neighborhood Meeting	Third Monday of each month 6 pm	Borough Building
Turtle Creek Development Corporation	Monthly Meeting	Fourth Wednesday of each month 5:30 pm am	1st Christian Church 201 Pine Street
TCDC's Home Plate Vegetable Garden	Volunteer-run community garden, Vegetable stand	Saturday mornings Work party 8-1 Fresh veggies available for donations 10-12 am	Hamilton Park
Women's Law Project	Provide free confidential services for those who have experienced sexual harassment/assault in school or work	Local office closed Contact downtown Pgh. office at 412-281-2892	Human Svcs. Ctr. 519 Penn Avenue



The Creeker is published by the Turtle Creek Development Corporation.
Contact The Turtle Creeker at lpatchel@gmail.com

The Turtle Creek Development Corporation (TCDC) is committed to revitalizing and sustaining Turtle Creek as a livable community. TCDC is an all-volunteer organization. In addition to a variety of activities geared toward improving the quality of life for Turtle Creek residents, TCDC takes a lead role in housing rehabilitation, home ownership opportunities, and workforce development through a partnership with the Mon Valley Initiative. TCDC meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Human Services Center (519 Penn Avenue).

THE Turtle Creeker



Woodland Hills School District- Learning through the Pandemic

This Summer Edition of the Turtle Creeker is devoted to a look at the extensive efforts being made by our schools to provide for the education and well-being of our children during this time of isolation. We thank them for their dedication. Read on to learn more of what has been happening.

When schools closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic in March, the staff, volunteers, parents and community of Woodland Hills School District came together to ensure that students were able to continue their education as seamlessly as possible. At Woodland Hills, the closure meant going above and beyond to ensure that students had the tools they needed to learn at home, were offered the free breakfast and lunch program that they were accustomed to, and a special graduation for seniors that celebrated them while maintaining safety.

During the COVID-19 closure, many teachers also went above and beyond to guarantee their classes could receive the proper education throughout the remainder of the school year. Many teachers used the online giving platform "Donors Choose" to ask for donations to help purchase supplies for their classes to learn at home, because such supplies would not have been originally budgeted.

Kindergarten Teacher Bethany Morse says, "To prep for virtual learning, I tried my hardest to get my students materials that they would need. Right before the closure, I sent home markers, crayons, pencils, erasers and other classroom supplies, just in case a closure occurred. Once the closure was official, I then began researching ways to make online learning better, easier for my students. I didn't want the process to be cumbersome or more overwhelming than it already was."

Ms. Morse communicated with her students via daily emails to their parents or guardians, as well as regular Zoom meetings with the class to help give a bit of normalcy. She created virtual learning lessons that included a morning message routine so her students could still see their teacher teaching every day. Ms. Morse says her primary concern was the physical and emotional well-being of her students, adding "This transition was difficult for everyone involved. I so appreciated the patience and support that parents gave me during this time."

Cathie Pearson, a Gifted Support Teacher at Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy, also prepared for the closure and used creative methods to educate her class. "At the onset of the COVID-19 school closure, I reviewed a multitude of on-line resources that would best meet the needs of my students' project-based learning activities," she says. "My primary concern through virtual learning was to allow my students to continue with high-level enrichment activities and project-based learning (which is, most often, hands-on and collaborative, and we often travel to competitions) while being online at home," she adds.



Principal Wood delivers yard sign for graduating senior.

See The Turtle Creeker Online!

Visit www.turtlecreekborough.com/newsletter for The Turtle Creeker in pdf format.

Mayor's Corner



Mayor Kelley Kelley

Hello TC! Hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. Although COVID-19 has changed the way we do so many things, we are doing our best to stay safe while supporting each other and local businesses. Some good news – our Home Plate Community Garden is up and running for the season. They just had their first farmers market on June 20th and plan to have them every Saturday morning from 10am – 12pm. Stop down and support the garden, get some delicious veggies and leave a donation. Please remember to wear your mask and social distance when possible. As always, the garden is looking for volunteers. If you have some extra time, please consider volunteering some time. *

We also had a younger member of our TC community step up and organize a cleanup day in June. Tyresse Tibbs wanted to do something to give back to his community and get young people involved in volunteering. Since our annual Make America Beautiful Cleanup PA event was canceled due to the pandemic, Tyresse stepped up and organized his own event. During the summer litter and trash become a big issue in many communities and cleanup events are a great way to work together as a community to solve the problem. Tyresse saw this as an opportunity to get involved and encouraged many others to do so. Thank you Tyresse – looking forward to seeing how many wonderful things you do in the future.

