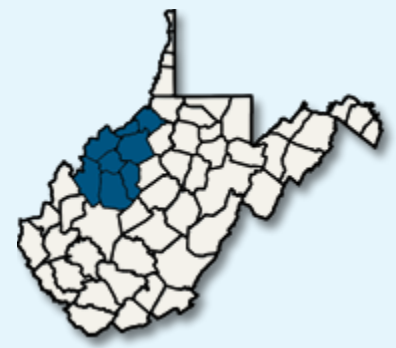


MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MOVRC Monthly Newsletter
<http://www.movrc.org/>
304-422-4993

January 2018

Foster Grandparent Program sponsor MLK Day of Service



The MOVRC Foster Grandparent Program is sponsoring a MLK Day of Service Project during January 2018. We have partnered with local Gabriel Projects and will be hosting Community Baby Showers in Buckhannon, Elizabeth, Parkersburg and St. Marys. Our FGP's will be donating new or gently used items to assist with the Gabriel Project. The Gabriel Project mission is to provide compassionate and caring support to families with children newborn to the age of two through materials, education and community referrals.

The MLK Day of Service is a part of Serve.gov, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

The success of our MLK Day of Service Project last year was remarkable. The Foster Grandparents and FGP Staff made birthday bags for children and were able to do so through donations from the communities in which we serve. These birthday bags were distributed to local food pantries and programs in all the counties. The Foster Grandparents truly enjoyed coming together and participating in a project of giving.



Ravenswood Senior Center Celebrates 20 Years



BUSY TIME FOR RSVP VOLUNTEERS

The RSVP volunteers had a very busy December. Even though there were many dinners and parties that were held throughout the holiday season, the volunteers continued to help others in their communities in need. RSVP volunteers continued their service at food banks, meal delivery and food distribution centers, hospitals and veterans centers.

On December 8, 2017, Ravenswood Senior Center celebrated their 20th Anniversary with an Open House.

The community was invited to celebrate and tour the center and learn about all the activities and opportunities available to them. RSVP volunteer Hazel Brammer addressed the community at the Open House.

In the month of January the MOVRC/RSVP program will be participating in the Martin Luther King Jr., Day of National Service. The service project this year will focus on reading. The stations have been collecting new books that will be wrapped and delivered to local agencies, hospitals and other organizations in the service areas where a child will have the opportunity to enjoy a book. The volunteers will be wrapping books this week and distributing them in the next week. So far over 100 books have been donated or purchased for this project.

Each month we continue to find new ways for our seniors to volunteer and make an impact in their communities.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Workforce Development Board has been working closely with union workers to assist them with their start up needs as they learn their traits and join the workforce. We are currently working with the Millwrights, Iron Workers, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Painters, and Laborers to find eligible participants and help them get started. We met with the laborers on January 8th and found 9 eligible for our program. We will be meeting with the Millwrights on the 23rd and the rest of the unions as their classes become available. The Workforce Development Board has also been working hard to begin new On The Job Training. We have a possible OJT for Randolph Construction. This would be our



The Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission has modified the procedures for including projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The modification was a result of a coordinated effort between the West Virginia Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) throughout the state.

Historically, all project regardless of project type that utilized federal funds were included on the TIP through a public involvement process. That process was time consuming, expensive, and did not conclude with productive results. To expedite the process, The West Virginia Division of Highways developed a process that allows MPO's to incorporate certain projects on the TIP through an "Administrative Adjustment" process. Projects that fit within certain "grouped" project categories are incorporated through this process. The project groups include maintenance and system preservation, operational improvements, Transportation Alternative Program, emergency relief, and technical support. However, this process did not eliminate the formal amendment process entirely. Federally funded projects including transit projects, added capacity projects or projects considered regionally significant are still required to be included on the TIP through a public involvement process. A similar process was implemented for the Washington County, OH portion of the study area several years ago. The Ohio grouped projects are referenced as "Statewide Line Items" in the TIP document. All changes to the TIP, as well as other WWW information can be reviewed on the WWW website at www.triplew.org.

WATER/SEWER OPERATOR TRAINING

The Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council will be holding an informational meeting regarding using Workforce Development programs to assist water and sewer utilities with training needs. The meeting will be held at the MOVRC office at 10am on January 25, 2018. Although the information will be applicable to any training needs, the focus of the meeting will be on operator training required for various levels of certification and how Workforce Development programs may be able to assist with the cost of needed training.

MOVRC “BAD BUILDING” SESSION PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY



The MOVRC board meeting scheduled for February 21st will feature an earlier 5pm start time and a special session designed to inform, educate and allow question and answer on the topic of problem properties and building or property maintenance code for municipalities. All board members are encouraged to attend, and those communities with staff and a particular interest in how to deal with dilapidated and

abandoned properties are encouraged to also bring additional guests who will benefit from this session. The evening will feature staff from WVU Law Clinic, the West Virginia Northern Brownfields Assistance Center, and the West Virginia Community Development HUB.

Strong interest has been shown by our cities and towns in putting ordinances with “teeth” and code enforcement staff with proper qualifications to work across the region. Six of our municipalities have provided letters of support for the ARC grant application MOVRC will be submitting by the end of January to fund a regional code enforcement position. If that plan comes to fruition, communities will need to be ready with properly adopted codes, well written legally reviewed ordinances, and have taken the steps to inventory and rank the problem properties to be targeted. It is hoped that the session will kick off some action steps on how we can all begin to better address the plague of vacant and dilapidated properties across the MOVRC region.

Questions on the event or about code enforcement can be referred to Luke Peters and are encouraged to be emailed ahead of time to luke.peters@movrc.org

The regular monthly agenda will proceed following the presentation by 6:00 or 6:30