A publication of the Turtle Creek Development Corporation

Summer 2025

Turtle Creek Community Calendar

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Who	What	When	Where
Opportunity Hub Red Lantern Bike Shop	Thrift Store Bike Shop	Friday-Saturday 11 am-2 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-8;	125 Shaw Avenue
Food Pantry Distribution	Food Pantry 2nd Saturday of each month: 8:30—10:30 am	September 13 October 11th November 8th	Human Svcs. Ctr. 413 Penn Avenue
Rotary Club	Rotary Meeting	First and third Fridays at noon.	Papa Rocks Pizza (Haymaker Village) 4512 Broadway Blvd, Monroeville
Turtle Creek Borough	Council Meeting First Monday of each month: 7 pm	September 8th October 6th November 3rd	Borough Building
Turtle Creek Development Corporation	Monthly Meeting	Fourth Wednesday of select months 5:30 pm	1st Christian Church 201 Pine Street
<u>Human Services Center</u> <u>Mon Valley</u>	Hosts offices for service agencies	<u>Open Monday—Friday</u> <u>7 AM—5 PM</u>	519 & 413 Penn Avenue
Financial Empowerment Center	Receive free one-on-one financial coaching	Wednesdays 9:00am-4:00pm	519 Penn Avenue
Veterans Place Office	Veterans job search, em- ployment assistance	2nd Thursday 9am-12pm	519 Penn Avenue
Winner's Circle	AA	Friday's 6pm-7pm	519 Penn Avenue
Turtle Creek Senior Center	Classes	Cost	519 Penn Avenue
www.eaas.net Monday	Chair Exercise 10am-11am, Cards 12:00pm	\$2.00 donation	519 Penn Avenue
Tuesday/Thursday	Silver Sneakers 9am - 10am	Both Free with Silver Sneakers card, \$2.00 for non-members	519 Penn Avenue
Tuesday	Bingo 12:00pm		519 Penn Avenue
Wednesday	Painting class - 12pm Cards 12:00pm	Free – supplies provided	519 Penn Avenue
Friday	Yoga 10am - 11am Relaxation Class– 12:30pm	\$2:00 per class	519 Penn Avenue



The Creeker is published by the Turtle Creek Development Corporation.

Contact The Turtle Creeker at dl bzb@yahoo.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.

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Announcing the "Turtle Creek Home Plate Orchard"

The site of the former Turtle Creek Home Plate Garden is now the Turtle Creek Home Plate Orchard. The Orchard was the vision of Turtle Creek Councilperson Jill Henkel, after the Home Plate Garden became defunct. After months of planning with partners and facilitators Tree Pittsburgh and The Giving Grove, 35 fruit trees and bushes were planted with the help of numerous volunteers at the former Garden site on May 31st, 2025.

Apple, pear, plum, cherry, paw-paw, and persimmon trees are now growing alongside bush cherries and honeyberries. Additional berry bushes – raspberry, blackberry, and blueberry – will be joining the fruit trees in the coming weeks. A state-of-the-art timer-controlled drip irrigation system was installed on June 4th, to ensure that the trees and bushes are watered in a minimal waste manner. Flowering perennials will line the perimeter to invite natural pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and small birds.

The Orchard will operate in the same manner as the Garden, with fruits available for a donation. Extra fruit will be donated to the Turtle Creek Food bank.

The Home Plate Orchard is located at Hamilton Park, on Hamilton Avenue (off James Street) in Turtle Creek. Care to be a part of the Home Plate Orchard? Call the Boro Business office at 412-824-2500 to leave a message for Councilperson Henkel.

D'anjou European Pear Shinseki Asian Pear Rosa Japanese Plum Enterprise Apple Nikita's Gift Persimmon

Cutie Pie Bush Cherry

Here's what is currently planted:

Blake's Pride European Pear 20th Century Asian Pear Toka Hybrid Plum Freedom Apple Rappahannock Paw Paw Solo Honeyberry Tennosui Asian Pear Montmorency Sour CherrySanta Crimson Crisp Apple Liberty Apple Prolific Paw Paw Maxie Honeyberry











Volunteer Income Tax Assistance – Tax Preparer

To a neighbor in the Mon Valley, a tax refund will make a world of difference. **You can make it happen**. Join us as a Free Tax Prep volunteer at the Human Services Center Mon Valley (HSCMV) in Turtle Creek!

Volunteers help low to moderate income families make the most of their tax refunds by providing free federal, state, and local income tax preparation assistance. Last year, volunteers assisted with over 700 returns adding up to nearly \$900,000 back to neighbors in our community. These critical dollars put food on the table, paid heating bills, furthered education, and more.

Prospective volunteers will undergo FREE training (in December & January) to ensure they meet the IRS guidelines. **NO prior experience** is needed! All volunteers are taught federal and PA tax law and the preparation of simple tax returns. HSCMV will provide in-person tax preparation January – April.

What we're looking for from volunteers:

- 3-hour commitment per week to prepare taxes {morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available}
- Act 33 and Act 34 clearances {free for volunteers}
- Attend tax law trainings
- Successful completion of IRS certification exam at Basic or Advanced Level
- Successful completion of the Intake/Interview/Quality Review guiz and Volunteer Ethics guiz
- Prompt, efficient, organized, self-directed, and detail-oriented
- Passion for community service

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a free tax preparation volunteer at HSCMV, please contact Stephanie Eson (seson@hscmonvalley.org) or 412-829-7112. *Greeters are also needed. Call for details.*



Mayor's Corner

Dear Residents of Turtle Creek,

As summer winds down and we transition into the fall season, we'd like to take a moment to update you on several important matters in our community.

Like many communities across the region, Turtle Creek is experiencing increased costs for garbage collection due to inflation. We understand the financial impact this can have on residents and are actively exploring options to manage these costs in the most efficient and sustainable way possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work toward a solution.

You may have noticed an uptick in road construction throughout Turtle Creek. These county and state infrastructure projects are aimed at improving road safety and traffic flow for the long term. While we understand construction can be inconvenient, we kindly ask for your patience and caution in construction zones. These improvements are being made with the safety and future of our community in mind.

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new full-time police officers to the Turtle Creek Police Department They are Officer Robert Michels and Officer Randy Patton. Their presence will enhance our ability to serve and protect the community more effectively. Please join us in welcoming them as they begin their service. As always, your safety is our top priority. If you witness any suspicious behavior, please call 911 immediately. For non-emergency issues, such as parking violations, or curfew infractions, we encourage you to report them to 911 as well. Community vigilance helps keep Turtle Creek safe for all.

With the new school year underway, please be especially mindful of children walking to and from school or waiting at bus stops. Always obey posted speed limits and traffic laws, especially around school buses. Let's all do our part to keep our students safe.

Thank you for being an engaged and caring part of our Turtle Creek community. We appreciate your continued support and cooperation as we work together to make our borough a safer, stronger, and more connected place to live.

Warm regards, Mayor Adam R. Forgie