

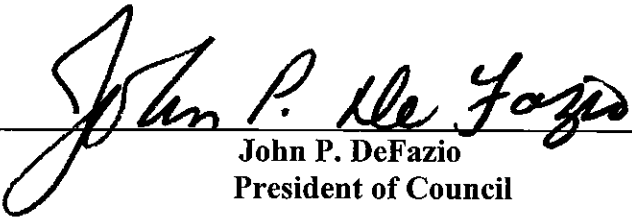
APPOINTMENT

Approving the appointment of Rhonda Russell to serve as a member of the Council of Friends Organization (Deer Lakes Park) for a term to expire on August 26, 2016.

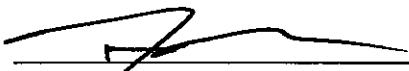
SPONSORED BY COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT FUTULES

In Council AUG. 26th , 2014.

Read and approved by Motion of Council.



John P. DeFazio
President of Council

Attest: 

Jared Barker
Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council



COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
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Nomination

Friends of the Parks Nomination Form

Council Member Nick Futules

Nominee: Rhonda Russell


Address: 53 Howard Lane Tarentum, PA 15084-3815

Phone: 724-274-7234 Email: rrussell1952@hotmail.com

This nominee shall be a member of the Council of Friends of Deer Lakes Park. He/She is representative of:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports & Athletic Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Advocates | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

None Specified

Council Member Signature: 

Date: 8/21/14

Rhonda Russell
53 Howard Lane
Tarentum, PA 15084
724-274-7234
Russell1952@hotmail.com

Born and raised in Fawn Township. (1952)

Graduate of Highlands -1970

Graduate of Edinboro University -1973

Full time employment as an Art teacher with New Kensington Arnold from 1985-2011

Spent 9 years on the Alle-Kiski Valley Historical Society Board of directors

Worked with non-profits for over 14 years as chairperson for fundraisers

Organized major events for 501 C3 and 501 C 4 organizations:

- Eureka Hose
- HESA (Highlands Emergency Services)
- Tour Ed Mine
- Allegheny Valley Marine Corps League, Inc.
- Alle-Kiski Valley Historical Society
- Highlands Relay for Life

Arranged for donations to fund -and was able to get an ampitheatre/ stage built for Tour Ed Mine in Fawn Township.

Currently own 3 properties in Allegheny County

Reside in Frazer Township where I raised two children.

I have attached A.pdf which is an article from the Valley News Dispatch from 2007

Also article from Aug 7/14 on an event we worked on at Deer Lakes Park

3 event pics from Deer Lakes Park - (fifth year for this event)



HOMETOWN TREASURES

Couple sponsors car cruises to aid nonprofit organizations

BY DAN HILLIARD
VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

The household of Jim and Rhonda Russell chugs along to the beat of an internal combustion engine.

"I live in an all-male family," Rhonda said. "I have a boy that does bodywork; I have a boy that's a mechanic; and I have a husband who races cars. I had to find a niche where I could do a car thing and still put my interests in there."

About 10 years ago, the Russells founded an annual car cruise to benefit the Alle-Kiski Historical Society and other nonprofit organizations.

Last year, the Russells collected \$8,500 during the car cruise, divvying it up between the historical society and the Highland Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society fundraiser.

Jim and Rhonda served on the historical society board for about nine years. They ended their terms earlier this year.

Rhonda and Jim Russell

Hometown: Frazer.

Ages: 54, 56

Family: Sons, Lee, 30, and Ryan, 25

Favorite thing about the Valley: "It's home. It's where my family is." — Rhonda

"It's been home to my family far beyond my 56 years, and it will be a home to my Valley far past my passing." — Jim



JUSTIN GUIDO/VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

Jim and Rhonda Russell, of Frazer, began to sponsor car cruises about 10 years ago to benefit nonprofit organizations. They are in front of their 1968 Camaro, which is featured in the cruises.

the nucleus of each cruise.

They own a black 1968 Camaro with copper stripes and a silver 25th anniversary Corvette.

While nothing is definite about next year's show, Rhonda said she and her husband want to continue to expand.

"It's kind of a passion to do it," Rhonda said. "Every year, it's been a 'let's make it better' kind of thing."

Johnny Angel and the Halos performed Aug. 5, and food vendors and fellow nonprofits set up booths amid the cars.

"We like to upgrade and bring something new every year," Jim said. "If you don't, it becomes stale and people don't want to come to your show. If you go home to hamburgers every day, you get tired of it."

The Russells' classic cars form

Wee Jams car cruise an immaculate testament to love

BY JAKE FLANNICK

His attention to detail is amazing.

Larry Kurtik, a retired longtime mine foreman and a lifelong resident of Plum, spends hours detailing his car the day before a classic-car cruise show, examining under the hood, combing its interior with a vacuum and thoroughly polishing anything with a reflection.

But, even though he has a number of trophies from juried exhibitions, he remains scrupulous, careful to not miss a spot.

"A lot of people tell me I go overboard," he says of his preshow prep. "Still, the judges find something wrong. They look for flaws."

Kurtik plans to take his current show car, a 2008 Corvette, to the Wee Jams Concert & Car Cruise on Aug. 10 in West Deer. Organizers say they expect to draw hundreds of models — old and new.

