

Celebrating the Fourth of July: A Time for Freedom and Festivities

Every year on **July 4th**, Americans come together to celebrate the **birth of our nation** and the freedoms we cherish.

Independence Day marks the adoption of the **Declaration of Independence in 1776**, when the thirteen American colonies declared their freedom from British rule.

Today, the Fourth of July is celebrated with **parades, fireworks, barbecues, and patriotic music**. Families gather for picnics, communities host festivals, and the night sky lights up in red, white, and blue.

While we enjoy the fun and festivities, it's also a moment to reflect on the **values of liberty, equality, and unity** that continue to shape our country.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Independence Day—may it be filled with pride, gratitude, and celebration!

Applications for 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are being accepted.

The filing deadline has been extended to December 31, 2025.

Make a Difference: Volunteer with the Mercer County Area Agency on Aging!

Looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community?

The Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. has volunteer opportunities that make a real impact on the lives of local seniors—and they're looking for compassionate people like you!

Whether you'd like to become a trained advocate for residents in long-term care and be an Ombudsman, educate the public about Medicare options through the PA MEDI program, or simply answer phones or help serve meals at a senior center, there's a role that fits your interests and schedule.

Call 724-662-6222 today to learn how you can get involved, make new connections,

and support older adults in your community.

Volunteer. Connect. Make a difference.

2025 Farmers Market Voucher Program Distribution Schedule

SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM



Summer is here and with the warm weather comes locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables. Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc., is offering the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) to eligible Mercer County Seniors. This program is made possible through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Distribution. The purpose of this program is to encourage older adults to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables produced by local growers as well as to support local growers. The SFMN provides \$25.00 in vouchers to eligible older adults.

To be eligible to receive the vouchers in Mercer County, a consumer must be:
a resident of Mercer County; and 60 years or older as of 2025; and have a gross annual income (including interest, Social Security, wages, etc.) at or below \$28,953 for a single person, or \$39,128 for a couple. (Income includes income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, bonds, etc.)
Proof of age and residency is required (driver's license, photo ID, etc.).

A representative may pick up the vouchers for an eligible Senior as long as they have a signed and completed proxy form **AND** the consumer's proof of age and residency. The proxy form is available at any of the Agency's Senior Community Centers or the Administrative Office.

AN ELIGIBLE CONSUMER MAY ONLY RECEIVE THE \$25.00 VOUCHERS ONCE EACH YEAR.

Eligible Seniors can pick up their vouchers at the following locations at the times listed, while supplies last.

Greenville Area (724-588-3155)

Greenville Senior

Community Center

45 Alan Ave., Greenville

Regular distribution dates

at the center:

(Starting July 8):

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00–4:00 P.M.

Special distribution dates:

Wed, July 16: Lutheran Village,

Jamestown — 1:00–3:30 P.M.

Wed, July 23: Greenville House —

1:00–3:30 P.M.

Mercer Area (724-662-6222)

MCAAA, Inc., Administrative Office

133 N. Pitt St., Mercer

Regular distribution dates:

(Starting July 7):

Mon– Fri 9:30 –11:30 A.M. &

1:00–3:00 P.M.

Grove City Area (724-458-6844)

Grove City Senior Center

301 S. Broad St., Grove City

Regular distribution

dates at the center:

Wed, July 9: 2:00–4:00 P.M.

Mon, July 14: 9:00–11:00 A.M.

Wed, July 16: 1:00–3:00 P.M.

Mon, July 21: 9:00–11:00 A.M.

Wed, July 23: 1:00–3:00 P.M.

Wed, July 30: 1:00–3:00 P.M.

Special Distribution Dates:

Wed, July 9: Grove City

Food Pantry — 10:00–12:00 P.M.

Thu, July 10: Mercer Co. Grange

Fair — 1:00–5:00 P.M.

Sandy Lake Area (724-376-3608)

McQuiston Center by the Park

29 Railroad St., Sandy Lake

Regular distribution dates

at the center:

(Starting July 7)

Mondays and Tuesdays

9:00–11:30 A.M. &

2:00–4:30 P.M.

Shenango Valley Senior Center

220 N. Buhl Farm Drive, Hermitage

Regular distribution dates

at the center:

(Starting July 10)

Tuesdays & Thursdays

2:00–4:00 P.M.

Special Distribution Dates:

Downtown Sharon Farmers Market

Wed, July 9 - 3:00–6:00 P.M.

Wed, July 23 - 3:00–6:00 P.M.

STEPS TO SAFE AND HEALTHY FRUITS & VEGETABLES

From the Store to Your Table

Fruits and vegetables are healthy to eat. But did you know that harmful germs, like *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*, can sometimes be on fruits and vegetables? There are steps that can help keep you healthy—and your fruits and vegetables safer to eat—from the store to your table.



