

# Westmoreland Heritage Trail Newsletter

Volume 2/Issue 2  
April - June 2020



## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9, 2020

WHT Monthly Board Meeting  
**CANCELLED**

May 14, 2020

WHT Monthly Board Meeting

June 6, 2020

Trail Towns Festival  
**POSTPONED**

June 11, 2020

WHT Monthly Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on the second  
Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the  
Lampighter in Delmont  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Spring 2020 is bringing in interesting developments.

Activities are being postponed, large group gatherings like our March for Parks cancelled. The Corona Virus has taken its toll and we all have learned to keep our social distance. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is open to walkers, joggers, and bikers for now. This can change at any time though. What a better way to enjoy the outdoors alone, with family or friends. Although some large trees have fallen, they have been quickly removed so that the trail is navigable. We all hope the crisis passes quickly and our lives return to normal. If you are utilizing the trail, please keep your social distance, clean up after your pets and observe trail etiquette rules.

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## 2ND ANNUAL TRAIL TOWNS FESTIVAL

**Our second annual Festival scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is on hold pending the current global pandemic. We had such a success last year the excitement of planning our second event with celebrations at the BY Park in Trafford and Slickville Fireman's Pavilion will need to put on hold. Stay tuned...**



**Our WHT 2020 officers were elected in January and will serve a one-year term:**



**Stan Rudge - President**

**Rob Cronauer - Vice President**

**Alyssa Harden - Secretary**

**Jack Maher – Treasurer**

**Also, newly elected board members filling open positions:**

**Ann Wade - At Large (3-year term)**

**Pat Norton - At Large (3-year term)**

**Brandon Lacina - Trafford (appointed by Trafford Council)**

**Stan Rudge – Penn Township (appointed by Penn Township Commissioners)**

**Chris Panichella – Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation**

**Please attend WHT board meetings (2nd Thursday of each month at the Lamplighter 7pm)  
and meet your officers and board members.**



## **WANTED!!!**

Seeking volunteers to help take care of our WHT throughout the year. The Trail is divided into five regular “Maintenance Zones” and responsibilities are grass/weed cutting and ordinary tree falls.

Zone 1 begins on the eastern end of the Trail in Saltsburg and continues to Route 819 in Slickville

Zone 2 begins at Route 819 and continues to the Rango’s Parking Area in Delmont

Zone 3 (future) from Delmont to Export

Zone 4 begins at Lincoln Avenue in Export and continues to the Tracy Stack Memorial Bridge in Murrysville (near Franklin Township Municipal Sanitary Authority)

Zone 5 begins at the Tracy Stack Memorial Bridge and continues to B-Y Park in Trafford

If there are any major events, windstorms causing major tree falls or heavy rains causing washouts or landslides all volunteer groups will be called upon to help. If you are interested in joining any or all of these groups, please let us know and we will add your name to our notification lists - Contact us at: [whtvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:whtvolunteers@gmail.com)

**Cancellation of March for Parks:**

Due to the circumstances and uncertainty of the COVID-19 the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Citizens Advisory Board felt it was prudent to cancel the public events portion of the annual March for the Parks event scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. **Thanks to all for your support ... both past and future!** Westmoreland County looks forward to working with you in the year ahead to provide quality park and recreation resources for local residents.

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail & The Five Star Trail present



# Comedy Night!



February 15, 2020

## Thank You to our Sponsors & Donors!



Eveready Contracting LLC



Mains Chiropractic



Spaghetti & Steak House

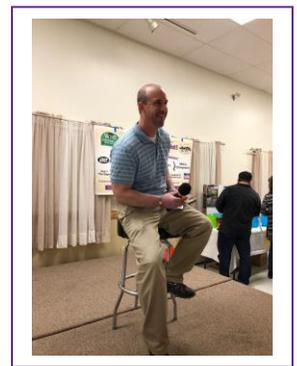


Friends of Blairsville Communities    L.J. Novak Oil Co.    Point Street Tavern / Cobaro LLC    S&T Bank    Scottdale Music

Alluring Designs	Center Ice Arena	City of Greensburg Recreation	Cycle Sport and Ski	Disney on Ice	Giuseppe's Pizzeria	Greensburg YMCA
Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau	Mama P's Pizza	National Aviary	North Park Lounge	Rob's Pizza	Seven Springs Resort	Walmart
						Yoga Flow

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail partnered with the Five Star Trail to host our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Comedy Night fundraiser on February 15, 2020. A good time was had by all! We packed Colton Hall with an energetic group of over 320 trail supporters! All in attendance agreed this was one of our best, with the comedians providing laughs that hit everyone's funny bone. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and valuable partners. Please support these sponsors as they have supported the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.

