News Coverage

August 2020

**Putting Food Access Resources on the Map**

The Mahoning Valley has been pinned on the map, so to speak, for a lot of things over the years. Unfortunately, some of these recognitions are less than glamorous, especially when the focus is on the health of the region.

Map from YSU CURS showing grocery store locations and households with no...

July 2020

**City Approves Sign Change**

The committee gave conceptual approval for a mural on a retaining wall along Andrews Avenue. The mural, a joint project of Youngstown State University and Lit Youngstown, is receiving funding from the Raymond John Wean Foundation. YSU art students will design the mural, which will feature a “memory ribbon” with...

**Grace AME Event**

Grace AME Church in Warren Nursing Guild, in conjunction with the Warren City Health District, is beginning distribution of iPads for seniors who have suffered loneliness, social isolation and physical isolation from family and friends due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The iPads were funded in part by Buckeye Health Plan, the Raymond J. Wean Foundation...

**Society Project Spotlights Local Black Voices**

The Trumbull County Historical Society this week launched it’s “Voices” oral history project, which looks to preserve the experiences of elders in Warren’s black community. So far, the website, www.voicesoftc.org, includes more than 100 interview clips, and it soon also will hold a gallery of items scanned during a Black History Month community event held in February. The project began in 2017 when the historical
June 2020

**Foundations Expand Grantmaking Efforts**
Three Valley foundations have expanded their collaborative grant-making to include stabilization efforts and support for organizations working toward the region’s re-emergence from the COVID-19 health crisis. The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation released an updated application earlier this week. The common form...

**Map Pinpoints Valley Food Pantry Locations**
Finding somewhere to obtain food for you and your family during the current coronavirus crisis just got easier thanks to a partnership of several organizations. Finding somewhere to obtain food for you and your family during the current coronavirus crisis just got easier thanks to a partnership of several organizations an interactive [Mahoning Valley Food Pantry Map](#) has been put online by...

**Nonprofits Adjust Operations in Wake of Virus**
Like all entities during the coronavirus outbreak, nonprofits are being challenged to change the way they do business while dealing with financial uncertainty. Many leaders of these organizations, such as Teresa Boyce, co-director of Beatitude House Ministries in Youngstown, have all or most...

**Funds raised to begin restoration of historic Youngstown monastery**
A group that encourages saving Youngstown neighborhoods says enough money has been donated to begin work on renovating a historic building on Youngstown’s South Side. The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation reported this week that 175 people had made donations totaling...
County CDBG cash has to be distributed through programs
The Trumbull County Planning Commission is doing what it can to prepare for an unknown amount of money it expects to receive to help the community with the extra costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of money the planning commission will receive in supplemental Community Development Block Grants and the local government funds through…

Area agency helping those affected by COVID-19 pay for medication or house bills
Last week we told you Catholic Charities can help people who find themselves behind on their bills. The Protestant Family Service of the Greater Youngstown Area can also provide crisis assistance. It has $40,000 in special COVID-19 funding from the Wean Foundation, the Youngstown Foundation and the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. The money is to help people with past-due utility bills or…

Meridian HealthCare receives $30,000 to provide food for residents at facilities
Meridian HealthCare has received $30,000 from the COVID-19 Crisis Relief Fund, a joint effort of the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation. Meridian received $15,000 from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley and $15,000 from the Youngstown Foundation. The funds will help provide…

Nonprofits to get help from groups
Nonprofits that rely on donations to help those in need are running out of dollars to help people and to keep operations going. In an effort to ensure donations are getting to those in need, philanthropic organizations are coming together to coordinate efforts and streamline procedures to avoid duplication. Shari Harrell, president of the…
Community Leaders, Groups Give Back
PNC Financial Services Group, The Serenity Center and community foundations groups find ways to help communities...

Foundations Launch COVID-19 Relief Application
In an effort to support nonprofit organizations serving Mahoning Valley residents most impacted by COVID-19, three area foundations have created a common funding application to simplify the grant request process. The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation released the COVID-19 Crisis Relief Application, which can be...

Orchids and Onions
ORCHID: To three Mahoning Valley foundations for their collaborative effort in assisting local nonprofit organizations seeking COVID-19 grant funding. Together, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Raymond John Wean Foundation and Youngstown Foundation are simplifying...

3 Valley Foundations Simplify Grant Requests to Address Coronavirus
Three Mahoning Valley foundations have teamed up to create the COVID-19 Crisis Relief Application to simplify the grant request process for nonprofits addressing impacts of the health crisis. The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation released the application last week. The common form can be accessed on all three...

