Shelters Preparing As Temps Plunge

Forecast Calling For Subzero Conditions

By ALAN OLSON
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Though the start of the week brought the snow, the latter half of the week will likely bring the cold, and the Youth Services System’s Winter Freeze Shelter is preparing for the plummeting temperatures to drive people indoors.

According to the National Weather Service, low temperatures fell into the single digits last night and are forecast to drop below zero tonight.

Bethel-McFarland also said YSS plans to open the church at the Hazel-Atlas building during the afternoon and early evening hours. When other shelters are not open, House of Hagar and City of Wheeling Homeless Liaison Melissa Adams, she said, have been extremely helpful in this effort.

“After the Catholic Charities day shelter closes, but before the winter freeze shelter opens for the night, we’re working on finding people, along with the House of Hagar, we’re working to find people to make this happen,” she said. “It’s so there’s a place for people to go in between times.”

Donations to YSS are always accepted, Bethel-McFarland said, which help shelter families which would otherwise be spending nights sleeping in their cars.

“We get them every week, and we’re able to put them in hotel rooms, thanks to donations from the community.”

Elsewhere in the Ohio Valley, the Salvation Army in Wheeling provides shelter to men, and the Salvation Army in Bellaire provides shelter to anyone, according to published reports. The YWCA in Wheeling provides shelter to those suffering from domestic abuse situations, and Northwood provides shelter to those with a substance abuse disorder.

(Please see PLUNGE, Page 3)