



THE COMMUNITY LEDGER



From Left to Right: Jeff Deems, Rob Hough, Mulch (dog), Ellen Hough, Jim Hough and Kevin Hough

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Liberty Pole Spirits to Begin Construction for Their New Location Near Racetrack Road in Washington

One of the greatest tributes to Washington County's heritage can be found in Liberty Pole Spirits, located on West Maiden Street in Downtown Washington. The distillery, owned and operated by the Hough family, has become a spot for locals and tourists alike to visit and purchase locally crafted whiskey and bourbon in a space that pays homage to The Whiskey Rebellion. With all the success that has come with the business, Liberty Pole is pursuing an expansion project that is projected to be completed by the start of 2023. The new facility on Adios Drive in Washington near the Meadows Racetrack and Casino will have two commercial buildings built on two acres of land; a barrel aging rickhouse and a distillery with a tasting room.



Liberty Pole Spirits to Begin Construction for Their New Location Near Racetrack Road in Washington (Continued)



Because the aging process of whiskey takes years to complete, the addition of the rickhouse, which will house 3,500 barrels at one time, is paramount to the project. The new tasting room will accommodate sixty patrons and the additional outdoor area will feature picnic tables as well as a lot for use by food trucks when the weather permits. This high visibility area opens the door to both increased foot traffic and production opportunities for Liberty Pole Spirits. Even with all these exciting new changes, the Hough Family is certain that one thing will never change – the true look and personal feel of their establishment.

"We have a core group of customers and I think they are nervous about leaving the city and not having the same kind of warmth that we have here," said owner Jim Hough, "We show them the pictures [of the new location]. We are definitely going to recreate the experience."

The Liberty Pole experience is a recreation of the Whiskey Rebellion which took place beginning in 1794. During this time when the U.S. government introduced an excise tax on liquor, many Western Pennsylvanian farmers, who distilled whiskey as a way to preserve their leftover grains, objected to this tax. As an act of rebellion, protesters hung a portrait of the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, upside down. Farmers also raised large flag poles on their property called "Liberty Poles" to protest the new tax. As a nod to the rebellion, Liberty Pole Spirits includes these pieces in their décor and only produces whiskey using heritage, non-GMO grains; their signature product is Rye Whiskey.

"When you come to visit us, we want to give you the best whiskey experience possible," said Jim Hough. "From the cocktails we create, to the vibe of the front of the house and the attention to detail that we put into decorating - everything."

Given the distillery's early success and popularity, Washington Financial Bank was excited to talk with the Hough family about a financing package that would help to acquire and develop the property, construct the buildings, and outfit them with all of the equipment and furnishings needed for a state-of-the-art whiskey distillery. The financing package included a construction mortgage from Washington Financial, an SBA loan, and a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from the State of Pennsylvania in recognition of new jobs that will be created by the expansion project.

Meeting all of the financial needs of Liberty Pole Spirits was a big undertaking. A team from Washington Financial Bank that included Joe Bartolomeo, VP Commercial Loan Officer, Laura Austin, VP Commercial Loan Officer, and Ryan Bates, VP Treasury Services Manager structured and closed the loan, opened the necessary deposit accounts, gave Liberty Pole Spirits electronic access to their accounts, and arranged merchant card services for the distillery to accept credit and debit cards from its customer base.

"This project incorporated everything that I enjoy about commercial banking," said Joe Bartolomeo. "I got to work with a great family and take part in a project that will benefit Washington County's tourism and employment. All of us at Washington Financial Bank wish the Hough family well, and we look forward to the opening of the new Liberty Pole Spirits facility in 2023."

New Bank Officers

The Bank is pleased to announce new Bank officers. Below are the following employees who have been promoted or new faces that have joined the Washington Financial Bank team recently.



Nan Campbell, VP/Regional Branch Manager (North Region)

Nan has been with the Bank for thirteen years, serving as the McMurray Branch Manager for the past 12 and a half years. She brings 28 years of banking experience into her new role as the Regional Branch Manager for the North Region. The branches in her territory include McMurray, Valley Brook, Canonsburg, South Fayette and Finleyville.

"As a Regional Manager, I'm most excited about cultivating a cohesive, cooperative environment where all the branch employees work together to help our customers and the communities we are in!" said Campbell.

