

VERONA

COMMUNITY NEWS

501C3 Nonprofit

Get Ready For the VGC's Third Annual Botany & Booze Coming In May

By Kimberly Roller

The Verona Garden Club is gearing up for its 3rd annual Botany & Booze fundraiser on May 20th, featuring a new and improved format this year. Instead of a weekend-long event, the fundraiser will now be a single-day affair with two 3-hour tasting sessions. Browse vendor booths beginning at 11 am, with the first tasting session starting at noon. A second tasting session will follow at 4 pm. This year's event promises to bring dozens of local breweries and craft vendors/makers, offering a variety of refreshing drinks and high-quality crafts and goods to enjoy.

SAVE THE DATE

VERONA GARDEN CLUB

Botany and Booze

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS

[@VERONAGARDENCLUB](#)

MAY 20th (11am-7pm)

**RAILROAD PARK
737 E RAILROAD AVE
VERONA, PA 15147**

The club will be offering our gorgeous hanging baskets for sale, perfect for adding a touch of greenery and a pop of color to any home or porch. In addition to the drinks, Botany & Booze will also feature a variety of food trucks, providing delicious food options for guests to enjoy. With something for everyone, this event is a must-attend for all lovers of botany, gardening, and of course, good drinks and food. Mark your calendars for May 20th, and get ready to have a great time at the Verona Garden Club's 3rd annual Botany & Booze!

Follow us on social media for event details and ticket sale updates!

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Newsletter Staff

Donald & Rhoda Worf.....Editor
Angela Occhipinti.....Treasurer
Sylvia Provenza.....Sales/Marketing
Rogers and DeTurck
Printing, Inc.....Design/Printing

Important Information

In Case of Emergency Dial 911

BOROUGH BUSINESS

Scheduled Borough Council Meetings
7:00 p.m. – Second Tuesday of each month, Municipal Building

Scheduled Borough Council Workshop Meetings
7:00 p.m. – Last Tuesday of each month, Municipal Building

Verona Chamber of Commerce
7:00 p.m. – Third Tuesday of each month, Municipal Building

Verona Parks and Recreation Board
6:30 p.m. – First Tuesday of even months, Municipal Building
*They will also be virtual until further notice.
Link will be shared on our Facebook page, or by emailing veronaparksandrec@gmail.com to request the link.*

Verona Historical Society (VHS)
7:00 p.m. – Third Thursday of each month, Municipal Building

Verona Garden Club (VGC)
7:00 p.m. – Second Wednesday of each month, Municipal Building

Lower Valley Athletic Foundation (LVAF)
6:00 p.m. – First Monday of each month, Municipal Building

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Non-Emergency412-828-3036

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Non-Emergency412-828-6034
Police Chief – Ron McLemore

Lower Valley Ambulance Service
Emergency911

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www.veronaborough.org

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

by Mayor David Ricupero

With spring approaching please be diligent while driving. Our senses of sight and hearing are the two most important senses used while driving. Do not impede these senses while driving, especially in highly populated regions. Carefully watch and listen while driving on unfamiliar as well as familiar roadways, especially since children will be playing, and riding their bikes. Adults will be out walking for exercise, oftentimes while wearing headphones and listening to music. We must be aware of these individuals and use all of our senses to drive defensively. This will keep Verona safe.

As a reminder, Verona has ordinances on keeping grass and weeds cut along with disposing of unsightly debris. Make sure, first of all, that you understand our local ordinances and, secondly, that you are obeying them. Thank you!

Verona would like to welcome Officer Tom Dessell to the police department. Officer Dessell was born and raised in Verona and is a graduate of Riverview High School. Please give Officer Dessell a warm welcome when you see him. Thank you. AS ALWAYS KEEP GOD CLOSE!

Verona Has A New Borough Manager

(Verona Council Announcement)

Stefanie Spieth-Woolford was hired as Verona Borough Manager back in October of 2022. Stefanie comes to Verona after being the Executive Director of Riverview Community Action Corporation for almost 11 years. She was born and raised in Ohio and attended college in Miami of Ohio. She then attended the University of Toledo earning a Master's in Public Administration. Stefanie currently resides in Plum and has already been actively involved in many community activities and events in town.



ATTENTION: If you are interested in contributing to the **Verona Community Newsletter**, by writing an article collecting news, writing, explaining a hobby, or taking pictures; contact **Donald (Don) Worf** at VeronaNewsRoom@gmail.com or at **412-828-3607**.

The next issue of the Verona Community Newsletter, the SUMMER ISSUE 2023 will be published and delivered to Verona residents by June 1, 2023. Articles for the Fall issue are due to be sent, via email, to the VeronaNewsRoom@gmail.com by September 1, 2023

If you would like to place an advertisement in the Newsletter, contact **Sylvia Provenza** at **412-828-9542**.

Changes on Verona Council

- Appointments were made to fill three Council vacancies:
 - **Nancy Carpenter** on September 13th
 - **William "Red" Craig** on September 27th
 - **Tim Long** on November 8th.
- In addition, a reorganization meeting occurred on September 27th. Council voted to elect:
 - **Ray Suchevecich** as President of Council.
 - **Trish Hredzak-Showalter** as Vice President of Council.
 - and*
 - Appoint **Angela Occhipinti** to head the Vacancy board.