Please remember the pandemic isn't over, the virus isn't gone, and we all need to continue to practice social distancing and wearing a mask in public. Doing these things protects you, your loved ones, and others in the community. Have respect for each other, be kind, and remember everyone is struggling a little bit more than usual right now. We are in this together – TC strong. Take care.

Mayor Kelley

*if you're interested in volunteering for the TC Home Plate Community Garden please contact me at mayor@tcboro.com

The **Mayor's Office** is located at 125 Monroeville Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145.


Office hours are by appointment only.

Changes and updates to the schedule are posted to her Facebook page:
[Turtle Creek, PA—Office of the Mayor.](#)

Also visit the **Crime Watch** page:
[Turtle Creek, PA Crime Watch.](#)

The **Crime Watch** group meets the third Monday of every month at 6pm at the Borough Building.

Council meetings are the first Monday of every month at 7pm



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Turtle Creek

Rotary Club
Meets every Friday
Noon
at Papa Rocks
Pizza Club
Serving Turtle Creek

Success! Despite Pandemic, 98% of Seniors Graduate!



As the school year came to the close, it was important to recognize the seniors whose last days in the district would be spent at home. The Caileigh Lynn McDowell Foundation, an organization working to transform political, social and economic systems and institutions to create a kinder, more equitable and just society for all, donated celebratory yard signs for all seniors at Woodland Hills High School. A dedicated group of more than 40 Woodland Hills High School administrators, teachers and staff delivered a sign to every senior's home at the end of May to recognize their accomplishment. "It was an extraordinary day and an amazing example of the dedication to let all of the students know they can count on us to care about them and help them on their journey to become successful young adults," said Lynn Banaszak, Caileigh's Aunt and President of The Caileigh Lynn McDowell Foundation.



And, on June 5, graduation took place with a modified live/virtual ceremony at Woodland Hills High School's competition gym. Starting at 10 A.M., seniors arrived on campus with their families. The first hour of the day was filled with typical graduation ceremony milestones, including remarks from senior class leaders Katie Hoener, Ramera Powell, Rhiya Godhania, and Megan Reichert. Dr. Woods and Superintendent James Harris addressed the class, and Distinguished Alumnus E. Clayton Cornelius, a Broadway actor and producer, contributed a remote message, telling the Class of 2020 that they have been "Chosen". Seniors then arrived at the school on a schedule and escorted by one vehicle of guests. Safety protocols were strictly followed, and all participants were required to wear a mask on campus at all times, except for a family photo opportunity. Each student was able to walk across the stage and receive their diploma, as they would in a normal year. Families were able to join in the gym to cheer for their graduate and celebrate with photos.



The virtual graduation was enthusiastically received by students and staff alike. "In absolute honesty, this year's "virtual graduation" was the most meaningful and enjoyable graduation I have ever participated in," Dr. Damico said. Ms. Wilkes said that staff members were sensitive to the losses that the Senior Class experienced as a result of the closure and worked hard to make sure that no one fell through the cracks. "I feel the seniors "on the bubble" were supported and encouraged more this year than any other year," she said. That support resulted in a graduation rate of 97%.

Ms. Weaver also saw success for students with challenges to overcome. Seeing students walk was meaningful. "Parents and family members were weeping tears of joy. Every moment was just so much more personal and meaningful than a traditional graduation," she said. "The only draw-back (which is a large concern) is the students missed their friends." National Honor Society President Hoener agreed. "Overall, Graduation was a bittersweet experience, she said. "Despite missing [my peers who were] not there, the effort and support from Dr. Woods and the staff made for a special day and created intimate moments with my family that I will remember forever."

The COVID pandemic's challenges haven't ended, and the District is in the process of planning for a return to education in the fall. Many questions remain, but the District is working to create a plan that will make students, teacher, parents, and the community comfortable. "We are gathering feedback from our families and staff regarding their comfort level with opening under several different scenarios," Mr. Willson said. "The feedback from these stakeholders will be critical in deciding our final plan."

Submitted by Jamie Glass and Maria Miller;
Graduation photos from Principal Wood and Justin Rodrigues