

# THE WEEKLY RECORDER

Community News • Serving Washington County

## WE ARE BACK!

**The Weekly Recorder**, a 135-year-old weekly newspaper founded in Claysville, Pennsylvania, is back and covering Washington County.

The publication, which was originally run as a print edition served primarily the Claysville, Pa area. Over the years, the paper changed ownership multiple times. In the 1960's, George Melvin, who at the time was the owner, had briefly closed the paper then found a buyer late in the decade. Gene Shaw purchased and ran the company until 1973, when he sold it to "Buck" and Betty Jones.

The Jones Family continued to run the newspaper until it was sold in 1982 to Douglas Teagarden. Teagarden ran the paper until 2002 when it was purchased by Cody Knotts. Prior to the Knotts purchase, the paper concentrated on the news of the McGuffey School District in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Knotts switched format and the publication become an investigative tabloid concentrating on politics and crime.

In early August 2011, Knotts sold the Weekly Recorder to DFM Publishing. DFM continued to carry political news, but also focused on a wider variety of content such as sports, arts and entertainment, fitness, etc. DFM also expanded the publications content and distribution into other counties in Southwestern PA. The paper then had an interactive website which was updated frequently and allowed users to chat and view past issues.

In 2023 the intellectual property of the paper was acquired by Penn West Media with Daryl W. Price and Matthew G. Uram serving as Publishers and W.R. Smith as the paper's Editor in Chief. The new version covers the entirety of Washington County PA including all 67 municipalities and 15 school districts. The Weekly Recorder's current focus is government, faith, business, energy, agriculture, sports and outdoors, features and events. Print circulation will be weekly with an online version available. The company will also publish multiple special editions throughout the year, focusing on special events and important news.

Co-Publisher Matthew Uram listed some of his reasons for relaunching the paper.

"I took on this investment and role of publisher to further my interests and beliefs in Washington County. And to help the county in general."

"For example, highlighting and reporting on addiction recovery and the state of Human Services, will bring light to the counties needs and hopefully lead to solutions. I'd like this part of the paper to be a beacon of hope for those that have none. This is an opportunity to dive into existing services, their pros and cons and innovative new therapies, some with a techy spin, as we help those struggle.

Uram went onto to explain that solutions based local government and consensus between both sides is a need. "I hope we can help to recognize important benchmarks and achievements while also scrutinizing waste, fringe politics, fraud and malfeasance," he said.

When asked why a newspaper publication, Uram said, "Washington County is my lifelong home. We have so many great people and businesses. This is an opportunity to highlight our gems for all to see. From agriculture, to entertainment, to infrastructure and much more, our county has a great story to tell. We have work to do, but just maybe The Weekly Recorder can bring to light what is good and what we can do to improve in the areas where we need to do better."



County Commissioners and Fair Dignitaries Break Ground on the new Memorial Plaza

### Washington County Agricultural Fair to Celebrate 225th Anniversary August 12th – 19th 2023.

The 225th Washington County Agricultural Fair Anniversary Planning Committee is proud to announce its 225th anniversary plans to celebrate this milestone with the community. To commemorate this special occasion, The fair committee has planned a series of events and activities, during fair week, for everyone to enjoy.

**The Memorial Plaza - Commemorative Personalized Pavers**  
Currently under construction is the 225th Memorial Plaza, which will feature fair history, commemorative images, and commemorative personalized pavers. Fair personnel broke ground on this historical display on April 27th and plan for competition by the time the

2023 fair kicks off. The pavers are an excellent opportunity for anyone to "leave your mark on the fairgrounds" and be a part of this historic moment. The commemorative personalized pavers will cost \$225 for a 4" by 8" paver and \$425 for an 8" by 8" paver. All proceeds benefit the Washington County Agricultural Fair a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

**Anniversary Mural**  
The Fair Board has commissioned a local artist to create a mural that will showcase the history and evolution of the Washington County Agricultural Fair. This mural will be on the exterior of a building next to the Anniversary Plaza. It will be a permanent display and will make for a great

photo opportunity for visitors.

#### Opening Parade

The opening parade will be a highlight of the 225th edition of the fair. Invited to participate are past and present fair exhibitors to participate in the parade, showcasing the traditions and history of the fair. 225th Anniversary.

#### Themed and Traveling

Antique Truck and Tractor Exhibit. On display will be an antique truck and tractor traveling exhibit, which will showcase the evolution of agriculture and farming practices in Washington County. This exhibit will be 225th anniversary themed, and the fair board encourages everyone to come out, take a picture and learn about the rich history of agriculture in our community.

To be announced soon, will be a major concert for the fair, featuring a popular country artist. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting event.

#### Major Concert

To be announced soon, will be a major concert for the fair, featuring a popular country artist. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting event.

#### Commemorative Magazine

Available to all will be a special commemorative magazine that will feature the history of the Washington County Agricultural Fair

and the special events and activities planned for the 225th anniversary celebration.

#### Commemorative Ticket

As a keepsake to all fair visitors, will be a special commemorative ticket that will be handed out at the gate as part of Opening Day celebrations.

The annual Washington County Agricultural Fair is a Washington County tradition. Make sure to join in on the festivities during fair week from August 12th – 19th 2023, and celebrate the special occasion of agriculture, tradition, and community at the Washington County Agricultural Fair. For more information, visit the fair website at [www.washingtonfair.org](http://www.washingtonfair.org) or call the Fair office at 724-225-7718. Daily admission is \$10 including carnival rides and parking is always free.



Wayne Hunnell - Washington Co. Agricultural Fair Board



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