What’s Happening At Your VA:

- Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meetings every Thursday, 730p in Bld. 35 basement. Open to the public. Everyone is welcome.
- Dec. 1 - 12p-1p Christmas Tree Lighting in Bldg. 9 Auditorium. Special musical performance by Unioto HS Choir & Band Ensemble. Everyone’s welcome! For more info contact Voluntary Service ext. 7420.
- Dec. 21 - 10am, Annual Christmas Service at the VA Chapel. Service is open to all.
- Dec. 24 - 1015am, Early Christmas Eve Service with candle lighting during the Sunday Chapel Service. Service is open to all.

Save the Date:

- Jan. 9 - 9a-3p Red Cross Blood Drive Bld. 9.
- Jan. 24 - 10a-1230p Veteran Orientation, An overview of Chillicothe VA services and tips for navigating the system. Bld. 9, Pre-register by calling ext. 6107.
- Jan. 25 - 1p-330p Legal Aid Clinic, Bld. 9 Services provided on first come first serve basis. Call ext. 6888 for more information.

The Monthly Veteran Connection

December 2017

Operation Christmas Cheer

What began last year as a team effort to simply thank the Veterans of their community, while spreading some Christmas cheer, has now turned into a full-fledged mission - Operation Christmas Cheer. Staff at the Portsmouth Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) began what they called, “Operation Thank a Veteran”. They were able to serve approximately 60 Veterans and their families by providing a warm meal and gift bag containing non-perishable food items, blankets, scarves, gloves and hygiene items all donated by the clinic staff. The experience was very heartwarming for those involved, and so they set out to grow their event by involving the community and serving more Veterans this year. When the Portsmouth CBOC staff set a goal, they not only meet it but they far exceed it. This year, thanks to the generosity of Daughters of the American Revolution, LifePoint Church and several other community organizations, the CBOC was overwhelmed with donations and offers of support. They even received an offer to move their event from the cold parking lot of the clinic to the American Legion – which they graciously accepted. Just like Santa’s workshop, the clinic staff are busily preparing and gearing up for what they hope is another successful operation. As they perform their normal job duties, the thought of this event is never far from their minds. Just as children anticipate the arrival of Christmas, the clinic staff grow more excited as the day draws nearer for them to have their turn at playing Santa for the Veterans of their community.

The staff of Portsmouth CBOC graciously thanks all those who have helped them to grow their event and humbly wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Operation Christmas Cheer
Free Lunch and Gift Bag Giveaway for Our Veterans
Where: American Legion Post 23 (by Courthouse)
When: Saturday, December 16, 2017
Time: 12p.m.-2p.m.
Sponsored by: Portsmouth VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic with donations from Daughters of the American Revolution and other community organizations.

Please come join us for a variety of hot soups, coffee, hot chocolate, and gift bags containing a variety of non-perishable food and hygiene items, scarves, gloves and blankets for our veterans.

Veteran’s Library Presents Friday Movies

The Veteran’s Library is located in building 211, Room 22 and is open M-F, 8am-4pm. On Friday’s at 9am and 1pm they have a special movie day serving free popcorn and soda, compliments of our Voluntary Services. If you’re looking for something to do while waiting between appointments we encourage you to stop in and check it out. They offer a large selection of reading materials as well as a nice quiet place to just relax.

Friday movies for the month of December:
- December 1st - Christmas Vacation
- December 8th - Santa Clause
- December 15th - Santa Clause 2
- December 22nd - A Christmas Story
- December 29th - Home Alone 2
Employee Spotlight - Get to Know Your VA Family!

We would like to introduce Ms. Melissa "Missy" Wilson, an LPN on the Domiciliary. Ms. Wilson came to the VA in Jan. 2016 because she was looking for a career change. Previously, she had worked at a private long-term care facility. She feared she might miss the personal attachment you have with the residents and staff at a long-term care facility, although she soon learned that was not the case. Her job as an LPN goes far beyond those duties. She feels like she has an extended family. She encourages, protects and cares for all those in the Domiciliary. Once a Veteran is admitted and they realize staff are here to assist, it is incredible to be able to share all the services we offer. As the Veterans embrace their new start in life, staff can assist with their resumes, searching for employment, preparing for an interview and even transport them to and from their new employment. Missy says it is wonderful when those they have assisted come back later for a visit to say thanks. She says she loves working at the VA and was very surprised with all the services offered and shares this every chance she gets. Missy is very excited to share information about things going on in her personal life. Missy said she is going to become a Mimi for the first time! Her son who lives close by is going to be a dad and she is very excited to see their family grow. She can’t wait till she can hold her bundle of joy in July. She is very proud of her son and daughter as she was a single parent most of their childhood. Her daughter was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis and told to expect to be in a wheelchair. The same encouragement, protection and caring she shares with the Veterans began with her daughter years ago. Her daughter is not in a wheelchair; instead you can find her running half marathons and is married to an Army medic and stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado. Missy also enjoys gardening. Her mother’s love for flowers and her father’s love for his large vegetable garden must also be in her genes. She loves to watch her flowers start and continue to grow into a wonderful flower garden. As her father grows enough food for the neighbors; she and her mother also share their flowers. Missy says she feels her love and support from her family allows her to bring those gestures here to her VA family. Please stop by the DOM and allow Missy and the staff there to share their experience as they assist Veterans on the journey to a new beginning in their lives.