Fruit and Vegetable Safety at the Store or Market



Check for Bruises

- Choose fruits and vegetables that are free of bruises or damaged spots, unless you plan to cook them.



Keep Precut Fruits and Vegetables Cold

- Choose precut and packaged fruits and vegetables that are refrigerated or kept on ice.



Separate

- Separate fruits and vegetables from raw meat, poultry, and seafood in your shopping cart and in your grocery bags.

Fruit and Vegetable Safety at Home

Get fruits & vegetables home and in the fridge in 2 hours or less



Wash

- Wash your hands before and after preparing fruits and vegetables.
- Wash or scrub all fruits and vegetables under running water before eating, cutting, or cooking.
- Fruits and vegetables labeled "prewashed" do not need to be washed again at home.



Keep Cold

- Refrigerate cut, peeled, or cooked fruits and vegetables as soon as possible, or within 2 hours.
- Use a refrigerator thermometer to make sure the temperature stays at 40°F or below.



Separate

- Store fruits and vegetables away from, and not next to or below, raw meat, poultry, and seafood. These items can drip juices that may have germs.
- Use a separate cutting board for fruits and vegetables that is never used for cutting or preparing raw meats, poultry, or seafood.
- Wash cutting boards, counter tops, and utensils with hot, soapy water before and after preparing fruits and vegetables.

For more information, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov.

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Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/steps-healthy-fruits-veggies.html>



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Wrapping Up the 2025 Mercer County Senior Games!

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported the
2025 Mercer County Senior Games!

We had an incredible two weeks of exciting competition and community spirit during the
Mercer County Senior Games, with events taking place across the entire county.

Stay tuned—results will be announced soon!

We're already looking forward to next year's games. Be sure to sign up and bring a friend to
join in the fun!

Thank you for making the 2025 Senior Games a success!





Thank you to the 2025 Mercer County Senior Games Sponsors!

Gold Sponsors:

- * Acrisure / Davevic Benefit Consultants *
- * Lifeline Physical Therapy *
- * NuChoice Home Care *
- * UPMC *
- * Walberg Family Pharmacies *

Silver Sponsors:

- * St. Paul's Senior Living Community *
- * Seniors Helping Seniors Shenango Valley *

Bronze Sponsors:

- * Dutex Inc. *
- * Gilbert's Risk Solutions *
- * Shenango Valley Tennis Club *

Facility Sponsors:

- * Buhl Park * Buhl Community Recreation Center *
- * Greenville Borough/Riverside Park *
- * Grove City Bowlodrome *
- * Grove City Memorial Park * Hermitage School District *
- * MCAAA, Inc., Senior Community Centers *
- * Pine Hill Golf Course *



VETERANS: AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A PENSION POACHING SCAM!

NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR YOUR VETERAN BENEFITS



WHAT IS VETERAN PENSION POACHING?

Veteran pension poaching is when scammers or dishonest financial planners prey on those seeking help to apply for the benefits they have earned through their military services.

HOW CAN YOU HELP VETERANS AVOID PENSION POACHING?

Be sure that a veteran you advocate for always uses assistance from a County Director of Veterans Affairs or another Accredited Veterans Services Officer (VSO) when applying for veterans benefits.

A VSO will help explain, complete and submit federal or state veteran benefits applications for FREE, so veterans should never pay to apply for benefits they earned thanks to service to our nation.

Contact information for County Director of Veterans Affairs and other accredited Veterans Services Officers can be found at: www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect

County Director
QR Code



SCAN
Above



SUSPECT VETERAN PENSION POACHING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO EXPERIENCED IT?

Victims of pension poaching should file a report immediately with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office via one of the following:

Call: 717-783-1944

Email: PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov

File a complaint online by clicking the "Submit a Complaint" tab from any page of the www.attorneygeneral.gov website.



Pennsylvania
**Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**



Penn Medicine



CREST Program Announcement



(Caregiver Resources, Education, and Support)

Provided by Penn Medicine in partnership with the PACE/PACENET Program

What is CREST?

CREST is a **free** service currently offered to **AAA engaged consumers** as well as **PACE/PACENET cardholders** and their caregivers. CREST is a telephone-based psychoeducation program for caregivers of individuals with dementia.

Our comprehensive program offers:

- Dementia Education
- Personalized Caregiver Support
- Medication Psychoeducation and Counseling
- Resource Finding

What does CREST Do?