Todd Day, VP/Regional Branch Manager (South Region)

Todd joined the Bank in March as the Regional Branch Manager for the South Region. The branches in his territory include Main Street, Washington Mall Plaza, Washington Crown Center, Tylerdale, Hickory and Burgettstown. Todd brings 22 years of experience into his new role, most recently working as a branch manager for a regional bank. "Washington Financial has always had a good reputation and I am excited to now be part of that," said Day. "I am looking forward using my experience and skill set to lead the branch network and help take Washington Financial to the next level."



Bryce Cree, AVP/Branch Manager II (Valley Brook)

Bryce joined the Bank in May, most recently working as a Senior Licensed Relationship Manager for a regional bank. He brings 18 years of experience into his new role, specifically in management. "I was drawn to Washington Financial Bank because of the family atmosphere and longevity of the employees," said Cree. "I also like the Bank's philosophy of building and growing the customer relationship and truly looking out for them."



Jen Leach, AVP/Branch Manager I (Finleyville)

Jen has been with the Bank for five and a half years, most recently working as a Customer Support Specialist at Valley Brook. She brings 28 years of experience into her new role. As a former Customer Support Specialist, Jen has enjoyed working directly with Washington Financial Bank customers and looks forward to volunteering and networking within the community as Finleyville's branch manager.



New Bank Officers



Danielle Marchesi, AVP/Branch Manager I (South Fayette)

Danielle has been with the Bank almost nine years, most recently serving as a Customer Support Specialist for the South Main Street location for the past six years. Danielle is most looking forward to the challenge of a new position at a relatively new branch and meeting the customers in the South Fayette area.

David McCracken – AVP/Branch Manager III (McMurray)

David joined the Bank in April as the McMurray Branch Manager. He brings 10 years of banking experience and 20 years of management experience into his new role, most recently working as a Branch Manager for a community bank. "What attracted me initially to this company was its local ties to the community that I live in," said McCracken. "During the interview process I was also impressed with the emphasis that the company seemed to place on not only taking care of its customers but also its employees."



Kim Shoup, AVP/Branch Manager III (Canonsburg)

Kim has been with the Bank a little over a year and started as a mortgage loan processor. Prior to working for WFB, she served as a manager for a regional bank for 24 years. Kim brings 38 years of experience into her new role, specifically in customer service, lending, and collections. As a branch manager, Kim is most looking forward to strengthening community connections, building trust and loyalty with customers and staff, as well as growing and managing a profitable branch.



Greg A. Vallecorsa, VP/Business Banking Officer II (Wexford)

Greg joined the Bank in April, most recently working with a commercial bank as a Vice President Relationship Manager. He brings 30 years of experience into his new role, specifically in management, business banking and corporate lending. As the new Vice President Business Banking Officer at the Wexford Loan Office, Greg looks forward to working with the Washington Financial Bank team to help grow the bank through excellent customer service and bringing in solid new customers to the Bank.



Community Shred Day

Saturday July 30, 2022
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

South Fayette Township Building
515 Millers Run Road
South Fayette, PA 15064



Washington Financial Bank Partners with Dress for Success Pittsburgh to Fund Mobile Boutique and Crown Center Locations



From Left to Right: Christina Kramer (Range Resources/Dress for Success Pittsburgh Board Member), Kylie Fuller (Range Resources), Jana Grimm (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease) and Megan Chicone (State Farm Insurance).

Dress for Success Pittsburgh is a nonprofit organization best known for providing career attire to women in need. However, the organization is much more than a new outfit for women. The nonprofit not only supports clothing needs but also connects women to professional resources and helps to build their confidence. Examples of these additional resources for women include resume assistance, mock interviews and child care during a job interview.

"The goal of our services is to provide each woman with everything she needs to feel strong and confident as she takes the next steps in her career journey," said Dress for Success Pittsburgh Communications and Event Manager, Calynn Abdullah. "We do not give women their confidence, we simply help her find her confidence again."

Women are balancing so many responsibilities including working full-time jobs and caring for children that they have very little time to invest in themselves. To increase convenience for their clients, Dress for Success

established a Mobile Boutique and moved its physical location to Washington Crown Center. Washington Financial Bank is very excited to partner with Dress for Success Pittsburgh by providing grant funding for these projects.