The cruise, at Deer Lakes Park, is not juried. Nonetheless, Kurtik will likely try to make his car, with less than 20,000 miles, appear immaculate. "It's not how good a car looks," says Kurtik, 68, who works part

Wee Jams Concert & Car Cruise

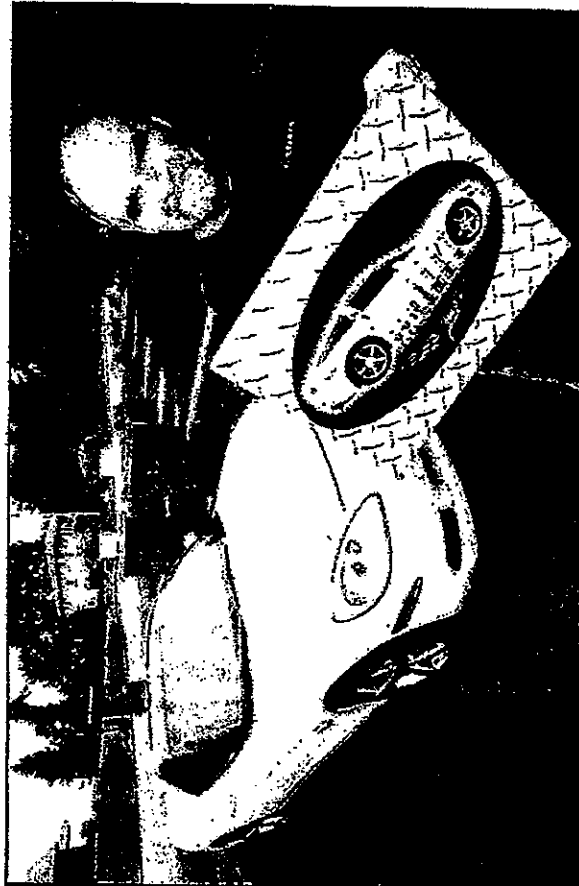
What: Classic-car cruise with music by Pittsburgh doo-wop band William Dell and Wee Jams. Proceeds go to Allegheny Valley Detachment of the Marine Corps League. When: 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aug. 10

Admission: \$5, free for age 11 and under. Where: Deer Lakes Park, West Deer. Details: 724-274-7234, www.carcruises.com

time delivering cars for an auto dealer in Monroeville, says. "It's how clean it is."

Across the area, such gatherings abound, drawing droves of car enthusiasts, all part of a vibrant subculture that re-emerges each summer. While the cruises draw attention among younger generations, they are followed mostly by older ones, many of them retired.

For some, it's a chance to admire each other, marveling at the shiny rows of what many consider their



ERIC PELACK | THE TOTAL MEDIA

Larry Kurtik shows a photo on canvas he had made of his award-winning 2008 Chevrolet Corvette

prized possessions. Others use the moment to mingle.

"It's the socialization," says Rhonda Russell, 61, a retired teacher who has helped organize the Deer Lakes cruise with her husband, Jim, for the past five years. It is financed by advertisements from local businesses. The cruise is among several the couple

has helped arrange in the Alle-Kiski Valley over the past 14 years.

"We've gotten a lot of good friendships out of it," Jim says. He notes that the couple usually takes one of their four classic cars, a 1968 Camaro, which they keep in the garage at their home in Frazer, to several cruises each year. The others, all of them Corvettes,

are kept at the homes of their children, who also live in the area.

Joe Meinert of Wilkesburg traces his fascination with cars to the time he spent cleaning them at an auto dealer in Bellevue as a teenager. He recalls having many rudimentary ques-

"I couldn't figure out what made these wheels

turn," says Meinert, 75. "There was a lot I didn't know."

The 75-year-old has run a classic-car repair shop in Wilkesburg for more than 80 years.

He bought his first car, a 1951 Ford business coupe, when he was just 14 years old, driving it secretly for a time. That is, until his mother caught him, ultimately locking it in the garage.

"Then I learned to take the hinges off the doors," he says, jokingly.

The cruise is a way to raise funds for the Allegheny Valley Marine Corps League. The group, one of more than 60 in the state, was formed in the early 1930s. Its purpose is to build ties between veterans

in the area, coordinating a number of programs — among them are ceremonies for deceased veterans and hunting trips for paralyzed veterans.

The event will feature the doo-wop group William Dell and Wee Jams on the county park showmobile stage.

Jake Flannick is a contributing writer for *The Total Media*.







NICHOLAS W. FUTULES DISTRICT 7



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PARKS, CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEMBER OF:
APPOINTMENT REVIEW
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
& HOUSING
EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE
GOVERNMENT REFORM
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES
PUBLIC SAFETY
PUBLIC WORKS
MARKETING

August 27, 2014

Ms. Rhonda Russell
53 Howard Lane
Tarentum, PA 15084-3815

Dear Ms. Russell:

This letter is to inform you that at the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on August 26, 2014 Council approved your appointment to serve as a member of the Council of Friends to Deer Lakes Park for a term to expire on August 26, 2016.

We congratulate you on your appointment and wish you the best of luck in this undertaking. We look forward to receiving your recommendations and stand willing to assist you in any way you believe appropriate.

Sincerely,

Nicholas W. Futules
District 7 Representative

cc: Andy Baechle, Director, Allegheny County Parks Department

NF/sb