Verona Community Garden

The Verona Community Garden had a very successful inaugural year. We got the fencing up, built raised beds, and built a shed. A few hundred pounds of fresh produce were distributed to the community and food bank. The Verona Community Garden had a fall cleanup day paired with the dedication of the garden with members of the Monroe family, whose family previously owned the property.

This year, we have some new events in the planning stages. We are looking into children's activities, demonstrations, and workdays. The dates for events have not been set yet. We are always looking for volunteers to help in the garden. There are rental beds available for people to rent if you don't have room or wildlife is a problem. The procedures and rental rates have not been determined by the council yet, but hopefully soon.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or join the email group at veronagardengrows@gmail.com

VERONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rhoda Worf, President, Verona Historical Society

The Verona Historical Society meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Verona Municipal Building at 7 pm.

Website: www.veronahistory.org

March 16, 2023....Thursday...“INNOVATIONS” presented by **Anne Madarasz** from the Heinz History Center

April 20, 2023....Thursday...“MONUMENTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA” presented by **Dick Williams** from the Oakmont Historical Society

May 18, 2023.....Thursday...“HISTORY OF THE WILLOWS POOL” presented by **Gary Rogers** from the Oakmont Historical Society

YOUR DOG IS OUR DOG WHEN THEY'RE HERE



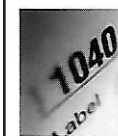
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Join The Verona Chamber!

Stefani Garibay, President of the VCC

Happy New Year to our residents and businesses here in Verona and the surrounding areas. As we begin the new year, we begin a new era for our Verona Chamber of Commerce. I'd like to introduce our board:

Newly Elected VCC Board Members

- Stefani Garibay - *President* • Jen Walzer - *Vice President*
- Trish Hredzak-Showalter - *Secretary* • Sherry Kai - *Treasurer*
- Curtis Brown • Kevin Ewing • Kirk Ewing • Tim Long
- Mike Nuckels • Sylvia Provenza • Dave Ricupero • Mike Vento

This year VCC is looking to enhance its benefits not only to our community but to our members. Membership includes being listed on our website, free social media posts (you must send them to our admin for approval and they will be posted), and sponsorship opportunities at our various events including but not limited to:

- Easter Egg Hunt • Verona Farmers Market • Car Cruise
- Halloween Bash • Jolly Jamboree

Business members are also invited to set up the last Thursday of the month during the Verona Farmers Market to advertise/showcase their business. This year we are working on membership cards for both business and individual members that will get you exclusive discounts at participating member businesses. Verona Residents are encouraged and welcome to apply to be a member to receive these exclusive discounts.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (excluding Aug & Dec) at 7 pm at 736 E. Railroad Ave, Verona, PA, 15147 in the Verona Borough Building. If you are looking to provide suggestions, learn more about the chamber, or look for ways to volunteer you are welcome. Volunteers do not need to be members. You may also reach out to us via our website: www.Verona-pa.org, or email our president Sgaribay16@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting and growing with you.

Sincerely,
Stefani Garibay
Verona Chamber of Commerce President

Verona Chamber of Commerce 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the VCC, please fill out the required information below.

(I.) Applicant

Name: _____

Contact Phone No: _____

Contact Email: _____

Address: _____

(II.) FOR BUSINESS OWNERS ONLY

Business Name: _____

Business Phone No.: _____

Business Email: _____

Business Website Address (If Applicable): _____

Business Address: _____

(III.) Write a check for the correct amount+ made payable to the

VERONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: Suggested donation... \$20+
SMALL BUSINESS (under 50 employees)..... \$100+
LARGE BUSINESS (over 50 employees)..... \$200+

(IV.) Send your check and completed application to:

Verona Chamber of Commerce c/o membership
PO Box 276
Verona PA, 15147

Steel City Rowing Club (SCRC)

Perhaps you have seen the three-story building on Verona's southernmost boundary. Since 1996, Steel City Rowing Club has been connecting rowers, non-rowers, nature lovers, and party hosts to what they love...and to the river.

Every summer, children participate in camps where they kayak, swim, and learn river ecology. Adults use the public launch for water recreation. Members participate in river cleanups and maintain native landscaping. In winter, groups exercise together. Stand in the parking lot at dusk and you will hear an energizing playlist encouraging the rhythmic whir of rowing machines spinning in unison- creating a motivating group intensity.

Rowing is prominent, of course. Pittsburgh's rivers offer an exciting, unique way to exercise through this lifelong, low-impact, sport. Youth/teens can participate in seasonal rowing programs or camp. Adults can discover rowing through a Free Intro Day, Learn-to-Row program, or team. Experienced rowers and true beginners can enroll in any of the above.

