



Westmoreland County *Community Report*

The Mission of the Westmoreland County Juvenile Justice System

*"To provide supervision
and rehabilitation to youth
and families while providing community
protection, victim restoration
and youth redemption."*



**Westmoreland County Juvenile Court
The Honorable John J. Driscoll,
Administrative Judge**

and

The Honorable Michele G. Bononi

2771 South Grande Blvd.
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Message from the Director

"2012 was a busy year as we worked very hard to move in the direction to accomplish various areas enhancing our Juvenile Justice System."

- φ In order to address our mission **"to provide supervision and rehabilitation to youth and families while providing Community Protection, Victim Restoration and Youth Redemption"** our internal workgroups continued to meet on a regular basis and implemented programs and procedures that helped us meet our department's goals. We are striving to engage families whose children are involved with the juvenile justice system at every stage of the system. The purpose of this is to reach a successful outcome for everyone. We also made a commitment to continue our pledge to partner with communities in order to improve prevention and diversion into the Juvenile Justice System.
- φ We have been using a Risk-Needs Assessment Tool on all youth who enter the Westmoreland County Juvenile Justice System. It is designed to assist our officers in making structured and consistent decisions. The results are used to develop a more comprehensive case plan for juveniles that focus on reducing identified risk factors and emphasizing youth's strengths. Research shows that youth whose services are matched with the correct interventions based on their needs assessment will have better outcomes and their recidivism rate of that youth will be decreased.
- φ Our sub-office in New Kensington, PA is in full operation where we continue to conduct intake interviews, meet with families, community agencies, and utilize that facility in a very effective manner. This is intended to be a convenience for our communities in the northern end of the county.
- φ Bridges out of Poverty continues to be a major initiative and our staff works diligently in Westmoreland County communities to ensure its success. We co-sponsored several Bridges trainings engaging agencies and school personnel from our communities. Our commitment to this is strong and staff is continuously encouraged to participate and enhance our mission which has forced us to understand poverty and how to better connect with those in poverty. This specific training details solutions that organizations can implement such as increasing knowledge of cultural differences and illustrating how it impacts situations and increases the likelihood of moving from welfare ranks to employment.
- φ Our Community Involvement Workgroup continues to seek ways to partner and expand the concepts and principles of a Balanced & Restorative Justice System in communities and develop strategies that will increase positive outcomes for all those involved. They are continually exploring ways in which our department may reach people in communities in positive ways.



- φ We are very near to developing protocol and an educational piece to assist others in understanding the ramifications of Sexting/Technology and Sexual Violence. We have obtained a curriculum in which we will conduct with youth to inform them of the dangers and criminal charges that may be filed as a result of such behavior.
- φ With funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, our probation officers, neighboring Juvenile Probation Departments, Private Providers, and Victim Advocates are being trained in the “Victim/Community Awareness, An Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders.” We have developed a protocol for our officers to facilitate these classes with their probationers. The classes help juvenile offenders understand the harm they have caused their victims and communities and most of their entire obligation to repair the harm to their victim(s).
- φ We continued our long standing commitment to celebrate Juvenile Court Week activities in Westmoreland County and this year marked our **30th Anniversary** of this event. A Panel Discussion was held at Seton Hill University with stakeholders from the Juvenile Justice System. Susan Blackburn, Juvenile Court Consultant, and Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist from PA’s Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission was the moderator of the event and panelists were the Honorable John Driscoll, Juvenile Court and Administrative Judge, the Honorable Michele Bononi, Juvenile Court Judge, John Peck, District Attorney, Wayne McGrew, Public Defender, Dean Thomas, School Based Probation Officer, Zachary Tomich, Juvenile Probation Officer, and myself. Congratulations to our staff who continue to support, create and work toward enhancing Juvenile Court Awareness in our communities and participate in this event each year. It is an opportunity for us to grow as a department and as a team.
- φ Our staff participated in an overview training class in Motivational Interviewing last year and is preparing to master skill levels in the near future. This will provide yet another tool for probation officers to use as we help to resolve clients’ ambivalence to change.
- φ Our department recognizes that we must take every opportunity to involve our families in developing a case plan for their children who are involved in the Juvenile Justice System. We have actually formed a team of probation officers who are dedicated to enabling families with system changes. They have meetings on a regular basis and have already been asked by the State Family Involvement Project to write an article on their developments.
- φ Our Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Coordinator and I have trained at the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management (MAACM) Annual Conference in Maryland this year. Participants included several court personnel from various states. Last year our PTSD Project was selected to receive the **“John Neufeld Award”** from this organization which is noted for providing effective educational programs that were previously available at the national level. MAACM hosts annual and mid-year conferences throughout its member states of: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC.