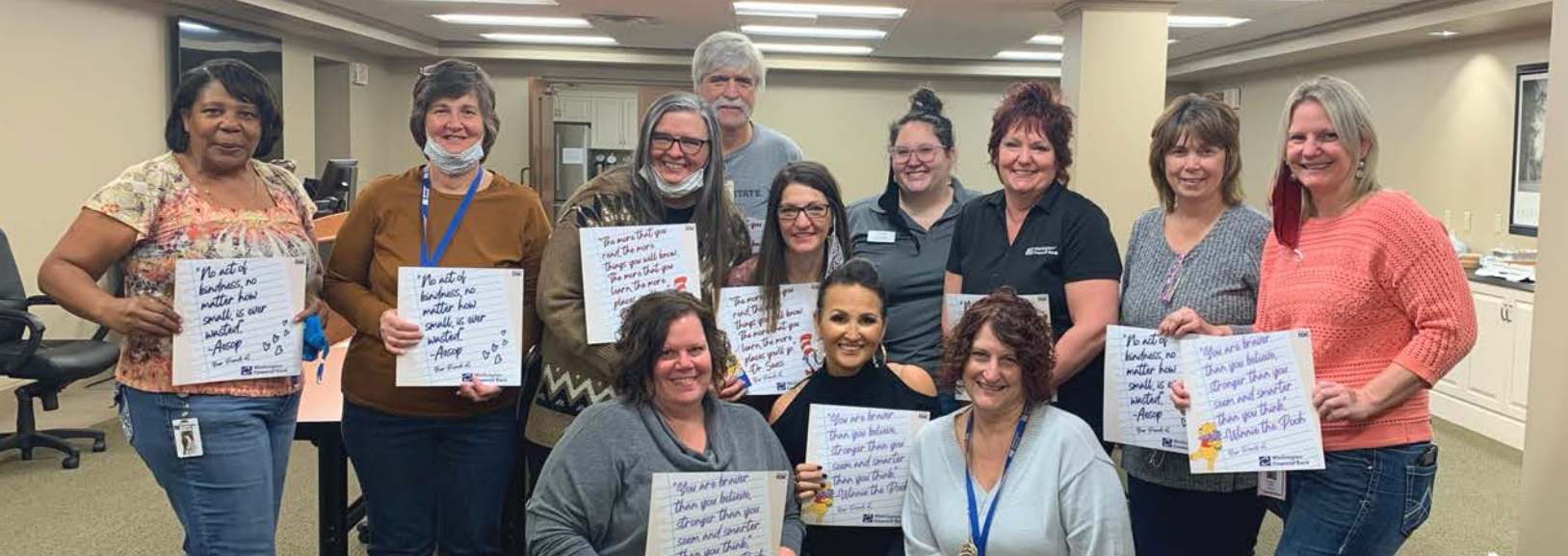
The mobile unit launched at the end of 2019, when Dress for Success realized that they needed a way to address the transportation barriers their clients were facing. The unit was fully booked this past calendar year, meeting women at locations such as community centers, high schools and colleges. The mobile boutique includes a full dressing room with mirrors so that women can see how they look in their new outfits and feel confident in their selections.

The new physical location located in the Washington Crown Center Mall was chosen because of the mall's foot traffic and location on the bus route. Washington County is the second largest county in need that DFS Pittsburgh serves, with more than 4,000 women per year utilizing services prior to the pandemic.

"With support from our partners, Dress for Success Pittsburgh has not lost a moment in providing services to help women in our community recover and thrive," said Abdullah.

There are plenty of ways to get involved with the organization. For more information about volunteer opportunities and upcoming virtual volunteer information sessions, visit <https://pittsburgh.dressforsuccess.org/get-involved/volunteer>.





Washington Financial Bank Supplies Kits for Students at Washington Park Through the Adopt-A-School Program

Washington Financial Bank deeply values investing in the community's education initiatives. One of these initiatives is the Bank's support through The Education Partnership's Adopt-A-School program. Washington Financial Bank is proud to have partnered with ANSYS in adopting the Washington Park school and providing financial assistance to purchase essential school supplies for students.

Children are given their own personal bag filled with pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors and several other items needed for school. Every child at the school receives a kit, based upon the student's grade level and coursework.

Over the years, Washington Financial Bank has donated over 5,400 kits to students at Washington Park. One of the most special aspects of this partnership is the participation by Bank employees to help build the kits with The Education Partnership.