The Boathouse also offers rental space unlike any other. Along the riverfront, newlyweds take jaw-dropping photos at twilight...guests dine in the airy boathouse adorned with twinkle lights...occasionally someone is drawn onto the balcony to gaze at the stars or steal a breath of crisp air. The flexible space supports many sized events and corporate gatherings. It is said that being on or near water can make us happier, connected, and better at other things we do. With curiosity and a sense of adventure, you too can bring a little more water into your life!



www.steelcityrowing.org

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TWIN BOROS HEALTH MINISTRY

By Shirley Davis

The Twin Boros Health Ministries wishes to extend its sincere gratitude by saying "Thank You" to all the many volunteers who took the time and worked hard to make Christmas 2022, a very special and memorable Holiday for some children in our twin boroughs.

Special recognition and a sincere Thank You to the following organizations and individuals for their selfless giving to make the holidays a bit Merrier for local families in 2022:

- John Henry, owner of the Verona News • The Lower Valley Athletic Foundation (LVAf) • The Riverview High School's French Club • The Alcorn Family • Dom Conte & family (for sponsoring the Bar Crawl) • Riverside Church
- Oakmont Methodist Church • To the many volunteers who helped prepare, serve, and deliver hot dinners throughout Verona and Oakmont to the shut-ins on the last Wednesday of each month in 2022
- To the anonymous individuals who wish to remain unnamed.

Local churches and businesses who provided the venues for the monthly dinners in 2022 include;

- Presbyterian Senior Care Facility • Longwood of Oakmont • Riverside Church • Verona Methodist Church
- Oakmont Presbyterian Church • Verona Borough Council for the August dinner • Oakmont Methodist Church
- Verona Moose Lodge for the October dinner • Verona Giant Eagle for its generous donations.

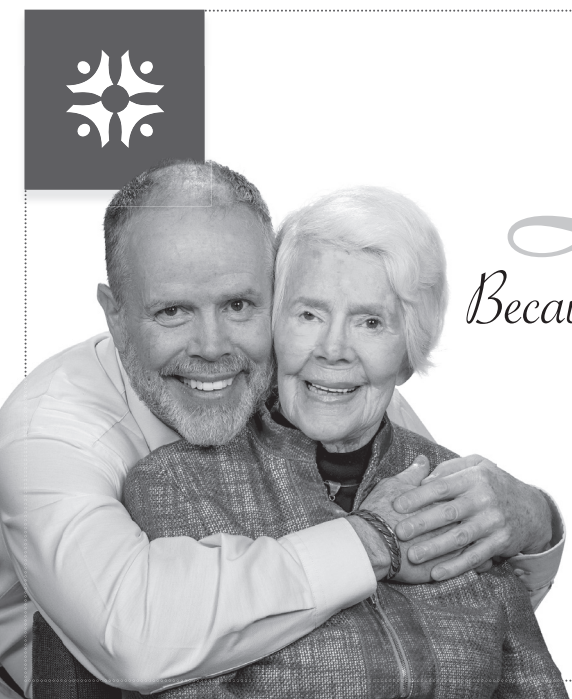
SCHEDULE FOR THE 2023 MONTHLY DINNERS:

JAN 23- Presbyterian Senior Care	FEB 22- Longwood of Oakmont
MAR 29- Riverside Community Church	APR 26- Jay Barnes Family
MAY 24- Oakmont Presbyterian Church	JUN 28- Riverside Community Church
JULY 26- Verona United Methodist Church	

- Organizations and individuals who would like to help volunteer are welcome – Call Shirley at 412-828-3412
 - the Clothes Closet is open for all (call 412-828-3412)

And finally, forgive me, but I humbly say a heartfelt THANK YOU to anyone I accidentally omitted from my thank you list, I humbly say...

THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU! AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL!




Love
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OAKMONT CAMPUS
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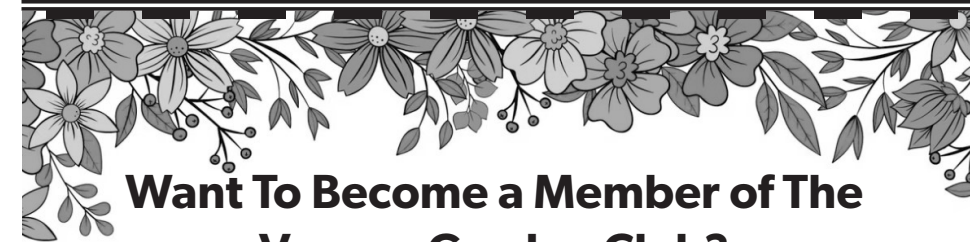

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Michael R. Vento, President



Want To Become a Member of The Verona Garden Club?

by Samantha Swift, Verona Garden Club

- The Verona Garden Club is always welcoming new members, young & old! **No gardening experience is necessary - only a desire to learn and volunteer.**
- Any resident of the Borough of Verona (and surrounding communities) with an active interest in the art of gardening and flower arranging, and a willingness to share in the work and responsibilities of the Club may join. Membership is open to all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.
- The VGC meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at the Verona Borough Building (736 E Railroad Ave, Verona, PA 15147-Weather permitting, we will meet outside!) These meetings are open to the public. Those interested in becoming members are encouraged to attend meetings before joining as full members.
- Changes to the meeting schedule are posted on social media and emailed to current members.
- We have 2 types of membership tiers available: **Membership Tiers**
 1. **Volunteer Membership** - \$10 per year, plus 15 hours of volunteer time annually
 2. **Beautification Membership** - \$35 per year, plus 5 hours of volunteer time annually

Additionally, these fees go towards membership dues with the National Garden Clubs and the Federated Garden Club of PA and the annual operating costs of the Verona Garden Club (where applicable).