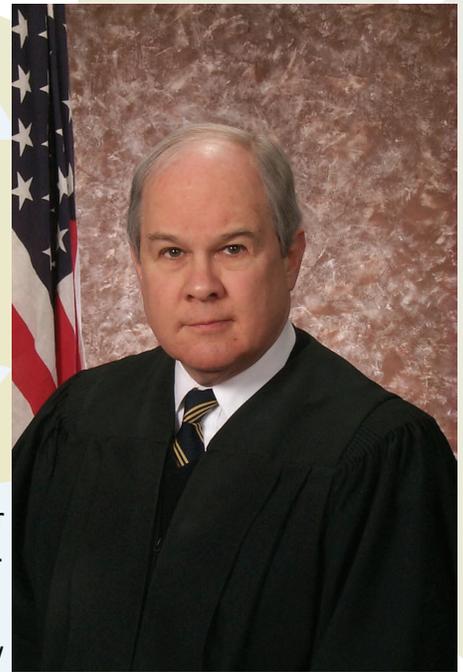
We had a very productive year and I look forward to anticipated growth in our organization and in the Juvenile Justice System next year. We will always strive to achieve the Juvenile Justice Goals which are to protect the community, hold youth accountable for the offense(s) committed, and to aid them in acquiring skills that will enable them to be productive citizens.

Sincerely,
Addie Beighley
 Westmoreland County
 Director, Juvenile Probation

Honorable John J. Driscoll

Administrative Juvenile Judge (12/1994–12/2012)

Family Court Judge



Honorable John J. Driscoll
Juvenile and Family Court Judge

John J. Driscoll (born February 13, 1942, Pittsburgh, PA), of Greensburg (Hempfield Township), currently a Judge for the Court of Common Pleas (Family Court Division), Westmoreland County.

Judge Driscoll was raised in Greensburg, attended Villanova University (B.S. Economics 1963) and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D. 1966). After three years service as a naval officer (Danang, RVN 1969), separating as Lt(jg), he returned to Greensburg. The U. S. Navy awarded him the Naval Achievement Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and a National Defense Ribbon. From 1970 through 1981 he engaged in the practice of law (Pershing, Hudock & Driscoll; Driscoll and Marsili). He was admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Federal Court in the Western District of Pennsylvania and Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He was Assistant District Attorney from 1973-1977, and Westmoreland County District Attorney from January 1982 to December 1994.

He was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, by Governor Robert P. Casey, in 1994, and elected in 1995. He has served in the criminal and family courts and currently, among other duties, serves as Administrative Judge of Juvenile Court. He has published opinions in areas of criminal law, custody, juvenile and dependent children, divorce and matrimonial matters.

During his career as a lawyer (1970-1982), district attorney (1982-1994) and as a judge (1995-present) he has been active in many areas of service. His involvement has been:

- 1974-1982 Go Greensburg Community Development Corporation
Solicitor (unpaid)
Westmoreland Manor All-faith Chapel Development
Committee, Solicitor (unpaid)
American Cancer Society, President of Westmoreland County Unit, 1975-76
- 1973-1982 Our Lady of Grace Parish Council
- 1971-Present Member, Central Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce
VFW Post (Greensburg)
American Legion #544 (Jeannette)
- 1973-1976 CCD Instructor
- 1972- 1999 Greensburg Rotary Club
President 1977-1978; Paul Harris Fellow 1981
- 1982-1994 Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association
President 1987-1988
- 1992-Present Member, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Advisory Board
- 1998-2010 Trustee, Westmoreland Regional Hospital and Excelsa Health Board of Trustees
Committees: Executive, Governance, Planning
- 1999-2005 Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee
Chair 2002-2005
- Currently Administrative Judge, Juvenile Court