Three Valley foundations create COVID-19 Crisis Relief Application
Three community foundations have come together to create a grant to nonprofit organizations to provide relief amid the coronavirus pandemic. The COVID-19 Crisis Relief Application is a joint effort from the Raymond John Wean Foundation, The Youngstown Foundation and The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. The application was released Friday and can
Foundations streamline COVID-19 relief requests with joint application
Three Mahoning Valley foundations have jointly created the COVID-19 Crisis Relief Application to simplify the grant request process for nonprofits addressing impacts of the current health crisis. The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and the Youngstown Foundation released the...

Stepping Up
The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the Raymond John Wean Foundation and The Youngstown Foundation have created an application for nonprofits seeking aid in addressing the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The common form is available on the websites of all three...

March 2020

Valley foundations, United Ways join forces
Many agencies and nonprofits are being challenged as they face increased needs from their current clients and an influx of new individuals and families seeking help. First steps for this funding partnership include gathering information from local agencies and individuals on the impact...

Valley foundations, United Ways team up to battle COVID-19 impact
The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Mercy Health Foundation of Mahoning Valley, The Raymond John Wean Foundation, United Way of Trumbull County, United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and The Youngstown Foundation have pledged to leverage...

Charitable Organizations Partner on Virus Response
Six local charitable organizations are partnering to fund efforts targeted at mitigating the impact of the COVID-19
outbreak. In a statement Monday morning, the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley, The Raymond John Wean Foundation, United Way of Trumbull County, United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, and The Youngstown Foundation announced the organization’s leaders...

**Valley Foundations, United Way Join Forces to Fund**

Rather than respond to the COVID-19 crisis in isolation, local foundations and United Ways are working collectively to support Mahoning Valley nonprofits and residents. Six local funders — The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Mercy Health Foundation of Mahoning Valley, The Raymond John Wean Foundation, United Way of Trumbull County, United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, The Youngstown Foundation — pledge to leverage resources, informational and monetary, to strengthen investments made to address COVID-19...

**January 2020**

**WRPA Ok’s Buying Mahoning Ave. Properties**

The board of directors for the Western Reserve Port Authority unanimously approved the acquisition of properties along Mahoning Avenue, where a yet-to-be-named company will develop the site. The city of Youngstown’s Board of Control approved selling the 12-parcel, 1.5-acre site to the port authority for $1,601.78 at its meeting Jan. 23. The site fronts the corridor at 1586 and 1588 Mahoning Ave. John Moliterno, executive director of the port authority...

**Economic Development WRPA Purchases West Side Sites for Development Project**

A potential economic development project on a 1.5-acre site on the West Side represents just one step in plans to redevelop key local corridors. City officials and representatives of the Western Reserve Port Authority are tight-lipped about the project, which they caution is in its early stages. At its meeting Thursday, the city’s Board of Control approved selling
12 parcels, which includes…

**Youngstown Charts Development Course for 2020**
Positioning downtown as an entertainment district along the lines of Cleveland’s Playhouse Square and incorporating public transportation as an asset are among the components envisioned as parts of Youngstown’s development strategy. The strategy is…

**Museum in a Box**
The Trumbull County Museum in a Box educational program offers opportunities for classroom programs to bring history alive. Themes are Native Americans, Pioneer Life, Civil War and the Underground Railroad, and Victorian Life. The boxes are made possible by Neighborhood Success Grant…

**December 2019**

**Amphitheater seeks to grow shows in ’20**
The Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre opened June 14, providing an outdoor venue for shows and events in the city’s downtown. Going forward in 2020, Jordan Ryan, executive director of Covelli Centre and the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, said the area can look forward to “similar-type” artists that were welcomed in 2019. Operated by JAC Management Group, the facility is located inside the Raymond John Wean Foundation Park. The complex is on property that…

**The Raymond John Wean Foundation Awards YNDC a $550,000 grant for 2020**
On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, The Raymond John Wean Foundation awarded YNDC a two year $1.1 million grant for general operations. YNDC will receive $550,000 in 2020. The grant will fund YNDC operations, programmatic activity, and…

**Wean Foundation Renews Support for YNDC, TNP**
At its December meeting, board members of the Raymond John Wean Foundation awarded $2 million in community investment
grants to Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corp. and Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership. The community development corporations are strategic partners with the foundation due to their strong leadership roles in resident empowerment and sustained community development in Warren and Youngstown. “With input from community stakeholders...

**November 2019**

**Foundation’s Advance Region’s Quality of Life**
Last year, six regional foundations in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys awarded more than $50 million in grants to improve the region’s quality of life. The grants ranged from less than $1,000 to more than $1 million, each conforming to the missions of the foundations and their component funds – and the overall well-being of the region. As the strategic plans of foundations start to align, it’s a sign that the nonprofit funding community is heading in the right...

**October 2019**

**Turning, Wean Foundation award $53K in grants to Valley teachers**
The Turning Foundation – in partnership with The Raymond John Wean Foundation – has awarded Innovative Teacher Mini-Grants to instructors in Trumbull and Mahoning counties. Recipients will receive cash awards up to $5,000, with a grand total of $53,497 impacting more than 3,000 students in Pre-K-12 classrooms during the...