We understand that cost may be a burden for some members of the community. The Club offers sponsorships (no questions asked) to allow anyone interested in gardening to participate and join the club and have access to all of its amazing benefits.

Simply email the board at veronagardenclub@gmail.com to join.

VGC Upcoming Projects

- Riverbank Park Project
- Botany & Booze (May 20th)

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Samantha Swift
(on behalf of Kim Roller, VGC president)
412-853-9677
Swiftsl@icloud.com

Thank You!



Open The (Back) Door To a Roth IRA

There aren't many drawbacks to having a high income — but being unable to invest in a Roth IRA might be one of them. Are there strategies that allow high-income earners to contribute to this valuable retirement account? Before we delve into that question, let's consider the rules. In 2023, you can contribute the full amount to a Roth IRA — \$6,500, or \$7,500 if you're 50 or older — if your modified adjusted gross income is less than \$138,000 (if you're single) or \$218,000 (if you're married and filing jointly).

A Roth IRA is an attractive retirement savings vehicle because earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you've had your account for at least five years and you don't start taking money out until you're 59½. Also, with a Roth IRA, you won't be required to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) when you turn 73, which will allow your account to potentially keep growing. But given your income, how can you contribute to a Roth? You may want to consider what's known as a "backdoor Roth" strategy. Essentially, this involves contributing money to a new traditional IRA, or taking money from an existing one, and then converting the funds to a Roth IRA. The process is straightforward, but you'll need to consider potential tax implications. If you convert pretax assets from your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, the amount converted will be fully taxable in the year of the conversion. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if a backdoor Roth makes sense for you — if so, it could be a valuable addition to your financial strategy.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Member SIPC

Seth D. Thompson, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
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seth.thompson@edwardjones.com
201 Allegheny Ave. Suite 2
Oakmont, PA 15139

Verona Parks and Recreation Events In 2023

(Verona Parks and Recreation Board Announcement)



Movies in the Park

(*All movies will be held at **Railroad Park** this year)

- May 12 - **The Sandlot** (dusk)
- June 9 - **Aladdin (original version)**(dusk)
- July 21 - **Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom**(dusk)
- August 11 - **Ready to Rumble** (dusk)
- September 8 - **Star Wars Empire Strikes Back** (dusk)
- October 27 - **Hocus Pocus**

(* Special Halloween Drive in @dusk)

Shakespeare in the Park

(There will be 2 Free shows this year, both held at Cribbs field)

- June 17 - **Hamlet** (7 PM)
- July 8 - **Richard the III** (7 PM)

Battle in the Borough 5

(Live pro-wrestling event at Cribbs field)

- **August 19 gates open at 3 PM** (the first match is at 6 PM)

\$10 General Admission (ticket proceeds go towards future Parks and Recreation events and projects)



Riverview Community Action Corporation's (RCAC)

SCHEDULED EVENTS

by Mary Margaret Fisher, RCAC

Come to Riverview Community Action Corporation (RCAC) for exercise programs!

There are a variety of programs to choose from:

- Monday 10:30 am - Chair Yoga - This 45-minute class involves moving through both seated and standing yoga poses to increase flexibility, balance, and range of motion.
- Monday 1:30 - 2:30 pm - Tai Chi.
- Tuesday 10:30 am - Let's Get Movin' - This 45-minute class focuses on 3 key fitness areas: Cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility. Modifications are shown throughout the class.
- Thursday 10:30 am - Somatics - This class engages the nervous system in an active learning process that consists of very slow, focused, and conscious movements. This class requires a yoga mat and the ability to get up and down from the floor without assistance.
- Friday 10 am - Line dancing.
- Friday 11:15 am - Let's Get Movin', same as above.

Join us for one or more of these classes. Cost varies from \$1-3 per class. If you need a ride, call the day before to schedule the RCAC bus. Round trip from your home to RCAC is only \$2. Call for more information at 412-828-1062.

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Something New at Oakmont Carnegie Library

By Jeanine Michael

There is something new and special at the library. It's new tables and chairs in the adult area and it's special because it's in memory of Jerry Little. All of you who honored Jerry with donations to the library in his memory can now see how these donations were used. This area, heavily used by our community members to take online tests, apply to school, and apply for jobs, now have a wonderful environment to do their work. This area is being transformed, but best of all it's helping transform lives. Thank you all! And thank you Christine Little for your family's support of this project.



OPEN AD SPACE

OAKMONT CARNEGIE LIBRARY: MARCH SCHEDULE

Lobby open daily at 9 a.m. for pickup
 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Friday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 412-828-9532 • oakmontlibrary.org.

The Squirrel's Nest Bookstore is open most library hours except Saturdays! Come and shop our great finds!

Find our programs on our website under "Upcoming Events." A wide variety of virtual programs are also offered by area libraries. Something for every interest and all are free. Check them out!