Married to Anne H. Thel, of Aliquippa, and is the father of five adult children and five grandchildren.
(Martha – Kansas City, MO; John, Jr., Alexandria, VA; Michael, Allentown, PA; Patrick, Pittsburgh, PA, Mary, Chicago, IL)

THE JUVENILE COURT VICTIM ADVOCATE

In May of 2012, the Juvenile Office enhanced its services by adding a Juvenile Court Advocate Position. This position serves to orient the victim to the objectives of the juvenile justice system. The advocate encourages the victim's input and concerns as their case moves through the Juvenile system.

In the past, victims were not invited to attend the juvenile's detention Hearing and now they are included if they so desire. In regard to the Pre-Adjudication Conferences, often the Victim Advocate will speak with the victims prior to the Conference to get an idea of what the victim would like to see court ordered such as community service work, paying restitution, and/or having no contact in the future. Often they are asked whether there is an objection to having the charges reduced to a lesser offense, if they are not in agreement, this must be taken into consideration at the time of the hearing. With the victim's consent, the juvenile is often given the opportunity to be placed on a Consent Decree.

When cases are scheduled before the Court Master, the Victim Advocate meets with the victims in a separate waiting room where they can discuss the case in private. Often questions arise regarding their role in the hearing, and any uncertainties that they may have at that point. During the hearing the Advocate accompanies the victim for support throughout the proceeding.

If a juvenile is placed outside of the home in a juvenile facility, the victim has the option of having regular notification of the juvenile's progress, when releases are being considered for a home pass, and when the juvenile is discharged from custody.

With the addition of the Victim Advocate for the Court Master hearings, the victims will benefit by understanding their role in the process and their ongoing opportunity for input.

The Victim Advocate, Megan Anton, may be contacted at 724-830-4221 or via email
MANTON@CO.WESTMORELAND.PA.US

Juvenile Probation Ride A-Long Project

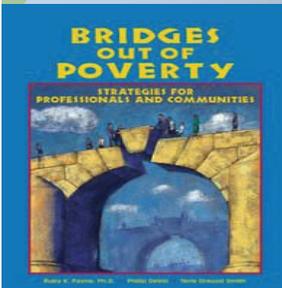


Westmoreland County Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments joined together recently and opened a new satellite office in New Kensington, PA. Sharing a sub office in the community provides us with greater opportunities to work together and allows each department the ability to share resources. A Juvenile Probation sub office has been operating in New Kensington for more than 10 years. The new office is located at the corner of 10th Avenue and Barnes Street and opened for business in June 2011.

It is much more convenient for youth, families, and victims who reside in the municipalities of New Kensington, Lower Burrell, Arnold, Kiski Area or any area in the northern part of the county to travel to an office close to home for Intake Interviews, routine check-ins, and other services. The availability of a local office lightens some of the burden associated with driving to Greensburg for appointments.

Juvenile Probation Officers will continually visit juvenile offenders in their homes, schools and community however working at the sub office enhances our community presence and allows us to work more closely with community groups, including our Partnership with the Westmoreland Community Action Circles Program. We also work closely with local police departments, schools, and other agencies. Our mission is to provide supervision and rehabilitation to youth and families while providing community protection, victim restoration, and youth redemption. The New Kensington sub office provides us a perfect opportunity to do just that.