**Foundations award grants to 13 local teachers**
The Turning Foundation, in partnership with The Raymond John Wean Foundation, has awarded 13 Innovative Teacher Mini-Grants to instructors in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Ashtabula counties. Recipients will receive cash awards up to $5,000, with a total of $53,497 impacting more than 3,000 students in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade during...
Turning and Wean Foundation Grants Give More Than $50,000 to Area Teachers
The Turning Foundation and The Raymond John Wean Foundation have awarded 13 grants worth more than $50,000. The 13 Innovative Teacher Mini-Grants were given to instructors in Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Grant recipients will receive up to $5,000, with a grand total being given of $53,497. Grant applications that connected...

Trumbull BDD Gets Grant for Employment Program
The Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities has received a $5,000 grant from the Raymond John Wean Foundation to fund the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Employment program. “We are so grateful for the Wean Foundation and this grant,” said Rick Mistovich, the board’s community employment coordinator, in a statement. “These funds will help us further develop our program and...

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation turns to YSU nonprofit interns for staffing
Since 2011, Youngstown State University’s Nonprofit Leadership Summer Honors Internship program has given 54 YSU students the chance to test their mettle in the nonprofit and public work sector. The biennial program provides full-time, 12-week paid internships with local organizations to 10 YSU students. At the session’s conclusion, students graduate and disperse throughout the workforce or continue their studies in graduate school. However, one participating organization has kept its interns close to...

WorkAdvance Programs Fills Workforce Gaps
Lifting workers out of low-wage-jobs, providing sustainable careers and giving people a second chance are some of the ways a job-skills training program is changing lives — and reversing the brain drain plaguing our communities and...
To Warren-based Raymond John Wean Foundation for promising $125,000 per year for 15 years to Youngstown for naming rights of the new riverfront park there. The park will include the new Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, walking trails, 20 acres of recreational space.

Wean Foundation’s award helps transform downtown
Over many of the past 150 years, a wide swath of land under the Market Street Bridge on the southern edge of downtown Youngstown stood prominently as a blazing behemoth of heavy industry. From its early years as a site for the manufacture of steam engines to its heyday as a producer of gargantuan rolling-mill steel units weighing up to 100 tons each, the site of the former Wean United factories holds

Wean Secures Riverfront Park Naming Rights
Later this summer, The Raymond John Wean Foundation Park will serve as a community complex, including The Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, 20 acres of recreational green space and 1.25 miles of walking paths. JAC Management Group and the City of Youngstown announced Monday that...

Youngstown comes to a naming rights deal with Raymond John Wean Foundation on riverfront park
City council is expected Wednesday to approve a $1,875,000, 15-year deal with the Raymond John Wean Foundation to name the riverfront park that includes the city’s new amphitheater after the organization. And Mayor Jamael Tito Brown said there could be more sponsorship deals for the 22-acre facility. “We may have some other ones sitting out there,” he said. “There are other possibilities.” Brown declined to give details...

Foundation invests nearly $2 million into new park in downtown Youngstown
The park that connects the Covelli Centre to the Youngstown
Foundation Amphitheater will soon have an official name, and the money paid for those rights will help support it all. Youngstown continues the redevelopment of its downtown core with the opening of a new park along the Mahoning River. The city received financial backing for the park from...

**Wean Foundation secures naming rights to Youngstown Riverfront Park**

A local philanthropic organization that offered $1.9 million for 15 years of naming rights for a park being developed around the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheater has secured the naming rights to the area. Youngstown City Council considered the offer this week from the Raymond John Wean Foundation to pay

**Wean Offers $1.9M for Riverfront Park Naming Rights**

Part of the former Wean United property where the city developed its new amphitheater and riverfront park could once again bear the Wean name, pending approval by City Council of a naming rights agreement. During a special summer session, council will consider entering into an agreement to award naming rights to the Raymond John Wean Foundation for the downtown park adjacent to the recently opened Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre. The foundation would pay...

**New walking path can be place of solace, refuge, speaker says**

Whatever the reasons people may have to make use of a new walking path, they likely will feel a sense of spirituality and connectivity, both of which could supersede the benefits of any exercise or workout regimen, a religious leader contends. “This can be a place of solace for people to come to – a place of quietness, peace and a refuge,” the Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry said about...

**Announcing the 2019 Leadership Now: Ohio Fellows**

Rockwood is proud to announce the 2019 cohort of the Leadership Now: Ohio Fellowship! Rockwood has partnered with the Ohio Transformation Fund to offer an eight-month cross-
sector fellowship program for 23 social change leaders in Ohio. Designed to create dramatic shifts in leaders’ capacity to engage their organizations and communities to build networks to drive statewide strategy, participants will develop leadership practices within...