For Children and Teens

Chess Class for Beginners with Adam Williams: Mondays, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Learn the classic game of chess. Lessons include, introducing the pieces & how they move, opening moves & setups, controlling the center & the mid game scenarios, end game checkmating & proper chess educate, and chess as an exercise in problem solving. Ages 8-19, Space limited to 12 people, Free Registration at www.OakmontLibrary.org under events.

Baby Lapsit: Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

Calling all babies! Join us for a program of stories, singing, rhyming, and more. Baby Lapsit is for children newborn – 24 months and focuses on socialization and vocabulary development.

Book Buddies Storytime: Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Storytime with Miss Karen! For children ages 3-5 with caregiver, siblings welcome. Registration Required.

STEAM After School: Every Thursday 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For kids in 1st - 4th grade. Stop by the lower-level Oak Room anytime between 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. to make a craft, have fun with science, and learn some fun facts! Adjacent to the Makerspace! No registration necessary!

For Adults

Oakmont Historical Society Speaker Series: Thursday, February 6th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dick Williams will speak about the First People and the Three Monuments of South Dakota: Mount Rushmore, Salute to Crazy Horse, and the Statue to the Women of the First People.

Cookbook Club: Monday, March 13, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Each month, we keep a cookbook at the circulation desk. Look through the book and choose a recipe you want to make. Mark the page with a Post-It note with your name so that we know who will be cooking what. Copy the recipe to take home. Prepare your food or beverage and bring it to Cookbook Club.

Meditation with the Monks: Every Tuesday (In Person & Livestreamed), 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The monks from the Pittsburgh Buddhist Center have returned to teach in person meditation classes at the library, but you also have the choice to watch the livestream at home on their YouTube channel, PBC Live.

Book Group: Friday, March 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join us to read and discuss current fiction and non-fiction. Books are supplied by the library.

Makerspace Classes

In the Makerspace—Tinkering Thursdays: Every Thursday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Our Makerspace is a community space where you can make, create, design, and build! Located on our lower level, we have a 3D printer, a Cricut vinyl cutting machine, a Brother sewing and embroidery machine, and a music station with midi keyboards, a microphone, and recording software! We also have art and crafts supplies, Snap Circuits, VR goggles, a button maker, two Makey Makey keyboard controllers, and more.

Training on the Makerspace equipment is by appointment. For more information, please contact zimblez@oakmontlibrary.org

Sean R. Truby
Supervisor

Director:
Shea E. Truby



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Verona Volunteer Fire Company Membership Enrollment

Dan Tihey, Chief of the VVFC

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to give back to your community? Verona Volunteer Fire Company is currently accepting applications for active and junior firefighters. Active firefighters are at least 18 years of age and junior members can start as early as 16 years of age with some restrictions. All Pennsylvania-certified training is provided through the Allegheny County Fire Academy.

The benefits of being a volunteer firefighter are training and equipment provided at no cost to you, family atmosphere and camaraderie that is a tradition in the fire service, state-of-the-art equipment, and apparatus, a life experience that will prepare you for any situation, the excitement that comes with running emergency calls and learning lifesaving skills.

In addition to the benefits of joining the fire service, the Allegheny County Fire Academy and CCAC are working together to offer the Allegheny County Fire Volunteer Education, Service & Training Scholarship Program (FireVEST) that provides full scholarships for an associate degree or certificate program at CCAC, as well as training at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. More information on this can be found at www.ccac.edu.

To find out how you can become part of our fire company family, or if you have any questions or would like a station walkthrough, contact us at 412-828-3036 or visit us on Monday evenings at 465 Parker Street between 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm.

*Verona Volunteer Fire Company.
Proudly serving our community since 1889.*

Free Native Plants Offered To Verona Residents and Businesses

By Rhea Homa, Lead of Verona SEE Green Sustainability Group

Native plants are coming back in a big way in Verona—and for good reason! Including native plants in gardens, yards, and greenspaces, benefits neighbors, helps heal our local ecosystem, and provides food and habitat to species on the brink of extinction like the Monarch butterfly, Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee, and the Sedge Wren.

Native plants have many natural benefits because they are organically adapted to local pollinators (like those listed above) and growing conditions. Native plants:

- Strongly support the ecosystem
- Are easy to maintain (naturally suited for the local climate, weather, and soil)
- Can help mitigate flooding
- Can help manage pest populations
- Do not require pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemical products
- Are typically perennials or self-seeding (economical and timesaving)
- Provide interest and splendor to gardens and landscapes

Unfortunately for consumers, native plants that have not been genetically altered by humans (called “straight species”) can be tricky to find. Most local nurseries carry versions of native plants



that have been modified and likely no longer provide the same services and optimum food and shelter for native pollinators, birds, and the ecosystem as a whole.

In an effort to bridge this gap and make straight-species native plants easier for residents and businesses to access, SEE Green Sustainability Group will be launching a new native plant project for Verona and surrounding communities.

To make this happen, volunteers will be carefully stratifying, germinating, and

growing select native plants to provide for free, such as bright orange Butterfly Weed, Whorled Milkweed, Aromatic Asters, Black-Eyed Susans, and more. Other species may be acquired through suggested donations of \$4/each, which will benefit SEE Green's sustainable and restorative projects in Verona. Species that may be acquired by donation include eye-catching Blazing Stars, Spotted Bee Balm, Purple Coneflowers, and more.