**We hope to see you at next year's event!**



## ***BIG THANK YOU TO JOHN SOPKO!***

In May of 2009, John joined the WHT as the Penn Township Representative. Little did he know during an 11- year span he would have so many caps to wear ... some more than one at a time. Within a few months (January of 2010), he took over the secretarial duties and later that year in October he became membership chair.

He remained membership chair until January, 2016 when 100 members were on board and two jobs needed to be cut to one. He continued fulfilling the responsibilities as secretary rarely missing a board meeting and announced his resignation to President Rudge effective January, 2020. Between the years of 2009 to 2019 John was a part of Phase II, III and IV of the trail and witnessed their completion. John shared "I am honored and proud to have been a small part of that gigantic effort." He resigned as Penn Township Representative in September of 2019 but remained provisional secretary until January, 2020.

President Stan Rudge states: "When I was elected in 2016, John was a key player in mentoring me on the endeavors of my responsibilities. John, we cannot thank you enough for all that you have done during this time period. Not only did you fill all of these positions, but we see you frequently on the trail with your photography skills sharing pictures on our FB page and never forget our first Trail Towns Festival on June 6, 2019 as you manned the registration tables at Saunders Station Road which was one of the busiest. Best wishes to you and Roslyn as you enjoy your time and we hope to see you along the trail with your camera or at a meeting where you can sit and be a spectator! We will miss you Mr. Secretary!!!!!"

*Thank You!*

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New storage in Slickville! A new storage facility has been installed along the trail at the Slickville Volunteer Fire Department which will now allow volunteers easy access to the trail without having to travel along Main Street. In the next month or two we will be converting our equipment from the Slickville garage to the new storage facility.



## Malcolm Sias Retires

A great advocator of bicycling and walking trails in Westmoreland County (western Pennsylvania as a fact) has retired as Director of Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation. His accomplishments are numerous for the County, however, the 40 plus miles of trails that have been developed are a test of his vision, dedication, and hard work for Westmoreland and especially the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Twenty some years ago he and a group of founding members walked, crawled, pushed tree climbs, and the like along then an old overgrown rail corridor from Saltsburg to Trafford. That vision has been turned into today's trail and his work and presence will still be seen along the trail. As we wish Malcolm success in his retirement and a new chapter of life, he will still be a great influence and an integral part of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.

**Thanks Malcolm and congratulations on your retirement!**



## **We need articles for future editions of the WHT Newsletter!**

Please consider providing a short item of news, or an article related to the trail for the next edition of the newsletter.

We also encourage local communities to forward information about local events. Newsletter submissions can be sent to [whtpr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whtpr2017@gmail.com).

## **THANK YOU!!!**

NEW TORO EQUIPMENT – Thanks to the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation along with the WHT, we were able to purchase two Toro utility terrain vehicles in February.

Rules and regulations are forthcoming on the use of these UTV's.

### **Delmont Visionary Committee**

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at Yellow Bridge Brewing (back room). A Delmont Historical Society is being organized and those meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Delmont Library. Visit their website [www.delmont2.wixsite.com/delmontvisionarycommittee](http://www.delmont2.wixsite.com/delmontvisionarycommittee) or on Facebook.

### **FEASIBILITY STUDY**

In March a kickoff began involving a feasibility study of the trail to link the next phase from Lincoln Avenue in Export to Rangos Trailhead in Delmont. The Westmoreland County Parks, led by Jeff Richards, selected a group of committee members. Stay tuned as we will share information as we receive it.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We are always in need of volunteers! There are many opportunities available to help support the trail. These include: trail maintenance and special projects, public relations, fundraising events, festivals, clean-ups or by joining one of our committees.

If interested – Attend one of our meetings!

We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lamplighter in Delmont

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter (WHTC) is a volunteer organization associated with the Regional Trail Corporation. The Regional Trail Corporation is a non-profit entity within Westmoreland, Fayette and Allegheny Counties, which promotes the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to recreational trails.

For more information, membership and volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at:

<https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/>

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