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CITY OF CLARKSBURG

Updates from City Manager, Tiffany Fell



CLARKSBURG TAKES A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

The City of Clarksburg is taking a proactive stance on mental health by launching a comprehensive Mental Health Awareness and Resource Partnership Initiative. Spearheaded by our Director of Community Development, Dr. Shana Nicholson and myself, in collaboration with the Clarksburg City Council and various community resource partners and stakeholders, this program aims to address a growing national concern.

The Need for Change

As of January 2024, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reports that 57.8 million U.S. adults live with some form of mental illness. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) indicates that one in five adults experience symptoms of mental illness. Sadly, West Virginia ranks among the top states for prevalence of adult major depressive episodes (MDEs) and serious mental illness (SMI),

with 41.8% of adults suffering from anxiety or depression (NAMI, 2023). The opioid crisis further complicates the picture, as West Virginia has one of the highest overdose death rates in the nation.

Recognizing this critical need, Clarksburg's initiative focuses on two key objectives: connecting residents with appropriate mental health resources and fostering collaboration among those resources. This multi-pronged approach acknowledges the interconnectedness of mental health and substance abuse, aiming to provide a comprehensive support system for the community through resource awareness and education.

If you have any questions about our initiative or are a mental health professional or service provider interested in working with the city to address these issues, please contact Dr. Shana Nicholson, Director of Community Development, at:

snicholson@cityofclarksburgwv.com

STAY CONNECTED

- **Next City Council Meeting: Mon, Jul 08 @ 6PM**
- Download the latest City Newsletter and sign up for email notifications on the city website.

IT'S HAPPENING IN CLARKSBURG:

- **The New York Bee Gees** - Sat, Jun 29, 7:30PM @ Robinson Grand PAC
- **Taylor Shines Laser Spectacular** - Sat, Jun 29, 8:30PM @ Clarksburg Amphitheater
- **Clarksburg Farmers Market**- Every Saturday, 9AM - 1PM @ Tractor Supply Lot on Emily Drive
- **Cars and Coffee** - Sun, Jun 30, 12:30PM - 3PM @ Emily Drive - Hobby Lobby Parking Lot
- **Swearing In of Newly Elected Council Members** - Mon, Jul 01, 7:30PM @ Council Chambers
- **Popup Paddle**- Every Thursday, 6PM @ Veterans Memorial Park Boat Launch
- **Wheeling Symphony Orchestra & Fireworks (FREE to the Public)** - Sat, July 06, 8PM @ Clarksburg Amphitheater