Here's how to get yours! If you are interested in receiving one (or maybe several) native plants that specifically benefit our geographical area and ecosystem, please reach out to Rhea at rhea.sunshine.pgh@gmail.com. More updates including a menu of available plants will be provided as the growing season progresses and volunteers are able to more accurately gauge the success of each species that we are attempting to grow. Seedlings are expected to be ready for distribution in the summer months. Safe soil practices are being followed.

This free native plant program is a project by Verona's SEE Green Sustainability Group, which is a committee of the Verona Community Group.

Everyone is welcome to join SEE Green meetings which are held on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm. Our next meetings will be on March 2, April 6, and May 4 at 6:30 pm. We generally meet via zoom and provide regular emails that provide meeting details (agenda, zoom link), updates on projects, and a list of upcoming local events related to sustainability. Please join the mailing list as noted below to receive this information. Everyone is welcome!

If you'd like to learn more about, volunteer with, or be added to our mailing list, or maybe you have an idea you'd like to share with us, please send an email to Rhea Homa at rhea.sunshine.pgh@gmail.com. We're always open to new projects and appreciate the voice of the community to help steer our sustainability efforts.



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VERONA FARMERS MARKET

By Stephani Garibay, Director of the Farmers Market

Another season is near! Thursday, June 1st, 2 pm-7 pm will start our 2023 season. Our market is looking for volunteers and vendors! Specifically: Produce (Mussers Market will still be here, just looking for a variety for our patrons), honey, food trucks, entertainment, handcrafted vendors, and more! We have applications in for, Mussers Market, Tom's Candy, adding La Vigneta Winery, and Marys's Kitchen (baked goods) just to name a few!

We have included our application in this newsletter, you can also find it on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/veronafarmers](https://www.facebook.com/veronafarmers) or email us at VeronaPAfarmersmarket@gmail.com for an application or to sign up to volunteer. Our season fee is \$125 (\$25 per month, with the last month free). This gets your business advertised and marketed through our Facebook, as well as at our market via signs/banners. You will have exclusive opportunities to also set up at our Verona Chamber of Commerce Halloween Bash and Jolly Jamboree. Applications and payment are due April 14th to secure your spot. There will be another committee meeting on April 1st, 2023 @ 12:30 pm at Inner Groove Brewing, this is for prospective volunteers/coordinators and vendors. Join us to help further our expansion as a market.

VERONA FARMERS MARKET RULES AND REGULATIONS

Event Timing: June 1st - Nov 16th **Event Address:** 736 E. Railroad, Verona, PA 15147
Contact us: 412-609-1587 or VeronaPaFarmersMarket@gmail.com
Checks can be made payable to the Verona Chamber of Commerce
Mail to: 728 Allegheny River Blvd, Verona, Pa 15147 C/O Verona Farmers Market

THE 2023 SEASON BEGINS THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023.

1. \$125.00 non-refundable Vendor fee due April 14, 2023. Filling out this application does not guarantee a space, but payment and proper documentation does. Attendance is mandatory, rain or shine. If you choose to come intermittently to our market you must provide a schedule by April 14th to better serve our patrons, and help our vendors maintain consistent market traffic.
2. Market Day is every Thursday 2 pm-7 pm (Set up can begin no more than 2 hours prior, sales are prohibited until 2 pm, and any sellers selling before will be asked to leave.)
3. Sellers must have prices displayed
4. All products and promotions must be kept within your selling area
5. Vendors must send in their certificate of Liability Insurance with an application with Borough of Verona and Verona Chamber of Commerce were added as additional insurers.
6. Any vendor selling a product that requires some form of licensing or Farmers Market Permit from Allegheny County MUST keep a copy on hand.
7. No smoking at the market
8. All pets must be on a leash
9. Vendors are responsible for bringing their personal tables, chairs, tents, etc. all items must be secured.
10. Vendors may park their vehicles/truck in the allotted space.

*****At the end of every market day, your space must be cleared of debris and placed in the provided garbage containers.*****

VERONA FARMERS MARKET 2023 APPLICATION

Application and payment are due Friday, April 14, 2023.

Mail this form along with payment to:
 728 Allegheny River Blvd, Verona PA, 15147 c/o Verona Farmers Market

Business Name: _____

Product: _____

Contact name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

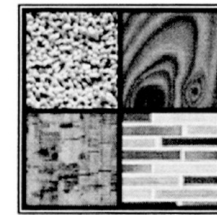
____ I would like to set up every Thursday.

____ I would like to schedule my dates below.

June 1	6/8	6/15	6/22	6/29
July 6	7/13	7/20	7/27	
Aug 3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
Sep 7	9/14	9/21	9/28	
Oct 5	10/12	10/19	10/26	

Check all boxed dates that you plan to attend.

(Cut out or photocopy this application.)



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FROM WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

By Frank W. Santucci

In the early 1900s baseball news dominated the sports pages of all the United States major newspapers.