Bridges Out of Poverty



Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation
Named As Community
Champion

The Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department has partnered with Westmoreland Community Action to bring **the Circles Initiative** to several communities in Westmoreland County. As a grassroots effort, members look at personal and community issues that need to be addressed to eradicate poverty. The original site, Jeannette, has been operating for 5 years and has been able to obtain a grant from the Jeannette Initiative to start a community garden and a Farmers Market. Westmoreland Community Action has also obtained funding to begin building a center that includes a laundromat, commercial kitchen, and greenhouse. New sites were started in the past year in New Kensington and Latrobe; juvenile probation staff has been active in all aspects of the project. One team member is also a certified *Bridges Out of Poverty* trainer; the Juvenile Probation Department will periodically offer training in the community and at the center.

Pennsylvania's Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Project

Aftercare Initiative

Highlights of 2011

- PTSD Aftercare continues into its third year of serving 36 youth!
- Presented at the Annual Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management, Ocean City Maryland, as a winner of the John Neufeld Award.
- PTSD Project continues to be funded by Needs Based Budget.

2011 SNAPSHOT

Pennsylvania Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Project

8 Local & National Awards

262 Agencies Trained
in 2010

285 Agencies
Trained
in 2011

1,728 # of
Professionals
Trained in 2010

1,762 # of
Professionals

Over
6,000 Adolescents
Served

6 Training Curricula Offered

409 Residential
Treatment
Curriculum
Facilitators
trained.

150 Agencies
other than
Juvenile Justice
Trained



36 Mental
Health Facilities
Trained

13 years of the Project

\$200,000

Needs Based Funded

10 years Grant Funded!!

Only **1** PTSD Aftercare Program
in the State

8 Sessions in the
Aftercare Curriculum

125 Adolescents Completed
PTSD Aftercare Curriculum



Westmoreland County *Youth Commission*

More than 40 years ago, the first Youth Commission was established in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Over the past decade, the Westmoreland County Juvenile Court has been recognized as having the oldest Youth Commission Program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Youth Commission is an arm of the Court System and follows the mission and goals of the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose is to provide a community the opportunity to assist in helping youth adjust, work out, and solve problems within their own neighborhoods. Thus, the youth assigned to a local commission would have a better chance for readjustment and treatment and would be more likely to conform to the laws and rules of society because of the relationships developed between all of the concerned parties.

The Youth Commission allows community members the opportunity to volunteer to assist the Court and help young people to achieve the goals of competency development and accountability, which along with victim restoration is called Balanced and Restorative Justice, and is the guiding mission of the Juvenile Court in Pennsylvania. It is believed that the Youth Commission provides, in the community, a local diversionary program that would more closely supervise a young person than any agency could utilize through one central office. The youth commission is comprised of dedicated community volunteers who provide better opportunities for learning, readjusting, and conforming to the laws of society. It is also charged with helping the youth take responsibility for his/her actions and repair the harm caused to the victims and/or community. It has been the experience of the Westmoreland County Juvenile Court that the commission does show objectivity in arriving at a disposition that makes certain there is substantial justice between the community and the troubled youth.

Youth who are eligible for referral to the Youth Commission, can be referred either by the District Court, or the Juvenile Court. Offenses eligible for referral are summary offenses from District Court, and misdemeanor offenses from Juvenile Court. Youth involved must take responsibility for the offense prior to being referred to the Youth Commission.

The commission does not have the authority of the Court, but works closely with staff at the Juvenile Probation Department, who provide guidance and advice when necessary. The Juvenile Probation Department also provides training for the Youth Commissions and endeavors to visit each commission site at least once per calendar year. In the past year training for the Youth Commissions has included an annual forum held at the Community College, as well as **Bridges Out Poverty** training held at the probation office, and a panel discussion held at Kiski High School in regard to underage drinking. The **Bridges out of Poverty** training is designed to help community members understand hidden rules of class and cultural that will enhance their ability to work with youth from different socio-economic classes. The underage drinking training a Kiski High School was a panel discussion which included the area magisterial district justice, the local police chief, and a young person who was involved in a death during a driving under the influence accident.