Bank volunteer Betty Smith said, "I volunteer for this cause because it helps the students with tools that are in short supply through the school system and the children appreciate it so very much."

When the kits are distributed to the school, bank employees have the opportunity to meet the students and spend some time with them. One of the most important "supplies" that a child is given is an inspirational note to give that little boost of encouragement that a young learner might need. The Adopt-A-School program not only meets educational needs but also provides a morale boost to both teachers and students to show that someone in the community cares and is supportive of their educational success.

"It's not a faceless donation of money," stated Program Director at The Education Partnership, Sarah McKay. "It's a tangible gift directly from one human to another. When businesses get involved and stay involved, like Washington Financial has done for many years, it shows their commitment to and investment in the collective good of the community."



Add a Visit to Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village to Your To Do List (And also enjoy kid's free admission!)

One of the greatest opportunities to learn more about the history of civilization lies right in Washington County at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. Meadowcroft is the oldest site of human habitation in North America and has attracted tourists from all over the world. The area is defined by a large rock overhang that has evidence of 19,000 years of human habitation. The theme around the center is focused on how people of the Ice Age up to modern society have used the area's natural resources to survive.



The Historic Village includes engaging activities for visitors to interact with to help them understand what life was like for each civilization. For example, the 16th century Prehistoric Indian Village includes an atlatl throwing station, which is a prehistoric spear thrower that American Indians used to hunt.

Western Pennsylvania boasts a unique and rich history and visitors both young and old can learn much from the landmark. In an effort to expand access to Meadowcroft, local businesses such as Washington Financial Bank have stepped in to help launch Kids Free Admission.

"I'm thrilled that Washington Financial has partnered with us to support our Kids Free Admission initiative," stated David Scofield, the Director at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. "That support not only helps us fulfill our educational mission, but it helps to make a Meadowcroft experience more widely accessible – especially for families who may be struggling financially."

For more information and to check hours of operation to plan your trip, visit <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft>.



Finleyville Branch Selected as Monongahela Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month

Washington Financial Bank is proud to be selected as the Monongahela Area Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. The Bank values being able to make a difference in all the communities it serves.

"I feel it is important to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce because it's a big part of the local community and meeting new people is always a great opportunity," said Finleyville Branch Manager, Jen Leach. "I was very honored to be chosen as the Member of the Month and to represent Washington Financial Bank as a proud employee of the bank!"

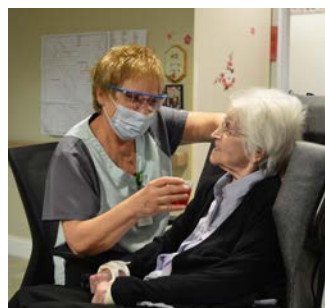
Finleyville Branch Manager Jen Leach

Washington Financial Bank Partners with Presbyterian SeniorCare to Upgrade Haveloch Commons Community

Washington Financial has been supporting the efforts of The Presbyterian SeniorCare Foundation – the nonprofit arm of organization which is completely committed to the health and wellbeing of seniors in the area – for many years.

Their mission "to enrich the aging experience of older adults and their families in Western Pennsylvania" aligns perfectly with that of The Washington Financial Charitable Foundation in supporting health and human service needs in our community.

Presbyterian SeniorCare is extremely proud to note that since the organization's founding in 1928, no resident has had to leave a care community due to exhaustion of financial resources. The Washington Financial Charitable Foundation has played a very active role in supporting the Benevolent Care Fund.



From capital expansion campaigns to event sponsorships, Washington Financial Bank has partnered with Presbyterian Senior Care to help raise necessary funding. In one of the most recent partnerships, The Washington Financial Charitable Foundation provided funding for capital improvements to the Haveloch Commons residence located in McDonald. These much-needed improvements helped to ensure the continued comfort and safety of Haveloch Commons residents.

"Strong community partners are indispensable to helping us fulfill our mission," said Jackie Flanagan, Executive Director of the Presbyterian SeniorCare Foundation. "Washington Financial Bank has exemplified that through its many notable examples of charitable support for our capital projects and programmatic support."

Washington Financial Bank is proud of its history of support of Presbyterian SeniorCare and to witness all of the benefits the organization has brought to seniors and caregivers within the community. For more information about The Presbyterian SeniorCare Foundation, please visit <https://givetosrcare.org/>.



Follow the Washington Financial Charitable Foundation on Facebook!