Football, and in particular college ball, was the only major football around. Professional football teams were not created until the late 1920s. An interesting sidelight about the professional teams is that Western Pennsylvania was very influential in the birth of pro football. The Latrobe Athletic Association began initiating recruitment of college-graduated football players, even paying some a fee. The organized Latrobe Association teams struggled to sustain regularly scheduled games, while Ohio teams – Canton, Columbus, and Cleveland survived. As we know, Canton Ohio claims to be the birthplace of professional football, even housing the Football Hall of Fame.

College football was so brutal in 1906 - nineteen players died and one hundred thirty-seven sustained serious injuries. This was the major stats of college football and because of these tragic incidences, President Theodore Roosevelt threatened to ban all college football. New rules were proposed along with better equipment that was accepted by the major college teams.

In 1908 in the small Western Pennsylvania town of Washington, the local college, Washington & Jefferson (W&J) was making eastern football fans take notice. They had won eleven games, tied Army, and competed against Yale, the eastern power.

In 1910, Princeton, Army, and Harvard were considered the best in the country. For the next five

years, Washington & Jefferson had excellent teams. The nationwide sports magazine, Spaulding Football Guide, in 1914 placed W&J second in the east after Harvard. In 1917 W&J defeated Yale 13 to 7, making national news in the sports world.

In 1921 W&J won all thirteen scheduled games but in an unprecedented action, the University of Detroit Michigan declared itself the number one team in all the East. This prompted the coaches of W&J to schedule a game with Detroit. The University of Detroit agreed with the stipulation the game be played in Detroit. During the game, the W&J quarterback was injured and the halfback, Prunner West, assumed the position of quarterback.

Shortly after the news spread that W&J beat Detroit, this small Western Pennsylvania team received a telegram from the Rose Committee inviting them to Pasadena, California to play the Golden Bears of California who had a two-year undefeated record. The venue was the Tournament of Roses game which was to be played on January 2, 1922. The previous year's opponent, Ohio State University was beaten 28 to 0. After word spread that W&J was invited to California, the Ohio State coaches contacted W&J cautioning them to consider not going too early due to California's excessively hot weather.

The Athletic Director mortgaged his home as the college had no money to fund the trip. On December 24, 1921, twenty players and four coaches left by train, with the first stop in Pittsburgh, Chicago then Kansas City. At each stop, the team ran drills and dummy scrimmages. It just so happened that while in Kansas City, a player contracted pneumonia and had to be hospitalized. Unknown to the coaches, one player who did not officially make the roster was a stowaway and thus became the needed fill-in. Arriving in California, they were greeted by days and days of rain. The practice was strictly regimented.

Prunner West became the first African American to play in a quarterback position. He later attended Howard University in Washington D.C. and became a renowned surgeon.

As game time got close, the players were surprised when informed that they were expected to be participants in the Parade wearing their uniforms before playing the game.

Years later, this event was known as the Rose Bowl Tournament after a new bowl-style stadium was built.

Over 40,000 fans attended the game. The playing field was muddy due to a week of rain. W&J scored a

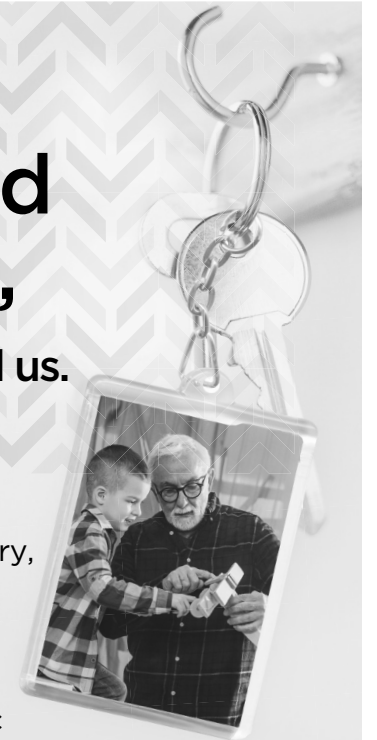
touchdown early that was called back due to a penalty. The game ended 0 to 0 and was a brutal contest.

This small college only had about 450 students but made national headlines. The Red and Black Express, as they were dubbed by the California newspapers, relished in their new national notoriety.

Two years later, W&J coach, Robert Murphy got ill and died of Pernicious Anemia, a blood disorder that, at that time, had no known treatment or cure.

Some say, now and then, in December, the whiff of roses can be detected around the W&J campus.

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LIZ KING



BIB IS BACK

By Debbie McCarthy

The Blessings in a Backpack Program (BIB) has started up again after a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. We are serving 60 children in both Riverview elementary schools. BIB is a national program that depends on local volunteers who fundraise to provide needy children with nutritious, non-perishable food to take home every weekend during the school year. For more information visit www.BlessingsinaBackpack.org

If you would like to contribute to our local program you can donate on the website or mail a check to BIB Lockbox, PO Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295-0291. Please be sure to write "Riverview/Verona PA on the memo line.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Program Director Debbie McCarthy at 412-828-2343.

Information about our Spring fundraiser will be coming soon!



You Deserve Acclamation!!