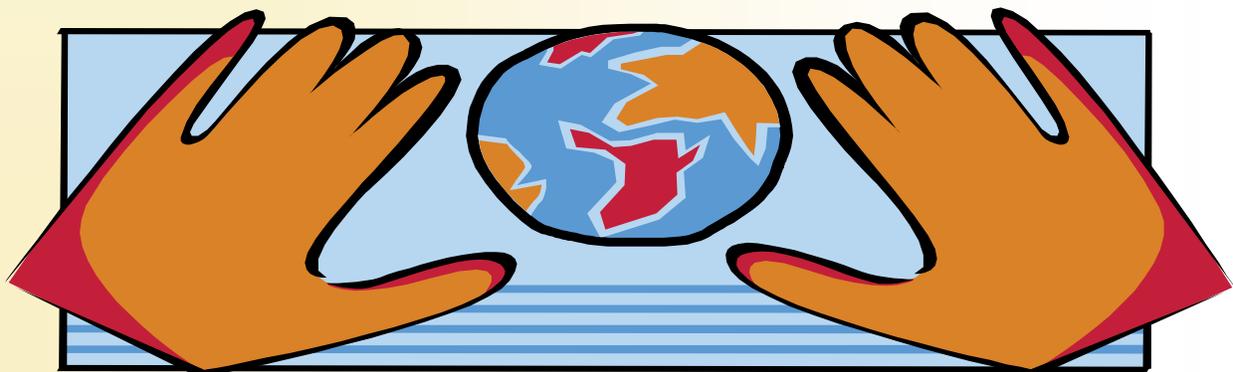
At the present time, there are 17 youth commissions with a total of 120 members in all. The commissions cover all of the county school districts and are as follows: Burrell Youth Commission covering the Lower and Upper Burrell Communities and school district; Derry Youth Commission covering Derry Borough, Derry Township and New Alexandria; Greensburg Salem Youth Commission covering the City of Greensburg, the Boroughs of South and Southwest Greensburg, and Salem Township; Franklin Regional Youth Commission, covering the communities of Export, Murrysville and Delmont; Hempfield Township Youth Commission, covering the entire Hempfield Area School District including all of the municipalities located within; Jeannette Youth Commission, covering the City of Jeannette; Kiski Area Youth Commission, covering the communities of Vandergrift, East Vandergrift, Washington, Bell and Allegheny Townships, Avonmore, Oklahoma, Hyde Park and West Leechburg, the Latrobe Youth Commission covering Latrobe Borough and Unity Township; Ligonier Valley Youth Commission covering Ligonier Borough and Ligonier Township; Monessen Youth Commission covering the City of Monessen, the Mt. Pleasant/Southmoreland Youth Commission covering the Boroughs of Mt. Pleasant and Scottdale, and Mt. Pleasant and East Huntingdon Townships; New Ken Arnold Youth Commission covering the cities of New Kensington and Arnold; the Norwin Area Youth Commission covering North Huntingdon Township and the Boroughs of Irwin and North Irwin, Penn Township Youth Commission covering all of Penn Township; Trafford Youth Commission covering Trafford Borough; the Rostraver/North Belle Vernon Youth Commission covering Rostraver Township and the Borough of North Belle Vernon, and the Yough Youth Commission covering the Boroughs of Madison, Arona, Smithton, Sutersville, West Newton, and South Huntingdon and Sewickley Townships.



Adults interested in volunteering for the Youth Commission should contact Michael Sturnick, Probation Officer III at 724-830-4211, or an application can be accessed and submitted through the internet at <http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/juvenile/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=634882&juvenileNav=> Should the address not work in your web browser, the Youth Commission Application is located in sidebar menu of the Juvenile Court page labeled Volunteer Opportunities. It should be noted that applicants will be required to obtain Act 33 and 34 Clearances, and will also have an interview with a Juvenile Court Staff Youth Commission Liaison prior to being accepted as a member. It should be noted that prospective members should apply to serve on the commission located in the area in which they reside.

REFERENCES

Payne, Ruby K., Phd., Devol, Philip E, Dreussi Smith, Terie, (2009). **Bridges Out of Poverty: The Trip Lens. Strategies for Professionals and Communities**. Two day licensed training and text book. Highlands TX: aha! Process, Inc.