The **CREST** program provides direct support for caregivers with **Licensed Clinical Social Workers**. Interventions include:

- Emotional support specific to caregiver stress
- Education about symptoms of dementia
- Care coordination and coaching between physicians and health systems
- Help managing challenging behaviors
- Referrals to community resources
- Teaching problem solving skills
- Improving communication between the caregiver and person with dementia
- Referrals to community resources
- Education around home safety
- Grief support

Make a Referral Today! Toll Free: 1-866-751-7872

OR follow our link for quick eligibility guide and online referral form:

<https://redcap.link/crest>

UPCOMING Community events:

State Representative Parke Wentling Senior Expo

Friday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hickory VFW, located at [5550 East State St.](#) in Hermitage.

Senator Brooks' Greenville Senior Expo

Friday, September 19, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., located at Greenville Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, 63 Conneaut Lake Road (across from the VFW), Greenville, PA 16125

2025 Buhl Park Concert Series

Sundays at 6:00PM and Wednesdays at 6:30PM

Wed, July 2	Pipe Dreams	"The West Coast Sound" Yacht Rock
Sun, July 6	Chris Higbee	Country music artist, expert fiddler, singer & song writer
Wed, July 9*	The Zokas Band	Favorite Polkas, Waltzes, Oldies, and more
Sun, July 13	A Band With No Name	Classic rock and Yacht Rock hits like Eagles, Beatles, Steely Dan
Wed, July 16	Max Schang Band	Soulful and energetic Blues, Jazz, Boogie, and Rock
Sun, July 20	The Wrangler Band	Country and Classic Rock from old to new
Wed, July 23	Guys Without Ties	Classic Rock with horns, music from old to new.
Sun, July 27	Four Kings & A Queen	Funk, Rock, R & B, Motown & Jazz
Wed, July 30	John Reese & Backbeat	From Swing and Jazz to Motown, Disco, Funk, and Pop



Greenville Heritage Days Festival

Riverside Park Greenville, PA
Saturday July 12th Opens at 11am



Pyrotecnico Fireworks 9:45pm
Sponsored by Greenville Elks
Special Thanks to Greenville Fire Dept., Chief Brian Alabaugh and Mercer County Trails Association

Free Kids Craft Zone Noon-5pm
Includes Nancy's Face Painting
Sponsored by Greenville Savings Bank

Rides Sponsored by Anderson Coach & Travel
\$5 person 11am-8pm includes Zoo-2-Go Barnyard Express



1 Day Only

FESTIVAL EVENTS

Arts & Craft & Non-Profit Vendors Food Trucks Fireworks Blacksmith
Abe & Mary Lincoln (Lincoln speaks at 2pm) 50/50 Raffle Rides
New this year Rannels Rustics Chainsaw Wood Carvers
Raffle of Wood Carving donated to Heritage Days Petting Zoo
DJ pre Fireworks Free Kids Craft Zone Sunstar Baton 1pm
Free Face Painting Events in Senior Center Check our Facebook page
Food, Arts & Craft, Non-Profit Vendors are listed on our website
www.greenvilleheritagedays.com

Senior Resources

AARP (www.aarp.org)— The National site for AARP a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people, ages 50 and older. Call 1-888-687-2277

Benefits Checkup (www.benefitscheckup.org)— An online questionnaire to help search for a list of all state and federal benefits.

COMPASS (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Application for Social Services [www.compass.state.pa.us])— Enables Pennsylvania citizens to apply for social service programs online. Call 1-800-692-7462.

Medicare (www.medicare.gov)—The official government site for Medicare consumer information. Call 1-800-633-4227

Mental Health Services

Do you need to talk to someone about loneliness or depression?

Locally:

Mercer County Crisis:

724-662-2227

Community Counseling Center Warm Line:

724-981-1741






1-866-853-7758

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

Dial 988 –or- 1-800-273-8255

Veteran Crisis Line: Call 988 then press 1.

Want to see if you can save money on Medicare costs? Call PA MEDI at 724-662-6222.

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY 		
Call: 800-225-7223	PAGE	PACENET
Age 65+		
PA Resident for at least 90 days		
Individual Income	under 14,500	between 14,500- 33,500
Married Income	under 17,700	between 17,700- 41,500

Local Volunteer Opportunities:

Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
724-662-6222

American Red Cross 1-800-422-7677

Meals on Wheels 724-342-2042

United Way of Mercer County 724-981-1884

Mercer County Food Bank 724-981-0353

MCAAA, Inc. Contact Information:

www.mercercountyaging.org



Administration / Care Management / Older Adult Protective Services

133 N. Pitt Street, Mercer, PA 16137
724-662-6222

Greenville Senior Community Center

45 Alan Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-3155

Grove City Senior Community Center

301 S. Broad Street, Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-6844

McQuiston Center by the Park

29 Railroad Street, Sandy Lake, PA 16145
724-376-3608

Shenango Valley Senior Center and Adult Day Care

220 N. Buhl Farm Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148
724-981-7950