Acclamation Brewing is a nano-brewery that opened in July 2020 in the old Victor Ravioli building. We have a small, intimate taproom where we offer 6 different beers and 3 different hard seltzers (all made on-site). Our beer styles rotate but usually include IPAs, wheat ales, stouts, sours, and lagers. Outside we have seating for around 100, including 40 seats under a covered and heated shelter. From March to November, we have food trucks outside, but if there's no food truck, patrons are welcome to bring food with them or have food delivered. Our beer can be enjoyed at the brewery or taken home in the form of refillable growlers or 4 packs of cans. We even offer "build your own" mixed 4 packs. We are open Thursday 5-9 pm, Friday from 4-1 pm, Saturday 12-10 pm, and Sunday 1-7 pm. We hops to see you soon! Cheers!



You deserve Acclamation!!

Cheers,
Jason Yahnke
Director of Operations and Sales,
Co-Owner
Acclamation Brewing

Obituaries

Burket-Truby Funeral Home Cremation & Alternative Services, Inc.

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James D. Hurst, 66; Pittsburgh; November 9, 2022

Richard Thomas Hanus, 86; Oakmont; November 9, 2022

Debra Skatell Wehner, 60; Oakmont; November 10, 2022

Charles "Chuck" Samuel Fusaro; November 11, 2022

Antoinette Scassera, 95; Penn Hills; November 13, 2022

Mary R. Silipo, 86; Verona; November 16, 2022

John R. Molnar, 81; Springdale; November 19, 2022

Rita L. Nail, 69; Plum; November 20, 2022

Katherine S. Kurkjian, 97; Longwood at Oakmont;
November 21, 2022

Adda Mae Boyd, 91; formerly of Pittsburgh; November 21, 2022

Carol A. Stewart, 81; Verona; November 24, 2022

John P. Robl, 64; Verona; November 24, 2022

Joseph A. Opsitnick, 98; Wilkinsburg; November 29, 2022

Mary Jane (Pettit) Postlethwaite Morgan, 88; November 30, 2022

Edwin G. Robson, 87; Penn Hills; December 2, 2022

William F. Bodnar Jr., 68; Rosedale; December 4, 2022

Catherine A. Johnson, 66; December 4, 2022

Jane L. McNeil, 83; Verona; December 4, 2022

Eugene H. Dassonville, 91; Verona; December 6, 2022

Melissa L. Sub, 37; New Stanton (formerly of Harmar);
December 7, 2022

Susan (Carlberg) Podgers, 77; formerly of Oakmont;
December 7, 2022

Marlene N. Valente, 89; December 9, 2022

William "Buzz" Miller, 81; Oakmont; December 10, 2022

Robert Rump, 67; December 12, 2022

Marie A. Stockey, 90; Verona; December 12, 2022

Jean Hazlett, 91; formerly of Penn Hills; December 16, 2022

Augustus Peter Maggio; December 16, 2022

Peggy Jo Turnbow; December 17, 2022

Carolyn "Joy" Arndt, 82; Verona; December 18, 2022

Jane Ewing Moore; December 19, 2022

Lynn N. Perry, 69; Oakmont; December 20, 2022

Charlotte W. Burd, 86; December 21, 2022

Jean Ann Thomas, 71; December 23, 2022

Daniel L. "Butch" Sprouse, 57; North Apollo;
December 27, 2022

Cynthia L. Sherman, December 28, 2022

Yvonne (Zidar) Johnson, 75; Penn Hills; December 29, 2022

Brian L. Gray, 66; New Kensington; December 30, 2022

Susan Valorie Dachille, 66; Harmar Twp.; January 4, 2023

Nicholas A. Palermo, 66; Oakmont; January 4, 2023

Harold G. Stitt, Jr., 75; Springdale; January 5, 2023

Dennis J. Grimaldi, 64; Springdale; January 8, 2023

John E. Martz "Jack", 77; Verona; January 10, 2023

Samuel T. Liberto "Sam", 89; Verona; January 10, 2023

Erna Schaal, 105; Verona and Oakmont; January 11, 2023

James "Jim/Corky" Allen, 68; Verona; January 15, 2023

James "Jim" Gilmour, 64; Franklin Park; January 16, 2023

August Savio, Jr., 94; January 16, 2023

William (Bill) Thomas, 65; January 17, 2023

Judith A. (Cain) Deasy, 86; Oakmont; January 21, 2023

Eileen Jordan Gerneth, 86; Point Breeze; January 26, 2023

Betty Mae Schweitzer, 99; January 27, 2023

Harriet J. Marchek, Springdale; January 27, 2023

Sylvia E. Bozick, 84; Columbus, Ohio; January 27, 2023

James R. "Mickey" Tate, 83; Oakmont; January 27, 2023

Patricia Matassa, 80; East Oakmont; January 31, 2023

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Kaaren L. Amodeo, 80; Oakmont; November 15, 2022

Thomas E. Richey, 80; Oakmont; December 2, 2022

William R. Coates, 93; Oakmont; December 11, 2022

Catherine M. Lytle, 99; Monroeville; December 13, 2022

Albert Dudreck, 91; Fox Chapel; December 27, 2022

Michael J. Pontieri, 66; Oakmont; January 20, 2023

Dorothy Peterson, 96; January 22, 2023



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