Juvenile Probation Community Service Work



The **Westmoreland County CSW** Program provides clients with several opportunities to learn, grow, and serve the community while fulfilling their court ordered obligations.

Early 2012, saw the end of another successful season with **Overly's Country Christmas**. Since 1994, the Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department has worked with **Overly's Country Christmas**. Enabling youth to learn team building and life skills. This helps our troubled youth give back and help provide holiday memories and traditions to everyone in the community. This is a major charitable fundraiser that benefits children's causes.

Overly's is a nationally recognized holiday light display that has been featured on "Good Morning America" and other **ABC, NBC, and CBS** affiliated television programs. In 1983, *Good Housekeeping Magazine* named **Overly's Country Christmas** one of America's Best Outdoor Light Displays. The display features 2.4 million twinkling lights covering 15 acres of the Westmoreland Fairgrounds.

In preparation of the holiday season, youth were able to provide Overly's a great deal of assistance hanging Christmas lights and splitting firewood. During the season some of our probationers help prepare and serve the food. The most popular treat is hot cocoa! Throughout the winter months juveniles help the **Westmoreland County Food Bank** by packaging food items that are distributed to several senior citizen groups and **WIC** participants. As the weather warmed, numerous opportunities became available assisting local communities throughout the county. Areas served include Irwin Borough, Mt. Pleasant Borough, the City of Jeannette, the City of New Kensington and many independent sites such as St. Vincent College, the Salvation Army, churches, libraries, and volunteer fire departments throughout the county.

In 2011, approximately 7,474 hours of CSW were completed. We will continue to provide services to our current sites while seeking new agencies in which to work. We will strive to offer meaningful learning experiences to all our juvenile clients.

**For more information contact Anthony Cremonese:
Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Community Service Officer at (724) 830-4200.**

Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Outcomes

STATISTICAL DATA CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT REFLECTS CASES CLOSED IN 2011

Community Protection

The public has a right to a safe and secure community, including protection from known offenders.

- **79% of Juvenile Offenders Successfully Completed Supervision**
- **71% of Juvenile Offenders Complied with their Conditions of Supervision**



Competency Development

Offenders should leave the Juvenile Justice System more capable of being responsible and productive members of their communities.

- **83% of Juveniles were employed or in an educational or vocational activity**
- **97% of Juveniles successfully completed a competency development activity**

Accountability

When a crime is committed by a juvenile, an obligation to the victim is incurred. Offenders should make every effort to assume responsibility for their actions and to restore losses suffered by victims.

- **62% of Juveniles Completed Assigned Community Service Obligations**
- **7,474 Hours of Community Service were Completed**
- **\$68,171 of Restitution was paid to victims**
- **79% of Juveniles made full restitution to their victim(s)**

MISSION STATEMENT

OF

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System

“Pennsylvania’s vision for the future of juvenile justice is one that involves every community; assists all victims; supports all families; and helps all juveniles to become responsible citizens.”

**“JUVENILE JUSTICE:
COMMUNITY PROTECTION;**



**VICTIM RESTORATION;
YOUTH REDEMPTION.”**

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Community Protection refers to the right of all Pennsylvania citizens to be and feel safe from crime.

Victim Restoration emphasizes that, in Pennsylvania, a juvenile who commits a crime harms the victim of the crime and the community, and thereby incurs an obligation to repair that harm to the greatest extent possible.

Youth Redemption embodies the belief that juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania have strengths, are capable of change, can earn redemption, and can become responsible and productive members of their communities.

Furthermore, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under the Juvenile Act—indeed all aspects of the juvenile justice system—must be provided in a fair and unbiased manner.

The United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions guarantee rights and privileges to all citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, national origin or handicap.

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For Further Information Please Contact:

Director/Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Westmoreland County, **Adeline Beighley**

2771 South Grande Boulevard, Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: (724) 830-4200 ~ Fax: (724) 830-4257

Email: abeighle@co.westmoreland.pa.us

Website: www.co.westmoreland.pa.us ~ Keyword: Juvenile